

## **RECOMENDATION**

from Associate Professor Ani Hristova Epitropova, PhD

Faculty of Pedagogy

at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

materials submitted for participation in the competition to hold the academic position  
"Associate Professor" of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski"

According to the area of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences;  
professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Innovations in Education)

In the competition for "docent", announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 of 18.11.20 22 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Faculty of Biology, as a candidate only Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Petkova Vakleva, PhD, from the Department of Botany and Biological Education, Faculty of Biology, Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

### **1. 1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

#### **Subject:**

By order No. PD-21-327 dated 15.02.2023 of the Rector of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'docent' in the PU in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2 Pedagogy (Innovations in education), announced for the needs of the department of Botany and biological education at the Faculty of Biology.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Petkova Vakleva, PhD from Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Petkova Vakleva, PhD, a set of electronic and paper materials is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU, and includes the following documents:

1. application form to the rector for admission to participate in the competition;
2. curriculum vitae in European format;
3. a higher education diploma with an acquired educational qualification

4. diploma for educational and scientific degree "doctor" - notarized copy;
5. list of scientific works;
6. scientific works (copies of publications);
7. list of citations;
8. certificate of compliance for the minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
9. annotations of the materials under Art. 65. PPACPY (Bulgarian and foreign language) p presented monographs;
10. self-assessment of contributions;
11. declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
12. certificate of work experience;
13. documents for academic work;
14. documents for research work;
15. documents according to the additional requirements of the relevant faculty;
16. other documents.
17. a set of paper documents from item 1 to item 17-3;
18. set of documents from items 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 (other documents from items 4, 5, 13, 14 and 15) on electronic media - 8 pieces.

The candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Petkova Vakleva, PhD, submitted a total of 103 scientific works, of which 81 were for participation in the competition. These include 2 (two) monographs, 1 (one) textbook for 10th grade students, 5 (five) study books for students, 4 (four) study aids for students and 69 (sixty-nine) scientific articles. Four of the scientific articles were published in foreign scientific publications. All scientific papers are in the competition profile, meet the requirements and are accepted for the preparation of this opinion.

## **2. General characteristics of the procedure and the applicant's activity**

The information in the autobiography of Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Petkova Vakleva, PhD, shows purposefulness and a desire for continuous professional development and improvement. She has acquired the professional qualification "specialist - biologist with specialization - biology teacher" at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" and OCS "doctor" in the methodology of teaching biology (code 05.07.03) defended before the VAC in Pedagogy in 2003 year.

She was appointed to the position of assistant in 1993, and since 2004 she has been promoted to the Ch. Assistant Professor in the scientific area "Teaching methodology in Bbiology". She creatively and innovatively applies the acquired professional skills in her teaching and research activities, which fully corresponds to the profile of the docent competition for which she is applying.

The applicant's educational and pedagogical activity includes lecture courses from compulsory disciplines corresponding to the competition profile, such as "Competency Approach and Innovations in Education" taught at OKC Master: Biology Teacher and OKC Bachelor: Biology and Chemistry and Biology and English, as well as academic courses in "Health Education" and "Environmental Ethics", which also include innovations in education on these topics. The elective courses the candidate teaches are "Communication Skills", "Pedagogical Ethics", "Education for Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Lifestyles", "Education for Sustainable Development" and others. Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Vakleva, PhD, has made a significant contribution to the education and research activities of students and doctoral students, and also teaches in other faculties of the University of Plovdiv. Develops programs and conducts trainings at the Department for improving the qualifications of teachers. The academic employment record over the years shows significant commitment and dedication to teaching work, which is evidence of her capabilities and abilities to fulfill the academic position of associate professor.

Of high theoretical and applied value is the independent monograph, the structure of which is built professionally and logically. The relevance and importance of the topic of innovations in education is indisputable. From the presented publications, it can be logically concluded that Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Vakleva, PhD, demonstrates in-depth knowledge and creatively interprets the topics of innovations in education, sustainable development, environmental and health education.

The significant number of publications (81 in number) and the multifaceted and up-to-date scope of the topics, as well as their scientific and applied significance, are a key argument in favor of my proposal for the awarding of the academic position of 'associate professor'. The number and type of publications fulfill the criteria and exceed the requirements for the number of talks on scientometric indicators, necessary for occupying the academic position of associate professor.

**I accept the scientific contributions indicated by the candidate**, the most outstanding of which are the expansion of the scope and enrichment of the research activity on the topic of innovations in education, the promotion and implementation of research experience in the pedagogical and research work of teachers with a multiplier effect; the application of innovative teaching and learning practices in the published textbooks and teaching materials for undergraduate students and pupils. Created, substantiated and tested in practice are: didactic technologies with the application of innovations in education; optimized didactic material for working in an interactive educational environment; programs for extracurricular training at school.

All the contributions indicated by the candidate have been verified through the provided documents and publications.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Vakleva, PhD, meets all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" PU.

In the competition, the candidate has submitted a significant number of scientific works (81 pieces), published after the materials used for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor"/PhD/. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received recognition as a

representative part of them have been published in journals and scientific collections issued by authoritative academic publishing houses. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability and are directly oriented to academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of the candidate meet the requirements for the academic position of "docent".

The achievements of Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Vakleva, PhD, results in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national and additional requirements adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-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 Faculty of Biology for the selection of the Ch. Assistant Professor Zlatka Vakleva, PhD, in the academic position of "docent" at PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Innovations in Education)

12.03.2023

**Prepared the recommendation: .....**

*(nodnuc)*

Associate Professor Ani Epitropova, PhD