

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Arts
Procedure field	Educational Sciences
Applicant	doc. Mgr. Jiří Zounek, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University
Board members	
Chair	prof. PhDr. Milan Pol, CSc. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i>
Members	Prof. Ola Erstad, PhD <i>University of Oslo</i> Prof. Dr. Iveta Kestere <i>University of Latvia</i> prof. PhDr. Milada Rabušicová, Dr. <i>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</i> prof. PhDr. Karel Rýdl, CSc. <i>University of Pardubice</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

Associate professor Jiří Zounek, Ph.D. studied Education Science and History at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University in 1991-1996, and in 2001 he completed his doctoral studies in Education Science at the same Faculty (dissertation title: Pedagogical Seminar of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University Between the Wars. Its Origin, Development, Importance and Character). At the same Faculty, he habilitated in 2011 with his work E-learning – one of the forms of learning in modern society. The academic career of Jiří Zounek is associated with his alma mater, for many years he worked as teaching process secretary, then as deputy head of the Department of Educational Sciences.

During his academic career, he has completed several important study and research stays, e.g. in 2002 a three-month stay at the Department of Teacher Education, University of Vienna, in 2009 a three-month stay at The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), and in 2015 a two-month research stay at the Department of Education, University of Oslo. Jiří Zounek is active in an international scientific community, and this can be said he is solidly anchored in the national and international environment. This is also evidenced by letters of recommendation from Professor van Braak (Ghent University), Professor Cebrián de la Serna (University of Málaga) or professor Saleniece (Daugavpils University).

Jiří Zounek has long been focused on two research themes: digital technologies in education and contemporary history of education. As part of his research on digital technologies in education, he is particularly interested in the use of technology by primary school teachers. The key publications here are Teachers and technologies. Between traditional and modern approaches, and ICT in the lives of primary schools. (both in Czech language). In addition, Jiří Zounek focuses on online learning or e-learning. His most important publication is the book Life and Learning of Digital Teens: Adolescents and digital technology in the Czech Republic, which was published in 2022 by Springer.

In his research direction of contemporary history of primary education in the Czech Republic, Jiří Zounek focuses mainly on the history of socialist and post-socialist education. The most important publication in this area of research is the book (Post)Socialist Transformation of Primary Schools: Processes, Stories and Challenges in the Czech Republic, which was also published by Springer (2024; lead author). This publication presents a summary of ten years of research into Czech primary schools, which focused on both the period of socialist education and its transformation in the 1990s.

Jiří Zounek worked in five research projects of the Czech Science Foundation as the principal investigator (one of which was a postdoctoral project), and in two other projects he was a member of the research team. He participated in the Horizon 2020 project entitled European Joint Doctorate in Teacher Education Project (MSCA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Excellent Science). He was also a member of the advisory board of The MenSi project (MenSi – Mentoring for School Improvement), which was solved within the Horizon 2020 program.

Results of his research were used both in the scientific community, and in educational policy and practice. In the first case, it is research into digital technologies in children's lives, where Zounek and his colleagues have inspired some foreign authors to their own research, especially in the area of children's age, which is an important construct for understanding how adolescents' digital skills are formed. In the second case, it is a contribution to the preparation of the Digital Education Strategy until 2020, the Czech strategic document. Here, Jiří Zounek was a member of the team of authors, within which he was responsible for the area of data for the measures included in this strategic document.

Jiří Zounek's publishing activity is quite extensive, he has (in co-authorship) 11 book publications to his credit (two of which were published by a major international publishing house). He has also published seven studies in journals indexed in the WOS database, eight in the SCOPUS database, 23 journal studies in other journals. He is the author or co-author of several chapters in Czech and international professional books. There are almost 300 citations in international databases. He has been lecturing at prestigious national and international conferences for more than two decades. Of the 81 presentations, 29 were invited (eight of them at international conferences).

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Educational Sciences.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Since 2000, Jiří Zounek has been teaching courses focused on the general history of education at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, as well as courses focused on the history of Czech education in the 20th century. In his teaching, he has also long been involved in courses focused on the use of digital technologies in education, as well as courses focused on e-learning or didactics of online education. Practically from the beginning of his teaching career, he has been using digital technologies in his courses, especially LMS (learning management system) Moodle, which he uses to support his teaching and at the same time teaches students how to learn with the help of online technologies.

His engagement in the doctoral study of Education Science is very successful. As a supervisor, he has six successful doctoral graduates (one of whom is a foreign student). He is currently supervising four doctoral students who deal with the themes of use of digital technologies in education, the history of education and university pedagogy.

Jiří Zounek is the author or co-author of a number of textbooks for teachers and university students. He is also the (co)author of a number of popularization texts and also participates in the work with secondary school students. He also lectured at the University of the Third Age of Masaryk University.

He is the main author and guarantor of a new study specialization: Education with a focus on digital technologies (within the bachelor's degree). In the Czech Republic, it is a unique study in many respects, since it combines a broad pedagogical basis and didactics of digital technologies. Here, Jiří Zounek applied not only his own experience from teaching at the university, but also the results of his research in the field of digital technologies. His former students also participated in the concept of the study.

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

Evaluation of the applicant as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure in a given field

Apart from what has already been mentioned above, it should also be stressed that Jiří Zounek's scholarly work is recognized by the academic community. He has already collaborated with some of his graduates on further research and has twice received the MUNI Scientist award with them. This award is given by Masaryk University for significant scientific achievements, publishing in prestigious journals or publishing houses, and for excellent results in the field of research. In 2022, he also received the Dean's Award of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University for significant creative achievement. From 2018 to 2024, he was a member of the advisory scientific panel of the Vice-Rector for Research at Masaryk University. He is currently continuing in this direction as an evaluator of projects of the Masaryk University Grant Agency

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

Secret vote results

Voting took place: electronically

Number of board members		5
Number of votes cast		5
of which	in favour	5
	against	0

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 Arts of Masaryk University to **appoint the applicant professor** of Educational Sciences.

In Brno on 27.02.2025

prof. PhDr. Milan Pol, CSc.