

Opinion

by Prof. Dr.Sc.Maria Baeva

For Chief Assistant Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva,

on the announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in:

higher education area 1. Pedagogical sciences,

professional strand 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Pedagogy of Pre-School Mathematics),

announced in SG No. 2015/2009 22 of 16.03.2021

Competition data

Only one candidate participates in the competition – Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva.

I present a written opinion on the qualities of the applicant and the evaluation of his/her production, with which he participates in the procedure announced above on the basis of the Rules of Procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski" adopted by decision of the Academic Council on 31 October 2018, as amended by decisions of the Academic Council of 25 September 2019 and 30 October 2019.

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva comply with the Rules of Procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions. By examining the documentation submitted, it is established that the procedure has been completed.

Candidate data and teaching status:

The assessment of the applicant is based on the general characteristics and professional biography provided in the documents. The fields of professional interest of the applicant are related to:

- formation and development of professional and key competences in an academic environment;

- development of professional and key competencies through the practical training of the students of the specialty;
- motivating and engaging students in active and conscious participation in educational and practical activities;
- development of author's programs in the educational disciplines conducted by the applicant – holistic and competence approaches are at the heart of the development of these programs.

The teaching activity is in the direction of the competition. The applicant has participated in research projects. The competition is provided with the necessary hours on the announced direction.

Description of scientific papers

After analyzing the scientific papers submitted for review, it is established that thematic areas of the publications of Dr. Galina Georgieva are:

- formation of professional competencies through the different forms of practical training for students;
- implementation of the author's operational professional-competence model for mathematics methodology;
- study of current ideas, concepts and good practices on the issues of mathematics methodology;
- examining the competences needed for methodological approaches in mathematics;
- approbated pedagogical system for the formation of professional competencies for methodological work of the students from the specialty of the „ИИВУП“ and the „ИУПЧЕ“ at the Sofia University of St. Kliment Ohridski.

For the competition procedure are included:

- Monographs – 2 pcs.
- Publications in specialized publications – 13 pcs.

Total – 15 publications, which are after the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Minimum required and accumulated points by group of indicators for academic position "Associate Professor"

The consultation on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements defined in the Rules for Development of academic composition of the Sofia University establishes that the applicant has 475 points on the indicators of the required 400 points, allocated as follows:

A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator 3	100	100
D	Sum of indicators 4 to 10	200	240
E	Sum of indicators 11 to 13	50	85
	Total:	400	475

Scientific contributions

By content, the publications of Dr. Galina Georgieva reflect current problems of pre-school mathematics pedagogy.

Theoretical contributions stand out above all in the study of theoretic and applied problems of practical training of students in Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy. As a result of the studies, a monograph (No. 1. from the List of Publications and Scientific Papers Mathematical Competence in Preschool. Sofia, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski") was developed. The book presents searches and an attempt to formulate the problem of emerging difficulties in the process of learning mathematics in children. The actuality is in the analysis and comparison of results of international studies. A concept related to the formation of mathematical competence in children in the educational environment of kindergarten is presented.

The research model is presented in its various stages of realization. The emphasis is on the development of mathematical competence in preschool children using an interactive display and manipulating with diverse constructive material.

The second published monograph "Mathematics in Children's Thinking" (Sofia, University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski") presents a model for developing mathematical thinking, which is set as a top priority in European key competences. The mathematical knowledge of the child is tied to the way he or she is thinking and to the development of his skills and thus motivates the need for early mathematical training in preschool in order to achieve mathematical competence. Classic and more modern theoretical models in this field are considered. Attention is paid to the relationship between the education of children in the educational field of Mathematics and Construction and Technology and the joining of their conceptual ideas as a prerequisite for the development of mathematical thinking in preschool.

These ideas were also reflected in articles deduced under Nos 4.1, 5.2, 6.3, 7.4, 8.5, etc. from the List ..., where survey results have also been applied.

Summary of the materials proposed for review:

- A concept for the formation of competences through the different forms of pedagogical interaction has been brought up. The development offers productions and solutions of the author, as well as up-to-date research positions, educational technologies, ideas and results. The highlights of the organization of the educational environment, the methods and means for achieving optimal competences in the field of mastery of mathematical concepts are displayed. (Document 10B: No1, No2, No4)
- Derived, approbated and statistically confirmed is the correlation between a forming system of additional pedagogical situations (set of tasks and exercises) and mathematical competence (Document 10B: No1 – No4, No7, No13).
- Describe mechanisms for choosing appropriate interactive techniques and methods for motivating and engaging children in active and conscious participation in educational activities related to mastering specific mathematical skills and competences.

- In a practical and applied plan, mathematical tasks, exercises and games are developed and offered to conduct basic and additional pedagogical situations through a cognitive sequence (4 pcs. cognitive books in mathematics + developed methodological part in the respective teacher books; 1 educational aid).
- An electronic course for mixed type of training of students in the Moodle system has been developed, with the specifics for its realization. (Document 10B: No12)
- The holistic approach in the preparation of children in an inclusive educational environment is presented in order to build on personal experience and competence such as knowledge and social activity.

Teaching work

The teaching activity of Dr. Galina Georgieva covers several periods and is related not only to teaching at the ФНОИ/СУ (since 2011) but also to the practice of the teaching profession. This implies not only the development and offering of an analysis of a methodological system for mastering competences of children, but also the implementation of policies, strategies or programmes in the field of mathematics for preschool.

The applicant declares his/her contributions to the development of author's programs in the subjects. It refers to the holistic and competence approaches that underpin the curricula developed by Dr. Galina Georgieva.

Conclusion:

On the basis of the positive assessments set out above for the teaching, audience and creative activities of The Chief Assistant Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva, I express in writing my positive opinion about her candidacy in the competition and recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury and the members of the FS at the Faculty of Sciences for Education and Arts at Sofia University to vote positively for The Chief Assistant Dr. Galina Georgieva Georgieva on the announced competition

for the academic position "Associate Professor" in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional strand 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Pedagogy of Mathematics in Preschool), announced in SG, issue 1/2014 22 of 16.03.2021 for the needs of the Department of Preschool and Media Pedagogy.

08. 06. 2021 г.

Член на научно жури:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Maria Baeva', written in a cursive style.

(проф. д.н. Мария Баева)