

## OPINION

on a competition for the occupation of an academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.1. Theory and management of education (Early childhood education and care), announced by the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Trakia University, SG 41/ 06/03/2022

by Prof. PhD. Dinko Velichkov Gospodinov

*Procedure.* One candidate participated in the announced competition - Assistant Professor PhD Aksenia Borislavova Tileva, lecturer at the University's Faculty of Education. From the references provided, it is clear that the applicant meets the minimum national requirements according to the ZRASRD and has provided the documents required according to the procedure.

*Biographical data and professional development.* Aksenia Tileva graduated from the "Preschool Pedagogy" specialty at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in 1989. From 1995 - 2013 and 2014 – 2019 she was the director of a kindergarten in Kazanlak. In the period 2013-2014, she was a people's representative in 42 NAs. In 2019-2020, he is a doctoral student in the educational management doctoral program of the "Bishop K. Preslavski". Since 2022, she has been an assistant at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University. She participated in many international educational projects, including as a project manager. Since 2010, she has been an external evaluator at the human resource development centre of the Ministry of Education, and since 2019, an external inspector at the National Inspectorate of Education of Ministry of Education.

*Research activity.* The candidate participated in the competition with two monographs (one of them based on a defended dissertation) and 14 articles, of which one was published in a refereed edition, three were co-authored and three were in English.

The habilitation work is the monograph "Management of an effective educational environment in the kindergarten". In it, an attempt was made to clarify the essence of the educational environment, an own definition of this concept was proposed, its main elements, management, and ways to achieve an effective such environment were examined. A detailed analysis of the regulatory framework relating to the educational environment in kindergartens has been implemented. The views on the educational environment in the theories of F. Froebel, M. Montessori and R. Steiner are presented. The important aspect of harmonizing our educational legislation with the recommendations of the EU institutions for early childhood development is affected.

The empirical research carried out is robust, the analysis on the data is very good, combined with the analysis of good practices and foreign experience. The proposed ideas have been proposed for the transfer of such experience. Pedagogical and managerial analysis was successfully used in the data analysis.

The derived conditions for building an effective educational environment are clearly formulated, well argued and practically applicable.

Several substantive highlights can be highlighted in the articles, namely: assessment of teachers' work contribution, assessment of teachers' digital competences, participation of kindergartens in international educational projects, kindergarten-municipality partnership, the application of the competence approach in the management of human resources in kindergartens, etc. Most of these publications use the competence approach, touching on its theoretical and practical aspects.

*Author contributions.* I accept the theoretical and practical contributions specified in great detail by the candidate. I also accept the authorship of Aksenia Tileva on the publications submitted for participation in the contest.

*Conclusion.* I believe that the candidate meets the requirements of the ŽRASRB and I recommend the Respected Scientific Jury to propose that Assistant Professor PhD Aksenia Borislavova Tileva be elected to the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.1. Theory and management of education (Early childhood education and care).