



STANDPOINT

by **Prof. Ph.D. Yuliya Georgieva Doncheva, PhD**

Angel Kanchev University of Rousse

regarding the materials of doctoral candidate *Maria Filippou Manarioti*, 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), with supervisor Prof. PhD. Neda Zlatinova Balkanska, at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts with the topic of the dissertation: "*Using information and communication technologies in the education of students with ADHD in Greek*".

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 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (promulgated SG No. 38 of 21.05.2010, amended by SG No. 81 of 15.10.2010, amended by SG No. 101 of 28.12.2010; amendment No. 68 of 02.08.2013, in force from 02.08.2013; amendment and supplement, No. 30 of 04.03.2018, in force from 05.05.2018 d.), decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts dated 12.12.2023, Protocol No. 16 and on the basis of Order No. RD-38-661 of 18.12.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University, full-time doctoral student Maria Filippou Manarioti was dismissed with the right of defense with a positive decision of the primary readiness unit and is her procedure 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.).

In summary form, it is evident from the presented resume that the educational qualification, academic growth and upgrading of the doctoral student is very active and dynamic. From 2005 to 2018, she systematically and purposefully increased her competences. Here I will present only a part of them, namely *Education and qualification*:

28/06/2005: German Degree: Zertifikat Deutsch of the Goethe Institute.

2005-2008: General Lyceum Certificate (Grade: 19.1).

2008- 2012: Bachelor's degree in the Department of Primary Education - Democritus University of Thrace (Grade: 8.28, Very Good). Date of completion: 15/6/2012.

23/08/12: Certified Computer User (CCU by ACTA).

22/01/2015: Postgraduate Diploma in Education Sciences - Special Education (University of Nicosia).

30/06/15: Knowledge of the Braille Blind Writing and Reading System by the center for the education and rehabilitation of blind people in Thessaloniki.

01/09/2018: English Proficiency Degree: LRN Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (CEF C2).

In addition, it also presents numerous certificates, participation in seminars, projects, activities and activities with a wide range of topics, but the basis is the fundamental competences in Special Pedagogy. The continuous desire, aspiration and realization towards training, self-improvement and provoking new academic achievements of the doctoral student is impressive, such as the last one so far, namely the educational and scientific degree doctor (PhD).

3. Actuality of the issues of the dissertation work.



The relevance of the topic "Using information and communication technologies in the teaching of students with ADHD in Greek" is related to a number of factors, including:

- **Increasing the accessibility of information and communication technologies (ICT) in Bulgaria.** Nowadays, computers, tablets and smartphones are widespread and accessible to most people. This makes it possible to use them in education as well, including for teaching students with ADHD.

- **The positive impact of ICT on the development of students with ADHD.** ICT can help improve the concentration, attention and communication skills of students with ADHD. They can be used to individualize learning, provide feedback, and create a more fun and interesting learning environment.

- **The need for support for students with ADHD in the learning process.** Students with ADHD often experience learning difficulties, which can negatively affect their performance. ICT can be used to provide additional support and facilitate the success of these students.

In Bulgaria, there are a number of initiatives for the use of ICT in education, including the education of students with ADHD. For example, the Ministry of Education and Science finances projects to develop electronic learning materials and to train teachers on the use of ICT in education.

As always, the scientific supervisor of the doctoral student, Prof. Dr. Neda Balkanska, a nationally and internationally recognized scientist, finds the most relevant, the most valuable, the most modern, and in this case mentoring, bringing this difficult subject to completion, both as an object and subject matter as well as research methodology and finalizing this scientific work to a pinnacle that is a model for all budding scientists! In addition, any research, theoretical, practical or practical-applied, related to children and persons with special educational needs (in the case of SEN) carries the potential, complements and superimposes the

information bank for the effective work to develop and advance interactions and relationships for all target groups. In modern times, this information is of extreme necessity, therefore it should be popularized and multiplied, and not remain in the paper pages of the scientific work. Congratulations!

4. Structure and content of the dissertation work. Dissertation data -

The dissertation has a volume of 211 pages, of which 139 pages are the active text, followed by Publications on the subject and Appendices. Its structure includes an Introduction, Four Chapters (*Chapter One* - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – definition, therapy and education, *Chapter Two* – Contemporary trends in the education of students with ADHD, *Chapter Three* – Research methodology, *Chapter Four* – Analysis of the results). Conclusion and Contributions. The bibliography includes 184 titles, sources and internet resources in Latin. Included are an impressive volume of Applications.

5. Scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions.

Content and assessment of scientific contributions - Doctoral student Maria Manarioti brings out 6 (three main ones) as well as a conclusion and conclusions that correspond and color the dissertation research. I accept her wording, supplementing them as follows:

- Multimedia materials such as special resources, videos, audio files, and *interactive applications can help keep students with ADHD engaged and focused. Using multimedia materials to improve concentration and attention.*

- ICT can be used to create individualized learning programs to meet the individual needs of students with ADHD. *Use of individualized training programs.*

- ICT can be used to provide real-time feedback to students with SEN, helping them to improve their performance. *Using feedback to improve self-presentation.*

- ICT can be used to create fun and interactive activities to stimulate the interest of students with ADHD and motivate them to learn. *Using fun and interactive activities to stimulate interest.*

The use of ICT in the education of students with ADHD can have a number of positive effects, including:

- Improved concentration and attention.
- Increased performance in the learning process.
- Development of communication skills.
- Reducing stress and anxiety.
- ICT can be used to improve the learning and success of these students in general.
- And other.

Summarizing the mandatory part of the opinion about the contributing moments of the scientific work, I will note that developments of this kind should find a place in the scientific literature so that pedagogical, non-pedagogical specialists, experts interested in the issue, here specifically and for parents as well, can find their answers.

6. Data on the auto-reference. The abstract, with a total volume of 50 pages, of which one page "Scientific contributions" and one page for the publications on the topic (6 in number) 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 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 6 (six) publications on the topic of scientific research, published in the period 2020-2021. All are independent. 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 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: 6 number of independent x 10 points = 60 points;*

Publications - a **total of 6 issues**, independent, published in the period from 2020 to 2021. **Total number** of points according to the Publications indicator = **60 points**.

Total number of points for indicators from groups A and D = **110 points**.

From here, it can be categorically summarized that the sum of the indicators of the respective groups **fully meets**, exceeding many times, 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 know Maria Filippas Manarioti personally, 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. PhD Neda Balkanska, 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 international educational projects. That is, there should be an effort to/to popularize the results of the research activity in publications, conferences, scientific meetings, etc., so that the results that are really significant are heard, visible and recognizable.

Questions:



- Can your model 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 Maria Filippov Manarioti has fulfilled her 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 the 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 RILDASRB. 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.

I declare *my positive vote for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Maria Filippov Manarioti* 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. Yuliya Doncheva, PhD)

09.01.2024