

OPINION

for a competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor”

in the field of higher education:	4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics
professional field:	4.6. Informatics and Computer Science
scientific specialty:	Informatics (Digital cultural content management systems and e-learning)
published in:	State Gazette No. 103 / 02.12.2025 and on the IMI website
for the needs of:	Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IMI-BAS) Mathematical Linguistics Department
prepared by:	Dr. Maria Mihaylova Nisheva-Pavlova, Professor at IMI-BAS
member of the scientific jury of the competition, according to:	Order № 9 / 30.01.2026 of the Director of IMI-BAS

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov, IMI-BAS.

I. General description of the submitted materials

1. Details of the application

The documents of the applicant comply with the requirements of the Act of the Development of the Academic Personnel of the Republic of Bulgaria (ADAPRB), the Rules for the Implementation of the Act of the Development of the Academic Personnel of the Republic of Bulgaria (RIADAPRB), the Rules for the conditions and the order for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions in BAS and the specific regulations for the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics – BAS.

The applicant has submitted for the competition:

- European CV,
- Copies of higher education diplomas,
- Copy of diploma for educational and scientific degree “Doctor”,
- Full list of publications,
- List and copies of the publications presented at the competition,
- Reference for original scientific and applied scientific contributions,
- Abstracts of the publications of Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov presented at the competition,

- Full list of citations of publications of Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov,
- List of citations presented at the competition,
- Copy of the publication for the competition in State Gazette,
- Certificate of internship in the speciality,
- References for other activities: conference participation, project activities, development of scientific products,
- Reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the requirements of IMI – BAS for the professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science,
- References from Scopus and Web of Science for the publications submitted for participation in the competition,
- Declaration in connection with Art. 24, para. 1, item 3 of ADAPRB,
- Declaration of consent for storage and processing of personal data.

The documents of the applicant have been prepared carefully and in full compliance with the requirements of the specific regulations for the IMI – BAS.

2. Details of the applicant

The applicant Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov has Bachelor's degree in Informatics, completed in 2009 at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, and Master's degree in Informatics (E-business and E-government), completed in 2011 at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In 2016, after successfully defending a dissertation on “Interoperability between digital libraries for cultural heritage” he received a doctoral degree in Informatics. Since 2006 he has been working at IMI – BAS consecutively as a programmer, assistant professor, and senior assistant professor.

3. General characteristics of the scientific works and achievements of the candidate

The research activities of Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov and the topics of his scientific works are entirely in the field of competition. He has presented at the competition 22 publications, which do not repeat those of the previous procedures for acquiring of his doctoral degree and holding the academic position of senior assistant professor. Fifteen of these publications have IF and/or SJR.

In accordance with the requirements of the rules for the specific conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at IMI – BAS, the candidates for an academic position of associate professor in professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science must have: 50 points in group of indicators “A”, at least 100 points in group of indicators “B”, at least 220 points in group of indicators “Г”, at least 70 points in group of indicators “Д”, at least 20 points in group of indicators “E”. Each of these conditions is stronger than the corresponding requirement under Art. 1a, para. 1 of the RIADAPRB.

According to the submitted documents the applicant covers:

- 50 points in group of indicators “A”,
- 110 points in group of indicators “B”,
- 296 points in group of indicators “Г”,
- 132 points in group of indicators “Д”,
- 50 points in group of indicators “E”.

Therefore, the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements under Art. 1a, para. 2 and para. 3 of the RIADAPRB for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science have been completely covered and exceeded by Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov .

There is no proven plagiarism in the scientific works of Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov.

4. Analysis of the scientific and applied research of the candidate, contained in the materials for participation in the competition

The scientific papers, presented by Senior Assist. Prof. Maxim Goynov for participation in the competition, contain original research results, which can be grouped and summarized as follows:

- Group 1: *Digital cultural content management systems* (publications [2 – 14], [17], [19 – 21] according to the numbering in the list of papers submitted for participation in the competition). An innovative digital library environment has been designed and implemented, providing opportunities for managing and ensuring effective access to multimedia content in the field of cultural heritage. A conceptual framework and a set of services have been proposed, providing an upgrade to the static presentation of the stored content. A methodology for converting 2D images of hard-to-reach, inaccessible or destroyed museum objects into simplified 3D models has been proposed. An intelligent, mobile-optimized platform supporting interactive mobile learning has been created. An original concept for creating an online database of medieval South Slavic manuscripts has been developed. A unified approach to manuscript analysis has been proposed. An online research environment has been created that provides tools for advanced search, intelligent curation and collaborative analysis of different types of data for such manuscripts.
- Group 2: *E-learning systems* (publications [1], [15], [16], [18], [22]). A new educational approach to the study of ancient Bulgarian history, civilization and cultural heritage is proposed. An editor and portal for educational games are designed, which can facilitate the development of games by providing predefined templates and styles, as well as a database containing numerous questions.

All scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition are co-authored. I have no doubt about the applicant’s significant personal contribution to them.

In my opinion, the aforementioned results characterize the candidate Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov as a well-established scientist with significant achievements, which give reason to claim that he completely covers the concept of a established researcher in the field of Informatics.

The significance of the applicant’s research results is evidenced by their reflection in the works of other authors. Dr. Maxim Goynov submitted data for a total of 93 citations of his publications in papers of other authors, and an appropriately selected sample of 22 of these citations was submitted for participation in the competition.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critical comments on the materials in the competition and in particular on the scientific works of Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov. I am aware of the fact that serious research in the scientific field in which he works is generally a collective matter, but I recommend

him to aspire in his future work to a certain number of single-authored publications, presenting results for which he has a key contribution.

6. Personal impressions of the candidate

I have no immediate personal impressions from the candidate's professional performances outside the competition.

7. Conclusion for this application

The scientific achievements of the candidate meet the requirements of ADAPRB and RIADAPRB, as well as the Rules for the conditions and the order for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions in BAS and the specific regulations for the IMI-BAS.

In particular, the candidate satisfies the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been established in the scientific papers submitted at the competition.

I give a **positive assessment** of the application of Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov.

II. Overall conclusion

After getting acquainted with the scientific papers and materials presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to **recommend the scientific jury to vote on a proposal to the Scientific Council of IMI-BAS to select Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Maxim Goynov to take the academic position of "Associate Professor"** in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science, scientific specialty Informatics (Digital cultural content management systems and e-learning).

March 20, 2026

Signature:

(Prof. Maria Nisheva-Pavlova)