

REVIEW

A competition for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences. Professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy) for the needs of "St. Kliment Ohridski " Sofia University -Faculty of Education Sciences and Arts, announcement: State Gazette, issue #74 / dated: 21 Aug 2020) and on the website of the University

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. (Pedagogical science) MILEN ZAMFIROV ZAMFIROV

Applicant: Senior Assistant Prof. Dr. PENKA TODOROVA SHAPKOVA-TANEVA

I. General description of the provided materials

In the competition for Associate Professor for the needs of the of Special Pedagogy Department with the Faculty of Education Sciences and Arts, the only applicant is Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Penka Todorova Shapkova-Taneva from St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

In order to participate in the competition, the applicant has submitted a list of documents, namely:

1. a CV
2. Higher Education Diploma
3. Diploma for the Doctor educational and scientific degree
4. Document – evidence for her academic position
5. Certificate of work experience in the specialty
6. Documents proving meeting of the requirements under Article 115, paragraph 1, item 2 of the Statutes of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University
7. List of all publications
8. List of the publications submitted for participation in the competition
9. List of publications, conferences, projects and scientific guidelines generated by the Authors system

10. Information (a draft form) on the implementation of the minimum national requirements for the respective scientific field and the additional requirements of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University
11. References to the citations with a complete bibliographic description of the cited and citing publications
12. Reference to the original scientific contributions
13. Information on the indicators under Art. 122, para. 2 the Statutes of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University of with appropriate evidence (with description/inventory and appendices)
14. Scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition
15. Summaries of peer-reviewed publications
16. Copy of the announcement in the State Gazette.

The documents submitted for the competition by the applicant comply with the requirements of the Additional Provisions of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the regulations on the implementation of the Additional Provisions of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on the order, terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

II. Information about the applicant

Applicant's Professional and Biographical Data

- In 1997, she got a Master's degree after graduating Special Pedagogy and with specializations in Speech Therapy and Pedagogy of Children with Intellectual Disabilities at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, as well as a second specialty in Culturology (1997).

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Shapkova is a lecturer at the Department of Special Pedagogy and Speech Therapy at the Faculty of Science, Education and Arts at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

- From 01 Mar 2002 to 21 June 2004 she was an Assistant at the Department of Special Pedagogy

- From 22 June 2004 to 24 July 2007 she was a Senior Assistant, and

- From 25 July 2007 until this very day, she has been a Head Assistant.

- 2013: she defended her Doctor's dissertation in special pedagogy on the topic: "Cognitive functioning and learning opportunities in children with the Down syndrome, under the scientific supervision of Prof. K. Karadjova.

Head Assistant Professor Dr. Shapkova also has experience in the field of special pedagogy: as a speech therapist and consultant (at a private speech therapy office – town of Hissarya during the period of 1999-2006; at the Therapeutic Center with the Faculty of Education Sciences and Arts at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, period: 2004-2007; Mediter Speech Therapy Center, period: 2007-2009; Children's World Kindergarten #112 – Sofia, from 2019 until this day).

Penka Shapkova is a member of the National Association of the Speech Therapists in Bulgaria.

She has participated in one international and 10 national projects as a trainer and researcher.

For the competition, Dr. Shapkova has submitted a scientific paper that does not repeat publications submitted for acquiring the DOCTOR educational and scientific degree.

III. General features of the applicant's scientific works and achievements

For the competition, Head Assistant Professor Dr. Penka Shapkova has submitted publications that do not repeat the publications submitted for acquiring the DOCTOR educational and scientific degree.

Dr. Shapkova's teaching scope covers 31 subject in the BACHELOR and MASTER educational and qualification degrees and post-graduation qualifications courses.

A list with a total of 46 publications is attached, as Associate Professor Head Assistant Professor Dr. Penka Shapkova participates with 38 of them in the competition.

The list includes a dissertation for the DOCTOR educational and scientific degree; 1 monograph, presented as a habilitation paper; 1 monograph, not presented for a main habilitation paper; 1 article, published in a scientific journal, referenced and indexed; 33 articles published in non-referred journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes; 1 study paper published in edited collective volumes and 1 chapter of a collective monograph. Moreover, 17 bibliographic citations of Head Assistant Professor Dr. Penka Shapkova-Taneva in scientific journals have been presented.

2 independent monographs are included in the competition for Associate Professor, namely: "Approaches to personal development, support and inclusion of children with the Down syndrome" (2020), and "How to work with children with autism" (2013).

In addition, the collective monograph entitled "Children with the Down Syndrome – A Guide for Professionals and Parents" (2008) is included, too.

The "Approaches to personal development, support and inclusion of children with Down syndrome" monograph describes in detail the effects of the Down syndrome on the overall personal development of children, their capabilities for learning, social adaptation and inclusion, as well as on their quality of life.

Using various psychological and pedagogical methods, the complex aspects of sensory-motor, neuro-cognitive, language (speech), emotional-behavioral and social development in children with the Down syndrome have been studied and analyzed.

The "How to work with children with autism" monograph pays attention to the psychological and pedagogical features of autism. The early stages of its occurrence are referred to. This is extremely important for the selection of optimal and adequate methods of support and intervention.

The essence of this monograph is it indicates a number of important tools and methods for early support and intervention in children with autism. Opinions of authors from around the world have been analyzed. Effective ways of working are described.

The "Children with Down Syndrome – A Guide for Professionals and Parents" collective monograph presents various important provisions of the Down syndrome – causes, distribution, peculiarities and opportunities for development.

In this guide, the interesting element are the shared personal stories of parents of children with Down syndrome, together with the described practical experience of various specialists, with the practical ideas, guidelines and recommendations for work concluded.

IV. Features and evaluation of the applicant's teaching scope

From the reference pursuant to Art. 112, para. 2 of the Statutes of Sofia University it is clear the teaching activity of Dr. Shapkova includes 31 subjects in the MASTER educational degree course, BACHELOR educational degree course and courses for post-

graduation qualifications. All tutored subjects correspond to the profile of the competition. Dr. Shapkova has participated in the development of curricula for the specialties she teaches in. She is the author of curricula and periodically updates the currently established programs.

VI. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant critical remarks on the submitted documents or papers.

VII. Personal impressions about the applicant

I have known Head Assistant Professor Dr. Penka Shapkova for more than 10 years.

From the presented documents and from direct personal impressions I am convinced the applicant is an experienced researcher and lecturer. She is a team-worker so the above findings are based on direct personal impressions, not just documents.

I can summarize my impressions are entirely positive and I make the recommendation below without any holdbacks.

VII. Conclusion about the application

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition and on the basis of the analysis of their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained therein, I confirm the scientific achievements meet the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulation of its application, and the respective Statutes of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University for holding – by the applicant – of the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific area and professional direction of the competition. In particular, the applicant meets the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been established in the scientific papers submitted for the competition.

I give my positive assessment of the applicant.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I recommend the scientific jury to propose to the competent authority for the selection of the Faculty of Education Sciences and Arts at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University to elect Head Assistant Professor Dr. Penka Todorova Shapkova-Taneva to take the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy).

Date: 27 Nov 2020, Sofia
ZAMFIROV):

(Prof. Dr. Pedagogical science MILEN

