

## **STATEMENT**

by Prof. Nikolay Stoyanov Kulishev, D. Sc.

on the theoretical and practical contributions in the publications of Assistant Professor Dr. Alexander Ivanov Ranev, participant in a competition for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education

1. 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2.

1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education)

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### **I. Biographical Info**

Assistant Professor Dr. Alexander Ranev was born on 13.09.1973. In 2002 he graduated in Pedagogy from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2004 he completed a master's program in management in education, and in 2010 he defended a doctoral thesis on "The Master as a Manager in Education" at the same university.

The work experience of Assistant Professor Dr. Alexander Ranev began in 2001 with work in the Sofia Library as a host. In the period 2004 – 2006 he worked as an educator at the Special Secondary School for Children with Hearing Impairments "Prof. Decho Denev". In 2005, after winning a competition, he began training in full-time doctoral studies at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" In the period 2008 – 2010 he was a project manager at Partners-Bulgaria Foundation. From 2010 to 2011 he was a psychologist at the Protected Home "Together". Since 2011 he has been a lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

### **II. General characteristics of scientific production.**

The candidate has submitted for peer review scientific output in a volume of 14 publications, including 1 monograph, 1 monograph that is not presented as a major habilitation work, 4 articles and reports published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 4 articles and reports published in unreferenced journals with scientific peer-review or published in edited scientific volumes, 3 studies published in unreferenced journals with scientific peer-review or published in edited scientific volumes, 1 chapter of a collective monograph.

The candidate's publications can be grouped in the following thematic areas: 1) work with children with challenging behavior – 3 publications; 2) the pedagogical views of Peter Deunov – 3 publications; 3) class management – 2 publications; 4) educational practices in the social service “supervised housing” – 3 publications; 5) student attitudes for career development in the socio-pedagogical sphere – 1 publication; 6) mediation in the social service for adults – 2 publications.

In the candidate's habilitation work “Positive Upbringing and Behavioral Change” an approach based on the theory and practice of positively oriented upbringing has been developed. The author convincingly proves the hypothesis that challenging behavior is a consequence of many factors related to both the individuality of the child and the cultural features and resources in his environment.

As common characteristics for all presented publications, we can highlight the following: the actuality of the subject matter; logical structure; precision in the definition and use of basic concepts; competent systematization and analysis of significant literary sources; justification of productive practical ideas; highly professional language and style of exposition.

### **I. Evaluation of scientific and theoretical contributions.**

The scientific and theoretical contributions made by the applicant in the field of communication and intercultural competence correspond to the content of the submitted publications and speak of a good level of professional reflection. As particularly important for educational theory, I would point out the following contributions:

1. An effective approach for working with children with challenging (problematic) behavior has been developed and experimentally tested, based on the theoretical points and the practical toolkit of the positively oriented upbringing.
2. Theoretically, the division of the functions of the behavior into two with the introduction of the clarifying concepts of "primary function" and "depth function" is convincingly argued.
3. An in-depth theoretical analysis of the development and application of Peter Deunov's pedagogical views in modern education has been carried out, in the context of which his original pedagogical ideas and their modern practical

projections are successfully combined. Valuable theoretical comparisons have been made between the pedagogy of Peter Deunov and classical pedagogical systems, such as the Waldorf pedagogy and the pedagogy of Maria Montessori.

4. Regarding the methods of upbringing, the argumentation of mediation as a practical educational method deserves attention.

## **II. Evaluation of the practical and applied contributions.**

The content of the presented publications testifies to the developed ability of theoretical designs to become adequate practical solutions, the realization of which will lead to improvement of the process of training in foreign language training. As particularly significant, I would point out the following practical-applied contributions:

1. Conditions have been created for a complex analysis of children's behavior through a change in the content framework of the Support Plan, providing for its division into three zones – past, present, future. Thus, the columns “trigger event” (“probable historical causes”) and “probable reasons for a supporting consequence” realise the practical time distribution.
2. The criteria and indicators for assessing the results of the implementation of the Support Plan have been specified and refined.

## **III. Conclusion.**

In conclusion, I can say that **I evaluate positively** the quality of systematization of theoretical information in the presented publications, the developed and experimentally tested approach to positively oriented upbringing, as well as the proposed productive practical ideas. The scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions in the candidate's publications are at a level that fully meets the legal requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy (theory of education and didactics).

prof. Nikolay Kolishev, D.Sc.

