



STANDPOINT

by **Prof. DSc Julia Georgieva Doncheva**

‘Angel Kanchev’ University of Rousse

regarding the materials of doctoral student *Panagiotis-Christos Trichas*, for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, by professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy - Special pedagogy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts with the topic of the dissertation: "*Teaching mathematics to students with mild mental retardation in the high school stage of education*".

Data, finding and assessment of the competition procedure, the doctoral studies, the dissertation, the abstract and the publications for the competition.

1. Compliance of the procedure with the current regulations. Data on the competition and doctoral studies - On the basis of Art. 4, para. 1 and 2 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 2, para. 1 and para. 2, Art. 30, para. 3, Art. 31, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and on the basis of Order No. RD-38-222 of 28.04.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University, PhD student Panagiotis-Christos Trichas, has been dismissed with the right of defense with positive decision of the primary readiness unit and its procedure is opened. A move has been made to defend the dissertation. All preliminary legal and regulatory rules provided for in this procedure have been complied with.



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

From the presented CV, Prima Vista's continuous desire, aspiration and realization towards training, self-improvement and provoking new academic achievements of the doctoral student is impressive. Since 2008 – bachelor's degree; 2010 – certified training in Special Education; 2012 – master's degree; 2022 - second master's degree, etc. until enrollment in full-time doctoral studies in the Department of "Special Pedagogy" in the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Until now, he works in the field of special pedagogy and education in his homeland - Greece. Fluent in two languages. He has the skills and competencies he needs to work with children, adults and learners.

3. Actuality of the issues of the dissertation work.

I will express the relevance in the short expression: Every single research, theoretical, practical or practical-applied, related to interaction, development and progress of children/students with special educational needs is relevant, because it complements and superimposes the information bank for effective work with them, with the teachers and with their parents. Nowadays, this information is extremely necessary for all target groups, therefore it should be popularized and multiplied, and not remain in the paper pages of the scientific work. The protocol from Report Strikeplagiarism unequivocally proves the authenticity and also the actuality - the scientific developments on the subject are not many, which even to date shows that they are insufficient. The scientific supervisor of the doctoral student, Prof. DSc Milen Zamfirov, deserves admiration, who brought this difficult topic to completion, both as an object and subject, and as a research methodology, congratulations!



4. Structure and content of the dissertation.

Dissertation Data - The content of the research paper covers an introduction and five chapters. The note has a total volume of 192 pages, of which 186 are active text. The literature is exposed on 6 pages of modern titles on the subject, from which Latin sources and WEB-based electronic trajectories, as well as normative documents concerning scientific research). A general conclusion is drawn. The hypothesis is confirmed. Getting acquainted with the development of the scientific work, one can clearly conclude that the doctoral student's knowledge of the issues is a fact. Research work is based on discovery, application and verification, which makes it not only dissertable, but also developable, looking from the deep past, into the present, and forward into the future. Panagiotis - Christos Trichas traces these searches throughout the scientific work.

5. Scientific theoretical and practical contributions.

Content and assessment of scientific contributions - Doctoral student Panagiotis - Christos Trichas brings out main contributions, as well as conclusions that correspond and color the dissertation research. They are presented clearly, correctly and above all, which is extremely important, with a focus on application in real practice. They cover the whole process from the seed to its successful finalization, with accompanying arguments, giving the impression of a researcher responsible and committed to the current research, development and mathematics education of students with mild mental retardation in the high school stage of education. Summarizing the mandatory part of the opinion about the contribution points of the scientific work, I will note that developments of this kind, especially concerning the development and education of children and students with SEN, should find a place in the scientific literature so that pedagogical, non-pedagogical specialists, experts, those interested in the issue, and parents as well, to find their answers.



6. Auto-reference data.

The abstract, with a total volume of 65 pages, of which one page is the publications on the subject and 6 pages is the Bibliography. The 58 pages of active text meet all the standard requirements for a synthesized and adequate, analytical-systematic development of the primary document, the scientific text, as well as the objective reflection of the content of the dissertation research. The structure, conclusions and scientific contributions of the scientific work are followed. The scientific and technical requirements for the design and presentation of it in the paper version and in the digital form as an online publication have been met. The correctness is visible, the scientific value of the scientific work has been analyzed, as well as the quantitative data according to the normative requirements in the national and intra-institutional laws and regulations. I state with satisfaction that no violations have been committed regarding the compliance of the dissertation and the originality of the work with the requirements of LDASRB, the Regulations for it, the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the institution's internal rules.

7. Publications on the topic of the dissertation (content and fulfillment of scientometric requirements).

7.1. Publication data. The dissertation student presents 5 (five) publications on the topic of scientific research, published in the period 2019-2022. Four of them are independent, one is co-authored with the scientific supervisor. Their content is adequate and corresponds to the dissertation, both as a stage and as a continuum.

7.2. Assessment of conformity of the scientific production according to the requirements of LDAS: The doctoral student participates with the following scientific production, related to the Scientometric criteria for the minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activity of the candidates for



acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions, Department 1. Pedagogical Sciences, as follows:

- *Dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor", Group A, Indicator 1* → **50 points**.

- *Group D 7. Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes: 4 number of independent x 10 points = 40 points;*

1 issue in co-authorship x 5 points = 10 points.

Publications - a total of 5, independent and co-authored, published in the period from 2019 to 2022. Total number of points according to the Publications indicator = **50 points**.

Total number of points for indicators from groups A and D = **100 points**.

From here, it can be categorically summarized that the sum of the indicators of the respective groups **fully meets** the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of LDASRB and Art. 1a, paragraph 1 of the RILDASRB and, accordingly, according to Art. 24, para. 1 of the Regulations for the implementation of LDASRB (for the educational and scientific degree "doctor") for area 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy - Special pedagogy.

8. Personal impressions.

I do not personally know my colleague Panagiotis - Christos Trichas, but judging by the scientific production - dissertation, abstract and publications submitted for participation in the competition, I can state that together, under the extremely professional and competent guidance of my scientific supervisor, Prof. DSc Milen Zamfirov, is a finalized scientific work, the subject of which is particularly significant, current and, I would say, a step ahead of its time,



containing no significant weaknesses that would detract from its merits.
Congratulations!

9. Notes, recommendations and questions.

As a recommendation, I can point out the following: it is good for the doctoral student to expand her participation in national and international educational projects. That is, to have an aspiration for/to popularize the results of the research activity in publications, conferences, scientific meetings, etc.

Questions:

- Can your research be applied on a wider scale, like national, for example? Specify, in your opinion, the difficulties, the factors that would prevent the mass implementation of your concept?

- How do you generally see the application of the development, in your future specific work (from here on, how will you develop him/her)?

10. Conclusion - Doctoral student Panagiotis - Christos Trichas has fulfilled his obligations arising from the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, the Regulations of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", as well as the obligations under the corresponding individual study plan of the doctoral student, that is, it meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of LDASRB and Art. 1a, paragraph 1 of RILDASR. The form and content of the dissertation meet the requirements of Art. 27 of RILDASRB, all administrative procedures have been followed.

Bearing in mind the above, I confidently give my *positive assessment* of the conducted research, presented in the dissertation work, the abstract, the achieved results and contributions.



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I declare *my positive vote for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"/PhD to Panagiotis - Christos Trichas* from professional field 1.2. Pedagogy - Special pedagogy, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences.

Prepared the opinion, as a member of the scientific jury:

(Prof. DSc Julia Doncheva)

05.06.2023

