

## OPINION

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By Prof. Dr. Valentina Ilieva Markova, Technical University - Varna

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" field of higher education – 5. Technical sciences, by professional direction – 5.3. Communication and computer technology, scientific specialty – "Modern information technologies"

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the State Gazette, issue 89/24.10.2025 for the needs of the Department of "Computer Technologies and Systems" at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, the candidate is Assistant Professor Dr. Stanislav Konstantinov Popov.

### 1. General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activities

In connection with the competition for the academic position of "associate professor", Dr. Stanislav Konstantinov Popov participated with a total of 25 scientific papers and 1 manual for laboratory exercises, which should be categorized as follows:

- scientific publications, separated into a habilitation thesis structure: 10 (C.1 to C.10).
- Scientific publications in refereed world-renowned databases (Scopus/Web of Science): 9 (group D by indicator 7)
- Scientific publications in non-refereed scientific publications: 6 (D.20 to D.25).
- Reports presented at international conferences: 2 (D.12 and D.15).
- Articles in specialized scientific journals and international series (incl. LNNS, SCI and JEPE): 23
  - In Springer series (LNNS, SCI, LNCS): B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.5, B.10, D.13, D.14, D.18, D.19.
  - In scientific journals (JEPE, IF): B.6, B.8, B.9, D.16, D.17.
  - In specialized publications (NIFS, Industrial Technologies, Yearbook): B.7, D.11, D.20, D.21, D.22, D.23, D.24, D.25.
- Scientific papers with Impact Rank (SJR) or Impact Factor: 15 (All in JEPE, as well as those in LNNS, SCI and LNCS, which are indexed with SJR in Scopus: B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.5, B.6, B.8, B.9, B.10, D.13, D.14, D.16, D.17, D.18, D.19).
- Independent scientific publications: 7 (D.13, D.14, D.15, D.22, D.23, D.24, D.25).

It is very impressive that the majority of the scientific papers of Asst. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Popov have been published in prestigious global academic publications of Springer (the series Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems, Studies in Computational Intelligence and Lecture Notes in Computer Science) and IEEE. This is indisputable evidence of the high quality of the candidate's research activities.

The analysis of the materials submitted for participation in the competition establishes that Asst. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Popov significantly exceeds the required minimum scientometric indicators regulated in "Appendix 1 to Art. 1a, para. 1 of the PPZRAS - Area 5. Technical Sciences" and the requirements of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. According to group of indicators "A", the candidate holds an educational and scientific degree "doctor", acquired on 29.12.2020 at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Popov has presented 10 scientific papers, which are equivalent to a habilitation paper

under indicator "B", with 147 points achieved with a minimum of 100 points required. With regard to the group of indicators "D", including scientific publications in refereed publications and non-refereed journals with scientific review, a total of 313.27 points was formed with a required 300 points. With regard to indicator "E.12" (citations in Scopus and Web of Science), the candidate exceeds the requirements almost fourfold, achieving 280 points with a minimum of 100 points.

In relation to the group of indicators "E", Dr. Popov has demonstrated extremely active activity: participation in four national projects, two international projects under the "Horizon 2020" and Horizon Europe programs, management of a national project and a published university textbook, which forms a total of 120 points. It is important to note that according to Appendix 1 of PURPNSZAS AT BURGAS STATE UNIVERSITY "PROF. DR. ASEN ZLATAROV" for occupying the position of "associate professor" in this group of indicators no points are required. The total number of points of the candidate is 910.27, which is significantly above the required threshold for the academic position of "associate professor".

## **2. Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical training and activities**

The teaching and pedagogical activity of Asst. S. Popov covers 6 years of work experience in the Department of "Computer Technologies and Systems" at the Faculty of Technical Sciences. A reference is provided for the hours of lectures and exercises led by the candidate in over 10 different disciplines in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs for the last four academic years. He was a leading lecturer in the discipline "Software Design" in the Bachelor's degree programs and disciplines "3D Animation", "Computer Graphics and Multimedia", "Computer Systems and Technologies - Programming Module" in the Master's degree programs.

Under the leadership of Senior Asst. Stanislav Popov, 3 graduates have defended their theses. The candidate is the author of one manual for laboratory exercises in Software Design, as well as in the compilation of curricula in 9 disciplines.

## **3. Basic scientific and applied scientific contributions**

The presented author's reference systematizes the main scientific and applied scientific contributions of the candidate. After a detailed acquaintance with the reviewed works, I accept the contributions formulated by Dr. Stanislav Popov, which have a scientifically applied and applied nature. They are summarized in the following four thematic areas:

- Intelligent tools for modeling real processes - development of generalized network models and neural networks for analyzing biometric and ecological systems;
- Algorithms and methods for data analysis - application of statistical research, machine learning and Big Data approaches to discovering hidden dependencies;
- Fuzzy logic - research on intuitionistic fuzzy sets and intercriteria analysis when working with uncertainty;
- Modern technologies in education - innovative application of virtual reality (VR) for visualization of complex structures.

## **4. Significance of contributions to science and practice**

The scientific research achievements of Dr. Stanislav Popov are the result of his systematic and in-depth work in the field of computer science and information technology. The results of his activities have received significant response in the international scientific community, which is confirmed by the numerous citations of his publications in world-renowned databases. According to the Scopus database, the Hirsch index (h) of Dr. Stanislav Popov is 4.

## 5. Critical notes and recommendations

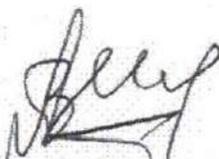
I have no significant critical comments or recommendations regarding the proposals presented by the candidate, Assistant Professor Dr. Stanislav Popov.

## 6. Conclusion:

Based on a thorough review of the submitted scientific works, their practical significance, and the distinct scientific and applied contributions contained therein, I find it highly justified to recommend Assistant Professor Dr. Stanislav Konstantinov Popov for the academic rank of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education: 5. Technical Sciences, professional field: 5.3. Communication and Computer Technology, specializing in 'Modern Information Technologies'."

23.02. 2026

Prepared by:



/prof V. Markova/