

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr Milen Zamfirov, DSc

on dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special Pedagogy)

dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "PhD"

Doctoral Programme in Special Pedagogy

Author: Maria Alexakudi

Subject: The participation of children with intellectual disabilities in the development of social inclusion

Scientific supervisor: Katerina Karadjova, PhD, professor at the University of St. Kliment Ohridski

1.Compliance of the procedure with the current legislation

Maria Alexakudi has complied with all the regulatory documents related to passing the specialty examinations, passing the PhD examinations of her curriculum, attestation and graduation with the right to defend and successfully passing the preliminary defence.

By order RD-38-58/ 29.01.2024 of the Rector of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for providing a pro-procedure for the defense of the dissertation on the topic "Social inclusion of students with mental disabilities through extracurricular activities" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 1.2. Special Pedagogy, doctoral programme Special Pedagogy.

The author of the dissertation is Maria Alek-Sakudi - PhD student at the Department of Special Pedagogy, with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Katerina Karadzova from Sofia University "St. Petersburg". Kliment Ohridski"

The set of materials submitted by Maria Aleksakudi on paper includes the following documents:

- a request to the Rector of the University of Sofia to disclose the procedure for the defense of the dissertation;
- CV in European format;
- the minutes of the departmental council related to the reporting of the readiness for the opening of the procedure and the preliminary discussion of the thesis;
- dissertation;
- abstract;
- list of scientific publications on the subject of the thesis;
- copies of the scientific publications;
- list of citations;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

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

Maria Alexakoudi graduated with a Master's degree in Agri-culture from the Universitat Democritus - Orestiada, Greece. She also holds a Master's degree in Specific Pedagogy from the University Degli Studi di RomaRome, Italy. She is currently working at the Ministry of Education in Greece as a Special Educator.

3. Relevance of the dissertation problems

The topic of the social inclusion of students with mental disabilities through extracurricular activities is topical not for any other reason, but for the fact that non-formal education, which includes extracurricular activities, is becoming a subject of increasing interest and research. Studies that have not been so intense over the years.

It is safe to say that academic achievement in school is important, both for the self-esteem of the mentally handicapped student and for their parents. It also brings in quite a large element of much-needed independence for the mentally retarded.

The rest of the independent development of the mentally retarded falls on social inclusion. Because what's the point if you are literate but have no social environment?

4. Structure and content of the dissertation

The dissertation consists of three chapters.

The first chapter provides a literature review, providing an overview of the social integration of students with intellectual disabilities in out-of-class activities.

The second chapter discusses the research design.

The hypothesis has six sub-hypotheses, which seems to me completely redundant.

There are six research tasks.

The participants of the study are 22 secondary school students and 8 teachers from different subject areas.

Chapter three analyses the results. Statistical processing has been performed and the results are illustrated in charts and tables.

5. Scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions

The contributions are related to the application of teacher-training programs, informing and implementing innovative practices related to out-of-school activities for students with mental disabilities.

6. Abstract.

The text of the abstract faithfully reflects the content of the thesis.

7. Publications on the topic of the dissertation (content and fulfillment of the scientific-metric requirements).

The number of publications meets the minimum national requirements for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

8. Personal impressions.

I have no impressions of the doctoral candidate.

9. Comments, recommendations and questions

I have no comments and recommendations.

I have the following question: what prerequisites are necessary for the full social inclusion of persons with mental retardation?

10. Conclusion

The dissertation work of Maria Alexakudi meets all the conditions and requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science under the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the PPPAS and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of Sofia University "St. Kl. 2. Pedagogy - Special Pedagogy.

Sofia, April, 2024

Prof. Dr Milen Zamfirov, DSc