

REVIEW

by Full Professor Dr. Eleonora Mihailova Mileva, D.Sc.,

Member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the specialty Methodology of Physical Education (Adapted Physical Activity, Hygiene and Health Education), professional area 1.3. Pedagogy of training in..., of higher education field 1. Pedagogical sciences, announced in SG No. 41/03/06/2022 for the needs of the Faculty of Education at Trakia University, Stara Zagora

Order of the Rector No. 1919/17.06.2022

I. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Galena Todorova Terzieva graduated from the National Sports Academy "V. Levski" with a bachelor's degree in the specialty of kinesitherapy. In 2004, she obtained a master's degree in kinesitherapy at the same university. She also completed the professional qualification "Physical Education Teacher" at the National Sports Academy in 2010. In 2018, she defended her dissertation on the topic "Formation of professional competence for adapted physical education in the training of students of pedagogical specialties" at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University in Stara Zagora.

Assist. Prof. Terzieva began her academic development in 2008 as a part-time assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of Trakia University. In April 2013, after a competition, she was appointed as a full-time assistant professor at the Faculty of Education.

II. Characteristics of the candidate's scientific research work

The scientific output of the candidate, according to certain quantitative indicators, exceeds the minimum national requirements for the relevant field - total number of points 545 with a minimum of 400.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Galena Terzieva participated in the announced competition for associate professor in professional area 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... with 18 scientific works, as follows: 1 monograph, 1 monograph based on a defended dissertation work, 16 publications in collections and journals in Bulgaria and abroad.

All scientific articles are written by Dr. Terzieva as a single author. 2 of the presented materials were published in refereed and indexed journals in world-renowned databases with scientific information. All other publications are presented in authoritative indexed and peer-reviewed scientific publications. 10 of the scientific articles are in Bulgarian and 6 are in English.

All presented scientific works are in the profile of the competition and the professional field.

The presented scientific production of Assistant Professor Galena Terzieva can be divided into two main research areas:

1. Health education and hygiene (No. 3.1., 7.9., 7.13., 7.14., 7.1., 7.2.).
2. Adapted physical activity and sports and inclusive education (No. 5.1., 6.1, 6.2., 7.3., 7.4., 7.5., 7.6., 7.7., 7.8., 7.10., 7.11., 7.12.).

The most outstanding work from the first group of publications is the candidate's monographic work "Health Education and Physical Education. Competence of student teachers", issued in 2022 (No. 3.1.). In this work, Galena Terzieva systematizes and summarizes her knowledge and research findings

regarding the relationship between health education and physical education as part of the professional competence of future kindergarten and primary teachers.

The study is conducted with an impressive number of subjects - a total of 643 potential educators. The sample is representative and includes almost all first and second year students specializing in Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy and Primary School Pedagogy with Foreign Language (bachelor) and Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy (master). A set of the latest research methods and approaches is applied, which includes a didactic test with 95 tasks on various indicators and 2 questionnaires, which are adapted methodologies of the World Health Organization and the US Department of Health.

It is interesting to note that the research results reveal a low level of knowledge on health issues and the role of health education of the future teachers. Nearly half of the students have developed some unhealthy habits to a certain extent. At the same time, the future teachers show an adequate attitude towards health on a cognitive, emotional and value level.

The conclusion that the level of health competence among students of pedagogical specialties is unsatisfactory is very important for future practical work. The topical question of searching specific ways and approaches to increase the health competence of future kindergarten and primary school teachers in their academic training is posed.

The relation between the key competences for a healthy lifestyle and sport, and the practical application of the professional competences in the field of health education is updated in the curriculum of "Health Education" (7.13.) and is applied in the preparation of students from the specialties "Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy" and "Primary School Pedagogy with a Foreign Language" at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University (7.14.). In this way,

the concept of formation of professional-pedagogical competence in the field of hygiene and health education is substantiated.

Two other articles can also be referred to the topic of health education and hygiene. They are devoted on the need and ways to improve students' knowledge on physical education methods preventing obesity, spinal distortions (7.1.) and respiratory disorders (7.2.). The results from these research works can be used in the pedagogical practice.

The monograph "Adapted Physical Education. Future Kindergarten and Primary Teachers on Inclusion" (2020) is directed to the second scientific area. The book presents modern models for adapted physical education in a general education environment. In the context of the competence to carry out adapted physical activity, the inclusive attitudes of student teachers for the inclusion of children with special educational needs in motor learning are considered. The importance of inclusive attitudes in predicting the professional behavior of future kindergarten and primary teachers is also shown.

A significant part of Assistant Professor Terzieva's publications are dedicated to extremely important topics in modern education: self-efficacy and the attitudes of kindergarten and primary teachers regarding the inclusion of children with SEN in motor learning (6.2., 7.5., 7.6.). Through a special toolkit, a model for inclusive education and activity in the practical training of student teachers is developed (7.7., 7.8.).

The concept of introducing a training program "Motor training and inclusive physical education" for students of the Faculty of Education is considered in two other scientific publications of the candidate (6.1., 7.3.).

Of great practical value are also the articles on developing skills in future

educators for adapting mobile games for children with various types of disabilities using the STEP, TREE and Lieberman and Huston-Wilson methods (7.10., 7.11., 7.12.). The techniques analyzed and skillfully described with the appropriate terminology are innovative, and their assimilation and application would have a significant qualitative effect in the education of children with SEN.

Dr. Terzieva presented 15 citations of her works (a total of 120 points, with a minimum of 50 on indicator D). It is noteworthy that 2 of them were published in scientific journals abroad, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, 5 of the citations are in monographic works and collective editions with scientific review. All other citations were included in authoritative scientific publications in the country and abroad.

Galena Terzieva's participation in some project activities should be noted. The associate professor candidate realized teaching mobility under the Erasmus+ program in 2020 at the Saint Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola, North Macedonia. Dr. Terzieva supports her professional activity and pedagogical expertise through her participation in a national project "Updating and developing new curricula of the study disciplines in the specialties of the Faculty of Education" and in the projects of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student practices" - phase 1 and 2.

Teaching activity

Assist. Prof. Dr. Galena Terzieva is a lecturer with 14 years of teaching experience as a part-time assistant and full-time assistant. She conducts lecture courses and seminars on the following disciplines in various bachelor's programs at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University - "Physical Education and Sports", "Motor Training and Adapted Physical Activity" (for the specialties

Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy and Primary School Pedagogy with Foreign Language, Special Pedagogy), "Inclusive Mobility Games" (for the specialties Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy, Pre-school Pedagogy, Primary school Pedagogy with Foreign Language), "Health education" (for the specialties Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy, Primary School Pedagogy with Foreign Language, Special Pedagogy), "Motor training and kinesitherapy" (for Pre-school and primary school pedagogy) and "Age anatomy" (for Pre-school Pedagogy), as well as two courses in master's programs - "Adapted physical education at PNUV" and "Therapeutic gymnastics at PNUV".

The list of publications includes 5 study programs developed independently and in co-authorship. All programs are the result of the candidate's experimental and practical work with students from the pedagogical specialties of Trakia University.

III. Main contributions of the candidate's scientific and teaching activities

1. On the basis of new facts and various theories and concepts, the theory of health education and training has been enriched (No. 3.1., 7.1., 7.2).
2. The role of health education and hygiene in the preparation of student teachers has been formulated and proven. This was done in the context of an original study with multidirectional data on health knowledge, skills and competences and their role in the professional training of future pedagogical specialists (No. 3.1., 7.3., 7.9., 7.14.).
3. Specific techniques for enriching and expanding students' knowledge related to the preventive possibilities of physical education for various types of diseases have been studied and implemented (No. 7.1., 7.3., 7.4.,

7.9.).

4. The theory and practice of adapted physical education and sports have been enriched by arguing the concepts of inclusive physical education and its role in the preparation of pre-school and primary school teachers, as well as by developing models for educational motor training of future educators (No. 5.1., 6.1., 7.3.1 7.7., 7.8.).

5. The attitudes and self-efficacy of future pedagogues for inclusion of children with SEN in motor learning were studied (No. 5.1., 6.2., 7.4., 7.5., 7.6.).

6. As a contribution, I appreciate the proposed generalized model for designing and implementing inclusion through mobile games, which specifies the main difficulties experienced by students when applying it in their studies (No. 7.10., 7.11., 7.12.).

7. From a practical-application aspect, new curricula have been updated and developed in the preparation of students from the specialty "Pre-school and Primary School Pedagogy", "Primary School Pedagogy with a Foreign Language" and "Pre-school Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University (No. 3.1 ., 7.13., 7.14.).

All mentioned contributions have scientific and practical application value. They have been applied in pedagogical practice and are the personal work of the author.

I want to share that I have known Galena Terzieva since she was a student at the National Sports Academy and I have witnessed her upward professional development. She is distinguished by her diligence, analytical thinking,

perfectionism and high professionalism. Assist. Prof. Terzieva strives for constant development and improvement of her pedagogical knowledge, skills and competences.

Conclusion

The presented research production and its contribution to the theory and practice of health education, hygiene and adapted physical activity and sports, the multi-directional teaching activity, my personal impressions and the professional qualities of the candidate give me grounds for an overall positive assessment. With conviction, I propose to the members of the specialized scientific jury to award Assistant Professor Dr. Galena Todorova Terzieva the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional area 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... , Methodology of training in physical education (Adapted physical activity, hygiene and health education) for the needs of the Faculty of Education at Trakia University in Stara Zagora.

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Eleonora Mileva, D.Sc.

Date: 26.10.2022