

## REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Bozhidar Angelov of the materials submitted for participation in the competition by Elena Angelova Kamenova for the academic position of 'associate professor' at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of higher education field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy) announced in the State Gazette No. 96 of 11.11.2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of "Preschool Pedagogy", Faculty of Pedagogy

In the announced competition for participation, only one candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova from the Department of "Preschool Pedagogy" of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", submitted documents. The candidate's pedagogical internship began in 2018 at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" and continues to the present. In 2019, she successfully defended her dissertation at the Faculty of Education of the Paisiy Hilendarski University. In 2021, she appeared in the competition announced in the State Gazette for the academic position of "chief assistant" in: field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences; professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of Education and Didactics). From 2021 to the present, I have held the position of chief assistant in the Department of Preschool Pedagogy of the Faculty of Education of the Paisiy Hilendarski University. Elena Angelova Kamenova's classroom work over the years has been about 800-900 hours, and in this academic year it reaches 1300 hours, with an annual standard of 360 hours.

The set of materials presented by Elena Angelova Kamenova is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Paisiy Hilendarski University, and includes all necessary documents. Chief. Assistant Professor Elena Angelova Kamenova, PhD, has presented a total of 26 scientific papers: publications related to participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" – 14; habilitation thesis – 1; book based on dissertation thesis – 1; articles in refereed publications – 5; articles in non-refereed publications – 7. Teaching activities of Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova speak of active participation in the work with students – bachelors and masters. She uses the results of her scientific research to substantiate the specificity of educational directions in the field of preschool education. Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova also leads qualification courses, through which she contributes to the career development of preschool education teachers. In this regard, it is necessary to make a meaningful analysis of the main scientific, scientific-applied, applied and methodological contributions in the scientific works of Senior Asst. Prof. Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova. In this way,

the main achievements, contributions, significance for science and practice and prospects for development can be characterized. From this point of view, the monograph (presented as a habilitation thesis) with which Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova participated in the competition deserves attention: "Organized activity in the emotional-volitional preparation for school of 5-7-year-old children", Plovdiv, ISBN 978-619-281-078-8. Based on the results of her research, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova examines the specifics of the emotional-volitional preparation of the child for school, focusing on its features and characteristics. The emotional-volitional sphere as one of the aspects of general preparation is studied by educators and psychologists, who are guided by the trend reflecting an increase in the intelligence quotient in the modern child, at the expense of the emotional quotient, which does not account for such high values, but on the contrary. Research in the field shows that children who have well-developed emotional and volitional skills exhibit higher resilience in the face of difficulties, better social adaptation and more successful coping with the demands and challenges accompanying the new learning environment. Thus, the work of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova This in turn requires pedagogical practice to be purposefully oriented towards achieving and maintaining this balance. Emotional-volitional preparation is not built solely with pedagogical situations in educational areas, but requires a multifaceted and holistic approach, in which educational work is carried out both in organized and free activities - game, artistic and creative, labor, research, interactive, etc. It is through such forms that real conditions are created for the full development of emotional-volitional preparation for school. In this order, the organized activities in the practice of kindergartens, as well as their integration into the educational process, which stimulate the development of the emotional-volitional sphere, are examined in depth. In addition, the work examines the professional attitudes and observations of teachers regarding the state, trends and the possibility of optimizing the process of emotional-volitional preparation for school.

For Elena Kamenova, cultural diversity in the acquisition of a foreign language in early childhood is worthy of attention, which is already gaining strategic importance for the personal and social development of adolescents. According to her, the European Union is undertaking various activities in the field of early foreign language learning, and research on the study of foreign languages from childhood shows that the majority of respondents believe that it is essential for the future of the child's personality and its development in the following stages. Early foreign language learning stimulates natural manifestations of curiosity about the language and culture of others. Foreign language learning in kindergarten performs an important socializing function, as it introduces children

to the values of intercultural communication and tolerance, which are the main criteria for modern relationships in a global world. That is why the book “Pedagogical Model for Stimulating Cognitive Activity in a Foreign Language in 6-7-Year-Old Children, Plovdiv, ISBN 978-619-281-070-2” is so impressive – a publication based on the dissertation for the educational and scientific degree of “doctor”. Unfortunately, this work cannot be subject to review in the competition. The 12 articles presented in refereed and non-refereed publications can be attributed to the nature and subject matter of the competition. In them, Elena Kamenova examines and poses the following main problems: the importance of additional pedagogical activities as an alternative for the socio-emotional development of preschool children. Various additional activities in kindergarten are presented (foreign language, modern dances, folk dances, swimming, football, karate, etc.), which stimulate the child's performances, placing him in an active creative and social position; Studying not only theoretically, but also practically the role of outdoor play as an additional form that provides an alternative for increasing motor activity, as a system of outdoor games conducted with 5-6 year olds is presented; The need for updating educational methods arising from children's modern interests in digital technologies is emphasized, such as presentations that satisfy their curiosity and increase their motivation; A system of games with rules conducted with 6-7 year olds is presented. The results of the study are reported on the basis of criteria that aim to establish children's skills in demonstrating independence, initiative and executive position, as well as their emotional attitude during play; The importance and effectiveness of the didactic game for foreign language learning in preschool children are studied; The process of enriching moral concepts in 6-7-year-old children and the place of the fairy tale as a valuable resource for achieving positive results in this direction are examined; The main challenges faced by teachers in modern preschool practice are analyzed and the need for constant adaptation to dynamic educational factors and conditions complicates their pedagogical roles and expands their functional responsibilities. In my opinion, these publications by Elena Kamenova stand out with the opportunity to construct a new vision, relating to both the conceptual understanding of preschool education and the specifics of the child's emotional-volitional preparation for school, focusing on its features and characteristics. It becomes clear that the development of science and the universal computerization of society will begin from preschool education. Thus, through a systematic theoretical review, key factors influencing the educational process are identified, as well as current trends in preschool education. For Elena Kamenova, the analysis of the current state of the educational process is necessary not only to assess its effectiveness, but also to outline guidelines and organizational recommendations that meet the modern educational paradigm and public expectations.

The contributions contained in the works are the personal work of the candidate and are reduced to the following, but are ranked by me, according to

the specifics of the competition: 1. The main challenges faced by teachers in modern preschool practice are examined. ( 1;4 ) 2. The key challenges that influence the quality of pedagogical work are objectively identified. A quantitative and qualitative analysis of a large-scale empirical study conducted among teachers in preschool education in Bulgaria is presented. ( 4 ) 3. The organizational function of the teacher is examined, which provides for planning, organizing, adapting and conducting activities that create conditions for achieving educational goals and objectives. A theoretical overview is made of the professional skills and abilities of the teacher, which should promote motor, cognitive and social activity as interrelated processes, emphasizing the need for an integral impact. ( 10; 11 ) 4. The children's presentation is considered as a motivational tool for enriching children's ideas. The positive aspects are taken into account, as well as its place in the educational process as a modern resource. ( 8 ) 5. Some aspects regarding the inclusion of organized activities as a means of stimulating the educational process and activities of preschool children are studied. 6. Games to stimulate foreign language learning in kindergarten are developed and presented, as well as author's games to stimulate the emotional-volitional preparation of the child for primary school. ( 1; 7; 9 ) 7. Additional activities and their importance for the socio-emotional development of preschool children are considered. In summary: The educational process is considered - trends, challenges and prospects. A quantitative and qualitative analysis of the researched areas related to moral, physical and labor education was carried out, as well as the place of the fairy tale as an additional form and a valuable educational resource (3, 12, 5).

All the outlined contributions find practical and applied projection in the relevant fields of the teaching activity of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova, and are also timely incorporated into the author's updating of the curricula developed by her. Based on all of the above, I can categorically state that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova, as the only candidate in the competition for the field of higher education in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.2 Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy) announced in the State Gazette No. 96 of 11.11.2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of "Preschool Pedagogy", Faculty of Pedagogy, meets all the necessary requirements for occupying this academic position and I strongly recommend her election to the academic position of "Associate Professor".

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