

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Daniela Todorova Markova, lecturer at Plovdiv University Paisiy Hilendarski
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for obtaining an academic degree
"Professor" at Trakia University, Stara Zagora,
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences;
professional direction 1. 3. Pedagogy of training in...;
(Methodology of Fine Art Education)

1. Information about the contest

In the competition for 'professor', announced in the State Gazette, no. 24 of 25.03.2022 and on the website of the University of Applied Sciences and for the needs of the Department of "Information Technologies, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages" at the Faculty of Education, as the only candidate who submitted documents, participated assoc. prof. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva from the same faculty at Trakia University.

2. General presentation of the procedure and the materials obtained

By order No. 1202 of April 26, 2022, of the Rector of the University of Applied Sciences, Stara Zagora, I have been appointed as an external member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "professor" at the University of Applied Sciences in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences; professional direction 1. 3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of training in fine art).

The documents of the candidate, Associate Professor Dr. Ani Zlateva, meet the requirements of Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) for admissibility until participation in the announced competition for the academic position of "professor" in "Methodology of Fine Art Education". The candidate meets the conditions of Art. 29, para. 1, item 2 of the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and Art. 86, para. 1, item 2 of the Development of the Academic Staff in a Trakia University (PRASTrU) for

occupying the academic position "professor". The submitted documents have previously been reviewed by the Admissions Committee (Minutes dated 28.06.2022).

The set of materials on an electronic medium includes the following documents: Declaration of credibility of the presented materials and the information in them;

Information card for occupied academic position; Copy of the advertisement in the "State Gazette"; Higher education diploma; Diploma of National Academy of Sciences "Doctor", Diploma of National Academy of Sciences "Doctor of Sciences"; Diploma for the academic position "docent"; Autobiography; Summaries of works; List of publications and a copy thereof; List and copy of number of citations; Reference to original scientific contributions in scientific works; Criminal record certificate; Certificate of fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements defined in the regulations, accompanied by evidence; Evidence - Annex E of the minimum national requirements (six copies); Reference from the CBU of TrU for impact factor and impact rank; Reference from the Central Library of TrU for the citations included in the Web of Science databases; Separation protocols or letters from all co-authors of publications/monographs, etc.

All the materials presented are outside of those that participated in the procedures for awarding the Doctoral Degree and for holding the academic position of Associate Professor.

From the available "Reference statement on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "professor", it can be seen that they have been met. It should be noted that the points obtained by the candidate /1028.3/ exceed the required points.

3. Brief biographical data and academic growth of the candidate

The biography of A. Zlateva shows a long and successful path of professional development. She has experience as a freelance designer and artist, after receiving her higher education at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" (Master of Fine Arts and Sculpture and Pedagogy of Art), defended his thesis in 2005, from 2006 to 2013 he was head of assistant professor, from 2013 until now he is an associate professor of fine art methodology at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Trakia University. During this period, publications in specialized publications, participation in scientific forums and published reports, textbooks and teaching aids, monographs and parts of books accumulate.

11 certificates for participation in international scientific forums have been awarded. Participation in scientific projects in the resume makes an impression - 20 in total; 12 after 2013 - international projects, EC project under the Horizon program, MES project under OP "HRD", "Student practices" project, phase 1 and 2 (academic mentor), Trakia University projects. References provided - contracts for management of 2 university/faculty projects.

Although the artistic activity is not directly related to the professional direction in which the competition is announced and therefore is not presented in detail, in my opinion the candidate's creative abilities and appearances - participation in exhibitions, biennials, national art forums, exhibitions of Stara Zagora artists, participation in sculpture projects and festivals, are of particular importance for the effectiveness of the teaching work, they shape the general impression of the interests, understandings, creative potential of the candidate and there is reason to take them into account in the final assessment. A. Zlateva's creative works are widely popular among professionals and those interested in contemporary art. The numerous participations in various art forums outline the breadth of interests, enrich and complement the overall scientific and educational activity of the candidate.

It is worth noting that Associate Professor Ani Zlateva is the "Wake-Up Star of Stara Zagora" for 2020, nominated by the Union of Scientists.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's activity - scientific and scientific-applied, teaching-pedagogical, etc.

The breadth and depth of the candidate's theoretical, scientific and practical training is confirmed by the materials provided - monographs, teaching aids, scientific publications, participation in projects and scientific forums, scientific projects, developed study courses, guidance for graduate students, guidance for doctoral students and others.

Assoc. Dr. Ani Zlateva has attached 2 monographs – 1 monograph, habilitation thesis and 1 published monograph, which is not presented as the main habilitation thesis. To publications in group D, indicator 6, published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, a total of 11 articles are presented - 4 articles published in the magazine *Pedagogika*, which are indexed in Web of Science, 3 of them are co-authored. The articles were written in the period 2018 – 2020. 7 articles and reports, 3 of which are co-authored, are attached

to publications in group D, indicator 7: articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. These articles and reports were written in the period 2015 – 2019. To publications in group D, indicator 10, a published chapter of a collective monograph is presented.

The Habilitation thesis "Interactive Art Activities in Informal Environments", published in 2022, addresses a topical issue as interactivity is increasingly gaining attention as a means of modernizing education and breaking down stereotyped frameworks of learning. The impact aspects of art activities outside the classroom are analytically examined, which are not only a continuation of the formal educational process, but an opportunity for a qualitatively new way of communicating and experiencing fine art. These possibilities are well argued. The monograph includes an in-depth historical overview of the traditions and development in the implementation of various forms of informal education in Bulgaria, such as community centers, extracurricular and extracurricular activities in different historical eras. The main principles, practices and approaches of learning in an informal environment are clarified. I find great potential in the aspect of acquiring knowledge and increasing interest in other fields of knowledge and studied disciplines. Useful for pedagogical practice are the findings regarding learning in an electronic environment with consideration of its benefits and drawbacks. Especially valuable for visual practice is the experience shared in the second part of the monograph from the implementation of interactive activities. Interactive art activities in informal environments are described - urban environments, galleries, exhibition halls, museums, libraries, lobbies of cultural centers, etc. Results of interactive informal art activities with pedagogy students are analyzed based on activities of a project aimed at developing their artistic skills. Tasks were implemented with non-traditional techniques and materials, which undoubtedly aroused the interest of the students and which provided them with creative freedom. The formed creative thinking will reflect on the future pedagogical work of the students. In the conducted experiment, the level of interest among the students, and subsequently among the children, increased at each of the stages of its implementation. Pedagogical mastery was demonstrated in the implementation of creative ideas in the various stages. Interesting are the developed interactive - game and educational activities for working with children.

No less useful in practical terms is the other monograph "How to read children's drawings", published in English in 2019. It traces the stages of development of children's visual activity, such as the in-depth study of the specifics of the means of expression in children's drawings ensure their understanding and analysis. The monograph has its contribution to clarifying the essence of the content of children's drawing, and by illuminating the basic principles of image diagnostics and ways of applying drawing tests, it can be useful for pedagogical specialists. The work would be of interest not only to people and researchers in the field of fine art methodology, but also to those interested in the psychology of fine art. Particularly valuable is the collection of children's drawings by A. Zlateva, visualizing the text, collected over twenty years based on her personal practice and art classes with children.

The collective monograph "Competency approach in the education of students of pedagogical specialties" (2021) is a product of the creative searches of a team of teachers from PF on a scientific project. A chapter of it was developed by A. Zlateva in co-authorship - "Competency approach in art education". On the basis of modern scientific and theoretical foundations and successful practices related to the practical training of student teachers, approaches have been proposed for the formation of professional competence in future teachers, according to the specifics of fine art.

The presented scientific publications outline the wide range of interests of A. Zlateva in the field of professional direction, theory and methodology of fine art, innovative approaches to work. The range of her scientific research extends from the field of the application of fine art in an informal environment, covers problems related to the prevention of dropping out of school through fine art activities, goes through the consideration of fine art in working with children and students with special educational difficulties; the recognition and training of gifted children and students; building basic skills for art perception when working with students.

In summary, the monographs and other scientific publications reveal the thoroughness of Associate Professor Dr. Ani Zlateva in carrying out scientific research and reinforce the impression of her good scientific and pedagogical training. Her professional erudition is evident from the materials presented, her ability to bring out and define the problems in art education and adapt them to the needs of modern students so as to achieve very good results is revealed. The proposed pedagogical approaches and creative tasks show a solid experience in the field of theory and practical training in fine arts.

The set of materials presents textbooks used in the school network (to group of indicators E 20), these are teaching aids for children of preschool age (co-authored) - knowledge books, methodical guides and books for the teacher to implement the educational content in 3 and 4 preparatory groups in the kindergarten and at school, which show the knowledge and good experience of A. Zlateva in preschool art education.

Regarding the practical educational and pedagogical activity, for the period under consideration, Assoc. Dr. Ani Zlateva has developed 16 study programs. It also participates in the updating of training courses. He is the academic supervisor of 6 graduate students with various topics of the developed diploma theses. Scientific supervision of 1 successfully defended doctoral student was carried out.

A. Zlateva is a member of the editorial board of a scientific journal of Trakia University (Trakia journal of science), chairman of the publishing board of "Trakia University" Publishing House; she participated in 13 scientific juries with opinions (12 on procedures for acquiring the ONS "doctor" and 1 for acquiring the academic position "professor"). She performs responsible administrative activities as the chief secretary of the Council of Ministers. Probably not all activities related to participation in committees, procedures and educational activities are presented in the competition materials, but from the seriousness of the responsibilities assigned in the field of administration, one can also judge the high level of pedagogical training and trust, which TrU assigns to Assoc. Zlateva.

The proposed scientific works are closely related to the professional direction and the specialty. Prof. Ani Zlateva demonstrates the ability to recognize the problems related to fine art education, to analyze them analytically, as well as to propose appropriate solutions to overcome them. The demonstrated interests in the field of visual arts are a prerequisite for the realization of interdisciplinary connections and for the proposal of new, modern ideas and solutions, so that the formalization in training, the demotivation and the loss of interest of the students can be overcome.

5. Scientific contributions and citations

The contributions of the scientific works of Assoc. Dr. Ani Zlateva are scientific and applied, as the ideas and practical solutions that the candidate proposes can be used in the teaching of fine arts

in the various levels of education, and they have already been implemented in kindergarten and have found practical application.

The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions. Many of the theoretical developments have practical applicability and are directly oriented to academic work. I accept the contributions formulated by the candidate for the individual works (in the Reference for the original scientific contributions in the scientific works).

With the materials prepared for participation in the competition, the candidate covers the quantitative indicators for occupying the academic position of "professor", exceeding them in many respects.

The importance of the scientific works of Associate Professor Ani Zlateva for pedagogical theory and practice can also be judged by the citations - her works are cited in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (7 citations); in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (9 citations); in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (12 citations).

The applicant's impressive artistic performances, which have received recognition in professional circles, complement his overall performance.

After familiarizing myself with and analyzing the materials for participation in the competition, I believe that the works and publications in specialized scientific publications are author's works and I have no doubt that they do not violate foreign copyrights.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria. Scientific works in a professional direction are available in quantity, as well as in terms of quality and significance. 1.3. "Pedagogy of training in...", published after the materials for the defense of the ONS "doctor" and the academic position "associate professor".

The scientific and teaching qualifications of Associate Professor Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva are unquestionable. After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, after analyzing their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the selection of Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva for the academic position of "Professor" at the University of Thrace, Stara Zagora in professional direction 1. 3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of training in fine arts).

5. 08.2022

Reviewer:

/ Prof. Dr. Daniela Markova/