

REVIEW

from prof. Dora Levterova – Gadjalova, D.Sc.

(PLOVDIV UNIVERSITY “PAISIUS HILENDARSKI”)

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position of "**associate professor**"

at the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

by: field 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. 2022 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", announced the needs of the Department of Pedagogy and Education Management. to the Faculty of Pedagogy as the only candidate participating chief. Assistant Professor Zlatka Vakleva, Ph.D., from the Faculty of Biology of the University of Plovdiv.

Presented by Chief Assistant Dr. Zlatka Petkova Vakleva set of materials in paper format is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU, and includes the required documents such as applications, curriculum vitae, copies of diplomas, scientific works with the relevant separation protocols, references, annotations, certificates, self-assessments, service notes.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate.

Zlatka Vakleva has been the main assistant in teaching methodology in biology since 2003. She graduated with a master's degree in Biology and is qualified as a "biology teacher". Since 2002, he has a Ph.D. in Pedagogy (biology teaching methodology).

In the announced competition, Zlatka Vakleva participated with 81 scientific works: 2 monographs, 1 textbook, 5 study aids for students, 4 study aids for students, and 69 scientific articles. This scientific production is not presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Ph.D."

The distribution of scientific works by relevant headings, in the country and abroad, is as follows: 67 scientific works in Bulgarian and 14 scientific works in English.

He speaks English, Russian and French.

The minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position "associate professor" and the actual number of points of the candidate have been met ch. assistant professor Zlatka Vakleva, Ph.D., reflected in Table 1., from which it is visible that with the minimum required number of points of 400, Dr. Zlatka Vakl has three times more.

Таблица 1.

A group of metrics	Minimum number of points for associate professor	Candidate's actual score
А	50	50
Б	–	–
В	100	100
Г	200	581
Д	50	405
Е	–	192
Total points:	400	1328

2. 2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity.

Evaluation of educational and pedagogical activity and preparation of the candidate.

Vakleva's academic employment is related to teaching the academic disciplines: Competency approach and innovation in education, Health education, Environmental ethics, Pedagogical ethics, Environmental Education, Communication skills, Digital competence and digital creativity, Teacher career development, etc. She has developed curricula for the Bachelor's degree, the Master's degree, for qualification courses at the Department for Qualification and Professional Development of Pedagogical Specialists at Paisii Hilendarski Polytechnic and for RAABE. She supervised 1 successfully defended doctoral student and 13 graduate students.

Additional requirements for the educational activity are met by the candidate in the competition. As can be seen from Table 2., Dr. Zlatka Vakleva has a total of 848 points for educational activity with a requirement for a minimum number of 30.

Table 2.

Teaching experience at a university during the last active year of the candidate (minimum number of points – 30)		
		Candidate's actual score
Indicators from group G + 60 points.		+ 381 points
At least one publication in scientific journals Scopus and/or Web of Science		3 publications
Indicators from group D +20 points.		+ 355 points
2.1 Teaching employment	1 point for every 10 hours (equalized in exercises)	57
2.2. Extracurricular employment	0.5 point for every 10 hours	5

2.3. Curriculum development	5 т.	50
Total		848

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

For participation in the competition, chief assistant professor, Zlatka Vakleva, Ph.D., presents 81 scientific works: 2 monographs, 1 textbook, 5 study aids for students, 4 study aids for students, and 69 scientific articles. All were developed and published after acquiring the academic position of "principal assistant" and after awarding the ONS "doctor". The scientific production presented for participation in the competition has a theoretical-applied nature and is in the field of innovations in education.

The habilitation thesis *Innovations in Education* [1] is a monograph with a volume of 184 pages and is devoted to significant aspects of innovations in education that are supported by experimental research. The research follows discussion issues regarding innovation in the international scientific community. A complex of theoretical-experimental pedagogical models has been developed with evidence of their effectiveness. Surveys and their interpreted results, training modules, and applied interactive learning methods and techniques are presented in example-developed lessons.

Another presented monograph is *Environmental Education - a Vision for the Future* [2], which presents current theoretical concepts and technologies for the implementation of environmental education. The highlights of environmental education are discussed: history, the content of basic concepts, and an idea of contemporary trends internationally. Information about modern educational technologies such as project- and situation-based learning has been studied and summarized. A detailed analysis of game methods, modeling, and group and team organization of the educational process was made. The advantage of the educational portfolio, the application of local knowledge, and the role of cooperation between the museum and the school in the process of environmental education are described. Variants of pedagogical technologies have been developed using innovative methods and techniques for environmental education.

Zlatka Vakleva co-authored 6 textbooks for secondary and higher education in the field of biology and health education [3], environmental ethics [4], man and nature [5], [6], [7], health and society [8]. He has co-authored 4 teaching aids in the field of biology and health education, which are used in the school network [9], [10], [11], [12].

Submitted for participation in the competition in English and Bulgarian are articles from [13] to [81], such as articles [13] related to critical thinking at the university and [14] related to education for sustainable development are in publications on Web of Science, and an article

[15] on environmental ethics in agroecosystems was published in a Scopus Q3-indexed publication.

Published articles can be summarized in several spaces:

- innovations in education – theoretical and practical aspects;
- modern trends and strategies in education;
- academic didactics;
- interactive methods and innovations in didactic technologies of environmental education;
- theory and methodology of pedagogical research;
- theory and methodology of environmental education and education for sustainable development;
- practical application of scientific achievements in: the learning process for students and pupils.

The candidate in the competition, Zlatka Vakleva, was the manager of two projects and worked on 8 projects financed by EU programs.

Participates in various forms of non-formal education. Conducts training in qualification courses, webinars, master classes, and training seminars on projects, as well as participates in supporting the research activities of teachers, etc.

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

The scientific production presented for participation in the competition by Zlatka Vakleva is in the field of innovations in health and environmental education, and in the teaching of biology and man and nature.

Contributions are the personal work of Dr. Vakleva and can be shown as:

Theoretical contributions:

- formulation and development of innovative models of environmental and health education;
- innovations in training methods;
- development of new aspects of the competence-oriented educational process and the formation of competencies among teachers;
- development and application of web-based didactic technologies and educational resources;
- enriching the issues of education for sustainable development and consumer education.

Practical-applied contributions:

The practical-applied contributions can include those created, substantiated and tested in practice:

- didactic technologies with the application of innovations in education;
- optimized didactic material for working in an interactive educational environment;
- curricula for additional training at school.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by chief assistant professor Zlatka Vakleva, Ph.D. meet 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 the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "Ph.D." and the competition for a chief assistant. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received international recognition, as a representative part of them has been published in journals and scientific collections issued by international academic publishing houses. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. Zlatka Vakleva's scientific and teaching qualifications are unquestionable.

The achievements of chief assistant professor Zlatka Vakleva, Ph.D. the results in the educational and scientific research activities fully correspond to the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in connection with the Rules of the PU for the application of the 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 Pedagogy for the election of the head assistant professor, Zlatka Vakleva, Ph.D. in the academic position of "associate professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (Innovations in Education).

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Reviewer:

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