

OPINION

of the application package submitted in a competition for the position "**Associate Professor**" in the professional field: **5.3 "Communication and Computer Engineering"**, announced in the Bulgarian State Gazette no. **54 on 25.06.2024 on behalf of TU-Gabrovo**, Specialty "**Communication Networks and Systems**," Academic courses: "**Communication and Computer Systems**" and "**Measurements in Communications**," Candidate **Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. Georgi Ivanov Georgiev, PhD**.

Scientific jury member: **Prof. Todor Dimitrov Ganchev, PhD**

1. General characteristics of research activity

According to the provided application package, Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. Georgi Ivanov Georgiev, PhD, is applying for the academic position of "Associate Professor" with a total of 36 research publications, 1 textbook, and 2 laboratory manuals. A brief account of these scientific publications shows that 4 are authored by the candidate and 32 are co-authored; 30 are in English and 6 in the Bulgarian language; 28 are conference papers and 8 are journal articles; 1 was published in a journal indexed in WoS with impact factor, and 11 are in SJR-indexed sources according to Scopus.

To meet the requirements of the "B" indicator group, the candidate has presented 10 publications, grouped thematically as equivalent to a monograph (indicator B.4), and a total of 26 publications to meet the minimum national requirements for the "G" indicator group. This includes 14 publications submitted under indicator "G.7" — 4 articles in scientific journals and 10 papers published in conference proceedings indexed in Scopus. Another 12 publications in edited collective volumes or non-refereed journals are presented under indicator "G.8". In compliance with the requirements, the candidate also provided a list of publications used for acquiring a Ph.D. degree (a total of 7 publications).

To meet the minimum national requirements for the "D" indicator group, the candidate submitted a list of 15 citations for 11 publications under indicator D.12. For the "E" indicator group, Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. G. Georgiev, PhD, provided information on participation in 5 projects, 3 teaching guidebooks, and 5 awards for outstanding conference papers.

Table 1. Fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the groups of indicators for the scientific field "5. Technical Sciences."

Group of indicators	Contents by indicators	Minimum requirements for "Associate Professor"	Scores of Ch.Assist. Prof. Eng. G. Georgiev, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	217
G	The sum of indicators from 5 to 11	200	302.67
D	The sum of indicators from 12 to 15	50	102
E	The sum of indicators from 16 to 28	-	110

The comparison of scores computed based on the information in the application package with the minimum national and institutional requirements for candidates for the academic position of "Associate Professor" (Table 1) shows that Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. G. Georgiev, PhD, meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for all indicator groups.

2. Teaching experience

The candidate's teaching experience covers 15 years, including 13 years serving as an "Assist. Prof." or "Ch. Assist. Prof." at TU-Gabrovo and 2 years at the Vocational High School "Dr. Nikola Vassiliadi" in Gabrovo, where he served as a teacher for the specialities "Computer Technology and Systems," "Systems Programming," etc. Additionally, the candidate provided information on the co-authorship of 1 academic textbook and 2 laboratory manuals, where he appears as the second author. All this is a good assessment of his work as a teacher.

3. Main research contributions

The publications enlisted in the application package of Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. G. Georgiev, PhD, cover a wide range of applied research topics related to the area of present competition. From the publication abstracts, I concluded that most of the candidate's contributions can be categorised as applied research.

It should be noted that out of the 32 co-authored publications, Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. G. Georgiev, PhD, was listed as the last author in 27 and was not listed as the first author in any. At the same time, 4 publications are authored solely, which is a good indication that he possesses analytical thinking and research maturity. I believe that the candidate has contributed to the reported research results.

4. Significance of contributions to science and practice

Regarding the significance of research, I judge based on the citations by independent authors or the number of patents issued. On the one hand, the candidate's publications address important research problems, yet on the other hand, he reported a relatively small number of citations (15). No information for patents or utility models was provided. At the same time, a query in the UMIS database of TU-Gabrovo shows that Mr. Georgiev is the author/co-author of a total of 88 publications. A subset of 38 publications are currently indexed in Scopus, which ranks him 8th among all TU-Gabrovo researchers. These publications have received a total of 59 citations in Scopus (h-index = 4), excluding self-citations by all co-authors, which ranks him 24th among researchers in TU-Gabrovo.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no substantive remarks. The application package submitted in the competition is comprehensive and well-structured. Still, I would recommend Mr Georgiev to allocate some efforts to publishing in journals ranked within quartiles Q1 and Q2, so that he can gain wider international recognition for his research. This is important for his further career development as well as for enhancing the standing of TU-Gabrovo in the national and international academic rankings.

CONCLUSION

The application package submitted by Mr Georgiev allows for an objective and comprehensive assessment of his qualifications. A formal comparison of the reported merits with the unified national requirements for appointments to the academic position of "Associate Professor" and the corresponding by-laws of TU-Gabrovo shows that the minimum requirements are met. This gives me the motivation to support the appointment of Ch. Assist. Prof. Eng. G. Georgiev, PhD, to the position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.3 "Communication and Computer Equipment."

Date: 29.09.2024

MEMBER OF THE JURY: _____/signature/_____
/ Prof. Todor Ganchev, PhD /