

**UNIVERSITY OF SHUMEN**  
**BISHOP CONSTANTINE PRES LAVSKY**

**OPINION**

Advanced by prof. Maria Stoyanova Aleksieva PhD,  
member of the scientific jury

Free University of Burgas, Center of Humanities,  
Program Council in Education Sciences

**Contest for the academic position: "Associate Professor"**

**Area of higher education: 1. Education sciences**

**Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Education theory and didactics -  
Educational technologies)**

The contest has been announced in State Gazette, issue No 97/10.12.2019

**1. Procedure**

The procedure for conducting the competition has been followed and is in accordance with the normative documents.

The materials submitted by the applicant for participation in the competition are in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the development of the academic staff in the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen.

In the sense of Art. 2b, para 1, para. 2 and para. Assistant Professor Natasha Lyubomirova Koleva has the right to participate in the contest for the academic position of "Associate Professor", since she meets the minimum national requirements and, accordingly, the requirements of the Academic Staff

Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria under Art. 24, Para 1, item 1 (has obtained a PhD degree, diploma №Д-106/18.07.2016), item 2, holds a position of "Assistant Professor") and para. 3 (has a monograph published).

## **2. Characteristics of the applicant's scientific and applied output**

Senior Assistant Professor Natasha Lyubomirova Koleva is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of Assistant Professor in Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics - Educational Technologies) for the needs of Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen.

The information from the CV of Senior Assoc. Prof. Natasha Koleva, PhD, show a lasting interest in problems affecting contemporary aspects of pedagogical science.

She participates in the competition for the position of academic assistant professor with **20 (twenty) publications**.

All submissions are in compliance with the national minimum requirements.

In accordance with Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the ZRARB they fall into the following categories:

- **monographs** - 3 pcs. (of which 1 habilitation work and 1 co-authored)
- **articles** - 14 (1 of them published in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, 13 (thirteen) published in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals, or published in edited collective volumes (9 (nine) alone and 4 (four) co-authored)
- **textbooks** and teaching aids - 1 pc. (co-authored)
- **reports** - 2 pcs.

The publications and research results of Senior Assistant Professor Natasha Koleva find application in her lecture courses and seminars within the framework of 7 academic courses..

The impressive list of disciplines in which Senior Assistant Professor Koleva leads her classes as a necessary teacher in the Department of Pedagogy and Management of Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy at the University of Shumen, Bishop Konstantin Preslavski.

The results of the theoretical and practical studies conducted show that it updates and enriches the academic content in the academic disciplines that she teaches.

### **3. Evaluation of the scientific contributions and the practical results and contributions of the creative production submitted for participation in the competition**

The scientific interests of Senior Assist. Prof. Natasha Koleva PhD can be delineated in two areas of pedagogical scientific knowledge:

1. Educational technologies in education
2. Blended learning

Featured publications by Assoc. Prof. Natasha Koleva a both in terms of volume and quality are proof of consistent development over the years of her professional activity.

In the context of the research and publications conducted, Assoc. Prof. Natasha Koleva defines her scientific contributions in the following fields:

- 1) Digital competences of Bulgarian teachers;
- 2) Blended learning as a contemporary form of university education;

The parameters outlined highlight scientific contributions that have theoretical and practical applications:

#### **3. 1. New theories, hypotheses and methods**

- A systematic overview of European policies for the digital transformation of education and training is presented in the context of new knowledge, skills and attitudes requirements that build competences in modern

people. In parallel, the European countries' experience in building and improving the digital competences of their citizens and, accordingly, applying this experience in Bulgarian educational policy is described in an analytical plan.

### **3.2. Enrichment of existing knowledge**

- An effective model for the implementation of blended learning in university education has been tested, based on systematic and reasoned advantages and disadvantages of blended learning, as a contemporary form of university education and its application through the use of a virtual classroom.

- A detailed review of the DigCompEdu European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators and its applicability in the context of Bulgarian education have been made.

### **3.3. Application of scientific achievements in practice**

- A typology of educators in terms of their digital competences has been made based on a digital competency study of over 260 Bulgarian pedagogical specialists conducted and analyzed, based on the defined components in the European DigCompEdu framework.

- Based on an empirical study (with more than 160 teachers in all grades of the Bulgarian educational system) on the introduction of the Computer Modeling course in the initial stage of education, the teachers' self-assessment of their readiness to teach the new discipline was analyzed just before the beginning of the course. the school year in which her study begins.

In the scientific literature, publications of Bulgarian and foreign authors have found 6 (six) citations (of which 2 (two) are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases and 4 (four) in collective volumes with scientific review) from scientific publications of Ch. Prof. Natasha Koleva.

From a linguistic point of view, the publications of Ch. Prof. Natasha Koleva PhD is characterized by descriptive character.

The author adheres to the scientific style of presentation in the text.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In view of the applicant's research qualities, the accumulated research and professional experience, I applaud the application of Senior Assistant Professor Natasha Koleva, PhD for the academic position "Associate Professor" in Higher Education Area: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Education theory and didactics - Educational technologies) at the University of Shumen, Bishop Konstantin Preslavski, Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Pedagogy and Management of Education.

23.03.2020

Burgas

Member of the scientific jury:



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Prof. Maria Alexieva Phd