

REPORT

of Associate Professor Dr. Fani Evgenieva Boykova

Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski“

regarding the materials submitted for participation in a competition
for the academic position of „Associate Professor“
at Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski“

by field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,
professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching...

(Methodology of mastering the Bulgarian language in kindergarten)

In the competition for „Associate Professor“, announced in the State newspaper, issue 57, dating from 26.06.2020, and on the website of Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski“ for the needs of the Department of „Preschool Pedagogy“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy, Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva from the same faculty is applying as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № P33-4710 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski“ (PU), dating from 25.09.2020, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of „Associate Professor“ at PU by field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching...(Methodology of mastering the Bulgarian language in kindergarten), announced for the needs of the Department of „Preschool Pedagogy“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

For participation in the announced competition, Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva from the Department of „Preschool Pedagogy“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy of PU „Paisii Hilendarski“ has submitted documents as the only candidate.

The set of documents presented by Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva is in accordance to the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the regulations of PU „Paisii Hilendarski“ regarding the Development of the Academic Staff (DAF).

The documents are well formed and arranged. The reports and the lists contain the necessary information, among which the most important documents are: Application form to the Rector for admission to participate in the competition; Curriculum vitae in European format; Diploma for educational and qualification degree „Master“, diploma for educational and scientific degree „Doctor“; List of scientific papers; Annotations of the materials under Article 65. (3) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at PU „Paisii Hilendarski“ (RDASPU), incl. self-assessment of the candidate's contributions; Work experience certificate; Documents for the academic work of the candidate; Research documents;

Information on classroom and extracurricular activity; Information on individual scientometric indicators and their compliance with the minimum national requirements, etc.

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva has applied a total of 26 scientific papers: a habilitation thesis published as a monography, a book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“, 3 articles in textbooks and teaching aids for students, 1 article in a refereed journal, 20 articles in non-refereed journals.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

The pedagogical practice of Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva includes an internship as a primary school teacher from 1986 to 2016. In this period, she defended her doctorate (in 2000 at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“) and from 2000 to 2016 she combined her teaching activities with work as a part-time assistant at the Faculty of Pedagogy at PU „Paisii Hilendarski“. Since 2016, after a competition, she is holding the position of „Chief Assistant“ at the Department of „Preschool Pedagogy“ of the same faculty.

The educational and pedagogical activity of Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva includes the independent development of curricula, preparation and conduct of lectures, seminars, practical exercises and hospice with students of bachelor's and master's degree at the Faculty of Pedagogy in compulsory, elective and optional subjects such as: Methodology of mastering the Bulgarian language in kindergarten; Technology of mastering the Bulgarian language in kindergarten; Alternatives in language mastering and speech development at preschool and primary school age; Pedagogical interaction and creativity in mastering the language at preschool age; Basic components of school readiness; Educational games in Bulgarian language teaching in the kindergarten; Interactive techniques in preparing children for literacy; Continuity between the kindergarten and the primary school in Bulgarian language teaching, etc.

The professional competence of Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva is also expressed in her active participation in many activities accompanying the classroom and extracurricular work of the university lecturer: she is: a supervisor of graduates (over 40) and the author of reviews of diploma theses; a commissions member for state exams; a scientific students guide regarding the participation in the 7th and 8th student scientific forums; a lecturer at the Doctoral School at the Faculty of Pedagogy; a commissions participant for preparation of accreditation procedures at the Faculty of Pedagogy; a member of the Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva also participates in various forms of ongoing qualification (she is a member of examination commissions, an author and a trainer in qualification courses) of pedagogical specialists at the Department of „Qualification and Professional Development of pedagogical specialists“ at PU „Paisii Hilendarski“ and is a scientific supervisor of 4 pedagogical specialists, who defended their third professional qualification degree.

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva applies the modern achievements of information and communication technologies in the field of education in her teaching activity: she

participates in webinars conducted by the Faculty of Pedagogy, develops electronic resources and conducts training with bachelor's and master's students in an electronic environment.

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva is a participant in national and university projects, for which she has presented the relevant certificates.

The scientific texts, with which Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva participates in the competition for the academic position of „Associate Professor“, are distinguished by: the relevance of the developed issues; the variety of the applied research approaches; the demonstration of professional competence and an excellently prepared methodology; the justification of innovative methodical practices for the purpose of an increase in the language learning effectiveness; the outlining of the deep scientific interests of the candidate in the field of the competition, which is a prerequisite for a successful development of the respective field at the Faculty of Pedagogy of PU „Paisii Hilendarski“

The main habilitation work, the monography entitled „Educational model for the formation of fine motor skills of the child“ (2020), is characterized by an emphasized relevance of the studied issues and has a pronounced practical focus.

The monography consists of an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion, a list of references and appendices and a bibliography. The development demonstrates a good knowledge of the topic by the author and her extensive bibliographic awareness of the researched problem - the list of used literature includes 92 sources in Cyrillic, Latin and Internet sources. The research methods are in accordance with the topic as well as the goals and tasks that the author sets when developing the topic. The monography provides an in-depth theoretical overview of the problem of fine motor skills and their importance for mastering writing (Chapter One). Different variants of tests for school readiness and results of a conducted research on the achieved degree of formation of fine motor skills in the preparatory group are presented analytically (Chapter Two). Based on these observations and analyses, an educational model for the preparation of the child's hand for writing, both for the kindergarten and the primary school (Chapter Three and Chapter Four respectively) is developed. Chapter Five presents a topical issue - the age at which it is appropriate to include information technology in education. The author's conclusions are that the use of technology in kindergarten for educational purposes would enable the child to be prepared for the digital life and to rethink the role of the computer and the telephone (p. 154 - 155).

The monography „Educational model for the formation of fine motor skills of the child“ (2020) enriches the methodical literature in our country with theoretical formulations and practical ideas for exercises that form fine motor skills at an early childhood age and support the literacy process by developing writing skills.

The published book „Pedagogical aspects of the value orientation of the child at primary school age“ on the basis of a defended dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ offers appropriate methodical options for teamwork and formation of value orientation in the conditions of interpersonal relationships. Based on the theoretical analysis of scientific statements on the topic and empirical research, Ekaterina Cherneva states that it is possible to form a dynamic, open to change value orientation in primary school and to build

an attitude and a skill for faster orientation in new conditions, dynamism, intuition and openness to change (p. 149 - 151).

The articles presented by Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva for participation in the competition for „Associate Professor“ outline the professional research of the author. The publications are oriented towards the pedagogical practice and the methodical guidelines reflected in them are useful for the enrichment of teacher's activity with innovative methodical practices. Game methodical variants are proposed in the articles „Innovative variants for the development of speech hearing at preschool age“ and „Alternatives for the formation of sound culture at preschool age“, which would support the teacher's activity in the kindergarten in the preparation for literacy, as well as in the development of auditory perceptions.

The issue of literacy readiness and literacy at primary school age is the subject of development in several publications in the country and abroad (4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6; 5.7; 5.20).

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva emphasizes the application of innovative methods for speech development at preschool age in her research, such as the use of mind maps (5.8; 5.9; 5.10; 5.12; 5.13; 5.14). Some of these publications have been published abroad (5.8; 5.10; 5.14).

The developments presented in textbooks for students demonstrate the commitment of Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva to the quality of the learning process (4.1; 4.2; 4.3).

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva has presented a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defence of the educational and scientific degree „Doctor“. Theoretical developments, which present modern scientific and applied contributions, have a practical perspective, as some of them are directly oriented towards the educational work. I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

The overall review of the production of Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva creates an image of a purposeful researcher, who competently complements a number of theoretical and practical-applied aspects in the field of preschool pedagogy.

Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva is known to me as a teacher, who strives to follow current trends in student education and maintains a high quality of methodical training of future teachers.

Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva are in accordance to the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for implementation of LDASRB and the according regulations of PU „Paisii Hilendarski“.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defence of the educational and scientific degree

„Doctor“. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, as some of them are directly oriented towards the educational work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva is undoubted.

The teaching and research activities achieved by Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Georgieva Cherneva comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy at PU „Paisii Hilendarski“ regarding the implementation of LDASRB, as well as the minimum national requirements for scientometric indicators.

After a careful acquaintance and an analysis of the materials and scientific production submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition, as well as taking into account their importance and scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions to the teaching of Bulgarian language and literature at preschool and primary education stage, I give my positive assessment and strongly advise the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy regarding the nomination of Chief Assistant Dr. Ekaterina Cherneva for the academic position of „Associate Professor“ at PU „P. Hilendarski“ by field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of mastering the Bulgarian language in kindergarten).

5. 11. 2020 г.

Report by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fani Boykova