

REVIEW

by competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
by professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy
(Pedagogical animation in kindergarten and primary school and inclusive education),
announced in the State Gazette No. 55/15.07.2022

Candidate: Assoc. prof. Zornitsa Kostova Ganeva, PhD - Burgas Free University

Reviewer: Prof. Gergana Hristova Dyankova, PhD - "Neofit Rilski" SWU – Blagoevgrad

The review was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff at Burgas Free University and in compliance with the Rector's Order No. LS/ 182 of 09/09/2022.

General and biographical data

The present competition procedure is for the occupation of an academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Pedagogical animation in kindergarten and primary school and inclusive education).

Only one application was received for the announced competition - from Assoc. Prof. Zornitsa Ganeva.

The documents certifying the professional training of the candidate are presented in accordance with the requirements of the current regulations for documents under procedures of this order.

The autobiographical information reflects consistency and purposefulness in the educational, academic and professional development of the applicant – Assoc. Prof. Ganeva is a Bachelor of Science at the National Sports Academy (1993-1997) and master of Social Activities (1999-2000) and in Child and Adolescent Psychology (2013-2016) at Burgas free university. After successful protection on the dissertation on "Physical education in school and socialization of 10-11-year-old children (4. class)' (2010 years.), she was awarded a doctorate (Diploma No 34203/09). 06.201 0) in the scientific specialty 05.07.03. At the same time Zornitsa Ganeva builds on her professional competences by expanding her qualification in the field of pedagogical work with children and students with special educational needs (2013), positive psychotherapy (2013-2016), art therapy (2016), foreign language training (2021), etc.

In Burgas Free University he enrolled (1998) as a full-time assistant professor, where he held the academic position "Associate Professor" (2018) and is currently deputy dean of the Center for Humanities and Program Coordinator of the Program Council on Pedagogy at Burgas free university.

The documents submitted sufficiently indicate the wide-ranging qualification and serious teaching experience of the applicant.

General description of the materials presented

The report submitted by the applicant on compliance with the scientific indicators for the academic position "associate professor" includes a total of 27 scientific work, including 2 monographs, 10 studies and assists, 1 methodological tools and 1 guide for practical training of social work students.

A list of 11 research developments presented in international (5 participations) and in national (6 participations) scientific conferences, as well as bibliographic evidence for 10 citations is attached.

General characteristics of the applicant's research and scientific and applied activities

The scientific production with which the candidate participates in the announced competition corresponds to the scientific specialty and its specificity. At the same time, the central review of the publications submitted for the competition procedure reveals a long-established scientific interest in a problem covering in depth thematic fields and theoretical and methodological aspects of the fields of social activities, pedagogical animation, inclusive education, as well as in particular, the systematic presentation of the phenomena structuring the modern vision of motor activity in preschool.

As an actual expression of this basic scientific interest, the publications of Associate Professor Zornitsa Ganeva are focused on the following areas:

(a) promoting inclusive education, pedagogical animation and physical education and sport in kindergarten and primary school: 1 monograph (No1), 2 methodological tools (No5, No6), 3 articles (No14, No16, No24);

(b) modelling of social interactions and people-to-people relationships through the development of emotional and technological and social competence: 2 monographs and (No1, No 2) 1 educational aid (No5) and 3 articles (No16, No20, No21, No23, No24, No26);

(c) bringing out the resources of game propulsion for the pro-social development of preschool children: 1 monograph (No2) 1 educational aid (No5) and 1 article (No16);

(d) typologicalisation of the characteristics of motor activity as a tool for working with socially disadvantaged persons: 1 monograph (No1) and 2 articles (No13, No 27);

(e) revealing the potential of motor activity for general psychophysical development by identifying integrative constructs in the scientific fields from the field of pedagogical animation, social activities and inclusive education: 1 monograph (No1) and 3 articles (No17, No22, No27);

(f) optimising the academic preparation of students – future teachers in pre-school and primary school education, as well as the basic profiled preparation of students in humanitarian specialties: 1 monograph (No2), 4 methodological tools (No3, No4, No5 and No6) and 3 articles (No13, No19, No22).

I consider it appropriate for the candidate's audience thematic focus, given the completeness and scope of the issues examined on the one hand and, on the other hand, the re-improvement of

fragmentation and divergence in research searches. At the same time, theoretical and methodological developments are distinguished by topicality, with a successful combination of classical productions and innovative technology.

The rehabilitation work "Inclusive education and pedagogical animation – attitudes and stereotypes of the inclusive teacher" (2022; ISBN 978-619-7125-92-4, Publishing house „Flat“ / 105 p.) focuses on the meaningful dimensions of pedagogical animation in direct contextual interpretation of an inclusive and educational environment. Such a starting point serves the author to base his analysis on the attractive value of pedagogical animation with a view to introducing it as an adaptive resource for the inclusion of children and students with special educational needs. The monograph is located in a complex research field because it clarifies a problem with multidirectional characteristics and corresponds with serious prospects for seeking alternative approaches, methods, techniques and technologies in inclusive education, creative research with a clear functional design regarding the development of pedagogical animation. The proposed analytical synthesis in the study of attitudes and stereotypes in interpersonal interaction ensures the necessary link between pedagogical animation as a technology of inclusive education and determines its place in the organization of inclusive practices. It is established that the stereotypical attitudes of the inclusive teacher can be reduced and overcome by the constitution of pedagogical animation in his professional-pedagogical competence.

The candidate's research interest in the animative approach was also expressed before 2017 in a monograph study of a more private nature – "Model for game motor activity in physical education training in kindergarten" (ISBN 978-619-7125-38-2, Publishing house „Flat“ / 145 p.), which expands Zornitsa Ganeva's research searches towards harnessing new approaches to the use of game motor activity, collectively forming social skills and supporting the intellectual and emotional growth of the child in preschool. The constructed model provides conditions for organizing a stimulating educational environment and at the same time allows quality conduct of the pedagogical process in the game motor activity in the educational direction "Physical Culture" according to the objectives of the state educational standard. The developed 16 types of mobile games at functional level provide a methodological resource for the development of behavioral skills for cooperation and strengthening of social competence, which allow the child to accept adults and other children as their partners, with which children's daily life is saturated.

The scientific topicality of the presented *articles and scientific reports* is the result of in-depth analyses, which on the one hand track new realities and trends in inclusive education, and on the other hand – problematic the need to update the criteria for functionality of educational goals in the physical

culture department, affirming the importance of pedagogical animation for positive education environment in kindergarten and primary school.

The attached *publications* reveal a candidate's skills for systematizing and critically understanding theories and methodological approaches in the researched scientific fields, to clearly define the problems and formulate guidelines for solving them.

I find the results of the conducted analytical and interpretive scientific activity of Associate Professor Zornitsa Ganeva reliable and therefore I define them as significant for the theory and practice of pedagogical science.

Assessment of the applicant's pedagogical training and activities

The pedagogical activity of the candidate is in the field of the announced competition, namely:

- Animation and motor activity in kindergarten and primary school;
- Inclusive education;
- Training for working with children with special educational needs.

She participates actively in creating and updating educational documentation and educational content in the field of pedagogical science and practice, as well as in qualification trainings of pedagogical specialists on topics related to her research expertise.

The review and analysis of the documents submitted and the submitted evidence leads to the summary that in-depth scientific interests are presented in the activity of a candidate in harmonious unity; targeted scientific and applied research; active work in research projects; successful expression in scientific forums; sufficient experience in teaching.

Importance of contributions to science and practice

The scientific contributions of Associate Professor Zornitsa Ganeva are the result of years of independent, thorough and responsible research work. The following positive aspects may be highlighted in the scientific production presented:

- scientifically justified research in the field of professional direction;
- supporting modern paradigms, concepts and views in the field of pedagogy and inclusive education;
- analytical approach,
- research creativity;
- formation of a specific product with pedagogical expediency and subsequent practical application;
- theoretical and practical relevance and perspective.

Critical notes and recommendations

Along with my overall positive assessment, I will *also allow* myself some critical remarks that should be taken by a candidate rather as recommendations *for* her future work.

- *the own contributions submitted by the applicant in the scientific and practical* activity – I believe that they can be refined, both in terms of their more detailed formulation and their compatibility with the subject area of the competition;
- *the author's* ideas and *scientifico-applied contributions highlighted* here – I believe that they deserve international notoriety and recognition, for which the initiative of the candidate for publication in scientific collections and journals of international academic publishing houses, as well as in journals included in the world's referral and indexing systems, would help.

Conclusion

I believe that the efforts put in by the candidate for scientific and creative activity are right-proportional to its teaching efficiency in improving the quality of the training at Burgas Free University.

The scientific and applied contributions contained therein are the basis for Zornitsa Ganeva to offer the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Pedagogical animation in kindergarten and primary school and inclusive education).

28.10.2022

REVIEWER:


(Prof. D. Dyankova, PhD)