

OPINION

by **Professor Ivanka Nikolaeva Shivacheva-Pineda, PhD**
Trakia University – Stara Zagora

member of the scientific jury in connection with a competition for the academic position
"Associate Professor" in Literature for children, field of higher education
1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy,
announced in the State Gazette, issue 88/20.10.2023 by Trakia University
for the needs of the Faculty of Education

The opinion has been written in accordance with Order № 4381/06.12.2023 of the Rector of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

In the competition procedure the documents of one candidate have been submitted and that one candidate has been admitted for evaluation – Chief Assistant Professor **Plamen Penev Penev, PhD**.

Professional biography of the candidate

Plamen Penev Penev has gained the Educational qualification degree Master (1996) specialty "Bulgarian language and history" at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

In 2008 he obtained a PhD in Bulgarian literature from the National Academy of Sciences, based on a defended dissertation on the topic "Ivan Tsanev's poetry in the context of modern Bulgarian literature".

The candidate has not provided data on his professional path until 2020 but has achieved a rich literary activity and output. He is a member of the Association of Bulgarian Writers (since 2003) and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (since 2010). He has publications in specialized periodicals. He has also won national poetry contests, including the grand prize of the jubilee contest "Language sacred to my grandfathers...", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Vazov. In 2014, he won a competition of the Ministry of Culture for publications in the section for scientific production. He the author of collections of poems, a symphonic poem, a cycle of poems, etc.

In 2020 he started working in the Faculty of Education (Pedagogical Faculty) of Trakia University (TrU) – Stara Zagora and he has been a chief assistant there till the present day.

General characteristics of the scientific production of the candidate

The candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev, PhD presents for participation in the competition *25 scientific publications*, of which:

- A Habilitation work – 1
- A Published monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation thesis – 2
- A Published book based on a defended dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – 2
- Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 20.

The publications of Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev are printed in full text. Almost all of the scientific publications submitted to the competition are independent (with the exception of one article).

In his scientific publications, the author presents an in-depth analysis of the contemporary

Bulgarian poetic creativity. In the works and the scientific production of Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev very conditionally outlines the following areas of his scientific interests: *literature for children* /Ivan Tsanev/ (3.1, 7.8,); *poetry* /Petya Dubarova, Ekaterina Yosifova, Ivan Metodiev, Ivan Tsanev, Ivaylo Ivanov, Dimcho Debelyanov, Lyuben Karavelov, Lyubomir Levchev, etc./ and *philosophical, cultural, value and educational analysis of the modern times and art* (4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1 – 7.20).

The materials attached to the competition do not present data on the participation of chief assist. Prof. Plamen Penev in project activity, but he is a member of the teams of two university scientific projects.

Popularization of the results of the scientific ideas, research and analysis is realized by the candidate through participation with at least 8 reports in international *scientific forums in our country* (6) and *abroad* (2) – Szeged (Hungary) /based on the attached scientific publications/.

Citation in the scientific literature

The scientific production of Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev is reflected in the scientific researches of other authors. For participation in the competition, the candidate indicates 7 citations, of which 3 in SCOPUS and Web of Sciences, confirming the international value of the publications. No evidence was provided for two of the citations.

Academic activity

The attached documents indicate the authorship of 4 study programs. The academic disciplines led by the candidate correspond to the scientific interests, publications and scientific specialty for which the competition is announced. Chief Assistant Professor Plamen Penev conducts courses in the following compulsory, elective and optional disciplines (according to the curriculums): *Literature for children* – for the specialty Pre-school and primary school pedagogy, Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language, Pre-school pedagogy; *Creative writing* – for the specialty Pre-school pedagogy in the Educational qualification degree Bachelor; *Children's literature* – for the specialty Pre-school and primary school pedagogy, Primary school pedagogy; *Creative writing* – for the specialty Pre-school and primary school pedagogy in the Educational qualification degree Master. The courses are also held in the Postgraduate qualification course "Pre-school teacher" and "Primary teacher".

Participation in teaching mobility under the *ERAZMUS+* program is not indicated in the proposed materials.

Fulfilment of the requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor"

The scientific production presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev meets the minimum requirements by groups of indicators for the academic position "associate professor" as follows:

Indicator A – 50 points for a defended doctoral dissertation.

Indicator C – 100 points for a published habilitation thesis *The child and the inherent child. The evolution of the child's self in Bulgarian poetry. Between children's literature and other literature (1950s – 1990s)*. The monograph fully corresponds to the announced competition. It presents an extensive and profound analysis of the phenomenon of *literature for children* both in the specifics of an author's presentation and in inductive generalizations about its essence as a "multiplicity of unities" expressed through language; it also presents regularities, trends in its development; the multi-layered meaning and its meaning at all – a unique cognitive-emotional-moral-value-artistic instrument (world) of great importance, combining traditions and present times (and future), for forming the child's

personality, becoming a part of it.

Indicator D – 545 points (with a min. of 200), summarized by three groups of sub-indicators: *Published monograph, which is not presented as the main habilitation thesis* – 200 points; *Published book based on a defended dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"* – 150 items; *Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes* – 195 items.

Indicator D – 65 points (at min. 50).

Indicator E – no materials are attached;

Indicator F – 10 points for: no data is attached, but the attached materials show *participation with reports in two international scientific forums abroad*.

The scientific production of Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev is accompanied with the necessary documents. There are no reports of plagiarism.

The presented documents and scientific production by Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev correspond to the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of Trakia University for the development of the academic position “associate professor”. The candidate meets the minimum national scientometric requirements for all groups of indicators by exceeding the required 400 points and a total amount of 760 points is formed (770 with indicator F).

Main contributions

I accept the derived contributions by Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev. In the presented scientific publications, significant scientific theoretical and practical-applied contributions are outlined. From a pedagogical viewpoint I emphasize the deep analysis, the philosophical-historical, moral and cultural-aesthetic understanding of literature and the literature for children as a consequence, an exponent, an engine and a prerequisite for the dynamics of society and the personal formation, maturation and elevation to spirituality.

The contributions of the scientific production of Chief Assist. Prof. Plamen Penev are a prerequisite for optimizing the training of future pedagogues, children's and primary-school teachers, as well as forming broad and lasting professional competences based on moral values and the aesthetic attitude to the world, refracted through the prism of the author's view in children's literature.

Conclusion

The presented documents, scientific production and academic activity of Chief Assist. Prof. **Plamen Penev Penev**, PhD are testimony to his scientific and academic competence, creative essence and contributions in the field of literature (and in particular in literature for children) and are grounds for a **positive assessment**. The stated grounds motivate my opinion to **support** the candidacy of Chief Assist. Prof. **Plamen Penev Penev**, PhD and I propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education to elect him as an "**associate professor**" in Literature for children, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy.

02.02.2024
Stara Zagora

Member of the scientific jury:
/Prof. Ivanka Shivacheva-Pineda, PhD/