

OPINION

by Prof. D. Sc. Galya Mihailova Hristozova -

Burgas Free University,

member of the scientific jury for

competition for the occupation of the academic position of „**Associate Professor**“ in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool and primary school pedagogy, media pedagogy), announced by the Burgas Free University in the State Gazette, no. 82/14.10.2022

1. Procedure

The competition is organized in accordance with the normative documents regulating the selection of candidates for the academic position of "associate professor". The procedure is followed. The documents and publications submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition have been 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 and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Burgas Free University university.

2. Applicant data

Assistant professor Zlatina Dimitrova, PhD, is the only candidate in the competition for associate professor in Preschool and primary school pedagogy, Media pedagogy. According to Art. 29 of the ZRASRB, she has the right to participate in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", since in 2021 she defended her doctoral dissertation and was awarded the educational and scientific degree "PhD".

Zlatina Dimitrova, PhD, obtained her higher education at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in the period 1993-1998 and has a Master's degree in Theology. In the same period, she acquires an additional qualification in journalism. In the period 2013-2015, she studied in a Master's program in "Preschool and primary school pedagogy",

and in 2017-2020 she was a doctoral student in the scientific specialty "Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature / I-IV class/".

Her professional path is varied and is consistent with the various master's and doctoral programs she has completed. She worked as a primary teacher, journalist, television correspondent, editor-in-chief. She was a part-time assistant professor at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" according to the teaching methodology of Bulgarian language and literature I - IV classes.

Since 2022, she is the Assistant professor in Pedagogy at the Burgas Free University.

3. Requirements according to ZRAS

Dimitrova, PhD, fulfills the minimum requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in field 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.2. Pedagogy:

By group A - indicator 1 – A dissertation was defended for the award of an educational and scientific degree "PhD" in 2021 on the topic: "Formation of media literacy of 4th grade students through extracurricular forms of work" - **50 points**.

By group C - indicator 3 – a monograph is presented on the topic "Digital transformation - competence and creativity in kindergarten and school, EKS PRESS – Gabrovo. Pg. 232, ISBN 978-954-490-767-9" – **100 points**.

The main merits of this independent work are related to conducting a large-scale study, in-depth analysis of the results and proposing an author's model. The monograph has a theoretical and practical-applied aspect.

In theoretical terms, an analytical overview of the main concepts of new literacy and the key skills in the digital world has been made as a basis for the competence approach in education.

The specificity of parental influence on children's digital development has been studied and systematized, the readiness of kindergarten and elementary teachers for the digitalization in education has been studied. The most valuable is the original author's model for a digital kindergarten and options for the application of digital technologies in cognitive work with children of preschool age.

By group D:

- **indicator 5** – Published Dissertation work - Media Literacy in Primary School, Guyana - Ruse. pg. 392, ISBN 978-619-7604-26-9 - **75 points**;
- **indicator 6** – 2 articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 2x30 – **60 points**
- **indicator 7** – 8 articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes 8 x10 – **80 points**.
- **indicator 9** - 1 study published in a non-refereed peer-reviewed journal – **15 points**

230 points in total

The scientific works of Ch. assistant professor Dr. Zlatina Dimitrova are sufficient in terms of number, scientific genres, issues and contributions to occupy the academic position of "associate professor". She presents a total of 12 publications, all independent. The publications are in Bulgarian and in foreign editions. All publications are on the topic of the announced contest.

The main topics on which Dimitrova, PhD, works are divided into several groups: digital competence in kindergarten and primary school, media pedagogy, the methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature at primary school age, primary education and modern educational technologies, non-formal education, etc.

By group E:

- **indicator 12**. Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes 5x10 – **50 points**
- **indicator 13** - citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals - 3x5 – **15 points**

Total: **65 points There are 8 citations in total for both indicators.**

By group F there are no requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor", but Dimitrova, PhD, has participated in several international and educational projects.

4. The scientific contributions of Assist. Prof. Zlatina Dimitrova, PhD, are in several areas that are interconnected. They are in the field of digital competence, media pedagogy, teaching methodology in Bulgarian language in primary grades. They can be differentiated into theoretical and applied-practical ones. The most significant are the areas of digital competence in kindergarten and primary school. The monographic work "Digital Transformation - Competence and Creativity in Kindergarten and School" was developed on this topic.

The other contributions are: a theoretical model has been developed for the formation of media literacy through extracurricular forms of work of students in the 4th grade and several technological options for learning; digital childhood, digital reading, etc. have been studied and analyzed.

In all publications, the accessible and correct scientific style, the precision of the statement, the terminological accuracy is impressive. The texts are easy to read, accessible, which is very important considering the readership for which they are intended - students and especially teachers. This in no way diminishes their scientific value, on the contrary, it shows the high culture and responsibility of the author.

5. Teaching

Dr. Zlatina Dimitrova teaches the following disciplines in bachelor's and master's programs: digital competence and digital culture - master's programs, health and environmental education - bachelor's and master's programs, information competence in communications - bachelor's programs, creative techniques - bachelor's programs, online communications and social networks - bachelor's programs, pedagogical ethics - bachelor's and master's programs, pedagogical technologies for getting to know the surrounding world - bachelor's programs, pedagogical technologies for the formation of mathematical concepts in kindergarten - bachelor's and master's programs, work in a multicultural environment - bachelor's and master's programs at the Burgas free university.

Dimitrova, PhD, participates in all kinds of practices in the kindergarten and in the elementary school.

6. Work with students

Dimitrova, PhD, is the creator and head of the Student Club "Teacher Mission", which is extremely active and innovative. She is a scientific consultant to students for the development of reports for participation in a conference on Student scientific creativity, a scientific supervisor of successfully defended PhD students.

Conclusion

The scientific and teaching activities of the Assistant Professor Zlatina Dimitrova, PhD, fully meets the requirements set by ZRAS and the Burgas Free University, which announced the competition, which is why I express my opinion that she can occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in the specialty "Preschool and primary school pedagogy, Media pedagogy", in the Department of Higher Education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction: 1. 2. Pedagogy and I propose to the respected members of the scientific jury to vote "for" the hiring of the Assistant Professor Zlatina Dimitrova, PhD, to the academic position of "associate professor".

Prof. D. Sc. Galya Hristozova:

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Burgas, Bulgaria