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## OPINION

**by Dr. Zhelyazka Dimitrova Raykova - professor at Plovdiv University  
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of the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
to hold the academic position of 'associate professor'  
**at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**

**by: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences  
Professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of training in...**

**Scientific specialty "Theory and methodology of physical education in kindergarten"**

In the competition for 'docent', announced in the State Gazette, no. 32 of 09.04. 2024 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports" at the Faculty of Biology, **Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva**, PhD, ch. assistant professor in the same department.

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

In accordance with the order No. RD-21-1182/07.06.2024 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been designated as a member of the Scientific Jury.

The set of electronic materials presented by Dr. Rositsa Shtereva is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU and includes all the necessary documents.

The candidate Dr. Shtereva has submitted a total of 44 pieces of scientific work, of which 2 monographs, 1 article in refereed and indexed publications, 14 articles in non-refereed scientific publications, 10 at scientific conferences, 15 textbooks were published in co-authorship and 2 independently. Documents for participation in 3 educational projects were also attached.

The documents submitted for consideration are in good technical form and very well organized. According to the quantitative criterion, type and nature of the scientific production, Dr. Shtereva meets the profile of the competition and fully covers the minimum of national and faculty requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor". Her scientific interests are in the field for which the competition was announced - the theory and methodology of physical education in kindergarten.

Chief Assistant Professor Rositsa Shtereva graduated from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", majoring in "Preschool Pedagogy" in 1988 and later master's program "Early Childhood Pedagogy". She worked as a children's teacher, and from 1989 until now she has been a teacher in the "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports" department. In 2014, she obtained a doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences in the scientific specialty "Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of physical therapy)".

Her scientific interests are in the field for which the competition was announced - theory and methodology of physical education in kindergarten.

I do not know the candidate personally and have no impressions of her.

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

### ***Evaluation of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activity***

The positive evaluation of the educational and pedagogical activity and the preparation of the candidate for the position of "associate professor" can be justified by her professional commitment to the fulfilment of the mandatory teaching norm, by her active work with graduates (16 successfully defended), the management of scientific research development of students, future teachers (5 units) and the creation of 11 bachelor's and 15 master's curricula and 15 teaching aids for kindergartens. All this is an indicator of a good teaching and organizational experience.

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

The main research highlights in Dr. Shtereva's publications are related to the creation and testing of original diagnostic methods related to mobile games. A system of physical exercises aimed at the development of sensory motor abilities of preschool children has been developed. The candidate knows the constructivist paradigm well and has proposed an innovative integrated stationary-play

model for children on this basis. I appreciate the methodological models proposed by her as a positive contribution, based on constructivist ideas for the development of pedagogical technology of physical education in kindergarten, through which teachers can develop an appropriate educational environment. The results of these studies can be considered as a contribution to enriching the methodology of physical education.

The monograph examines current questions about the state of physical education in preschool age. It contains theoretical and methodical statements about physical exercises and comprehensively presents the problems of general developing exercises. As a practical value in it, I define the large number of applications with descriptions of various physical exercises, as well as the proposed plan-summaries of physical education classes, which makes it a valuable aid for practicing teachers and students as well as future teachers.

The scientific research activity of Dr. Shtereva, related to the work on projects (3 items) and independently organized scientific studies, published in magazines and presented at conferences, is a confirmation of her professional capabilities in the scientific field of the competition.

In general, one can give a positive assessment of the scientific and scientific-applied production presented by Dr. Shtereva in the field of physical education teaching methodology. As support for this overall assessment of scientific contributions, the fact that the candidate's works have been cited in 14 publications can be pointed out.

### **3. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution**

The submitted report on the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" shows that the candidate overlaps the requirements according to the different groups of indicators. Reviewing the credibility of the data and evidence presented convinces me of their truthfulness and correctness.

### **4. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have the following recommendations for the scientific and teaching activities of the candidate:

- In her future professional development, it is good for Dr. Shtereva to aim her efforts at more methodical studies of an empirical nature and of a wider size. In order to realize this, it is necessary to be more actively involved in a variety of project activities.

- I recommend to increase the number of publications in international journals and conferences.

## CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by **chief assistant professor Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva, 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 PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted **a sufficient number** of scientific works published after the materials used in the defence of the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

The achievements of Ch. assistant professor, Dr. Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva, the results in the educational and research activities **fully correspond** to the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Biology, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the PU for the application of ZRASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific work presented in the competition, analysing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions containing in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive conclusion** and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty council of the Faculty of Physics and Technology for the election of **Dr. Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva** to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU "P. Hilendarski" by the professional direction of 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Theory and methodology of physical education in kindergarten).

01.08.2024

**Prepared the opinion:** .....

(Prof. Dr. Zhelyazka Raykova)