

Date 12 March 2018  
Our reference av/shishkov/20180312  
Your reference -  
Contact person Prof.dr.ir. A. Verbraeck  
Telephone +31 15 2783805  
E-mail a.verbraeck@tudelft.nl  
Subject Recommendation letter



Delft University of Technology

Technology, Policy and Management  
Policy Analysis

Scientific Jury on Associate Professor position  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI)  
Acad. Georgi Bonchev Str., Block 8  
1113 Sofia, BULGARIA

Visiting address  
Jaffalaan 5  
2628 BX Delft  
Postal address  
P.O. Box 5015  
2600 GA Delft  
The Netherlands

<http://simulation.tudelft.nl>

L.S.,

My name is Prof.dr.ir. Alexander Verbraeck, a Full Professor at Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Multi Actor Systems Department. I had the pleasure and honour to extensively work with Dr. Boris Shishkov over the past two decades, from the moment he started his PhD at Delft University of Technology in 2000.

Dr. Shishkov is applying for the position of Associate Professor in the area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.6 Informatics and Computer Science, scientific specialty "Informatics" (Business Modeling and Information Systems) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Through this letter, I would like to offer my sincere support for his application, by providing my very positive experiences in working with him over the past 18 years.

After completing his MSc in Management Information Systems from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (with distinction) in 1999, Boris Shishkov applied for a PhD position at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands where I was leading a 5-year Strategic University Research Program called BETADE – Building blocks for Effective Telematics Application Development and Evaluation with a budget of over 2.5 million Euros. Boris Shishkov was selected after a very competitive world-wide selection as one of the 14 junior researchers to work on this strategic project.

Boris carried out an excellent research project and finished his PhD thesis "Software Specification Based on Re-usable Business Components", which was one of the great contributions to the success of the BETADE project. The doctoral work made several breakthroughs in Business Process Modeling in relation to Component-Based Design. Basing his work on formal Language Action Perspective theories, he developed the SDBC method (Software Derived from Business Components). His research provided a lot of insight into how software components in the business domain could be made (re)usable. Therefore, his research was supported by the National Research School SIKS – the Dutch research school for Information and Knowledge Systems, where his dissertation was registered under number 2005-17. SIKS was established in 1996 and is an accredited research school by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. His publicly defended dissertation can be found in the repository of TU Delft at <http://resolver.tudelft.nl/uuid:6519bd27-8b00-4293-ad17-a968238cf66d>.



After being awarded his PhD, Dr. Boris Shishkov joined the University of Twente in The Netherlands as a PostDoc, where he worked for 2.5 years with my colleague Dr. Marten van Sinderen on Service Oriented Architectures, Model-Driven Applications, and Context Awareness. All topics that still carry an enormous relevance today. As part of his work in Twente, he extended his PhD work into the software services domain. Software services are the cornerstone of all modern information systems, where context awareness makes these services work under different (and sometimes unexpected) circumstances. Following the tradition of the information systems field, Boris presented his work at a number of prestigious international conferences such as HICSS, IEEE ICEBE, and ICEIS. After his work with Dr. van Sinderen, Boris researched the new (at that time) software engineering paradigm "Aspect Oriented Programming" with Prof.dr.ir. Mehmet Aksit of the University of Twente in The Netherlands for one year.

After his period in Twente, Delft University of Technology was very happy to be able to hire Dr. Shishkov as a full-time Assistant Professor. Research on Services-Oriented Architectures was extremely important in 2008-2009, and Boris Shishkov was one of the few scientific experts on this topic. Working under my guidance, we started several projects, and worked closely with industry to study service-based software engineering, dynamic modelling, business process simulation, and context-aware applications.

During this period in Delft, Boris indicated that he wanted to take his knowledge on Business Modeling and Information Systems to Bulgaria, and contribute to the academic excellence in his country, building on the vast network of international researchers he had built at that time. I, my colleagues at Delft University of Technology, and colleagues in our network have always supported Boris Shishkov in contributing to Bulgarian Science. In order to help him link the international research to Bulgaria, Dr. Shishkov founded IICREST, an internationally acknowledged IT institute in Bulgaria with highly recognized academic members from a number of European countries. Under the leadership of Boris Shishkov, IICREST has been actively involved in building academic networks across the EU, in organizing international conferences, and in setting up joint projects between Bulgaria and other European countries. By applying for several EU projects such as SACOS and EU-SOLE, IICREST and Boris Shishkov built an even larger network of international researchers in the Business Modeling and Information Systems field. The conference series such as BMSD, ICISOFT, EHST, CSEDU, CLOSER and INNOV, (co-)organized by IICREST, were and are extremely successful and have expanded the network of Dr. Shishkov to a world-wide one. I had the honour to be keynote speaker on several of the excellent conferences organized by Boris Shishkov, and it is clear that the conferences attract distinguished researchers with excellent papers. The conference organization does not only contribute to the vast international network, it also shows his outstanding organizational talents that are needed to make conferences a success in a very competitive market.

Recently, building on his current academic position in Bulgaria, Dr Shishkov has collaborated with TU Delft on several projects, one of which was with Prof.Dr. Jeroen van der Hoven, our former Dean and Full Professor of Ethics, and my colleague Prof.dr.ir. Marijn Janssen from the ICT Department (one of the world-wide leading authors in the e-government domain), on the operationalization of values with regard to the IT Architecture Services of the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

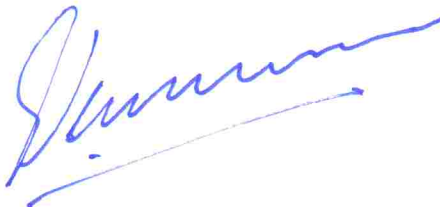
Boris Shishkov has published more than 55 articles in peer-reviewed international journals, conference proceedings and books (from which more than 35 are SCOPUS-indexed) as well as a PhD Thesis (2005) and a monograph (2017). All his publications show interesting and fresh insights into important topics in the Computer Science and Information Systems field. Scopus and Google Scholar show a growing list of citations of his work.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of visiting Dr. Shishkov several times in Sofia, either for conferences, or for setting up new joint research. I know him as an efficient organizer and a professional researcher. As a result, I expect to intensify my collaboration with him after his promotion to "Associate Professor" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Boris Shishkov is, in my opinion, an excellent candidate for the specialty of the Associate Professorship, Business Modeling and Information Systems. He has extensively worked on the topic over the past 18 years, and worked with the best institutions, and always on the newest developments. His network in the field is very extensive, and through the organization of the conferences, he has access to an enormous number of researchers, within Europe as well as outside of Europe.

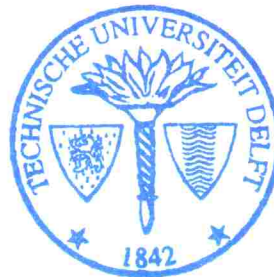
Taking the above into account, I fully support the application of Dr. Boris Shishkov for the position of Associate Professor in "Informatics" with the specialty of "Business Modeling and Information Systems". He is an excellent choice for the position.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information regarding my recommendation.

Sincerely,



Prof.dr.ir. Alexander Verbraeck  
Full Professor Systems & Simulation TU Delft



Enclosure(s) -

Copy to -