

STANDPOINT

By Associate Professor PhD Petar Raykov Petrov, retired, the town of Ruse

Of the materials presented for participation in a contest for the academic position of Associate Professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogic Science, professional field: 1.2.

Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics). In the contest for Associate Professor announced in State Newspaper, issue 31 from 12.04.2019 and in the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of Department "Primary School Pedagogy" to Pedagogy Faculty, as a applicant participates Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Aleksandrova Atanasova from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

I. General Review of the Procedure and the Applicant

In the first lines of the standpoint we express our satisfaction with the precise presentation and design of the set of papers necessary for participation in the announced contest for Assistant Professor, according to the minimum requirements of article 26, paragraphs 2 and 3, the new requirements of paragraph 5 of Law for development of academic members in the Republic of Bulgaria. The professional development and teaching activity of Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova is a proof of gradually establishing personality in the pedagogic society of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

The thorough review of the scientific-metric indicators leads to the following conclusions. Presented scientific papers: monographs – 2; books on the basis of thesis – 2; scientific articles and reports – 17. Electronic materials are developed and published of students from Bachelor and Master programmes of Pedagogy Faculty in Plovdiv University; active participation in qualification courses of teachers in the PhD school, in university projects; published student's books are mentioned for school education. A list of scientific articles and reports is made which are presented for acquiring educational and scientific degree PhD – 10 items. It is necessary to mention the topic of the thesis which is "Interactive Methods of Education in Primary Stage of Comprehensive Schools". The inquiry about the compliance with the minimum requirements for participation in a contest for the academic position

Associate Professor (number of points in groups of indicators) proved the scientific and creative efficiency of Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova. The points of indicators G and D are considerably increased. We are convinced of her active teaching activity and additional qualification by the inquiry of auditory and extracurricular occupation. The precise and descriptive presentation of scientific works, of applied practices and documents is a proof of execution of the fulfillment of direct responsibilities as a teacher.

II. General Characteristic of the Applicant's Activity

For the past decades the problems of innovative educational technologies, in particular of interactive methods of study, continually has drawn the attention of specialized academic community (scientists in didactics and education). With this brief review we recognize the significance of the scientific fields which are in the sight of the applicant for Associate Professor. The mentioned ascertainment is objectifies by the fact that the scientific works in their amount and contents possess theoretical logical arguments, with empiric and experimental evidence, practical-applied models and solutions. We express our personal conviction and impression of the insight and empathy of Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova to her direct obligations in the process of professional self-affirmation. An example of which is her reflexivity to problems dedicated to interactive methods. This is a thoughtfully considered work of individual thinking and creative productivity.

The scientific profile of each applicant for Professor or Associate Professor requires to be assessed through presented monographs as a priority. *The monograph "Mind Maps as Innovative Technique for Studying and Teaching"* has interesting contents. It reveals the theoretical empiric bases, kind of mind maps, the stages of their individual and group construction. The advantages of this technique are presented for the activities of teaching and learning, as well as the possibilities for their application in education and non-educational areas. In a separate chapter she offers the tasks for exercises with mind maps designated for education of university students in the subject Didactics. Special attention should be paid to the monograph concerning *interactive group-based and project-based study face-to-face*. This is a topical "theory" of contemporary education. The group study is presented in conventional and modern variant. The project study is shown as a technology

of education for a whole class and its development into project technology for the whole school. Two separate books are regarded to the topic of the thesis for acquiring educational scientific degree PhD (the titles can be seen in the attached reference). The first one presents the *interactive methods as a modern pedagogic challenge* – specifics, types, variants for application, roles for the participants in the process of study. In the second book *a technological model of interactive study* is tested in the primary stage of secondary education – applied aspects, combinability, dominating role and significance in the lessons. The mentioned scientific articles and reports add to the impression of competent vision on the problems meeting the interests, real responsibilities and obligations as assistant and chief assistant.

The scientific contributions of Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova are at representative level and are skillfully defined according to topic directions and her self-assessment: digitalization in education; interactive methods and techniques of learning; innovative technologies of education at school and university; optimizing the study and teaching activities at school and university; effective assessment of results of education of school and university students. The presented scientific contributions outline the rich range of theoretical representativeness of the problems discussed and their innovative concept and personalization for the needs of the educational practice.

Citations of the author are a compulsory and very important part in the scientific status of each applicant. An impressive number of (11) citations are mentioned in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in databases with scientific information. We have excellent opinion of the choice of lessons with applying interactive methods and approaches, used in primary school classes in the subject “Person and Nature”.

III. Critical Notes and Recommendations

We will limit to the recommendations. Each career development is a personal strategy of scientific thinking. As personal choice Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova needs to develop her interests both in the classical and in innovative-technological didactics. This is a potential science resource in developing theories and conceptions of contemporary education; for the didactic innovations to be translated in the school practice (with empiric

evidence), which is exemplified with the interactive group and project face-to-face learning. If we use some informal languages, we will say that such personal achievements are a particular “addition” to the scientific production, announced for this competition. We recommend the publication of textbooks intended for student education.

Conclusion before the Conclusive Assessment:

1. The applicant Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Aleksandrova Atanasova meets the relevant maximum national requirements for acquiring the academic position Associate Professor.
2. We have no doubt of plagiarism in her scientific works and publications.

Overall Conclusion:

The only applicant for the announced academic position of Associate Professor Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Aleksandrova Atanasova complies fully with the Law of development of academic members in the Republic of Bulgaria, Rules for its application and Rules for development of academic members of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”. I suggest the respected scientific panel award the applicant with the academic position for the needs of the Department of Primary School Pedagogy of Pedagogy Faculty in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogic Science, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics).

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The town of Ruse

The standpoint was compiled by:
/Associate Professor PhD Petar Petrov/