

## OPINION

**by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yanka Dimitrova Stoimenova,  
a member of a scientific jury in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor"  
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,  
professional field 1.2. Pedagogy  
(Preschool pedagogy - pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age),  
announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "  
in SG, no. 22 of 16.03.2021**

***Regarding: the scientific, scientific-applied and professional-academic activity and production presented by the participant in the competition***

The only candidate in the competition is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva, Lecturer in the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy at the Faculty of Educational Studies and Arts at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

### **I. Summarized data on the scientific production and the activity of the candidate.**

Galina Georgieva Georgieva has been a Doctor of Pedagogy since 2016 and a Chief Assistant since 2017. The research production with which she participates in the competition is summarized in 15 publications, which are divided into sections as follows: 2 independent monographs; 1 publication in a scientific publication, refereed and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; 10 publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review and in edited collective volumes; 1 study published in edited collective volumes and 1 chapter of a collective monograph. For the period 2017-2020 she published 9 textbooks, of which in 1 she is the sole author and 8 – in co-authorship.

The teaching activity of Dr. Galina Georgieva is expressed in the teaching of lecture courses, seminars and practical exercises in the bachelor's and master's programs in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy in academic disciplines included in the curricula for Bachelor's degree: *Pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age, Applied techniques for creativity in kindergarten - constructive, Internship* and for Master's degree: *Pedagogy of mathematical culture*. She has demonstrated high professionalism in the implementation of her training as a full-time lecturer in the position of "Chief Assistant Professor". She has participated in forms for postgraduate qualification of pedagogical specialists. She is the head of the master's program "Preschool pedagogy" (for non-specialists). She is also the Scientific Secretary of the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy.

For the period 2017-2021, under her leadership, 35 graduates successfully defended their theses. She participated as a member of the team of 9 projects, of which 4 - under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development" and 5 internal projects, showing professionalism in their implementation and successful completion. The results from scientific research achieved by Dr. Galina Georgieva have been reported at 9 national scientific conferences.

The research and teaching activities of the candidate testify to her successful scientific work in the field of research related to pedagogical technologies in mathematics in preschool age, as well as to her extensive expertise in the field of related scientific specialties.

## **II. Evaluation of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the scientific production submitted for participation in the competition**

### **1) Research activity and scientific publications**

The presented scientific production fully corresponds to the profile of the announced competition and reflects the research interests and contributions of the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor". The research activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva can be summarized in the following thematic areas:

- 1) Mathematical competence of children at preschool age (Appendices №№ 1; 3; 4; 6; 8).
- 2) Pedagogical technologies for the formation of mathematical ideas and concepts at preschool age (Appendices №№ 5; 7; 10; 13; 14).
- 3) Mathematical thinking of children at preschool age- (Appendices №№ 2; 15).
- 4) Relations between the educational directions in the implementation of the pedagogical interaction (appendices №№ 9; 11).
- 5) Preparation of students of Pedagogy by integrating modern and traditional forms of education (Appendix № 12).

The publications related to the mathematical competence of preschool children are based on the enrichment of the existing scientific developments.

The monographic work "Mathematical competence in preschool age" formulates the problem of difficulties emerging in the process of learning mathematics in preschool children. It presents the concept of the research related to the formation of mathematical competence in children in the conditions and environment of the kindergarten: an in-depth theoretical analysis of the problem of the development of mathematical competence in preschool children is made, a definition of mathematical competence as a mental phenomenon is proposed. Classical and modern pedagogical theories for the formation of numerical notions are considered, the essence of the process of development of mathematical competence is revealed, emphasizing the possibilities provided by the interactive whiteboard.

A significant part of the scientific papers of the candidate for "associate professor" are related to the pedagogical technologies for the formation of mathematical ideas and concepts in preschool age. Each of the attached publications stands out with the relevance and significance of the studied problems. In the specific papers Dr. Galina Georgieva shows scientific competence and conscientiousness, depth and precision, critical thinking, practical sense and compliance with new trends in methodological theory and practice. The style of the exhibition also creates a favourable impression.

### **2) Major scientific contributions**

The presented scientific production contains several main and clearly recognizable scientific contributions, which enrich in theoretical and practical aspect the pedagogical technologies for the formation of mathematical ideas and concepts in preschool age:

- *enrichment and development of the theoretical foundations of pedagogical technologies in kindergarten* in general and in particular of pedagogical technologies for the formation of mathematical ideas and concepts in preschool age;

- *introduction and application of new ideas in practice and a created pedagogical effect* – an innovative model of pedagogical interaction for formation and development of mathematical

thinking and mathematical competence, functioning as a system of purposeful interactive and constructive activities in teaching children in the conditions of the kindergarten has been developed and tested; a system of tasks and exercises, developing key mathematical knowledge and skills of children in terms of age before their entry into first grade has been developed and tested;

- *enrichment of the educational documentation in mathematics for the kindergarten* with cognitive books on mathematics, textbooks and manuals, teacher's books and methodical manuals;

- *enrichment of the curriculum in higher education* by updating and developing new university courses included in the curricula as compulsory subjects for students of pedagogical specialties and *development of electronic courses* for mixed type of education of students of pedagogical specialties in the Moodle system, as the specifics for their implementation have been pointed out.

The scientific citations presented by the candidate are 9 in number and are in the indicated 5 research directions.

### III. Conclusion

The only participant in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva. The documents submitted in connection with the competition show compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". The overall professional activity, teaching and administrative experience of the candidate outline the vision of a good specialist in the field of preschool pedagogy and in particular the pedagogy of mathematics in preschool age. The qualitative assessment of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the presented scientific papers shows: the presence of significant contribution moments, of innovative author's models, practical contribution of the results, ie. there is a full compliance of the scientific production with the criteria and indicators for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

The findings made in the opinion give me grounds to state my categorical **positive assessment** of the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the competition announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

09 June 2021  
Blagoevgrad

Member of the scientific jury: .....  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yanka Stoimenova