

Opinion

BY COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"

in the field of higher education 1 "Pedagogical sciences", professional direction 1.3. "Pedagogy of training in ...",

scientific specialty "Pedagogy of natural science education"

ANNOUNCED BY THE PEDAGOGICAL FACULTY OF THRACE UNIVERSITY - STARA ZAGORA FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DIITT IN THE STATE GAZETTE, NO. 41/03/06/2022

with a single candidate assistant professor Margarita Slavova Peneva, PhD

from DIITT at Thrace University

The statement was prepared by: Prof. PhD. Lina Kirilova Yordanova

from DIITT at Thrace University

1. Compliance with regulatory documents

This statement was prepared in compliance with Order No. 1918/17.06.2022 of the Rector of Thrace University to determine the composition of the scientific jury for the announced competition, as well as a decision from the first meeting of this jury (Protocol No. 1/19.09.2022 d.). The opinion is in accordance with the state regulations for development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria and regulations for its application, and with the indicators of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Thrace University. Its compilation is based on the submitted application documents for the announced competition of the only candidate Assistant Professor Margarita Slavova Peneva. I evaluate these documents as corresponding to the above-mentioned normative documents.

2. Academic development of the candidate

In 2000, assistant professor Dr. Margarita Peneva graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", city of Sofia, specialty "Teacher of Biology and Chemistry", level according to the national classification "Master". This gives her the opportunity to work as a Biology and Health Education Teacher for eight years, which is a very good experience for her next position as Assistant on Methodology in Teaching Biology and Chemistry.

In 2018, Assistant Professor Peneva successfully completed her doctoral studies in Pedagogy at the Technical University - Sofia, IPF - Sliven, acquiring the educational and scientific degree of Doctor of Pedagogy, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy. The topic of the candidate's dissertation "Contemporary aspects of mentoring as a form of qualification and continuing education of teachers" determines her current orientation to the scientific and practical field of improving the qualification of science teachers and beyond. So far, she has worked as a teacher at DIITT, Department of "Natural Mathematical Disciplines and Technologies", and as deputy director in the period 2016-2018. Her teaching activity is related to various qualification forms of teacher training in the field of Natural Sciences. Her work also includes leading research activities of trainees and graduates, research and implementation of innovative ideas and practices related to the specifics of alternative pedagogy and pedagogical animation. My personal observations allow me to say that assistant professor Margarita Peneva is one of the best teachers at DIITT, who is distinguished by a

very good methods of the teaching methodology in natural sciences and puts a lot of creativity and skill into the preparation and organization of the different forms of training of the teaching staff.

3. General characteristics of the works presented and assessment

Within the framework of the current competition, Assistant Professor Peneva presents two monographs and 30 scientific and scientific-applied publications, which she thematically divides into three groups: A. Methodology of teaching "Man and Nature" and natural sciences, B. Problems of the qualification of pedagogical specialists and C. Popularization of project activities.

To group A, the candidate includes a monograph marked M.1 and another 16 articles, two of which are in print, and two are summaries - A.1 and A.8. The latter is included as participation in an international conference in the updated detailed Reference for the fulfillment of minimum requirements. I believe that A.1 should also not be included in indicator D because it is a summary. I don't know how many abstracts are equivalent to one article.

The articles in group B are 10 in number and are aimed at different aspects of the qualification of pedagogical specialists. In this sense, they offer topics that directly support the work on qualification development of teachers and increase their professional training. Monograph M.2 is also included in this group.

I take the presence of group B, related to the promotion of project activities, as evidence of the active participation of assistant professor Peneva in international projects aimed at the promotion of science and scientists, but in general these are reports. I appreciate her creative abilities to organize interesting events for schoolchildren, students and the public.

I evaluate the delivered works as scientific publications in specialized scientific publications, accepting the following 27 as sufficient for participation in the competition:

- 14 (group A. according to the author ranking) and 10 (from group B. according to the author ranking), a total of 24 scientific articles in the professional direction "Pedagogy" and scientific specialty "Pedagogy of natural science education";
- Monograph "Situational learning for the formation of natural science competence", which examines theoretical, methodological and technological aspects of situational methods in the educational process, mainly in natural sciences;
- Monograph "Mentoring in modern education" dedicated to mentoring with a presented author's model for its application;
- Study aid – 1 pc.

As. prof. Peneva has 10 independent articles and enough first-authored articles in scientific journals and peer-reviewed scientific forum proceedings.

In the attached list of citations of her publications, there are more than 20 citations, 3 of which are in refereed and indexed editions. The quotes are mainly from the last 3 years, which is a plus in terms of relevance.

4. Scientific contributions of the publications and other scientific research activity

The monographs cover the two main topics that are the subject of research by assistant professor Peneva: mentoring and situational learning in natural sciences. The positive is the

availability of scientific empirical research, as well as the development of models and exemplary applications of the relevant methods.

The scientific contributions of assistant professor Peneva in a scientific-theoretical and practical-applied aspect are in the following areas:

- Methodological aspects of teaching natural sciences - educational content (developed author's curricula and materials for bachelor and master degrees, and qualification forms and teaching aids), teaching methods with proposed methodological solutions for working in classes, teaching methodology, formation of key competencies;
- Teacher qualification, including in Natural Sciences – an author's model of the mentoring process in educational institutions, which I accept as an important scientific contribution.

Assistant professor Peneva participated in the teams of 4 research projects: 3 international and 1 university.

According to my assessment of the points for indicator group D. from the minimum requirements, the points for indicator 7 should be reduced by 30, because I exclude articles A.1, B.1, B.2, B.3 and B.4. The points become 139.9, and the total amount for group D indicators changes to 244.9, which again exceeds the minimum requirements.

5. Teaching and educational activity

In item 22 of group of indicators G. in the table provided for the minimum requirements, assistant professor Peneva has indicated the academic disciplines for which curricula have been developed for the Faculty of Pedagogy and the one-year professional-pedagogical specializations at DIITT. She has been teaching them in recent years. She also produces short-term thematic courses from the teacher qualification credit system. The feedback from the trainees is very good.

6. Conclusion

The documents and materials prepared by assistant professor Dr. Peneva for participation in the competition meet the minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activity for holding the academic position "Associate professor" accepted by the Faculty of Education. They are proof of her contribution to the modern development of natural science teaching methodology and the qualification of pedagogical specialists.

Giving a positive assessment, I recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy to elect Assistant Professor Margarita Slavova Peneva to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. "Pedagogical Sciences", professional direction 1.3 "Pedagogy of the education in ...", scientific specialty "Pedagogy of natural science education"

25.10.2022
Sata Zagora

Signature:
/prof. PhD L.Yordanova/