

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mitko Dimitrov Shoshev

Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Pedagogy

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of
"Associate Professor" of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" by: field of higher
education 3 Social, economic and legal sciences professional field 3.2 Psychology (Clinical
psychology)

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 94.
of 12. 11 2021 and in the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of
the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as a candidate participates Ch.
Assistant Professor Dr. Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova from the Faculty of Pedagogy.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

By order № PD 21-35 of January 10, 2022. of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii
Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury of the competition
for the academic position "Associate Professor" in PU in the field of higher education 3
Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.2 Psychology Psychology,
announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education.

The only candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced
competition: ch. assistant professor Dr. Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova from the Department of
Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Plovdiv.

Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova, a set of
materials on paper is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic
staff of the University of Plovdiv, and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of Plovdiv University for admission to participate in a competition
for the academic position of "Associate Professor";
- Curriculum vitae;
- Diploma of higher education with acquired educational
- qualification degree "Master"; issued by Sofia University

- Diploma for educational and scientific degree "Doctor", field of higher education 3 Social, economic and legal sciences, PN 3.2 Psychology (Special Psychology), issued by Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski";
- List of scientific papers;
- Information on compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor";
- Annotation of the materials under art. 65 on PRASPU, incl. self-assessment of contributions;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents for educational work;
- Documents for research work;
- Other documents supporting the application.

Copies of all documents are presented correctly in electronic form.

The candidate Dr. Zlatomira Kostova has submitted a total of 36 publications for the preparation of this opinion. Of these, 1 habilitation thesis - monograph; 1 published book on the basis of a defense dissertation for the award of ESD "PhD"; 4 textbooks and teaching aids, as a co-author; 3 articles in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific databases; 22 articles in unrefereed journals with scientific review; 3 studies published in peer-reviewed and indexed in world-renowned databases and 2 studies published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific peer-review.

For the author's participation in the articles and in the textbooks and teaching aids as a co-author, Dr. Zlatomira Kostova presented correctly separation protocols.

In order to prepare the opinion, I accept for review all 36 submitted scientific papers, as they are directly related to the scientific specialty.

Brief biographical data about the candidate

Dr. Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova obtained a Master's degree in Psychology in the Master's program in Clinical and Counseling Psychology at Sofia University "St. Kliment

Ohridski” in 2007. In 2013 she defended the ESD “PhD ” in the field of higher education in generalized developmental disorders. According to the presented CV and certificate of work experience, Dr. Zlatomira Kostova has been working as a lecturer, chief assistant professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" since 2001, successively in the departments of "Psychology and Pedagogy" and "Psychology". Since 2014 she has been the regional director of the Institute of Mental Health, Plovdiv branch. She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy and the Society of Psychologists in the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

According to the attached information, Dr. Zlatomira Kostova has developed 3 study programs in the Bachelor's degree, speciality General Psychology, full-time and part-time education at the University of Plovdiv; 2 study programs in the Bachelor's degree, specialty "Social Activities" at the University of Plovdiv; 1 study program in the Master's degree, specialty "School Psychology" at the University of Plovdiv; 1 study program in the Master's degree, speciality Positive Psychology at the University of Plovdiv; 2 study programs in the Master's degree, Applied Psychology at the University of Plovdiv and 1 study program in the Master's degree, Clinical and Counseling Psychology at Sofia University. The developed study programs, the lecture courses to them and the tests and cases for checking the students' knowledge directly reflect the directions in which the candidate works.

Dr. Zlatomira Kostova was the research supervisor of a total of 20 graduates who successfully defended their diploma theses. The topics of the diploma theses are also a direct reflection of the candidate's scientific research.

Dr. Zlatomira Kostova also has active work with students in the Student Scientific Forum.

I can define the research and work of Dr. Zlatomira Kostova as directed in 3 directions, as all three are a reflection of the directions in the development of clinical psychology as a science.

The first scientific field is the study of emotional states and emotional regulation in children with dysontogenesis, especially in children with autism spectrum disorders. In this area, Dr. Zlatomira Kostova presents papers numbered 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 19, 23, 25, 31. Of these publications, I would like to note the monograph on the basis of a defended dissertation

as an excellent literary a source of scientific and practical value, in which a Protocol for determining the level of emotional - affective functioning of the child with ASD can be singled out as a contribution. The other publications in this scientific field reflect various aspects in the research of Dr. Zlatomira Kostova regarding the emotional states of children with this form of dysontogenesis.

The second scientific field, in which Dr. Zlatomira Kostova presents her work, is dedicated to the relationships between children with developmental disabilities and their parents. These are the publications with numbers 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 21, 23, 26, 27, 31. Undoubtedly, such relationships include the emotional component, disorders of emotional states as in children with a deviation in development, as well as in their parents, due to which some of the articles reflecting the two research areas overlap.

The third scientific field in which Dr. Zlatomira Kostova works is related to the study of the brain mechanisms of modern psychotherapy. A modern understanding of brain-based psychotherapy from the point of view of modern neuroscience. It is noteworthy that the works in this field are in English and have been published in referenced and indexed publications. These are publications with numbers 3, 4, 28, 29, 30. Despite their smaller number, the presented publications have a high impact factor and high scientific value.

Dr. Zlatomira Kostova also has publications in the field of general clinical psychology and the psychology of children with special educational needs. The presented publications reflect the competence profile and professionalism of the candidate.

From the presented list of citations, the citations of the publications of Dr. Zlatomira Kostova in foreign and refereed and indexed editions are impressive. I accept the presented scientific and practical contributions, but I would group them according to the scientific interests of the candidate.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

Dr. Zlatomira Kostova is the author of most of the scientific papers submitted for review, shows good publishing and scientific activity in relation to independent monographs and articles on significant issues in clinical psychology and psychotherapy, and with her participation as a co-author in textbooks and textbooks aids consolidate his qualities as a specialist in the field of this scientific specialty. Her scientific growth, in my opinion, would further support her research and pedagogical work.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the documents and materials presented by ch. assistant professor Dr. Zlatomira Kostova meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of ESD "Doctor". In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition as a representative part of them are published in journals and scientific journals published by international academic publishers. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. The scientific and pre-teaching qualification of ch. assistant professor Zlatomira Kostova, PhD is undoubted.

Achieved by ch. assistant professor Zlatomira Kostova, PhD results in teaching and research fully comply with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the application of ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their importance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Dr. Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University of Plovdiv "P. Hilendarski" in professional field 3.2 Psychology (Clinical Psychology)

March 12, 2022

Prepared the opinion:

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