

STATEMENT

by Dr. Mirena Damyanova Legurska – Associate Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Faculty of History

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of Higher Education Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences; Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education (Methodology of Orientation in the Surrounding World)

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE PROCEDURE AND CANDIDATE

By Order No. RD-22-83 dated 17.01.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the academic jury for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in PU, within the field of Higher Education Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education (Methodology of Orientation in the Surrounding World), announced for the needs of the Department of Preschool Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

A single candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Mladenova Kaloverova from PU "Paisii Hilendarski."

The set of materials submitted by the candidate in both printed and electronic formats complies with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski." The materials are systematically arranged and have been submitted in accordance with the competition requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor."

Brief Biographical Information

Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Kaloverova holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Preschool Pedagogy from PU "Paisii Hilendarski." In 2019, she earned a Doctoral degree in the field of Higher Education Area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.2. Pedagogy. Between 2011 and 2018, she worked as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Preschool Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Plovdiv University. In 2018, she was appointed as an "Assistant Professor," and in 2022, she became a "Chief Assistant Professor" in the Department of Preschool Pedagogy, where she continues to work to this day.

She is a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy, a member of accreditation committees for Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in the field of "Pedagogy," a member

of internal and external audit committees of the Department of Preschool Pedagogy, and a coordinator of the "Primary School Pedagogy" and "Preschool Pedagogy" programs.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S WORK

The candidate develops and delivers courses to students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) in the following subjects: "Methodology of Orientation in the Surrounding World", "Fundamentals of Ecological Culture", "Alternative Technologies in Pedagogical Interaction between the Child and the Surrounding World", "Discovery and Creativity in Orientation in the Surrounding World", "Health and Environmental Education", "Experimentation in the Natural and Social World in Preschool Age", "Additional Forms of Pedagogical Interaction for Orientation in the Child's Surrounding Environment".

She supervises internships, ongoing and pre-graduation teaching practice, and administers semester and state exams for students at the Faculty of Pedagogy at PU "Paisii Hilendarski."

The scientific output of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Kaloverova includes 26 publications. For participation in this competition, she has submitted 11 works for review, including: 1 monograph (habilitation thesis); 1 book based on her defended doctoral dissertation; 5 publications in scientific journals indexed in internationally recognized databases, three of which were published abroad; 4 publications in non-indexed journals with academic peer review or published in edited collective volumes.

The candidate has a total of 23 citations, including: 3 in indexed scientific journals; 3 in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes; 17 citations or reviews in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals.

These publications and citations not only meet but exceed the minimum scientometric indicators required for the position of "Associate Professor."

Scientific Contributions

The submitted monograph, titled "*Project-Oriented Model for Health Education Based on Integrative Links and Key Competencies*," presents a highly valuable contribution to the methodology of orientation of children aged 3-7 in the surrounding world. Over the course of 190 pages, the monograph provides an in-depth theoretical and empirical study related to the pedagogical interaction process within the project-oriented model, incorporating art, sports, digital technologies, and the development of key competencies in the field of health education for young children.

Some of the most significant contributions of the monograph include:

- Tracing the active cognitive position of children in normative and strategic documents.
- Analyzing methodological literature on project-based learning.
- Clarifying the key concepts and dimensions of "project-based," "project-oriented," and "problem-based" learning, along with different types of projects.
- Presenting a model for health education founded on interdisciplinary interaction and the integration of "soft skills" for critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.
- Identifying the characteristics of the project-oriented model for health education.

The remaining reviewed publications systematically present original authorial and innovative scientific concepts by Dr. Kaloverova in the following areas:

- Health education and its application in the orientation of preschool children in the surrounding world.
- The competency-based approach and key competencies in orienting children toward a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.
- Project-oriented technology and its application in preschool education.
- The atelier as an additional form of pedagogical interaction in orienting children toward a healthy and social environment.

I have no critical remarks regarding the academic and professional development of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Kaloverova.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Mladenova Kaloverova meet all the requirements of the Bulgarian Law on the Development of the Academic Staff (LDAS), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDAS, and the corresponding regulations of PU "Paisii Hilendarski."

The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after her appointment as "Chief Assistant Professor." These publications include significant scientific and applied contributions, some of which have been published in scientific collections abroad. Theoretical developments have practical applicability and are directly oriented toward the methodology of children's orientation in the surrounding world. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Kaloverova are undeniable.

The candidate's achievements in teaching and research fully meet the requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy in accordance with PU's regulations for the application of LDAS.

After reviewing the materials submitted for the competition and analyzing the significance and scientific-applied contributions contained therein, I confidently give my positive evaluation and recommend that the esteemed Academic Jury prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the appointment of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Mladenova Kaloverova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski."

03/14/2025

Prepared the standpoint:.....

(Assoc. Prof. Mirena Legurska, PhD)