

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 "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education:

4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics,
professional field: 4.6 Informatics and computer sciences

for the needs of the department of Informatics at the New Bulgarian University (NBU)
published in the State Gazette no. 84 of 21.10.2022 and on the NBU website.

The only applicant for the academic position of "Associate Professor" is head
assistant professor Metodi Georgiev Traykov, Ph.D., from the department of Informatics
at NBU.

The opinion was prepared on the basis of order № 3-PK-68/01.12.2022 of the
Rector of NBU and a meeting of the Scientific Jury of 06.01.2023.

1. Brief biographical data

The only applicant Dr. Metodi Traykov successively obtained the Bachelor's
degree in 2012 and the Master's degree in 2013 in "Informatics" from the Faculty of
Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the "Neofit Rilski" South-West University. In
2017, he successfully defended his PhD thesis on the topic "Mathematical models and
algorithms for predicting the spatial structure of proteins" for the acquisition of the PhD
in professional field 4.6 Informatics and computer sciences. His teaching activity began
in 2013 and continues until now at "Neofit Rilski" South-West University, New
Bulgarian University and the American University in Bulgaria.

2. General description of the presented documents

The presented set of documents - references, papers, etc. meet the requirements of
ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and the Ordinance for the development of
the academic staff of the NBU.

From the submitted author's reference it is evident that the applicant has submitted
for participation in the competition 1 monograph, 7 indexed papers in Scopus/Web of
Science (WoS) all with SJR, of which two are with IF. All publications submitted for
participation in the competition are in English and have not been used to acquire the
PhD degree.

3. Scientometric indicators of the applicant according to ZRASRB and the specific requirements of NBU

The table below shows that the presented scientific works meet the minimum national requirements (under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of ZRASRB) (groups A, Б, Г, and Д) and respectively the specific requirements of NBU (groups Ж, З, and И) for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" in Professional field 4.6 "Informatics and Computer Sciences".

Groups	A	Б	Г	Д	Ж	З	И
Minimal points required	50	100	200	50	50	70	50
Achieved points by applicant	50	100	216	88	60	110	55

4. General characteristics of the scientific, scientific-applied and other activities of the applicant related to the competition

The research of the candidate and the contributions in them (scientific, scientifically applied, applied) are in the the field of computational modeling in solving problems in biology and in protein folding models.

The applicant has presented in detail his claims for scientific, scientifically applied and applied contributions in the author's reference, especially those from the monograph, which I accept in principle and leave for detailed evaluation to reviewers.

Also, it should be noted that Dr. Traykov has a serious publishing activity. In WoS and Scopus, respectively, seven and 18 indexed papers in which he is co-author can be found.

The candidate actively participates in scientific projects - a list of a total of 13 projects is presented, one of which is of a purely applied nature. Therefore, I accept as admissible the remaining 12, which is more than enough in this case.

5. Reflection of the applicant's scientific works in the literature

According to WoS and Scopus, the candidate has more than 70 citations to his scientific works, having an h-index of 4 without self-citations individually in each of these indexing systems. The large total number of citations speaks volumes for the impact of his research in the scientific literature as a whole.

6. Assessment of the personal contribution of the applicant

The applicant for the academic position "Associate Professor" – Dr. Traikov has extensive research experience. He has the necessary competencies to organize and conduct research. The scientific works presented for participation in the competition (except for the monographic work) are co-authored, which I consider a proof of his skills

to work in a team. Since no separate protocols for the contribution of each co-author are presented, I assume that the contribution of all co-authors is equal.

7. Personal impressions for the applicant

I personally know Dr. Traikov as a student of mine at “Neofit Rilski” South-West University and have closely followed his successful development as a researcher and lecturer at several universities.

8. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks and recommendations.

9. Conclusion for the application

After analysing the documents presented in the competition, scientific works and contributions in them, I confirm that the applicant fully meets the requirements of ZRASRB, its regulations and Ordinance for the development of the academic staff of the NBU for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.6 Informatics and computer sciences. In particular, the applicant satisfies the minimal national requirements for the scientific field and there is not a plagiarism in the presented works for the competition.

I give my positive evaluation for the application.

Based on the above, I recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Academic Council of the New Bulgarian University to elect Dr. Metodi Georgiev Traykov for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science.

February, 20, 2023

Prof. Georgi Tuparov, PhD