

REVIEW

**From Professor Radka Ivanova Massaldjieva, Medical University
in Plovdiv**

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 Durjaven
vestnik, issue 94 / 12.11.2021 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii
Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology of the Faculty of

Pedagogy of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

as candidate (s) participates Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova from Plovdiv

University " Paisii Hilendarski "

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate (s)

General presentation of the received materials

Subject:

By order № PD-D1-35 of 10.01.2022 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv
"Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I was appointed a member of the scientific jury of the
competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in PU in the field of
higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences professional field 3.2
Psychology, (Clinical psychology), professional field (name of the scientific specialty),
announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Pedagogy of
Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski".

1. Only the following candidates have submitted documents for participation in
the announced competition: Chief Assistant Dr. Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova from
Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"

The following materials were received for the preparation of an opinion on the procedure:

1. Application to the rector
2. Autobiography
3. Copies of diplomas for Master's degree and Doctor's degree
4. List of scientific papers and separation protocols
5. List of citations
6. Self-assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements for scientometric indicators
7. Annotations of scientific papers
8. Self-assessment of contributions
9. Information for participation in projects
10. Documents for length of service
11. Other documents - Information on extracurricular activities, qualification trainings, participation in scientific forums, participation in editorial boards and teacher mobility

1. The set of materials presented by Zlatomira Kostova is in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of the University of Plovdiv, and includes the following documents:

The candidate Zlatomira Kostova has submitted a total of 32 scientific papers, including 5 studies, 2 monographs, 4 textbooks and teaching aids and a list of 30 research papers. 31 scientific papers are accepted for review, which are outside the dissertation and are considered in the final evaluation, participation in 2 textbooks and 7 research and 10 projects with scientific and practical orientation (total - participation in 17 projects). Scientific papers on the dissertation have not been presented or reviewed. All submitted works are on the issues of the competition - clinical psychology. The distribution of scientific papers by relevant sections, in the country and abroad, is as follows:

1. Articles published in foreign journals, referenced and indexed in the Web of Science, with Impact Factor - 2; total Impact Factor - 4.24.
2. Chapter in a monograph published abroad - 1
3. Monographs in Bulgaria - 2, 1 of them unrelated to the dissertation
4. Articles and reports in unrefereed journals, with scientific review or in edited collective volumes (collections) - in Bulgaria - 18; abroad (Russia) - 1.

5. Studies - 3 abroad and 2 in Bulgaria, one of the described studies is stated to have been published in a textbook;

1. Brief biographical data (of the applicant (s))

1. The only candidate in the competition - Zlatomira Kostova has 20 years of teaching experience at P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of Psychology, where she currently works as a chief assistant. Since 2013 she has been a Doctor of Psychology with a dissertation dedicated to affective development in generalized developmental disorders. Since 2014 is a certified consultant, and from 2019 - psychotherapist in cognitive-behavioral therapy. Conducts training in other psychotherapeutic modalities - emotionally focused and therapy scheme. Zlatomira Kostova has postgraduate training not only in the field of psychotherapy and counseling but also for psychological assessment with MMPI -2, MMPI A, Children's Aperceptive Test.

Since 2014, simultaneously with her teaching work, Kostova is a consultant and therapist at the Institute of Mental Health and Development, Plovdiv branch. Her participation in scientific and applied projects is in the field of education, development of social skills in children and youth, diagnostics of family functioning and self-help groups for parents of children with disabilities.

Personal impressions

My personal impressions of the work of the candidate in the competition - Zlatomira Kostova - were built during a joint course in clinical psychology at the University of Plovdiv "P. Hilendarski "from 2012 to 2016, when I had the opportunity to make sure of her professional training, serious attitude to the performance of duties and successful motivation of students in the seminars for which she was responsible. Impressive were also the high criteria that Kostova set in her academic work, as well as the responsible attitude towards it and the relationships in the team.

General characteristics of the candidate's activity (s)

From the submitted materials for review it is clear that in the last year Zlatomira Kostova has prepared curricula, tests and case studies, and has taught in the following disciplines:

1. In the bachelor's program in psychology:
 - Clinical psychology, Clinical evaluations and interventions, Psychology of personal adjustment,
2. In the bachelor's program in social activities:

- Psychological foundations of clinical psychology in social work, Psychological foundations of crisis intervention

3. In the master's programs in positive, applied and school psychology, respectively:

- Positive parenting, Assessments and interventions in clinical practice, Parental competence - assessment and development strategies.

According to the requirements of P. Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, the minimum number of points for pedagogical internship at the university is 30. Zlatomira Kostova collected 100 points for the activities of preparing curricula and 46.5 points from classroom employment in the last year. A large percentage of the disciplines led by the candidate in the competition are in the direction of the competition, with the exception of only two of the courses in the master's programs in positive and school psychology.

12 students were guided to participate in student scientific forums, as well as 20 graduates from various specialties with topics in the field of clinical psychology. Zl. Kostova has participated as a co-author in a total of 2 textbooks (1 title in two editions, with a total of two authors) and 2 textbooks with a total of 5 authors, in the direction of the competition. Kostova has also developed 2 electronic resources dedicated to Autism spectrum disorders .

She completed one EASDmus teacher mobility.

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

Monographs, articles, certificates and patents classified by subject or other attribute for participation in other procedures have not been submitted for participation in the competition and no reduction is required due to coincidence or overlap. A total of two monographs from 2018 and 2020 were presented.

Kostova's scientific and applied research activity is reflected in 6 scientific articles in journals, 3 of them abroad, both in refereed and indexed in WoS editions with impact factor (according to the additional requirements of P. Hilendarski University) - at least 1 publication); 15 reports in collections. One report was published in a collection of conferences in Bulgaria, 3 papers - in proceedings of conferences with international participation. The other 11 papers are from conferences in the country and are included in

collections published by Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski". Three of the described publications in edited collective volumes are included in the textbook.

Of the presented publications, a total of 5 are in English, the rest - in Bulgarian. Kostova is an independent author of 16 scientific and applied articles. The articles are co-authored with up to 3 authors.

The materials submitted for review do not indicate whether the projects in which the candidate participated in the competition led to publications.

Certificates for participation in 14 international scientific forums and 10 national conferences are attached. Kostova participates in the editorial board of two Bulgarian magazines.

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations

The following main scientific, scientific-applied and methodological contributions in the publications of Zlatomira Kostova in the field of clinical psychology can be deduced from the analysis of the available materials:

1. Scientific contributions:

- Theoretically, a concept has been developed for the impact of trauma on the functioning of the parents of children with disorders in neuropsychological development (1/2/5/23/26); * Towards the creation of new constructions, technologies;

- The models of affective connection of mothers - parents of children from the autistic spectrum have been studied (5/15/21/23/24/31/35) * Towards substantiation of a new hypothesis;

- A systematization of psychotherapeutic interventions for parents and families has been proposed (7/26/32). * Towards the creation of new constructions, technologies;

1. Scientific and applied contributions:

- A symptomatic profile of mothers with trauma from loss of health and in a state of distress has been derived (1) * To substantiate a new hypothesis;

- An individual profile for affective functioning and development in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) has been developed (2) * To substantiate a new hypothesis;

- Conceptualization of psychotherapy through the neuropsychological approach (3/4/28/29/30) * Towards proving with new means essential new aspects of existing scientific fields

2. Methodological contributions:

- A questionnaire for assessment of family functioning in families with a child with ASD has been created and tested (2) * Towards the creation of new methods;

- An innovative approach to the study of ASD has been developed, with an emphasis on the mother-child relationship (2) * Towards the creation of new technologies;

- Integrative approach for diagnosis and psychological support of children (12/13/14/27) * Towards the creation of new technologies;

- Opportunities for early childhood education (16)

1. The presented 2 monographs of the candidate in the competition have a thematic intersection in the mother-child relationship, mediated by the trauma, in families with children with disorders in neuropsychological development. Both works combine theoretical analyzes and results from their own empirical research and contribute to a fuller understanding of specific problems of development and parenthood in such families.

Summarized the theoretical and experimental work of Zl. Kostova is mostly focused on child clinical psychology - psychological assessment and psychotherapy; the peculiarities of the functioning of the family system in families with children with ASD; psychotherapeutic opportunities to support mothers of children with developmental disorders. I believe that these contributions are important for the theory and practice of an area that has been in intensive development in recent years, which has also led to a change in diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for ASD. The presented achievements are a solid basis for future research in multidisciplinary teams.

From the presented materials it is evident that Kostova is an independent author of the predominant part of the articles - 16, as well as of the two published monographs. In this sense, there is no doubt that the contributions described are the personal work of the applicant.

The data provided on citations of the candidate's scientific papers confirm the importance of her contributions and recognition in the professional psychological community. The quantitative indicators are as follows: 2 citations in monographs abroad, 1 - in a doctoral dissertation defended abroad - all three by foreign authors; 10 - in a monograph in Bulgaria; 2 citations in proceedings of conferences abroad (1 international); 3 in collections of scientific forums published in Bulgaria; The citations in unrefereed journals with scientific review are 5;

Implementation activity

Information for participation in the development of a software program for people with autism (official note from the Association "Parallel World") is also presented. There are no data on the implementation and the effect of the development.

Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks.

CONCLUSION

The materials presented by Zlatomira Kostova meet all the conditions of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZASDRB), the Regulations for implementation of ZASDRB and the Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski":

1. (suppl. - SG, iss. 30 in 2018, in force from 04.05.2018) Zlatomira Kostova has acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in a doctoral program in special psychology;

2. has held the academic position of "chief assistant" and has been a lecturer at the same higher school; she was a specialist in practice with proven achievements in psychodiagnostics, psychotherapy and counseling;

3. has presented a published monographic work, which does not repeat the presented for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor";

4. (New, SG No. 30/2018, effective 04.05.2018) meets the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5;

5. (New, SG No. 30/2018, effective 04.05.2018) there is no proven plagiarism in scientific works in accordance with the law.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a larger number of scientific papers than required, published after the materials used in the defense of ONS "Doctor". In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received scientific response, including in publications abroad. The presented publications contain in-depth theoretical developments, but also applied and methodological contributions. Data on wide teaching activity and extracurricular work with students and graduates of Zl. Kostova. The results achieved by Kostova in the teaching and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of the Law on Education and Science.

After careful acquaintance with the materials provided in the competition, analysis of their importance and their scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I confidently and categorically give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of Pedagogical Faculty for selection of Zlatomira Georgieva Kostova for the academic position "Associate Professor" at the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Clinical Psychology).

16.03. 2022

Prepared the review: (signature)

Professor Radka Massaldjieva, PhD