

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Scientific Jury on Associate Professor position
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI)
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FROM
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FACULTY
Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and
Computer Science
DEPARTMENT
Services, Cybersecurity and Safety

SUBJECT
Recommendation Dr. Boris Shishkov

Dear Members of the Scientific Jury:

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Boris Blagovestov Shishkov (born on 22 January 1973) for the position of Associate Professor, announced by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI).

Dr. Boris Shishkov holds a MSc degree (1999) in Management Information Systems from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria) and a PhD degree (2005) in Computer Science from Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands). He has over 2 years of full time working experience as Postdoc and over 5 years of full time working experience as Assistant Professor, working in prestigious institutions, such as University of Twente, Delft University of Technology, and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He has published more than 55 articles in peer-reviewed international journals, conference proceedings and books (from which more than 35 are SCOPUS-indexed) as well as a PhD Thesis (2005) and a monograph (2017). Dr. Shishkov has presented proof for more than 80 citations (not counting auto-citations) featuring his work. The SCOPUS h-index of Boris Shishkov is 6. Also, he has (co-) edited more than 45 books (including books published by Springer) and organized many editions of several prestigious international scientific conferences. Dr. Shishkov has contributed to many international and national research-and-development projects. Hence, in my opinion, he fully covers the IMI requirements for that position, as announced on the website of the Institute.

Dr. Shishkov has worked full time from 1 January 2005 until 30 June 2008 in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Twente, The Netherlands – Postdoc until 1 July 2007 and Researcher in the last year of his work for the university. During the first two and a half years of this stay he worked under my supervision in the Architecture and Services for Networked Applications (ASNA) group. In this group we had several sizeable national and international research projects with strong academic-industry collaboration. Dr. Shishkov contributed to two of these research projects, namely AWARENESS and A-MUSE. In the AWARENESS project he worked on the (then highly innovative) architecture for context-aware mobile health middleware and applications. This project developed concepts, architectures and prototypes well before the massive attention for sensor networks, situation-awareness and Internet-of-Things. In the A-MUSE project he worked on modelling and design techniques for advanced software services to shorten design cycles and improve efficacy. This project was relevant to the areas of service-oriented computing and model-driven engineering, and its underlying conceptual foundation was later published by Springer (“Architectural Design – Conception and Specification of Interactive Systems”).

Based on this work, Dr. Shishkov (co-)authored many papers, which were presented at and published by reputable conferences (peer-reviewed and with acceptance rates better than 30%). Some of these papers were later published in Springer books comprising best paper selections. He also initiated a collaboration with Delft University of Technology (Prof. Dr. Alexander Verbraeck) in the area of inter-enterprise collaboration, which led to further co-authored publications.

Besides doing research in academic-industry projects, Dr. Shishkov also collaborated with PhD students in the ASNA group and was involved in the supervision of MSc students. That is how he has contributed to the educational activities at the university.

Overall, Dr. Shishkov showed a keen interest in new software developments and in approaches to make software services more effective by their integration in and alignment with the organizational settings in which they are used. This interest led him to actively pursue collaboration with other researchers, inside and outside our university, to address associated interdisciplinary challenges. Moreover, he decided that an institute in this field of research would be highly beneficial to promote and exploit Bulgaria’s potential for creating and introducing new technologies and services in the dynamically developing Bulgarian society. Consequently, he established IICREST (the Interdisciplinary Institute for Collaboration and Research on Enterprise Systems and Technology) in 2007, and acted as its Chairman since then.

After leaving my group at the University of Twente, we stayed in contact to continue our research collaboration and our collaboration in the context of IICREST (where I was a Member of the Board).

Dr. Shishkov spent much effort in making IICREST an internationally acknowledged interdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer institute in the area of system development (featuring enterprise systems and software systems) and applications in societally relevant domains, such as Healthcare, Border Security, Road Traffic, Sustainability, Learning, and Drone Technology. He succeeded in keeping IICREST (financially and otherwise) independent and demonstrated broad abilities when determining, managing and implementing IICREST’s strategic goals. Under his leadership, IICREST participated in several research proposals and initiated new research communities. Among these research communities is Business Modeling and Software Design (BMSD), which has its own series of successful symposia since 2011: BMSD’11 (Sofia, Bulgaria), BMSD’12 (Geneva, Switzerland), BMSD’13 (Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands), BMSD’14 (Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), BMSD’15 (Milan, Italy), BMSD’16 (Rhodes, Greece), BMSD’17 (Barcelona, Spain), upon which opportunity Dr. Shishkov has developed through IICREST collaborations with reputable (academic) institutions, such as University of Geneva

(Switzerland), Public Research Centre "Henri Tudor" (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), Politecnico di Milano (Italy), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), and BPM-D (USA). In 2018, BMSD is going to Vienna, Austria being co-organized by IICREST and WU Vienna (the Vienna University of Economics and Business).

Besides leading IICREST (and BMSD – being the BMSD's General Chair + Program Chair since its establishment), Dr. Shishkov continued his research work (working successfully for Delft University of Technology and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) and was active in many scientific events in the field. Among others, he was the Program Chair of the International Conference on Software Technologies (ICSOFT) from 2006 till 2011, contributing to the development of this still very relevant annual scientific event; he was the General Chair of the International Conference on Cloud Computing and Services Science (CLOSER) in 2011, getting involved at the start of what later turned out to be a successful conference series.

At a personal level I can vouch that Dr. Shishkov is a sincere person with dedication and passion for his professional work. He firmly believes in international and interdisciplinary collaboration, and always stimulated the knowledge exchange between the European countries represented in IICREST. Especially, I can confirm his efforts to develop Bulgarian-Dutch relationships, for example through setting up meetings at the Dutch Embassy in Sofia and meetings to transfer logistics knowledge developed for the port of Rotterdam to the port of Burgas, and also inspiring contacts between Bulgarian companies, such as TechnoLogica EAD and HP – Bulgaria, and Dutch institutions, such as Delft University of Technology and EXSER (center of service innovation).

Sincerely,



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