

STATEMENT

by Prof. Rozalina Engels-Kritidis, D.Sc.
member of the scientific jury

appointed with Order № RD 38-177 dated 06 Apr 2021
of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

regarding competition for appointment to academic position “Assoc. Professor”
of professional category **1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Pedagogy of Child-
Environment Interaction)**,

announced in National Gazzette, issue 22 dated 16 Mar 2021

Sole candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the competition:
Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD

1. Accuracy of submitted documentation and compliance with effective regulations.

The documentation submitted for the competition is well-prepared and allows for complete quantitative and qualitative evaluation as per the requirements of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the law’s application, as well as the Regulations of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

2. Biographical data of the candidate: education and academic experience.

Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD completed her Bachelor’s degree on “Preschool and Primary School Education” (2002) and Master’s degree on “Continuity in educational structures – adaptation and development” (2004) in the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. In 2016, once again in Sofia University, Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova successfully defended her doctoral thesis in the field of professional category 1.2. Pedagogy, titled “Mastering key competencies in childhood through an interactive technological model of education”.

During the period 2005-2010, Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova is a full-time assistant on the Methodic of Education on “Motherland”, “The Environment”, “People and Society”, and “People and Nature” in the Department of Methodic of Education in the Department for Information and In-Service Training of Teachers, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

During the period 2010-2016, Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova is a full-time assistant in the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy of the Faculty of Educational Studies and

the Arts, Sofia University where, in addition to leading seminars and practical exercises in the courses on “Pedagogy of Child-Environment Interaction”, “Preschool Pedagogy”, “Pedagogy of Language Acquisition and Speech Development”, “Educational Technologies in Preschool Education”, and “Animation and Design for Children”, she has also coordinated and evaluated ongoing and official pedagogical practices.

Since 2018, Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova is a Chief Assistant of 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Pedagogy of Child-Environment Interaction) in the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

In conclusion, it can be summarized that the academic experience of Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD, is directly and intrinsically tied to the field of the present competition, both as a duration in time and as a variety of academic courses led.

3. Evaluation of submitted documentation according to scientific metrics for acquisition of the academic position of “Assoc. Professor”.

Regarding quantity measurement related to the separate groups of criteria, taking into account all submitted works on the subject of the competition, *the candidate fulfils the scientific metric requirements for acquisition of the academic position of Assoc. Professor*, as follows:

Criteria	Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova
	<i>Number of points</i>
Criteria Group A	50
Criteria Group V(B)	100
Criteria Group G(Γ)	310
Criteria Group D(Δ)	165
Total number of points	625

In addition, even though it is not evident in the scientific metrics for the academic position of Assoc. Professor, it is important to highlight the enormous amount of productive work by Chief Assistant Magdalena Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD, connected with her participation in the development of program systems for preschool education, as well as the numerous interactive training sessions she has held with teachers in this aspect.

4. General review of the works submitted for participation in the competition.

Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD, has submitted for participation in this competition 12 scientific works: 1 monographic habilitation work, 1

monograph not presented as a main habilitation work, 1 monograph based on defended dissertation for educational-scientific level of “Doctor”, 2 chapters in collective monographs in English language, 1 article in an indexed scientific publication, 5 articles and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in collected editions, and 1 study published in the Annual Yearbook of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts.

The content and thematic field of the works of Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD, is intrinsically tied to the exact subject of the competition and the educational content of the future academic disciplines which the selected candidate will lead.

In the context of the specifics of the competition, I consider it important to highlight the habilitation work of Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD – “Education in Sustainable Development and the Child-Environment Interaction”, which presents an original technological model, developed and integrated into the students’ practical preparation, for integration of education in sustainable development into the pedagogy of the child-environment interaction. There are arguments supporting the study of environmental-scientific competences as a complex of knowledge/understanding, skills and attitudes that are achieved specifically through the additional activities in the child-environment interaction. There is a critical analysis of the main regulatory documents: Directive №13 for the Civil, Health, Ecological and Intercultural Education (2016), Directive № 5 for the State Educational Standards for Preschool Education, where the educational kernel of “The Nature World and its Protection” is connected with the additional activities in preschool education, based mainly on informal contacts during interaction. The monograph is structured, with an introduction, six chapters, conclusion, literature and appendices, comprising a total of 261 pages.

5. Highlighting the contribution elements in the scientific-research activity of the candidate.

The very precise, detailed, and exact definition of the scientific contributions of the candidate makes a strong impression – proof of a clear, reflective and objective scientific-research vision and self-evaluation.

I would like to highlight the following key contribution elements in the scientific works submitted for participation in the competition by **Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD**:

- A study and systematization of classic and contemporary concepts and research on the issues of education in sustainable development during childhood in the context of developing the necessity of expanding the issues of “Pedagogy of Child-Environment

Interaction” in the scheme of preschool education, social education and play.

- An analysis in a comparative plan of the arguments for the importance of the connection between education in sustainable development and ecological education during childhood.

- The “competence-competences” connection is proven by projecting it into a theoretical-model plan for development of a system of fundamental competences, integrated into specific pedagogical situations in the scheme of mastering nature-scientific knowledge, skills and attitudes.

- The development and approbation of three experimental models for realization of ecological education in preschool education and preparation of teachers/students.

- The experimental study of pedagogical innovation and reflection towards getting to know the environment in the professional pedagogical preparation, which changes the positive evaluation of interactive technologies and gives birth to a higher level of self-evaluation on the key aspects of nature-scientific competences.

- The conduct of empirical study to prove that pedagogues can subjectively evaluate innovation, reflexivity and conceptual nature, i.e. in the context of transforming of innovations and their internalizing in competences of innovation combined with reflexivity.

- The nature-friendly effect in preschool education is viewed as a union of attitude mechanisms and competences of children for interacting with nature, as well as an attitude of teachers toward innovation and its realization as a priority of in-service education and their scientific searches.

- A harmonization of the field of relationships between child and nature, in unity with the development of its self-improvement and self-actualization.

- The derivation of significant and important correlations in the qualifications of pedagogical specialists with the child-nature interaction in the direction of the sources in educational spaces for additional activities, which are confirmed as significant in a different ratio between students and teachers.

- The developed variative technological models have been extensively applied in the practice of preschool education.

It is clear that the contribution elements highlighted in the scientific production of **Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD** in their entirety are closely related to development of scientific results namely in the specific field given in the competition title (*Preschool Pedagogy – Pedagogy of Child-Environment Interaction*).

CONCLUSION-EVALUATION:

Bearing in mind everything highlighted above, I firmly support the candidacy of **Chief Assistant Magdalena Dimitrova Gyurova-Stoyanova, PhD** for acquiring the academic position of “Assoc. Professor” in professional category **1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Pedagogy of Child-Environment Interaction)** in the competition announced in National Gazzette, issue 22 dated 16 Mar 2021, for the needs of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and **I confidently recommend selecting her for the academic position of “Assoc. Professor”**, stating my categorically positive evaluation and vote in support of her candidacy.

19 Jun 2021

Prof. Rozalina Engels-Kritidis, D.Sc.
member of the Scientific Selection Jury