

STANDPOINT

by **Professor Doctor of Psychological Sciences Natalia Hristova Aleksandrova**,

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition to occupy the academic position **"professor" of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**

in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and Age Psychology – Child Psychology)

In the competition for "professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 of 18.11.2022 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education, Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" participates as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order No. PD-21-69 dated 18.01.2023 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of "professor" in the PU in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic, and legal sciences, professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and Age Psychology - Child Psychology), announced for the needs of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education.

Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD who is the only candidate in the competition, submitted documents for participation in the announced competition.

The set of materials presented by Associate Professor K. Tagareva, PhD is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU.

The candidate Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD has submitted a total of 62 scientific papers: 3 studies, 1 monograph, 1 chapter of a collective monograph, 1 co-authored textbook, 1 study aid and 55 articles. All are accepted for review. 48 scientific works that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review and are taken into account in the final evaluation. 14 scientific papers, which are outside the scope of the competition, are not reviewed. The distribution of scientific works by relevant headings, in the country and abroad, is as follows:

- *By type*: monograph – 1 issue; articles published in scientific publications, referenced, and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 2 issues;

articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 40 issues; studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 3 issues; chapter of a collective monograph -1 in co-authorship; university textbook – 1.

- *By language in which they were written:* in Bulgarian - 36 issues; in Russian – 9 issues; in English - 3 issues.

- *By number of co-authors:* independent – 39; with one co-author – 7 issues; with two co-authors – 1 issue; with three co-authors - 1 issue.

Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD was born on 18.12. 1962 in the city of Karnobat.

Since 2018, she is currently the head of the Department of Psychology at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". Since 2010, she has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Education of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". Before that, she worked as a chief assistant in the "Pedagogy and Psychology" department and in the Pazardzhik Pedagogical College – PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity

The educational and pedagogical activity of Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD is related to teaching various psychological disciplines, mainly in the field of pedagogical and age psychology, with the publication of 1 co-authored textbook and one study aid, with scientific supervision of over 48 successful graduates and 5 successfully defended doctoral students.

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

In the announced competition for Professor of Educational and Age Psychology and more specifically, child psychology, the publications presented for review broadly present Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD as a consistent, with broad and in-depth research of the specific psychological features in the development of children from early, particularly important stages of the development of ontogenesis, author. The basic, basal directed activity in this aspect of research in child development is precisely communication. In this spirit, Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD deploys her efforts, studying the functions, content, and place of communication in the context of the effective and harmonious emotional-personal

development of the child. In this sense, she brings out three main components that are of leading importance for children's mental development, namely communication with adults, peers and parents. The study of these basic research directions is also carried out in different social environmental conditions within the framework of child development.

Researching children's mental development, Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD adequately carries out relevant empirical studies. She also realises such research as a leader and inspirer of young people in scientific research work. These are the students who actively take part in relevant research projects reflecting the mentioned three main research lines. This research activity is reflected in the presented active participation in the regularly held events of the student scientific forums. This convincingly presents Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD as an inspiring and inclusive to young followers in the research field scientist, hopefully.

The research efforts by Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD are diligently and correctly substantiated and presented through the prism of well-established and leading theoretical concepts and theories of such authors as L. S. Vygotsky, M. I. Lisina, J. Bowlby and others.

The research projects she has carried out present her as a consistent researcher in her studies after acquiring the academic position of "associate professor". This can clearly be traced from the publications presented by her for the acquisition of the academic position of "professor".

In terms of methodological research tools, she presents and implements in her studies an author's diagnostic technique for studying the communication with adults and the speech of children aged 5-6 years. It also correctly applies a diagnostic tool adapted for the Bulgarian environment for studying communication with peers in children from two to four years of age by L. Galiguzova, as well as an adapted version of a model for studying parental attitudes in the context of the Bulgarian cultural environment.

Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD directs the carried-out research initiatives and main conclusions and summaries to the practice of upbringing and care for proper and effective child development. This defines her as a researcher with a goal and vision for the modernisation and improvement of the psychological practice, knowledge and activity for optimal and complete mental development of children.

The project, on the formation of attachment in childhood, has a formative and emotionally building effect.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

Given the minimum national requirements and the additional faculty requirements, citations are presented in the documents: a total of 98 citations. Among them: citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 4 issues; citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 37 items; citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 57 issues. Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD fulfil fully the necessary amount of cited, available scientific production presented in her publications.

Taking into consideration the overall scientific research output of the candidate, I believe that Associate Professor Tagareva, PhD deserves the academic position of "professor" in the specialty of Pedagogical and Age Psychology - Child Psychology.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD **meet all the requirements** of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works published after the publication of the materials used in the defence of the title "doctor" and "associate professor". The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, a representative part of which has been published in journals and scientific collections issued by international academic publishing houses. The theoretical researches have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD are unquestionable.

The results achieved by Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD in the educational and research activities **fully correspond** to the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the Plovdiv University for the application of ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysing their significance and the scientific, scientifically-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and to

recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Pedagogical Faculty for the election of Associate Professor Kirilka Simeonova Tagareva, PhD to the academic position of "Professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional direction 3.2. Psychology (Pedagogical and age psychology - Child psychology).

07.03.2023

Referee:

(signature)

Prof. Doctor of Psychological Sciences Natalia Aleksandrova