

OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Silvia Tsvetanska, Ph.D. - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",
member of the scientific jury - Order No. LS/134 of 17.05.2022 of the Rector of the Burgas Free University,

on a competition for occupying the academic position "professor" under Art. 67, para. 1, item 1 of the CT by professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Pre-school pedagogy and Art pedagogy) at the Center for the Education of BFU, announced in SG no. 23/22/03/2022

Competitive procedure

The competition for the academic position "professor" has been announced by the Humanities Center of the Burgas Free University in compliance with the established procedure and in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Burgas Free University . Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by one candidate - Assoc. Prof. Pepa Ivanova Miteva, Ph.D. The candidate has submitted all necessary documents proving the legitimacy of participation in the tender procedure.

Professional profile of the candidate

The only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "professor", Assoc. Prof. Pepa Miteva, has indisputable professional experience and preparation for an academic career. Her professional path has seen a consistent upgrade and development of both research and teaching competence. The basis of the professional experience is the acquired education in diverse and mutually complementary fields. Pepa Miteva holds a bachelor's degree in Social Activities from BFU (1998) and a master's degree in Social Management from the same university (1999). In 2011, she graduated as a Master of Psychology in Organizational Behavior and Organizational Consulting at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". This was followed by numerous postgraduate qualifications in the period 2001 – 2016 on topics related to psychological counseling and psychodiagnostics. The acquired education outlines the profile of Assoc. Prof. Pepa Miteva as a specialist in the field of psychology and the application of various therapeutic schools - psychodrama, art therapy, NLP. This professional orientation predetermines the choice of topics that excite P. Miteva as a researcher in pedagogical sciences. In a natural way, expertise in psychology is projected into her lecture courses and engagements as a teacher of pedagogy to build lasting interdisciplinary connections and support her

development in the pedagogical sciences. Impressive in the professional biography of Assoc. Prof. P. Miteva is her ability to combine scientific growth in a university environment with active practical work as a teacher - trainer of adults. From 1998 to 2008, P. Miteva successively passed through the academic positions from assistant to associate professor, and in 2005 he acquired Ph.D. in professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics). Her habilitation as an associate professor is in the same professional direction. The candidate's educational, academic and applied achievements outline his profile as a competent and well-prepared researcher, scientist and practitioner, with potential for professional development.

Content and assessment of scientific works

The attached reference in the documentation for the competition for the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Pepa Miteva shows that she has a sufficient number of publications and not only meets, but in some indicators exceeds the national minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor". Assoc. Prof. P. Miteva participated in the competition with a total of 41 publications, realized after 2008, when she acquired the academic position of "associate professor". The scientific production includes 2 monographs, 4 studies, 19 articles, 14 reports from scientific forums and 2 teaching aids.

The problem areas developed by Assoc. Prof. P. Miteva in his publications outline several content cores:

- Managing occupational stress in the context of the teaching profession
- Art pedagogy
- Crisis intervention and approaches to providing psychological support
- Development of emotional intelligence and social skills for different target groups - children, students, teachers, etc.

Assoc. Prof. P. Miteva's own view of the essence of the listed problem areas is evident to a significant extent in the monograph, presented as a habilitation thesis, with the title "Emotional intelligence and management of professional stress in teachers. Art pedagogy - strategies and techniques" (Colbis Publishing House, 2022). The monograph focuses on theoretical and research perspectives on the role and right of existence of art pedagogy as part of pedagogical theory and practice. The presented scientific publications reveal the competence of the candidate as a researcher and above all as a practitioner and specialist oriented to the applied dimensions of the studied phenomena. From the point of view of correspondence of the publications of the competition profile, publications directly related to preschool pedagogy are

represented to a relatively lesser extent. More convincing are the results related to art pedagogy and the projections of psychology in a pedagogical context.

Teaching and expert activity

The candidate in the current competition demonstrates broad competence and the ability to apply his knowledge in various environments – as a university lecturer, a trainer in continuing teacher qualification courses, as an expert on scientific and applied projects. Assoc. Prof. Pepa Miteva has been a teacher at the Burgas Free University since 1998. For the purposes of her teaching work, she has developed her own lecture courses and programs (some designed for working in an electronic environment); she was the scientific supervisor of doctoral students and an active participant in the events organized by the academic community. I would especially like to note the contribution of Assoc. Prof. P. Miteva to the training and preparation of doctoral students for whom she was the supervisor. The doctoral students supervised by her successfully defend interesting and innovative topics and are encouraged to experiment and create products of high applied value. Assoc. Prof. P. Miteva is a sought-after and preferred lecturer in various short-term teacher training programs. She is a valued expert in the field of individual and organizational counseling. In her practical work with children and adults for the development of social skills, she applies original methodologies and techniques, which are the result of her non-standard vision for integrating art into counseling and teaching practice. The practical projections of her scientific achievements can also be seen in her participation in the creation of teaching aids – Teachers' Book and Textbooks for trainers.

Scientific contributions

The scientific contributions of Assoc. Prof. Pepa Miteva refer to the enrichment of pedagogical knowledge in the field of art pedagogy and the creation of interdisciplinary connections between pedagogy and psychology. Understanding their specific dimensions allows the contributions to be differentiated into two general groups: theoretical and applied (practical) contributions.

Theoretical contributions are visible in the monographic study entitled "Emotional intelligence and management of professional stress in teachers. Art pedagogy - strategies and techniques", as well as in articles and reports with No. 30, 32, 38, 40 from the list of publications provided. The candidate's efforts to develop a new direction in pedagogy, such as art pedagogy, have a high scientific value. Contribution points stand out in the direction of the theoretical clarification and definition of art pedagogy and its distinction from related concepts used in

therapy and counseling as part of the large problem area of the science of psychology. By arguing the right of art pedagogy to exist, the author successfully builds intra-subject connections in pedagogical knowledge and creates grounds for future research in this area. In addition, the attempt to theoretically enrich the issue of professional stress in the teaching profession deserves attention. This issue is not new as a research field, but P. Miteva offers a new reading of the familiar and increasingly relevant topic. Linking professional stress with time management, mechanisms for regulating one's own behavior and dealing with crises is the specific point of view that allowed P. Miteva to show his own interpretation of the manifestations of these phenomena.

Applied contributions refer to supporting pedagogical practice and facilitating interaction between teacher and students. On a practical level, the described techniques and methodical solutions for consulting and working with children of preschool and school age are valuable, which are valuable resources for practicing teachers and other specialists in the educational system. Contributing practical-applied ideas are concentrated to the greatest extent in the monograph "Creative approaches in crisis intervention. The crisis - opportunity and change" and in some of the teaching aids and methodical aids.

Conclusion

The review of the scientific production, as well as the demonstrated expert and teaching activity of the candidate show convincing achievements that correspond to the requirements of the competition. The competence and outstanding contributions of Assoc. Prof. Pepa Miteva give me reason to express my positive assessment of her candidacy in the current competition.

I recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to support the selection and propose to the Program Board of the Center for Humanities of BFU to elect Assoc. Prof. Pepa Ivanova Miteva, Ph.D. to occupy the academic position of "Professor" in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy and Art pedagogy).

Sofia, 21/08/2022

Prepared the opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Silvia Tsvetanska