

OPINION

by **assoc. prof. Ivan Vasilev Trichkov, PhD,**

University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition to occupy the academic position "**professor**" at **University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski**

by: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology)

In the competition for "professor", announced in National Journal No. 96 of November 17, 2023 and on the website University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, the candidate is **Assoc. Prof. Youri Pavlov Ianakiev, PhD**, from the University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski.

1. General presentation of the received materials

By order No. RD-21-72 dated 16/01/24 of the Rector of University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski, I am included as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "professor" in the University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education.

To participate in the announced competition, assoc. prof. Youri Ianakiev from University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski submitted documents.

In a precise and well-formed form, the set of paper materials presented by assoc. prof. Youri Ianakiev, PhD, includes all the necessary documents for participation in the competition. They correspond to the requirements of law, the rules for its application and the internal rules of the University of Plovdiv.

For the purposes of the competition, assoc. prof. Youri Ianakiev, PhD, has submitted 31 scientific works, of which: 1 monograph, 1 published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"; 2 studies, 22 articles, 2 university textbooks and 3 handbooks for students. The distribution of scientific works in the country and abroad is as follows: 27 in the country and 4 abroad.

Competition review publications can be classified as:

By type: monograph – 1; published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" 1; articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 4; articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 18; studies published in peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 1; studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 1; university textbooks – 2, and handbook for students – 3.

According to the language in which they were written: in Bulgarian - 25; in English - 5 and in French - 1.

Depending on the number of co-authors: individual – 13; with one co-author – 11 issues; with two co-authors - 7.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity

Over the years of his professional career, assoc. prof. Youri Ianakiev, PhD, has taught courses in: Social Psychology Part 1, Social Psychology Part 2, Stress and Mental Health, Psycholinguistics, Social Knowledge and Behavior, Sustainability, Stress and Mental Health in the Organization, Psychology of the optimal experience, Social competence, Motivation and behavior in the organization. The content of the lecture courses is provided both with the handbooks created for them and with a large part of the publications. In his teaching work, he systematically and reasonably apply the latest achievements of information and communication technologies and use modern methods and technical means for teaching.

It is also important to evaluate the non-teaching work of assoc. prof. Youri Ianakiev. For the last 5 years of his work experience at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", he supervised 18 successfully graduated graduates of the "Bachelor's" and "Master's" degrees. His work with students is varied. He regularly consults with them on the taught material and resources for self-training, on research issues and on topics related to their practical training. He is the scientific supervisor of 2 successfully defended doctoral students.

From 2021 he leads the Department of "Psychology and Pedagogy" at the Department for Qualification of educational Specialists at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". He has held the administrative positions of Vice-Dean (2015-2019) and Scientific Secretary (2012-2015) at the Faculty of Education. Assoc. prof. Ianakiev was the faculty coordinator of the "Erasmus+" program at the Faculty of education from 2011 to 2019. He is also the head of the University Center for Volunteers since 2011. He is the director of the Master's programs

"Leadership Psychology" and "School Psychology" (from 2019) and the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology and Neurosciences (from 2022). He is the editor-in-chief of the journal "Developmental Psychology" (since 2020).

Assoc. prof. Ianakiev has participated in quite a few scientific projects. In the last 7 years, he has participated in 8 projects, 4 of which are international and 4 national. He is the head of a national research project dedicated to the diagnosis of burnout syndrome among pedagogical specialists, conducted in 2019.

In recent years, assoc. prof. Ianakiev **has participated in 8 scientific conferences** - 4 international and 4 national.

It is important for the competition to note that , assoc. prof. Ianakiev teaches foreign language (French and English) to visiting students at the University of Plovdiv under the "Erasmus+" program.

He lectured as an “Erasmus+” guest lecturer at the National University of Distance Learning (UNED), Madrid, Spain, in 2017 and 2019. University of Almeria, Spain (2018), University of Kielce, Poland (2016).

He is also a member of three professional organizations in the psychological scientific field:

- American Psychological Association - Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology
- Association of psychologists in Bulgaria;
- Union of Scientists in Bulgaria in the "Pedagogy and Psychology" section

It is essential to note the participation of assoc. prof. Ianakiev, PhD, in editorial boards of journals, conferences, collections and others. He is the editor-in-chief of the journal "Developmental Psychology", a member of the scientific committee of the Presses universitaires Rhin et Danube (University Press of the Rhine and Danube), a member of the scientific board of Notebooks of the Student Scientific Movement of the Jagiellonian University in Kielce, Poland, reviewer in collective volume: *Education, Science, Innovation*. Paisii Hilendarski, University Publishing House. 2020, is a reviewer of a collective volume: *Development of key competencies*. Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House. 2021, is a reviewer of Collective Volume: *Proceedings of the Ninth Student Science Forum*. Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House. 2020, Reviewer in Collective Volume: *Proceedings of the Tenth Student Science Forum*. Volume 1 and Volume 2. ,2021.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied activity

As a habilitation thesis, assoc. prof. Youri Ianakiev presents the monograph *Diagnosis of Burnout Syndrome among Educational Specialists. Strategies for coping with chronic stress in the workplace* (2023). The monograph brings together the results of two large-scale studies conducted over the past five years, which offer the first of its kind integral and systematic approach to diagnosis, prevention and management of psychosocial risks of burnout syndrome for the development of psychological resilience in pedagogical specialists. **I consider that in this form it fully meets the requirements for a monographic work.** The theme of the monograph is also interpreted in some of the articles submitted for the competition. Other articles that can be highlighted cover important issues related to: *Pedagogical multicultural awareness Validation of a scale for researching teacher attitudes towards ethnically diverse children in education, Positive influence of hope on relationship satisfaction in the couple, The role of communication, attachment and parenting attitude in childhood, Evaluation of a toolkit for diagnosis and development of psychological resilience for teachers, Study of the attitudes of school management in Bulgaria regarding the creation of a positive and safe school environment. Diagnosis and stimulation of sports achievements through the methods of mental training and biofeedback technologies.*

Assoc. prof. Ianakiev, PhD, also presents two studies. The first, "Bio- and neurofeedback methods for the benefit of personal development of people with disabilities by stimulating their creative potential" (2016), introduces the main applications of bio- and neurofeedback methods and methods of non-invasive brain stimulation for a larger picture about the potential of neurotechnologies as tools for personal development and for stimulating creativity. Four cases of application of EEG biofeedback in children with special educational needs are presented - disorders of the autism spectrum, attention deficit, mental retardation and difficulties in social adaptation. Post-therapy improvements in psychosocial environmental factors such as social skills, self-regulation, attentional control, neuromuscular coordination are described in detail.

In the second "Flow and creativity: strategies, methods and trends in the study of the state of flow in the creative process" (2016), the modern methods of studying the state of flow, which is seen as increased concentration and immersion in creative activities, play and work. The conditions for achieving flow are presented, with an important emphasis representing the state of creative flow as a process. The exposition is enriched with analogies between the creative flow experience and the feeling of happiness. An overview of theoretical models for the study of flow in the field of sports, psychotherapy, youth behavior on the Internet is

proposed. The Experience Sampling Method (ESM) of Csikszentmihai is presented, which is a research procedure for studying people's thoughts and feelings during their daily lives.

In the period 2021, 2022 assoc. prof. Ianakiev, PhD, presents two university textbooks and three study aids for students, which are tailored to basic courses and academic disciplines.

Last but not least, the impressive number of citations of assoc. prof. Ianakiev should be noted. There are a total of 100 citations presented. Of these: 25 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information; 31 citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes; 44 citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

Contributions

Assoc. prof. Ianakiev's scientific contributions have their authoritative representation. They have a high theoretical and scientific-applied value and find application in the learning process and psychological science. His research has resulted in derived approaches and practical pathways that can be applied in psychological practice. In a more precise and generalized form, the scientific contributions are in the field of research related to: *the psychosocial aspects of stress and the burnout syndrome; aggression and discrimination in the school environment, interpersonal relations and creativity, and social identity.*

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I know assoc. prof. Ianakiev as a responsible, conscientious, precise, informed person regarding the current problems of modern psychology. I believe that his performance so far in lecture and extracurricular activities, as well as his research activities, are distinguished by high professionalism and fully correspond to the profile of the competition. Assoc. prof. Ianakiev's research is well-argued, methodologically and statistically sound, with results significant for theory and practice. Now, as a teacher and colleague at the Faculty of Education, I could emphasize that assoc. prof. Ianakiev, PhD, manages to successfully combine teaching and research work. He is a thorough scholar and a respected colleague. His membership in various international organizations and his lecture activity show his high level of professionalism. I have had the opportunity to observe his work with students, graduates, and doctoral students, as well as colleagues trained under the Erasmus program, and I can confidently state that he does it with a high work style, professionalism, responsiveness and correctness. **I accept the materials presented by him in this way and have no critical remarks.** I recommend assoc. prof. Ianakiev to continue his research and teaching activities in the field of social psychology.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, assoc. prof. Ianakiev, is an established specialist who deservedly enjoys authority among the academic and professional community. The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works. The theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the academic work. His scientific and teaching qualifications are undoubted. No reports of plagiarism have been received and no plagiarism has been detected. The scientific output of assoc. prof. Ianakiev, PhD, fully complies with the law for awarding the scientific title "Professor". All this gives me my **positive assessment reason** to propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury that the academic title "Professor" be awarded to assoc. prof. Ianakiev, in professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Social Psychology).

25/02/2024

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(signature)

Assoc. prof. Ivan Trichkov, PhD