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Ref.: assessment review for Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. István Cserniczkó, DSc

Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD is an associate professor at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Slovakia). She has submitted her candidacy for full professorship in Faculty of Central European Studies at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

As an invited external reader for Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo's inauguration process, I have been provided with the all necessary documentation. I state in confidence that my knowledge of written Slovak is sufficient for me to understand the details of the different chapters, articles and documents accounting for this scientific/scholarly activities for the purpose of a balanced evaluation.

I have professionally known Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo since about 2000. I have always had a positive professional cooperation with her in various professional domains. Our scientific cooperation is confirmed by the fact that we have worked together in several international research projects. For example, we worked on the following projects: (i) Project for the improvement of teaching Slovak language and literature in national minority language schools through the methodology of second language teaching (with a special focus on schools using Hungarian as a language of instruction): The Nitra model; (ii) Research on the teaching of the state language in the Carpathian Basin: theory, practice and perspectives.

In the course of our scientific collaboration, I participated in several international conferences organized by Ildikó Vančo at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, for example:

- (i) Nitriansky model skvalitnenia vyučovania slovenského jazyka a literatúry na školách s vyučovacím jazykom národnostných menšín metódou vyučovania cudzích jazykov(s dôrazom na školy s vyučovacím jazykom maďarským). Šaľa, April 28–30, 2014.
- (ii) Perspectives of language communication in the European Union. International Conference. Nitra, July 28-29, 2016.
- (iii) Hungarian minority language variety in Slovakia. Nitra, September 16–17, 2020.
- (iv) 6th World Conference on Pluricentric Languages and their Non-Dominant Varieties. Nitra, June 21-23, 2018.

In 2018 and 2019, I visited Nitra in the framework of the Erasmus+ international mobility program, where I had the opportunity to get acquainted with the pedagogical and teaching activities of Ildikó Vančo. Her communication skills and helpfulness made me feel at home at Nitra, while I was deeply impressed by her lectures delivered at the courses *Sociolinguistics* and *Minorities and Language Policy*, conceived in the spirit of interdisciplinarity.

The opportunities for Ildikó Vančo to visit Transcarpathia (Ukraine) under the Erasmus mobility program provided excellent occasions to continue our dialogues on professional issues. She has participated as a speaker at international conferences organized by Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education several times. For instance, she was a plenary speaker at the 16th Hungarian Sociolinguistics Conference in 2016 in Berehovo (Ukraine).

Our close professional relationship, which has existed for almost two decades, gives me the opportunity to evaluate the professional activity of Ildikó Vančo. In what follows, I intend to focus on three aspects an internationally-oriented higher educational institution ought to expect of a would-be-professor:

- (i) teaching activities;
- (ii) research activities and publications;
- (iii) science-management activities.

Teaching activities

Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD has been teaching in higher education for 18 years. She has been assistant professor since 2003 in the Department of the Hungarian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. She has been associate professor (docent as a habilitated doctor) since 2014.

She has been teaching foundational linguistic courses (Dialectology and sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics; Hungarian–Slovak bilingualism; Basics of Bilingualism, Minorities and Language Policy, etc.) and methodological (linguistic and pedagogical) courses (Theory of teaching Hungarian language and style; Methodology of teaching Hungarian language; Psycholinguistics and mother tongue teaching; Professional work related to pedagogical activities).

The candidate can show serious achievements in the field of educating the scientific youth. Ildikó Vančo supervised 87 final theses BA and MA. She has also supervised two PhD students.

Ildikó Vančo developed a project of the bachelor's (BA) study program Hungarian Language in Bilingual Administrative Communication in the field of 2.1.32 *Foreign Languages and Cultures*. Based on the proposal of her, the following subjects were introduced into the study programs implemented at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra: (i) Heteroglossia of Romani languages; (ii) Hungarian–Slovak bilingualism in Slovakia; (iii) Psycholinguistics and mother tongue teaching; (iv) Basics of bilingualism. She has four new results in education or science, resp. that have significantly influenced the development of the field and are thus evaluated by the professional community.

Research activities and publications

In higher education, education and research are extremely closely linked: high-quality teaching can only be achieved if it is supported by engaged scientific inquiries and resultative research activity. From the beginning, Ildikó Vančo's professional interest focused on the study of bi- and multilingualism, on the educational systems of the mother tongue (first language) in minority conditions, mainly on the teaching of languages in connection with language ideologies in minority conditions, and on educational problems of the state language for national minorities.

Her publication performance is outstanding: she has written 4 monographs, and 4 coursebooks for university students, she has edited 23 books in Hungarian, English, and Slovak language, 8 scientific and professional works registered in the ISI WOK and Scopus databases, 54 scientific works and contributions in peer-reviewed proceedings and monographs, etc. Ildikó Vančo's high visibility in the national and international research community is supported by numerous citations of her work by researchers. She has 30 citations in publications registered in the ISI WOK and Scopus databases, 107 citations in foreign publications, and 24 citations in domestic publications.

Judging on my personal acquaintance with Ildikó Vančo, and on the basis of her publication data, I have to claim that her research activities and achievements represent an independent researcher. Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD is an international acknowledged researcher in the field of linguistics and language pedagogy.

Science-management activities

Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD is a highly-motivated conference organizer, and a successful project initiator and project leader.

Her outstanding professional recognition is indicated by the fact that she was an opponent of 7 PhD and habilitation dissertations at various universities. Ildikó Vančo regularly participates in scientific and professional committees, editorial boards, and scientific committees of conferences. She is a member of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. She has given guest lectures in New York and Chicago (USA), Lahti and Jyväskylä (Finland), Tartu (Estonia), Izhevsk (Russian Federation), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Budapest (Hungary), Berehove (Ukraine), Groningen (Netherlands), etc.

Ildikó Vančo has been the coordinator of many research and educational projects, including 11 international and 10 domestic research projects.

Conclusion

Based on the personal encounters and on studying Ildikó Vančo's documentation, I regard the candidate as a broad-minded thinker endowed with excellent pedagogical skills, who persistently takes part in the international scientific life, as attested by her articles published in several prestigious volumes abroad, her exceptionally great number of conference participations as well as her editorial activity related to conferences.

Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD fulfills all the criteria set by international and national standards to the position of a university professor.

For all these reasons, I would give Dr. habil. Mgr. Ildikó Vančo, PhD my highest recommendation in support of her application for the post of full professor at the Faculty of Central European Studies of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. Therefore, I strongly recommend that the inauguration process for the appointment of Dr. habil. Ildikó Vančo, PhD as full-professor should be opened and she should be appointed professor in the field of study Foreign languages and cultures (odbor habilitačného konania a inauguračného konania cudzie jazyky a kultúry).

With best regards,

Berehove, July 30, 2021



Professor Dr. István Cserniczkó, DSc

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