

Review

by Prof. Dr. Stefanka Angelova Georgieva
Trakia University - Faculty of Pedagogy - Stara Zagora
on the materials submitted for the competition
for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the "Methodology of Music Education",
field of higher education 1. Educational Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of
Education..., announced in the State Gazette, issue 38 of April 28, 2023, by Trakia University for
the needs of the Department "Preschool and Primary Pedagogy" in the Faculty of Pedagogy

1. General presentation of the review procedure and materials

By order No. 2349 dated June 29, 2023, issued by the Rector of Trakia University, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition and selected as the reviewer at the first meeting held on August 3, 2023. Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition - Assistant Dr. Diana Veskova Petkova from the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University, Department "Preschool and Primary Pedagogy". The package of materials, both in hard copy and electronic format, includes administrative documents, diplomas, certificates, and references related to educational and research activities. It also includes editions for three books, copies of publications and citations; abstracts and self-assessment of scientific contributions, and joint authorship protocols from co-authors; certificates of participation in projects, as well as a declaration of the authenticity and accuracy of the documents. **During the review, it was found that the materials fully comply with the requirements of The Law on the Development of the Academic Community of Trakia University and the Regulations of Procedure.**

2. Brief biographical information about the candidate

Dr. Diana Petkova graduated from the Academy of Music and Dance Arts (AMDA) in Plovdiv with a degree in Music Pedagogy, master's degree (specializations - music teacher in primary schools and piano teacher) in 1995. From 2007-2013 year, she pursued her doctoral studies through distance learning at the Department "Music" at the Faculty of Primary and Preschool Pedagogy, Sofia University. She defended her dissertation in professional field 1.3. Methodology of Music Education. She has been teaching music from 1988-2023 year at all levels of primary education as a teacher and senior teacher with a second professional qualification degree. In the period from 2014-2016 year, she conducted lecture courses in a master's program at the Faculty of Primary and Preschool Pedagogy (now the Faculty of Education and Arts) as an honorary lecturer, and from 2019-2020 year, she was engaged as an honorary lecturer at the Faculty of Education at Trakia University, teaching "Methodology of Music Education in Preschool and Primary Education" and "Music Theory." Following a successful competition in the academic

year 2020–2021 year, Dr. Petkova became a regular assistant in "Methodology of Music Education in Preschool and Primary Education" and taught in bachelor's and master's programs at the Department "Preschool and Primary Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The candidate holds a second educational qualification - a master's degree in Macroeconomics with a specialization in "Human Resource Management" (1999–2001) from Plovdiv University, as well as a specialization as an Instructor in Basic and Specific Computer Skills for training teachers in "Visual Arts" and "Music" (2005) at the Center for Training and Automation of Design and Construction "Progress" Ltd.

This educational profile of Dr. Diana Petkova is a prerequisite for her successful professional realization with over 30 years of experience as a music educator in the field of school and university education.

3. Description of research and educational activities

3.1. Research Activity

The scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Petkova submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Docent" includes: 3 monographs, 1 co-authored article published in the journal "Pedagogy" (Pedagogica-Pedagogy) - a publication that is refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information; 13 articles and reports in non-refereed journals, yearbooks, and collections of scientific papers, including 1 in a foreign edition, 1 co-authored article, and 2 articles under review, certified with official notes.

The habilitation work - the monograph "Design for Non-formal Music Education," Stara Zagora - Faculty of Education, Trakia University, 2023, 142 p. (V.3), provides an author's insight into conceptual and discussion issues related to informal and formal learning and also presents projections for their implementation through a range of educational programs and project activities. The study is organized into four chapters and is based on the examination and analysis of global practices and perspectives that track the establishment of informal education as an integral part of the educational environment, leading to its formal definition.

In the second chapter of the book, an original *Art design model for informal music education* is presented- a set of educational programs that enable children from an early age to participate in various representative and public performances. One of the components of this model is the *Educational Strategy for Informal Music Education*, which outlines the objectives, activity plans, execution, and assessment of outcomes. The applied methodological system has been tested at the House of Musical Wonders "Divisi" in Plovdiv, where Dr. Petkova conducts individual and group sessions focused on the development of children's musical abilities from an early age.

The third chapter of the study explores the "didactic scenario" of the ART Design Model for informal music education through project-based educational activities, categorized into two groups: one for children in disadvantaged social situations in a real artistic environment and another for those following programs provided by the Art Organization. The experience shared by the author, who is both a leading music educator and actively involved in project preparation

and their successful public implementation, is impressive. The evaluation of the ART design for informal music education, conducted through surveys and expert opinions from social and music educators, deserves special attention, as it addresses various aspects of the real situation of music education in Bulgaria, including that in universities where the musical competencies of future educators are shaped.

The monograph titled "Musical Computer Technologies. A Model for Communicative Interaction", Stara Zagora, Faculty of Pedagogy, Trakia University, 2023, 142 pages (G.5), is a book published based on a defended doctoral dissertation (2013). The content is structured into three chapters, presenting projections of the methodological system on which the application of computer technologies in music education is based. The technical aspect of the possibilities for their integration into the educational process relies on the careful selection of educational, specialized, and music-related software. In the reviewed description, the author takes into account the specific resources required both for modernizing the process of music pedagogical interaction and supporting the achievement of specific private didactic goals.

The designed methodical system for the application of music computer technologies emphasizes the performing activity and activity of perception music in secondary school education. The organizational, technological and methodological aspects of the perception of a musical work are examined, presented as an original author's model with a qualitative analysis of the result of the survey of the students involved in the experiment and the commentary on their achievements.

The monograph titled "Intermedial Horizon for Literary and Musical Education", Stara Zagora, Faculty of Education, Trakia University, 2023, 142 pages (G.4), is a collaborative research work in which Dr. Petkova and Assoc. Desislava Siderova merge their scientific interests, focusing on the interaction of literary and musical arts. Undoubtedly, the leading role in the realization of the joint project comes from the incentives derived from the academic practice of the authors, who participate in the training of future educators in kindergartens and primary schools with joint programs in elective disciplines - bachelor's and master's degree programs at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The emphasis is placed on communication through music and text in two arts: music and literature; variants and approaches to achieving interdisciplinary integration in education are developed, as well as an operational model based on Anderson-Krathwohl's taxonomy and Kate Hevner's "Clock." The approved technology aims to provoke its application in the future practice of student-teachers. However, the extent to which and how learners, as well as readers "interested in the relationship between literature, music, and education," will interpret the title of the monograph "Intermedial Horizon", as well as its derivatives: intermediality, intermedial competence, intermedial activity and intermedial analysis, among others, some of which are defined as key, is a question that requires further clarification.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES AND REPORTS, a total of 14 in number, have been published in pedagogical journals, predominantly Bulgarian, and one foreign publication; in collections of scientific papers from international, national, and academic conferences held in Bulgaria. One of them is in a journal referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases. The

following leading thematic lines stand out in their thematic area, marking the research interests of the candidate in the period following the defense of the dissertation:

- 1/ Application of digital technologies in music education; working with specialized music software and the development of digital competence in music teachers (G.7.2., 7.3., 7.5., 7.6., 7.13.);
- 2/ Musical performance activities in the electronic environment in the education of students - future educators (G.7.10.);
- 3/ Interpreting the idea of a semantic approach in music education in general education schools (G.7.4., 7.7.), and others. In one of the recent articles, a projection towards a new research direction is outlined - the history of Bulgarian music education, presented through the views of Ivan Kamburov, a pedagogue-musicologist, and music critic (G.7.11.).

3.2 Citations

The list includes **13 citations**, of which: **4** in monographs and collective volumes with peer-reviewed research, and **9** in articles published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review. **(D.12-13)**

The review of Dr. Diana Petkova's scientific production, submitted for the announced competition, fits within the scope of the scientific field 1.2. Pedagogy of teaching in..., 1.3. Methodology of teaching Music and satisfies the minimum national requirements and the Regulations of Trakia University in terms of the criteria for the appointment to the academic position of "Associate Professor."

4. Learning activity

As mentioned in the brief biographical notes above, Dr. Diana Petkova's professional realization has been entirely in the field of music education, providing a basis for accumulating practical experience. Over the last three years (2019-2023) in Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University, she has been teaching three core courses: Methodology of Music Teaching in Kindergartens and General Schools (Preschool and primary school pedagogy, bachelor's, regular and part-time; Primary school pedagogy and foreign language- Bachelor's, regular), as an honorary and regular assistant; Music Theory – Preschool and primary school pedagogy - Bachelor's, regular and part-time; Primary school pedagogy and foreign language - Bachelor's, regular); Electronic Musical Instrument/Notation Software – Preschool and primary school pedagogy- Bachelor's, part-time. According to the attached Certificate of Teaching Activity, the teaching workload for these disciplines includes lectures, seminars, exercises and practice (internship).

Her academic employment also includes 4 elective programs, 2 of which are implemented in the main pedagogical specialties in collaboration with Assistant Professor Desislava Siderova.

5. Scientific and Scientific-Applied Contributions

Accepting the self-assessment of the candidate for her contributions to her scientific work and summarizing my impressions from the comprehensive review of her publications, I would like to emphasize those in which her enduring research interests and contributions are clearly evident:

- Application of specialized music software in school education; exploration of the functions and projections of a methodical system based on computer technology in music education (**G.5.1, G.7.2, G.7.6, etc.**).
- Research on informal music education for children and the possibilities of creating an Art Space through project activities; construction of an ART concept for advanced music education and a system for developing the musical abilities of young children in projects with a social and music education focus (**B.3.1, G.7.8**).
- Ideas for the interaction of music and literature in a school environment in joint research with Assistant Professor Desislava Siderova, tested as an elective discipline in a master's program (**G.4**).
- In a practical-applied aspect, her contributions can be noted in the models of working with notation software, the project for informal music education in the private Art Organization, as well as the author's toolkit for assessing students' achievements.

6. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

Regarding the scientific research products presented for review by Dr. Petkova, some critical remarks and recommendations can be made. The specificity of the researched issues inevitably requires the introduction of new scientific terminology, which I will comment on with two examples:

1/ the concept of "Design" (from Eng. "project, plan") in the habilitation work and its use in various phrases such as: Design of the music education environment; Design of informal music education, Pedagogical design, Design of the educational process, Design of musical performance activities, and others.

2/ In the collective monograph "Intermedial" (from Eng. "intermediality") and its derivatives "Intermedial Horizon," and others, mentioned earlier in the review. What is the meaning of these terms and their derivatives in Bulgarian?

3/ In the article on the semantic approach in music education in general education schools, based on Kate Hevner's educational technology, an experiment is conducted with a work from the 13th century, which, in my opinion, is an unsuccessful choice. I recommend that the author acquaint herself with the "Theory of affections" in Baroque music, as well as with publications by Bulgarian musicologists on the "musical meaning" of works from different eras.

4/ The attached lists of "Literature" need to be differentiated in future publications based on the accepted scientific standard: Cited and Used literature, with sections by genres: monographs, studies, and others.

I recommend that the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied experience be multiplied in methodological materials for student teachers: anthologies, collections, and methodologies for

teaching music in kindergartens and primary schools; participation in international scientific conferences, as well as publications in foreign journals with an impact factor.

CONCLUSION

The results achieved by Assistant Dr. Diana Veskova Petkova in her educational and scientific research activities are in full compliance with the minimum national requirements according to The Law of Development of academic community in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of Trakia University.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific-applied contributions, I confidently provide my positive assessment and recommend to the academic jury to prepare a Proposal Report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the appointment of Assistant Dr. Diana Veskova Petkova to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at Trakia University in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy of teaching in..., 1.3. Methodology of teaching music.

September 7, 2023

Reviewer:

Prof .Dr. Stefanka Georgieva