

Opinion
by Prof. Rumen Ivanov Stamatov
Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"
in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
at Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"

In the competition for "associate professor", announced in SG no. 12/12. 02. 2021 and on the website of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen" for the needs of the Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" as the only candidate participates MP Vesselin Dimitrov Mihalev. I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in / field of higher education 1 Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.1 Theory and management of education (management of education), announced in SG no. 12/12. 02. 2021 for the needs of Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar", under Order RD-16-046, from 08. 04. 2021 of the Rector of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen".

The candidate today Veselin Dimitrov Mihalev has presented a set of materials on paper and electronic media, which is fully per the Regulations for the development of the academic staff and includes all the necessary documents.

Veselin Mihalev graduated from VPI Blagoevgrad Bachelor's Degree and St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Applied Sciences (Master's Degree) in Education Management in 2015. In 2010 he defended his dissertation for ONS "Doctor" in the scientific specialty History of Pedagogy and Bulgarian education and in 2017 he again defended a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Science in Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics). The professional path is impressive. He has successively held various positions in the field of education and is currently a lecturer at VFU, which testifies to the accumulated research and teaching experience. The acquired diverse scientific qualification and expert experience, as evidenced by the public recognitions certified with various certificates, participation in projects, and development of programs in the field of Pedagogy and Management, give grounds to conclude that Veselin Mihalev has the necessary to acquire the position of "Associate Professor". Theory and management of education (Management of education). Starting with the presented materials I will note that Veselin Mihalev applies 1 habilitation thesis, 3 monographs, 2 studies, and 15 articles in academically recognized journals, as evidenced by the reviews and citations.

The presented research is divided into two thematic areas - the first is related to the management of educational institutions, presented by the habilitation work and articles and studies, the second is related to the history of education, which is presented by other monographic studies and articles. I would like to start by emphasizing his research commitment and thematic commitment to the issues related to the effective implementation and management of the system of delegated school budgets in the context of decentralization of school education. Critical analysis, which includes the development of a budget management model, finds its effectiveness by tracking the positive effects on the financial autonomy of the school institution, optimizing financial resources, modernizing the available base, stimulating work and professional development of teachers. The budgeting process is traced in different dimensions, which reveals clearly defined responsibilities in its management, as well as problem areas and opportunities to seek new management solutions. I believe that the presented model paves the way for the introduction of many innovations, activities, and programs to increase the effectiveness of the learning process and the well-being and health of students.

The second thematic area is related to the history of education and presents in-depth analyzes on school management at the regional level. The research is of impressive depth and critical consideration of the historical heritage contained in the various archives and documents. Systematic research outlines stages in the development of school governance in the context of historical transitions and cultural and social crises and influences. The status and the managerial functions of the regional governing bodies, regulated in the first legislative acts related to the activity of the Bulgarian school, are traced. I would like to note that these are the first in nature historical and pedagogical research, which thoroughly presents the goals, objectives, main functions, and contributions of specialized and non-specialized institutions for management and support of Greek educational institutions in the settlements of the North and South Black Sea during the second half of the 19th century to the 1920s. Placed in the context of historical research, the presented research is a contribution to the existing research on Greek educational institutions in settlements on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, focusing on educational practices and institutions for their management and influence over time. This research complements knowledge on the history of education and identity and outlines opportunities for future research.

Scientific and applied research convincingly testify not only to analytical but also to teaching abilities. A large number of qualifications, as well as the long professional path of a teacher, methodologist, director, expert, and lecturer at VFU, open a creative biography, which shows the commitment and experience of modern understanding of the learning process and search for original approaches to presenting curriculum, which combines theoretical knowledge and application in a practical context, and betrays a commitment to the problem of motivation to learn.

I fully accept all the contribution claims of DPS. Vesselin Mihalev, in his self-assessment. I do not have any critical remarks on the scientific level of the presented works. I would recommend it to DPS. Vesselin Mihalev to continue the topic of effective budgeting in the direction of creating new programs specific to the specific educational institution as well as to comprehend and expand the possible uses of free time in the school space. The documents and materials submitted by DPS. Vesselin Mihalev categorically meets all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for implementation of ZRASRB.

The candidate in the competition has presented the required number of scientific papers, and they have original and serious scientific and applied contributions, as a representative part of them have been published in journals and scientific journals with high academic prestige. The main part of his production is directly oriented to the theme of the competition. The scientific and teaching qualification of DPS. Vesselin Mihalev is undoubted.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and analysis of the scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions contained in them, I find it justified to give my categorical positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury, DPS. Vesselin Mihalev to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of Theory and Management of Education (Department of Education), announced for the needs of VFU).

29. 04 2021

Varna

Opinion made by:

(prof. DPS. R. Stamatov)