

## **OPINION**

**by Prof. Dr. Blagomir Kirilov Papazov**

for participation in a competition for the occupation of the academic position "professor", announced by Thrace University Stara Zagora in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ... (Methodology of training in fine arts), announced in the "State Gazette", issue 24/25.03.2022.

with candidate associate professor Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva

Associate Professor Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva graduated in 1995 with a degree in "Pedagogy of Fine Art Education" (sculpture) at Veliko Tarnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". Since 2002, he has been a teacher of Fine Art Teaching Methodology at Thrace University - Stara Zagora. In 2006, he successfully defended the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in..., doctoral program "Methodology of fine art training". In 2013, he acquired the academic position of "associate professor" in the same scientific field and professional direction.

Associate Professor Ani Zlateva participated in the competition with a habilitation thesis "Interactive art activities in an informal environment" (AI Thrace University, 2022, 283 p.), a monograph "How to read children's drawings" drawings", University of Malta Press, 2019, 182 p.), co-author in two Books for the teacher, two Methodical Guides and two Knowledge Books (3 and 4 group of kindergarten, ed. "Bulvest 2000"), four articles , published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, seven articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review (of which four in foreign editions) and one chapter of a collective monograph. After 2013, the candidate has a total of 28 citations, of which 7 in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 9 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, 12 citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review. Of all the citations of the candidate, more than 50% are in foreign publications. Associate Professor Dr. Ani Zlateva has participated in 12 university, national and international projects. The candidate has particularly active performances in the field of plastic arts, and since 2013 he has realized 27 artistic projects in the country and abroad. A Certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" has been presented.

In the habilitation thesis "Interactive Art Activities in an Informal Environment", Associate Professor Dr. Zlateva examines the emergence and concept of informal education, as well as basic principles of learning in an informal environment. The author explores the interactive pedagogical interaction in art activities in an informal environment, concluding that they are a prerequisite for achieving satisfying results, both for learners and teachers. In the monograph "How to read children's drawings" ("How to understand children's drawings") the features, complexity and importance of the pictorial process in childhood are considered. The most important indicators that characterize the pictorial process and how it serves as a basis for determining the stages in the development of children's drawing are also indicated. In the habilitation work and the publications presented for the competition, the author shows very good competence in the researched scientific field and in-depth knowledge of the leading theories and practices in modern pedagogy.

In the presented research output of Assoc. Dr. Ani Zlateva, the following main **contributing points** can be noted:

1. In the habilitation work, an in-depth historical overview of the development and traditions in the implementation of various forms of informal education in Bulgaria was carried out, with the main place being allocated to the activity of community centers, extracurricular and extracurricular activities in different historical eras. The variety of interactive forms of pedagogical interaction in visual arts classes and their use in face-to-face learning, as well as in the various forms of application of informal learning in electronic and online environments, are described and examined. In a theoretical-applied plan, the basic principles of learning in an informal environment and the practices and approaches applicable to this type of learning, in the conditions of modern educational and cultural trends, are presented and clarified.

2. The monograph "How to read children's drawings" examines the features, complexity and importance of the pictorial process in childhood. The most important indicators that characterize the pictorial process and how it serves as a basis for determining the stages in the development of children's drawing are indicated. The characteristics of the children's drawings are clarified and by what signs the two important dimensions of their development - intellectual and emotional - are revealed.

3. The presented scientific articles examine innovative trends in education based on "design thinking". The development of visual skills in children in an informal environment after applying the principles of "design education" in the implementation of integrative connections with various scientific disciplines - pedagogy, art, history, archeology, etc. has been thoroughly studied. Practices of

applying art in the learning process for children with specific learning difficulties, in the various educational fields, which contribute to the activation of visual perceptions, as well as the specifics of the participation of visual-spatial and pictorial memory, are described. Data are presented on how the good achievements of children and students in the field of various types of art positively affect their self-esteem and support their academic success.

4. In the presented scientific production, a tangible upgrade has been achieved in the foundations of the methodology of teaching fine arts in preschool age and primary stage, in the context of current problems and trends, in harmony with the development of modern education, in accordance with the Act on Preschool and School Education currently in force , the European Qualifications Framework and the European Framework of Reference. The content of the monographs and other publications are in accordance with the modern needs of the formation of key competences in children and students through their active inclusion in various forms of education, stimulating their artistic and creative activity.

## CONCLUSION

Based on my thorough analysis of the scientific production of Associate Professor Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva, my assessment is positive. There are merits and indisputable qualities of the candidate for awarding the academic position "professor" for the needs of Thrace University. I propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy to elect for the academic position "Professor" Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of fine art training) for the needs of Thrace University - Stara Zagora.

Prepared the opinion:



(Prof. Dr. Blagomir Papazov)

27.07. 2022  
the city of Varna