

STATEMENT

from

Prof. Dr. Biyanka Lyubchova Tornyova

Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Public Health,

Medical University - Plovdiv

External member of a Scientific Jury, according to Order No. RK 38-73/07.02.2024. of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia.

REGARDING: Competition for the academic position "Assoc. Professor" in the scientific specialty "Theory of education and didactics (Family pedagogy; Andragogy)" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, announced for the needs of the "Theory of Education" department of the Faculty of Pedagogy at the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia in State Gazette, No. 103 of 12.12.2023.

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Yordanka Stoinova Nikolova, head assistant in the "Theory of Education" department of the Faculty of Pedagogy at the "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Head assistant professor Yordanka Stoinova Nikolova graduated in 1991, majoring in "Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Arts of the University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (Specialization "Education Management" and a second specialty "Bulgarian Language and Literature") with excellent grade. In 2015, she acquired a "Doctor" degree in professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy in the FP of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

She began her professional career in 1993 as a primary teacher at "Dimitar Matevski" Secondary School, Plovdiv, where she worked until 1994. In 1995, she obtained a second class qualification at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" - Plovdiv/ Trakia University Stara Zagora. In the period 1994 - 2017 she was a primary teacher at "Kocho Chestemenski" Primary School, Plovdiv.

After successfully passing assistantship competitions, in 2017 she was appointed to the academic position of "Assistant", and from 2019 she holds the position of "Head Assistant" in the Department of "Theory of Education" of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", where she still works. The educational and career development of Head Assistant Professor J. Nikolova undoubtedly proves that she has considerable teaching experience and has establishing herself as a competent specialist in her professional field. In an effort to continuously upgrade her knowledge, Head Associate Professor Nikolova participated in various trainings and seminars. In the set of documentation for the competition, documents for 9 specializations and for the acquired Second PCS (from the University of Plovdiv) were attached.

She speaks English and Russian. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

II. General description of the submitted materials for the competition

The materials submitted by the candidate for the competition provide in full the necessary information for a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall academic development. The documentation is detailed and clearly organized in the form of references, lists and evidentiary material. A good impression is left by the active research activity of head assistant professor Y. Nikolova, which finds expression in her scientific production. The list of general scientific production contains 43 titles and 1 dissertation.

The scientific works with which she participated in the competition for associate professor are 22 (all after the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Pedagogy" in 2015), which are distributed as follows:

- 1 independent monograph (on family pedagogy);
- 2 studies, of which 1 in family pedagogy and 1 in andragogy in press (official note is attached);
- 7 articles and reports published in refereed scientific publications (of which 2 in English and 1 article in co-authorship, for which there is a separation protocol);
- 12 articles and reports published in non-refereed but peer-reviewed scientific publications (of them – 1 in English and 4 in Russian).

The topics of the publications fully satisfy the requirements of the competition, affecting two different fields of education sciences - family pedagogy and andragogy. Many of the publications could be defined as "mixed", as they address issues of preparation for parenthood, raising the pedagogical culture of parents and andragogical requirements for parent education, incl. as adult learners.

It is noteworthy that the distribution of scientific works by year is quite even, which speaks of a purposeful and well-planned scientific development of the candidate.

1. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidate for the overall academic development

The scientific works of Y. Nikolova are grouped precisely, according to the guidelines for meeting the minimum national requirements for holding the position of "Assoc. Prof" in area 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy.

With an overall chronological view of the presented scientific publications of the candidate, the upgrading and deepening of the research questions in the directions of the competition is impressive.

In her publishing activity head assistant professor Y. Nikolova is the sole author in 21 of the total number of scientific papers, which is proof of active research activity.

The works of Head Assistant Professor Yordanka Nikolova, Ph.D., contain certain scientific contributions to pedagogical and andragogical theory and practice. An objective and correct reference is presented to the scientific contributions in five leading directions of scientific research activity, which I fully accept.

The research activity of Head Assistant Professor Yordanka Nikolova is focused on revealing the role of the family as a determining factor for the behavior of young people as partners and parents and arguing the need to increase their pedagogical culture. Her research interests are also diverse approaches that motivate, guide and enable adults to learn continuously throughout their lives. A significant contributing point is the developed system of activities for the formation of competences for life in a family and parenting in a school environment (grades 1-12).

Another significant contribution is the developed conceptual framework for more effective preparation of the novice teacher of adults and the prevention of stress and withdrawal from the profession. In theoretical terms, the modern requirements for the teacher of adults are systematized and highlighted. The need for support in building a positive experience at the beginning of his teaching career is substantiated.

The directions in which Head Assistant Professor Y. Nikolova works are extremely important, current and promising. Proof of the importance of the research conducted with her participation are the publications in specialized issues, as well as numerous positive citations.

2. Evaluation of the monographic work

The candidate in the competition presents for review an independent monographic work "Perspectives for family life and parenting in the context of family pedagogy". The monograph is extremely interesting and of great practical significance, as it examines the issues related to the readiness of young people for family life and parenthood. The significant professional experience and the accumulated pedagogical experience give the author an advantage to analyze: the world and Bulgarian experience in preparing young people for the performance of parental functions, the presence of topics about family relationships and parenting in the content of the educational disciplines in the Bulgarian school, the applied forms for raising of the parents' pedagogical culture. The proposed system of activities to be implemented in a school environment will allow young people to develop skills to be "good" parents.

3. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications

A total of 18 citations are presented in the reference for citations, of which: 13 are in Bulgarian journals and proceedings of scientific conferences; 5 are in foreign editions. It can be seen that the interest in the scientific works of the candidate in the competition is from both Bulgarian and foreign researchers.

4. Scientific activity

Head Assistant Professor Yordanka Nikolova, PhD, actively participates with reports in international and national conferences on education issues. In addition to his teaching activities, in the period 2018-2023 she participated in 10 scientific projects (of which 3 were international), she was the head of 1 national project in 2 parts). She also participated in the national projects "Success" of the Ministry of Education and Culture and in a project under the "Comensky" program.

III. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activities

Dr. Yordanka Nikolova has many years of teaching experience. The report on her academic employment shows that in all years at the university there was a significantly higher than standard academic workload, the main being in the disciplines of the competition. (Family Pedagogy and Andragogy). This proves that the competition is provided with the necessary horarium hours.

The active work of the candidate in the competition with the students also deserves attention. Since 2020, she has been an active member of the Commission for organizing and

conducting the pre-diploma practice of student teachers, and since 2022, she has been an academic mentor for students majoring in "Pedagogy".

It is clear from the attached tender documentation that head assistant professor Yordanka Nikolova, PhD, has organized and implemented 9 master classes with the participation of innovative teachers from all over the country and round tables with the participation of students. She was the supervisor of two successfully defended graduates; of 28 term theses and reviewer of 25 diploma theses.

IV. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators

The volume and quality of the presented scientific production from Head Assistant Professor Y. Nikolova fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor", according to the Regulations of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia, the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Application.

The scientific production of Ch. Assistant Professor Y. Nikolova exceeds the minimum national requirements and those of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" for a "Assoc. Professor" degree (table 1).

Table 1. Comparative characteristics of the results of Head Assistant Professor Yordanka Nikolova, Ph.D., and the minimum required points for a "Assoc. Professor" degree by groups of indicators

A group of indicators	Content	National minimum requirements for a "Associate Professor" degree	Candidate points Head Assistant Dr. Y. Nikolova
A	Indicator 1	50 items	50
B	Indicator 2	-----	---
V	Indicator 3	100 items (Includes Habilitation thesis - monograph)	100
G	Sum of indicators from 4 to 10	200 items	340
D	Sum of indicators from 11 to 13	50 items	165
E	Sum of the indicators from 14 to the end	-----	195

V. Conclusion

After having familiarized myself with the presented materials and scientific works certifying significant professional experience as a teacher and on the basis of the complex assessment of the implementation of the mandatory quantitative and qualitative scientometric criteria for scientific activity and educational activity, I consider that the candidate in the competition Head Assistant Professor Yordanka Nikolova, PhD, fully meets the requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor".

On the basis of the presented scientific production in terms of volume, quality and thematic compliance with the direction of the announced competition, the related indisputable scientific contributions and bearing in mind the nature of the candidate's research and teaching activities, I give a positive vote and confidently recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote Head Assistant Professor Yordanka Stoinova Nikolova, Ph.D., to occupy the academic position "Assoc. Professor" in the scientific specialty "Theory of education and didactics (Family pedagogy; Andragogy)" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy for the needs of the "Theory of Education" department of the Faculty of Pedagogy at the "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia.

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Prepared the statement:
/Prof. Dr. B. Tornyova/