

## OPINION

by Prof. Margarita Hristova Koleva PhD,

member of a scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy - pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age), announced in SG, issue 22 of 16.03.2021

**In the announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", Professional Field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy - pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age) participates 1 (one) candidate - Chief Assistant Galina Georgieva Georgieva PhD, teacher on basic employment contract, Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy, Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts , Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".**

Chief Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD is an established lecturer in the field of preschool pedagogy with a main lecture course in the discipline "Pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age", Educational Qualification Degree "Bachelor" and "Master", in which direction is the announced competition for the academic position of "associate professor". Conducts seminars in pedagogical disciplines and various types of practice of students from the Faculty. She has a higher education degree, Bachelor's Degree, Preschool Pedagogy and Foreign Language and a Master's Degree in the Master's Program in Pedagogy of Mass and Artistic Communication. Since 11.2011 and currently she is a lecturer on Basic Employment Contract at Sofia University, and is successively assistant, senior assistant, chief assistant, "doctor". She speaks German and English.

### **Summarized data on the scientific production and the activity of the candidate**

The candidate chief assistant Galina Georgieva PhD, participates in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" with scientific production and other activities, as follows:

- **Defensive dissertation on the topic:** "Model for the development of mathematical thinking in constructive activity of preschool children. S., 2016.
- **1 - Monograph** - "Mathematical competence in preschool age" Sofia: University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski ", 2020, ISBN 978-954-07-5069-9;
- **1 - a book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of the educational scientific degree "Doctor"** - "Mathematics in children's thinking". Sofia: University Edition "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2020, ISBN 978-954-07-5070-5
- **1 issue - articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information** - "The interactive whiteboard in the pedagogical interaction of preschool children" - Pedagogy magazine. no. 4, 2018, pp. 535-541. ISSN 0861-3982 (Print):ISSN 1314 – 8540 (Online), Ref. Web of Science
- **10** - articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes;
- **1** - studies published in non-peer-reviewed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes;

- 1 - published chapter of a collective monograph;
- 1 - citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or monographs in collective volumes;
- 8 - citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review;
- 9 - participation in a national scientific or educational project;
- 2 - participation in chapters from a book, co-authorship with foreign scientists, peer-reviewed work;
- 35 - 2 times a supervisor and 33 diploma reviewers;
- 9 - textbooks for work in kindergarten, co-authored;
- 9 – participation in conferences, etc.

The review of the provided materials regarding the publishing activity and the scientific recognizability of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD, is the **basis for the conclusion that the national requirements** for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" are met. In addition to the attention of the members of the scientific jury, other **indisputable evidence** supporting the participation of the candidate in the competition was provided.

It is important to note that on the basis of a reference to the study load of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD has the necessary annual workload, of lectures and practical classes, which is essentially in the context of the requirements for announcing the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

In conclusion - the publishing activity, teaching and other academic activities of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD are an indisputable certificate for her sustainable career and scientific development, for her in-depth research and affinity for current issues of pedagogical science related to preschool childhood. This is the essential reason to support her participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

## II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the creative production submitted for participation in the competition

From the reference provided for the opinion on publication activity it is established that Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD is a competent author with interests in current and future issues, primarily focused on preschool pedagogy, and specifically on the pedagogy of mathematics in preschool. A serious indication of the author's achievements in this field is the dissertation of the author, as well as the publications: *Mathematical competence in preschool age. 2020* "" *Mathematics in children's thinking* ". 2020; *Formation of mathematical competence in 5-7-year-old children in the conditions of the kindergarten, 2020; Significance of the game for early mathematics education, 2020; Strategies for developing a sense of numbers in preschool children, 2019; Form - a natural connection between mathematics and fine arts, 2018 and a number of other publications. **Synthesis of the scientific research of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD in this field is the monograph "Mathematical competence in preschool age". It outlines a number of scientific theses, own decisions and positive results of a practical nature** - an in-depth theoretical analysis of the problem was made, an author's, "working" definition of the term "mathematical competence" was proposed, the formation of numerical notions in children was considered as an opportunity to enrich their mathematical competence, the role of the interactive whiteboard was emphasized. learning, etc. Undoubtedly, the research model and specifically the experimental model proposed in the development are innovative. The solution for the development of mathematical competence in preschool children with the help of combined resources -*

interactive display and manipulation of various constructive material is of a contributing nature to preschool pedagogy.

In the range of scientific research of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD is the conceptual connection between the development of children's mathematical thinking and the activities of construction and technology, carried out in the educational environment in the children's group. This research orientation of the author and the respective practical solutions are an interesting and significant approach, given the children's interests in interactive and constructive activities.

The importance of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD in practical terms is demonstrated through a developed system of tasks and exercises that develop key mathematical knowledge and skills of children before entering first grade, as well as mathematical tasks, exercises and games for basic and additional pedagogical situations, included in the cognitive series "Wonderful World" and textbook "Hedgehog and Numbers".

An important place in the scientific work of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD occupy publications dedicated to the role of the Interactive Board as an innovative tool in the process of pedagogical interaction with preschool children; the competence approach as an opportunity to master mathematical knowledge, skills and ideas; the role of play in early math learning; strategies for developing a sense of numbers; the form, as a natural connection between mathematics and fine arts, etc. The problems of higher education are also commented and specifically the advantages of the mixed type of education with students from pedagogical specialties at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, etc.

In fact, it is on the basis of the panel "scientific theses, methodological interpretations, solutions for practice and transfer in a real pedagogical situation" is the significance of the scientific work of Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD. The interpretation of each more general or more specific problem is in the context of a series of factors, which determines the value of the achieved scientific results. I accept this and a number of other findings as a serious reason for the author's participation in the competition for the **academic position of "Associate Professor"**.

**I accept without remarks those derived from Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva PhD scientific contributions. I would focus on:**

The necessity and possibility for development of the mathematical thinking and the mathematical competence of the child from preschool age on the basis of his participation in interactive and constructive activities is proved.

- A Model for pedagogical interaction has been developed and tested, oriented towards the development of mathematical thinking and mathematical competence of the preschool child and functioning as a system with combined resources - interactive display and manipulation of various constructive material.
- A system of tasks and exercises has been developed and tested, developing key mathematical knowledge and skills of children in terms of age before entering the first grade.
- Mathematical problems, exercises and games for conducting basic and additional pedagogical situations have been developed and offered for the practice in the kindergarten through a cognitive series "Wonderful World" and a textbook "Hedgehog and Numbers".
- Electronic courses for mixed type of training of students from pedagogical specialties in the Moodle system have been developed, and the specifics for their implementation are presented.

### **Critical remarks and recommendations.**


*I have no critical remarks. I recommend to the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" Chief Assistant. Galina Georgieva PhD to still actively and with interest in innovation to discover, research and propose solutions to current and dynamic pedagogical problems, primarily related to the development of mathematical thinking and competence of preschool children.*

### **Conclusion.**

I give a high assessment of the presented for opinion scientific production, recognition and teaching activity of the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" Chief Assistant Galina Georgieva, PhD.

On the basis of the available indisputable grounds and evidence, I am voting with "Yes" for the election of **Ch. Assistant Galina Georgieva, PhD to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor" in a professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy - Pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age).**

Date: 13.06.21

Member of the scientific jury:  .....

/Prof. Margarita Koleva PhD/