

REVIEW

Participation in contest for Academic Position of Associate Professor, in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogic Science, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics), by Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of Department “Primary school pedagogy” of Pedagogy Faculty, Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Aleksandrova Atanasova from Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” has applied as a single applicant.

Reviewer: Professor, Doctor of Science Luchiyang Angelov Milkov – lecturer at University of National and World Economics, the city of Sofia, Faculty “Management and Administration”, Department “Public Administration”.

Registered in National Center of Information and Documentations since January 2019.

He has been appointed as an external member of the scientific panel with Order No R33-3698 from 10.07.2019 by the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

Mobile phone number” 089 555 3 400; stationary phone number: 02 9 361 363

E-mail: milkovl@abv.bg

I. Data of the Contest

The contest was announced by Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, in State Newspaper, issue 31 from 12.04.2019. The position of Assistant Professor is opened for teaching in courses and programmes of Department “Primary School Pedagogy” of Pedagogic Faculty.

Presented by Chief Assistant, Dr. Nikolinka Atanasova the paper-based set of materials is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the PU and includes the following documents:

1. Application based on sample to the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for being accepted to participate in the contest;
2. Curriculum Vitae according the European Form;
3. Diploma educational degree Master
4. Diploma for Educational and Scientific Degree PhD
5. List of scientific papers;
6. Certificate for compliance with the minimum national requirements for the academic position Associate Professor;
7. Annotation of materials for participation in the contest;
8. Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
9. Copies of records of Department Council, Faculty Council and Academic Council regarding the contest;
10. A copy of the state newspaper with the announcement of the contest;
11. Certificate of work experience;
12. Documents of educational and teaching work;
13. Documents of scientific research work;
14. Set of documents on paper;
15. Set of electronic documents.

II. Biographic and Professional Data

Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Aleksandrova Atanasova was born in 1976.

For the period 1994 - 1998 she completed the subject “Pre-school Pedagogy” in Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

She was awarded her Master degree after studying for the period 2002 – 2004 in Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, Pedagogic Faculty, in the field of primary-school pedagogy.

After a successful contest, since 2002 he is an assistant at the Department of „Elementary School Pedagogy”, PF. Since 2005 he is Senior Assistant and since 2010 Chief Assistant.

In 2011 she defended her thesis on the topic: “Interactive Methods of Education in the Primary Stage of Secondary Comprehensive School” before a Scientific panel of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” and she was awarded educational and scientific degree PhD in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogic Science, professional field: 1.2. Pedagogy, PhD program “Theory of Education and Didactics”.

III. Scientific Metric Indicators

Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova participates in the contest with two monographs, two books, 17 articles in Cyrillic and Latin alphabet, one device – electronic materials for students of Bachelor and Master programmes of Pedagogy Faculty of Plovdiv University and student’s books for students at school education.

1. Monographs and Books

1.1. Monograph on the topic: „Mind maps as innovative technique for learning and teaching” contains 181 pages, publishes by “Fast Print Books”, Plovdiv 2015, ISBN 978-619-7034-74-5, is consistent with the topicality and significance of mind maps as a technique for learning and teaching.

N. Atanasova shows the essence, theoretical-empirical bases, types of mind maps and the stages for individual and group construction of such cards. The rich variety of computer programs and web applications for complying computer mind maps are emphasized, which are the most popular with students.

The design of the concluding research is described in details, based on surveys as a method of diagnostics which is aimed at researching the contemporary process of learning in higher schools and opportunities for applying mind maps as a technique of learning and teaching, which is innovative

for Bulgaria. A thorough analysis of the received results and conclusions from it are presented.

The last chapter of the monographic research reveals the opportunities for applying mind maps in four interactive technologies of education in higher schools. A number of tasks for exercising are offered with mind maps in the subject Didactics, designated for students of pedagogic specialties; these tasks can easily adapted for other subjects as well.

1.2. Monographic research on the topic: „Interactive group and project education face to face. Theoretical applied aspects”, consisting of 119 pages, Publishing House FastPrintBooks, Plovdiv, 2018, ISBN 978-619-236-034-4.

This work of Chief Assistant PhD N. Atanasova aims to clarify and stimulate positive change in pedagogic practice in Bulgaria in the following directions:

- Effective interactive study “face-to-face”, which is still rare in practical aspect and insufficiently known in theoretical aspect.
- Group-based study, as a variant of interactive study, is performed mainly through differentiated individual work in rows in the class room, which turns it into conventional study.
- Project study, as a variant of the interactive one, is done mainly in connection with the function of clubs in interests and other extracurricular activities and it is rarely combined with either with the lesson as a leading form of studying or with the spontaneous initiatives of students.
- Group-based study and project-based study often remain incomplete since no logical end is reached, which also applies to assessment of the achieved results.
- The assessment of group work and project study, where it exists, is associated mainly with the material products created by students and there is no clarity of other possible aspects of assessment and the criteria and indexes for diagnostics connected to them.

The monograph contains many hidden ideas for effective interactive study as a whole.

1.3. The work “The Challenge of Interactive Methods of Learning”, consisting of 108 pages, University Publishing House “Paisii Hilendarski”, Plovdiv, 2012, ISBN 978-954-423-757-8 makes a detailed analysis of interactive methods as one of the contemporary pedagogic challenges. They assist the development of a quality process of study and completely meet both the community need of building creative personalities and the need of socialization and communication of each student. This is a reason to search for the most favorable ways of students’ education, who will develop not only as knowledgeable people but also as skilful ones.

Doctor Atanasova describes and analyzes a number of foreign and Bulgarian classifications. Over fifty interactive methods of learning are characterized. The origin is made clear of this large group of didactic methods through the connection “philosophies of education – reformist pedagogy – interactive methods of learning”. The specifics of contemporary interactive learning are revealed regarding the presence of specific principles, educational environment, roles of the participants in the study process, variants of study, positive sides and problems, with which its application in school practice is connected.

1.4. In the Methodic Guide “Interactive Methods of Learning in primary stage of secondary school. Methodic Guide of Interactive Learning in 4th grade”, consisting of 212 pages, University Publishing House “Paisii Hilendarski”, Plovdiv, 2012, ISBN 978-954-423-754-7, the author describes an approbated technological model for interactive learning which meets the pedagogic need of particular examples for performing interactive learning in primary-school classes and at the same time it gives an answer of a number of topical questions, which include:

- Which interactive methods can be applied with ease in the process of learning in primary-school classes?
- Is it appropriate to use interactive methods in the lessons for new knowledge?
- Which parts of the lesson should these methods be included in as a dominant form of learning and what should their number be?

The model presented to us includes five interactive methods integrated in pairs in ten sequentially alternating combinations. They are an easily applicable variant of systematic, variable and flexible development of interactive process of study while at the same time they are a source for generating new creative ideas.

2. Scientific Articles and Reports

A large number of articles, 17 in total, shows us very interesting positions and standpoints of PhD Nikolinka Atanasova, which prove her scientific development for the period of 2003 to 2019. They contain ideas and viewpoints, which have been later developed, enriched and found their place in thesis research and the consequent scientific research and academic teaching activity of my colleague. Clear style of presenting positions, skilful handling of concepts, specific reference to leading Bulgarian and foreign authors are the features of the enclosed articles.

IV. Scientific Activity

N. Atanasova defended her thesis work in 2011 and was awarded the educational and scientific degree PhD in Pedagogy.

She has participated in five national and international scientific project in the field of education.

She is an educator in the Department for qualification and professional development of specialists in Pedagogy in Pedagogy Faculty of Plovdiv University.

She is a scientific editor of “PhD Researches” Magazine in Pedagogy Faculty of Plovdiv University. She is and compiler (in a team) of collection, reviewer of reports in students’ scientific forums.

Since her first publications in 2003 to this day, her analysis of the monographs, methodical aids and articles have proven her serious scientific growth both in her style and language and also in her search of significant topic directions. N. Atanasova demonstrates high erudition, serious scientific skills and research experience; she thoroughly analyses the data received from a number of empiric studies. Her qualification helps her to develop the problems at a very high level, which she researches and publishes. She aspires to emphasize strictly scientific criteria for interpretation of viewpoints.

A characteristic feature of the publications (monographs, books, articles and reports) is the objective scientific analysis of diverse problems issues included in them.

N. Atanasova has acquired a serious literary awareness, competences and erudition on the problems researched by her, which leads to right orientation about the so called “white spaces” of the problems studied. Particular citing and mentioning books of Bulgarian and foreign authors, working in the field of her scientific interests, proves N. Atanasova’s high orientation in the field of notions, dominating theoretical and practical applied ideas in the contemporary pedagogic science.

There is no data found that the scientific production of the applicant is not her own work. The reference sources are pointed correctly.

V. Teaching Load and Activity

The main activity of Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova is educational. She has lessons with teaching staff who improve their qualification. She has developed a number of educational programs which she implements in her teaching.

In the Department she has a serious teaching engagement both with lecture courses and seminar lessons.

In her work with students in Bachelor and Master Degree in the field of scientific-research work she has numerous thesis defenses under her direction, as well of participants in national students' scientific sessions.

VI. Main Contributions

The presented scientific works of Chief Assistant PhD N. Atanasova is of a theoretical and applied nature. They are connected to the technologies of study at school and university education.

Her contributions can be differentiated in the following thematic directions:

1. Digitalization in education;
2. Interactive methods and techniques of learning;
3. Innovative technologies of learning for school and university education;
4. Optimizing the activities of learning and teaching at school and university;
5. Effective assessment of the results from learning of school and university students.

Chief Assistant PhD N. Atanasova has been quoted in 11 scientific publications in reviewing magazines, collections with scientific works - 9 of them and Bulgaria and 2 abroad (Germany and Poland).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the presence of significant teaching work with students, general scientific work and serious production convinces me that the applicant Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova meets the requirements for holding the academic position Associate Professor.

The Table of compulsory minimum requirements for scientific, science-applied and teaching activity for holding the academic position makes it obvious that Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova meets the requirements of all scientific-metric indicators and criteria. The minimum number of points is significantly exceeded in two directions:

Direction G: Published book on the basis of thesis and articles and reports in scientific publications, referred and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information. Required minimum: 200 points. Acquired by the applicant: 425 points.

Direction D: Quoted reviews in scientific publication, referred and indexed in world databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes. Required minimum: 50 points. Acquired by the applicant: 115 points.

The presented professional curriculum vitae and analysis of scientific works are proof of built professional competences in the field of Didactics with an emphasis on primary-school pedagogy; regarding her personal competences and peculiarities of personal expression she has achieved harmonization of achievements in all main directions of activity – scientific, research and teaching ones.

Considering the above mentioned, I believe that the only applicant in the announced contest for the academic position Associate Professor, Chief Assistant PhD N. Atanasova meets fully the requirements of the Law of Development of Academic Members in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Rules for applying it and the rules for development of academic members of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

For all these reasons **MY EVALUATION** of Chief Assistant PhD Nikolinka Atanasova being awarded the academic position of Associate Professor **IS POSITIVE**.

The scientific, research and teaching results, achieved by her, justify my convinced decision to recommend to the Honored Panel awarding Chief

Assistant PhD Nikolinka Aleksandrova Atanasova with the academic position Associate Professor and offering to the Honored Faculty Council of Pedagogy Faculty of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” to approve the decision of the Scientific Panel and to award her with the academic position Associate Professor for the needs of Department “Primary-School Pedagogy”, in Pedagogy Faculty, in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogic science, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics).

06.08.2019

The town of Sofia

Reviewer:

(Professor Doctor of Science Luchiyan Milkov)