

# OPINION

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on the competition for the academic position of "Professor"  
in the scientific field 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics,  
professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science,  
for the needs of the School of Graduate Studies, Department Informatics,  
New Bulgarian University (NBU)  
announced in State Gazette, no. 23 /19.03.2021

Candidate: Assoc. Professor Dr. Georgi Teoharov Tuparov

Under Order "3-PK-155 /29.04.2021" of the Rector of the New Bulgarian University (based on a decision of the Academic Council of NBU from 20.04.2021) I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science, for the needs of the School of Graduate Studies, Department Informatics - NBU.

The only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the competition is Associate Professor Dr. Georgi Teoharov Tuparov from New Bulgarian University.

## I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

The documents, submitted by Assoc. Prof. Georgi Tuparov for the competition, meet the requirements of the Act of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of NBU for holding the academic position "Professor":

- The candidate has acquired the scientific degree "Doctor" – he has defended a thesis on "Complex Highly Automated Production Structures and Their Information Support" - Diploma No. 29294/ 23.08.2004, Higher Attestation Council.

- He presented a monography titled "E-learning. Development and sustainability of open source e-learning systems "(146 pages), peer-reviewed, Education and Knowledge Publishing House, 2021, ISBN 978-619-7515-26-8, which covers the requirements of 100 points of group "B".

- 21 publications and one chapter of a book are presented to cover the requirements of the indicators from group "Г", 20 publications are in indexed editions – a total of 471 points. The publications were made in the period 2009-2021.

- All publications are not used for other procedures.

- A list of 107 citations in Scopus/ WoS has presented – a total of 856 points, that cover and exceed significantly the requirements of group „Д“.

- As a research supervisor of one successfully defended doctoral student, participant and supervisor in many national and international projects and co-author of numerous textbooks, the candidate achieves nearly 500 points in group “E”, which far exceed the required 150 points.

- Assoc. Prof. Tuparov has provided information on many activities that respectively cover with 145, 80, and 70 points the requirements of 70 points of the Ordinance for the development of the academic staff of NBU (Appendix 2) for each of the groups “Ж”, “З”, “И”.

- He has held academic positions for more than 5 years.

- No plagiarism has been found in the presented scientific works.

## **II. Research activities and results**

### **1. A monography assessment**

The monography titled "E-learning. Sustainability of open source e-learning systems" presents results from a long and progressive working experience with e-learning systems. The candidate's contributions in this work can be found in several directions.

Assoc. Prof. Tuparov makes a detailed and analytical presentation of the field and offers a framework to compare the tools for the development and delivery of services and resources for e-learning implementation. Based on his critical analysis of the functionality of open source e-learning systems, several approaches for the sustainable extensions of their functionalities have been proposed, mainly oriented to extensions based on e-learning standards and specifications.

Several models of sustainable micro-extensions of e-learning systems are proposed and their practical realizations and results are presented, too. Thus, the monography combines theoretical contributions and results with practical applications.

### **2. Assessment of the contributions in the other submitted publications**

For this competition, Assoc. Prof. Tuparov presented twenty articles, published in scientific editions that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, one chapter of a book, and one article accepted for publication. Eight articles have been published in Impact Rank (SJR) series, and twelve articles have been indexed by Scopus/ WoS. They were made in the period 2009-2021. All these publications are collective, Assoc. Prof. Tuparov is the first author in one-third of them.

Two main directions can be distinguished in the publications, presented for the competition:

- analyzes of the development and the features of e-learning and open source e-learning systems and identification of frameworks for their description;

- approaches and models of extensions of the functionality of open source e-learning systems (environments).

These two directions are also presented and summarized in the monographic work of the candidate.

The main contributions and results in the publications submitted for the competition are related to the proposed frameworks for research of various issues related to open source e-learning systems (environments) and their use by different users; critical analyzes of various

approaches, standards, and specifications for e-learning; the proposed extensions of the functional capabilities of the open source e-learning systems and their implementation.

The implementations in practice of most of the proposed models and approaches (for competence assessment, development of simulations and educational games, etc.) confirm the discussed theoretical results.

### 3. Citations

The significance of the candidate's research results is evidenced by their reflection in the works of other authors – he has submitted a list of 107 citations which are visible in Scopus/WoS.

### 4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research projects and application of the obtained results in practice

A list of numerous national and international projects in which Assoc. Prof. Tuparov participates is presented, the projects topics are mainly related to education and e-learning.

The candidate's monography, as well as the Acknowledgment sections of most of the articles, present the practical application of results achieved in some of the projects and especially of the project DN-05/10, 2016, National Scientific Fund: "Pedagogical and technological aspects of computer educational games", where Assoc. Prof. Tuparov supervises the project.

### **Teaching and learning activities**

Assoc. Prof. Tuparov works actively in several programs of NBU - bachelor's programs "Informatics", "Information Technology" and "Network Technologies" (in English), as well as in the master's program " Internet Software Technologies", in each of which he leads several courses. He has developed 3 new courses for bachelor's students. Four of the courses are taught in English.

The candidate presented a report, which shows he is the supervisor of a number of students, he participates in different commissions in his department. He also is the supervisor of one successfully defended doctoral student. I appreciate his work with students and his efforts to involve them in some research activities.

As well Assoc. Prof. Tuparov participates as a co-author in many textbooks and teaching aids designed for the school network.

### **Administrative and community activities**

The candidate conscientiously fulfills his academic obligations - participates in regular meetings of departmental/ program councils, observes admission time as a teacher, and regularly conducts her academic classes.

As it is evident from the self-assessment provided, Assoc. Prof. Tuparov was the head of the Commission at the School of Graduate Studies for conducting the exam on "Informatics" for the doctoral students. He is the Chairman of the Library Council at the NBU Library and he has participated in the training of the NBU Library for work with established scientific databases and preparation of bibliographic references.

### **Personal impressions**

I know Georgi Tuparov from his participation in conferences and other events and I have excellent impressions from his performances.

### **Comments, recommendations, and notes**

The documents that the candidate submits for the competition are various, well-structured, and correctly reflect his rich scientific and teaching activities.

I would like to recommend the candidate to look for application of his results outside the field of education.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the documents and materials provided by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Tuparov present results that fully cover the set of requirements for the academic position of "Professor" under the Act of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of New Bulgarian University, in the scientific field 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, in the professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science and even exceed these requirements in some groups of indicators.

I recommend to the Honorable Scientific Jury to propose to the Academic Council of New Bulgarian University to select Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Teoharov Tuparov for the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science.

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