

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Svetlozar Stefanov Tsankov, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF RUSE,

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

on the materials submitted in

the competition for acquiring “Associate Professor” academic position

in professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of Education of...

specialty “Pedagogy of Mathematics and Information Technology Training in Elementary Grades”

In the competition for acquiring “Associate Professor” academic position in the scientific field *1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Degree 1.3 Pedagogy of Training in Mathematics and Information Technology in the Elementary Grades*, announced in the *State Gazette*, issue 93 / 26.11.2019, for the needs of the Faculty of Science for Education and Arts, as sole candidate Chief Assistant Professor Lubka Krasteva Alexieva Ph.D.

By the Rector’s Order RD 38-6/09.01.2020 of Sofia University Prof. Anastas Gerdzhirov, I was commissioned to write a Statement on the materials, submitted by the candidate participating in the competition. I have been provided with the full documentation of Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. After familiarizing myself with the documents under the procedure, I confirm that they are in accordance with the national requirements under article 2 of *The Law of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria*, the rules for its implementation and the corresponding rules for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions, as well as the additional requirements of the Sofia University. No contravention was committed under the procedure.

1. Brief biographical data of the applicant

Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. acquired her Bachelor's Degree in 2006, specialty *Elementary School Pedagogy and Foreign Language* at Sofia University. Two years later, she graduated with full honours from the Master's program in *Information Technology at the Elementary School* with a specialty *Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy*.

In 2010, the candidate started working as a part-time Assistant Professor of *Methodology of Teaching Mathematics* at the *Faculty of Elementary and Preschool Pedagogy* at Sofia University.

In the period 2011-2015 she was an assistant on 05.07.03. – *Methodology of Training in Information Technology*, and after a successful competition in 2015, she was appointed as a

Chief Assistant, Professional field *1.3 Pedagogy of Education in Mathematics and Information Technology* at the *Faculty of Science of Education and Arts*.

In 2013, the candidate specialized in the doctoral program of the Institute of Education at the University of London – *Methods of Pedagogical Research*. In 2014, she wrote her doctoral dissertation under the topic *Didactic Possibilities of the Educational Software in Mathematics Education* in Professional field *1.3 Pedagogy of Education in... (Methodology of Mathematics Education in Primary School)*.

Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. has constantly improved her qualification, her organizational and technical skills and competences. She acquired additional Professional qualification – *Specialist in Design and Conducting Online Training*. In the period 2012-2019 she accumulated extensive experience as a participant in a number of prestigious national and European programs – Erasmus +, Horizon 2020, TIMSS 2015, TIMSS 2019 and more.

She is fluent in English and German, which helps her widely use and apply foreign language literature in her work, as well as publishing her own scientific achievements.

She is also a member of the *Expert Council of the Distance Learning Centre* of Sofia University.

2. General description of the submitted materials for participation in the competition

Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. participated in the competition with a total of **20** published materials: **1** monograph; **1** book on the basis of a defended dissertation for acquiring her Ph.D degree; **2** studies and **16** articles and reports. A list of the applicant's participation in scientific national and international projects is also presented.

3. General record of the applicant's activities

3.1 Educational and pedagogical activity

▪ Guided lessons in disciplines

The classes (lectures, seminars and practical exercises) led by Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. in the **Bachelor degree programs** are:

- *Methods of Training in Information and Communication technology in Education;*
- *Didactics of Mathematics;*
- *Practical Training in Didactics of Mathematics;*
- *Didactics of Information Technology;*
- *Didactics of Mathematics - Part I and Part II;*
- *Multimedia in Mathematics Education;*
- *Undergraduate Pedagogical Practice;*
- *Didactics of Information Technology and Communication on Technology in Teaching and Working in a Digital Environment.*

The classes (lectures, seminars and practical exercises) led by Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. in the **Master's Degree programs** are:

- *Information Technology Didactics - Contemporary Trends and Approaches*;
- *Mathematics Didactics - Contemporary Trends and Approaches*;
- *Modern Multimedia Technologies in Primary School*;
- *Multimedia in Mathematics Education*.

▪ **Textbooks and study aids published**

During the period of her work, the Associate Professor candidate co-authored **6** textbooks and **17** study aids.

4. Scientific and applied scientific activity

▪ **Participation in national and international scientific projects**

Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. has participated in **4** International and **11** National scientific projects, as working on them contributed to her professional growth.

▪ **Monographs, books and scientific studies**

The applicant participates in the competition with **1** independent monograph – *Electronic Resources in Elementary Education*, **1** book on the basis of a defended dissertation for acquiring her Ph.D degree – *Educational Multimedia for the Study of Multiplication Table* and **2** independent studies, published in edited collective volumes: *Multimedia Learning in Primary School – Theory, Practice, Challenges and Teaching Multiplication Table in Bulgaria – Didactic and Mathematical Foundations, Modern Approaches*. All works are peer-reviewed by specialists in the scientific specialty of the Competition.

▪ **Articles and papers published**

Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. has published the results of her scientific achievements as an author and co-author in prestigious Bulgarian and foreign conferences and journals, classified as follows:

According to the language they are written in:

- Publications in Bulgarian – 11;
- Publications in English – 9.

According to the number of co-authors:

- Self-publications – 7;
- With one co-author – 4;
- With two co-authors – 6;
- In co-authorship – 3.

Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases are **10**, **2** of which are self-contained and **8** in co-authorship.

The articles published in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed journals are **6**, of which **1** is self-published and in **3** the candidate is the first author.

5. Scientific and scientifically applied contributions

The analysis of the submitted scientific works – a monograph, a book, scientific studies, articles and papers – give grounds for classifying the contributions in a broad theoretical and practical applied aspect.

Reference to the applicant's original scientific contributions is provided in Appendix № 14 to the Original Scientific Contributions to which the relevant evidence is attached. **I accept the candidate's scientific and applied contributions.**

6. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution

From the materials presented, one can clearly see the personal contribution of Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. – the published monograph; book, scientific studies, publications and reports are sufficient proof of this. Collaborative publications and her involvement in research projects showcase her teamwork skills.

7. Impact of scientific publications of the candidate

The suggested ideas and results in the work of Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. have been found in the specialized scientific literature. According to a reference from the *Library and Information Services Department* of the University Library at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski ” indexed a total of **11** scientific publications in Scopus and Web of Science, of which **3** are cited. The total citations according to: Harzing's Publish or Perish are **14**; Google Scholar - **16**; Google Books - **2**.

8. Critical notes and recommendations

For her future work as an Associate Professor I would recommend Lyubka Alexieva to continue publishing her scientific achievements in prestigious scientific forums – indexed and refereed journals and conferences abroad, to engage with the management of scientific teams, to guide Ph.D. students and guide graduates in their successful scientific works defenses.

9. Personal impressions

I do not personally know the candidate. My impressions are based on the materials presented in the competition. From these I conclude that Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. is a lecturer responsible for her work. Her teaching activity is of high volume and high quality. She is defiantly capable of working in a team. She has developed herself as a scientist who can carry out independent scientific researches, and is recognizable in the scientific community.

10. Conclusion

From the stated above it is clear that Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. is a highly qualified specialist in her field with valuable in terms of quantity and quality of

achievements, as well as with extensive teaching experience. The materials she presented in this competition exceed the minimum national requirements in the professional field, the works contain original scientific and scientifically applied contributions, proven in practice.

All this leads me to the conclusion that the professional skills and achievements of Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the corresponding Rules of Procedure of the Sofia University.

I propose to the Honorable Members of the Scientific Jury and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science of Education and Arts. Chief Assistant Professor Lyubka Alexieva, Ph.D. to be selected as Associate Professor in Professional Degree 1.3 Pedagogy of Education in..., specialty Pedagogy of Education in Mathematics and Information Technology in the elementary grades.

16.03.2020 г.

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Sv. Tsankov, Ph.D.)