

OPINION

by **Dr. Kosta Andreev Garov** –

professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position "**Associate professor** "

at Technical University - Varna

by field of higher education **1. Pedagogical sciences;**

professional direction **1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...**

(Methodology of teaching mathematics and informatics),

to the "Language training and continuing qualification" section of the "Language, continuing education and sports" department at the Technical University - Varna, announced in State Gazette No. 38 of April 28, 2023.

In the competition for "**Associate professor** ", announced in Darzhaven vestnik, no. 38 from 28.04.2023 and on website of the Technical University - Varna, for the needs of the "Language training and continuing qualification" section of the "Language, continuing education and sports" department, **Dr. Elena Koleva Kovacheva** participated as the only candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate for the competition

Presentation of the procedure

By order No. 484 of 21.06.2023 of the Rector of the Technical University - Varna (TU-Varna), I have been designated as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for occupying the academic position "**associate professor**" at TU-Varna under field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ... (Methodology of training in mathematics and informatics), announced for the needs of section "Language training and continuing qualification" of the Department "Language, continuing education and sports". At the first meeting of the jury, I was assigned to write an opinion on the competition.

A sole candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: **Dr. Elena Koleva Kovacheva**. Presented by Dr. Elena Koleva, a set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of TU-Varna. During the study and analysis of the materials, I found that **there were no** procedural violations. The set of documents presented by the candidate is precisely systematized and enables an objective and complete evaluation of the participant in the competition .

Dr. Elena Koleva Kovacheva participated in the competition for associate professor with : 1 **monograph** ; **articles and reports** published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 2 issues; **with articles and reports** published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 32 issues; **with studies** published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 14 issues. All scientific works are in the competition profile, meet the requirements and are accepted for review.

Brief biographical details of the applicant

Elena Koleva has a solid education in the field of mathematics, informatics and information technologies (IT). She completed her secondary education at the elite mathematics high school "Atanas Radev" in the city of Yambol. Elena Koleva completed her higher education in 1997 at the PU "Paisiy Hilendarski", Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, major "Mathematics". At various times she was a teacher of informatics and information technologies at the University of Shumen " Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", DIKPO-Varna, TU - Varna. She also worked as a teacher of mathematics, informatics and IT in various schools in Plovdiv and Varna. She conducted exercises for students in Informatics and Information Technology Teaching Methodology, School Course in Informatics and Information Technologies, Undergraduate Pedagogical Practice, Hospitalization, Computer Presentations, Multimedia Innovations in the Work of the children's teacher, etc. Elena Koleva has very good **theoretical** and **practical** training in informatics and information technologies, teamwork skills , technical and computer skills.

The professional realization of Elena Koleva logically directs her to the development of a dissertation in the field of the methodology of teaching mathematics, informatics and IT. The experience accumulated over the years justifies the choice of the topic of the dissertation "Methodical system for teaching teachers to use interactive information technologies" and is a prerequisite for the scientific and scientific-applied results obtained in the work.

I have known Dr. Elena Koleva for more than 25 years. She was my student at PU, and in 2015 I was a reviewer of her dissertation work. She is currently a respected teacher, a scientist with high professionalism and a correct colleague. My recommendations for her future research work are to continue building elements of mathematics, informatics and information technology teaching methodology and to show the obtained results to the scientific community in **the country and abroad** with greater self-confidence.

Dr. Elena Koleva is an active member of the Union of Mathematicians in Bulgaria (SMB) - Varna section.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assessment of the candidate's educational and teaching activities

My assessment of the educational and teaching activities of Dr. Elena Koleva Kovacheva is high. In her teaching work, she systematically and reasonably applies the latest

achievements of information and communication technologies and uses modern methods and technical means for teaching.

Evaluation of the candidate's research activity

The presented scientific production by Elena Koleva is on the subject of the competition. Scientific works deal with current problems of teaching methodology in mathematics, informatics, information technologies and work in a digital environment. The analysis of the research activity of Elena Koleva shows that it is extremely valuable. Her participation in 15 scientific projects and programs has been documented .

Contributions and citations

The presented characteristic and my positive assessment of the quality of the deposited materials by Dr. Elena Koleva for participation in the current competition shows that there are indisputable indications of a serious ***scientific and applied contribution*** in the field of teaching methodology Information Technology and working in a digital environment.

The submitted scientific works are ***the personal work of the author***, and the co-authored publication has a clearly distinguished contribution. Based on the analysis of these works, I find that ***there is no plagiarism and the candidate*** has followed the rules of scientific ethics - she has not published the same manuscript in different places, she has not used the **"copy - paste" technique** in the publications submitted for review.

The significance of Dr. Koleva's scientific output can be judged by documented evidence ***citations***, which means that her works are known among the scientific community. The candidate has submitted a reference for **30** citations. Of these, **15** are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, **10** - in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, **5** - in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

In the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the minimum national requirements for the scientific activity of the candidates for the academic position "Associate Professor" are defined - with the required 400 points. Dr. Elena Koleva Kovacheva not only fulfills but also exceeds these requirements with her **512.65 points**. She also fulfills all additional requirements of TU-Varna.

Evidence of the fulfillment of these requirements is presented in Reference No. 4 of the list of documents.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks. As a recommendation, I can point out that it is appropriate for the candidate to publish more independent research and possibly more publications in scientific journals abroad. It is reasonable for Elena Koleva to start training **doctoral students in the near future**.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Elena Koleva fully meet the requirements of *the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB)*, *the Regulations for the implementation of ZRASRB* and *the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of TU-Varna* for the occupation of the academic position "associate professor".

A candidate in the competition presented a **sufficient number** in high-quality scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "doctor ". The candidate's publications contain original scientific and applied contributions. The theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the educational activity. Dr. Elena Koleva 's scientific and teaching qualifications are unquestionable.

The achievements of the candidate in teaching and learning and scientific research activity fully correspond to the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor".

I will expressly point out that the candidate in the competition fulfills the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of TU-Varna for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of learning in ... I have no doubt of plagiarism in the publications submitted for review.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition , and after analyzing their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them , I find it reasonable to give a well-deserved high rating and my **positive conclusion** and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the "Language, continuing education and sports" department at the Technical University-Varna for the election of Dr. Elena Koleva Kovacheva to the academic position of "associate professor" at TU-Varna in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ... (Methodology of training in mathematics and informatics).

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