

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Stoyanova Sabeva – Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

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on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of **Associate Professor**

of **Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**

by: **field of higher education:** 1. Pedagogical Sciences,

Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Family Pedagogy, Andragogy).

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

In the competition for the academic post of 'Associate Professor', announced in the State Gazette, issue 103/12.12.2023 the only candidate declared to participate is Assoc. Dr. Yordanka Stoyanova Nikolova from the Department "Theory of Education" at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The complete set of materials was submitted on time, in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDA and the Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski for the Academic Staff Development (ASD). The procedural requirements from the announcement of the competition in the State Gazette to the composition of the scientific jury are complied.

Chief asst. Dr. Yordanka Nikolova is a graduate of Sofia University "Sv. Kl. Ohridski", where in 1991 she graduated in Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy, which is consistent with the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy announced in the competition. For more than 20 years she has been building up her pedagogical competences as a primary teacher in two schools in Plovdiv. Proof of her development is the PhD in 1.2. Pedagogy /Theory of Education and Didactics - Primary School Pedagogy - Bulgarian Language/ in 2015 again at the Sofia University. In the meantime, she completes various training courses /I class qualification; training course for basic and specific computer skills; interactive teaching methods, etc./ In 2017 she started working as an assistant professor at Sofia University. Tracing her career development, there is a gradual occupation of the positions: assistant /2017-2019/ and chief

assistant /from 2019 to the present moment/ at the Department of Theory of Education to which the competition was announced.

2. General description of the applicant's activities

The scientific production, which Dr. Yordanka Nikolova submits for the competition, gains her double the required points on the scientific metrics for associate professor - a total of 850 points. In accordance with the specifics of this competition, Dr Nikolova contributed 1 monograph, 20 articles, 7 of which were in refereed scientific journals, and 1 study. According to the indicator for Citations, the colleague gained a total of 165 points, which at this stage indicates the recognition of the author in the scientific space. A stimulus for scientific research and a real opportunity for the promotion of creative ideas is the participation of the candidate in project activities, two of which is in the position of supervisor. A list of all publications is presented, which is not the subject of the present analysis, but allows tracking the scientific development of the candidate in thematic terms. In the scientific activity of the candidate the key concept "communicative competence" stands out, which from being the subject of research in the dissertation, finds continuation in the social relations between partners, between spouses, between parents and children, between institutions. Therefore, the purely pedagogical problematic studied by Dr. Nikolova expands its parameters of research in the socio-pedagogical aspect. In this regard, I am referring to the candidate's habilitation thesis "Perspectives on Family Life and Parenting in the context of family pedagogy". Already in the preface, Dr. Nikolova refers to the reason for the present study as "ineffective parenting" and looks for a correlation between "the phenomenon of highly effective partners and the phenomenon of highly effective parents". Both the family transformations determined by the social scenario of the information age and the deficiency of publications in this direction are cited as reasons for the choice of the topic.

The clearly delineated research intentions, the representative sample and the short time period of the study, providing sufficient empirical material for analysis and generalizations are noteworthy. According to the author, the perspective of family life and parenthood is embedded in the readiness of young people to start a family and in their perception of the social role of a parent. Studying the readiness of young people for family life, the author makes a broad selection of factors: physical and psychological maturity for sexual relations; changes in the value system; the influence of the media, the impact of various types of arts, the acquired family experience and, most of all, the parenting pattern that the child observes, which factor turned out to be the most significant in the particular study - 49.5%. According

to the author, the registered deficits in the preparation of young people for the social role of parent, is due to the broken parent-child relationship. This justifies raising the question about the characteristics of family upbringing, the technology of communication with the child, which is another evidence of the need for training in parenting.

The candidate demonstrates a broad culture and knowledge, making a retrospective of established forms of effective parenting internationally, beginning from the time of J.A.Comenius' "Mother School" to the establishment of National Academies and international parenting organizations. Valuable for the pedagogical science and practice is the review of the Bulgarian experience in parent education and especially the presence of the topic of family in the content of educational disciplines from 1st to 12th grade. However, the conclusions drawn from both the content analysis and the survey are discouraging, as they identify an occasional presence of the themes of young people's mental preparation for life and peer relationships.

Such findings not only confirm the actuality of the researched problem, but also justify the suggestions made by the author for a prospective solution of the problem. In this context, I consider the author's proposed "system of activities for the formation of competences for family life and parenthood in the school environment" to be a scientific and applied contribution. The system is built on the spiral principle so that children and adolescents become aware not only of family values, but also of conflict factors and ways of prevention. The activities are differentiated according to the age of the children from kindergarten to 12th grade and offer a wide variety of pedagogical forms and methods, influencing all levels of personality formation: motivational, emotional, cognitive and behavioral.

It is evident from the submitted documents that the candidate's activities are manifested not only in research but also in teaching. For the last academic year 2022/2023, the candidate's teaching load was 1188.4 hours, of which 975 hours were classroom work - including lectures and seminar exercises.

3. Critical comments and recommendations

In a collegian plan, I recommend to Dr. Nikolova her future publishing activities to be directed mainly towards specialized indexed journals Bulgaria and abroad, as well as towards participation in joint projects with colleagues from prestigious European universities.


Question: Summarizing the results and looking for a correlation between the factors, which of the three: appearance, values and the responsibility of the parental role is the determinant of a modern young person's readiness for a family?

CONCLUSION

Considering the materials submitted for the competition, it can be concluded that the candidate, Asst. Dr. Yordanka Nikolova possesses the necessary educational qualifications, doctoral degree, work experience, teaching experience, teaching employment and meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor. I do not suspect any plagiarism and estimate the highlighted points of contribution as indisputable. This is the basis for me to consider the candidature of Dr. Nikolova for the academic position of Associate Professor of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Family Pedagogy, Andragogy) as more than convincing, therefore I give my positive conclusion.

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Sabeva)

Prepared by: 
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