

## REVIEW

In relation to competition for the academic position of associate professor, in 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.1. Theory and Management of Education, announced in SG No. 41 of 03.06.2022 at Faculty of Pedagogy of the Trakia University, with candidate 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.1. Theory and management of education (Education and care at an early age), with candidate Aksinia Borislavova Tileva, PhD  
Member of the scientific jury: Professor Galin Borisov Tsokov

### **1. General characteristics and professional biography of the candidate**

Candidate for the academic position of associate professor - Aksinia Borislavova Tileva was born in 1967. She graduated from VTU "St. Cyril and Methodius", specialty *Preschool pedagogy*, master's degree. Aksinia Tileva successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in the field of pedagogical sciences PN 1.1. in 2020 at "Ep. Konstantin Preslavsky". From 1995 to 2020, she was the director of "Winnie the Pooh" Kindergarten, Kazanlak. In the period 2013-2014, Dr. Tileva was a national representative in the 42nd National Assembly. In 2022, she won a competition for an assistantship at the Pedagogical Faculty of Tr. U. Tileva is an external expert to the NIO and an expert in the program accreditation group of PN 1.1. to NAOA.

### **2. The scientific research and applied scientific activity of the candidate**

In the announced competition, assistant professor Dr. Tileva applied with 16 publications, of which 1 monograph, one book published on the basis of a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree doctor, 14 articles and reports of which: 1 published in a scientific publication, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and 13 in non-refereed scientific publications.

Evaluation of the type and quality of the presented scientific works on the subject of the competition

a/ Monographs

In accordance with the requirements of ZRNS, among the works presented is a monograph, playing the role of habilitation work. This is the publication *Managing the Effective Learning Environment in Kindergarten*. Kazankuk, Lux Print published in 2022.

The monograph is dedicated to one of the theoretically and theoretically-applied important areas in education management - the management of the effective educational environment in an educational organization (in this particular case, the kindergarten).

In general, the monograph wins with its positive features and contributions, which can be summarized in the following main points:

- Significance and relevance of the problem developed in the work.
- Theoretically, a complex analysis of the various settings related to the main characteristics of the educational environment and its influence on the development of children in the kindergarten was carried out.
- The main management approaches for creating and developing a supportive, inclusive, multicultural and interactive educational environment are analytically presented.
- Possible strategic management decisions that can be taken by the director of the kindergarten in order to achieve maximum efficiency in the functioning of the various elements of the educational environment are substantiated.

From the list of Dr. Tileva's publications, the book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree Doctor is also impressive. This is the monograph "*Evaluation and self-evaluation of kindergarten teachers*. Kazankak, Lux Print, 2022". The book is enriched compared to the dissertation in terms of mechanisms and tools for self-evaluation of the work of kindergarten teachers. A mechanism for implementing the constructed toolkit is also proposed, as a procedure carried out in a specific kindergarten is described.

b/ Articles in scientific-theoretical journals, scientific-methodical journals and collections

The main research highlights in these scientific works are:

- The management of the personnel in the kindergarten and the evaluation of the work of the teachers;
- Assessment of the digital competences of kindergarten teachers;
- Developed model of partnership between kindergartens. and municipality in the direction of effective management of educational projects;
- Pedagogical analysis as a function of management of educational institutions;
- Project interventions (participation in international educational projects) to improve strategic planning and management of human resources in kindergartens;
- The role of the school leadership in improving the educational environment; n.

### **3. Evaluation of the candidate's educational and teaching activities**

According to the presented documents, it is clear that Dr. Tileva has the required teaching workload at the University. The academic disciplines she leads are the following: Introduction to the specialty in the PUP specialty; Organization and management of preschool education; Development and management of educational projects.

The following facts testify to the high quality of Dr. Tileva's teaching activities:

- is the secretary of the academic group of OMEP at Thrace University
- leader and participant in seven international educational projects
- participated in as a lecturer in qualification courses for pedagogical specialists

### **4. Main scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions**

Dr. Tileva's contributions can be summarized as follows:

- The specific parameters of early childhood education and care in the kindergarten are derived;
- The problem of the effective management of the educational environment as a complex of activities through which organizational goals are realized and the sustainable development of the educational institution is achieved is clarified;
- Pedagogical analysis is defined as a comprehensive system providing the cognitive aspect and analyticality in school management.

- The opportunities provided by international educational projects for improving strategic planning and human resource management in kindergartens are clarified;
- Possibilities and good practices have been identified to improve the process of managing interaction with parents;
- The phases of evaluation of the effectiveness of management of the educational environment have been established.
- An author's model for self-evaluation of kindergarten teachers was constructed and tested using a specific toolkit.
- A competence profile of the assistant educator in the kindergarten is proposed.

As support for this overall assessment of scientific contributions, we can point to the fact that Dr. Tileva's works have been cited as significant and cited in a number of publications - monographs, articles and reports in collections. There are 10 noted citations of the candidate's works.

## **5. Critical notes and recommendations**

Some recommendations can be made to Dr. Tileva's scientific and teaching activities:

- In her future research, she should develop a comprehensive model for effective management of the kindergarten as an educational organization.
- She should even more focusedly direct her research efforts to the problem of managing the effective educational environment in Bulgarian schools and kindergartens.
- I believe that Dr. Tileva has the research achievements and sufficient knowledge and experience to write in the near future a systematic university textbook on "Management of preschool education"

## **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Aksinia Borislavova Tileva, assistant professor, 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

ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of the Tr.U. She has presented a sufficient number of quality scientific papers. The candidate's works include original scientific and applied contributions that have received national recognition. The candidate in the competition fulfills the relevant minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor". I have no doubt of plagiarism in the scientific publications submitted for review.

Based on familiarization with the presented scientific works, their importance, the theoretical and applied scientific contributions contained in them, I give my positive assessment and find it reasonable to propose Dr. Aksinia Tileva to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" in professional direction 1.1. Educational Theory and Management (Early Years Education and Care)

12/10/2022

Reviewer:

/prof. Galin Tsokov/