

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zlatka Dimitrova Zhelyazkova,

Trakia University - Stara Zagora,

member of a scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** of *Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature*, area of higher education *1. Pedagogical sciences*, professional direction *1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...*, announced by Trakia University, Stara Zagora, published in the State Gazette no. 99 of November 28, 2023 for the needs of the department of "Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education.

Regarding: the scientific, scientific-and-applied and professional-academic activity and production presented by the participant in the competition

The opinion was prepared in accordance with Order № 641 from 22.02.2024 of the Rector of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

In the competition procedure, documents were submitted and ONE CANDIDATE was admitted to the evaluation – **Desislava Ilcheva Siderova**

Summarized data on the candidate's scientific output and activity

Professional biography of the candidate

Desislava Siderova obtained her first educational and qualification degree "Master" in 1999 at the University of Veliko Turnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" with a specialty in *Bulgarian philology*, as well as a second one at the "Dimitar Apostolov Tsenov" Academy of Economics, Svishtov. From 2001 to 2004 she worked as a Bulgarian language teacher in secondary schools in Stara Zgora. Since 2005 she has been an assistant professor in teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature at the "Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy" Department at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University, Stara Zagora. In 2023 she acquired a *doctorate in Theory of Education and Didactics*. Desislava Siderova has participated in 4 national and 18 university projects, numerous additional qualification courses and scientific forums. The provided documentation testifies to many years of teaching and publication activity.

General characteristics of the candidate's scientific production

The scientific production presented by Assistant Professor Desislava Ilcheva Siderova corresponds to the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the conditions for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in the Internal Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University.

The candidate offers to the attention of the scientific jury of the competition **19 scientific publications**, of which:

- Habilitation thesis - monograph – 1
- Published monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation thesis - 1
- Published book based on defended dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 1
- Articles and reports published in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 1
- Articles and reports published in scientific publications, not referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 14 (2 of which are co-authored)
- Studies published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 1

Assistant professor Desislava Siderova participates in the competition as an independent author or co-author of 8 study programs. Her monographic habilitation thesis is on "Metacognitive strategies for pre-school education in Bulgarian language and literature". As a result of the in-depth theoretical analysis and stated author's positions, ***the application of systematized metacognitive strategies by future kindergarten teachers in the field of Bulgarian language and literature is substantiated*** (from a linguistic, psycholinguistic and cognitive scientific point of view). During her scientific research in the rest of her publication output, Assistant Professor Siderova researches "the text as a phenomenon of the educational environment", the potential of the sound-letter analysis to increase the linguo-didactic competence of future elementary teachers, the intercultural and interactive competence of teachers, various methods and techniques to increase the effectiveness of teaching Bulgarian language and literature, including through the intuitive activation of analogy when discovering abstract meaning, stimulation of students' activity (e.g. by formulating questions), through the use of lyrical, epic and folklore texts, etc. ***From a scientific-research and pragmatic point of view, the author's experimental product is particularly interesting - the text-centric didactic model with the acronym TEXT (in Bulgarian).***

In the attached reference for the original scientific contributions, the candidate in the competition precisely emphasizes the contribution nature of her scientific production – **the interdisciplinary interactions for the realization of literary education as an aesthetic category.**

The candidate in the competition correctly cites and interprets the used literary sources and documents which is proof of a purposeful and competent study of the published scientific works and studies.

Regarding the fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor", the scientific production presented by Assistant Professor Desislava Siderova fully meets the minimum requirements by groups of indicators. Regarding the requirement for Published monographs, 2 more than the Habilitation thesis are submitted. Thus, the total number of points of the indicators from 4 to 10 in group D (245.83) significantly exceeds the required minimum number of points (200). The presented monographs meet the formal and content requirements of the respective indicator. In these scientific works, current and significant pedagogical problems from the field of the author's scientific interest, related to the professional and personal characteristics of the future teacher of Bulgarian language and literature, are posed and analyzed. The 8 citations presented, 2 of which are in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes, also significantly exceed the minimum number of points for the relevant indicator.

Conclusion

The proposed scientific production and the teaching activity of Assistant Professor Desislava Siderova are correctly accompanied by the necessary documents and correspond to the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for implementation of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Internal Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Trakia University for the minimum scientometric indicators in all groups for the competition for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in Methodology of teaching of Bulgarian language and literature, area of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ..., announced by Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

*In conclusion – I believe that there are sufficient grounds for a **positive evaluation** of the submitted materials of the candidate Desislava Ilcheva Siderova. The scope and thoroughness of the presented scientific works on significant problems of the teaching of Bulgarian language, as well as her academic activity, determine my opinion – I **suggest** to the scientific jury of the competition and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, to award Desislava Ilcheva Siderova with the academic position of "associate professor" in Methodology of teaching Bulgarian language and literature, area of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...*

19.03.2024
Stara Zagora

Member of the scientific jury:
/ Assoc. Prof. Dr Zlatka Dimitrova Zhelyazkova /