

OPINION

for the selection of an Associate professor in a professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (School hygiene and health education), announced for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski"

Prepared by: Prof. Plamen Dimitrov, MD, PhD

In the competition, announced for the needs of the Faculty of Pedagogy, only one candidate was admitted to participate - chief assistant professor Berjuhi Mihran Yordanova, PhD at the Faculty of Pedagogy, Department "Theory of Education" of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The competition is announced in the Official Gazette. no. 103 of 12.12.2023

The presented set of documents complies with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". The candidate meets the national requirements for participation in the competition.

Biographical data

Chief assistant Berjuhi Mihran Yordanova graduated from higher education in 2000 with a master's degree in "Statistics and Econometrics" at the University of National and World Economy, Sofia, and in 2004 - a master's degree in "Social work with children" at Sofia University "St. Kliment" Ohridski".

In 2009, she acquired a diploma for the PhD degree in a scientific specialty 07.05.01. "Theory of education and didactics" after a defended dissertation on the topic: "The child's readiness for school as a psycho-pedagogical problem".

She began her professional career in 2010 as a part-time lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" at the Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of "Theory of Education". From 2012 to the present, she is the chief assistant in the same department.

In 2012-2013, the candidate participated in the project "Supporting the education of children and students with special educational needs", BG051PO001-4.1.04, financed by the European Union, European Social Forum and conducted by Youth Forum 2001 - Razgrad, Secondary School "Hristo Botev". From 2014 to now, she is an academic mentor under the "Student Practices" project, BG 051PO001-3.3.07-0002. In 2015, she was the head of an expert group with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Social Security, UNICEF and NGOs to develop a "Communication framework for inter-institutional cooperation to improve the quality of policies and practices for the care and education of children from birth to 3 years".

Over the years, the candidate has participated in a number of qualification courses that have enriched her professional training and her teaching skills.

She has a variety of social, administrative and cultural activities: member of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation in Non-Formal Education (CIINE) at SU; member of the management board, responsible for the section of students and doctoral students in the "Young University Researcher" association; member of the "Union of Scientists in Bulgaria", section "Pedagogy and Psychology"; member of the management board of the "Choveshchina" Foundation, Sofia; member of the "Interuniversity Institute on Educational Management - Interaula" association; chairman, project coordinator of the "Podadena raka" association, Sofia; mentor of the "Green Network" youth team to the "Incubator of Integrated Urban Educational Networks" project; member of the board of trustees of the People's Community Center "Iskra - 1964".

Berjuhi Yordanova is included in the collection "Notable Bulgarian Women"; in the "Almanac of the members of the "Pedagogy and Psychology" section of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and in the directory "Who's who in the Armenian community in Bulgaria (people of culture, art and science). In 2014 she received a certificate from the Board of Directors of the People's Community Center "Iskra-1964" for comprehensive cultural and educational activity and active participation in the life of the community center and on the occasion of 50 years since its foundation.

Research interests

School hygiene and health education and upbringing of preschool and school-age children; the healthy lifestyle of the preschool child; health culture; formal and informal education; healthy nutrition of children and students; development in a structural and substantive plan of experimental situations to form the foundations of a health culture, as part of the child's socio-behavioral readiness for school, etc.

Scientific research and teaching activity

Publications

In the competition chief assistant professor Berjuhi Yordanova presents a total of 21 publications (19 independent and 2 co-authored), including: 1 monograph - habilitation thesis, 1 published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of the PhD degree, 1 publication in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in a world-renowned database

and 3 case-books, 14 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes and 1 textbook. She has participated in a number of scientific forums. 8 citations are presented.

The minimum national requirements for the respective scientific field and the additional requirements of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for participation in the competition for Associate Professor are fulfilled.

Educational and teaching activity

The educational and teaching work of the candidate includes classroom and non-classroom classes in bachelor's and master's programs, as well as programs for the postgraduate training. She also teaches students from various majors within the framework of the "St. Kliment Ohridski", for example, in the "Geography" and "Geography and English Language" specialties in the "Faculty of Geology and Geography". She also participates in programs for postgraduate training at the Faculty of Geology and Geography. She is currently the titular of lecture courses.

Participates in the development of new curricula and new lecture courses and exercises, according to the current curricula of bachelor's and master's programs, in examination committees for the taught disciplines, as well as committees for conducting state internship and pre-graduate practice in the specialties "Pedagogy" and "Informal education". As an innovation in the forms and methods of teaching students, we can point out the one developed jointly with Assoc. Prof. Gospodinov's e-course on the discipline "Working with extracurricular institutions".

Berjuhi Yordanova has an independently developed textbook that is used in the university and school network "School hygiene, health education and upbringing", ISSN (print): 978-954-07-4944-0, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski", Sofia, Peer-reviewed, 2020, 183 pages.

Scientific contributions

I accept the scientific contributions formulated by the candidate, which are divided into two thematic areas: school hygiene and health education and upbringing of children in preschool and school age and educational aspects of healthy nutrition of children and students.

Scientific and theoretical contributions

First thematic area:

- the main directions in "School hygiene" are presented, as a complex science based

on the achievements of general and social hygiene, age physiology and psychology, pedagogy, pediatrics, etc.; hygiene norms and rules, health education and upbringing of preschool and school-aged children as prerequisites for forming skills for a healthy lifestyle are considered;

- the significance of specifically structured pedagogical situations for forming and increasing the level of health culture, as part of the child's socio-behavioral readiness for school, has been proven; the modern challenges to the health education of students resulting from the adopted national policies and standards, as well as the factors influencing the mental health of children and students, are determined;

- the state of health education in the Bulgarian school was researched and analyzed based on the opinion of students from the Faculty of Pedagogy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and guidelines are given for its improvement;

- the role and need for coordination between school and non-school educational institutions in the field of health education was assessed.

Second thematic area:

- modern aspects of the eating habits of children of primary and upper school age have been studied and analyzed in depth. It is proven that in order to protect the health of students, it is necessary to expand their knowledge regarding healthy foods and drinks, as well as use the opportunities of learning and education in various extracurricular forms and strengthening the educational and educational component in the field of children's nutrition;

- an analysis of the current legal regulation and national policies in the field of healthy nutrition for children and students and the factors influencing it was carried out; the pedagogical aspects of inter-institutional cooperation for its improvement are theoretically substantiated.

Scientific and applied contributions

- a conceptual model of the healthy nutrition of children of upper school age was developed;
- a pedagogical model of school health education is proposed;
- experimental situations were developed for the formation of children's health culture as part of their socio-behavioral readiness for school.

Conclusion:

Based on the documents submitted for opinion, I believe that chief assistant professor Berjuhi Yordanova is an established scientist and professional in the field of pedagogy. She meets the requirements laid down in Art. 2b of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The analysis of the research and teaching activities of chief assistant Berjuhi Yordanova gives me reason to confidently recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" to support the candidacy of chief assistant Berjuhi Yordanova for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (School hygiene and health education).

02.04.2024.


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