

## OPINION

**for a competition procedure for academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 3.4. Social activities (Counselling and professional guidance in social work with children and families), announced in SG 54, from 29.06.2021 for the needs of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Social Work**

A candidacy has been submitted to the competition, namely Assoc. Prof. Monika Borisova Bogdanova, who is a staff lecturer at the Faculty of Pedagogy of St. Constantine and Helena University Kliment Ohridski". After a procedure for checking eligibility, by decision of the respective faculty committee, she was admitted participating in the competition.

**1. Data analyzed in relation to the compliance of the application with the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position "Professor".**

The candidate in the contest, Assoc. Prof. Monika Bogdanova has submitted all required documents certifying the compliance of her application with the requirements of the Law on Scientific Degrees and Titles, as well as the Rules of Procedure of the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The documents submitted confirm the correctness of the aggregated indicators of the scientific data for the research, teaching and expert work of Assoc. Prof. Monika Bogdanova, which go far beyond the minimum national requirements under bl.2b, para 2 and 3 of the ODARB, as well as the additional requirements of the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski", with the quantitative values by group of indicators being as follows:

Group of indicators A:	50 ( required 50)
Group of indicators C:	100 (required 100)
Group of indicators D:	573,75 (required 200)
Group of indicators E:	395 (required 100)
Group of indicators F:	405 (required 100)
Total on all indicators:	1523.75 (required 550)

In 2007, Assoc. Prof. Bogdanova has acquired a Doctor of Science degree by successfully defending the dissertation in the field of 05.07.01 Theory of Education and

Didactics (Basics of Social Work) on the topic: "The foster family as an alternative form of raising and educating children deprived of parental care".

In implementation of *group C indicators* (100 t.) the candidate submitted for review published in 2017 a rehabilitation work on "The **Baby, the Child and Their Language**. Sofia: Vanguard Prima. ISBN 978-619-160-909-3, COBISS. BG-ID – 1284808676.

According to *group D indicators* (573.75 t) for its participation in this competition, Assoc. Prof. Bogdanova has submitted a list and summaries of 41 (out of 122) publications, including 3 monographs, 3 textbooks, manuals and manuals, 4 studies, 6 articles in referenced and indexed scientific journals, 24 articles and reports in collections, collective volumes with scientific review, as well as a part on the topic "Career guidance of students with special educational needs" to the National Program for Career Guidance of Students at the level of the School ( edition of the MeS).

The thematic distribution of publications is as follows:	Publications numbers:
Psycho-pedagogical paradigms and interdisciplinary approaches to childhood research and care	1,2,3,5,9,11,12,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37
Career education	4,6,8,13,24,38,
Professional guidance and counselling	7,10,26,27,39, 40, 41

The publications whose topic addresses aspects of career guidance and counselling (7, 10, 26, 27, 39, 40, 41) are directly related to the profile of the competition.

Publications on career education (4, 6, 8, 13, 24, 38) mainly concern its dimensions in a university context, so that they can only partly be associated with the profile of this competition, in so far as they clarify certain basic theoretical aspects and topics linking career guidance and counselling to career education.

The most voluminous is the scientific production, which is dedicated to psycho-pedagogical paradigms and interdisciplinary approaches for the study of childhood and its care (publications 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37). For the most part, they are focused on presenting the psychoanalytic paradigm for the essence of childhood and its stimuli and developmental factors, as the main research site is early childhood and related psycho-physical and psycho-social changes that need adequate support from the outside.

As regards *the minimum requirements for Group E concerning* the citations of the candidate's publications included in the competition, evidence of a total of 45 citations, including 10 in referenced and indexed publications and databases, 14 citations in monographs and collective papers with scientific review and 21 citations or reviews in unreferenced journals with scientific review. with which it participates in this competition. Some of them were published before the scientific position "associate professor" in 2011, while others were devoted to research topics outside the profile of the competition. At the same time, the themes of some of them, which have been published since 2012 and are cited in 8 foreign publications, may be related to the scientific direction of this competition, namely:

Bogdanova, M. (2012) Sign language and MACATON – bridge to the child with specific needs. -C: GSU, cn. Social activities, 104/2012, 93–140. ISSN 2367-4644 – 2 citations

Bogdanova, M. (2013) To understand the child with specific needs. Aid. Razgrad: Youth Forum 2001. ISBN 978-619-90150-1-8. – 2 citations

Bogdanova, M. (2014) Psychoanalytical approach in consulting practice. – Social work, 1/2014, 1–23. ISSN 1314-9644 - 2 citations

Bogdanova, M. (2015) The system for professional guidance and counseling of children with special educational needs in Bulgaria – historical trends and modern condition. – Vocational education, 17/1, 2015, 47–70. ISSN - 0204-658X, COBISS. EN-ID – 1125096676 – 1 citation

Bogdanova, M. (2012) Professional guidance of children with specific needs. Or the tale of the ugly duck and the black swan. Sofia: Vanguard Prima. ISBN 978-619-160-065-6, COBISS. EN-ID – 1260311012 – 2 citations

Bogdanova, M. (2015) Synergistic model for professional guidance and counseling of children and young people with specific needs. – Pedagogy, 87(3), 2015, 336–359. ISSN - 0861-3982, COBISS. EN-ID – 1119662308 – 1 citation

With regard to **group of indicators E** (405 t.) the applicant has submitted for her participation in the competition documents and evidence of acquired scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" (40 t.), scientific guidance of two successfully defended PhD students (80 t.), participation in two international and four national projects (160 t.), leadership of an international scientific project (40 t.), published educational tools, manuals and guide (25 t.).

In summary, there is evidence of significant over-implementation of the minimum and additional requirements for the appointment of the scientific position of "Professor". The research and audience activity of the candidate is impressive both in its volume and with its broad scientific basis, integrating psychological, medical and pedagogical theories, paradigms and models.

**1. Data analysis on the professional development, academic and expert activities of the applicant, which are not directly covered by the minimum and additional requirements for the academic position "Professor".**

The candidate's rich documentary and biographical report reveals her multifaceted experience both as a researcher with broad interdisciplinary interests and as a practitioner who has gone through numerous sectors and levels of psychotherapeutic, consulting and expert work in the field of social protection, care and support of children and families. The fact that the applicant has certified practical qualifications and legal capacity as a psychotherapist and psychoanalyst is noticeable. At the same time, she is an active participant and coordinator of project activities and initiatives of national and international importance. Her creative CV is also enriched through the creation and management of innovative practices such as the Green House and the Green Yard, through which not only in theory, but also in practice she manages to protect and apply her scientific views and positions on the role and place of psychoanalytic paradigm in social work with babies and their mothers.

As a member of the Department of Social Work, whose member is also Assoc. prof. Bogdanova, I can confidently state that during all the years of her participation in the work of our academic community she has manifested not only as a participant, but also as the initiator of a number of innovative practices, such as mentoring program at the Faculty of Pedagogy, in which teachers and students are partnered. Her participation in the work of the educational and scientific laboratories at the PH is impressive, as well as her contribution to the development of the career center of the faculty, which already has staff specialists.

In summary, the entire educational and *professional career of Assoc. Prof. Monika Bogdanova proves her high commitment and productivity as a university researcher and lecturer who manages to effectively transfer her academic and scientific experience beyond the university. and among professionals from professional communities and organizations of which it is not only a member but also an established leader.*

**1. Assessment of the quality of the applicant's scientific output and scientific contributions**

The reference presented by the candidate for the competition on the scientific and applied contributions highlights the most important conceptual and applied aspects of the

innovation of her scientific creativity. I would like to supplement some of my more specific assessments.

First of all, I highly appreciate the efforts of Assoc. Prof. Bogdanova to explore in depth and adequately apply one particular scientific paradigm. In this case, we are talking about the psychoanalytical view of the child and childhood, which she researches and adapts multi-layered both in the field of social work with children and families, as well as in the field of more specific practices of professional guidance and counselling.

Secondly, it deserves special attention and recognition that at all stages of her career she was able to create original author models of advisory and training practices, through which she transformed the psychoanalytic paradigm of social work from theoretical discourse into an innovation field.

Thirdly, the contribution of Assoc. Prof. Bogdanova also to the study of the assisting specialists in social work and education – their qualification, career and career guidance and preparation, continuing qualification, etc.

In summary, the review of the scientific production and academic work of Assoc. Prof. Monica Bogdanova gives me strong reasons to accept that her candidacy fully meets the requirements for the scientific position of "professor".

## 1. Conclusion

**Taking into account both the quantitative scientific minimum requirements for the academic position of professor, as well as the qualitative analysis of the scientific production, work and contributions of Assoc. Prof. Monica Borisova Bogdanova, I strongly support her candidacy under this competition and give my positive assessment of her scientific and applied achievements.**

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07.11.2021  
Sofia

*Reviewer:*

prof. Silvia Nikolaeva Nikolova, PhD

