

## **REVIEW**

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ventsislav Stefanov Dzhambazov,  
New Bulgarian University, Associate Professor in 1.3 "Pedagogy of Education in..."

on the scientific papers for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, in 1.2. Pedagogy, announced in the State Gazette, issue: 69, dated 16.08.2024, with candidate e Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Hristo Vassilev Chukurliev.

### **I. Compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University**

Only one candidate submitted documents to the competition - Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Vassilev Chukurliev, lecturer at NBU, Section "Pedagogy" at the Department of "Foreign Languages and Cultures" of NBU.

Doctor Hristo Chukurliev has submitted documents certifying that he has acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor". A major monographic work entitled "Evolution of University Education", NBU, Sofia, 2024. 340 pp., ISBN 978-619-233-317-1 is indicated for participation in the competition.

The candidate has submitted all required documents and evidentiary materials, from which it is evident that he fulfills the conditions and requirements under the Law on Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria (LASDRB), and that he meets the additional requirements of NBU for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy. There is no proven plagiarism in the candidate's scientific works in accordance with the established procedure.

The biography of Dr. Hristo Chukurliev shows many years of experience and commitment to educational policies in the field of higher education and university pedagogy. He has gained practical experience as a lecturer at NBU and as a "trainer of trainers".

### **II. Research activity and results**

#### *1. Evaluation of the monographic work and the scientific and applied scientific contributions of the author.*

The conservative nature of educational institutions has been a prerequisite for stability in society for many years, but the speed of change is now such that it requires a revision of all social processes and institutions. This strong pressure can lead to hasty and unmeasured movements, and the stable basis for any change can be found in the historical review and a look back, which can show the direction on the one hand and help avoid the mistakes of the past on the other.

The main monographic work of Doctor Hristo Chukurliev on the competition for associate professor begins precisely with this much-needed historical view of education, which I would say has no analogue in its integrity. The processes traced from antiquity to the influence of the most modern technologies, plus the analysis of the different generations (with their

peculiarities) and the specific role and influence of the years of totalitarian regime in Bulgaria, bring a significant theoretical contribution.

The book focuses on the professions of the future, examined in parallel with training methods that can adequately provide them. The classic forms and methods, including lectures, practical classes, teamwork, etc., are analyzed and reconsidered. At the same time, new approaches related to volunteering, podcasts, and the use of video, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence are added.

Throughout the analysis, one specific emphasis stands out, formulated by the author as follows: “the surest litmus test for the adequacy of higher education is its users and their assessment.” We see confirmed the change in the paradigm of education and the shift in focus from the institution and its needs to the student and his needs. And communication between the two sides is hampered by generational differences, and the responsibility seems to be transferred to the teachers, although according to Dr. Chukurliev, students also “must learn to speak our language of previous generations and their teachers.”

The presented monograph leads to a deep reflection on the evolution of education and the current opportunities for development. Both the problems and some of the solutions are clearly visible. The application of some of the ideas in the New Bulgarian University is also noticeable, precisely under the leadership and with the enthusiasm of the author, through which it can be summarized that in addition to the significant theoretical contributions, we can also find applied ones here.

### *2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications.*

For his participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted 1 additional monograph, 2 publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and 14 publications in peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. The texts have not participated in the procedure for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor". Their review shows that in their overwhelming number they are dedicated to current issues, which are interpreted innovatively and analyzed in depth.

The additional monograph entitled "Postpedagogy - illusion or reality" lays the foundations for a new understanding of current processes in the field of education. The contributions of this book begin with the title and the declaration of this new concept.

### *3. Citation from other authors.*

The evidence provided by the candidate includes 10 established citations of the publications of Dr. Hristo Chukurliev in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review. This meets the requirements under this criterion.

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

A large part of the applied contributions of Dr. Hristo Chukurliev are visible in the regular, distance and electronic forms of education at the New Bulgarian University. With his participation, numerous innovative components have been introduced, including electronic tests, video lectures, plagiarism check, virtual classroom. In addition, the institutional history of NBU has been completed.

He is the head of PROJECT BG051PO001-4.3.04 - 0037 "Improving the quality of distance learning at the Center for Distance and E-Learning at the New Bulgarian University", implemented with the financial support of the Operational Program "Human Resources Development", co-financed by the European Social Fund of the European Union. 28 new multimedia textbooks have also been developed within the framework of the project.

The current participation of Dr. Hristo Chukurliiev in the ERUA 1 and ERUA 2 projects fully coincides with his scientific activity and interests. The European Reform Universities Alliance (ERUA) is a university consortium of ten European reform universities that are committed to seeking innovative approaches in the field of scientific research, teaching and institutional progress.

### **III. Educational and teaching activities**

The courses led by Dr. Hristo Chukurliiev are generally in three areas – pedagogy, technological innovations and civilization. Probably this interesting combination of competencies leads to the specific view on education and pedagogy, as a result of which his contributions to theory and practice appear.

I find the courses on Interactive teaching methods, History of pedagogy, ICT in education, Digital technologies in the management of educational institutions, Digital business management, Civilizations and religions well provided and maintained on the Moodle NBU platform. From the documents provided, his work with students and doctoral students in traveling seminars, volunteering courses and many others is evident.

### **IV. Administrative and public activities**

The information provided on the competition and the biography of Dr. Hristo Chukurliiev clearly shows his active participation in the administration of the New Bulgarian University. He has been working at NBU since 2002 as the Director of the Master's Faculty, then from 2010 to 2018 he was the Director of the Faculty of Distance, Electronic and Continuing Education. He is currently the Director of the Central University Administration of NBU. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of NBU since 2016, and is a member and participates in the meetings of the Academic Council of NBU, the Rector's Council of NBU, various faculty and expert councils of other units of NBU.

### **V. Personal impressions of the candidate**

I have known Dr. Hristo Chukurliiev as a colleague at the New Bulgarian University for more than 15 years. We have had the opportunity to work together on various projects and tasks, including the development of distance and e-learning at NBU. I would say that I am also familiar with his teaching activities, as we have discussed various issues at the NBU "Teachers' Café" and on other occasions. My assessment of his personal and professional qualities is extremely high. I am respected by his responsible attitude towards the university and his work with students. I respect his personal opinion on many issues that we have discussed. I like his analytical, consistent and calm approach to the challenges of his work, his broad and in-depth penetration into the scientific and applied problems.

## **VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the candidate's activities and achievements**

Based on my familiarization with the materials of the competition, I believe that there are significant contributions in the research, teaching and organizational activities of the candidate Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Vasilev Chukurliev. The documentation meets the requirements and it is evident from it that the minimum requirements set by the ZRASRB and the NRAS of NBU are covered and exceeded. I express my **positive vote** and propose that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Hristo Vasilev Chukurliev be elected as an associate professor in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy.

26.11.2024

Member of the scientific jury:  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vencislav Dzhambazov