

STATEMENT

**by PhD Stefaniya Ivanova Belomazheva-Dimitrova, Assoc. Prof.
at "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University" of Veliko Tarnovo**

on the submitted documents for participation in a competition for an academic position „**Associate Professor**” in “**Paisii Hilendarski**” University of Plovdiv

in field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences

Professional direction: 1.3. Pedagogy of Training in... (Theory and Methodology of Physical Education in Primary School)

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 32 of 09.04.2024 and on the website of the “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports at the Faculty of Biology candidate is Senior Assistant Professor PhD Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva from “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv.

1. General introduction of the procedure and the applicant

By the order № RD-21-1182 from 07.06.2024 of the Rector of “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” at the PU in the field of higher education Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Theory and methodology of physical education in kindergarten), announced for the needs of the Department of Theory and methodology of physical education and sports at the Faculty of Biology.

One candidate submits documents for participation in the announced competition: Senior Assistant Professor PhD Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva from “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv.

The presented by Senior Assistant Professor PhD Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva, a set of materials is in accordance with the ZRASRB and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the PU.

The candidate Senior Assistant Professor PhD Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva has submitted a total of 45 scientific works, including a dissertation, 2 monographs, 17 textbooks and teaching aids and a list of 25 research projects. 44 scientific works that are outside the dissertation are accepted for review. The final evaluation also takes into account participation in 1 research project and participation in projects under European programs. The dissertation is not subject to review. The list of scientific works does not include those that are outside the scope of the competition.

I believe that the materials submitted for review are in full compliance with the announced competition for the academic position of "associate professor" and cover the minimum national requirements of the RASRB, Regulations of the PU for its application, as well as the additional requirements of the Biology faculty.

From the presented CV of the candidate Rositsa Shtereva, it can be seen that she has experience in working with children of preschool age, and in 1988-1989 she held the position of a children's teacher at the Malina Children's Educational Institution in the city of Plovdiv. In 1989, she started working at the "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv, and in 2014 she obtained the PhD degree in the scientific specialty "Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. methodology of physical therapy) after successfully defending her doctorate on the topic "Multifunctional nature of movement games in improving children's motor skills". Since 1988, he has a master's degree in "Early Childhood Pedagogy" and also a master's degree in "Preschool Pedagogy" since 1988.

The qualifications and professional experience of the candidate acquired over the years are in line with the theme of the announced competition.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

An excellent impression is made by the academic work of the candidate over the years, which includes scientific guidance of students in connection with participation in scientific forums, scientific guidance of graduate students, development of curricula, development of textbooks and teaching aids, participation in the editorial board of the periodical "Contemporary Problems of Physical Education and Sports" of "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv, participation in the academic life of the department and the faculty, which I believe reflect both the good organizational and teaching skills of the candidate, as well as his scientific achievements.

The textbooks and study aids published by the candidate (co-authored and independent) are entirely on the topic of the contest, covering knowledge from the Theory and methodology of physical education and from the Theory and methodology of physical education in kindergarten.

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

A total of 44 scientific works are subject to review, including 2 monographs, 17 textbooks and study aids and a list of 25 research works. The distribution of the scientific works is as follows: 1 monography presented as the main habilitation work, 1 monography based on a dissertation work, 1 publication in a peer-reviewed journal that is indexed in world-renowned databases, 14 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed periodicals and 10 publications in proceedings of scientific conferences, one of which is in English. Documents are also presented (in the form of

official notes) for participation in projects under various European programs, as well as for the Bulgarian "Scientific Research" fund and for implemented developments in the field of preschool physical education, as well as for the benefit of them (teacher books).

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

The main habilitation work, namely the monography "Generally developing physical exercises in kindergarten" has a volume of 122 pages. The main contribution of this work is that it proposes various pedagogical technologies based on gymnastic exercises, which are aimed at the motor development of preschool children, which I consider to be a particularly relevant emphasis, considering socially significant problems of modern society - immobility and overweight in childhood.

The second presented monography "Influence of movement games on the psycho-motor abilities of preschool children" focuses on movement games as an educational technology, presenting an in-depth experiment and results of the implementation in practice of its own methodology for improving the motor and mental components of development of preschool children.

The contributions of the remaining researches can be grouped as follows:

Publications 1.1, 1.2, 3.4, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8, 4.9 presents research related to the deployment of various pedagogical technologies aimed at the motor development of preschool children.

Publications 2.1, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.13, 3.14, 4.6, 4.7 reveal the peculiarities in the development of the motor function of preschool children, establish the level of development of coordination and conditioning abilities of preschool children, establish is the level of reflection of the factors of the socio-economic environment on the functional, morphological and health development of the child's organism.

Publications 3.3, 3.5, 3.11, 3.12 presents researches aimed at clarifying processes and phenomena important for preschool physical education, which can be particularly useful for practice.

Publications 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.10 presents issues related to student learning. The harmonization of the various pedagogical activities of the university teacher is presented from the point of view of the competence approach. The opinion and attitude of students towards innovative forms of teaching and assessment of knowledge was assessed. The effect of a new model for organizing sports training at the PU in relation to the interests of the students has been established.

Rositsa Shtereva is a co-author of a manual on Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and a co-author of a teaching aid on Methodology of Physical Education - **works 5.1 and 5.2**, which considers the means, methods and forms of physical education, the formation of motor

skills and habits and motor qualities, as well as the methodology of training by type of sport at school.

Materials 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.14 presents in co-authorship a complete set of teaching aids for the teacher and the child in preschool education in the direction of "Physical Culture", presenting the educational content, tasks, means and methods of learning and assessment, and interdisciplinary links for learning with other areas are indicated.

The materials proposed for evaluation have the necessary scientific and practical-applied contributions and I believe that they contribute to the development of sports science, in particular preschool physical education, as well as to the training of students, future teachers of physical education and sports and students of other specialties studying the obligatory discipline "Physical Education and Sports".

The candidate indicates a total of 14 citations in publications by other authors that have been published in peer-reviewed periodicals and collections. The applicant's citation rate indicates the relevance of his scientific works. Self-citations are not noticed. All citations are substantive and are not indicated for other procedures. It makes the impression that the citations are given after 2020.

From the presented materials, it can be seen that the quantitative indicators of the criteria for taking up the academic position "Associate Professor" have been met. It is obvious that the candidate is a recognized scientist in her field of scientific interests and her works find a worthy place among the scientific circles in our country, as well as being a valuable starting point for specialists from practice.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical notes and recommendations.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by the candidate for the competition for taking up the academic position of "Associate Professor" 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 the "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv and Biology faculty.

The candidate in the competition has submitted a significant number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defense of the PhD educational degree and for holding the academic position "Senior assistant professor ". The candidate's works have original scientific and applied contributions. Her theoretical and empirical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to her academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of the candidate are at the required level.

In conclusion, the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, their importance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, give me the reason to give a positive evaluation and to recommend to the respected scientific jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty council of the Faculty of Biology for the selection of Rositsa Hristeva Shtereva in the academic position of "Associate Professor" at "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv in: field of higher education Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Theory and Methodology of Physical Education in Kindergarten).

05.08.2024 г.

Prepared the statement:
(signature)

Associate Professor Stefaniya Belomazheva-Dimitrova