

REVIEW

by Prof. Antoniya Krasteva, PhD

in a competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**"

Scientific field: 1. Pedagogical sciences

Professional field: 1.1. Theory and management of education (Management of education)

Announced in the State Gazette - SG no. 12 of 12.02.2021

For the needs of Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"

Data for the competition

The procedure for conducting a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" was published in the State Gazette no. 12 of February 12, 2021. The competition is on the initiative of Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar."

By order of the Rector of the University of Shumen, "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" № RD -16-046 / 8.04.2021, the composition of the Scientific Jury was determined. At its first meeting (April 20, 2021), the jury appointed a chairman, two reviewers, and members to prepare opinions, the deadlines to follow the procedure, and the date for the second final meeting of the procedure.

The conducted procedure under the competition is following the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, and no violations have been established under the competition procedure.

Vesselin Dimitrov Mihalev is the only candidate in the competition. The applicant has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law for developing the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (total number of points by groups of indicators - 810), in view of which he is admitted for evaluation by the scientific jury.

Candidate details

Veselin Mihalev, in 1986 graduated with a degree in "Primary School Pedagogy," Educational qualification degree "Master" at the Higher Pedagogical Institute, Blagoevgrad. In 1989 he acquired a postgraduate specialization in economics at the University of Economics in Varna, and in 2015 he completed a master's degree in "Education Management" at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius."

His multifaceted career began as a teacher and went through the difficult management stages - as an inspector, methodologist, deputy/assistant. - Director, leading to teaching at Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar." Today he is the director of one of the most prestigious schools in Varna - Dobri Chintulov Primary School.

In 2010 Mihalev defended his doctoral dissertation in the scientific specialty 05.07.02. History of pedagogy and Bulgarian education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." In 2013 he acquired the first professional qualification degree in "Education Management" at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" at the Department of Information, Qualification and Continuing Education, Varna, and in 2017 he became a doctor of science in the scientific specialty Theory of Education and Didactics at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius."

Description of scientific works

The list of scientific publications of Vesselin Mihalev, proposed for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor," corresponds to the presentation of the results of his research. Includes a total of 22 publications, systematized as follows:

Book - 1 pc.

Monographs - 3 pcs.

Habilitation work - 1 pc.

Studios - 2 pcs.

Articles - 15 pcs. (one of which is published in English).

A total of 16 citations by 7 authors were noted in electronic editions of scientific journals and Wikipedia.

V. Mihalev's research interests are focused on two thematic areas: management of Bulgarian educational institutions and historical aspects of management of non-Bulgarian (Greek) educational institutions.

All submitted publications comply with the minimum national requirements.

In the first direction (Management of Bulgarian educational institutions), the candidate presents 1 pc. habilitation work, 1 pc. monograph, 2 studios, and 10 pcs. of articles. The monographic study "The Delegated Budget in the Conditions of Financial Decentralization of School Education" (2021) is essentially a habilitation thesis. In it, the author presents a qualitative study of a significant and current problem related to the budget process, related to the functioning of the delegated

school budget in Dobri Chintulov Primary School, according to the institutional parameters environment and the approved legislation. The scientific substantiation of the research presupposes relative independence of the three separate chapters, distinguished by internal differentiation and completeness. Valuable for the pedagogical practice is the identified problem areas in the respective levels and the need to implement adequate policies to make flexible and effective management decisions, following the available financial resources. This is a fact that emphasizes the clear vision of the structural-substantive integrity between the main concepts in the study. Here the author's professional experience as a manager to analyze, derive and summarize the causal link of the effective implementation and management of the system of the delegated school budget to affect the school institution's financial autonomy positively.

In the monograph "The Bulgarian school in the city of Varna during the Revival. Pedagogical and managerial aspects" (2020), the author extremely professionally traces in chronological aspect the emergence and development of Bulgarian educational institutions, forming the image of the educational work in Varna during the Renaissance and the place they occupy in the history of education in Bulgaria.

The presented publications (articles and studies) in this thematic area address issues related to the research pursuits of the candidate, confirming their high scientific value, according to professional interests.

The second thematic direction (Historical aspects of the management of non-Bulgarian (Greek) educational institutions) V. Mihalev presents 1 issue book, 2 pcs. of monographs, 1 pc. studios, and 4 pcs. of articles.

The book **"Greek educational institutions in settlements on the North Black Sea coast in the second half of the XIX century to the 20s of the XX century"** (2017) is related to the author's dissertation for the degree of **"Doctor of Science"**, therefore it will not be reviewed.

The monograph **"Greek educational institutions in settlements on the southern Black Sea coast in the second half of the nineteenth century to the 20s of the twentieth century (2017)"** is of historical and pedagogical nature and, in its essence, is a continuation and supplement to the dissertation research in the direction of tracking in chronological aspect, the emergence, and functioning of Greek educational institutions in the study period, but in the Southern Black Sea coast. This large-scale study illuminates Bulgarian and Greek historiographical

literature by tracing managerial experience in individual educational institutions and fields.

In the monograph "Influence of the Greek educational institutions for the development of the new Bulgarian education in the city of Varna in the second half of the XIX century to the 20s of the XX century" (2020), the author examines the penetration of the strong Greek influence in the management of the Bulgarian school through the introduced regulations "Students have a position." Conclusions related to identifying the degree of Greek influence on the educational work and practice of the mutual Bulgarian school in Varna are presented.

The two monographs in this scientific field are a major achievement in pedagogy and science. Their complex and qualitative analysis of the pedagogical educational and managerial practices during the researched period complements the research image of the candidate as an established specialist in the field of education management and history of pedagogy and Bulgarian education.

The candidate's publications in this field (studies and articles) present important stages of research work, demonstrating high authorial competence and ability to analyze historiographical source studies, thus enriching the source base for the functioning of educational (management) institutions in the past and the present.

Scientific contributions

The contributions requested by the candidate are following the content of the submitted publications and reveal his profile as an in-depth scientist and researcher.

Among the main merits of the scientific production of the author is the realized historical-pedagogical research of the new Bulgarian school in Varna during the Revival with emphasis - stages of development, content, nature of education, organization, management, and material support. The main managerial functions and the contributions of the specialized and non-specialized institutions for management and support of the new Bulgarian school in Varna during the Revival are emphasized. Based on an analysis of the first school rules introduced in the 1970s, the projections of the various influences of the Greek educational institutions on the activity and management of the new Bulgarian education are sought. Based on researched documentary archival sources of different nature, the status and management functions of the post-liberation regional bodies for

education management in Varna, outlined in the first legislative acts related to the activities of the Bulgarian school, are outlined.

An indisputable contribution is the studied financial decentralization in school education by introducing the system of delegated school budget in Dobri Chintulov Primary School, Varna. Its specific characteristics are outlined, based on which an institutional analysis of the process of financial delegation of public funds at different levels of government has been prepared. At the same time, the author outlines the legislation (laws and regulations) at the various levels of management of the delegated school budget. The mechanisms for monitoring and control of the introduced system of delegated budget in the studied educational institution and the aspects of the managerial responsibility of the director in the process of introduction and implementation of the system for financial management and control have been successfully identified and analyzed. The problem areas at different management levels are successfully outlined. New management solutions can be sought at all levels to improve the financial management of school education.

The candidate makes a successful attempt, through historiographical source studies, to analyze hitherto unexplored historical and pedagogical facts in the field of management and support of Greek educational institutions in the settlements on the North and South Black Sea coast in the second half of the nineteenth century to the 20s. The analyzed archival sources in Greek (katarevus) can be mentioned as an achievement in the research activity, which through specialized scientific translation, enter into scientific circulation, the source base for the management of the Greek educational institutions in settlements in the North and The southern Black Sea coast during the study period.

Teaching activity

From 2010 until today, V. Mihalev is actively associated with Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" as a lecturer, participant in examination commissions, commissions for protection of educational practice, author of curricula academic fields in the field of education management. Conducts numerous qualification courses with pedagogical specialists. His extensive professional experience as a university lecturer and manager is confirmed by the presented certificates and participation as an author in preparing curricula for the needs of higher education.

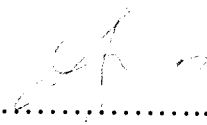
My personal impressions of the candidate (student - master and doctoral student at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius") relate to the personality and authority of Mihalev as a competent specialist and professional in the field of education management. Shows activity, awareness, initiative, and responsibility in fulfilling its commitments and obligations. There is definitely an attitude and aspiration to scientific and professional improvement.

Conclusion

Vesselin Mihalev is established as an in-depth researcher, manager, and competent university lecturer. The content and qualities of his scientific output and his teaching activity satisfy the criteria, requirements, and conditions of selection for the academic position of "**associate professor.**" The presented arguments give me grounds to give my **positive vote** in the scientific jury Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev **to be elected "Associate Professor"** in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.1. Theory and management of education (Management of education), for the needs of Varna Free University, "Chernorizets Hrabar."

15.05.2021

Veliko Tarnovo

Prepared the review:

(prof. Antoniya Krasteva, PhD)