



STATEMENT

on the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences

Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Pedagogy)

Candidate: Senior Assist. PhD Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov

Author of the opinion: Prof. Yuliya Georgieva Doncheva, PhD,

University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev"

(Order No. RD - 447 of 27.12. 2024 of the Rector of the University

"Prof. PhD Asen Zlatarov")

1. Description of the competition procedure:

In the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Pedagogy), for the needs of the Department of Pedagogy, announced in the "State Gazette", issue 91 of 29.10.2024, 1 (one) candidate participated.

The documents of (*Senior Assistant Professor PhD Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov*), submitted for participation in the competition show that the procedure for its disclosure and announcement has been complied with and they are in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as with the Regulations on the terms and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the University "Prof. PhD Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

2. Scientometric indicators:

According to the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the University "Prof. PhD Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, the scientometric indicators of the candidate PhD Kaloyan Damyanov for occupying the academic position "associate professor" are the following:

The indicator from group "A" - 50 points (fulfilled)

The indicator from group "B" is not required for this position.

The indicator from group V - monograph, presented as a habilitation thesis - 100 points (fulfilled)

Indicators from group "G" - Total number of points under indicator "G": 625.00



Indicators from group "D" - Total number of points under indicator "D": 160.00

Indicators from group "E" - Total number of points under indicator "E": 180.00

Total number of points for all groups of indicators – 1115.00. An amount that exceeds many times the required minimum for the academic position of “associate professor”, deserving admiration and respect.

The scientific production presented by PhD Kaloyan Damyanov *fully complies* with the scientometrics set out in the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the University “Prof. PhD Asen Zlatarov”, Burgas.

3. Main areas of the candidate's research work and most important scientific contributions:

According to the nature of the research and publication activity, the main scientific and applied scientific contributions of the candidate's research work can be summarized thematically in the following areas:

- **Research focused on the development of inclusive education.** In this context, there are: Developing strategies for creating an accessible and inclusive educational environment that meets the needs of all learners; Creating policies and practices with an emphasis on reducing discrimination and promoting equality; Innovative models and methodologies for adapting educational content to different groups of students, and others.

- **Research focused on educational approaches and therapeutic support for children and students with special educational needs.** Specifically, they can be presented as follows: Introduction and optimization of individualized educational programs supporting the development of children with special educational needs and other groups; Integration of multidisciplinary teams (psychologists, educators, speech therapists, experts, etc.) for comprehensive support of children with SEN; Evaluation of the effectiveness of therapeutic methods and approaches for addressing learning difficulties and the socialization of these students.

- **Research examining socio-pedagogical and intercultural interaction in the educational environment.** In summary, they can be presented as: Improving the skills of educators and specialists for working in a multicultural environment through training and qualifications; Creating educational programs that promote intercultural dialogue and tolerance; Researching the factors that support the social inclusion of students from different ethnicities, cultural, marginalized and other target groups; Developing methodologies for dealing with conflicts and improving social interaction in the school environment.



From the above, as basic, basic, in a general form, scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the research work of the candidate Senior Assistant Professor PhD Kaloyan Damyanov, I will highlight those that are of a national (for the whole of Bulgaria) and international, global (through various types of activities and mobilities he expands and disseminates the competencies for inclusive education throughout the world) level, namely:

- *Creating new knowledge and practices that support the development of inclusive education, as well as the overall adaptation of the education system to contemporary social challenges.*

- *Promoting cooperation between institutions, parents and specialists for the purpose of comprehensive support for children and students.*

4. Critical notes, recommendations, questions:

I have no critical remarks. Following and knowing in depth the systematicity and consistency in the candidate's scientific growth, I can only express my support and extreme satisfaction with the momentum with which he is purposefully and confidently moving forward and upward in the name of Inclusive Education and Special Pedagogy in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Recommendations – research, scientific, theoretical, practical, etc., provides valuable guidelines, algorithms and findings, but the implementation of the recommendations requires a systematic approach, sustainability and active participation of all stakeholders. Kaloyan Damyanov knows this very well, having worked in the system at various levels, I recommend that he continue to be uncompromising in the name of children.

Questions:

1) **How can sustainable funding** be secured to create long-term policies for investment in the resources needed for inclusive education, including technology, specialists and materials? To what extent are they currently sufficient or not? Why?

2) 2) Inclusive education often remains at a conceptual level, without being effectively implemented in the school environment. How, in your opinion, can the gap between theory and practice be reduced? The so-called **Resistance to Change, either through interdisciplinarity**, or how to achieve more effective cooperation between educators, psychologists, social workers and all other specialists?

3) In your recent publications you have registered a visible interest in **ICT to help children and students with special educational needs**. What technologies can be implemented to facilitate their learning, give examples?



5. Conclusion:

Based on the materials submitted for the competition, I believe that the candidate PhD Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov *meets* the criteria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", determined by the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at the University "Prof. PhD Asen Zlatarov", Burgas.

I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote *positively* and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University "Prof. PhD Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, *to elect* PhD Kaloyan Ivanov Damyanov to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Pedagogy).

Date: 27. 01. 2025

Burgas

Member of the scientific jury:

(Prof. DSc Yuliya Doncheva, PhD)