

REVIEW

In relation to competition for the academic position of professor, in 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics), announced in SG No. 40 of 14.05.2021 at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski with candidate Associate Professor Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova, PhD
Member of the scientific jury: Professor Galin Borisov Tsokov, PhD

1. General characteristics and professional biography of the candidate

The only candidate in the competition for the academic position of *professor* - Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova was born in 1960. She graduated from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, the specialty *Pedagogy* in 1983. Nina Gerdzhikova successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in the field of pedagogy in 1995. Since 1985 she has been working at Plovdiv University Paisii Hilendarski - Smolyan Branch as an assistant professor. Since 1992, Gerdzhikova has been a Chief Assistant Professor in Pedagogy, and in 2002 she achieved the academic rank of Associate Professor in "Theory of Education and Didactics" at Smolyan Branch. In 2017, the candidate defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Library Science and Information Technology, Sofia and achieved the scientific degree **Doctor of science** in Organization and Management of Information Processes; Dissertation title "Organization and Management of Social Communication in School Pedagogy". Currently, Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova is a lecturer and head of the Department of Philological and Pedagogical Sciences (since 2016).

2. The research and scientific-applied work of the candidate

In the announced competition Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova applied with 72 publications, of which three monographs, 3 chapters in a collective monograph, 2 textbooks and teaching aids, 5 studies, 59 articles in scientific journals and scientific collections.

Evaluation of the type and merits of the presented scientific papers on the topic of the competition

a/ Monographs and university textbooks

According to the requirements of Academic Staff Development Act, among the submitted works there is a monograph published after achieving the scientific title of Associate Professor. This is the monograph *Gerdzhikova, N. The school as a pedagogical space of anxiety. The emotional experience and effectiveness of management and organization. Sofia: Avangard Prima, published in 2014.*

The book consists of 309 pages and is dedicated to one of the undeveloped /in theoretical and theoretical-applied terms/ areas in pedagogical science - the emotional experience and the effectiveness of management and organization of the school institution. It analyses the pedagogical practices from the point of view of all social actors on the field of the school institution. Thus, Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova focuses her scientific efforts to a topic that is very relevant and important not only for the theory of education, but has its own projections regarding the current state of the system of our school education. This is so, because the considered problems related to: *the tasks and functions of the school institution; the dominant emotional experience of students of different ages as a prerequisite for organizing the school environment; conceptual models related to improving the organization and management of the school*, are some of the most important in terms of the process of effective functioning of modern educational organizations. In this sense, the topic developed by the author has a very high scientific value - both in theory and in scientific and applied terms.

In general, the monograph benefits from its positive features and contribution moments, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Significance and relevance of the problem developed in the monograph.
2. Theoretically, the professional functions of principals, teachers and students are considered as subjects of positive changes in school activities.
3. Some modern challenges to the Bulgarian school are analytically presented and strategies for their overcoming are proposed.
4. The concept of the essence of the pedagogy of anxiety is substantiated.

In the second monograph - *Gerdzhikova, N. (2007). Conducting and diagnosing the training in the classroom. Sofia: Asconi-Publ., p.257.* - the author examines the learning process, focusing on innovative ways to modernize the classical frontal form for its organization. The monograph presents data from an empirical study of a group of Bulgarian university students from pedagogical specialties - 82, compared with American university students in terms of their values for conducting training and assessing students in it. The conducted comparative quantitative research provides an opportunity to establish the attitudes of future teachers towards the implementation of the teacher-student interaction, to outline the profile of the modern student. In the following chapters of the monograph, the author discusses the strengths and weaknesses of theories for learning purposes and presents practical models for organizing learning. An indisputable plus is that in defining the categories in the monograph Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova skilfully applies the procedural approach.

The third monograph submitted for review is *Gerdzhikova, N. (2015). Theory of multicultural education. Sofia: Avangard Prima, p. 175.* It attempts to systematize the various theories of multicultural education and to create a comprehensive pedagogical concept for it. The text describes in

detail the specialized pedagogical education that would help teachers to cope with the challenges of multiculturalism in school. Attention is also paid to the way in which university students, future teachers, perceive the content oriented to the multicultural problems in the classroom. The author also emphasizes cultural pluralism and performs a functional analysis of its educational advantages.

In the collective monograph "*The Reform of the Network of Schools in Modern Society*" Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova is the author of three of the four chapters. Her point of view on how to differentiate and individualize the in-school organization of education in compulsory secondary education in England, Germany and Bulgaria is interesting. Gerdzhikova also considers the changes in the legislative base, regulating the profession of the teacher and his/her career development. The expose creates the impression of a certain dissatisfaction of the author with the analysed regulative documents, which are subjected to constructive criticism on her part.

Associate Professor Gerdzhikova presented in her documents for the competition also the university textbook and learning aid. These are:

- *Gerdzhikova, N. (2019). Pedagogy. Sofia: Veda Slovena - ZhG, 140 p.*
- *Gerdzhikova, N. (2015). Multicultural education. Sofia: Veda Slovena - JG*

6/ Studies and articles in scientific-theoretical journals, scientific-methodical journals and collections

The main research focuses in these scientific papers are:

- Methodological issues arising from pedagogical anthropology;
- Planning, conducting and measuring teaching in the classroom;
- The change in the work of teachers in the electronic environment and the stages for validation of competencies in vocational education;
- Current issues of multicultural education;
- The multicultural pedagogical competence of teachers;
- Models for reforming the school network;
- Problems of health education.

In general, a very good assessment can be given to the scientific and applied works in the field of theory of education and didactics presented by Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova.

3. Assessment of teaching and educational work of the candidate

According to the submitted documents, the required teaching and educational workload is present. The lecture work of Assoc. Prof. Nina Gerdzhikova is related to lectures and seminars in the following disciplines: *Introduction to pedagogy; Pedagogy; Theory of education; Didactics; Inclusive education; Pedagogical anthropology; Emotional attachment.*

The following facts testify to the high quality of the teaching work of Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova:

- Actively works with students to stimulate their interest in research work, including with foreign students in the Erasmus program;
- She is a participant in 7 educational and research projects / *university and student* /;
- She is a member of a number of international scientific organizations
- She has visited and lectured under the „Erasmus“ program at two foreign universities - University of Salzburg, Austria and Trakya University, Faculty of Education, Edirne, Turkey;
- She was a member of the editorial boards of two prestigious scientific journals: *Strategies of educational and scientific policy (from 2013 to 2020)* and *Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies (from 2018 - 2020)*
- She was a scientific supervisor to one doctoral student who has successfully graduated.

4. Basic scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions

The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova can be summarized as follows:

- The content of age pedagogies is constructed, trying to substantiate the specific emotional states of students in the relevant stages of school education, in the context of the organization of the process of education, upbringing and pedagogical counselling;
- Current problems have been developed related to the initial training and subsequent qualification of pedagogical specialists in the direction of building competencies for work in a multicultural environment
- The factors determining the diversification of the school network in Bulgaria are systematized through the presentation of a wide range, the result of comparative analysis with other educational systems and analysis of regulative documents;
- An analysis of the nature and peculiarities of multicultural education is made, and an attempt is made to construct elements of *a theory of cultural diversity in pedagogy*, adequate to the globalized postmodern society;
- Significant problems related to the implementation of the socio-historical approach to pedagogical knowledge have been studied.

In support of this overall assessment of scientific contributions, we can point to the fact that the works of Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova have been cited as significant and cited in a number of publications - monographs and articles in periodicals and scientific collections. There are 14 citations of the works of the candidate.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

Some recommendations can be addressed to the research and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova:

- In my opinion, the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Gerdzhikova contain enough originally developed ideas and achieved results that can be popularized through publications in indexed publications abroad;
- Associate Professor Gerdzhikova to focus even more on research efforts to develop a specific field in pedagogy, such as pedagogical anthropology.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova, PhD meet all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the Regulations for implementation of ASDARB, and the respective Rules of PU. She has presented a sufficient number of high-quality scientific papers published after the materials used for achieving the scientific position of Associate Professor. The works of the candidate contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received national recognition. The candidate in the competition meets the relevant minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor". I have no doubt of plagiarism in the scientific publications submitted for review.

Based on the acquaintance with the presented scientific works, their significance, the theoretical and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I give my **positive assessment** and I find it reasonable to propose Assoc. Prof. Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova, PhD to take the academic position of "Professor" in a professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics)

05. 09. 2021

Reviewer:

/ Prof. Galin Tsokov, PhD /