

Opinion
on evaluation of a candidate for Associate Professor habilitation rank
in the professional area of 1.1 Theory and management of education
(Education management)
announced in Government gazette issue 12/ 12 February 2021
by Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen
for the needs of Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar

This opinion is prepared by Prof PhD Svetlozar Petkov Vatsov, Faculty of Technical Sciences at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, professional area 1.1 Theory and management of education (Education management) as a member of the Jury for habilitation according to the order № RD 16-046/ 8 April 2021 of the Rector of Shumen University.

One candidate has participated for habilitation procedure – PhD Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev.

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBMITTED MATERIALS

1 Candidacy data

The candidate PhD Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev has submitted an application form, a CV, a Diploma of Higher Education, a Master's degree Diploma, a Diploma of PhD, a First qualification degree certificate, a criminal record certificate, a certificate of employment, a certificate of second employment contract at VSU, certificate of civil contract at VSU, a list of publications, a list of publications for the habilitation, copies of the publications, a statement on scientific contribution, a list of citations, papers showing scientific interests and achievements, a statement on the minimal national requirements according to article 2b, clause 2 and clause 3 ZRASRB with relevant proof, a statement on

additional indicators according to article 57a of PPZRAZRB, a declaration of authorship.

The documents are clearly marked, well arranged and completely agree with the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of development of the academic staff at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen (PRASSHU).

2 Candidate data

PhD Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev graduated from Blagoevgrad South-west University in 1989 with a diploma in Primary School Pedagogy. In 2015 he graduated from the University of Veliko Tarnovo with Master's degree in Management of education.

Veselin Mihalev has considerable experience in the area of education as a teacher, a methodologist at the department of public education in Beloslav, a deputy-director at Regional Child centre in Varna. He has been the principal of Dobry Chintulov Primary School in Varna. He has been a part-time lecturer at Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar.

In 2020 he successfully defended a doctoral thesis Education in Varna during the Bulgarian Revival. In 2017 he defended doctoral dissertation Greek educational institutions in towns and villages in the area of The North Black Sea coast in the second half of the 19th century to the 20s of the 20th century. He earned a PhD degree in Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics).

3 General characteristic of the scientific work and achievements of the candidate

Veselin Mihalev presents scientific work adequate to the requirements – a published habilitation work, a book on the basis of the defended doctoral dissertation, three monographs and seventeen studies and articles published in non-referenced specialised journals with scientific reviews. In their focus and content they correspond to the subject matter of the habilitation. They examine actual and significant to theory and especially to managerial practice problems.

The quality and quantity of the presented materials by the candidate show that they carry 810 points which exceed the minimum requirements according to article 2b, clause 2 and 3 of ZRASRB - 400points - for getting the academic position Associate Professor in the scientific and professional area. Besides, the work of the candidate is after defending doctoral dissertation and there is no proved plagiarism in the presented materials according to the statutory order.

4 Content analysis of the scientific achievements in the materials of the candidate for habilitation

The materials for peer review outline the frame of his professional interests and reveal the focus of his research in historical aspects, theory and Bulgarian and non-Bulgarian educational institutions.

Candidate's habilitation work *Delegated budget in conditions of financial decentralisation in school education* presents a precise mechanism for school budget allocation. It creates conditions for regulation of financial relations between municipalities and educational institutions. It is shown, on the grounds of thorough analysis, that the introduced delegated budget system leads to increasing the autonomy of the studied educational institution and provides security, flexibility and opportunity of the principal to prioritise educational and financial necessities if rationally planned and spent. School policies, connected with planning the financial resources in the studied educational institution are drawn. They give the principal opportunities to exercise their managerial functions; aspects of managerial responsibility of the principal in the process of introducing and applying of a system of financial management and control are studied.

The monograph *Bulgarian school in Varna during the Bulgarian Revival. Pedagogical and managerial aspects* studies how New Bulgarian education functioned during the Bulgarian Revival. It was greatly important for the development of Bulgarian education. A well-grounded conclusion is drawn that the management of the New Bulgarian school in Varna led to improvement of

new organization structures – Bulgarian municipality, school board, cultural, educational and charity institutions. Different archival documentary sources are studied. They outline the status and managerial functions of the education in Varna which were regulated in the first legislative acts connected with Bulgarian school.

The monographs *Greek educational institutions in towns and villages in the area of The North Black Sea coast in the second half of the 19th century to the 20s of the 20th century* and *The influence of Greek educational institutions on the development of New Bulgarian education in Varna in the second half of the 19th century to the 20s of the 20th century* study the powerful Greek influence on management of Bulgarian school. Conclusions are drawn on the basis of certain indicators (Greek schools, number of students, basic education characteristics, level of literacy, qualification of teachers, institutions for management and financial support). They show the level of development and dissemination of Greek education towards New Bulgarian one; specific features are identified which connect it to the one in the area of South Black Sea coast.

The studies and articles presented by PhD Veselin Mihalev analyse phenomena in both subject areas: management of Bulgarian educational institutions and historical aspects in management of non-Bulgarian (Greek) educational institutions.

An indicator of the significance and contributions in scientific work of the candidate are citations of his author's publications. They correspond to the requirement both in number and in quality of publications.

5. Characteristic and evaluation of the candidate's teaching activity

In 2019 and 2020 the candidate lectures and conducts seminars at Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar on his author's programme of studies on subjects: Inclusive education, Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics), Management of education, Work with regulation documents in the system of

education – for acquiring additional teaching qualification. I do not know and I cannot evaluate the candidate's teaching practice.

6 Critical notes and recommendations

I do not have any critical notes or recommendations on the presented for review materials and I fully accept stated in the statement scientific contributions.

7 Personal impressions of the candidate

I do not know the candidate and I do not have any personal impressions of him.

8 Conclusion

After I have familiarized with the presented materials and scientific work for the habilitation, based on the analysis of their significance and scientific contribution, I confirm that the scientific achievements correspond to the requirements of ZRASRB, Regulations for its applying for acquiring the academic position Associate Professor in the scientific sphere and the professional area of the habilitation. In particular, the candidate complies with the minimum national requirements in this professional area. There is no proved plagiarism in the presented materials.

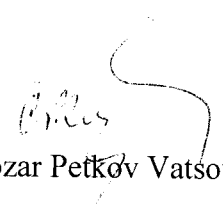
I give my *positive evaluation* on the candidacy.

II. GENERAL CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I recommend the scientific jury to offer to the competent selection authority to vote for PhD Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev to get the academic rank Associate Professor in the professional area of 1.1 Theory and management of education (Education management).

Shumen, 17 May 2021

Opinion prepared by:


(Prof PhD Svetlozar Petkov Vatsov)