

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Tanya Borisova, Ph.D., member of the scientific jury according to the procedure for occupying the academic position of docent in teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education according to..., announced in SG no. 99/ 28.11.2023, at the Faculty of Education, Trakia University, Stara Zagora

By Order No. 641/ 22.02. 2024 of the Rector of TrU, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury according to the above-mentioned procedure for occupying the academic position **Associate Professor of Teaching Methodology in Bulgarian Language and Literature; field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences; professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in...**

The only candidate in the competition is assistant professor Dr. Desislava Ilcheva Siderova. In a self-signed declaration, she certifies that the necessary documents submitted by her correspond to the requirements of the Law on Scientific Degrees and Titles, as well as to the Regulations of the Ministry of Education and Culture on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying scientific positions.

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Assistant Dr. Desislava Siderova graduated with a master's degree in Bulgarian philology in 1999 at University of Veliko Turnovo St Cyril and St. Methodius. In 2004, he completed another master's program "Social Management" at the Academy of Economics – Svishtov. Since 2005, he has been an assistant in the methodology of Bulgarian language and literature at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Applied Sciences. She has gone through multiple specializations and training, duly applied in the documents for participation in the competition. In 2024, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic: "Text-centrism in the linguistic-literary education of student teachers". Assistant Dr. Siderova speaks English and Russian. She is a respected teacher and colleague, and as my assistant she is a loyal partner.

2. Scientific and professional activity

The candidate's scientific interests are in the field of text-centrism, language learning and the methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature to students of preschool and primary school pedagogy.

Assistant Dr. Siderova participated in national and international conferences with reports. He presents his scientific research in articles and studies.

At its first meeting, the scientific jury did not doubt the veracity of the scientometric data summarized by groups of indicators for the research, teaching and expert work of Assoc. Dr. Desislava Siderova.

A closer look at the submitted documents reveals some irregularities in:

- fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of Law on the Development of Academic Staff for "associate professor";
- the regulatory requirements under Art. 78, paragraph 1 of the "Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University";
- the provisions of art. 24, para. 1, item 3 of the ZRASRB, as well as the provisions of Art. 74, para. 1, item 3 of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at Thrace University – Stara Zagora regarding the presentation of **published** monographic work.

The most disturbing is the failure to fulfill the minimum national requirements in group B /monographs/. As. Dr. Siderova presents the monograph "Metacognitive strategies for preschool education in Bulgarian language and literature". I know Dr. Siderova's scientific research and I am convinced of the search for feedback in self-assessment for the work of students in their practical training for teachers in preschool education. I know with what precision she organizes the educational activity, the pedagogical situations and didactic materials during the practice of the students and I appreciate the models that Dr. Siderova applies. But ... in terms of content and structure, the work does not meet the requirements for a monograph. The fact that there is no paper medium is understandable in view of the insufficient time for its printing. However, I do not accept non-compliance with the requirements for structuring a monograph – not less than 100 pages, not less than 1800 characters per page. /listed as a mandatory condition in the the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria/. The proposed second option of 141 pages (additionally sent by e-mail during the tender process), of which 123 pages of main text with multiple pages in tabular format also does not meet the requirements.

In terms of content, it is difficult to find the goals, tasks, criteria and indicators on which the relevant conclusions are drawn. I do not accept as the only method of research a survey, with only 63 students - a number below the minimum statistical sample. The survey is not an argumentative instrument, and with it alone it is difficult to report real parameters that would confirm or reject a scientific hypothesis. This is also the reason why the habilitation lacks mathematical parameters, diagrams, average values, which are a sign of in-depth research. I am listed as a reviewer for this paper, although I only saw it after receiving the competition documents. The study of more studies on the problem would enrich not only the theoretical foundations of the study, but also the volume of the studied sources, which are only 24, without the author's.

There is no way to count points in group B and this leads to non-fulfillment of the minimum national requirements according to Art. 2b of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff for "associate professor".

I highly appreciate the collective work of Dr. Siderova and Dr. Petkova "Intermediate horizon for literary and musical education". In it, the authors really set new horizons through interdisciplinary education. There is no separation protocol in the documents, which is also inconsistent with the requirements of the Law and the Regulations of the Administrative Court.

I also do not accept the structure of the monograph "The text as a phenomenon of the educational environment", published on the basis of the defended doctoral thesis. Here my remarks coincide with the requirements for volume and comprehensiveness of a monograph, which I noted above.

In the case of violations of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the additional requirements of the Regulations for Academic Growth of Trakia University, I have no way to review the presented scientific production of the candidate.

3. Testimonials

I know Dr. Siderova as a precise and conscientious colleague. I attribute the indicated omissions to the speed with which he prepared his documentation. I hope he will consider and accept the indicated inconsistencies with the legal and by-laws. The law gives the candidate the opportunity to defend his theses and answer the questions asked during the second meeting of the jury. It is also possible that my view is too deep and subjective.

4. Conclusion

On the basis of the reported non-conformities with the the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and failure to meet the minimum requirements for occupying the position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... I have the right to hear the candidate and make a final decision during the second meeting of the jury. Then I could judge whether my findings were correct.

28.03.2024

Stara Zagora

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Tanya Borisova, DSc