



## REVIEW

by Prof. DSc Yuliya Georgieva Doncheva, PhD

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regarding the materials of doctoral student *Vanya Kuzmanova Avramova*, for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD), in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty "Preschool and primary school pedagogy", with scientific supervisors prof. Maria Alexieva, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Itska Derizhan, PhD at Burgas Free University, Center for Humanities, Program Council "Pedagogy", with the topic of the dissertation work: "*Pedagogical model for inclusive education of children with SEN in the primary stage of education (7-11 years)*".

**1. Data, finding and assessment of the competition procedure, doctoral studies, dissertation, abstract and publications for the competition.**

**1.1. Compliance of the procedure with the current regulations.**

**1.1.1. Data on the competition and doctoral studies** – By Order No. UMO 108/16.03.2021, based on Art. 7 and Art. 9 t of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at BFU and by decision of the Scientific Council of BFU from 12.03.2021, Vanya Kuzmanova Avramova was enrolled in an independent form of study, for a period of 1.5 years, in the main unit of the Center for Humanities of the Burgas Free University, in the accredited doctoral program "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy". In 2022, with UMO Order 63 of 13. 12 2022, her training period was extended by six months. Pursuant to Art. 15, para. 1 and para. 5 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at BFU and of the decision of the Scientific Council of BFU dated 30.06. 2023, and Order UMO 147 of 26. 07. 2023 of the Rector of BFU has been dismissed with the right of defense.

Pursuant to Art. 4, para. 1 and Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively with the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, art. 2, para. 1 and para. 2, Art. 30, Art. 31, para. 1, Art. 32 and Art. 33 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the

Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Vanya Kuzmanova Avramova was dismissed with the right to defense with a positive decision of the primary readiness unit and her procedure was opened. A move has been made to defend the dissertation. All preliminaries have been met legal and normative rules provided for under this procedure.

### **1.1.2. General biographical presentation of the candidate (education, qualifications, professional experience, etc.).**

It is clear from the presented resume that the educational qualification, professional and personal growth and upgrading of the doctoral student is constantly increasing. Her many certificates (from 2012 to now), from trainings, conferences, seminars, courses, etc. prove its aspiration to the permanent Lifelong learning for self-improvement and self-education. The key competencies, as a result of the training that he possesses, are exhibited in expert-level experience and sustainability in application.

At Prima Vista, the continuous desire, aspiration and realization towards training, self-improvement and provoking new academic achievements of the doctoral student is impressive. Proficient in English at "C" level. Her digital competence corresponds to the competences that are set according to the European and National Qualification Framework and that is for level 8, for key competences for lifelong learning. She definitely has the skills and competences she needs to work with children, students, adults and learners.

### **1.2. Dissertation data.**

#### **1.2.1. Actuality of the issues of the dissertation work.**

Inclusive education aims to provide opportunities for successful learning and development for all students, including those with special educational needs (SEN). For children with SEN in the initial stage of education (7-11-year-olds), in order to realize the effectiveness of the pedagogical model, the individual needs, abilities and possibilities of each child must be considered. In this context, the following are emphasized: Individualized training; Collaboration and cooperation; Diverse learning methods and strategies; Support of psycho-social development; Effective use of technology and more. Everything listed up to this point is implemented in the scientific development of the doctoral student. I cannot fail to point out the extremely modern,

timely and I would say even painfully necessary examination of the subject, mentored by prominent, nationally known and recognized scientists, in the person of Prof. Maria Alexieva, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Itska Derizhan, PhD. A high level from which generations of young scientists can learn!

**1.2.2. Structure and content of the dissertation. Dissertation data** – The structure of the dissertation work is presented in the Introduction; Four heads; Conclusions; Conclusion; Bibliographic Reference and Appendices. The total volume is 208 standard pages; Applications in 13 (thirteen) word files. The literature/bibliographic reference is displayed on 13 pages. The author presented 114 sources, of which 92 in Cyrillic, 11 in Latin, 11 normative documents. In the active text, within the exposition, 8 figures, 53 diagrams and 3 tables are included. The appendices in the dissertation are 4 supplementary ones, which present the toolkit, with the help of on which the pedagogical research was carried out, namely a tool for assessing the environment - 1, survey cards - 2 and a questionnaire - 1. All of them contain circumstantial and correctly presented, serving as evidentiary, author's, material tested in the process of scientific research. At the end, the entire scientific work, quite reasonably, is presented: Conclusions; Conclusion and Scientific contributions in two categories - Contributions of a scientific-theoretical nature and Contributions of an experimental-applied nature.

### **1.2.3. Content and evaluation of scientific contributions.**

I completely agree with the contributions made by the doctoral student and the summarized content of the author's scientific work, to which I will add my additional marker.

#### **Contributions of a scientific and theoretical nature:**

##### **Individualized training:**

- Analyzing the individual learning needs/needs and level of development of each student with SEN.
- Create customized curriculum and materials appropriate for their special educational requirements.

##### **Collaboration and cooperation:**

- Engagement of a team of teachers, specialists, parents and other participants in the educational process for effective work together, jointly, as a team for the benefit of the child's development.

- Organizing regular meetings and communication between all participants to exchange information and optimize approaches.

#### **Support of psycho-social development:**

- Ensuring appropriate emotional and social support for children with SEN in need of support and more specialized care and attention.

- Integration of activities aimed at developing social skills, empathy and cooperation.

The "*Pedagogical model for inclusive education of children with SEN in the initial stage of education (7-11 years)*" deserves special admiration, which is the basis of the scientific research and through which my additions to **Contributions of an experimental-applied nature were derived:**

#### **Diverse learning methods and strategies:**

- Use of different teaching methods and strategies, considering the diverse learning styles and abilities of children with SEN.

- Integrating visual, audio and kinesthetic elements into learning materials and activities.

#### **Effective use of technology:**

- Using technology as an aid to learning and supporting students with SEN in the learning process.

- Individualization of technological resources according to the special needs of each student.

Getting acquainted with the development of the scientific work, one can clearly conclude that the doctoral student's knowledge of the issues is prominent.

#### **1.3. Auto-reference data.**

The abstract, with a total volume of 61 pages, meets all the standard requirements for a synthesized and adequate, analytical-systematic development of the primary document, the scientific text, as well as the objective reflection of the content of the dissertation research.

The structure, conclusions, recommendations and scientific contributions of the scientific work have been followed. The scientific and technical requirements for its design and presentation in the paper version and in the digital form as an on-line publication have been observed. The correctness is visible, the scientific value of the scientific work has been analyzed, as well as the quantitative data according to the normative requirements in the national and intra-institutional laws and regulations.

#### **1.4. Publications on the topic of the dissertation (content and fulfillment of scientometric requirements).**

**1.4.1. Publication data** - The doctoral student participates with the following scientific production, related to the Scientometric criteria for the minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activity of candidates for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions, Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, as follows:

- *Dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor", Group A, Indicator 1* → **50 points**.

- *Publications* - a total of 3 issues, all independent, published in the period from 2021 to 2023.

- *Group G 7. Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes:*

**3 number of independent x 10 points = 30 points;**

**Total number** points for indicators from Group A and Group G = **80 points**.

From here, it can be categorically summarized that the sum of the indicators of the respective groups fully fit of the minimum national requirements under Art. 6, para. 2 and 3 of LDASRB and art. 1a, para. 1 of the RILDASRB and, accordingly, according to art. 24, para. 1 of the Regulations for the implementation of LDASRB (for the educational and scientific degree "doctor") for area 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy.

The scientific production - dissertation, abstract and publications submitted for participation in the competition does not contain weaknesses that would detract from its merits.

## **2. Personal impressions.**

I do not know PhD student Vanya Kuzmanova Avramova, but judging by her scientific work, dissertation, abstract, scientific publications and autobiography, in addition to the fact that Prof. Maria Alexieva, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Itska Derizhan, PhD are her scientific supervisors and mentors, who finalized this current, effective and answers to many questions and sought-after work, I can conclude that in her person we see a potential scientist motivated for more scientific achievements and successes.

## **3. Testimonials. Critical notes. Questions for the PhD student.**

- As **recommendations**, I can note the following:
- Dissertation would benefit if you provide conclusions, discussion, summary after each chapter.
- It would be good to refine the Bibliographic reference a little more.

**I have no critical notes.**

### **Questions for the PhD student:**

- How would you make this model so that it can be adapted and changed depending on the specific circumstances and specific needs of each child with SEN in the particular educational institution?
- We all know that it is important to work with stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the model and the achievement of the goals of inclusive education. How exactly do you see this process?

**4. Conclusion** - Doctoral student Vanya Kuzmanova Avramova has fulfilled her obligations arising from the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for the Implementation of the LDASRB, the Rules of the Burgas Free University, as well as the obligations under the relevant individual study plan of the doctoral student, that is, meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of LDASRB and art. 1a, paragraph 1 of RILDASRB. The form and content of the dissertation meet the requirements of Art. 27 of RIDASRB, All administrative procedures have been followed.



**Bearing in mind the above**, I give my **positive assessment** of the conducted research, presented in the dissertation work, the abstract, the achieved results and contributions.

I also give my **positive assessment** for the overall procedure and for the defense of Vanya Kuzmanova Avramova, regarding her awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD), from professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, doctoral program "Preschool and primary school pedagogy" at the Center for Humanities at Burgas Free University.

23.10.2023

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