

From:

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To:

The Scientific Jury on a Habilitation Procedure
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI)
Sofia
Bulgaria

Re: An announcement in State Gazette (Bulgaria) Issue 18 / 27 February 2018, reflecting a habilitation procedure for Associate Professor (in Business Modeling and Information Systems) academic position

Dear Distinguished members of the IMI Scientific Jury:

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation and endorsement for Dr. Boris Shishkov, Assistant Professor at IMI – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. I am a Full Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems at Empire State College of the State University of New York. I especially relish the opportunity to advocate for Dr. Boris Shishkov because I am in the unique position of having been his teacher, supervisor, and colleague for many years. I have had the distinct and unique privilege to teach and advise him as a student and alumni of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, but also as a colleague and one who has collaborated with Dr. Shishkov on a professional level for many years now as well.

I have known Boris since late 90-ties, when he was a Master student in Management Information Systems (MIS) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (the MIS Master program was under the responsibility of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration). I was then the Director of the Computing Center of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and a Lecturer for the two faculties mentioned above. Boris was one of the best students I have ever had not only in the course he took with me on Enterprise Information Systems (In Bulgarian: Бизнес Информационни Системи) but also as a supervised Master student in his MSc Thesis touching upon the design of a network of Tele-Centers supporting Tele-Work and other activities.

Soon after graduating from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” Boris applied for a PhD position in The Netherlands; he was successful and in April 2000 he started working as PhD student at the Faculty of

Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science of Delft University of Technology, one of the top 5 European technical universities. Boris Shishkov was successful in his doctoral studies (resulting in numerous publications) and in September 2005 he received a Doctoral (PhD) Degree in Computer Science. From Delft University of Technology, Boris Shishkov moved to another Dutch technical university – the University of Twente where he worked two and a half years as a Postdoc. Then, since mid-2007, he has worked further for the above-mentioned Dutch universities and also for IMI – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, accruing full-time working experience of more than 5 years, holding the positions Researcher (University of Twente, Department of Computer Science, Software Engineering Section) and Assistant Professor (Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Technology, Policy, and Management, Systems Engineering Section and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics). In those years, Dr. Shishkov has amassed an impressive list of academic and professional accomplishments, including many scientific publications, presentations in and chair of well-established international conferences and workshops.

Boris Shishkov has nearly 60 scientific publications. Two thirds of those publications are indexed with SCOPUS, as an indication for quality. Dr. Shishkov is Author of two books, one of which is his PhD Thesis entitled: “Software Specification Based on Re-Usable Business Components”; the other one was published in 2017 and is entitled: “Enterprise Information Systems, A Modeling Approach”. I am familiar with the '17 book of Boris Shishkov. In my opinion, it's scientific quality is high, offering contribution that is three-fold: (a) It brings together two disciplines – Enterprise Engineering and Software Engineering, and in this way it supports software analysts and software developers; (b) The concepts brought forward in the book are reflected in an approach (SDBC) and this bridges the conceptual findings to corresponding practical realization potentials; (c) The book offers illustrative examples as justification for the practical applicability of the concepts and the approach. Besides for software analysts / developers and also for consultants, the book can be also useful for students – I think that the book could be a valuable reference for courses in Enterprise Modeling, Requirements Engineering, and Software Specification. That is why it is not surprising that the book of Dr. Shishkov has successfully passed Springer evaluations, and he was prompted to deliver an updated version of the book for publication by them. Next to authoring books and papers, Boris Shishkov has also edited books – he has edited / co-edited tens of books, most of which are published by prestigious publishers, such as Springer. Boris Shishkov has more than 80 citations from what can be found mainly in SCOPUS, and GoogleScholar indicates for even more citations, the SCOPUS h-index of Dr. Boris Shishkov is 6 and his GoogleScholar h-index is 10. All those facts lead to my definite conclusion that Dr. Boris Shishkov fully covers and exceeds traditional academic requirements (internationally) for promotion to an Associate Professor.

It was Dr. Shishkov's idea, motivation, and unique approach to inspire, establish, and successfully lead for more than 10 years already the Interdisciplinary Institute for Collaboration and Research on Enterprise Systems and Technology – IICREST: an international research and knowledge transfer institute domiciled in Bulgaria and built upon Dr. Shishkov's intense relations and collaboration with scholars and leading professionals from universities and institutions from The Netherlands (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marten van Sinderen, University of Twente), Greece (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitris Mitrakos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), United Kingdom (Dr. Vaughan Michell, University of Reading), Portugal (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jose Cordeiro, Polytechnic Institute of Setubal), and Switzerland (Prof. Dr. Dimitri

Konstantas, University of Geneva). With his international collaborations (reaching also to USA, Austria, Sweden, and other countries), he has been impressive in so many ways and I would like to comment on his highest level of motivation, creativity, collegiality, professional knowledge and leadership experience. Throughout his remarkable service for IICREST, Boris Shishkov succeeded to establish and to lead for eight consecutive years a very fine and valuable international symposium on Business Modeling and Software Design (BMSD). As Chair and Scientific Leader of this annual scholarly gathering, he has contributed immensely for building a vibrant intellectual community of both young and experienced researchers and practitioners from all over the world to successfully share ideas, best practices, and enrich experience. The scientific value of BMSD and the quality of the BMSD papers are highly appreciated and selected work is periodically published by Springer.

Dr. Shishkov has continued to grow professionally as his career moves on – he inspires and educates all the time, his work ethics, strong values, and genuine respect for people are all to rare. He used to advise a PhD student from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, in research reflecting a usability analysis of drone technology concerning border security and is to step in as a co-supervisor of a PhD student from the University of Library Studies and Information Technology (Bulgaria). In 2017, Dr. Shishkov has contributed to an interdisciplinary R&D project run by Delft University of Technology in cooperation with the International Criminal Court in The Hague, on emerging technology for criminal judiciary, featuring the operationalization of values (such as privacy, transparency, accountability, and so on) being reflected in the supportive IT architectures. I am amazed how he has challenged himself to live, to work, and to engage in the most dynamic field. It is always a great pleasure to discuss professionally with him new emerging and evolving trends in technology.

Dr. Shishkov has been working for many years at a level of competence, leadership, and professionalism normally expected from an associate professor / docent in an academic institution. I strongly believe the Bulgarian and International academic community will continue to benefit from his valuable contributions and exceptional service. In my humble estimation, Dr. Boris Shishkov is a great model as a well-established scholar and leader that many of us could only wish we had.

I could speak volumes to Dr. Shishkov's sterling record. Thank you for allowing me to draw attention to his attributes. I fully support his application for Associate Professor and I trust the members of the IMI Scientific Jury to recognize him as such.

Sincerely,



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