

## OPINION

by a member of the scientific jury: Galin Borisov Tsokov, PhD, Professor at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the needs of Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar, for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 1.1. Theory and management of education (Management of education) in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, announced by Shumen University Bishop Konstantin of Preslav, in the State Gazette, issue 12/12.02.2021  
The only candidate in the competition is Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev.

### 1. General presentation of the received materials

By an order of the Rector of Shumen University Bishop Konstantin of Preslav, I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate professor" for the needs of Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences; in professional field 1.1. Theory and Management of Education (Management of Education). The only candidate who has submitted documents in the announced competition is: Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev, PhD. The set of materials on paper presented by Mihalev, PhD is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of Shumen University. The candidate has applied a total of 22 scientific papers: 1 book, 3 monographs, 1 thesis for the achievement of academic rank, 2 studies and 15 articles, one of which was published in English.

### 2. General characteristics of the candidate's work

#### *Assessment of the educational and pedagogical work and qualification of the candidate*

Vesselin Mihalev has extensive pedagogical and managerial experience in school education and teaching experience at VFU Chernorizets Hrabar. As a lecturer on ¼ employment basis, under Art. 67 para 1 item 1 of the Labour code, the candidate conducts lectures and exercises with author's curricula in academic disciplines: *Inclusive education, Pedagogy (theory of education and didactics), Education management, Work with normative documents in the school education system* - for acquiring additional professional qualification - teacher. He is a lecturer in qualification courses for pedagogical specialists on topics related to education and school management.

For the quality of the teaching activity of Mihalev PhD the following facts testify as well:

- He has developed curricula for academic disciplines in Bachelor's and Master's programmes;
- He is a participant in over 10 national educational projects and programmes.

I believe that the pedagogical experience of the candidate meets the criteria for holding the academic position of *Associate professor*.

#### *Evaluation of the research and research-applied activity of the candidate*

In the announced competition, Mihalev PhD has applied with a total of 22 scientific papers: 1 book, 3 monographs, 1 thesis for the achievement of academic rank, 2 studies and 15 articles, one of which was published in English.

The presented work for the achievement of academic rank, according to Art. 24 para 1, item 3 of ASDARB, MIHALEV, V. (2021) *The delegated budget in the conditions of financial decentralization of school education. Slavena Publishing House, Varna, ISBN 978-619-190-179-1, 216 pages*, provides an in-depth analysis of the main phases of the budget process is made, directly related to the functioning of the delegated school budget in the primary school, in accordance with the parameters of the institutional environment and the approved legislative framework. The monograph also outlines the theoretical aspects of

financial decentralization as a means of balancing resources, rights and responsibilities at all levels of management. The *mechanism for distribution of the school budget*, which creates conditions for regulation of the financial relations at the level of municipality - educational institution, is analysed. According to the author, the Bulgarian school has a high degree of authority related to the financial autonomy of the director of the educational institution, who together with the management team takes responsibility for maintaining and modernizing the facilities. Thus, the implementation of the system of delegated budget leads to stimulating the initiative and entrepreneurial skills of the principal to search for alternative sources for additional funding of the school activities.

The main research emphases in the other scientific works of the candidate refer to the following thematic areas:

- The origin and development of the Bulgarian educational institutions, which form the education system in the city of Varna during the Revival and the place they occupy in the history of education in Bulgaria, are studied.
- The overall organization of the salary is considered as an internal act in the educational institution.
- Issues related to the evaluation of the work of pedagogical specialists have been clarified.
- The process of construction and functioning, the status and functions of the first post-liberation *regional structures for education management - district school council and district inspectorate*, have been studied on the basis of documentary archival material,
- Works related to clarifying the various aspects of the *interaction between the school and the family*.
- Issues related to the status, conditions and procedure for the establishment, organization and activity of public councils as collective bodies for support and development and for civil control over the management of educational institutions are studied.
- Risk management in the educational institution and the managerial responsibility of the principal and the school team
- Study of the specifics of the Greek educational institutions, functioning in the second half of the XIX century to the 1920s (until 1914).
- Examines the management functions of the Greek school board and the organization and management of the Greek schools in Varna in the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century.

**Main scientific and applied contributions of Mihalev, PhD** can be reduced to the following:

A. Theoretical contribution

- A systematic analysis of the first introduced school regulations for the management of the modern Bulgarian Revival School in Varna in the 70s of the XIX century is carried out. In this context the projections of the different influences of the Greek educational institutions on the activity and management of the new Bulgarian education.
- Two first-of-its-kind historical and pedagogical studies were carried out, in which the goals, tasks, main functions and contributions of the specialized and non-specialized institutions for management and support of the Greek educational institutions in the settlements on the North and South Black Sea coast during the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1920s are thoroughly studied.
- The goals, tasks, main management functions and contributions of the specialized and non-specialized institutions for management and support of the new Bulgarian school in Varna during the Revival are studied.

B. Research-and-applied contribution

- The degree of financial decentralization in school education is analysed by introducing the system of delegated school budget. On this basis, its specific characteristics are outlined and an institutional analysis of the process of financial delegation of public funds at different levels of management has been prepared.
- The legislation (laws and regulations) at the different levels of management of the delegated school budget has been studied. On its basis, a complex analysis of the phases of the budget process has been prepared, determining the economic parameters of a delegated school budget tested in practice.
- The aspects of the managerial responsibility of the director in the process of introduction and implementation of the system for financial management and control are outlined.

From the attached reference it is evident that there are 16 the citations of publications of Mihalev, PhD, mainly in unreferenced editions with scientific review.

### 3. Critical remarks and recommendations

Some recommendations can be addressed to the candidate's research and teaching activities:

- In my opinion, the scientific production of Mihalev, PhD has enough originally developed ideas and achieved results that can be promoted through publications in leading specialized peer-reviewed scientific journals abroad;
- In the future, in his research and studies, Mihalev, PhD may focus on current contemporary problems of education management.

### CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev, PhD meet all the requirements of the Law for the Academic Staff Development Act of Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the Implementation Regulations of ASDARB, and the respective Regulations of Shumen University. He has presented a sufficient number of high-quality research papers in which there are original research and applied contributions.

The candidate in the competition fulfils the relevant minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "*Associate Professor*". I have no doubt of plagiarism in the scientific publications submitted for review.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and the research and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive conclusion and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a Proposal Report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy to the selection of Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev for the academic position of "Associate professor" for the needs of Varna Free University Chernorizets Hrabar, in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field professional field 1.1. Theory and management of education (Management of education).

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Opinion by:

  
(Prof. G. Tsokov)