

OPINION

by Prof. Branko Dushkov Sotirov, PhD, University of Ruse “Angel Kanchev”, Faculty of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for holding the academic position “Associate Professor”, in the field of higher education – 5. Technical Sciences, in professional field – 5.13 General Engineering, specialty – Quality Management.

In the competition for holding the academic position “Associate Professor”, announced in the State Gazette, Issue 54 of 25.06.2024, p. 40, and on the website of the Technical University of Gabrovo, for the needs of Department of Mechanical and Precision Engineering at the Faculty of Mechanical and Precision Engineering, Tzvetelin Kirilov Gueorguiev, PhD participates as a candidate for this academic position.

1. Overview of the content and results in the presented publications

The candidate Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD participates in this competition with **20 publications**, of which:

- **A monograph** / Habilitation thesis (Group “V”, Indicator 3) - **1** publication;
- Research publications in issues that are referenced and indexed in renowned global databases with research information such as Scopus and Web of Science (Group “D”, Indicator 7) – **6** publications. **Two** of the scientific journals with publications of Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD have an impact factor;
- Research publications in non-referenced issues that are scientifically peer-reviewed or are published in collective volumes (Group “G”, Indicator 8) – **11** publications;
- A published university textbook or a textbook used in the schools’ network (Group “E”, Indicator 23) – **1** publication;
- A published university manual or guidebook that is used in the schools’ network (Group “E”, Indicator 24) – **1** publication.

The content of the presented publications covers two broad thematic domains – Quality Management (publications G7.1, G7.2 and G8.10) and Quality Management Systems (publications G7.3, G7.4, G7.5, G7.6, G8.1, G8.2, G8.3, G8.4, G8.5, G8.6, G8.7, G8.8, G8.9 and G8.11).

The publications both in referenced and in non-referenced issues are subdivided into:

- Scientific Articles – **2** publications;
- Scientific Reports (Papers) – **15** publications.

Depending on the language of the original, the publications are classified as:

- In English – 2 scientific articles and 12 scientific reports (papers);
- In Bulgarian – 6 publications, including 3 scientific reports (papers), the monograph, the textbook and the university manual.

By the number of co-authors, the publications are grouped as:

- **One** monograph with one author;
- **Six** scientific articles and reports (papers) for which the candidate is the only author;

- **Six** scientific articles and reports (papers) for which the candidate has one coauthor;
- **Two** publications with two other coauthors;
- **Five** publications, for which the candidate has more than two coauthors;
- In **one** of the publications referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD is the only author, **two** of them are with one coauthor, and the remaining **three** have more coauthors.

2. Effect of the research publications of the candidate in the research community (known citations)

I accept the presented reference and evidence of known citations that show:

- **Seven citations of four publications** of the research works of the candidate in Scopus and/or Web of Science issues;
- **Thirty-five citations of six of his publications** in non-referenced issues that are scientifically peer-reviewed.

It is significant that the provided map of known citations for participation in the competition includes 5 of the seven continents on the Planet Earth, with the exception of Australia and Antarctica.

It is also noteworthy that Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD has been a **plenary speaker at seven scientific conferences** in the period 2014-2024.

3. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

3.1 Educational and pedagogical activity (work with bachelor, master and doctoral students)

The candidate Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD has presented a detailed reference of the disciplines that he teaches and/or has taught lectures and exercises. This reference list includes a total number of 41 disciplines for Bachelor degree courses, 19 disciplines for Master degree courses, and 1 for PhD students.

The number of the abovementioned disciplines considered for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" is 15 disciplines for Bachelor degree courses and 18 disciplines for Master degree courses, respectively; whereas 9 disciplines are not being taught at the date of announcing the competition.

The titles of the currently taught disciplines, including all of the ones for Master degree courses, are: "Quality Management", "Quality Control and Management", "Standardization, Certification and Intellectual Property", "Quality Control of Construction Sites", "Introduction to Quality", "Quality Management Systems", "Statistical Tools in Quality Management Systems", "Audit, Analysis and Improvement of Quality Management Systems", "Auditor Practice", "Audit of Quality Systems", "Total Quality Management and Six Sigma", "Environmental Management Systems", "Occupational Health and Safety Systems", "Specific Management Systems".

This detailed list demonstrates the candidate's indisputable competences, educational and pedagogical capabilities in the announced specialty of this competition.

3.2 Research, scientific and applied activity

In the list of participations in scientific research projects Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD declares participation in a total number of 29 projects, of which 8 international, 19 Projects from the Research Fund of the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev", one project within The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) for „Creating a network of research higher educational institutions in Bulgaria - 2", and one project within the "Knowledge and Growth" Programme.

Out of all these projects, Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD participates in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" with two international projects - **EuroQLIO** (Filière Euro Qualité Logistique des Organisations) (134395-LLP-1-2007-1-FR-ERASMUS-EVC) and **Risk Management** for Large Scale Infrastructures in the Romanian Bulgarian cross border area (ROBG-23 (15.3.1.017).

A total of 8 projects that are not included in the competition, are thematically related to it and the relevant publications.

3.3 Implementation activity

The candidate Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD presents the following implementation certificates:

- A certificate by Witte Automotive Bulgaria EOOD, Ruse for 84 trainings on topics related to Quality Management;
- A certificate by Ossam AD, Lovech for similar consultancy and implementation activity;
- A certificate by Ralomex AD, Zavet for the development and implementation in production of methodologies for organoleptic assessment methods.

I have to outline two significant scientific achievements of the candidate Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD:

- In 2018 the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research awarded him **The Prize for Young Scientists** „Danubius Young Scientist Award“;
- In 2020 he was an **External Expert to the EC** and a reviewer of DT-FOF-11-2020: Quality Control in Smart Manufacturing (Innovation Action).

4. Contributions (scientific, scientific and applied, applied)

I accept the author's reference for the contributions in the research publications of Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD. I recognize **one scientific contribution of the monograph** (*the developed and applied new method that enables the expression of all requirements of clauses from 4 to 10 of ISO 9001:2015 as stages of the PDCA cycle*), **6 scientific and applied contributions** and **7 applied contributions** in the scientific works presented for participation in the competition.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

I consider that the personal contribution of Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD is proven and indisputable in respect to the impressive results achieved in his scientific, research, educational and pedagogical, and implementation activities.

His personal achievements, the achievements of his colleagues and the team he works in and in which he has developed himself as a researcher, are well-known and proven as significant. This includes his collaborations with established and important coauthors, both in Bulgaria and abroad.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I do not have any critical remarks and recommendations for Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD.

I would recommend to him that some of the more significant contributions and results of his research activities, along with his rich personal experience, to be published in a modern and current textbook and a manual in Quality Management.

In the best of intentions, I would advise him to devote more time to his favourite activities, including rest.

And by no means he should stop at this point, because each seed has the potential to yield many forests and fields in the future.

7. Personal impressions

I know Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD very well – for more than 20 years. I have witnessed his growth both as a personality and as a researcher. I can recall and frequently have been involved in his diverse initiatives, actions, efforts, and achievements. This is why I can confidently describe him in just three words – HONESTY, DEDICATION, and PROFESSIONALISM.

All of this has enabled him to easily meet the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Technical University of Gabrovo for holding the academic position “Associate Professor”, whereas the accumulated number of points for criteria Group “A” and Group “V” **meets**, and for criteria Groups “G”, “D” and “E” significantly **exceeds** the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Technical University of Gabrovo.

These facts are convincing evidence of the quality, the scientific level and the significance of the results achieved in the educational, scientific, research, and implementation activities of Tzvetelin Gueorguiev, PhD.

5. Conclusion:

**Considering the abovementioned facts and data
I propose that Tzvetelin Kirilov Gueorguiev, PhD
is elected an “Associate Professor”
in the field of higher education – 5. Technical Sciences,
in professional field – 5.13 General Engineering,
specialty – Quality Management.**

12 November, 2024

Member of the Scientific Jury: /signature/
/Prof. Branko Sotirov, PhD/