

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by

**Silvana Venelinova Boeva PhD – Associate Professor,
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on a dissertation thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree **Doctor**

in: field of higher education 1. *Pedagogical Sciences*

professional area 1.3. *Pedagogy of education in ...*

doctoral program: *Methodology of Education in Technology and Entrepreneurship*

Author: *Diana Stankova Sevdalinova*

Topic: *"Formation of readiness for work in Technology and Entrepreneurship training of students in the initial stage of secondary education"*

Scientific supervisor: *Prof. Marina Spasova Ivanova PhD - Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv*

1. Overview of the procedure and the doctoral student

By order No. ПД-21-2351 of 17.12.2024 of the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, I am appointed as a member of the scientific panel for holding a procedure for the defence of a dissertation thesis entitled "**FORMATION OF READINESS FOR WORK IN TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING OF STUDENTS IN THE INITIAL STAGE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**", for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree **doctor** in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional area 1.3. Pedagogy of education in ..., doctoral program Methodology of Education in Technology and Entrepreneurship.

The author of the dissertation is the doctoral student of independent training at the Department of Aesthetic Education of the university of Plovdiv (PU) Diana Stankova Sevdalinova, with scientific supervisor Prof. Marina Spasova Ivanova, PhD.

The set of materials (in electronic form) presented to me by the doctoral student complies with Art. 36 (1) of the Regulations for the Academic Staff Development of the University of Plovdiv and includes all necessary documents:

- a request to the Rector of the University of Plovdiv for initialization of the procedure for the defence of a dissertation;
- European format CV;
- minutes of the department council, related to reporting the readiness to open the procedure and preliminary discussion of the dissertation;
- dissertation thesis;
- abstract;

- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation;
- copies of scientific publications;
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- reference for compliance with the specific requirements of the respective faculty

In the first session of the scientific panel, I was asked to submit a statement of opinion on the dissertation.

The author of the dissertation, Diana Stankova Sevdalinova, is an independent doctoral student at the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. She completed her bachelor's degree in Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy at the University of Plovdiv. During the period 2006 – 2019, Diana Stankova Sevdalinova completed her education in two master's programs again at the University of Plovdiv. She has more than 18 years of experience as a primary teacher and currently works as a pre-school director.

The accumulated work experience in the field of education, the management functions exercised and the trade union activity developed over the years provide Diana Stankova Sevdalinova with a broad view of the problems in the education system and allow her to adequately substantiate and develop the topic formulated in the doctoral thesis.

2. Relevance of the topic

The topic of the dissertation presented for consideration is dedicated to an important problem for the methodology of Technology and Entrepreneurship training. Readiness for work is an existential skill. It is related not only to technology and entrepreneurship education, but also to other school subjects.

3. Knowledge of the subject

Despite the limited number of authors in the literature review, it is evident that the doctoral student Diana Stankova Sevdalinova has a good knowledge of the educational content and state standards related to Technology and Entrepreneurship training in primary school. Based on this, she could successfully build the theoretical model of her research activity.

The author has also devoted a suitable space to the introduction of the main categorical concepts used in the doctoral dissertation.

4. Research methodology

The methodology of the dissertation research is adequate to the needs of the research.

5. Characteristics and assessment of the dissertation work and the contributions

The dissertation thesis presented to me for statement of opinion consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusions and recommendations, a conclusion, contributions and a list of literary sources. The bibliography includes 48 titles in Cyrillic and 10 Internet sources. The total volume of the dissertation research is 236 pages. It contains 43 figures, 65 tables, 4 appendices and photographic material.

The author demonstrates adequate handling of the conceptual tools. The methodological choice is not too wide, but allows the tasks set to be deployed and solved. The author herself, in the course of the research activity, recommends the implementation of an additional method to obtain a more complete picture of the achieved results.

The tasks set are in accordance with the purpose of the scientific research.

A correct arrangement of the tasks has been established in relation to building of habits on previously developed skills.

An analysis of the results obtained follows from page 116 onwards. They are well illustrated both graphically and in tables.

The main contribution of Diana Stankova Sevdalinova is the development of a criteria-based system for assessing students.

Towards the end of her dissertation, the doctoral student indicated the contributions in theoretical and practical aspects.

I have several remarks on the layout of the dissertation:

- I assume that more literary sources were used in the preparation of the doctoral thesis than those indicated and it would be better if they were included.
- Some technical omissions were made, such as: merging words, lack of a space after punctuation marks, discrepancy between the pages indicated in the table of contents and their reflection in the dissertation.
- The tabular presentation of the school subject distribution, according to the different author teams in the second chapter (pp. 68 – 110) could have been adjoined to the appendix, and only the author's analysis and comparison should remain in the text.

I believe that the above remarks do not reduce the value of the doctoral thesis.

6. Assessment of the publications and the personal contribution of the doctoral student

The main findings of the dissertation are published with some of the 9 publications presented. Of these, 8 are independent and only one is co-authored. They are presented in Bulgarian. Three of them were presented at international scientific forums.

The author submitted a sufficient number of publications related to the dissertation work and I believe that it was not necessary to include publications that are not related to the topic of the work.

7. Abstract

The abstract summarizes the content of the dissertation work.

- On the second page, it would be recommendable to indicate the main attributes characterizing the dissertation work and the main attributes of the defense procedure.
- The way of listing the Internet sources used in the dissertation and the abstract differs. It is necessary to unify them and use the same citation style.

8. Recommendations for future applications of the dissertation contributions and results

The developed criteria for student assessment could be expanded and implemented in a criteria matrix.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation **contains practical and applied results with a contribution to** Technology and Entrepreneurship training for fourth-graders. It meets all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA), the Regulations for the Implementation of ASDA and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. The presented materials and dissertation results **comply with the specific requirements** of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in reference to the Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the Implementation of ASDA.

I believe that Diana Stankova Sevdalinova **possesses** the necessary theoretical knowledge and practical experience and skills for an independent implementation of scientific research activities, which is evident from the scientific work presented to me for the preparation of a statement of opinion.

The dissertation was checked for plagiarism and none has been detected.

Based on the above, I submit my **positive assessment** and propose to the esteemed scientific panel to **award the scientific and educational degree Doctor** to *Diana Stankova Sevdalinova* in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional area: 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in.... , doctoral program "**Methodology of Education in Technology and Entrepreneurship**"

03.02 2025
Plovdiv

Authored by: Assoc. Prof. S. Boeva, PhD