

OPINION

by competition for an academic position

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

in a professional field

4.6 Informatics and Computer Sciences (Information Security), for the needs of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (FMI), Department of "Software Technologies", announced in Newspaper of State No 96/17.11.2023 and on the PU website.

The opinion is written by **Prof. Georgi Teoharov Tuparov, PhD, from Department of Informatics of New Bulgarian University**, as a member of the scientific jury for the competition in professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Sciences (Information Security) established by Order No. RD-21-388/16.02.2024 of the Rector of the PU.

The only applicant who has applied for the position is

Magdalena Asenova Veselinova, PhD,

from Department of Software Technology at the FMI of the PU

1. Brief biographical data

The only applicant Dr. Magdalena Veselinova obtained the Bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 2012 and Master's degree in Business Informatics in 2013 from the FMI of PU. In 2017, she successfully defended her PhD thesis on the topic " Fractional differential equations with distributed delay" for the acquisition of the PhD in professional field 4.5 Mathematics. From 2017 until now, she is head assistant in the FMI of the PU. Although I found a sufficient number of indexed papers on the applicant's dissertation, which are beyond those presented in the competition, the registration with scientometric indicators of the PhD and the currently held academic position of head assistant in the NACID information system are missing.

2. General description of the presented materials

The applicant Dr. Magdalena Veselinova participated in the competition with:

- **Monographs** - one co-authored in group B3 (with separation protocol about equal contributions of the two co-authors).
- **Papers** - Nine indexed papers, of which eight in Scopus (seven with SJR) and one in WoS with IF (Q2). Four non-indexed papers are also presented.
- One co-authored textbook (group E19).

3. Reflection of the applicant's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

The applicant has provided evidence of 22 citations in Scopus/WoS, which covers several times the minimum scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Sciences.

4. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

4.1. Educational and pedagogical activity (work with students)

According to the documents provided, Dr. Veselinova led classroom classes in six disciplines, which can be assumed to fall within the profile of the competition. The candidate has co-authored a textbook on one of the taught disciplines, in which I unfortunately found terminological and factual errors. Due to the lack of a separate protocol regarding the textbook, I cannot address my remark specifically to the candidate with certainty.

4.2. Scientific and scientifically applied activity

As can be seen from the table attached below, Dr. Veselinova meets the minimum national scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Sciences.

Group	A	Б	В	Г	Д
Minimum number of points	50	-	100	200	50
Applicant claims	50	-	100	288	176
Acknowledged by the reviewer	50	-	100	288	176

The applicant Dr. Veselinova is internationally recognizable in the Scopus and WoS databases. At the national level, he participated in several research and applied projects on behalf of the PU and other organizations.

4.3. Contributions (scientific, scientifically applied, applied)

In general, I do not think it is correct to include textbooks in the reference for original scientific contributions. Because of this, and because of the remarks made above about the textbook, I reject the claims for contributions under strand Д. I accept the remaining claims for contributions as presented by the applicant and leave them for detailed assessment by the reviewers.

5. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

I have no doubts about the originality of the scientific works presented by the applicant. Due to the lack of separation protocols for co-authored works (except for the monograph presented in group B3), I accept equal participation of each of the authors.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no remarks other than those stated above. I recommend that Dr. Veselinova in the future direct her publication activity in journals and/or conference proceedings that are indexed and classified in the field of Computer science.

7. Personal impressions

I do not know the applicant personally.

8. Conclusion:

After analysing the scientific works presented by the applicant and evaluation of their significance I confirm that the scientific and scientific-applied contributions are sufficient (as required by the Bulgarian Law about Academic Development and the additional requirements of the Plovdiv University) for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific field of the competition. The additional documents pass all needed requirements too. In particular, the applicant fulfils the minimal national requirements for the scientific field and there is no plagiarism in the presented works for the competition.

I give my positive conclusion for the election of Dr. Magdalena Asenova Veselinova for the academic position "Associate Professor" under the current competition.

Based on the above, I recommend the Scientific Jury to suggest to the Council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" to elect Dr. Magdalena Asenova Veselinova for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science (Information Security).

April 8, 2024

Referee:

/Prof. Georgi Tuparov, PhD/

