

OPINION

Referring to: dissertation work of **Magdalena Zlatkova Delinesheva**,
for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in professional field 1.3.
Pedagogy of ... (Methodology of home and appliances in kindergarten and primary school)

Dissertation topic: “Didactic technology for building the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship through elective activities in technologies and entrepreneurship in primary school”

Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr Nikolay Tsanev, Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Author of the opinion: Assoc. Prof. Dr Diana Stoycheva Mitova
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1. Compliance of the procedure with the current regulatory framework

The grounds for the opinion is Order No. RD 38-450/25.07. 2022 of the Rector of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski” for participation in a scientific jury, according to the procedure for the defence of a dissertation on the “Didactic technology for building the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship through elective activities in technologies and entrepreneurship in primary school” developed by Magdalena Zlatkova Delinesheva. The opinion was prepared on the basis of the submitted documents: a dissertation with a reference for the contributions, an abstract, publications on the topic of the dissertation and a similarity report of the plagiarism prevention system available at SU. All documents and materials are presented in accordance with the requirements specified in Art. 2, para. 8 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 5, para. 12 of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The work is designed according to the guidelines specified in the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in a form and volume that correspond to the requirements. The protection procedure has been correctly followed.

2. General biographical presentation of the applicant (education, qualifications, professional experience, etc.)

Magdalena Zlatkova Delinesheva holds a master's degree in the specialty “Teacher of Bulgarian language and literature and English language and literature” from the Faculty of

Philology of the University of Veliko Tarnovo “St. Cyril and Methodius”, since 1991. In 2000, she acquired a bachelor’s degree in Marketing with the professional qualification of Economist and at the Faculty of Economics of the same university. During her career development, Delinesheva accumulated professional skills and competences participating in many activities (as a manager and director, organizer of events and trainings, manager of teams and projects, as an author of educational content, etc.). In 1993, she received a Certificate in the Theory and Methodology of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TESOL) in Sheffield, England, and in 2013 received two more certificates – a Certificate for Creativity, Action and Service Coordinator and a Certificate for English teacher B in the Diploma Program of the International Baccalaureate Organization.

Since 2018, she has been *a full-time doctoral student* at the Department of Primary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts of SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

3. Actuality of the problem of the dissertation work

The problem chosen by Delinesheva is extremely relevant, since the introduction of entrepreneurship as part of technological education at school faces serious challenges arising from the selection of educational content, curricula and plans, educational documentation, the organization of the educational process, the preparation of teachers, educational materials on entrepreneurship, etc. Entrepreneurship training from grades 1 – 4 is a new and relevant topic both for students and teachers, as well as for society as a whole.

4. Structure and content of the dissertation work

The presented dissertation consists of 177 pages, of which 161 pages are text – the main body, 15 pages are bibliography. In addition to the dissertation work, 35 pages are presented in appendices.

Structurally, the dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, contributions, a bibliography, the author's publications on the subject of the dissertation and 7 appendices. The bibliographic reference contains 162 titles (98 sources in Cyrillic and 64 in Latin alphabet). The dissertation contains 25 tables and 27 figures. Magdanela Delinesheva's dissertation is distinguished by a *clear and logically grounded structure*. In the four chapters of the dissertation, the theoretical, methodological and practical-applied aspects of the research problem are successively presented.

In the **introduction**, the author has pointed out the reasons for choosing the topic, its relevance and importance. The **first chapter** of the dissertation examines the scientific and theoretical foundations of entrepreneurship education. An overview of the main approaches in

entrepreneurship education was made, highlighting the philosophical foundations of the pedagogical theory on which constructivism, experiential learning, project and problem-based learning and others are based.

Extremely competently and analytically, the author presents the interpretations of the problem in foreign language literature – various models and scientific theories, introduces terms and definitions reflecting progress in entrepreneurship education. In this chapter, special attention is paid to the goals, scope and used methods of entrepreneurship education in different age groups, emphasizing the opinion of our and foreign authors on this issue.

In the **second chapter**, an analysis of entrepreneurship education in the Bulgarian school is made (historical overview, legal framework, strategic documents defining policies for entrepreneurship education and the challenges it faces). *A very good impression is made by the in-depth theoretical analysis of the syllabuses on technology and entrepreneurship and in particular – the learning outcomes for the topic “Professions and entrepreneurship”* at primary level, with an emphasis on the key competence of initiative and entrepreneurship. As a result of the competently made critical analysis, the author found *insufficient inclusion or absence of important concepts and topics* necessary for building the entrepreneurial competence in children of the studied age group.

The lack of key competencies and concepts that are not included in the curriculum stands out as a serious problem with the content of entrepreneurship education. The absence of a unified theoretical-methodological basis for the essence and goals of entrepreneurship education, which is reflected in the educational documentation, educational content and respectively in primary textbooks. Special attention in the analysis is given to *the problems arising from the training of the pedagogues and the pedagogical competence of primary teachers* in building the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship. *A lack of interest in additional qualification of primary teachers for teaching entrepreneurship is found*, which affects the effectiveness of training. Other problems highlighted by the author are related to *educational materials on entrepreneurship and financial literacy, as well as public attitudes towards entrepreneurship education*, the lack of understanding of its essence and benefits. *I highly appreciate the analytical skills of the doctoral student and the ability to differentiate and highlight problem areas, and subsequently - to propose alternative solutions, based on the adopted research strategy.*

The **third chapter** contains the methodological and methodical characteristics of the study and its conceptual framework. *The parameters of the research are precisely and accurately*

determined – object, subject, goal and tasks, hypothesis and methodology of the research. The proposed didactic technology (with the included activities and methods) is described in concrete steps and presented in Table 9.

The research includes conducting *a preliminary survey, a pedagogical experiment and an expert assessment*. The results of the survey and the theoretical analysis are the basis for the development of the syllabus, teaching materials and didactic technology. The pedagogical experiment was conducted in 3 stages – ascertaining, formative and concluding.

The **fourth chapter** analyses the results of the preliminary survey, the pedagogical experiment and the expert evaluation. The developed system of criteria and indicators is specifically aimed at assessing basic knowledge and skills related to entrepreneurial competence and corresponding to the selected age group.

In the **final part** of the dissertation, conclusions are formulated regarding the effectiveness of the created and tested didactic technology for the development of initiative and entrepreneurship in optional activities. *The results of the conducted research categorically confirm the raised hypothesis.*

5. Scientific, theoretical and applied contributions

The contributions of the dissertation can be summarized as follows:

- ⇒ An in-depth content analysis of the educational documentation, a theoretical and critical analysis of the educational content in technology and entrepreneurship at primary level was made. On this basis, the problem areas are highlighted, and a number of gaps and weaknesses are indicated, with an emphasis on the key competence of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- ⇒ The opinion of teachers regarding the impact of optional entrepreneurship activities on building initiative and entrepreneurship was investigated through a survey;
- ⇒ A didactic technology was developed for building the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship of primary school students in optional activities, and its effectiveness was proven within the framework of the conducted pedagogical research;
- ⇒ Educational content for extended/additional training or interest-based activities, building on the general education subject technology and entrepreneurship in grade 4 was tested;
- ⇒ Methodical guidelines for entrepreneurship training and author's teaching materials for the application of the didactic technology have been developed;
- ⇒ A training programme was developed to increase the qualifications of teachers and their pedagogical competence in teaching entrepreneurship at primary level.

6. Abstract

The abstract consists of 48 pages and was developed in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 5, para. 12 of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". *It summarises the actuality of the problem and reflects the most essential part of the information base, the structure and the results of the conducted research.* The scientific contributions are highlighted, the publications on the topic of the dissertation are presented.

7. Анализ на публикациите по темата на дисертацията и изпълнение на наукометричните изисквания 7. **Analysis of the publications on the subject of the dissertation and fulfillment of the scientometric requirements**

6 publication on the subject of the dissertation (3 co-authored and 3 independent). They are undoubtedly scientific in nature and comprise essential parts of the dissertation research. The author has indicated an additional list of 21 publications close to the subject of the dissertation work. Literary sources are correctly cited and no plagiarism information is detected.

All scientometric requirements necessary to acquire the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" have been met.

8. Personal impressions

I do not have direct personal impressions of the doctoral student, but from the presented CV shows a high level of professional competence, good communication skills acquired during work as a specialist in public and media relations, in non-governmental organizations, as a manager and the experience of development, implementation and management of projects. I am also impressed by her methodological expertise as a trainer for programmes for enhancing the qualification of pedagogical specialists and author of textbooks, teaching aids, methodological guidelines, etc. training materials.

9. Notes and recommendations

Some errors of a technical nature have been detected. For example:

- In the text of the dissertation, from page 93 to page 102, there is some confusion in the paragraph numbers;
- If it is necessary to transfer the tables to a new page, it is good to mark them with "Continuation 1, 2, etc";

In my opinion, the scientific contributions of the dissertation work could be summarized and reduced to a smaller number.

10. Conclusion

In terms of its volume, quality and dissertability, the dissertation work developed by Magdanela Delinesheva fully meets the requirements of the current the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation. Through his work, the author shows high research competence, in-depth knowledge in the chosen scientific field and the ability to carry out independent scientific research.

I support with a **positive evaluation the dissertation submitted for opinion with the conviction** that it contains indisputable contributions of a scientific and applied nature. On the basis of the above-mentioned positive results of the development, **I propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to make a decision that Magdanela Zlatkova Delinesheva acquires the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of (Methodology of home and appliances in kindergarten and primary school).**

08.09. 2022

Opinion prepared by:



(Assoc. Prof. Dr Diana Mitova)