

## STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Svetlozar Petkov Vatsov  
about a competition for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor"  
under professional field 1.2. Pedagogy,  
scientific major of "Theory of Upbringing and Didactics -Educational Technologies"  
announced in the State Gazette, Issue No 97/10.12.2019  
with a Candidate *Chief Assist. Dr. Natasha Lyubomirova Koleva*

### 1. General provisions and biographical data

The competition was announced in the State Gazette, Issue No 97/10.12.2019 and was published on the website of the Shumen University. It is secured by the required annual total number of lectures and exercises studied. All requirements of Art. 26, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff and Art. 65, Art. 66, and Art. 67 of the Regulation on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski" have been observed.

Natasha Lyubomirova Koleva has graduated *Informatics* at the Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski". She has completed Master's Programs in *Computer Systems and Networks* at the Russe University "Angel Kanchev", and *School Pedagogy* at the Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski".

Since 2009 she has been working as an Assistant, and since 2016 – as a Chief Assistant at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski". She has been developing an active design activity, as she has been also working in qualification programs for pedagogical specialists.

### 2. General description of the presented materials

For the purpose of taking part in the competition the Candidate has presented 16 scientific papers on the topic of the competition, which do not repeat her works for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree of Doctor - 2 monographics and 14 papers (1 of which referred to in Scopus and Web of Science).

According to its purpose and content, they correspond to the subject matter of the announced competition and cover topical issues that are material for both theory and practice.

### 3. General characteristics of the scientific and research activity of the Candidate

Based on the documents enclosed, it becomes evident that the Candidate covers in her scientific-research and scientific-applied activity the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of 1.2. Pedagogy.

The presented diploma for acquisition of the scientific degree of "Doctor" shows that her dissertation entitled "Teamwork In the Environment of Cross Training" fulfills the requirement under Indicator A *Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor"*, thus awarding 50 points to the Candidate.

Under Indicator C – *Research Work – Monography*, the Candidate participates with a separate paper entitled "Digital Competences of Bulgarian Teachers", which is awarded with 100 points.

Under Indicator D, item 5 – *A book published based on the protected Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor"* there has been a book presented entitled "Blended Learning in University Education", which awards 75 points. Under item 6 *Articles and Reports published in scientific issues referred to and indexed in world-famous atabases containing scientific information*, there was a paper presented entitled "The Primary Teacher and Computer Modelling", published in "Pedagogy" Magazine, which awards 30 points. Under item 7 of the same indicator, *Articles and Reports published in non-refereed magazines with scientific reviews and published in edited collective volumes*, there have been 9 independent articles presented, which award 90 points and 4 of which have been written as a co-author – thus awarding additional 12.49 points. The requirements under Indicator D for the total number of points is 200, thus the Candidate reaching 207.49 points.

Under Indicator E, item 11 *Quotations or Reviews in scientific issues refereed and indexed in world-famous databases containing scientific information or in monographies and collective volumes*, there have been two quotations shown (in the magazines entitled "Pedagogy" and "Strategies of Educational and Scientific Politics"), which bring 30 points. Under item 12, *Quotations in monographies and collective volumes with scientific reviews*, there are 4 visible quotations. Two of these quotations are in the "Annual of the Shumen University "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski"", and the other two – in the online scientific magazine "SocioBrains". The above award 10 points each – thus becoming a total of 70 points for this indicator.

#### **4. Evaluation of the pedagogical training and activity the Candidate**

The documents present a reference for the pedagogical disciplines taught by Chief Assist. Dr. Koleva:

- Lecture classes passed under the disciplines: Information and Communication Technologies in Learning and Work in Digital Environment, Audio-visual and Information Technologies in Learning, Pedagogical Diagnostics, Methodology and Methods of Pedagogical Researches, Educational Technologies, Multimedia Presentation, Computer Technologies;
- Extracurricular Classes in Current Pedagogical Practice with the students majoring in "Pedagogy".

The teaching activity of Chief Assist. Dr. Koleva is characteristic with her constant efforts to create an effective academic environment through newly introduced elements to the teaching methods – providing opportunities for individualization of the training of students in the academic discipline being studied, via access to educational resources and interactive tool for assessment and self-assessment of achieved results in a virtual classroom.

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I do believe that the extensive and beneficial academic activity the Candidate fully corresponds to the requirements for acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor".

#### **5. Main scientific contributions and scientific and applied contributions**

The reviewer assesses positively the way of self-assessment and accepts the scientific contributions of the works of Chief Assist. Dr. Natasha Koleva, as specified in the author's reference.

1. A systematized review has been made of the European policies for digital transformation of education and learning as a result of the new requirements for skills and competences of modern people. There is a follow-up of the attempt by the European countries to build and improve the digital competences of their citizens and in the Bulgarian educational policy respectively.

2. An empirical research, which includes over 160 teachers at all levels of the Bulgarian educational system, regarding the introduction of the academic discipline of "Computer Modeling" at the primary stage has been used for the analysis of the self-assessment of educators as regards their readiness to teach the new academic discipline before the beginning of the academic year, during which its studying will be initiated.

3. A detailed review has been made of the **European Framework** for the **Digital Competence of Educators – DigCompEdu**, and its applicability under the conditions of the Bulgarian education.

4. A research has been made and analyzed of the digital competences of over 260 Bulgarian pedagogical specialists, based on the differentiated components within the European Framework DigCompEdu. The typology of the educators, subject to the research, has been determined with respect to their digital competences.

5. There are presented systematized and well-based advantages and disadvantages of the blended learning as a contemporary form of university education and its application by using a virtual classroom. An approbated and effective model has been proposed as regards the application of the blended learning in university education.

As regards the 16 papers presented by the Candidate for the present competition, 12 of them are individual and 4 – as a co-author. This gives me grounds to presume that the contributions are the personal work of the Candidate.

#### **6. Significance of contributions for the science and practice**

An indicator of the contributions in the scientific works of the Candidate are the quotations of author's publications by the Candidate. These correspond to the requirements both regarding the number and the quality of the issues they are cited in. There are 2 quotations in scientific issues referred to and indexed in world-famous databases containing scientific information - Scopus and Web of Science, and 4 in contemporary Bulgarian scientific magazines with scientific reviews, added to the National Reference List.

#### **7. Critical notes and recommendations**

The reviewed scientific work by Chief Assist. Dr. Koleva has no material weak points and wrong statements, which would reduce its good quality. In connection with this, in my opinion, it would be more beneficial in this case to make some constructive recommendations to the Candidate oriented towards her future work.

1. My main recommendation is about the priority of the publication activity of the Candidate as regards scientific articles in renowned magazines within the country and abroad in view of her greater recognition as a known author in the field of problems of the competition.

2. The theoretical training and experience as a lecturer of the Candidate in the field of

Contemporary Educational Technologies should find its realization in the development of new lecture courses both for the Bachelor's major of *Pedagogy*, and for the other specialties and Master's Programs in this professional field.

#### **8. Reviewer's personal impressions and statement**

I've known Chief Assist. Dr. Natasha Koleva for more than 10 years. In this period I had the opportunity to repeatedly convince myself of her accuracy, as well as in the high level of her professionalism in the field of her occupation. She has excellent communication and teamwork skills, as well as her loyalty, creativity, responsibility, correctness, organization, coordination and control upon working with set goals. She possesses the highest level of digital skills in each field of the qualification framework – processing of information, communication, content creation, security, problem solving. She is positive and well-intended, as she manages to create a wonderful atmosphere both during her work at the Department and during her classes with her students.

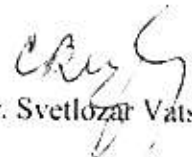
#### **CONCLUSION**

My overall evaluation of the materials presented for participation in the competition is positive. I find the grounds for this in the good level of the scientific production and the Candidate's active activity as a lecturer.

In view of the introduction to the presented scientific works, their significance, the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I do find it well-grounded to propose Chief Assist. Dr. Natasha Lyubomirova Koleva to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of 1.2 Pedagogy, scientific major of "Theory of Upbringing and Didactics".

Dated: 30.03.2020

Member of the Scientific Jury:

  
/Prof. Dr. Svetlozar Vatsov/