

STANDPOINT

on a competition for the academic position of “professor” in a professional field

3.4. Social activities (Methods of social work, Gerontological social work),
announced by the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University “St. Kliment
Ohridski” in SG, issue 105 / 11.12.2021

Member of the scientific jury: prof. Boncho Valkov Gospodinov, PhD - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

1. Data for the competition

The competition was announced for the needs of the Department of Social Work at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in the State Gazette, issue 105 of 11.12.2021 and is provided with the necessary classroom employment. There is one candidate in the competition - assoc. prof. Ginka Andonova Mehandzhiyska, PhD.

2. Data for the participant in the competition

assoc. prof. Ginka Andonova Mehandzhiyska graduated from the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 1993. In 1997, she graduated specialty Psychology in the Faculty of Philosophy of the University. In 2005, she successfully defended dissertation on “Television and education of adolescents with deviant behavior” as a result of which she was awarded PhD degree on scientific specialty Theory of education and didactics (05.07.01).

Since 1997, Ginka Mehandzhiyska has been working at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sofia University. Initially in the Department of Theory of Education (part-time assistant, assistant, senior assistant, chief assistant), and since 2006 in the Department of Social Work as a senior assistant. Since 2009, after winning a competition holds the academic position “associate professor” in scientific specialty 5.07.01. Theory of education and didactics (Method and social work and supervision in social work).

The candidate has participated in 11 research projects, in 4 of which she was a supervisor. She is the supervisor of 2 successfully defended PhD students.

Assoc. Prof. Ginka Mehandzhiyska is a lecturer in total 19 lecture courses - 7 in BA, 6 in a master's degree and 6 in the course of postgraduate.

According to the scientometric indicators - over 1960 points with a minimum required of 550, the participant in the competition meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of professor.

3. Research activity

Assoc. Prof. Ginka Mehandjiiska has a total of 90 publications, and participated in the competition for a professor with 41 of them - 2 monographs, 3 chapters of books, 3 teaching and methodological aids (1 co-authored), 4 studies, 1 article in refereed and indexed magazine and 28 articles and reports in peer-reviewed and edited editions (1 in co-authorship). 4 of the publications are in English (including 1 chapter of a book), 3 are in Russian and 1 each in Polish and Czech.

The complete reading of the publications submitted for the competition forms the impression of lasting and deep interest of the candidate to the issues related to the methods of social work (№№ 1, 2, 4, 6, 16, 19, 22, 30, 34), gerontological social work (№№ 5, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 41), clinical social work (№№ 7, 8, 22, 28,), social casework (№№ 1, 9, 25, 32, 33, 34), social work education (№№ 13, 23, 38, 40), etc. Upon careful acquaintance with the publications submitted for review, two essential features make an impression. The first is that the candidate's research interests extend to many and significant fields of social work such as theory and practice. And the second is that many of the publications are a vivid expression of the author's ability to reveal, analyze, present and argue the relationship between theory, research and practice.

This skill is convincingly demonstrated in the habilitation work - the monograph "Social work with individual clients". As the author emphasizes, "... the analysis and the exposition go through three main dimensions of social work with individual clients: conceptually; methodologically, applied." (p. 10) This also determines the structure of the monograph, in which three parts are separated. The first is dedicated to the conceptual foundations of social work with individual clients. Here are defined the basic concepts, offers an overview of the models and

approaches involved in the individualization of the helping process in social work and is a structured and substantiated general methodological model of the individualization of social work with individual clients. In the second part the analysis is oriented to the methods of social work with individual clients, the focus is on social work on an individual case and individual counseling and the methodology of work on a case with its characteristic phases and components is followed in more detail. The third part presents an empirical study of the real practice of individualization of social work from the point of view of social workers. Here the author's skills as a researcher are revealed to the maximum extent - to operationalize the concept for social work with individual clients presented and theoretically substantiated in the previous two parts, to specify the most significant variables and to operationalize them in measurable indicators, to organize and realize empirical study of the terrain through which to obtain answers to precisely formulated research questions and to verify her hypothesis.

In the monograph as a whole, and all presented for peer review publications seen so style and high level of competence of Ginka Mehandzhiyska as built a research scientist, a thorough knowledge of interest to him problems both in theoretical and in practical terms.

4. Main contributions

In my opinion, the candidate has precisely and comprehensively formulated the contributions from her research activity in four main areas of social work as theory and practice. I could hardly add anything to them, and therefore I fully accept them. But at the same time, I want to emphasize two important, I think, contribution which Ginka Mehandzhiyska have not mentioned.

1. In the third edition of his book, "The Art of Helping Individuals, Families, and Groups", Lawrence Schulman notes (paraphrasing) that the transition from the profession to the science of social work is characterized by the application of research results to modify the theory that subsequently determines guidelines for new research, i.e. this marks the transition from the so-called "Knowledge base" of social work as a profession to social work as a science. In my opinion, all the

scientific creative work of Ginka Mehandjiiska is a significant contribution to this transition.

2. In many of her publications, Assoc. Prof. Mehandzhiyska categorically proves the importance of the modeling approach both in theory and in the methodology of social work - an extremely productive approach, allowing to "see" practice through theory and theory through practice, something that is essential for sciences with a strong theoretically-applied nature, such as social work.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, I declare that the number and the nature of the publications of the candidate and the actual contributions contained therein that are clearly testifies to its capacity of a serious scientist and explorer allows me to offer the members of the scientific jury **to choose Ginka Andonova Mehandzhiyska for “professor”** in professional field 3.4. Social activities (Methods of social work, Gerontological social work), announced for the needs of the Faculty of education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

14.04.2021

Author of opinion:

(Prof. Boncho Gospodinov, PhD)