

## OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Sofia Dermendzhieva, Department of "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy",  
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**About:** *presented scientific production by Zornitsa Kostova Ganeva under a competitive procedure for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Pedagogical animation in kindergarten and primary school and inclusive education), Center for Humanities, Burgas Free University*

### 1. Overview

The presented opinion is prepared on the basis of the Order of the Rector of the Burgas Free University No. LS/182 of 09.09.2022, approving the composition of the Scientific Jury and in accordance with the Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Law (27.09.2022), observing the implementation of a competitive procedure for occupying an academic position "Docent" in a professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Pedagogical animation in kindergarten and primary school and inclusive education).

The announced competition ( Official Gazette, No. 55 of 15.07.2022) is for the needs of the Center for Humanities at the Burgas Free University, and Zornitsa Kostova Ganeva is the only candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor".

### 2. Implementation of the scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" .

In the report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the required 400 points, Assoc. Dr. Zornitsa Ganeva presents a **total of 430 points** , distributed by individual groups of indicators, as follows:

- *Group A:* dissertation work for the award of the ONS "Doctor" - 50 points;
- *Group B:* habilitation thesis (monograph) – 100 points;
- *Group D:*
  - published monograph, which is not presented as a habilitation thesis - 100 points;
  - articles and reports published in non- refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 120 points;
- *Group D:*
  - citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 60 points.

### **3. Correspondence of the presented works with the scientific field of the competition procedure.**

The inclusive function of the educational system is fundamental for modern times, and precisely this relevance is reflected in the training of future pedagogical specialists. In view of the educational perspectives, Zornitsa Ganeva orients her research focus towards discovering various forms of educational and social integration.

The acquired competences of the candidate in the field of physical culture and sports, in the field of social activities, as well as in the field of child-adolescent psychology and positive psychotherapy, are a solid prerequisite for an expert study of issues related to inclusive education. Proof in this direction are the works presented, in the content of which the author's ability to interpret the studied pedagogical phenomena and regularities in a meaningful way stands out.

### **4. Characteristics of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied production.**

As the main habilitation thesis for participation in the current competition procedure, Zornitsa Ganeva presents a monograph on "Inclusive education and pedagogical animation - attitudes and stereotypes of the inclusive teacher". In the problematization of the issue of teachers' attitudes and stereotypes, the author's committed attitude to the current status of inclusive education is reflected.

In this direction, the research is methodologically grounded and objectively reflects the contradiction between the professional response models of pedagogical specialists formed in past contexts and the unsatisfied needs of the subjects in the educational environment.

The observed inconsistencies point to a search for coping mechanisms based on " intergroup stereotypical perceptions as a key factor in the formation of an inclusive culture in educational institutions." The resources of the animation approach and its inclusive potential in the educational environment are thoroughly highlighted.

The candidate's ambition to establish holism as a principle in inclusive education is clearly evident in the scientific works presented. From the position of her highly specialized expertise, Zornitsa Ganeva reveals the intersections between physical activity and the development of social and emotional competence of adolescents, with a particular emphasis on persons with SEN, as a basis for their mental health and personal development.

A distinctive feature of the presented developments is their practical-applied orientation, which turns them into an effective methodological toolkit for teachers and other pedagogical specialists.

## **5. Contributions.**

At the substantive level, contributions are defined in two directions:

- applied – the procedural aspect of inclusive practices in an educational environment is revealed.
- theoretically - the axiological aspect of inclusive education is affirmed;

## **6. Conclusion.**

In my capacity as a member of the Scientific Jury under the current competition procedure, I give a positive assessment to the candidate and propose Zornitsa Ganeva to occupy the academic position "Docent" *in the Higher Education Department 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Pedagogical animation in kindergarten and primary school and inclusive education).*

28.10.2022

city of Blagoevgrad

Signature:



(Assoc. Dr. S. Dermendzhieva)