

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Lora Ilieva Spiridonova

member of the jury, appointed by order № RD 38-176/06.04.2021 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski ”

for conducting a competition for Associate Professor in

field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2

Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy – Pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age),

Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts

Department: “Preschool and Media Education”

announced in SG, no. 22 / 16.03.2021

Candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the competition:
Chief Assistant Galina Georgieva Georgieva, PhD

In the competition for associate professor, announced in National Gazette, issue 22 dated 16 March 2021 for the needs of Faculty of Sciences, Education and Arts, Chief Assistant Galina Georgieva is the only candidate.

Education and professional realization of the candidate.

Dr. Galina Georgieva graduated from the Bachelor's Degree in 2007 at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in specialty Pre-school Pedagogy and Foreign Language (German Language). In 2011 she acquired a Master's degree in the master program Pedagogy of Mass and Art Communication and in 2016 - the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy).

The professional realization of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva started in 2003 in Bulgaria and continued in USA. In her various professional positions until 2008 she translated papers from English into German, maintained correspondence in German language and conducted active communication in English language. From 2008 to 2011 she worked as a preschool teacher in Sofia.

Her academic career began in 2011 as an Assistant Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, FESA, Department of Preschool and Media Education. Since 2017 she has been a Chief Assistant Professor at the same faculty and has led lecture courses, seminars and practical exercises in Bachelor’s degree and in master’s programs. Dr. Galina Georgieva is a member of the Bulgarian National Committee for Preschool Education. She is the head of the master's program Preschool pedagogy (for graduates of pedagogical specialties and specialties with teaching qualifications). The candidate for associate professor Dr. Galina Georgieva is the scientific secretary of the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy. She is a member of the mandate commission at FESA, as well as a member of the commission of the research sector from 2019 until now.

Conclusion. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva has social, organizational and administrative skills, fluent German and English language skills, which is the basis for her consistent academic career.

Teaching experience of the candidate.

Ch. Assistant Professor Galina Georgieva develops curricula for the disciplines and leads lecture courses, seminars and practical exercises in Pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age, Pedagogy of construction and technology, Techniques for children's creativity in kindergarten – constructive in Bachelor’s degree and in master’s programs at FESA. She supervises the internship in the Bachelor's degree and in the compulsory disciplines Teacher training, Current pedagogical practice and Internship pedagogical practice in master's programs.

Dr. Galina Georgieva is a lecturer in courses for postgraduate qualification of pedagogical specialists trained at FESA, as well a researcher in a number of projects.

Conclusion. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva is a long-term lecturer at FESA, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, implementing an effective educational process for the training and career development of pedagogical specialists with a focus on the development of mathematical culture at preschool age.

Publication activity of the candidate.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva participates in the competition for Associate Professor with 2 monographs, 2 chapters published in collective monographs, 11 articles and reports and 1 study in Annual of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", FESA.

The monograph *Mathematical competence in preschool age*, published in 2020, presents an author's experimental pedagogical model, which is developed on the basis of in-depth theoretical analysis of the problems associated with the formation of mathematical competence, and is applied in the practice of preschool education in Bulgaria. Its positive influence on the building of a system of knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning the mathematical competence of 5-7-year-old children through purposeful constructive and interactive activities with a playful accent, has been proven.

The monograph *Mathematics in children's thinking*, published in 2020, presents a model for a development of mathematical thinking, which has a positive impact on building the mathematical competence and on the formation of skills for solving problem situations in constructive activities. Significant conclusions and recommendations for the application of the model in the practice of preschool education are presented.

The published chapters of collective monographs provide an overview of mathematics education in Bulgaria in terms of legislation and content and determine the parameters of constructive activities in mathematics education at preschool age by integrating the two educational fields.

The articles and the reports discuss the importance of organizing a learning environment and of using an interactive whiteboard in mathematics education. They present the parameters of the competence approach, the play, the interactive situations and the children's activity in the educational process as prerequisites of its effectiveness. The subitizing is defined as a phenomenon and as a tool for number competencies development at preschool age. Classical and modern theories are systematized and analyzed, in regard to the formation and the enhancement of mathematical thinking. The connection between the educational fields of Mathematics and Fine Arts is drawn. An integrated in the practical training of students in pedagogical specialties well-planned and supervised e-course is also presented.

The study published in Annual of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", FESA, systematizes and analyzes theories related to the development of children's numerical competences, differentiates individual stages and models of their formation, which are linked in practical terms with a system of play situations.

Conclusion. In structural terms, the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 26 of the Law on the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria for scientific field 1. Pedagogical sciences for holding the academic position of associate professor. In terms of content, her publications are on the topic of the competition.

Scientific contributions of the candidate.

I accept the contributions to science and practice formulated by the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva as achieved.

In theoretical and conceptual terms significant results have been achieved in the direction of systematizing, interpreting and supplementing terms related to the conceptual apparatus of mathematics education, as well as in the direction of the analysis of interrelationships in the process of development of mathematical thinking and mathematical competence, taking into account the importance of the play at preschool age.

A significant contribution in scientific and experimental terms is the development and the application of an innovative model for pedagogical interaction related to the formation and development of mathematical thinking and mathematical competence of children at preschool age, functioning as a system of purposeful interactive and constructive activities.

In experimental-applied terms the main contributions are the development and the enhancement of the curricula of compulsory courses for pedagogical specialists' training in the direction of pedagogy of mathematics and the application of new cognitive books with methodical guidelines for the teacher, which are aimed at fostering of mathematical competence of the children in educational institutions.

Conclusion. The candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva has contributions in scientific and practical terms regarding the pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age.

Conclusion

Based on the conclusions made on each of the criteria for the evaluation, I give my positive assessment of the research, publication and teaching activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georieva and I will vote to awarding her the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy - Pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age).

Data: 05 June 2021

Member of the Scientific Jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Lora Spiridonova)