

R E V I E W

related to THE COMPETITION for ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATED
PROFESSOR"

in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1. 2. Pedagogy,
scientific specialty Speech-Language Therapy

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Ohridski"

The review was prepared on the basis of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Implementation at the Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski". The review of the documents for the announced competition shows that it is being conducted in full compliance with the legal provisions. The only candidate is Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Kirilova Boyadzhieva-Deleva, Phd from Sofia University, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts (FESA), Department of Speech-Language Therapy. The analysis of the documentation for the competition shows that she submitted a complete set of the necessary documents, on the basis of which she was evaluated as a candidate for the academic position of "Associate professor".

I. Professional development

Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Kirilova Boyadzhieva-Deleva graduated in Speech-Language Therapy at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2004, and in the following years at the same university she obtained a master's degree in two master's programs: "Developmental communication disorders" and "Kinesitherapy for persons with neurosomatic diseases". She began her professional career as an intern-speech therapist at the Children's Center "St. Mina", Sofia, in 2004, and from 2004 to 2009 he was a speech therapist at the 28th school in Sofia. She started working as an Assistant Professor in Speech-Language Therapy at the University of „St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2009 and held this position until 2018, after which, in 2018, she was elected Chief Assistant Professor in Speech-Language Therapy. After entering the academic field, her interests were directed to the scientific research problems of the Speech-Language Therapy and in the period 2011-2015 she was a doctoral student at the Department of Special Pedagogy and Speech-Language Therapy. She received the scientific-educational degree "Phd" in Special Pedagogy - Speech-Language Therapy after the defense of a dissertation on the topic "Language and cognitive development in children with dysarthria" - a work with a markedly complex and contributing problem.

Ch. Assistant Professor Boyadzhieva-Deleva has worked systematically for her professional growth over the years of her career, increasing step by step in practical and scientific-applied aspects. Her work and work experience are entirely in the field of Speech-Language Therapy, directly related to both the practice and the scientific and academic

environment in which she has gone through the activity of natural growth with responsibility and dedication. She gained her professional experience by making the transition from practice to science, which undoubtedly contributed to shaping her as a highly established specialist with a broad view of the theoretical and practical aspects of speech therapy.

II. Teaching experience

In the process of her academic growth Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva has gained considerable teaching experience. Currently, she is engaged in teaching a number of disciplines at SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" in the degree of "bachelor" and in the degree of "master" in Speech-Language Therapy. She predominantly led exercises, and in recent years she also taught lecture courses in disciplines at the Bachelor of Speech-Language Therapy. Taught disciplines:

- in the "bachelor" degree in Speech-Language Therapy - 9 disciplines;
- in the "master's" degree in Speech-Language Therapy - 6 disciplines.

A large part of the mentioned lecture courses are equipped with her own publications on the relevant topic in the form of monographs, studies, articles and reports, which students can use as study literature. For example, the monograph "Speech, Language and Cognitive Development in Children with Cerebral Palsy" directly corresponds to the discipline "Dysarthric and Dysphagic Developmental Disorders" (bachelor), and the monograph "Oromotor Speech Therapy: Theoretical Aspects and Practical Application" - to the disciplines "Communication disorders in craniofacial malformations", "Application of Therapeutic Massage in Speech-Language Therapy"(bachelor) and others.

After acquiring the title of "Chief Assistant Professor", the candidate participates directly in:

- the training of over 1,000 students in bachelor's and master's programs;
- developing and updating the study plans for the Speech-Language Therapy specialty;
- the development and updating of the study programs in the disciplines supervised by her;
- directing students to participate with reports in student scientific seminars;
- directing students to participate in scientific projects financed by the SU Research Institute and the ERASM program;
- the management of the state practice of Speech-Language therapist students in the "Bachelor's" and "Master's" programs;
- conducting current exams and state practical-applied exams in the specialty of Speech-Language Therapy.

The accumulated teaching experience of Ch. As. Pr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva is measured not only by quantitative, but also by qualitative indicators: in her work with students, she applies a variety of classical and innovative teaching methods, including through digital technologies. Her teaching activity shows her desire for students to master both the traditional, timeless in Speech-Language Therapy, and the new, current, characteristic of our time.

Based on the above data, it can be concluded that the candidate has worked actively in all areas of academic practice and has gained very good teaching experience. In the years in

which she held the positions of Assistant and Chief Assistant, she has developed all the necessary skills for handling the complex teaching methodology.

II. Scientific research and publication activity

The general scientific output of Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva, PhD includes:

- 1 dissertation (author's abstract);
- 3 monographs - "Oromotor Speech Therapy: Theoretical Aspects and Practical Application" 2020, "Speech, Language and Cognitive Development in Children with Cerebral Palsy" 2021, "Diagnosis of Speech and its Disorders in childhood" 2022., with the third monograph being a habilitation thesis in connection with the current contest;
- 3 textbooks and teaching aids - "Compendium of Forms for Speech-Language Therapy Practice: „Help for Students" 2015, "Help with Ideas for Support in the Classroom and at Home for the "Notebook for the First Grade Teacher" 2017 (co-authored), "Forms to Help Speech-Language Therapy Practice: Second Revised and Supplemented Edition" 2019;
- 1 chapter of a co-authored book in English, indexed in Scopus;
- 3 studies in Yearbooks of Sofia University, present in the national reference list of NACID;
- 41 articles published in journals, anthologies and electronic editions, among which:
 - 22 reports from scientific conferences;
 - 5 in co-authorship;
 - 3 in English;
 - 20 present in the national reference list of NACID;
 - 6 indexed.
- 6 other publications (posters and popular science articles), including:
 - 2 in English;
 - 2 in co-authorship.

58 publications in total

In the competition for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor", the candidate submitted the following works:

- 1 monograph - habilitation thesis (2022);
- 2 other monographs (2020, 2021);
- 1 study aid (2019);
- 1 chapter of a co-authored book, in English, indexed in Scopus;
- 2 studies in Yearbooks of Sofia University, present in the national reference list of NACID;
- 24 articles in journals, proceedings and electronic editions, among which:
 - 12 reports from scientific conferences;
 - 5 in co-authorship;

- 3 in English;
- 14 present in the national reference list of NACID;
- 6 indexed.
- 3 other publications (posters and popular science articles), among which:
 - 2 in English;
 - 2 in co-authorship.

34 publications on the competition for Associate professor

There are a total of 7 indexed publications from those presented in the competition: -

- 1 in Scopus
- 2 in Web of Science
- 1 in Vinnity Run
- 3 in EBSCO

The evidentiary material shows a high scientific research and publication activity of Ch. As. Pr. Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva. She has continued to develop her scientific creativity even after she acquired the title of "Chief Assistant Professor" and it was during this period that she reached her creative maturity. Through it, her works with the greatest relevance and value appear, and her publications find a place in authoritative domestic and foreign editions. The main reason for this is the scientific competence she has accumulated, the expansion of her scientific interests, her orientation towards the most significant problems of Speech-Language Therapy in their theoretical and practical dimensions.

Proof of this is the content of the habilitation thesis submitted for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor". The monograph "Diagnosis of Speech and its Disorders in Childhood" published in 2022 is an expression of the candidate's deep interest in one of the current and poorly developed modern problems of Speech-Language Therapy. It includes both the natural stages of children's speech development and deviations from this process, which are the subject of Speech-Language Therapy. The author presents them in depth, emphasizing the possibilities for their precise diagnosis according to psychometric indicators, in accordance with world standards. Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva expresses her own author's vision in this field through the standardized oral motor test she created, which is the result of her long-term research. It is made according to all the requirements of scientific standardization, an innovative diagnostic tool with a very high contribution to the theory of speech therapy and to the practice dealing with children with severe speech disorders. This work is unique, in its own way unique to Speech-Language Therapy. It can be defined as the greatest achievement in the development of the author, with which she proves a very high level of professional competence.

The combination of the candidate's knowledge in the field of Speech-Language Therapy and in the field of Kinesitherapy is also evident in her monograph "Oromotor Speech Therapy: Theoretical Aspects and Practical Application". It is aimed at a wide range of specialists and is directly applicable in the practice dealing with oromotor therapy. Contributive here is the description of the relationship between the oromotor mechanisms of eating and speech in onto- and dysontogenesis, as well as the means to overcome oromotor dysfunction, including a

specific system of exercises - myogymnastics. For the purposes of practice, protocols with algorithms of oromotor therapy, specified for individual types of pathology, have been created.

The monograph "Speech, Language and Cognitive Development in Children with Cerebral Palsy" is written from interdisciplinary positions and represents a view of the most severe problems of children with developmental dysarthria in their specific combinations, according to the type of cerebral pathology. The main contribution of this work, which is the result of an own experimental study, is in clarifying the specific combinations between different types of deficiency (speech, language, cognitive) and in substantiating the need for complex therapy.

It is noteworthy that in the work of Ch. As. Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva clearly presents the connection between scientific theory and Speech-Language Therapy practice, and this is one of her most serious contributions to the Speech-Language Therapy. For example, in the book "Forms to Help Speech Therapy Practice" there are forms and stimulus material that are based on the most current achievements of the modern Speech-Language Therapy and at the same time are directly applicable to the needs of the practice.

In his works, the candidate for the competition focuses mainly on disorders of speech development, clarifying the mechanisms of oromotor, orosensory, speech and articulation praxis, focusing on the influence of the language coding on motor programming, on the relationship between impaired speech development and eating disorders, the specifics of speech apraxia, etc. The author proposes and discusses numerous methods applied in speech therapy in their relationship with the relevant pathology. Developmental language disorders are also not outside the scope of Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva's scientific interests: she examines them in the context of bilingualism and monolingualism, studies them empirically with a view to recognizing them in the junior high school stage of education, discovers them in the picture of autism, comments on the choice of therapeutic strategies when working with children with language deficits. Regardless of which area of speech therapy the publication is in, its usefulness for speech therapy diagnostics and speech therapy is indicated and outlined.

The publications presented in the competition can be said to be an expression of the candidate's multifaceted scientific interests and proof of the scientific research maturity she has reached. She does not focus on one problem or aspect of Speech-Language Therapy, her research interests are broad-based and, in certain contexts, impressively thorough. Judging from the presented material, it can be said in summary that the scientific work of Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva is significant in content and innovative in character. The **contributions** it brings are also original.

IV. Citation

One of the most objective proofs of the professional maturity and the contributing nature of the scientific creativity of the candidate for Associate Professor competition is the citation of her works in the specialized press. The report from the Department of "Library and Information Services" of the University Library at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" shows the following:

Cited publications in global databases

1. Web of Science Clarivate Analytics - **7** citations in total;
2. Scopus ELSEVIER - **2** citations of 1 indexed document, h-index: 1
3. Science Direct – **1** citation

Citations established by the author – 28 citations of 17 publications in total

Citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in global databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 9

Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 20

Citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 1

Total – 30 citations according to Appendix 12

16 publications of the candidate in the competition are reflected in the catalogs of the national library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", **13** publications are reflected in the catalogs of the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski".

This level of citability of Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva, as well as the presence of her name in prestigious publications and important information sources such as Web of Science, Scopus ELSEVIER and Sciece Direct confirm the high value of her works.

The analysis of the scientific production of Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva shows that she fully meets the scientometric indicators for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor", introduced by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff, even exceeding the requirements. For example, according to indicator G, which reflects the publication activity of the candidates, she has 517.5 points with a minimum requirement of 200 points; on indicator D, related to citations, her points are 340 with a minimum of 50 points required.

V. Participation in scientific forums, projects, editorial boards

As at the beginning of her career, so to this day, Dr. Elena Boyadzhieva-Deleva asserts a strong presence, which is reflected in her numerous participations in scientific forums. Her publications, shaped by such engagements, show that she has proposed important scientific issues for debate in the professional and academic community and, in parallel, has drawn knowledge and experience from scientific forums. The balance sheet shows a total of 7 participations in scientific forums (conferences, congresses) in the period from 2018 to 2022, of which:

- 3 participations in international scientific forums with sectional reports;
- 1 participation in a national scientific forum with a sectional report;
- 2 poster presentations at international scientific forums;
- 1 poster presentation at a national scientific forum.

In the period 2004-2022, Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva has numerous participations in seminars, certification courses and trainings to increase qualifications. A total of 19 are the participations in scientific forums (conferences, congresses), of which 12 reports were published as articles in peer-reviewed journals and included in the publication activity reference, and the remaining 7 participations were reflected in a printed or electronic collection without scientific peer-review or are identified by a DOI number from a scientific information database (Reesrch Gate).

The competences of Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva are also the basis for her activities in educational and scientific projects. Her participation in project activities from 2006 to 2022 is a total of 9, in 3 of which she was in the capacity of a practitioner, and in the rest - as a scientist and lecturer-trainer during the period 2018-2022. As the most scientific research project under the ERASM program, carried out from 2020 to 2022, should be noted. Her long-term work as an academic mentor for an educational project of the Ministry of Education should be also noted. She is also the head of a Scientific Project, financed with funds allocated specifically from the state budget of SU "St. Kl. Ohridski" for scientific research for 2021 (FNI of SU).

The candidate actively participates in the life of the academic community: she is the coordinator of the Therapeutic Hall at the FESA, a member of the editorial board of the Journal Pedagogika, a member of the expert group at the NAOA for conducting accreditation procedures at the SWU "Neofit Rilski" in 2012 and in 2015, she worked on accreditation procedures at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". She is also an active member of the professional guild of speech therapists: co-founder of the Association of Privately Practicing Speech Therapists, member of the Network of Trusted Speech Therapists group at the Association of Maxillofacial Anomalies.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva creates excellent impressions not only with her academic, but also with her personal qualities. This is confirmed by my long-term contacts with her, first as a student, later as a colleague and like-minded person in the field of Speech-Language Therapy. Her skills for inspired work with students, her organizational qualities, her creativity, her responsible, systematic attitude to work tasks are indisputable. She works easily in a team, shows tolerance and collegiality in common endeavors, initiative and leadership skills. Dr. Boyadzhieva-Deleva is a built specialist, well known in the Speech-Language Therapy community, who loves his work, has tirelessly developed and continues to develop her-self.

The overall analysis of the submitted materials for the competition leads to the **conclusion** that Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Kirilova Boyadzhieva-Deleva, Phd, is a leading specialist and teacher, a respected member of the academic community. Her scientific output, teaching experience and professional development fully meet the criteria for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1. 2. Pedagogy, scientific speciality Speech-Language Therapy. On this basis, I propose to the respectable Specialized Scientific Jury to award her the academic position of " Associate Professor".

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