

## **Review**

**by Prof. Dr. Neli Ilieva Boyadzhieva**

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

member of a scientific jury

in a competition for the academic position of professor in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1. 2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy and art pedagogy)

announced in State Gazette issue no. 23. of 22.03.2022,

from Burgas Free University

### **1. Finding and assessment of the procedure and documents**

The competition is administered and organized by the BSU in accordance with the requirements in the normative documents for selection for the academic position "Professor". The submitted documents, reports, tables and publications for participation in the competition are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of BFU.

### **2. Data on the candidate - education and academic career**

The only candidate in the competition for professorship is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pepa Miteva.

According to Art. 29 of the LDASRB, she has the right to participate in the competition for the academic position of "Professor". She holds the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" since 2005, and since 2008 an academic position "Associate professor" at BFU.

Pepa Miteva is a graduate of the BFU, where she graduated in social activities – a Bachelor in 1998 and a Master's degree in 1999. In 2011 she also completed a Master's program at the FF (Faculty of Philosophy) in the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Organizational Behavior and Counseling - organizational psychology, occupational psychology, career development.

She was a PhD student of individual training at the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the FPPE (Faculty of Primary and Pre-school Education) - Department of "Social Pedagogy and Social Work" in the period 2002-2005. A dissertation was defended for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the

topic "Approaches for reducing aggressive behavior in students of primary school age", 2005.

The educational development of a candidate is consecutive, and the doctoral course is carried out in parallel with the academic career. She is fully at the BFU, where she started teaching immediately after graduation in 1999. She has been successively an assistant and senior assistant since 2002. In 2005 she was promoted as Chief Assistant after acquiring both the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" (code 05.07.01.- Theory of upbringing and didactics). In 2008 she was habilitated and held the academic position of associate professor at the BFU - code 05.07.01. Theory of upbringing and didactics (Fundamentals and Methods of Social Work).

As an associate professor she leads lecture courses, supervises graduates and PhD students, participates in project activities, scientific forums, academic exchanges, conducts research and publishes the results of them in monographs, teaching tools, studies, articles, manuals, etc. This activity systematically and constantly prepares the candidate for participation in the competition to meet the requirements for academic growth as a "Professor".

3. Assessment of compliance with the requirements according to the LDAS (Law on the Development of the Academic Staff).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pepa Miteva performed, and in some of the indicators even exceeds the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor" in Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy.

By group A: Defended thesis for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor" A total of 50 points.

By group B:

Indicator 3: Monograph presented as main habilitation work in the scientific specialty in the competition A total of 100 points.

By group Γ:

Indicator 4. Monograph, which is not presented as the main habilitation work A total of 100 points.

Indicator 5. Book based on a defended dissertation for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor" -75 points.

Indicator 7. Articles and reports published in non-referenced journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes 18 pcs. - 180 points.

Indicator 8. Studies published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world- renowned databases of scientific information in THOMSON and in SKOPUS 2 pcs. - 20 points.

Indicator 9. Studies published in non-referenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes 1pc. – 15 points.

Total: 390 points

By group Д:

Indicator 11. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases and collective volumes 1 pc. – 15points.

Indicator 12. Cit. in monographs and col. volumes with scientific review 1 pc.

- 10 points.

Indicator 13. Cit. or reviews in non-referenced journals with scientific review 20 pcs. – 100 points.

Total: 125 points.

By group E:

Indicator 15. Guidance of successfully defended PhD students - 2 pcs.

- 80 points.

Indicator 16. Participation in a national scientific or educ. project 3 pcs.

- 45 points.

Indicator 17. Participation in an international scientific or educ. project 1 pc.

- 20 points.

Indicator 20. Published university/school textbook 2 pcs. 80 points.

Total: 225 points.

4. Presentation and evaluation of the candidate's scientific output

Assoc. Prof. Miteva presents the monograph “Emotional intelligence and management of professional stress in teachers” as the main habilitation thesis on the scientific specialty in the competition. Art pedagogy - strategies and techniques”, KOLBIS Publishing House, Sofia, 2022.

In this work she demonstrates skills in conducting empirical research, collecting and analyzing data and making up-to-date findings about pedagogical practice related to the teacher's professional work. She successfully summarizes her consistent interests in research and applied science work for work with teachers. The monograph convincingly presents the possibilities of art techniques, the development of emotional intelligence and the management of occupational stress in teachers. At the same time, this work in its second part can be accepted as a useful methodical guide for working with children, students and teachers.

The topics of teachers' occupational stress, on the one hand, and emotional intelligence, on the other hand, have often been developed separately in recent years in our country in different types of works. Assoc. Prof. Miteva has devoted her research to both phenomena as a researcher and has added another methodological context - of art pedagogy, which can be recognized as an

independent achievement with a scientific-applied contribution. Articles and reports in foreign languages are dedicated to this topic.

Assoc. Prof. Miteva has priority in the search and offering of opportunities to introduce modern interactive methods that enrich the methodology of training teachers and assisting specialists. They are derived through independent work to search, collect, describe, modify and test techniques depending on the research objectives. This is an approach from the dissertation, reflected in the self-published methodological guide for working with children, "How to form social skills in young students: a practical guide to reducing aggressive behavior in elementary school age", 2004. This work, which is the result of the successful and experienced work of the author, is a valuable aid not only for children in primary school age. It is sought after and useful for teachers of various stages and degrees of education and assisting specialists who work with children and persons with manifestations of aggressive behavior.

Assoc. Prof. Miteva follows her tried and tested approach forged in the dissertation, applying it afterwards in his further research activities before and after her habilitation. The publication "Creative approaches in crisis intervention. The crisis - opportunity and change"/ 2015/ as a design and construction can be considered as a transitional intermediate unit.

It is a continuation and upgrade of a new stage of a part of the monographic work before the habilitation /"Methods of social work", 2006/, in which crisis intervention is considered as a method. Creative approaches are the main theme of the current competition in the dimension of art pedagogy. This work is in the field of social sciences and marks a stage of scientific researches that pave the way for academic interests and achievements.

In the list of publications there are also those that are outside the professional direction of the competition. They are dedicated to the management of personnel in education and are methodological developments published in practical manuals for training/Coaching. How to recognize teacher resistances in the work environment?; Teacher Time Management; Practical examinations for the selection of teachers; Adaptation for newly appointed teachers, Ed. RAABE, Practical manual "Successful practice for personnel management", 2012/. In co-authorship a practical-applied teaching manual "The Art of Being Trainers"/2016/ was published, which is a guide for conducting trainings, seminars and other activities in the education of adults.

The author presents in the general list of publications after the habilitation her participation in the development of teaching materials and tools for school education in history and civilizations, geography and economics, music, as well as articles on teaching. They also do not directly relate to the scientific field of the competition, but present the candidate as a pedagogue with a wider range of

interests that also go into methodology and school didactics. - professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training.

#### Scientific contributions

The main scientific contributions to be registered in relation to the professional direction and scientific areas of the competition refer to practical-applied activities carried out in kindergarten by means of art pedagogy and animation. Various possibilities of art to stimulate the creative potential not only of children and students, but also of the teacher and his role as the leader of the class to manage relationships in it are presented. This enriches the methodology of education in the preschool and school stages of education.

#### 5. Assessment of teaching and other academic activities

The candidate has a wide range of activities as a trainer, coach, consultant, reviewer, team member in scientific and research projects, expert activities and participation in scientific and other forums as an academic.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Miteva is also on a very broad spectrum, which has also affected the diversity of the topics of the publications. They are in different professional fields and scientific specialties not only in pedagogical sciences, but also in other areas of higher education. On the one hand, this presents the image of the candidate as a scientist with very broad areas of competence, but, on the other hand, it limits the possibilities for deepening the scientific research. Nevertheless, Assoc. Prof. Miteva follows her interest in searching for current dimensions of modern pedagogy in its practical-applied aspects. In this regard, she has managed to bring art pedagogy to the fore and attract her followers as teachers and research supervisors.

The successful completion of the doctoral students can be highlighted as a particular achievement. It is no coincidence that the topics of their works are in the area of art pedagogy, and their achievements are also the result of the field developed by Assoc. Prof. Miteva. This is further evidence of contributions to art pedagogy, as well as skills to attract and direct PhD students in this field.

#### 6. Critical notes and recommendations

I recommend that in the future Assoc. Prof. Miteva focus her research in the field of preschool pedagogy according to the scientific field of the competition. Her broad competences in the field of psychology and social activities could be the basis for a more in-depth development of the pedagogical aspects of working with children with behavioral problems at preschool age, counseling teachers, parents, kindergarten staff, educational workers, assisting specialists and others.

Based on the achievements in the main monographic work, a separate study could be made on the success of stress management with art pedagogical tools in

teachers and assisting specialists. It would be interesting in the future to systematically monitor the effect of the art program in this context. It is curious to check whether, to what extent and which of the proposed art techniques contribute to the increase of emotional intelligence and/or to the management of occupational stress in pedagogical, assisting specialists, managers or other actors.

I take the liberty of making these recommendations in a conceptual and constructive manner, prompted by scientific interest and confidence that they would be a useful incentive for the future professor in further scientific activity in perspective.

### **Conclusion**

The scientific and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pepa Miteva fully meet the requirements set by of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Burgas Free University, which announced the competition.

On the basis of the scientific findings and contributions in the assessment made, I express my opinion that she can take the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, scientific specialty Theory of Education and Didactics (Preschool Pedagogy and Art Pedagogy) on the grounds of Art. 60, para. 1 pursuant to Art. 44 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the BFU and in connection with the competition announced in the State Gazette, issue no. 23 of 22.03.2022 for the academic position "Professor" under Art. 67 para. 1 item 1 of the LC (Labour Code) by professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy and art pedagogy) at the FH (Faculty of Humanities) of the BFU), by to Order No. JIC/134, 17.05.2022 of the Rector of the BFU.

I propose to the honourable members of the scientific jury to vote “for” the appointment of Prof. Dr. Pepa Miteva to the academic position of "Professor".

**Prof. Dr. Neli Boyadzhieva**

15.08.2022

Sofia