

OPINION

from prof. Georgi Teoharov Tuparov, PhD
New Bulgarian University, Department of Informatics
professional field 4.6 Informatics and computer sciences

on the scientific works presented for participation in the competition for the
academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education:

4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics,
professional field: 4.5 Mathematics

for the needs of the department of Informatics at the New Bulgarian University (NBU)
published in the State Gazette no. 35 of 18.04.2023 and on the NBU website.

In the competition for the academic position "professor", two candidates submitted
documents and were admitted to participate:

1. Assoc. prof. Dananil Stefanov Brezov, PhD
2. Assoc. prof. Dimitar Vladislavov Atanasov, PhD

The opinion was prepared on the basis of order № 3-PK-222/25.05.2023 of the
Rector of NBU and a meeting of the Scientific Jury of July 05, 2023.

I. Scientometric indicators of the applicants according to ZRASRB and the specific requirements of NBU

The presented materials - references, publications, etc. sufficiently meet the
requirements of the ZRSASRB, the Regulations for its application and the Ordinance
for the development of the academic staff of the NBU. Both candidates have presented
evidence of obtaining a PhD degree, hold the academic position of "Associate Professor"
and are registered with scientometric indicators on the NACID in the professional field
of the competition. Also, both candidates did not provide evidence of obtaining the
scientific degree "Doctor of Science". In the following, I will focus on their
achievements by groups of scientometric indicators, according to the documents
submitted for participation.

Assoc. Prof. Dananil Brezov

I must point out that the materials submitted for participation in the competition
are not well structured. For example, there is a clear discrepancy in the numbering and
the number of publications submitted for participation in the competition in the
documents presented by Assoc. Prof. Brezov "Criteria Fulfillment Report" and
"Publications for the competition". I made a comparison of the documents "Publications
for the competition" and "Reference for the scientific contribution" in which the

candidate presents, although not particularly precisely, his claims for scientific and scientific-applied contributions, and due to their correspondence, I accept only the publications from the list for evaluation in this competition in the "Publications for the competition" document.

The "Publications for the competition" list presents 12 scientific papers, most of which are already indexed in Web of Science (WoS) with IF and in Scopus with SJR. The scientific works presented in this list under numbers 1 and 2 have not been published at the time of review and the author has not provided evidence of their acceptance. Publication 12 is in the list of publications in the abstract of the dissertation work for the acquisition of the PhD by Assoc. Prof. Brezov. For these reasons, I will not consider these three scholarly works further.

In Group **B**, Assoc. Prof. Brezov has submitted seven publications according to the "Criteria Fulfillment Report" and claims 276 points, according to the scientometric indicators. Four of these publications [14, 15, 16 and 17] do not appear in the "Publications for the competition" list, one of them [16] is included in the abstract of the dissertation work for the acquisition of PhD, and the other three [14, 15 and 17] are part of the procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor" as can be seen from the reviews published on the website of the University of Architecture, Construction and Geodesy (UASG). Therefore, I recognize only 111 items under group B from the remaining three publications, which are respectively indexed in WoS with IF (Q3 and Q4) and in Scopus with SJR.

In group **Г**, according to the "Criteria Fulfillment Report", Prof. Brezov presented 13 publications and claimed 441 points. Only six of them [22, 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31] are in the presented list for participation in the competition and are indexed in WoS with IF (one in Q1, one in Q2 and four in Q3). Of the remaining seven, four [28, 29, 32 and 33] do not appear in the "Publications for the competition" list, and three are used in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" [21, 26 and 27] according to the published site reviews of the UASG. Therefore, I recognize only 315 points under group **Г**.

In Group **Д**, Assoc. Prof. Brezov presented in the "Criteria Fulfillment Report" claims for 216 points cited in publications in indexed editions. Due to the duplication of one of the citations [8(4) and 8(6)] presented in the "Criteria Fulfillment Report", I recognize 208 points, which exceeds the minimum value for this group.

In Group **Е**, Assoc. Prof. Brezov claims to have achieved 220 points (according to the "Criteria Fulfillment Report") or 190 points (according to the document "Minimum criteria under the ZRASRB"), with only an official note that he was a consultant (not supervisor) of a successfully defended PhD thesis. For the participation in the projects mentioned in E.14/15, there are no copies of contracts that prove the applicant's participation in them. Regarding the claims for issued three textbooks, according to the

inquiry made on 17.08.2023 in the COBISS.bg system, Assoc. Prof. Brezov has only one registered source, which is his PhD dissertation work. This fact casts doubt on the claim for 120 items in E.19. I accept at this stage that Assoc. Prof. Brezov meets the requirements in Group **E** at the minimum required level with the proviso that he will present evidence of this during the final meeting of the Scientific Jury.

In Group **Ж** (additional requirements of the NBU), Assoc. Prof. Brezov submitted claims for 95 points, with no evidence of scoring in G.24 and G.25. In Groups **З** and **И** of the NBU's additional requirements, the candidate has claims for 110 points and 75 points, respectively. The only evidence here is two pdf study materials that could be accepted as electronic resources. As there is no further evidence presented for these claims, I again accept at this stage that the applicant meets the requirements in these groups at the minimum required level with the proviso that he will present evidence of this during the final meeting of the Scientific Jury.

In the table below, I have presented the minimum number of points claimed and accepted by me to cover the minimum scientometric indicators.

Groups	A	Б	В	Г	Д	Е	Ж	З	И
Minimal points required	50	0	100	200	100	100	70	70	70
Applicant claims	50	0	276	441	216	220	95	110	75
Acknowledged by the reviewer	50	0	111	315	208	100	70	70	70

Thus, Assoc. Prof. Brezov has 754 points according to the national scientometric indicators and a total of 964 points together with the additional requirements of the NBU.

Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Atanasov

For participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov has submitted 10 indexed in WoS with IF and in Scopus with SJR, which will be the subject of further consideration.

In Group **B**, instead of a monograph, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov submitted according to the "Self-Assessment" document two publications indexed in WoS with IF (in Q2) and claimed 120 points. I admit 120 points under Group **B**, which are completely sufficient according to this indicator.

In Group **Г**, according to the "Self-Assessment" document, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov presented eight publications and claims 267 points. Of these publications, six are indexed in WoS with IF, respectively, one in Q3, and the rest in Q4. Two of the publications are indexed in Scopus with SJR. Probably by mistake the candidate classified the second and last two posts in the list as only indexed in WoS, but they actually have IF and could be at least in Q4. For this reason, I recognize 285 points under Group **Г**, which are completely sufficient according to this indicator.

In Group **Г**, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov presented in the document "Self-Assessment" claims for 616 points cited in publications in indexed sources. I reject citation number 52 because it is duplicated by citation 19. In this sense, I accept 608 points in this group.

In Group **Е**, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov claims to have achieved 270 points (according to the "Self-Assessment" document) There is no evidence of participation in projects E14.3, E14.4 and E14.5, so I recognize 240 points in this group, accepting also , that the applicant could present additional evidence during the final meeting of the Scientific Jury.

In Groups **З**, **Ж** and **И** (additional requirements of the NBU), Assoc. Prof. Atanasov submitted claims for 85, 100 and 110 points, respectively. I fully accept the applicant's claims.

In the table below, I have presented the minimum number of points claimed and accepted by me to cover the minimum scientometric indicators.

Groups	А	Б	В	Г	Д	Е	Ж	З	И
Minimal points required	50	0	100	200	100	100	70	70	70
Applicant claims	50	0	120	267	616	270	85	100	110
Acknowledged by the reviewer	50	0	120	285	608	230	85	100	110

Thus, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov has 1293 points according to the national scientometric indicators and a total of 1598 points together with the additional requirements of the NBU.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

The presented scientific works of both applicants are in indexed journals, and in Group **В** Assoc. Prof. Atanasov has a small advantage, and in Group **Г** - a small advantage in scientometrics has Assoc. Prof. Brezov. Here I must note that the publications of Assoc. Prof. Atanasov are to a greater extent close to the subject of training in disciplines that fall under the professional field of the competition and are part of the bachelor's and master's programs of the NBU.

Regarding the applicants' claims for scientific, scientifically applied and applied contributions, I should note that Assoc. Prof. Brezov's author reference looks more like the summaries of the scientific works with which he participated in the competition, and the claims for contributions are for each article separately. Prof. Atanasov's author reference presents his claims for contributions in a summarized thematic form.

I generally accept applicants' claims as presented and leave them for detailed evaluation by the reviewers.

The citations of the candidates' scientific works, which are an element of Group Д of the scientometric indicators, show a significant preponderance in favor of Assoc. Prof. Atanasov, who has far greater recognition in scientific circles.

III. Learning and teaching activity

The two applicants have sufficient teaching experience, as is evident from the submitted documents.

IV. Administrative and public activity

Assoc. Prof. Brezov has not presented evidence of such activity, but even if we compare his claims for such activity with that of Assoc. Prof. Atanasov, for which there is evidence presented, Assoc. Prof. Atanasov has an advantage.

V. Personal impressions of the applicants (if any)

I do not know Assoc. Prof. Brezov and I have no personal impressions of him.

I have known Assoc. Prof. Atanasov personally since I started working at NBU in the winter semester of 2016, and I have excellent impressions of him as a researcher, lecturer and supervisor.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the applicants

Apart from the insufficiently precise wording of the claims for scientific and scientific-applied contributions and the certain chaotic nature of Assoc. Professor Brezov's documents, I have no other objections to the candidates.

At this level of the development of the career of a lecturer and scientist, it is difficult and not always appropriate to make recommendations, but I will still allow myself to recommend that applicants, in addition to their focus on research and publication activities, also focus on the supervising of PhD students.

Conclusion:

After having familiarized myself with the documents presented in the competition, the scientific publications and the contributions in them, I confirm that the applicants meet the requirements of ZRASRB, the regulations thereto and the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of the NBU for occupying the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.5 Mathematics. In particular, the applicants satisfy the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been found in the scientific works submitted to the competition. Based on the analysis of the achievements of the applicants, I arrange them in descending order:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Vladislavov Atanasov, PhD
2. Assoc. Prof. Dananil Stefanov Brezov, PhD

Based on the above, I allow myself to recommend to the Scientific Jury to propose to the NBU Academic Council to elect Associate Professor Dimitar Vladislavov Atanasov, PhD to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in professional field 4.5 Mathematics.

August 20, 2023

Prof. Georgi Tuparov, PhD