

OPINION

of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hrissula Nedyalkova – member of the scientific jury of the competition for acquisition of academic position of *professor*, initiated by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Regarding: Competition for position of Professor of professional category 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy), announced in National Gazette, issue 67 dated 28 July 2020.

As per Order № RD-38-450 dated 28 Sep 2020 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, I have been assigned as member of the Scientific Jury for overseeing the procedure of competition for the position of Professor of professional category 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy), with the sole candidate in the competition being Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rozalina Plamenova Engels-Kritidis

I. Summarized data for the scientific productivity and activity of the candidate

The documents and materials presented by the candidate in the competition have been accurately formatted and allow for a complete evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the law’s application, as well as the Regulations of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

General information on the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rozalina Plamenova Engels-Kritidis attained her basic university degree in 1998 from the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bachelor of Preschool Education, with professional qualification of Kindergarten Teacher; at the same time, she completed a second degree in History, with professional qualification of History Teacher. In 1999 she attained the educational qualification level of Master of Preschool Pedagogy, with specialization in “Pedagogy of mass and artistic communication”. In 2004, she attained the level of Doctor of Pedagogy after successful defense of her dissertation on the subject of “Building skills for interpretation of the allegory of proverbs and sayings in 5-7 year-old children”.

Her academic career began in 2000 as a part-time assistant in the Faculty of Primary and Preschool Education of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She served as full-time lecturer – Senior Assistant in 2006-2008 and Chief Assistant on Preschool Pedagogy in 2008-2014. As of May 2014 she holds the position of Assoc. Professor in the professional category 1.2. Pedagogy

(Preschool pedagogy – language acquisition and speech development); in 2020 she attained the level of Doctor of Science.

The author has excellent theoretical training and rich professional experience, the result of which are her numerous academic and expert activities.

In this competition, Assoc. Prof. Engels-Kritidis participates with a scientific production that is in accordance with the competition profile, meets the minimum national requirements as per Art. 2b par. 2 and 3 of the Law for Development Of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The report for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements shows that the scientific productivity of the candidate fulfils Criteria Groups A and B (Б), while in Criteria Groups G (Г), D (Д), and E it is significantly higher than the requirements for acquisition of the academic level of Professor. The points distribution by criteria is as follows:

Criteria	Number of points
Criteria Group A	50
Criteria Group B(Б)	100
Criteria Group V(B)	100
Criteria Group G(Г)	536
Criteria Group D(Д)	725
Criteria Group E	420,6
Total number of points	1931,6

II. Evaluation of scientific and practical results and contributions of the creative production presented for participation in the competition

The scientific results largely reflect the teaching and general scientific interests of the candidate, which can be grouped in several professional and thematical areas: Pedagogy, Preschool Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Language Acquisition and Speech Development, Intercultural Education, Pedagogy of Mass and Artistic Communication, Early Foreign Language Education, Comparative Preschool Education, Research Technologies in Education, Inclusive Education, Individualization and Differentiation in Education, Paremiology, etc. In connection with the issues of the aforementioned areas, the candidate has over 50 national and 14 international participations in meetings, seminars, and conferences, 7 international lectures, 6 participations in scientific boards of international journals, 7 participations in scientific and practical-application projects. She has completed 9 international specializations and qualifications and has received 14 awards, scholarships and achievements.

The candidate's scientific production includes: 8 monographs (2 of which as a sole author), 6 chapters in collective monographs, 3 studies in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-class scientific information databases, 6 studies published in unreferenced journals with scientific review or

collected editions, 4 articles, reports, reviews and other publications in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-class scientific information databases, 21 articles, reports and other publications in unreferenced journals with scientific review or collected editions, 1 textbook co-authored with colleagues from her department, 1 published practical textbook (Collection of pedagogical situations for acquainting children with diversity and respect towards otherness, aimed at preschool-aged children and used in kindergartens), 3 scientific editions and compilations.

Against the background of the rich spectrum of scientific areas in her publishing activity on the subject of the competition stands out the monograph titled “Individualization and differentiation of pedagogical interaction in kindergartens”. Based on a rich and critical analysis and the results of psychological-pedagogical research, aspects of the significance of individualization and differentiation of pedagogical interaction in kindergartens are highlighted with a focus on ensuring an optimal stimulating and emotionally-comfortable educational environment for each child.

Other significant highlights among the scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Engels-Kritidis are her publications on researching the comparative aspects preschool education in Bulgaria and other countries (Slovakia, Spain), which are a projection of her interests in interculturalism and its effect on education.

Her publications are closely-related to the scientific specialty of the competition and are a testament to the fulfilled level of integration of the scientific research requirements and teaching experience.

Teaching activity

All research activity performed by Assoc. Prof. Engels-Kritidis has been incorporated in her teaching activity. As an assoc. professor in the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy, she leads lecture courses in the educational-qualification level of “Bachelor” (Introduction to the specialty, Introduction to Preschool Pedagogy, Preschool Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Language Acquisition and Speech Development, Research Technologies in Preschool Education); in the educational-qualification level of “Master” she leads a circle of self-authored lectures in English (Intercultural Competence of Teachers, and Educational Aspects of the Integration of Migrant Children). She has developed and holds lecture courses on several mandatory selection disciplines. She also has lecture activity in other departments and specializations in the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts.

She works successfully with doctorate students – she has been a scientific supervisor of 5 successfully-defended dissertations, 4 of which were in English.

The author has excellent theoretical training and rich professional experience, the result of which are her numerous academic and expert activities.

I acknowledge and accept the contributions that the candidate has submitted in her documentation for the competition. Summarily, they reflect the

main scientific and practical achievements of her scientific production, as follows:

- Assoc. Prof. Engels-Kritidis's activity is characterized by an innovative vision and successful cases of synergizing between theory and practice
- The candidate's specific and competent interest in the issues of preschool education renders her analysis of key concepts and theories in this area especially valuable
- Throughout her publications there is a complete profile of the kindergarten teacher in the context of his/her role for effective pedagogical interaction

Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

The personal contribution of Assoc. Prof. Engels-Kritidis for the development of pedagogical knowledge in part, as well as the area of preschool pedagogy in general, in both theoretical and practical aspects, is undeniable. The contributions formulated and the results achieved are her own personal merit.

Conclusion: The documents and materials presented by the sole candidate in the competition fulfil all requirements as per the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Rozalina Plamenova Engels-Kritidis are beyond doubt.

The results achieved in her teaching and scientific research activities fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts as per the application of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

As a result of the proven scientific contributions and achievements following the analysis of the scientific production and teaching activity of the candidate in this competition, I hereby give my positive vote and I propose that the eminent members of the scientific jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" to award Assoc. Prof. Rozalina Plamenova Engels-Kritidis the academic position of "*Professor*" in the scientific area of Pedagogical Sciences, professional category 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy) for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Date: 18 Oct 2020

Prepared by:

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