

Letter of Assessment

by Prof. Dr. Lyubomir Nikov Popov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",
Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of History of Pedagogy and Education Management
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position "Professor" of
the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski"

by field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of
education and didactics)

in the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 40 of 14.05.2021 and on the
website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Branch in Smolyan, as a
candidate participates Assoc. Prof. Sc.D. Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova from the Branch - Smolyan

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № P33-3120 of 12.07.2021 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (UP) I was appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "Professor" in UP in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics), announced for the needs of the Branch in Smolyan.

The only candidate for participation in the announced competition has submitted documents - Assoc. prof. Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova from the Branch in Smolyan, Department of Philological and Pedagogical Sciences.

Presented by Assoc. Prof. Nina Gerdzhikova set of materials on paper includes all the necessary documents for participation in the competition. They comply with the requirements of the RBLDAS, the regulations for its application and the internal rules of the University of Plovdiv.

Until now, the candidate has published: 3 monographs independently and 1 in co-authorship; 11 articles and reports in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, three of which in a foreign language (Web of Science); 5 studies in the collection "Education and training in the context of multiculturalism and digitalization"; 47 articles and reports in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes; author's abstract of a dissertation for the degree "Doctor" and a diploma for the degree "Doctor of Sciences", as well as publications in connection with it; she is participated in 3 national and 5 intra-university research projects and has published a textbook and a workbook. There are 14 citations.

For review in connection with the competition Nina Gerdzhikova dropped out to review an article due to the large number of participants in it.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

During the years of her professional realization N. Gerdzhikova leads courses in: Introduction to Pedagogy, Pedagogy, Theory of Education, Didactics, Inclusive Education, Pedagogical Anthropology and Emotional Attachment. These disciplines fully correspond to the profile of the competition. The content of the lecture courses is provided both with the textbooks created for them and with a large part of the publications. This fact should be especially emphasized, as the competition is for a Professor, what is important for the professional growth of N. Gerdzhikova as a **lecturer**.

In this aspect, the extracurricular work of N. Gerdzhikova with students, graduates and doctoral students should be evaluated. During different academic years she has led graduates in the specialty "Primary Pedagogy and English" for a bachelor's degree and students for participation in student sessions for scientific and artistic creativity. She trained a foreign student in the Erasmus program (2012) and provided scientific guidance to a successful PhD student (2020).

Assoc. Prof. N. Gerdzhikova has an impressive number of participations in scientific conferences - a total of 23 for the period from 2002 to 2020. Of these in Bulgaria are 19 and abroad - 4. Impressive is the wide range of reports and scientific communications in them - didactics, theory of upbringing, education management, history of Bulgarian education, health and psychological problems. This fact can be described as a manifestation of professional courage on her part.

The following aspects of the candidate's scientific performances are also important for the competition: **membership in an international scientific network** (Strengthening Europeans' Capabilities by Establishing the European Literacy Network. COST Action IS1401ELN www.is1401eln.eu/en/ (2014 - 2019)) and in **international scientific organizations**: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft - from 2016 to currently; British Education Research Association - from 2015 - 2020; Gesellschaft für Historische Anthropologie - from 20016 to the present; European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (2013-2014); British Association for International & Comparative Education - from 2020 - to currently; Society for Educational Studies - from 2021; **membership in editorial boards of scientific journals**: Strategies of educational and scientific policy - from 2013 - 2020; Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies - from 2018 - 2020; **lectures given in foreign universities** - at the Thracian University in Edirne and at the University of Salzburg, translation of a monograph: Wulf, Chr. (2016). Anthropology of Education, Sofia: East-West, 238p. (from German to Bulgarian).

Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

As a habilitation work, Assoc. Prof. N. Gerdzhikova presents the monograph "The School as a Pedagogical Space of Restlessness. Emotional Experience and the Effectiveness of Management and Organization" (2014). In it, the author points out some unfavorable facts about the Bulgarian school, related to the deterioration of its traditional structure - primary school, junior high school, high school/technical schools and offers her analyzes in connection with them. The focus of the research is the dynamic characteristics of the school, caused by the thinking, actions and group emotions of the people in them, with an emphasis on the meso- and micro-level of management and organization of the school. The author successfully achieves these research intentions through the adequate structuring of the work, as well as the orientation towards the approach to use examples and arguments of different nature - facts from school practice at home and abroad, opinions of real school subjects, including students, scientists, theoretical analyzes and empirical research of specialists. The language and style of presentation in the monograph are strongly scientific and reasoned, which shows the presence of developed research skills of the author. I believe that in this form it fully meets the requirements for monographic work. With its analyzes, conclusions and suggestions, it can be practically useful for school management bodies. Moreover, with some productions the research may arouse the interest of a wide range of professional readers - for example, linking school levels with the dominance of different types of emotional experience of students (items 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, etc.).

The topic of the monograph is also interpreted in 13 articles, which describe the emotional experience of students in adolescence. Two of them are theoretical in nature, one clarifying "socio-emotional competence" and the other - interest as a regulatory mechanism in the emotional behavior of students. The other articles present the results of empirical research as follows: methodologically, the

research is quantitative, correlated in nature. That is why they reveal the variations between the items in real conditions, from the point of view of the students' judgments. Large and medium-sized samples were used, which allowed to make sufficiently reliable scientific conclusions through frequency analysis, Cronbach's alpha calculation, exploratory factor analysis and analysis of variance. The research tool is a questionnaire containing items that belong to a certain scale. The results of the research provide rich information about the emotional experience of students, both in the learning process and outside it.

My impressions are confirmed by the other publications of the candidate. The other three monographs address structurally important issues for didactics and theory of education such as the influence of cognitivism on the methodology of organizing, conducting teaching and assessing student achievement, the functioning of multiculturalism and the need to improve Bulgarian educational legislation. Among the articles I would highlight those that are related to: school inspection, teaching design, theories for measuring teaching, multicultural pedagogical competence, theories of health education. All of them have the character of proving with new means of essential new sides of already existing scientific problems and theories.

CONCLUSION

I believe that the current realization of Assoc. Prof. Nina Gerdzhikova in the lecture and extracurricular activities with students, graduates and doctoral students, as well as her research activities, are characterized by high professionalism and fully comply with the profile of the competition. In addition, the membership of Sc.D. Nina Gerdzhikova in international organizations and her lectures at foreign universities show that her professionalism is valuable outside the country.

That is why I offer to the esteemed jury my positive vote Assoc. Prof. Sc.D. Nina Gerdzhikova to take the academic position of "Professor" at the University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Branch in Smolyan in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics).

09.08.2021, Sofia

Prepared the assessment:

(Prof. Dr. Lubomir Popov)