

Testimonial

On the scientific work of

Zhivko Velichkov Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof.

Regarding his participation in a competition for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities (Art therapy and socialization), announced in SG, issue 98 of 17 November 2020

by Plamen Kirov Ivanov, PhD., Prof.

The scientific work presented to me for review for the purposes of the candidate's participation in the announced in SG, issue 98 of 17.11. 2020 competition for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities (Art therapy and socialization) refers to important, topical and significant issues of art therapy and socialization.

Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. has a bachelor's degree in Bulgarian Philology and a master's degree in Social Activities both from the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski".

He speaks Russian and English.

He has been working at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" since 1988, consecutively as an assistant, senior assistant, chief assistant and associate professor. In the period 2017-2018 he was also Deputy District Governor of the District of Shumen.

He has led and leads classes in the following disciplines: for bachelor students -Art Therapy, Language Culture, Communication and Speech Development, Speech Culture, Fundamentals of Theater Culture, Social Communication, Social Work with Children who Dropped from School, Social and Normative Training, Speech Technique, Communication skills Training; in the master disciplines - Art techniques for self-expression and art-pedagogical tools for knowledge transfer, Innovations in social work,

Regional policy for integration of marginalized groups, Social communication, Employment strategies of excluded groups.

In 2013, after successfully defending a doctoral dissertation on the topic: "Motivations for social activity through art" he acquired a PhD degree in Theory of Education and Didactics, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski".

Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. has participated in 7 national and 14 internal university projects. He has also participated in 15 scientific forums with international participation.

He participates in the announced competition for the academic position of "professor" with 2 monographs, 1 textbook, 1 workbook and 12 articles. There are 14 citations of the scientific papers he has presented for the competition by other scientific authors and a total of 25 citations from his entire scientific production.

The reference for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements under art. 2B, paragraph 2 and 3 of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria proves that the minimum requirements for various scientific degrees and academic positions that the candidate holds or is about to acquire are fulfilled.

He is a member of the Expert-Consultative Commission at the Municipality of Shumen for the implementation of the terms and conditions for the protection of gifted children. He was a trainer in advanced training courses for primary school teachers in the period 2016-2020, director and host of final concerts of the International Competition "Undiscovered Beautiful Hopes" of the association "Shining Dawn".

In terms of content, the scientific publications of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. are oriented to the paradigms:

- Problems of disadvantaged children
- Socialization
- Social Services

- Art therapy - social services - socialization
- Art - social services - socialization.
- Organization and management of social services in the Republic of Bulgaria.
- Analysis and research on the need for a father figure for the children placed in institutions and children using social services.

All works submitted by Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. are adequate to the announced competition. They show the author's many years of teaching experience, his competences and erudition.

The presented scientific work is aimed at a fairly wide audience - teachers working in the higher education system, teachers, students, PhD students and anyone interested in the problems of social work, art therapy and socialization.

In summary, the theoretical and practical contributions of the papers proposed by Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. for participation in the competition for the academic position of "professor" are as follows:

- Deep professional interest in the problems of art therapy.
- Interesting analyses, interpretations and summaries of issues related to the socialization of children.
- Precise analysis of alternatives for social services.
- In-depth analysis and innovative practices for social activity through art.
- Scientific analysis of the problems in the institutions for children.

The scientific work of Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. is directly related to his teaching functions and as a result his new ideas find direct application in the education of students, which characterizes him as an erudite, resourceful and competent pedagogue.

Zhivko Zhechev, PhD, Assoc. Prof. is an extremely socially active person. He enjoys authority and respect among colleagues, PhD- and other students.

In conclusion, I believe that Zhivko Velichkov Zhechev PhD, Assoc. Prof. possesses the necessary scientific potential, competence and personal qualities to take the academic position of "professor" in higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities (Art therapy and socialization) in the Department of Social Work at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski".

Based on all of the above, I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to vote in favour and offer to Zhivko Velichkov Zhechev PhD, Assoc. Prof. to take the academic position of "professor" in higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities (Art therapy and socialization) at the faculty council of the pedagogical faculty.

Testimonial prepared by
P.Ivanov, PhD, Prof.



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Shumen