

STATEMENT

**from professor DSc Zhana Atanasova Yankova,
University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski” Faculty of Education,
Department "Pedagogy and Education Management"**

of materials, submitted for participation in a competition
for occupying for the academic position "docent"
at University of Plovdiv „Paisiy Hilendarski“

in area of higher education 1. Educational sciences,

of professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy – assistive technologies)

In the competition for " docent", announced in the State newspaper, No. 92 from 18.11.2022 and on the internet page of University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" (PU) for the needs of the Department "Pedagogy and Education Management" at the Faculty of Education, as a candidate participates Ch. Assist. Vania Angelova Sivakova, PhD, from the "Pedagogy and Education Management" Department, University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski".

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

By order No. ПД-21-73 from 18.01. 2023 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski", 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 area of higher education 1. Educational sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy – assistive technologies), announced for the needs of the Department "Pedagogy and Education Management" at the Faculty of Education of the University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski”.

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Ch. Assist. Vania Angelova Sivakova, Ph.D., from the Department of "Pedagogy and Education Management" at the Faculty of Education of the University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski”.

The presented by Ch. Assist. Vania Angelova Sivakova, PhD a set of materials in paper format is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of

the University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski” (RDASUP), and includes the following documents:

- an application for admission to competition;
- CV in European format;
- a copy of a higher education diploma with an acquired educational-qualification degree "master";
- a copy of a diploma for academic degree “Doctor” (PhD);
- a list of scientific works;
- scientific works (copies of publications and citations);
- a reference of compliance with the minimum national requirements;
- a reference of compliance with additional faculty requirements;
- annotations of the materials with the scientific works under Act. 65. from RDASUP in Bulgarian and English;
- self-assessment of scientific contributions in Bulgarian and English;
- a declaration of originality and authenticity of the applied documents;
- a reference of work experience;
- documents for scientific research and educational work;

The candidate Ch. Assist. Vania Angelova Sivakova has applied a list of a total of 22 scientific works, of which 4 monographs, 2 studies, 11 scientific articles in Bulgarian, 5 scientific articles in a foreign language, 1 textbook and 1 teaching aid. I accept all scientific works for statement. The distribution of the scientific works by relevant rubrics, in the country and abroad, is as follows: 17 in the Bulgarian language and 5 in a foreign language.

The candidate Ch. Assist. Vania Angelova Sivakova, PhD graduated in 1999 from secondary school of science and mathematics "Ivan Vazov", Dimitrovgrad. In 2003, she graduated from University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski” - Informatics, Bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. In 2004, she graduated with a master's degree in Informatics at University of Plovdiv “Paisiy Hilendarski”. In 2011, she defended her doctoral dissertation in the area of higher education 1. Pedagogical studies, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy - Special pedagogy. In 2011, she was appointed to the position of assistant in the Faculty of Education of University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski". From 2012 to the present, she holds the position of chief assistant at the Department "Pedagogy and Education Management" of the Faculty of Education.

I have known Dr. Vania Sivakova since 2011 and my personal impressions are extremely positive. I was a reviewer of the monographs "*Assistive and Information Technologies in Education*" and "*The Inclusive Classroom in the Educational Environment*" and I can point out that she skilfully interprets current problems in education and the need for the use of assistive technologies in the educational environment of the inclusive classroom. Dr. Sivakova is a responsible, hardworking and precise scientist and teacher.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

Compliance of minimum national requirements

From the applied reference of compliance with the minimum national requirements, it is clear that Ch. Assist. Vania Sivakova has 50 points on indicator A, 100 on indicator B, 495.5 on indicator G, 211.6 on indicator D, i.e. the total number of points is 857.1 with a minimum of required 400 points. There is a complete coverage of the minimum national requirements and even a significant excess of the points in indicators G and D. I agree with the indicated values.

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity

Ch. Assist. Vania Sivakova, teaches various academic disciplines in specialties for the acquisition of the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. All of them are related to special pedagogy.

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

Ch. Assist. Vania Sivakova participates in the announced competition for 'docent' with 22 academic publications. The distribution of scientific works is as follows: habilitation work – 1 monograph, 3 monographs that are not presented as the main habilitation work, 4 articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 10 articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, 2 studies published in edited collective volumes.

The teaching activity of Sivakova is provided with 700 hours of auditorium occupancy, realized by lecture courses on "Special Pedagogy", seminar exercises on "Special Pedagogy", current and internship practices in the field, directly corresponding with the announced competition. Dr. Sivakova participates in lecture courses in master's and qualification programs. In her teaching work, Sivakova uses innovative methods based on modern science and

technology in education, which leads to the improvement of the quality of the educational process and the overall culture of the students.

To the activity of the candidate should be added the participation in 8 national, educational and scientific research projects and 4 international projects, mainly for the "Scientific Research" Fund at University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" as a member of research teams and once as a team leader. Participation in a virtual international scientific conference on the topic *Model of inclusive classroom in Bulgaria* gives the candidate the opportunity to promote scientific achievements in the field of special and inclusive education.

The applied references show the activity of the candidate in two areas: teaching and scientific research, between which there is a constant transfer.

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

Form the provided citation reference, I find a total of 21 properly documented citations. 11 of which in monographs and collective volumes and 2 citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and 8 in refereed peer-reviewed journals. The citations cover the period from 2014 to 2022.

Information about the contributions is contained in the self-assessment made by the candidate Vania Sivakova, who points out the contributions of her publication in seven areas:

- Contributions in the first thematic area are presented in research and development related to assistive and information technologies and their application in education and special pedagogy;
- A comprehensive theoretical study of the language and speech disorders has been made and presented in the second thematic area;
- The concept of inclusive education is presented in a theoretical aspect. A comprehensive theoretical study of the inclusive classroom in the educational environment and its organization has been carried out. Inclusive strategies such as the use of co-teaching and assistive technologies are described and analyzed. The indicators for the development of an inclusive classroom have been revealed and presented in the third thematic area;
- The applications of information technologies are described in the search for correlational dependencies and modeling of the relationship between the studied quantities when conducting an analysis of the results of empirical research in the field of behavioral and social sciences presented in the fourth thematic area;

- In the fifth thematic area, contributions are related to the automated generation of test units for diagnosis, assessment and development of cognitive skills, assessment of language knowledge in the field of special pedagogy;

- A theoretical and experimental study of identity was made - social identity, internet identity; personal identity in children with intellectual disabilities and is brought out as a contribution in the sixth thematic area;

- Contributions in the seventh thematic area are related to well-being, social integration, satisfaction and equality in an academic environment.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I do not have any remarks and recommendations regarding the documentation and publications in the competition.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assist. Vania Angelova Sivakova correspond to all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Law (ASDRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDRB and the relevant Regulations of University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific research works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "Doctor". There are scientific and applied contributions in the candidate's works. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Vanka Angelova Sivakova are doubtless.

The results achieved by Dr. Vania Angelova Sivakova in her educational and research activities fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the application of ASDRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and ap-

plied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty board of the Faculty of Education for the election of Dr. Vania Angelova Sivakova for the academic position of "docent" in the University of Plovdiv "Paisiy Hilendarski" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Special pedagogy – assistive technologies).

Date:

03.2023

Composed the statement:

Prof. DSc Zhana Atanasova Yankova