

OPINION

By: Ludmila Borislavova Ivanova, MD, PhD, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", an internal member of the scientific jury appointed by the Rector's Order No. RD-38-72/7.2.2024.

Subject: competition for the academic position of Associated Professor in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (School Hygiene and Health Education) for the needs of the Faculty of Pedagogy of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", announced in State Gazette No. 103 of 12.12.23

1. Description of the materials submitted for the competition

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Berjuhi Mihran Yordanova, Chief assistant at the Faculty of Education, Department of "Theory of Education", SU "St. Kl. Ohridski". For the competition, the candidate submitted: a curriculum vitae, diplomas for higher education, and a PhD diploma; a document of occupied academic positions, teaching activity, references for complying with the criteria for participation in the competition; a list of all publications and a list of publications for participation in the contest, reference to citations; other data – summaries and copies of the applicant's scientific publications and citations, participation in projects and expert groups, as well as recommendations.

2. Biographical notices, academic and professional development

Berjuhi Mihran Yordanova was born in 1976 in Sofia. She graduated from the Financial and Business School in Sofia, 1995 with a major in "Machine Information Processing systems". In 2000, she was awarded with the academic degree Master of Statistics and Economics from the University of National and World Economy, and in 2004 she graduated with a master's degree in social sciences, majoring in "Social work with children" at SU St. Kl. Ohridski (Diploma A-03SU No 169222). In 2009, she successfully defended his dissertation on "The child's readiness for school as a psycho-pedagogical problem" at the Faculty of Education of the "St. Kl. Ohridski" University, with a doctoral degree " in "Theory of Education and Didactics" (Diploma No. 33019/30.03.2009).

Since 2010, she has been a part-time teacher at the Faculty of Education, Department of "Theory of Education" at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", and since 2012 up till now Dr. Berjuhi Yordanova has been a Chief assistant in the same department. Dr. Yordanova actively participates in the training of students, and teachers, and she is a mentor of student practices, an expert in the development of instructions and manuals for children with special educational needs, and a participant in expert groups at the Ministry of Education and Culture and UNICEF for the development of policies and practices for care and teaching of children up to three years of age, including those with special educational needs.

3. Characteristic of the scientific, applied, and teaching activity

The main direction of the scientific, applied, and teaching activities of Chef Assistant Yordanova is in the field of school hygiene and health education. The documents submitted

for the competition competently and thoroughly present the main hygienic problems of the school environment, health education, and educational aspects of healthy nutrition for children and adolescents. The principles and models for health education in school settings are reviewed and the capacity of formal and informal education to establish a healthy lifestyle is analyzed. For the competition, the candidate submits 21 publications, of which 19 she is the only author, and at two is a co-author, one monograph on a topic unrelated to the PhD thesis, a book based on the PhD thesis, one article was published in a refereed scientific publication and 14 – in non-refereed, peer-reviewed scientific publications, 3 studies and one textbook. The references cited according to the reference submitted by the candidate are sufficient for those holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (School Hygiene and Health Education).

The candidate has a significant teaching activity, with an average of 996 academic hours per year for the last five years.

4. Scientific and applied contributions

Important contributions of the candidate are the investigation of school hygiene science in its complexity, interdependence, and social significance. Scientific-applied contributions of a particular significance are the development among children of a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle and establishing healthy practices from an early age through educational practices. The presented complex models contribute to raising awareness about health and a preschool child's health culture as an essential part of his socio-behavioral preparedness for school, as well as the formation of health behavior linked to the teaching process in the school environment. Emphasis is placed on the process of adoption of the basics of a healthy lifestyle by the preschool child in a similar way to the process of adoption of social roles, which is directly related to the formation of the fundamentals of a culture of health.

A special contribution of Chief Assistant Yordanova is the analysis of the state of health education in Bulgarian schools, the challenges facing the national health education policies and standards, and the identified opportunities for their improvement. Analysis of the interaction between formal and non-formal health education shows that the family and the Internet are still untapped resources in education.

Contributions of particular value are the ones created: a structural and substantive plan of experimental situations to form the foundations of the health culture, as part of the child's socio-behavioral readiness for school; the development and publication of the author's "Conceptual model of healthy nutrition for children of upper school age" and pedagogical model of school health education.

5. Documents and evidence in connection with a report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (School Hygiene and Health Education)

In the submitted documents and papers for the competition Chief Assistant Yordanova presents evidence of compliance with the minimum national requirements. The total points for indicators A, B, D and D and E are 645, of which from group E – 165 points, which significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for an "Associate professor" in Area 1. Pedagogics

Group of Indicators A

Indicator 1. PhD doctoral thesis "Doctor" "The readiness of the child for school as a psycho-pedagogical problem" - 50 points

Group of Indicators B

Indicator 2. Monograph "Healthy nutrition of adolescence. Educational and teaching aspects" - 100 points

Group of Indicators G (Г bulg.)

Indicator 5. Published book based on the defended PhD thesis - 75 points

Indicator 6. Articles published in refereed scientific journals – 10 points

Indicator 7. Articles and reports published in non-refereed scientific journals – 130 points

Indicator 9. Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed publications – 45 points

Group of indicators D

Indicator 11. Citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals – 70 points

Group of indicators E

Indicator 16. Participation in a national scientific or educational project- 40 points

Indicator 17. Participation in an international scientific or educational project – 80 points

Indicator 20. Published textbook - "School hygiene, health education and upbringing" – 40 points.

Conclusion

The submitted documents for the competition make it evident that Dr. Berjuhi Mihran Yordanova has educational and scientific degrees, professional qualifications, and teaching experience in the field of school hygiene and health education, which fully comply with the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Pedagogy. The documents submitted for the competition are not only in compliance but also exceed the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Associated Professor" in professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (School hygiene and health education

I strongly recommend the respected members of the scientific jury to resolve the election of Dr. Berjuhi Yordanova to become an Associate Professor in the field of 1.2 Pedagogy (School Hygiene and Health Education) and hold this academic position at the Faculty of Education of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski".

Member of the Scientific Jury

Prof. Ludmila Ivanova, MD, PhDnm