

Indicator group C	100 points (minimum 100 points)
Indicator group D	310,8 points (minimum 200 points)
Indicator group E	240 points (minimum 100 points)
Indicator group E	150 points (minimum 100 points)
Total:	850.8 points.

In this serious volume of monographies, articles, textbooks and teaching aids we find many interesting concepts and opinions of *Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska*. At a required minimum volume of 550 **points**, the candidate deposits **850.8 points**, which is evidence of her scientific growth over time from 2017 to 2022, i.e. after acquiring the scientific title "Associate Professor".

Not the small set of publications cover ideas, visions, and own concepts for the realization of Bulgarian language and literature in 1. – 4. grade. These concepts are essential for increasing the quality and effectiveness of the learning process in general, published in the **first monograph** "*Methodological preparation of primary teachers of Bulgarian language and literature*", **which is a habilitation work**, structured in an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, and application. The concepts are implemented in practice and are breaking the traditional presentation of Bulgarian language and literature teaching in 1 – 4 grade. The attention is focused not on clarifying the linguistic and literary information and the corresponding specificity in the initial stage, but on the methodological skills of the primary teacher, which support the realization of the goals of other subjects, due to their complex nature, although the text specifies the manifestations only in the Bulgarian language and literature teaching. The monograph outlines a number of ways and methods of work for the formation of competences in primary teachers teaching Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage.

Innovative educational technologies in the Bulgarian language and literature education in 1st – 4th grade in the context of inclusive education are presented in **the second monograph**. In an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion are presented the organization of the Bulgarian language and literature training in accordance with the principles of inclusive education. Principles that pose the problem of creating such a training organisation that responds to the needs and interests of all trainees – both those without difficulties and with outstanding opportunities, as well as children with learning difficulties and educational needs.

The textbook “Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching in 1st–4th Grade” is addressed to both students (Bachelors and Masters) from *Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy, Primary School Pedagogy with Foreign Language*, as well as to primary teachers (both junior and senior teachers). She presents the main points of the didactics of the Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage, developed in the author's lecture courses. The current state of Bulgarian language and literature education in the initial stage is presented in 15 topics, which include: curricula and curriculum content in Bulgarian language and literature (language and literature); competences as expected learning outcomes; basic ways and methods for work (lesson and exercises); assessment of students' achievements; textbooks that provide training; Bulgarian language and literature education in an inclusive and electronic environment; continuity of education between school and kindergarten.

As a close specialist in the field of the education of Bulgarian language and literature in 1st – 4th grade teaching, I responsibly declare that all this makes a good impression and shows the research skills of *Assoc.Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska*. The interesting title of the **educational tool** "Help me learn Bulgarian language and literature" is also an evidence in that direction.

Various pedagogical innovations have been developed and implemented as a factor in ensuring a good educational environment in the development of the Bulgarian language and literature 1. – 4. class, which is determined by the specifics of the attached **studios and articles**. Proof of this are also

the exceeded points under **indicator D** (240 points) - *citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review* from the minimum national requirements and the requirements under art. 1a, paragraph 2 for admission to participate in the procedures under the Law on Academic Activity "Professor".

2. Assessment of the pedagogical preparation and teaching activities of the applicant

2.1. Educational and pedagogical activity

As a lecturer *Assoc.Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska* has extensive experience. From 1991 to the present (31) she works in the field of education, gradually passing along the ladder of the positions of Head of the Primary Technical Creativity Department, Educator, Teacher, Acting Director, Senior Teacher, Head Teacher, Part-time Assistant, Assistant, Principal Assistant and Associate Professor.

Since 2013 *Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska* prepares and conducts lectures, seminars and practical exercises in the Bachelor's degree programme and in the Master's degree programme at the Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin of Preslav":

- has very good organizational skills - organizes the pedagogical practices of students – future teachers in the primary school.
- conduct qualification courses and specializations with teachers as a lecturer at the Department of Qualification and Continuing Education (DICPO) – Varna.
- works with students and PhD students, graduate students, teachers to obtain a professional qualification degree:

As per indicator E. 15. *Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska is the head of four PhD students, one of whom successfully defended, one of whom is entitled to protection and two who are currently studying.* She also successfully managed students - graduates and specialized teachers (for the period 2018-2022) in professional pedagogical specializations – 62 pcs., second professional qualification degree – 13 pcs., first professional qualification activity – 6 pcs. at Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky".

2.2. Implementation activity

Assoc.Prof.Ph. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska has developed a number of curricula for students on: Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Education in Primary School; Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Education for Children with GP; Inclusive Education; Exercises in Bulgarian Language and Literature Education in Primary School; Re-examination and compilation in Bulgarian Language and Literature Education in NEO; Primary Literacy of Children with GP; Practice in Communication Skills Formation; - Socialization and Speech Development; Family Communication and Adaptation in Children with Special Educational Needs; Current Issues of Bulgarian Language and Literature Education in Primary School.

The long experience of *Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska* as a lecturer at Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky" allows her to find a shortcut to the students and achieve high results in the absorption and application of the material from the disciplines she teaches.

All this gives me sufficient grounds to conclude that Assoc. Prof. Ph.D Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska possesses the necessary pedagogical training and qualities for the academic position of "Professor".

3. Assessment of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the creative production submitted for participation in the competition

The 26 (twenty-six) publications presented (2 monographs, 1 textbook, 1 teaching tool, 1 studios and 21 articles) show that the candidate *Assoc.Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska* has scientific

potential, which presents her achievements at a high level in scientific peer-reviewed journals and in edited collective volumes.

The presented scientific production shows serious literary awareness, competences and erudition on the studied issues related to the Bulgarian language and literature education, as well as issues related to the normative documents for pre-school and school education. This, in turn, *proves the correct orientation of Assoc.Prof.Dr. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska* in the modern needs of forming key competences in the trainees through their more active involvement in the process of training, development of their critical thinking skills.

The scientific achievements of the applicant can be referenced in the following categories of contributions (reference for original scientific contributions of the applicant):

1. Scientific contributions:

Authors' presentation of the *methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature in the initial stage of educational degree* in the direction of: *the methodological preparation of primary teachers of Bulgarian language and literature, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the training of Bulgarian language and literature in 1st-4th grade; the training of Bulgarian language and literature in the context of inclusive education and the training of Bulgarian language and literature in 1st–4th grade in the context of current productions ;*

2. Scientific-Applied:

The results of a survey of the opinion of 500 primary teachers are presented, which defines and systematizes their problems in the direction of realization of the goals of Bulgarian language and literature education in I–IV grade, are the basis for the *development of programs for various forms of continuing qualification*; Based on the developed and experimented methodology of work with *electronic resources for Bulgarian language and literature education in I–IV grade of students with different opportunities*: both educational difficulties and educational needs, as well as with prominent opportunities, the content of a university course – mandatory discipline - *Current problems of Bulgarian language and literature education in primary school*, elective discipline *Bulgarian language training of bilingual children is updated.*

3. Practical and Applied Proceeds:

In primary education classes, as well as in kindergarten preparatory groups, the authors' electronic resources are used to form language, literary, sociocultural and communicative skills in an inclusive environment. Their application is in both mandatory, elective and optional forms of work, as well as in additional training in Bulgarian language and literature. In support of the primary teacher are the sample thematic allocations for *elective training in Bulgarian language and literature*, provided with educational software products, developed on the basis of fairy tale texts; analyzed and presented are normative documents that support the work of the primary teacher in: *selection of textbooks and teaching aids in Bulgarian language and literature in 1st–4th grade; organization of additional work for providing general support; evaluation of students' achievements; forms of qualification and professional growth.*

The scientific works provided are the author's personal work, and the works in co-authorship have a clearly distinguished contribution.

4. Comments and recommendations.

To the candidate I have no critical remarks, because the scientific output provided for participation in the competition complies with the regulatory requirements in terms of quantity and content of scientific works in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature (1. to 4. grade)). Rather, I have a recommendation to the candidate to unleash their potential and present their scientific work in global databases such as SCOPUS and Web of sciences, as the presented ideas and concepts are original.

5. Personal impressions

Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska is a scientist with proven professional qualities in Bulgaria. Her development is a gradation of the upgrading competences in the field of primary education. She is a colleague who can be relied on for both professional and ethical and human measurability.

6. Conclusion:

The documents and materials presented by *Assoc. Prof. Ph.D Violeta Ivanova Kyurkchiyska* meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Rulebook on the Implementation of ZRASRB and the corresponding Rulebook of the School "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", as well as the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 1. 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching (1. to 4. grade)),

After acquainting myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and my analysis of their significance and the scientific and applied contributions, I find it justified to give my **positive assessment** and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a Report-proposal for taking up the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of Bulgarian Language and Literature Teaching (1.– 4. grade) at the Department of Education Sciences in DIKPO-Varna of Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin of Preslav".

Date:19.10.2022

Member of the scientific jury:

(Prof. DScNelly Dimitrova)

