

## REVIEW

Вх. № П220-982/23.08.2022

Concerning a competition for the academic position of „associate professor” in area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: „Economics and Management (Sports and Hiking)“

**Reviewer:** Prof. Stoyan Petkov Marinov, PhD, Economics and Organization of Tourism Department, University of Economics – Varna, area of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty „Economics and Management (Tourism)“.

This Review has been prepared on the grounds of Order №: 06-121/01.07.2022 of the Rector of the University of Economics – Varna on the appointment of a Scientific jury for the competition for occupying the academic position of “associate professor” in professional field 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: „Economics and Management (Sports and Hiking)“, announced in the State Gazette, issue 41 dated 03.06.2022 and Minutes from the meeting of the Scientific Jury held on 04.08.2022 for election of a Chairperson and appointment of reviewers for the competition.

The Review has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the Regulations for its implementation (RIASDARB) and the Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at UE-Varna (RASD).

### **1. General presentation of the submitted materials**

Materials for participation in the competition have been submitted by the only candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, PhD from the College of Tourism at UE – Varna.

The package of materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD is in compliance with the ASDARB, the Regulations for the implementation of the ASDARB and the UE-Varna RASD.



## **2. Candidate's background information**

In the period 1975-1979 Stanislav Plyakov studied at the secondary school at the Olympic Hopes centre in Sofia. He graduated from the Ivan Vazov International Tourism Institute (1983-1986) and was awarded a professional bachelor's degree and the qualification of hotel and restaurant manager. In the period 1986-1992 he studied at the G. Dimitrov Higher Institute of Sports, city of Sofia and was awarded a master's degree and the professional qualification of physical education teacher and tennis coach. From 2008 to 2012 Stanislav Plyakov was a doctoral student at Vasil Levski National Academy of Sports, Sofia, and after a successful defense of his dissertation, he was awarded a PhD in scientific specialty 07.05.05 Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of Physical Therapy).

Stanislav Plyakov worked as a life guard at TC "Balkantourist - Golden Sands" (1982-1986) and as a tennis coach at TC "Balkantourist - Interhotels" - Grand Hotel Varna (1986-1989). Since 1995, he has been working at the College of Tourism - Varna, successively holding the positions of "assistant" (1995-2004), "senior assistant" (2005-2008) and "chief assistant" (2008 to the present) with the specialty "teacher of physical education".

The candidate holds the sports titles "master of sports" in swimming and "master of sports" in marine sports all-around. He has also climbed Mont Blanc in the Alps solo, and has done the European hiking route "Kom-Emine". He has climbed all the highest mountain peaks in Bulgaria.

He is fluent in German – written and spoken, Spanish – written and spoken, Russian – spoken and English – spoken.

In the period 2014-2015, Stanislav Plyakov participated in a scientific project for organising sports events in Varna for amateurs entitled "Research of possibilities for organizing and holding special events in the municipality of Varna - sports events for amateurs".

### 3. Evaluation of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities

The educational and pedagogical activities of Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD are carried out at the College of Tourism within UE-Varna. The candidate has developed curricula and lecture courses in the disciplines "Physical education and sports", "Hiking tourism", "Specialized types of tourism (sports tourism)".

Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov's work with students includes leading a summer student practice (summer internship), organizing annual hiking trips, including climbing Mount Musala, visiting the Seven Rila Lakes and the Bacho Kiro cave.

### 4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and scientific – applied activities

Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD has attached a list of a total of 24 publications. The list includes 2 independent monographs, 9 scientific articles (7 independent and 2 co-authored), 6 independent papers (one paper in Russian), 3 textbooks (two independent and one co-authored).

The works accepted for review have a total volume of 911 printed pages, whereby the candidate's personal contribution by types is shown in table 1.

**Table № 1**

**Type and volume of the reviewed publications**

№	Type of publications	Pcs	Number of pages	Relative share in %
1	Monographs	2	429	47,1
3	Articles	9	84	9,2
4	Papers	6	48	5,3
5	Textbooks and teaching aids	3	330	36,2
6	Other publications	4	20	2,2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>100,0</b>

In terms of structure, the monographs are predominant with a share of 47.1%, followed by the textbooks with a total share of 36.2%.

Out of all 24 reviewed publications, 21 (87.5%) are single-authored.

The content of the publications of Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD shows that the candidate works mainly in two thematic areas: "*Theory and practice*



*of specialized types of tourism" and "Theory and practice of physical training of students majoring in Tourism".*

In summary, the **contributions** in the publications of Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD as per the main thematic areas are as follows:

**Firstly**, scientific and applied contributions in the area of **"theory and practice of specialized types of tourism"** (publications Nos. 4.1; 6.1; 8.3; 12.7; 14.9; 15.1; 16.2; 18.4; 20.6; 21.1; 22.2; 23.3 from the list).

Significant scientific and applied contributions in the area are contained in the candidate's habilitation monographic work (Plyakov, S. (2021) *"Modern aspects and guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria"*, University Publishing House "Science and Economics", UE - Varna, ISBN 978-954-21-1084-2). The author offers a complete systematization of the practical and organizational aspects of hiking.

In the studies, articles and papers relevant to the subject of the doctoral thesis, Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD contributes to revealing the essence of sports and, in particular, hiking tourism in the context of the concept of alternative types of tourism. The author proposes a classification of the types of sports and hiking tourism.

The candidate systematizes the organizational features of sports and hiking tourism, which is important for the correct, efficient and safe practice of sports and hiking activities by tourists.

Through a series of field studies, the author has prepared a detailed and plausible SWOT analysis of hiking tourism in Bulgaria.

On the basis of the candidate's many years of practice as a sports teacher, Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD outlines the guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria and indicates the conditions for its improvement in terms of scheduling tourist routes, placing tourist markings on the routes, modernization of shelters and mountain huts in the destination, innovations in tourist equipment.

**Secondly**, scientific and applied contributions in the area of **"theory and practice of the physical training of Tourism degree students"** (publications Nos. 5.1; 7.2; 9.4; 10.5; 11.6; 13.8; 17.3; 19.5 from the list).

In his publications, Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD pays special attention to the technology of conducting, measuring, evaluating, controlling and improving the physical training of students majoring in Tourism.

He builds on the theoretical foundations of the methodology for establishing the state and dynamics of students' motor fitness, in particular the students in the Tourism degree course. The candidate proposes a concept for unifying the criteria for evaluating the motor qualities of students of higher schools.

The candidate offers applicable measures to improve the regulatory framework for controlling the motor activity of students, and in particular, students studying for a degree in Tourism.

He theoretically systematizes and tests in practice new and effective forms of motor activity for the students in the Tourism degree course. He is the author of a methodical guide for alternative sports and tourism activities.

The candidate formulates and puts forward ideas for improving the material and technical base for high-quality physical training of students majoring in Tourism.

#### **5. Critical remarks and recommendations to the candidate**

I have known Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD as a lecturer at the College of Tourism for over 10 years. The candidate possesses the indisputable qualities of a conscientious, persistent, strict, competent and correct specialist, highly valued by the students and fellow lecturers and employees at the College of Tourism - Varna.

The reviewed scientific works give reason to recommend to the author to expand his research activity on the different types and forms of alternative tourism, relevant to sports and hiking tourism. Using the accumulated practical experience, Chief Assistant Plyakov, PhD is able to design, test and implement new sports and recreational walking tourist routes in Bulgaria and abroad.

#### **6. Conclusion**

According to the submitted documents and achieved scientific and teaching results, Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the



Regulations for the Implementation of ASDARB and RASD of IU-Varna for holding the position "associate professor", namely:

He holds the educational and scientific degree of "doctor" /**PhD**/.

He has held the academic position of "**chief assistant**" at the College of Tourism at UE-Varna for 14 years.

**24 publications**, including a **doctoral thesis** in the form of an independent monograph, have been presented and accepted for review.

**8 citations** of the candidate's works by other authors in Bulgaria and abroad are documented.

The candidate has taught classes in academic disciplines in the Professional Bachelor's programme and the Bachelor's programme at the College of Tourism, UE - Varna, which are relevant to the professional area of the competition.

He has published textbooks and study aids on the main subjects taught by him.

The candidate has participated in a scientific-applied project.

The candidate covers the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively the requirements under Art. 2.b, para. 5 of ASDARB. The candidate declared a total of 465 points whereby the required minimum is 400 points with performance according to the indicators from the different groups (group A - achieved 80 points against the required 50 points; group B - achieved 100 points against the required 100 points; group D - achieved 215 points against the required 200 points; group D - achieved 70 points against the required 50 points).

He fulfills the quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" at UE - Varna based on Art. 2b, para. 5 of ASDARB and according to Art. 62, item 5 of RASD at UE-Varna (in force since 01.07.2021), declaring 140 points against the required 110 points.

The scientific works contain no proven plagiarism pursuant to the law.

The achievements of Chief Assistant Professor Stanislav Plyakov, PhD in the scientific-applied and educational-pedagogical activities are grounds for giving a positive assessment for the candidate and proposing him for the academic position of "associate professor" at the College of Tourism at UE-Varna in the field of higher

education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.9. Tourism,,  
scientific specialty: „Economics and Management (Sports and Hiking)“

10.08. 2022

city of Varna

Reviewer:

Заличена информация съгласно  
ЗЗЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

Prof. Stoyan Marinov, PhD



For participation in the competition for academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction: 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and management (Sports and walking tourism)"

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Brator Georgiev Koprinarov, Department of "Marketing and Tourism" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, region of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction 3.9. Tourism, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Tourism)".

### 1. General information

The basis for writing this review is Order No.: 06-123/04.07.2022. of the Rector of the University of Economics - Varna (IU-Varna) for the appointment of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 3.9 Tourism, scientific specialty: "Economics and management (Sports and walking tourism)", announced in the State Gazette, no. 41 of 03.06.2022 and Minutes of the meeting of the Scientific Jury for the election of the chairman and the appointment of reviewers for the competition from 04.08.2022.

The review was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LAD), the Rules for its Application (LADLA) and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at IU-Varna (PRAS).

### 2. Contest details

The competition for the academic position of "associate professor" was announced for the needs of the College of Tourism-Varna, and the announcement was published in the State Gazette, no. 41 of 03.06.2022

One candidate participated in the competition: Stanislav Ivanov Plyakov, assistant professor, from the College of Tourism in IU-Varna.

The set of materials and documents presented by the applicant is in accordance with the RSARB, the Regulations for the implementation of the RSARB and PRAS in IU-Varna

### 3. Biographical data of the applicant



On the basis of the attached professional resume from the candidate - chief assistant, Dr. Plyakov, I direct the attention of the scientific jury to the following more significant facts from his development and academic experience, which provide grounds for his admission and participation in the competition, namely:

- Within 2008 to 2012, Stanislav Plyakov is a doctoral student at Vasil Levski National Academy of Sciences, Sofia, where after a successful defense of his dissertation, he obtained a doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences in the scientific specialty 07.05.05 Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of physical therapy)
- Stanislav Plyakov graduated from secondary school in "Olympic Hopes" CSU - Sofia in 1979
- He acquired higher education at the IMT "Ivan Vazov"-Varna in the period 1983-1986, receiving the "Professional Bachelor's Degree" and the "Hotel-Restaurant Manager" qualification.
- In the period 1986-1992 he graduated from the VIF "G. Dimitrov", city of Sofia with a master's degree "physical education teacher and tennis coach".
- Stanislav Plyakov worked as a water rescuer in TC "Balkantourist - Golden Sands" (1982-1986)
- tennis teacher at TC "Balkanturist - Interhotels" - Grand Hotel Varna (1986-1989).
- The academic career of Stanislav Plyakov began in 1995 at the College of Tourism - Varna, successively holding the positions of "assistant" (1995-2004), "st. assistant" (2005-2008); "Ch. assistant" (2008 to the present) with the specialty "teacher of physical education".
- Stanislav Pleakov has solid language skills, he is fluent in German - written and spoken, Spanish - written and spoken, Russian - spoken and English - spoken.
- The academic career of S. Plyakov is successfully combined with scientific research activity through participation in a scientific project on the topic "Research of possibilities for organizing and holding special events in the municipality of Varna - sports events for amateurs and amateurs" (2014-2015).
- The professional achievements of S. Plyakov in the field of sports are remarkable: Master of Sports in Swimming and Master of Sports in Sea Sports All-Around. He made a solo ascent of Mont Blanc and crossed the European route "Com-Emine".

#### **4. Quantitative and substantive characteristics of the presented scientific works**

The number and content of the publications attached to the submitted documents are clear and categorical evidence of quantitative and qualitative characterization of the creative and scientific achievements of the assistant professor Dr. Pleakov for his participation in the



announced competition. The total number and structure of the main types of publications is presented in tabular form. (see Table 1).

From the data in the table, it is necessary to conclude that the Chief Assistant, Dr. Plyakov has developed a scientific output sufficient in volume.

Stanislav Pleakov, assistant professor, has attached a list of a total of 24 publications. The list includes 2 independent monographs, 9 scientific articles (7 independent and 2 co-authored), 6 independent reports (one report in Russian), 3 textbooks (two independent and one co-authored).

The works accepted for review have a total volume of 911 printed pages, personal participation of the candidate by types shown in table 1.

Table No. 1

№	Type of publications	Number	Number of pages	Ref.share in %
1	Monographs	2	429	47,1
3	Articles	9	84	9,2
4	Reports	6	48	5,3
5	Textbooks and study	3	330	36,2
6	Other publications	4	20	2,2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Nearly 50% of the indicated pages, covering the candidate's scientific publications, are from the monographs "Modern aspects and guidelines for the development of hiking tourism in Bulgaria" (269 pages) and "Normative basis for the control of motor fitness of "Eurofit" students from College of Tourism" (160 pages) 87.5% of those proposed for review 24 publications - 18 nos. are independent.

Thematically, Dr. S. Plyakov's publications are mainly focused on the issues of:

- hiking tourism
- the theory and practice of physical training of students.

As a result of the presented facts, the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the publications, it is clear that Dr. Stanislav Plyakov participated in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" with a sufficient number of publications that cover a sufficient range of types of scientific works, with which the independent ones occupy a significant share of the scientific production.



## **5. Quantitative and qualitative assessment of the candidate's educational and teaching activities**

In the attached documentation, a reference has been developed for the educational and teaching activities of the assistant principal Dr. S. Pleakov. The educational and pedagogical activities of ch. Stanislav Plyakov, assistant professor, is concentrated in the College of Tourism at IU-Varna. The candidate has developed curricula and lecture courses in the disciplines "Physical education and sports", "Hiking tourism", "Specialized types of tourism (sports tourism)". Its annual workload annually exceeds that required for full classroom occupancy, according to the requirements of the University of Economics - Varna.

Leads classes in academic disciplines in the Professional Bachelor's College and the Bachelor's College in the College of Tourism in IU-Varna, which are directly related to the direction of the competition.

The work of ch. assistant professor Dr. Stanislav Plyakov with students includes management of a summer student practice (summer internship), organization of annual hikes with a climb to the Musala mountain, a visit to the Seven Rila Lakes and the "Bacho Kiro" cave.

## **6. Identification of the contributions in the candidate's research work**

The points of contribution presented by the candidate in a separate reference to the attached documents for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor" are divided into two groups - contributions in a scientific theoretical plan and practically applied contributions.

- Scientific and theoretical contributions regarding "theory and practice of specialized types of tourism" (12 publications: N. 4.1; 6.1; 8.3; 12.7; 14.9; 15.1; 16.2; 18.4; 20.6; 21.1; 22.2; 23.3)

The main theoretical and applied contributions of Dr. Plyakov are logically contained in the habilitation monographic work "Modern Aspects and Guidelines for the Development of Pedestrian Tourism in Bulgaria", University Publishing House "Science and Economics", IU - Varna, ISBN 978-954-21-1084-2).

- The theory of the essence and classification of sports and, in particular, hiking tourism has been upgraded in the context of the concept of alternative types of tourism;

- The organizational features of sports and hiking tourism are theoretically systematized;

- A detailed SWOT analysis of hiking tourism in Bulgaria has been prepared;



➤ Practical-applied contributions are concentrated in the direction "theory and practice of the physical training of the students of the specialty "Tourism" (8 publications):

- the technology of conducting, measuring, evaluating, controlling and improving the physical training of students from the "Tourism" specialty.

- a concept for unifying the criteria for evaluating the motor qualities of students from higher schools.

- improvement of the normative basis for controlling the motor activity of students, and in particular of students studying the "Tourism" specialty.

- Theoretically systematizes and approves in practice new and effective forms of motor activity for students majoring in "Tourism".

### **7. Critical remarks and recommendations to the candidate**

I know Ch. assistant professor Dr. Stanislav Plyakov as a colleague and teacher at the College of Tourism-Varna. I firmly believe that the candidate has the necessary qualities for each of the universities.

### **8. Conclusion**

The overview of the publications of the chief assistant Dr. Plyakov gives reason to emphasize their merits and the achieved results in scientific and teaching activities, including:

- ✓ Thoroughness and precision in conducting scientific research and issued teaching aids;
- ✓ Correctness and integrity in the presentation of the scientific production and conducting the teaching work;

According to the submitted documents and achieved scientific and teaching results ch. assistant professor, Dr. Stanislav Pleakov meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and PRAS of IU-Varna for holding the position of "Associate Professor".

He obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

He holds the academic position of "principal assistant" in the College of Tourism at IU-Varna

The number of citations (8 nos.) are a clear indication of the author's recognition in scientific circles. Dr. Pleakov's independent scientific works are cited.

The documents submitted by Chief Assistant Dr. Plyakov for participation in the competition reveal that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3,



respectively the requirements under Art. 2.b, para. 5 of ZRASRB. The candidate declared a total of 465 points with a required minimum of 400 points with performance according to the indicators from all groups (group A - achieved 80 points out of the required 50 points; group B - achieved 100 points out of the required 100 points; group D - achieved 215 points out of the required 200 points; group D - achieved 70 points with the required 50 points.

Fulfills all indicators the quantitative requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" at IU - Varna on the basis of Art. 2b, para. 5 of ZRASRB and according to art. 62, item 5 of PRAS in IU-Varna (in force from 01.07.2021), declaring 140 points against the required 110 points.

There is no proven plagiarism in scientific works according to the law.

Based on the presented information and evaluations, I come to the conclusion that Chief Assistant Dr. S. Plyakov fully meets all the requirements according to the established quantitative and qualitative criteria, for holding the academic position "associate professor" in PN 3.9 "Tourism", scientific specialty: "Economics and management (sports and hiking tourism)", which is reason to give my positive assessment of the candidate and to propose him for the academic position of "associate professor" in the College of Tourism in IU-Varna.

26.08.2022

Burgas

Reviewer:

Заличена информация съгласно  
33ЛД и регламент (ЕС) 2016/ 679

Prof. Dr. Bratoy Koprinarov