

## **OPINION**

from DSc. Plamen Radev Ivanov, professor at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" of the materials presented by Ch. assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova for participation in a competition for the academic position of "docent" at the Faculty of Education of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, of professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy – assistive technologies)

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

By order of the Rector of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" RD-21-73 of 18.01.2023, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the preparation of an opinion in a competition for the academic position of "docent" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences of professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy – assistive technologies), announced for the needs of the Faculty of Education of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", Department of "Pedagogy and Education Management". Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Ch. assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova. The presented by Ch. assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova set of materials is in accordance with the adopted and effective Regulations for the development of the academic staff of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" and includes all the necessary documents.

Brief biographical data of the candidate ch. assistant dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova. From 2007 to 2010, she was a doctoral student at the Department of "Pedagogy and Education Management" at the Faculty of Education of the "Paisii Hilendarski" informatics. Obtained the Doctorate of National Academy of Sciences in 2011. Works as an assistant and chief assistant at "Paisii Hilendarski" PU from 2011 until now.

The scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate in the presented scientific production for the academic position "docent" (after that for the ONS "doctor") consists of 4 monographs, 9 independent articles and 9 articles/studies co-authored.

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

I have no objections to the required documents and their content for participation in the competition according to the legal framework: Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of PU "Paisii Hilendarski". The academic workload for the academic position is available. No plagiarism data.

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

Scientific contributions of the candidate.

In her teaching and research activities ch. assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova has covered areas related to special pedagogy, with assisting information technologies in the practice of special education (seven areas in total). In the presented self-assessment ch. assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova noted her contributions in these seven areas. I accept them as correctly deduced, but most of them can be summarized and reduced to a smaller number. From my point of view, I can note the following about the candidate's scientific output:

- availability of scientifically based research in the field of the professional direction;
- support of modern paradigms, views and concepts of special pedagogy and the theory and practice of technologies as an important element of it;
- presence of differentiated and integrated categorical thinking;
- analytical approach;
- practical applicability in working with students and children and persons with SEN (special educational needs).

Questions: 1. Can we talk and write about UDL when there are over ten theories of learning?  
2. What is the relationship with the modern system of learning principles and the principles outlined in UDL?

Recommendation: in the future research work, a more complete narrative for social pedagogy should be presented.

Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution.

The texts of the scientific publications are the personal contribution of the candidate.

Personal impressions.

I know the candidate very well. It is distinguished by conscientious performance of duties, principledness, dialogue and collegiality.

### **Conclusion**

Documents and materials submitted by ch. Assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova meet all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act, the Regulations for the implementation of Academic Staff Development Act and the relevant Regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used in the defense of educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

In the works of the candidate there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have been recognized issued by academic publishers. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to the educational work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Ch. assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova is undoubted.

Achieved by Ch. Assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova results in teaching and research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the implementation of Academic Staff Development Act.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their importance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty. Council of the Faculty of Education for election of Ch. Assistant Dr. Vanya Angelova Sivakova for the academic position of "docent" at the Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, of professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy – assistive technologies).

Prepared the opinion:

February 20, 2023

/ prof. DSc. Plamen Radev Ivanov /