



**REVIEW**

**For the competition for academic position Associate Professor**

**Area of Higher Education:** 1. Pedagogical Sciences

**Professional direction:** 1.2 Pedagogy (Special Pedagogy)

**Candidate:** Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov

**Review author:** *Associate Professor Dr Mariya Stoyanova Dishkova, Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas*

(Order No. RD-447 dated 27.12.2024 of the Rector of  
Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas)

**1. Description of the competition procedure**

In the announced competition for academic position Associate Professor in area of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy (Special pedagogy), for the needs of the Pedagogy Faculty, announced in the State Gazette, issue 91 dated 29 October 2024, there is one candidate: Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov.

The documents of Dr Damyanov, presented for participation in the competition show that the procedure for its opening and announcement has been followed and they are in compliance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB) and the Regulations for its application, as well as of the Regulations of the Conditions and rules for acquiring academic degrees and taking up academic positions in Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

**2. Scientific-metric indicators**

According to the Regulations of the Conditions and rules for acquiring academic degrees and taking up academic positions in Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, the scientific-metric indicators of the candidate Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov for taking up the academic position of Associate Professor are as follows:

Indicator from group A – 50 points (accomplished)

Indicator from group B is not required for this position.

Indicator from group C – Treatise, presented as a research work – 100 points (accomplished)

Indicator from group D – 625, required 400 points

Indicator from group E – 150, required 100 points

Indicator from group F – 180, required 50 points



The end result is more than impressive – a total of 1115 points.

In conclusion I stress the fact that the presented scientific production of Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov is in compliance with the scientific-metric requirements in the Regulations of the Conditions and rules for acquiring academic degrees and taking up academic positions in Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

### **3. Main directions of the research work of the candidate and most important scientific contributions**

The research work of the candidate – Chief Assistant Dr. Kaloyan Damyanov – is very clearly expressed in the direction of resource support and the implementation of activities for general and additional support for the personal development of children and students with special educational needs. The main scientific and applied scientific contributions of his research work can be summarized thematically in the areas: development of integrational education; educational approaches and therapeutic support for children and students with special educational needs; socio-pedagogical and intercultural interaction in the educational environment. For the purposes of the competition, the candidate presents an impressive number of 33 scientific works, including 3 independent monographs, one of which is a research work, publications, textbooks and reports in scientific forums, as well as participation in 4 scientific research and applied projects, two of which are international and two at – national.

The candidate has presented a monographic work on the topic "Functional Assessment and Intensity of Support in Integrational Education", in which he examines in depth the functional assessment based on the ICF-CY (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health - Children & Youth Version) and its role in determining the intensity of support in the process of integrational education of children and students with special educational needs, with chronic diseases, children at risk or with outstanding talents in the Republic of Bulgaria. The candidate offers an analysis of a new assessment tool that combines international standards with national specifics. He presents a new framework for applying the classification and introduces an assessment model for the intensity of additional support for personal development. He combines qualitative (interviews, case studies) and quantitative methods (statistical analyses) to provide a comprehensive understanding of the processes in functional assessment and support. Chief Assistant Dr. Kaloyan Damyanov includes artificial intelligence (AI), augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR) to facilitate the assessment processes and differentiated support. Recommendations are made for teachers and resource teams, including specific case studies and examples from practice not only for the application of functional assessment, but also for the provision of additional support activities.



The candidate has presented a book based on a major dissertation titled "Integrational Education and Organization of the Supportive Environment", where he explores the inclusion of students with special educational needs in the general education system through the creation and optimization of a supportive environment, for the development of which specific strategies are proposed.

Other publications include titles such as "15 years of the Bulgarian model of integrational education and the role of regional centers to support the process", "Co-teaching in integrational education", "General support for personal development of students with special educational needs", "Integrational environment in the education and motivation of children and students with learning difficulties", "Provision of additional support. Procedures, measures, implementation. Personal support team. Individual plan and program". All of them show rich theoretical scholarship, knowledge of the processes related to integrational education in the country, a desire to innovate practice and resolution to conduct research and experimental work.

The professional development of Chief Assistant Dr. Kaloyan Damyanov is also impressive – in his previous teaching activities he has developed lecture courses and led exercises in disciplines within the framework of the announced competition, including at the "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" University to which it can be added: he held the academic position of "assistant" at the Faculty of Medicine of Thrace University – Stara Zagora; he has conducted a number of trainings in postgraduate qualifications in "Special Pedagogy - Integrational Education" – specialist teacher and "Special Pedagogy – Education of Children and Persons with Multiple Disabilities" – teacher in a special school at the Department of Information and Teacher Training, Thrace University – Stara Zagora; conducted lecture courses at the New Bulgarian University and at the Center for the Development of Pedagogical Specialists at the School of Professional and Continued Education at the NBU; lecture courses and exercises at the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"; part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Pedagogy at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Sofia; since 27.09.2023 he holds the academic position of "chief assistant" at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts at Sofia University. He has accumulated indisputable pedagogical experience and enjoys the respect not only of students, but also of teachers – representatives of the academic community throughout the country. The curricula written by him in various disciplines definitely offer rich content, designed for impressive education of students, distinguished by relevancy, content, applicability.

In addition, the candidate presents solid references for participation in scientific forums, as well as for guidance of graduates. His higher education is distinguished with its developing progression. At Thrace University in 2003, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in the specialty "Special Pedagogy" and since then has been tirelessly developing and moving forward in this field. In 2005, he continued with a master's degree in the specialty "Pedagogy of the socialization of children at risk" at the VTU "St. Cyril and Methodius" – Veliko Tarnovo, and in 2012 in the specialty "Special Pedagogy - Speech Therapy" at Thrace University in Stara Zagora. In 2023, he completed a training course



for acquiring the professional qualification "Occupational Therapist in Integrational Education" at the NBU.

#### **4. Critical notes, recommendations, questions**

My only recommendation to Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Damyanov is to expand the range of his theoretical and practical research, to stand out even more with research resolution and to continue to skilfully combine experience, accumulated in the practice of his scientific activity, because the educational activity needs immediate and relevant response, which it can only receive from young and working people like Dr Damyanov.

#### **5. Conclusion**

On the grounds of the materials presented for the competition I think that the candidate Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Damyanov meets the criteria for the academic position Associate Professor, set by the Development of the Academic Staff Development Act of Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB) and the Regulations for its application, as well as of the Regulations of the Conditions and rules for acquiring academic degrees and taking up academic positions in Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

I propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively and to propose at the Faculty Meeting of the Social Sciences Faculty at Prof. Dr Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, to appoint Chief Assistant Dr Kaloyan Damyanov at the Associate Professor position in area of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy (Special pedagogy).

Date: 17.02.2025

Burgas

**Member of the Scientific Jury;**

(Associate Professor Dr Mariya Dishkova)