

REVIEW

on the application package submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the field of higher education "**5. Technical Sciences**", Professional field: "**5.3. Communication and Computer Technology**", scientific specialty "**Modern Information Technologies**", for the needs of the Department of **Computer Systems and Technologies** of the **Faculty of Technical Sciences** at the **Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"**, announced in State Gazette No. 89/24.10.2025.

Applicant: Chief Assist. Prof. Stanislav Konstantinov Popov, PhD.

Member of the Scientific Panel: Prof. Todor Dimitrov Ganchev, PhD.

1. Overview of the submitted application package

Stanislav Popov, PhD, participates in the competition for the acquisition of Associate Professor position with a total of 25 research publications in English and 1 guidebook for laboratory exercises in Bulgarian, which fall within the thematic area of this competition. Nineteen of these research publications (76% respectively) submitted to meet the minimum national requirements for indicators B.4 and G.7 are indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science. Of these, 12 are conference papers and 7 journal articles. The remaining 6 publications submitted to satisfy the criteria under indicator "G.8" are in periodicals published by BSU (BSU Annual Proceedings and the Academic Journal "Industrial Technologies"), which are not indexed in the world renown databases of scientific literature. Seven of the publications were prepared by Dr. Popov as a sole author, and the remaining 18 were co-authored, mainly with colleagues from BSU. This successful interaction with a wide range of colleagues is a reliable indication of the candidate's skills for teamwork and the creation of long-term collaborations. In the joint papers, Dr. Popov is the first author in 3 publications; in 11 he is second; in 3 he is third; and in 1 he is fourth author, which is an indication of his significant contribution.

To certify the absence of overlap between the publications used in previous procedures and those presented in the current competition for Associate Professor, Dr. Popov has provided a list of the publications used for the acquisition of his PhD degree. It is evident that all publications submitted for the current competition were published during the period 2021–2026, i.e., after the PhD degree was awarded in 2020.

In short, the applicant has provided information in the required volume to certify the satisfaction of the minimum national requirements and those, according to the relevant Regulations of the BSU, on the relevant groups of indicators: "A", "B", "G", "D" and "E", as follows: The requirement for indicator "A" was satisfied through a dissertation on the topic "Generalized Networks and Data Mining", coinciding with the thematic area of this competition. In order to meet the requirements for the group of indicators "B", Dr. Popov has provided a list of 10 publications under indicator "B.4". In order to meet the requirements of indicator group "G", the candidate has submitted two lists with a total of 15 publications. A total of 9 of these publications meet the requirements for indicator "G.7" – publications

indexed in the world databases Scopus and/or Web of Science. Under indicator "G.8", Dr. Popov has submitted a list of 6 publications in proceedings and journals that are not indexed in the world databases of scientific literature.

In order to meet the requirements of the group of indicators "D", Dr. Popov has presented a list of a total of 28 citations, mainly by foreign authors. An up-to-date reference as of 22.01.2026 for citations visible in the Scopus database (with auto citations excluded for all co-authors), shows a total of 43 citations of publications with the participation of the candidate and Scopus h-index = 4.

To meet the requirements of the group of indicators "E", Dr. Popov has provided three lists with a total of 7 projects and one guidebook, entitled "Manual for laboratory exercises in Software Design". Of the seven projects, 2 relate to Marie Skłodowska Curie activities funded by the EC Horizon program, 1 was funded by the National Science Program of the Republic of Bulgaria and 4 were funded by the BSU. Dr. Popov has led the project "Application of Intelligent Methods for Modeling and Analysis of Real Processes", NIH-499/2024, funded by BSU.

In summary of the analysis of the different groups of indicators, in Table 1 I present the scores calculated based on the evidence submitted by Dr. Popov, in comparison with the institutional requirements of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

Table 1. Reference on the fulfillment of the conditions for the acquisition of position Associate Professor by the groups of indicators for the field of higher education "5. Technical Sciences" according to the institutional requirements of BSU .

Indicator group	Table of indicators	Requirements for the acquisition of Associate Professor position (score)	Score Dr. S. Popov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	147
G	Sum of indicators from 5 to 11	300	313.27
D	Sum of indicators from 12 to 15	100	280
E	Indicator 16 to 28	100	120

The comparison shows (Table 1) that Dr. Popov fulfills the minimum national requirements and the institutional requirements of BSU for the acquisition of Associate Professor position in the field of higher education in all groups of indicators. In the groups of indicators "B" and "D" he significantly exceed the minimum requirements.

2. Overall review of the candidate's research and pedagogical activities

Dr. Popov's pedagogical activity covers a nearly 5-year period. It started in 2020 with his appointment as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Systems and Technologies, Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov". From 2022 he is appointed as a Chief Assist. Professor at the same department.

According to the planned teaching workload in the Bachelor and Master curricula of BSU, the annual teaching workload of Dr. Popov for the last three years is 655, 690 and 630 academic hours. This workload includes laboratory exercises and lectures in three academic courses included in the curricula of the SI and CST Bachelor's students, and the Master

curricula on KST, ST and IITHO. According to the information provided, Dr. Popov is the author of 9 academic programmes for the disciplines he teaches.

I acknowledge that the 25 publications submitted in the competition reflect a significant amount of research and technology development activity. The candidate has presented in a synthesized form the more significant contributions to each publication, which I consider mainly in applied research or RTD. Based on the composition of the co-authors in the joint publications and considering the presence of separation protocols signed by all co-authors, I can assume that Dr. Popov has made a significant contribution to the results achieved in most joint publications.

Regarding the significance of the contributions formulated in the publications submitted for participation in this competition, I am guided by the significant number of citations (43 with excluded self-citations for all co-authors) and by his participation in 7 projects, which is an excellent attestation of the significance and practical usefulness of his research and applied activities.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments on the candidate's work or on the organization of the application package submitted for participation in this competition. Based on the information provided, I can conclude that Dr. Stanislav Popov is a young and promising scientist and lecturer who has built the necessary skills both for teamwork and for independent research activity. I am pleased that Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" has the necessary capacity and makes the appropriate efforts required to create high-quality personnel for the university.

4. CONCLUSION

The application package presented the current competition provide the opportunity for an objective and multifaceted assessment of the qualities of Chief Assistant Prof. Stanislav Popov. A formal comparison with the minimum national requirements for the occupation of Associate Professor position and with the institutional requirements of Burgas State University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", according to *The Rules for the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions*, unequivocally shows that all requirements are satisfied, and in the group of indicators "B" and "D" they are significantly exceeded. This gives me grounds to support Dr. Stanislav Popov in this competition. The candidate undoubtedly possesses the necessary professional qualification to occupy the Associate Professor position in the field of higher education "5. Technical Sciences", professional field: 5.3. "Communication and Computer Technology", scientific specialty "Modern Information Technologies".

Date: 22.01.2026

REVIEWER:

/prof. Dr. Eng. Todor Ganchev/