



REVIEW

of a dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of ... Doctoral programme “Methodology of home and appliances in kindergarten and primary school”

entitled: “**DIDACTIC TECHNOLOGY FOR BUILDING THE SENSE OF INITIATIVE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH ELECTIVE ACTIVITIES IN TECHNOLOGIES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PRIMARY SCHOOL**”

Author: **Magdalena Zlatkova Delinesheva**, doctoral student at the Department of Primary School Pedagogy at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Reviewer: **Prof. DrSc Neli Dimitrova**, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of ... (Technology education), Faculty of Pedagogy of Shumen University “Konstantin Preslavski”

1. Brief biographical data for the doctoral candidate

Magdalena Zlatkova Delinesheva completed her education in 1991 at Veliko Tarnovo University “Sts. Cyril and Methodius”, Veliko Tarnovo, Faculty of Philology, majoring in Bulgarian language and literature and English language and literature and acquired the educational and qualification degree of Master. In 1993 she obtained a certificate in the Theory and Methodology of Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TESOL) through Eurolink Distance Learning Courses, Sheffield, England. In 2000, she obtained a diploma for higher education in Marketing at the educational and qualification degree of Bachelor and professional qualification Economist at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Veliko Tarnovo “Sts. Cyril and Methodius, acquiring skills in micro- and macroeconomics, entrepreneurship, business communications, marketing management, strategic marketing, marketing research, statistics, etc. Since July 2018, she has continued as a full-time doctoral student in technologies and entrepreneurship at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

2. General description of the dissertation work and the attached materials

The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, references and appendices. The work is of 332 pages, of which 161 pages of the main body, 15 pages of bibliography and 156 pages of appendices. The references include 162 titles, of which 98 sources are in Cyrillic and 64 are in Latin alphabet. There are 7 appendices. The graphic layout of the main text includes 25 tables and 27 figures.

3. Actuality and significance of the dissertation work

The dissertation work of Magdanela Delinesheva is dedicated to a current problem related to the development of initiative and entrepreneurship in elective activities on technology and entrepreneurship in primary grades. This is a problem that is present in educational standards not only in our country, but also in the world. These key competences – initiative and entrepreneurship – determine the place of entrepreneurship training in general education, introduced with the Preschool and School Education Act (PSEA) in 2016. This is how the subject home and appliances is transformed at primary level introducing concepts from the field of economics, financial literacy and career guidance in the subject of technologies and entrepreneurship. With the dissertation, the doctoral student Magdanela Delinesheva presents and implements a technology of entrepreneurship education at primary level, which has a strong impact on all spheres of social and economic life. Through the study of entrepreneurship, qualities and skills necessary for the implementation of successful entrepreneurial activity are developed, which leads to the successful fulfilment of every person in the modern, dynamically developing society.

4. Research methodology

The doctoral student Magdanela Delinesheva has skilfully chosen the research methods, which are: conducted survey, pedagogical experiment and expert evaluation.

In order to achieve the aim of the dissertation, Magdanela Delinesheva has conducted a survey on the opinions and attitudes of primary teachers towards entrepreneurship education, on the basis of which she has developed a model of didactic technology, which also includes educational materials for entrepreneurship education as an interest-based activity in grades 3 and 4. To test the model of the didactic technology, the doctoral student has conducted three experiments – an ascertaining experiment to establish the entry level of the studied experimental and control groups, a formative experiment – training using the developed author's model and a final experiment to establish the exit level, and has carried out an expert evaluation. **The pedagogical research conducted in this way**

fully meets the criteria for a dissertation work and clearly shows the contributions of the doctoral student.

5. Characteristic and evaluation of the dissertation work

The main body of the dissertation is presented in four chapters in proper proportions.

The *first chapter* examines the scientific and theoretical foundations of entrepreneurship education. Magdanela Delinesheva skilfully presents the essence of entrepreneurship as a social and economic phenomenon and the essence of entrepreneurship education. An overview of the main approaches to entrepreneurship education is made, highlighting the philosophical foundations of the pedagogical theory on which they stand – progressive education, constructivism, experiential learning, project-based and problem-based learning, etc., **which is a contribution of the doctoral student.**

In the *second chapter*, the doctoral student examines the entrepreneurship education at primary level of the Bulgarian school, making a brief overview of its development after 1990; examines the strategic and legal documents defining the policy framework for entrepreneurship education in the Bulgarian school and highlights the challenges faced by it.

In the *third chapter* of the dissertation, the author's didactic technology for building initiative and entrepreneurship at primary level is presented, which has also been tested, which is **an original author's contribution of the doctoral student.**

The methodological characteristics of the research are presented, as the aim, objectives, object, subject and hypothesis are adequately structured and correspond to the problem explored by Magdanela Delinesheva in her dissertation.

The *fourth chapter* presents the analysis of the results of the pedagogical research, which is based on a preliminary survey, the pedagogical experiment and the expert evaluation of teachers.

Structured and organized in this way, the dissertation presents an in-depth study of the problem of the development of initiative and entrepreneurship in elective activities on technologies and entrepreneurship in primary grades, which must undoubtedly be implemented in the educational process.

6. Scientific contributions of the dissertation

In her dissertation work, Magdanela Delinesheva **accurately defines and highlights the scientific contributions**, which are:

1. Mapping of the educational documentation on technologies and entrepreneurship against the European Entrepreneurship Competence Framework, as a result of which the existing gaps and weaknesses have been identified and the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the age group

have been derived. The mapping can serve as a basis for future revision of the educational documentation.

2. Based on the mapping, a concept for the content of entrepreneurship education at primary level has been developed, reflected in the author's syllabus and tested within the framework of the pedagogical experiment.

3. An author's didactic technology for entrepreneurship training has been created and tested, which has a proven positive impact on the development of initiative and entrepreneurship among students grade 4, established on the basis of the pedagogical experiment conducted in 2021.

4. An author's teaching toolkit has been created and published, including the book *Small Stories for Entrepreneurs* and worksheets to it, through which the didactic technology is implemented.

5. Criteria and indicators have been developed for assessing the knowledge and skills related to the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship as a key competence.

6. Methodological guidelines for teaching entrepreneurship through the application of the didactic technology have been developed, containing an information base for the included economic topics and concepts.

7. Development and implementation of an author's training programme to increase the qualifications of teachers and their pedagogical competence in teaching entrepreneurship at primary level.

7. Publications

The publications related to the dissertation work are far above the required number according to the minimum national requirements. This indicates that Magdanela Delinesheva has very well popularised the problem explored in the dissertation work.

8. Recommendations

My recommendations to Magdanela Delinesheva are rather in the aspect of promoting the significant contribution beyond the borders of Bulgaria, bearing in mind the foreign language skills. The experimentally proven results should be promoted among colleagues abroad.

9. Personal impressions

Magdanela Delinesheva is a person with recognised professional qualities at home and abroad. Her development is a progression of her competences in the field of entrepreneurship. She is a colleague who can be relied on both professionally and ethically as well as on purely human basis. She is an example of tolerance.

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, I consider that the presented dissertation corresponds to the requirements for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”. I express my positive opinion and propose to the members of the Scientific Jury that **Magdalena Zlatkova Delinesheva be awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of ..., Doctoral programme “Methodology of home and appliances in kindergarten and primary school”.**

17.09.2022

Reviewer: 

/Prof. DSc Neli Dimitrova/