

# СТАНОВИЩЕ НА АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК

от д-р Вания Ангелова Сивакова, доцент в  
Пловдивски университет "Паисий Хилендарски", Педагогически факултет,  
катедра „Педагогика и управление на образованието“

## STATEMENT

from Assoc. professor PhD Vania Angelova Sivakova,  
University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" Faculty of Education,  
Department "Pedagogy and Education Management"

of materials, submitted for participation in a competition  
for occupying the academic position "docent"  
at University of Plovdiv „Paisii Hilendarski“

in area of higher education 1. Educational sciences,

of professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy)

In the competition for "docent", announced in the State newspaper, No. 96 from 11.11.2025 and on the internet page of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) for the needs of the Department "Preschool Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education, as a candidate participates Ch. Assist. Elena Angelova Kamenova, PhD, from the "Preschool Pedagogy" Department, University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

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

By order No. № РД -22-33 from 09.01.2026 of the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'docent' in the PU in the area of higher education 1. Educational sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy), announced for the needs of the Department "Preschool Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Ch. Assist. Elena Angelova Kamenova, Ph.D., from the Department of "Preschool Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The presented by Ch. Assist. Elena Angelova Kamenova, PhD a set of materials in paper format is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” (RDASUP), and includes the following documents:

- an application for admission to competition;
- CV in European format;
- a copy of higher education diploma with an acquired educational-qualification degree "master";
- a copy of a diploma for academic degree “Doctor” (PhD);
- a list of scientific works;
- scientific works (copies of publications and citations);
- a reference of compliance with the minimum national requirements;
- a reference of compliance with additional faculty requirements;
- annotations of the materials with the scientific works under Act. 65. from RDASUP in Bulgarian and English;
- self-assessment of scientific contributions in Bulgarian and English;
- a declaration of originality and authenticity of the applied documents;
- a reference of work experience;
- documents for scientific research and educational work.

The candidate Ch. Assist. Elena Angelova Kamenova has applied a list of a total of 14 scientific works, of which 1 monograph, 1 book based on a defended dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor", 11 scientific articles in Bulgarian, 1 scientific article in English. I accept all scientific works for the statement.

The candidate Ch. Assist. Elena Angelova Kamenova, PhD graduated in 2004 from secondary school "Petko Rachov Slaveykov", in Kardzhali. In 2010, she graduated Preschool pedagogy and English language from University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” Bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Pedagogics. In 2012, she graduated with a master's degree in Methodology in English language teaching in University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski” Faculty of Philology with qualification as an English teacher (grades 1-12). In 2019, she defended her doctoral dissertation in the area of higher education 1. Pedagogical studies, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Theory of education and didactics). In 2019, she was appointed to the position of assistant in the Faculty of Education of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". From

year 2023 to the present, she holds the position of chief assistant at the Department "Preschool pedagogy" of the Faculty of Education.

I have known Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova since 2022 from her participation in the committee for testing the speaking and communication abilities of candidate students and my personal impressions are positive. Dr. Kamenova is a responsible, diligent and fair teacher. She works well in a team.

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

### ***Compliance of minimum national requirements***

From the applied reference of compliance with the minimum national requirements, it is clear that Ch. Assist. Elena Kamenova has 50 points on indicator A, 100 on indicator B, 265 on indicator G, 185 on indicator D, i.e. the total number of points is 600 with a minimum of required 400 points. There is a complete coverage of the minimum national requirements and even a significant excess of the points in indicators G and D. Additionally she has 15 points on indicator E.

### ***Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity***

Ch. Assist. **Elena Kamenova**, teaches various academic disciplines in specialties for the acquisition of the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. All of them are related to Preschool pedagogy – (Preschool pedagogy, Psychology and pedagogy of early childhood, Continuity between kindergarten and school, etc.).

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

Ch. Assist. Elena Kamenova participates in the announced competition for 'docent' with 14 academic publications. The distribution of scientific works is as follows: habilitation work – 1 monograph, 1 book based on a defended dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor", 5 articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 7 articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes.

The teaching activity of Elena Kamenova is provided with over 800-900 hours of auditorium occupancy, realized by lecture courses on "Preschool pedagogy", seminar exercises on "Preschool pedagogy", practices in the field, directly corresponding with the announced

competition. In her teaching work, Elena Kamenova uses innovative methods based on modern science and technology in education, which leads to the improvement of the quality of the educational process and the overall culture of the students.

To the activity of the candidate should be added the participation as a member of a research team in 1 educational and scientific research project for the "Scientific Research" Fund at University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski". Participation in two scientific conferences on the topic of the educational process in preschool age and games for the emotional-volitional preparation of the child for school gives the candidate the opportunity to promote scientific achievements in the field of the preschool pedagogy and specifically the contemporary trends in the field. Since 2023 she has been a mentor of the "Young Pedagogist" club at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the "Paisiy Hilendarski" University.

The applied references show the activity of the candidate in two areas: teaching and scientific research, between which there is a constant transfer.

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

Form the provided citation reference, I find a total of 24 properly documented citations. As 3 of which in monographs and collective volumes and 16 citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and 5 in refereed peer-reviewed journals. The citations cover the period from 2023 to 2025. The total number of points obtained in the end is 600, where there is full coverage of the minimum national requirements and even a significant excess of points.

Information about the contributions is contained in the self-assessment made by the candidate Elena Kamenova, who points out the contributions of her publication in three areas:

- Contributions to the **first thematic area** are related to a theoretical consideration of the role of movement as an indispensable health resource, as well as the presentation of practical results from empirical research. The main functions of movement and prospects in the context of the need to develop motor activity are emphasized. The role of parents and educators in stimulating motor activity in preschool age is examined. The trend of the educational process, challenges and prospects are examined. An empirical study of areas related to moral, physical and labor education has been conducted, as well as the place of the additional form and the fairy tale as a valuable educational resource. Labor activity has been studied, as well as its influence on the development of volitional and socio-emotional skills by children. A study has been conducted that examines the important role of additional activities in stimulating

socio-emotional development in preschool age. Outdoor play and games with open rules have been studied as a significant resource for stimulating motor activity and the emotional-volitional preparation of the child for school.

- Some aspects of the inclusion of organized activities as a means of stimulating the educational process and activities of preschool children have been studied and are presented as contributions to the **second thematic area**. Games to stimulate foreign language learning in kindergarten have been developed and presented, including author's games to stimulate the emotional-volitional preparation of the child for school. Additional activities and their importance for the socio-emotional development of preschool children have been examined. Specially organized work activities have been proposed and their educational value and place in the educational process in kindergarten are considered. Presentation is considered as a motivational tool for enriching children's ideas.

- Contributions to the **third thematic area** are related to research and development relating to the role and functions of the educator. The main challenges faced by teachers in modern preschool practice have been examined. Key challenges that influence the quality of pedagogical work have been revealed. The organizational function of the teacher is examined, which involves planning, organizing, adapting and conducting activities that create conditions for achieving educational goals and objectives. A theoretical overview of the professional skills and abilities of the teacher is made.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I do not have any remarks and recommendations regarding the documentation and publications in the competition.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Ch. Assist. Elena Angelova Kamenova correspond to all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Law (ASDRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ASDRB and the relevant Regulations of University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The candidate in the competition has submitted a sufficient number of scientific research works published after the materials used in the defense of the ONS "Doctor". There are scientific and applied contributions in the candidate's works. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented to academic work. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova are doubtless.

The results achieved by Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova in her educational and research activities fully correspond to the specific requirements of the Faculty of Education, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University of Plovdiv for the application of ASDRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to **give my positive assessment and to recommend** to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty board of the Faculty of Education for the election of Dr. Elena Angelova Kamenova for the academic position of "docent" in the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" in the professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy).

Date:  
05.03.2026

Composed the statement:

Assoc. Prof. PhD Vania Angelova Sivakova