

OPINION

by Professor Dr. Vladimir Monov,
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ABOUT

documents and scientific papers submitted in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor"

Field of higher education: *4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics,*

Professional field: *4.6 Informatics and computer sciences,*

Specialty: *Informatics (Digital cultural content management systems and e-learning)*

announced in the State Gazette No. 103 of 02.12.2025 for the needs of the "Mathematical Linguistics"
Department at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics-BAS with a single candidate
assistant professor Dr. Maxim Krassimirov Goinov.

By order No. 9 of 30.01.2026 of the Director of IMI-BAS, I am appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the announced competition for the academic position of "associate professor". By a decision of the scientific jury at a meeting held on 12.02.2026, my participation in the work of the jury was determined with the preparation of an opinion on the submitted materials. Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by the only candidate, Dr. Maxim Goinov, assistant professor in the "Mathematical Linguistics" Department of IMI. As a member of the Scientific Jury, I have received the following documents and scientific works of the candidate:

1. Autobiography according to the European model;
2. Copy of a diploma for completed higher education;
2. Copy of a diploma for the acquired educational and scientific degree "doctor";
3. Certificate of work experience in the specialty;
4. General list of publications;
4. List of scientific publications for participation in the competition;
5. General list of citations;
6. List of citations for participation in the competition;
6. Summaries of publications for participation in the competition in Bulgarian and English.
7. Copies of scientific publications for participation in the competition;
8. Reference of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the minimum requirements of IMI-BAS;
9. Reference of original scientific contributions in the works;
10. Declaration, according to Form 3.2;
11. Reference of other scientific research and applied scientific activities.

General characteristics of the submitted materials

According to the submitted materials, assistant professor Dr. Maxim Goinov has acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Informatics, as evidenced by diploma No. 000823 dated 14.12.2016, issued by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for a defended dissertation on the topic "Interoperability of Digital Libraries for Cultural Heritage". From 2020 to the present, he has successively held the positions of "assistant" and "assistant professor" at IMI-BAS, where he has a total work experience of 10 years and 7 months. The attached Reference of fulfillment of the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" at IMI-BAS shows that the requirements for all groups of indicators A, B, Г, Д and E have been met and exceeded. A signed declaration is attached that the publications, citations and other evidence for the various indicators in the Reference of fulfillment of the minimum requirements for this competition have not been used in previous procedures. All materials presented by assistant professor Dr. Goinov have been prepared in accordance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as with the Regulations on the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the IMI-BAS.

Evaluation of scientific papers

For participation in the competition under indicator B4 "Habilitation thesis - scientific publications", 5 publications in issues with SJR in Scopus are submitted, 3 of which are in quartile Q4 and two of which are in quartile Q3 of Scopus. One of the publications is also in an issue with impact factor (IF=2.4) of Web of Science. The publications are co-authored, in one of which the candidate is the first author. Under indicator Г7 "Scientific publications in issues that are referenced and indexed in world-known databases with scientific information", 15 publications are submitted, which are referenced and indexed in WoS and/or Scopus, 10 of which are with IF and/or SJR. Under indicator Г8 "Published chapter of a book or collective monograph", the candidate is a co-author in two chapters of books published by academic publishers. In essence, the candidate's works are of a scientific and applied nature, in the field of informatics and more specifically in two main thematic areas: *Digital Cultural Content Management Systems* and *E-Learning Systems*. The results obtained from the research in these areas have been published in prestigious editions, which testifies to their high assessment and international recognition. The scientific publications presented are also related to the candidate's participation in the implementation of successful scientific research projects and the implementation of digital cultural content management systems and digital educational products implemented in our country.

The scientific works presented for the competition undoubtedly show that the candidate assistant professor, Dr. Maxim Goinov, possesses in-depth knowledge, accumulated experience and significant achievements in his research activities.

Evaluation of citations

The attached list of citations for participation in the competition contains 22 citations of 13 works by the candidate, all of which are in publications in prestigious issues that are indexed and referenced in the scientific information databases Scopus and Web of Science. The total list of the candidate's noted citations includes 179 citations, of which 86 in publications indexed and referenced in

Scopus and Web of Science and 93 in other scientific publications. The cited author's works are also in well-known scientific journals, reports of national and international conferences, Springer publications, etc. The presented data on the noted citations show that the candidate's scientific results have aroused wide interest and have been reflected in the works of both our and foreign scientists in the field of e-learning and digital preservation and presentation of cultural and scientific heritage.

Scientific and applied scientific contributions

I accept and positively evaluate the contributions indicated in the attached reference of the candidate. They can be defined as scientific and applied scientific and relate to the following areas of research.

- *Methods and systems for managing and presenting digital cultural content.* The main contributions in this area are related to the design and implementation of advanced platforms for digital libraries, the development of models for the development of digital cultural ecosystems for the purposes of education and scientific research. An approach to personalized learning using virtual museums, a web-based platform for intelligent management of cultural content, methods for designing and developing mobile applications for the presentation of national cultural sites are proposed.

- *Technologies for the development of digital paleography.* Problems and challenges related to the analysis of medieval South Slavic manuscripts are studied. A concept for the creation of an online database of South Slavic manuscripts from the 14th century with tools for effective research and extraction of new knowledge in the field of Slavic paleography is presented. A formal descriptive model for manuscript analysis has been created, as well as information technology and web-based tools for innovative paleographic research.

- *E-learning systems.* The capabilities of serious educational games, digital storytelling and interactive learning have been explored. The design and development of an innovative software platform for the creation and application of serious educational games has been presented. A modular architecture of the platform, a methodology for creating educational games and their application in the field of ecology and environmental protection have been developed.

The attached Reference for the contributions has been prepared in detail, all of them are reflected in the published scientific works and can be assessed as significant and internationally recognized achievements in the candidate's work. The connection of the scientific works with the implemented scientific research projects and the implementation of systems for managing digital cultural content and digital educational products in our country is also indicated.

General characteristics of the candidate's activities

The candidate's works demonstrate active scientific and research activity and contain original scientific and scientifically applied results in the field of development and application of digital cultural content management systems and the field of e-learning with a specific focus on the development of serious educational games. In the period 2020-2025, as an assistant and assistant professor at IMI-BAS, Dr. Maxim Goinov is a co-author of scientific publications and has presented 29 reports at 18 international scientific forums. The attached Reference for other scientific research and scientifically applied activities shows that the candidate has also participated in the implementation of 16 national

scientific research projects and the development of 15 scientific and scientifically applied products, in which he is the main developer. For the development and implementation of open access digital libraries, assistant professor Dr. Maxim Goinov was awarded the Ministry of Education and Science Award for Overall Contribution to Open Science "ORBIT" 2025.

Notes and Recommendations

I have no substantive remarks on the materials submitted for the competition. In connection with the author's research in the field of educational games, I have the following question.

In which areas of education and academic disciplines do serious educational games give the best results in terms of acquired knowledge and could they be more effective than standard teaching methods?

Given the results achieved so far, my recommendation is to continue scientific and applied scientific activity in the outlined research areas, as well as the preparation and publication of independent publications in prestigious national and international editions.

CONCLUSION

The materials of the competition and the results presented therein by the candidate satisfy the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations on the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and for occupying academic positions at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics-BAS. My assessment of the overall activity of the candidate is positive.

I strongly recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury vote on a proposal to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics-BAS for the election of assistant professor Dr. Maxim Krasimirov Goinov to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field: 4.6 "Informatics and Computer Science", specialty: "Informatics" (Digital Cultural Content Management Systems and E-Learning).

Sofia,
23.03.2026

Signature:
/Prof. Dr. V. Monov/