

OPINION STATEMENT

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About: Competition for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor (Docent) in area of higher education 1 Pedagogical Sciences, professional track 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in..., scientific field 05.07.03 Methods of English Language Teaching at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology (FKNF)

1. Information about the competition for "Associate Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", the competition for "Associate Professor" in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of English Language Education), SG 96, p. 104, of 17.11.2023, is intended for the needs of FKNF.

I participate in the competition as a reviewing (with an opinion statement in writing) member of the scientific jury, according to Order RD-38-41/22012024 of the Rector of the university. This review (opinion statement) is written in pursuance of the said order.

2. Information about the candidate in the competition

Mrs. Tsvetanka Tsoleva Dilkova, home address at Sofia 1231, Region Nadezhda, block 621, is Chief Assistant in Methodology of Teaching English as a Second Language at the Department of Methodology, FKNF, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Dr. Dilkova joined Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2019. Her teaching work experience, with a total duration of 27 years, has been carried out at Bulgarian secondary and higher schools. The academic degree of "Doctor" was acquired by her in 2017 and the academic degree of "Master" – at the University of Veliko Tirnov "St. Cyril and Methodius" in 1996.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor"

The applicant in the competition, Dr. Dilkova, meets the minimum national requirements in the abovementioned professional field (according to the

attached "Reference for the implementation of the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the relevant Law – ZRASRB). The data presented are correct and I am satisfied with the compliance with the legal conditions in the above competition.

4 Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activities

The applicant's teaching experience presented in the aforementioned competition is significant. The combination of good teaching and research (discussed below) as well as observance of the forms of professional development, are proof of preparedness for the academic position of Associate Professor. Positive information about the compliance of her teaching career with the rules and practices of ethics and integrity of the teaching profession is brought about. I believe that a high quality of students' learning work is ensured and the expected learning outcomes have been achieved.

I give a positive assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate in the said competition.

5. General characteristics of scientific research/publications submitted in the competition

I know the scientific work and publications of the candidate in the reviewed competition. My opinion is that she is a diligent and conscientious researcher and lecturer in the area of methodology of teaching English as a second language. I would particularly draw attention to her scientific interest in translating from and into the second language in the broad field of modern language industry. It is known that this is an important sector and the attention of researchers should be appropriately focused on realizing the potential of the communicative ability of the learner mastered in the development of the individual in the particular language environment. For example, I will mention publication No 2: Tsvetanka Dilkova, Translation Learning Strategies in English Language Training for Chemical Technology Majors, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2023, p. 216, ISBN 978-954-07-5824-4.

The list of publications submitted in this competition contains 16 titles. All of them are dedicated to the methodology of teaching English as a second language.

My assessment of them is positive.

6. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied research contributions

As has been pointed out with regard to the main areas of appraisal criteria – teaching and research – my assessment is positive. The scientific and scientifically applied contributions are set out in the attached author's reference for the candidate's contributions. It also lists relevant publications and areas of research. I agree with them.

I can sum up the contributions in two main directions. The first is of fundamental importance in the peer-reviewed competition – methodology of teaching English as a second language. It be made up of describing the current state, which I define as the post-methodological stage of language pedagogy. The candidate attempts at psycholinguistic construction of learning theory and practice, which as an orientation for future research is correct. Currently, the candidate's contributions to the competition are an appropriate reflection of her work in the specific conditions of the Department of Methodology.

The second main direction of basic research and applied contributions covers the perspective of teaching and learning English as a second language in Bulgaria. This is a specific sociolinguistic aspect with an undeniable place in the field of languages and great cultural significance.

I positively appreciate the research and applied contributions achieved and submitted by the candidate in this competition.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations of the reviewer

After getting acquainted with the scientific and pedagogical work of the candidate in the competition, I declare that I do not identify shortcomings and omissions. In this regard, I recommend working creatively and innovatively with modern theories in the language industry. This will ensure the scientific preparedness and criticality of the candidate in the competition and will increase her experience in pedagogical and research activities.

I recommend that more effort be made to publish scientific papers in refereed and indexed journals. This will expand the audience of readers of scientific works and increase their quality.

The critical remarks and recommendations made are aimed at ensuring the quality of preparedness and activities. They do not reduce my final positive assessment of the student's teaching and research work in the competition.

8. Personal impressions and other questions of the reviewer

I know the work of Dr. Dilkova as a lecturer and administrator at the Department of Methodology of the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology. My personal impressions are excellent.

9. Conclusion

The documents submitted by the applicant in the competition meet all legal requirements. Dr. Dilkova's scientific work stands out with important scientific and applied contributions that have received national and international recognition. The theoretical developments have practical applicability, some of which are directly oriented towards the academic work and the academic disciplines that she teaches.

The candidate in the said competition meets the minimum national requirements in the professional field (according to the attached "Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the relevant Law – ZRASRB").

Based on the informed judgements stated herein, I give my positive valuation to Dr. Dilkova as a candidate in the abovementioned competition. I recommend to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to propose to the competent scientific council to elect Dr. Dilkova to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of Teaching English as a Second Language.

Signed:

Sofia,

20 March 2024