

STANDPOINT

from **Isa Isa Hadjiali – assoc. prof., PhD**, Faculty of biology, Department of Biology Education, University of Sofia „St. Kliment Ohridski“

of the materials presented for participation in competition for filling an academic position „**associate professor**“ in Trakia university, Stara Zagora

by Field of higher education **1. Pedagogical sciences**
Professional direction **1.3 Pedagogy of education in ...**
„**Methodology of education in natural sciences**“, for the **Department for Information and In-Service Teachers Training**

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the Official State Journal, copy 41/ 03. 06. 2022 and on the web page of Trakia University for the needs of the **Department for Information and In-Service Teachers Training (DIITT)**, assistant PhD **Margarita Slavova Peneva** participates as a candidate.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

With order № 1918/ 17. 06. 2022 year of the Rector of Trakia University I am determined for member of the scientific jury in competition for taking an academic position „associate professor“, by Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of education in..., Methodology of education in natural sciences, announced for the needs of the Department for Information and In-Service Teachers Training. For participation in the announced competition one candidate has handed over documents: assistant PhD Margarita Peneva.

Presented by assistant PhD Peneva set of materials on electronic carrier includes the following documents: application form to the rector for admission to the competition; curriculum vitae in European format; diploma for educational qualification degree "Master"; Diploma for educational and scientific degree PhD; verification on the implementation of the minimum national requirements for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor", according to NACID and PRASTU; reference of scientific contributions; other documents (certificates for participation in projects, official notes); a set of documents (monographs, articles) on electronic media, et al.

Assistant PhD Margarita Peneva is the author/co-author of a total of 30 publications.

2. Short biography of the candidate

M. Peneva was born on 27. 03. 1976 r. She graduated high school from the Secondary School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences “Geo Milev” – Stara Zagora. In 2000 she received a Master’s degree as a Teacher in biology and chemistry from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. From 2001 until 2008 she was a teacher in biology and health education. Since October of 2008 she has been an assistant professor in Pedagogy of teaching biology and chemistry. She works on her PhD in the Technical University of Sofia – Sliven from January of 2016 until March of 2018. On 06. 03. 2018 she publicly defends her PhD thesis on the topic „Contemporary aspects of mentoring as a form of qualification and continuing education of teachers“. She has also participated as a member of the teams of the three stages in an international project and in one

internal university project. She is an author/coauthor of four curricula for continuing education, SDK and SNUP. Given the educational and career development of the candidate the following question arises – *Why a procedure for a Chief assistant has not been announced for the candidate for so long?*

3. Common characteristics of the candidate’s work

Evaluation of the teaching and administrative work of the candidate

From 2016 until 2018 she has been the deputy director of DIITT. Her work and responsibilities were substantial with respect to: planning, organizing and managing educational and qualification formats of pedagogical specialists; training in various qualification formats related to biology and chemistry qualification, heading and coordinating the training and qualification work of DIITT; research and integration of innovative ideas and practices, related to the specifics of DIITT; cooperation with principals and pedagogical teams of various places around the country; managing and coordinating the research activities of undergraduates, graduates and others.

Evaluation of the scientific and scientifically applied work of the candidate

For the current procedure PhD Peneva the candidate has presented 30 scientific publications. Those are classified the following way: monographies – 2 pieces, publications and conference reports – 28 pieces. Three of those are in English, one is in Russian, and 26 are in Bulgarian. Ten of them are presented as own works, and twenty are co-authored. Given the facts presented it is evident that the candidate **formally** fulfills the minimal national criteria for the academic position “Associate professor” (Table 1). According to my check and verification procedure in renown and acknowledged scientific databases: Scopus (0) papers - h-index (0), in Web of Science – 1 paper. I would also like to strictly point out that a document for plagiarism **has not been presented**.

Table 1.

Group of indicators	Table of contents	For the academic position of „Associate professor“	
		Minimum points	Starting points
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator 3	100	100
D	Sum of the indicators from 4 to 10	200	75 + 30 + 95 = 200
E	Sum of the indicators from 11 to 13	50	120
F	Sum of the indicators from 14 to 21	-	95
G	Sum of the indicators from 22 to 29	-	30

Note: the group of indicators “F” and “G” are not necessary, according to the national minimal requirements, but are recommendable for TrU.

I will make a couple of remarks before continuing with the necessary analysis of the materials, presented in the academic competition: Materials A1 and A8 represent resumes and thus should not be taken into consideration; Publication B3, B6, B7, B8 and B9 are within the author’s summary for PhD - should not be taken into consideration in the academic competition and should

not be analysed; Papers B1 and B2 do not match the criteria of the competition. Those are in the field of application of interactive white boards for the Bulgarian language training. Those should then not be accepted as publications. The given internet resources could not be taken for Bibliography. Publication B10, published in “Kindergarten and School” should not be taken in consideration, either. The journal is not included in the National Reference List of the contemporary Bulgarian scientific journals with scientific reviews. The bibliography consists of only one literature reference (Methodology of teaching biology). Materials B1, B2, B3, and B4 should not be taken into consideration, either. Those are more of informative and popular science nature.

While constructing my standpoint, I take for further analysis the two treatises and the following publications - A2; A3; A4; A5 (with some doubts – missing bibliography); A6; A7; A9; A10; A11; A12; A13; A14; A15; A16; B4; B5.

The candidate has presented two treatises. The first one “Teaching in contemporary education” (2019) is in direct relation to the topic of the dissertation and, thus, she receives 75 points, but this treatise is not under analysis of this course and also I am not a specialist in this sphere of the Pedagogical realm. The second treatise - Situational Teaching for the Formation of Natural Science Competences (2022), should be taken into consideration, because it corresponds with the profile of the announced course – Methodology of education in natural sciences. The treatise presents fully theoretically and experimentally proven research. A rich palette of concepts and ideas for situational teaching in Man and Nature 3 - 6th grade. However I cannot miss expressing my disappointment of the fact that the experimental research covers solely teachers, experts in RU in MON and university lecturers (41 people). The most important subject in the pedagogical interaction is missing – the student. The treatise would benefit if those are included, thus, amplifying the practical effect of the experimental modeling and empirical verification of the pedagogical phenomena.

Out of the presented publications a positive impression comes from A15. Within its essence it presents a quality scientifically-pedagogical research, which is published in an authoritative journal – Strategies of the educational and scientific policy (ed. 2/ 2022), which is referred in Web of Science.

According to me, the following publications should also not be analyzed – B4 and B5. Despite the fact that those were published in the journal “Pedagogical forum”, which is part of the National reference list, and their content is useful for educators, who are preparing their thesis for III, II or I PKS (experimentally-applied and diagnostically-researchable procedure) but those cannot go as publications corresponding to the competition’s profile as a research is missing. The other publications, which are presented in the competition, according to me, are more on the side of sharing pedagogical expertise or reflection of a good pedagogical practice, but cannot be qualified as a qualitative scientific research.

The candidate has distinguished her contributions of the scientific research in three directions: A) Methodology of education in „Man and Nature“ in natural science, B) Problems of the qualification of pedagogical specialists C) Popularizing the project activities. Firstly, I would begin by not accepting the contributions in part “C”. It cannot be accepted that as contributions are taken “contribution for citations” or “contributions for developing curriculum”. The contributions in “A” and “B” are presented too superficially. M. Peneva would gain from differentiating the contributions in theoretical, scientifically-applicable and applicable. This would amplify and underline much more clearly the contributonal character of the habilitational work.

CONCLUSION

After thoroughly familiarizing with the presented materials and scientific work for the competition and after analyzing their importance I find it well founded to give **a negative assessment** and, thus, recommend to the members of the scientific jury not to award the academical position of **“associate professor”** and to prepare a report with a recommendation to FS of PF in TrU not to appoint as an associate professor Dr. Margarita Slavova Peneva in the area of 1. Pedagogical sciences, with professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of education in ..., “Methodology of education in natural sciences”, for the needs of DIITT.

I am personally assured of future development of the scientific and research abilities of Dr. Margarita Slavova Peneva and I will also recommend to the FS of PF in TrU – after the candidate publishes an appropriate number of publications in referred and indexed journals with well-established empirical and experimental factological framework and with a well-recognized contributions for the pedagogical sciences, to announce a new competition for her academic growth.

November 10, 2022
Sofia

Signed:.....
(Assoc. Prof., PhD I. Hadjiali)