



EVALUATION REPORT

by Assist. Prof. Milena Gancheva Sandeva, PhD

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Member of an Academic Jury, by Order No. 788 / 13.03.2023
of the Rector of Trakia University - Stara Zagora

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor",
area of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health
for the needs of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" at Trakia University-Stara
Zagora, promulgated in State Gazette, issue 99/13.12.2022

1. General presentation of the procedure

The procedure for announcing the competition for acquiring of the academic position "Assistant Professor" has been fulfilled. Only one candidate - senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova, PhD - submitted all necessary documents within the legal deadline. The materials presented by the candidate contain all the information necessary for her evaluation, and comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on its implementation, as well as the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University-Stara Zagora.

2. Brief biography and career development overview

In 1989 senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova acquired a vocational degree from the Institute for the Training of Health Personnel at Secondary Specialized Level in Plovdiv, specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician". In 1993 she graduated the Semi-higher Medical Institute in Sliven in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician". In 2007 she acquired the educational and qualification degree of Bachelor in Healthcare Management at Trakia University-Stara Zagora, and in 2012 a Master's Degree in Healthcare Management at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Plovdiv with excellent grades. In the period 1989-2009 senior lecturer Kichukova worked as a medical laboratory technician at two clinical laboratories – until 2001 at the Clinical Laboratory to the Municipal Hospital in the town of Kotel, and from 2001 to 2009 at the Clinical Laboratory to the University Multi-profile Hospital for Active Treatment "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" AD - Stara Zagora - Central Clinical Laboratory. In September 2009, following a competition, she was appointed a lecturer at the Medical College at Trakia University-Stara Zagora, specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician", and from August 2016 to date, she has been a senior lecturer at the Medical College of Trakia University-Stara Zagora in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician". In 2022 she obtained the educational and scientific degree of Doctor in Healthcare Management, professional field 7.4 Public Health.

3. Scientific research activity

The scientific interests of senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova concern practical and scientific issues in the clinical laboratory area, as well as the increasing of professional

competence of specialists in this field. The materials submitted for this competition are 1 monograph and 33 publications (3 of which presented at the defense of her dissertation, and 1 in print), published in scientific journals and collections.

Regarding scientometric indicators, Katya Kichukova has met the minimum national requirements and participates in the competition with:

1. Dissertation work for the award of educational and scientific degree of Doctor, entitled *Continuing education as a means for increasing professional competence of medical laboratory technicians*;
2. Monograph *Lifelong learning for medical laboratory technicians - present and future*;
3. 33 publications in scientific journals, 2 of which published in international journals referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, and 16 published in journals and collections included in the national reference list;
4. She has 13 participations in research projects;
5. She has 23 participations in professional qualification courses;
6. Participation in congresses, conferences and symposiums - 34 (international – 5; national – 29);
7. A reference has been submitted which contains citations from the Central University Library – a total number of 10 in peer-reviewed journals, 5 of which in journals with Impact factor.

The scientific contributions presented in the reference cover a wide range of important present-day issues in the area of public health and laboratory sciences, and they fully correspond to the specialty subject to the announced competition.

These scientific contributions can be thematically divided into the following main directions:

- I. Increasing the professional competence of medical laboratory technicians and using the possibilities of continuing education (**contributions with theoretical, methodological, and empirical nature**).
- II. Research on the introduction of new indicators and medicines (nutritional supplements) to improve the diagnosis or influence the treatment of some socially significant diseases. (**contributions with theoretical, methodological, and empirical nature**)
- III. Studies on some of the socially significant and dangerous infectious diseases and the role of the human factor in their spread. (**contributions with theoretical nature**)
- IV. Innovative approaches and technologies in medical education. (**contributions with theoretical and empirical nature**)
- V. Medical laboratory sciences (**contributions with theoretical and empirical nature**) – Oriented towards different aspects of the comprehensive training of medical laboratory technicians.
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4. Educational and teaching activities

According to the submitted reference and the respective requirements, senior lecturer Katya Kichukova has had a sufficient teaching load for 2022/2023 counting to a total of 734

teaching hours per year for the educational and qualification degree of Bachelor in Medical Laboratory Technician at the Medical College to Trakia University-Stara Zagora. She conducts seminars and practical classes in Clinical Laboratory for the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" – years I, II, III, as well as an elective course Quality Control in Laboratory Practice for the specialty of Medical Laboratory Technician – year III.

5. Personal opinion

Katya Kichukova is a serious and responsible scientist. She shows significant interest not only in medical practice, but also in teaching and scientific work. I am confident that her professional and personal qualities would highly contribute to the development of the institution where she works.

I would recommend that she makes her future publications in scientific journals referenced in Scopus or Web of Science or in journals with Impact factor.

Conclusion

All documents submitted by senior lecturer Katya Kichukova – a candidate in a competition for occupying the academic rank of "Associate Professor" – fully comply, both in quantity and content, to the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on its implementation, and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University-Stara Zagora. The evaluation of the candidate's scientific production and teaching activities shows: compliance with scientometric indicators, high level of scientific contribution of the presented works, results of important scientific and practical value, and sufficient teaching load. In addition, my personal impression of Katya Kichukova is that she is a responsible, loyal, warm-hearted, competent and creative lecturer and colleague.

Without any doubt, I give my *positive evaluation* and *suggest to the respected members of the Academic Jury* to vote in favor of conferring to senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova the academic rank of "Associate Professor", area of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health, for the needs of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" at Trakia University-Stara Zagora.

01.05.2023


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