

## Opinion

on a competition for occupying an academic position  
"Associate Professor" in Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (School hygiene and health education), promulgated for the needs of the Faculty of Education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the State Gazette No. 103/12.12.2023.

One applicant participated in the competition - chief assistant Berdzhuhi Mihran Jordanova, Ph. D.

### I. Analysis of the applicant's career profile:

Chief assistant Berdzhuhi Mihran Jordanova holds the following diplomas in educational and qualification degree "Master":

- in the specialty "Statistics and Econometrics" with the professional qualification Master of Economics, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, 2000.
- in the specialty "Social work with children", 2004 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

In 2009, she acquired a diploma for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Scientific specialty 07.05.01. "Theory of education and didactics". Dissertation topic: "The child's readiness for school as a psycho-pedagogical problem".

• **Additional qualification:** from the author's reference it is clear that in the period from 2002 to 2023 Dr. Jordanova completed 14 training courses on various subjects, incl. English.

The indicated data outline a lasting trend for her pedagogical development and her recognition as a lecturer.

### II. Professional career

B. Jordanova's professional development as a lecturer began in April 2010 - she is a part-time teacher at the Faculty of Education, Department "Theory of Education";

- since February 2012 to the present - Chief Assistant at the Faculty of Education, Department of "Theory of Education" of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski";
- from 2012 to 2013, she worked as a trainer for conducting trainings, an expert in the preparation of a textbook and manuals, a lecturer and a facilitator at conferences and press conferences.

### III. Public, administrative and cultural activity

From the information in her biography, it is clear that in the period from 2002 to 2023 chief assistant B. Jordanova carries out active public, administrative and cultural activities. She participates in various activities of associations, foundations, boards of directors, editorial boards, in which she holds various positions.

Since 2018 to the present, she has been a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, section "Pedagogy and Psychology".

All these participations and commitments, received awards and recommendations show that Dr. B. Jordanova has good organizational skills and competences for working in a team.

### IV. Participation in projects:

#### Ch. Assistant Professor B. Jordanova indicates participation in:

##### 1. National scientific or educational project

- 2015 - "Quality of practice" (Elaboration of a national communication framework for the quality of policies and practices in early childhood), Head of an expert group, Step by Step Program Foundation (ISSA-OSF),
  - 2019 - "Formation and improvement of skills for creation, editing, publication and distribution of scientific publications", a member included in training, operational program "Science and education for intelligent growth"



- Project "Incubator of integrated urban educational networks", Member, Interuniversity Institute on Educational Management – Interaula
- since 2014 to the present – Academic mentor for the "Student practices" project, BG 051PO001-3.3.07-0002;
- 2014 – participation in the project "Smiles for all children: Support for children with special educational needs from Razgrad region"
- 2015 - head of an expert group with representatives of the Ministry of Education, the State Agency for Child Protection, UNICEF and an NGO to develop a "Communication framework for inter-institutional cooperation to improve the quality of policies and practices for care and education of children from birth to 3 years ”

## **2. Participation in an international scientific or educational project**

- MEMESIS project, Erasmus+ program - small partnerships in school education, expert-consultant, European Union, 2022 - 2023.
- Project "MODERN-A: MODERNization in partnership through digitization of the Academic Ecosystem", Operational Program "Science and 20 80

## **V. General description of the submitted materials for the competition:**

Presented by chief assistant Berdzhuhi Jordanova, Ph. D. documentation on an electronic medium for participation in the competition is well-organized, contains all the necessary documents for occupying the academic position " Associate Professor " and fully meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The documentation was prepared and arranged according to the accepted requirements, creates a complete picture of the scientific and professional development of the applicant and enables an objective assessment.

## **VI. Evaluation of the scientific works of the applicant for the overall academic development**

Chief assistant Berdzhuhi Jordanova refers the scientific publications presented by her to the following thematic areas:

- 1. School hygiene and health education and upbringing of preschool and school-aged children**
- 2. Educational and training aspects of healthy nutrition for children and students**

For the **competition** chief assistant Berdzhuhi Jordanova participated in the following scientific works (total of 21, 19 of which she is an independent author.):

- **Habilitation thesis - Monograph – 1 pc.** "Healthy nutrition of children of upper school age (educational aspects)", 2023
- **Published book based on a dissertation work defended for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 1 pc.** "Healthy education in the context of the social and behavioral readiness of the child for school", 2014.
- **Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 1 pc.**
- **Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 14 pcs.** (independent author in 12 of them)
- **Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes: 3 pcs.,** as an independent author
- **Published university textbook - 1 pc.** "School hygiene, health education and upbringing", 2020, 183 pages.

### **➤ Major contributions**

I accept the scientific contributions formulated by the applicant. I believe that Dr. B. Jordanova has precisely and comprehensively formulated the contributions of her research



activity. In addition to a markedly practical and applied nature, they also have a deep medical and social meaning - they are dedicated to the prevention and promotion of the health of one of the most vulnerable social groups - children. If health is a basic value for the individual and society as a whole, then the attitude towards its protection shall be formed already in childhood, when children are most sensitive.

B. Jordanova investigates in depth the problems related to children's healthy nutrition, the challenges facing the education and training system and directs her research to help teachers. Based on the analysis of data from her own empirical research, of existing European and national policies related to student nutrition, she develops and proposes a conceptual model for healthy nutrition.

Problems related to diagnosis of the child's socio-behavioral readiness for school are competently presented. The concept of "readiness of the child for school" has been theoretically studied and outlined.

The specific difficulties in training and education of children with special educational needs are pointed out; manifestations of aggression in preschool and school-aged children, and the focus is on protecting the mental health of school-aged children.

**VII. Reflection (citation) of the applicant's publications in the national and foreign literature:** Dr. B. Jordanova is recognizable among the pedagogical community with her scientific authority and achievements. Proof of this is the references to her publications by various Bulgarian and foreign authors. As evidence, she provides two references with a list of citations: Certificate from the University Library at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and citations established by her in a traditional way - through books, *Google Science*, *Google Books*, *Google Web*.

**VIII. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators, according to the regulation for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor"**

For the current competition Chief assistant Berdzhuhi Jordanova, PhD, presents scientific work in a volume that fulfills the mandatory conditions and significantly exceeds the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators, according to the table for Minimum required points by groups of indicators for occupying the academic position "Associate professor".

**In conclusion**

As a result of the above, I give my positive assessment and confidently suggest to the members of the Scientific Jury to choose chief assistant Berdzhuhi Mihran Jordanova PhD, for "Associate professor" in the Higher Education Department 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.2. Pedagogy (School Hygiene and Health Education), for the needs of the Faculty of Education at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

02.04.2024

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Assoc. Prof. Galina Terzieva, PhD

**Scientific specialties:**

"Theory of education and didactics"

"Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy"

Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov **University** - Burgas,

Faculty of Public Health and Health Care.