

## EVALUATION BOARD DECISION ON THE NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO PROFESSOR

<b>Masaryk University</b>	
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Education
<b>Procedure field</b>	Special pedagogy
<b>Applicant</b>	Jan Šiška, doc. PhDr. Ph.D.
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	Department of Special Education, Faculty of Education, Charles University

### Board members

#### **Chair**

Prof. PhDr. Karel Pančocha, Ph.D., M.Sc.  
*Faculty of Education, Masaryk University*

#### **Members**

Prof. Amy S Hewitt, PhD, FAAIDD  
*Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota*

Prof. Jan Tøssebro, Ph.D.  
*Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

Prof. PhDr. RNDr. Marie Vágnerová, CSc.  
*Hussite Faculty of Theology, Charles University*

Prof. Mgr. Kateřina Vitásková, Ph.D.  
*Faculty of Education, Palacký University in Olomouc*

### Evaluation of the Board

In assessing the proposal for professor appointment, the board proceeded in accordance with Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on the Modification and Amendments of Other Acts, and in compliance with Masaryk University Directive No. 7/2017 on Habilitation Procedures and Professor Appointment Procedures, and Faculty of Education Directive No. 2/2021 on Principles of Habilitation Procedure and Professor Appointment Procedure at the Faculty of Education, Masaryk University.

The evaluation board took note of the letters of recommendation of Prof. Johannes Schädler of the University of Siegen and Emeritus Professor Roger Stancliffe of the University of Sydney. Both see the applicant as a highly qualified expert, an internationally recognised scholar and a respected person in the field of intellectual disability research. They appreciate the extent and quality of his publications and their acclaim, his success in grant competitions and, last but not least, his scientific and personal qualities, such as exceptional theoretical insight, methodological expertise, reliability, perseverance and ability to successfully lead national and international research projects.

## **Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly qualifications**

The focus of the candidate's research activities is in the area of social policy and practical support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His professional interest is mainly focused on three areas: a) social empowerment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through deinstitutionalization and community living, b) quality of support provided to persons with disabilities and its evaluation c) life-course and transitions of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The candidate has been involved in research in the first area for more than 15 years, having participated in several research projects. The project entitled "Deinstitutionalisation and Community Living: Outcomes and Costs" (2004-2007) was funded by the European Commission and managed by the University of Kent, Jan Šiška was involved as the lead researcher for Central and Eastern Europe. Another international project was the EU FP7 project "Making Persons with Disabilities Full Citizens" (2013-2016), which involved ten organisations from nine European countries working together to gather new knowledge to enable persons with disabilities to achieve full and effective social participation. Jan Šiška was the project leader for the workpackage "Participation in Community Life" with responsibility for data collection and analysis. For this project, he developed the research design of the life pathways.

The candidate has presented research findings at numerous conferences and invited lectures abroad and published in prestigious disability research journals such as *Disability & Society* and *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*.

Regarding the topic of the quality of support for people with disabilities – the second area of interest of the applicant – Jan Šiška, in collaboration with colleague Julie Beadle-Brown from the University of Kent, conducted a study on innovative European frameworks for assessing the quality of services for people with disabilities. This study (2021) presents a new framework for measuring service quality. This is based on Donabedian's Structures-Processes-Outcome model and on the eight domains of quality of life of Schalock et al. (2002). The innovative quality assessment framework has been positively received by European professional forums and is currently being implemented in California, USA. The project "Development and support of quality models for the social services system" (2017-2022) within the EU Operational Programme Employment PLUS was also focused on research on the quality of social services. The results of the investigation on the topic of quality have been published not only in a number of prestigious international journals, but have also given rise to a scholarly book Šiška, J., Beadle-Brown, J. et al. (2021). *The development, conceptualisation and implementation of quality in disability support services*, in which the applicant has a 40% authorship share.

The third pillar of the candidate's professional profile is research on the concept of life path in the context of disability, with particular attention to the formal and institutional determinants of transition. Jan Šiška conducted research within the framework of the Czech Science Foundation project "Quali-Tydes – Qualitative monitoring of the effects of selected institutional processes in the lives of young adults with disabilities" (2009-2012), in close collaboration with leading experts from the newly formed field of Applied Disability Studies, involved in the Eurocores - ECRP V project, funded by the European Science Foundation. The second project of the Czech Science Foundation, which the candidate is currently leading, is entitled

"Researching transitions of young people with intellectual disabilities" (2022-2024). The research focuses on the experiences of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities related to their transition from school to adulthood and on the identification of factors necessary for a positive experience of their own life situation and full participation in society. Transition research is relevant for the Czech context and for the international development of special and inclusive pedagogy, as well as for social services. Therefore, the candidate cooperates with European and Czech partners (e.g. European Disability Forum, Inclusion Europe, Inclusion Czech Republic, Agency for Fundamental Rights) and international research institutions (University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration and Utah State University, USA; Tizard Centre, University of Kent, UK; Centre for Planning and Evaluation of Social Services (ZPE); University of Siegen, Germany).

Summary of the applicant's project activities:

The candidate has been a principal investigator of scientific research projects of the Czech Science Foundation and a co-investigator (principal investigator for the Czech Republic) of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). Within the framework of educational and development projects, he was involved in international projects of the European Commission (4 times) and projects of foreign universities and research centres (University of Minnesota, Irish Health Research Council, University of Vienna, Inclusive Education Support Centre/ Resource Centre network – bilateral development project between Finland and Ethiopia, European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna, University of Kent, University of Leeds, Inclusion Europe Isbl. Brussels, Human European Consultancy Utrecht, Catholic University College of Education Graz, University of Education Upper Austria).

The applicant's publication record includes more than 120 titles. The most prestigious ones include 42 professional research articles (16 of them registered in the WOS database and 1 in the Scopus database), 3 co-authored professional monographs and authorship/co-authorship of 15 chapters in professional books. He has produced a policy paper for the Ministry of Education in Ethiopia and 33 research reports. He has published 8 papers in conference proceedings and 17 abstracts published in WOS registered journals as part of his participation in conferences and professional symposia. As a reviewer, he reviewed 2 professional books and 10 professional studies for 8 foreign journals; as an editor, he co-edited two professional journals; he is a member of the editorial board of the Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

The applicant's publications have an extensive international reputation: 280 citations, of which 242 are in the foreign databases WOS or Scopus.

**Conclusion:** The applicant's scholarly capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Special Pedagogy.

### **Assessment of the applicant's pedagogical experience**

The applicant started his teaching activity at the university in 2000 by lecturing at the Faculty of Education of Charles University, where he has been working until today. For two years he taught the course Special Pedagogy as part of the Master's degree at the Hussite Theological

Faculty of Charles University, and since 2017 he has also been working at the Faculty of Education of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen.

As part of his involvement in a bilateral development project in Ethiopia in 2015-2017, he also lectured at Ethiopian universities and teacher training institutes and contributed to the development of a range of curriculum and methodological materials.

Together with partners from the University of Roehampton (UK) and the University of Oslo (Norway), the applicant co-developed and coordinated the internationally recognised joint degree Erasmus Mundus Master's programme in Special and Inclusive Education. Teaching in the programme started from the academic year 2005-2006, 26 students from 19 countries (such as India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Botswana, Uganda, China, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Canada) joined the programme in the first year, and the international dimension of the programme has gradually expanded. Students on the programme included experts from ministries of education, educators and representatives of organisations representing people with disabilities. By 2016, ten study groups had successfully completed the programme, totalling nearly 230 students and 25 academics from 70 different countries.

The candidate supervised 32 bachelor and 62 master theses, which were successfully defended, and was a supervisor of 6 doctoral students. He is currently supervising 3 doctoral students, 4 bachelor theses and 2 master theses.

He is a regular chairman of the committees for state final examinations in Psychology and Special Education and Special Education at the Faculty of Education of Charles University, a member of the committees for state doctoral examinations in Special Education at the Faculty of Education of Charles University and the Faculty of Education of Palacký University in Olomouc. In the past he was also a member of the State Doctoral Examination Committee at the University of Vienna (2014) and at the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia (2016).

Doc. Šiška is the author of one textbook, 13 teaching or educational texts and 12 popular educational activities, including appearances on television and radio programmes.

**Conclusion:** The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Special Pedagogy.

### **Evaluation of the applicant as a respected and recognized scholarly figure in a given field**

Associate professor Jan Šiška is a distinguished scientific personality in the field of special education and a recognized expert not only in the Czech Republic but also in the world. This is evidenced by his extensive research activities within international projects (FP7, EU projects) and at foreign universities and research centres, his extensive lecturing activities all over the world (UK, Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Norway, Malta, Minnesota, Indonesia, Kenya ...), participation in international forums (Pittsburgh, Reykjavik, Jacksonville, Ho Chi Minh City, Minneapolis, Jakarta, Tigray, Melbourne, Vancouver, Hong Kong ...) and established contacts with the scientific community in many countries in Europe, America, Australia and Africa (cooperation with UK: University of Kent, University of Leeds; Ireland: University College Dublin; Germany: University of Siegen, University of Cologne; Norway: Norwegian University of Science and Technology; Austria: University of Education Upper Austria; USA: University

of Minnesota; Australia: University of South Australia; Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University). His publications have been cited by recognized experts on the subject (e.g. article "Progress on deinstitutionalisation and the development of Community Living for persons with disabilities in Europe: Are we nearly there?" published in *Disability & Society* was cited by Prof. Carnemolla, an expert in the design and evaluation of inclusive environments from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia).

Jan Šiška has received two international awards from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Indonesia / Embassy of Indonesia in the Czech Republic: the Garuda Memorial Plaque in support of Czech-Indonesian relations and the Award for Outstanding Contribution to International Conference from the Association for Special Education at the 10th IASE Conference at the University of Hong Kong. In 2009 he received the Rector's Award for Outstanding Publication for co-authoring the book *Czech Psychopediatry* (Karolinum, 2008).

The applicant's non-university professional activities include membership in the board of special interest group in the International Association for Scientific Studies of Intellectual and Developmental Disability, in the evaluation panel of social sciences of the Czech Science Foundation (2020-2022), the position of an international evaluator in the social sciences panel of the Austrian Science Fund (2012-2013), membership in the expert group for education of the Government Committee for Persons with Disabilities (2004-2005) and membership in the Psychopedical Society (since 1999 until now).

In summary, it can be stated that the research and teaching activities of Associate professor Jan Šiška, in its content and scope meets the requirements recommended for the professor appointment procedure at Masaryk University. In his professional work, the candidate emphasizes the social empowerment of adolescents and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their participation in the life of the community, thus extending the traditional orientation of the field of special education to formal education. Methodologically, he focuses on participatory research tools that allow for a deeper understanding of individual life trajectories and their social context, and that "give voice" to individuals with disabilities whose attitudes and opinions have often not been included in past research. He has also developed a life course research design applicable to special education, social work and related fields. The candidate's work in special education is consistently contextualized within historical, political, and human rights frameworks. His research interests are intertwined with higher education teaching, including curriculum design.

The Commission also positively evaluates the applicant's long-term active involvement in international cooperation with prestigious foreign universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations in Europe, the United States, and Africa. It also notes that his research activities go beyond academia towards shaping policy and practice in the field of support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as evidenced by collaborations with non-profit organisations, the European Commission, the European Association Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which have achieved relevant and influential results.

**Conclusion:** The applicant **is** a respected and recognized scholarly figure in his field. The applicant **has** made a significant contribution to the development of his field. The applicant **constitutes** a leading figure in his field of Special Pedagogy scholarship or research.

### **Secret vote results**

Number of board members	5
Number of votes cast	5
Number of votes in favour	5

### **Board decision**

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and role as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure, the board hereby submits a proposal to the scientific board of the Faculty of Education of Masaryk University to

appoint the applicant professor of Special Pedagogy.

terminate the procedure.

Brno, 14. 3. 2024

prof. PhDr. Karel Pančocha, Ph.D., M.Sc.

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Signature