

OPINION

from ScD. Nina Dimitrova Gerdzhikova – Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University

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

by: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences
professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (innovations in education)

In the competition for "associate professor ", announced in the State Gazette, no. 92 from 18.11.2022 and on the website of the University of Plovdiv " Paisiy Hilendarski " for the needs of the department "Botany and Biological Education" at the Faculty of Biology, as the only candidate is the head assistant, Dr. Zlatka Petkova Vakleva.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

The candidate meets the requirements provided for in the RSARB and the Regulations for its application (SG, No. 75, 2010, in force from 07.03.2013). Since 2004 until now, Zlatka Vakleva holds the position of chief assistant in teaching methodology in biology. In 2003 she has acquired the educational and qualification degree "doctor" in biology teaching methodology. She was the head of two scientific projects related to the application of innovative teaching methods in the field of teaching biology, environmental education, bioethics, use of media products in teaching, etc.. From the presented reference for fulfilling the minimum requirements of the Faculty of Education occupying the academic position of "associate professor", it can be seen that the candidate significantly exceeds them. The candidate has submitted an abstract of a dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor", a habilitation work - a monograph with the title "Innovations in Education", published by the University Publishing House of PU "P. Hilendarski", a monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation work - "Environmental education - a vision for the future", textbook and four manuals for the school network (co-authored), five university manuals, one of which - co-authored, three articles in world databases (co-authored) and 65 articles in other publications, of which 35 are co-authored. Candidate Zlatka

Vakleva has publications in other publications as well, which prove her deep interest in innovations in education.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

The candidate's scientific achievements reflect her high scientific competence. It manifests itself through the following facts from the scientific publication activity:

- substantiates the current nature of the subject related to environmental education and the application of innovations in education;
- demonstrates skills for in-depth clarification of scientific categories such as "educational innovation", "environmental education", "sustainable development";
- applies a comprehensive methodological approach for empirical research of pedagogical reality;
- demonstrates high presentation skills for transforming scientific information from text to diagrams and tables and vice versa.

In terms of content, Dr. Zlatka Vakleva's publications interpret a number of important problems for modern theory and practice. Based on her research and experience, she describes the pedagogical toolkit for the formation of critical thinking in the lower secondary and high school stages of education, as well as in the preparation of future teachers. This is helped by the diverse professional activity of the candidate, which is related to the training and qualification of pedagogical specialists in bachelor's, master's, doctoral programs and postgraduate studies.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

The presented scientific works and biographical information prove the achievements of the candidate in the field of pedagogical sciences and her contribution to the enrichment of educational practice. Therefore, I would recommend her to concentrate her efforts in the future on the research of innovative practices in the teaching of natural sciences in secondary education.

CONCLUSION

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 I recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of Pedagogical faculty for the

election of the head assistant Dr. Zlatka Vakleva at the academic position of "associate professor" at PU "Paisiy Hilendarski" in: field of higher education education 1. Pedagogical sciences; professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy (innovations in education) .

02.04. 2023

city of Plovdiv,

Prepared the opinion :
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Prof. Ph.D. Nina Gerdzhikova
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