

**REVIEW**  
**by Prof. Dr. Mariana Germidolova**  
**for scientific and teaching activities**  
**of Ani Dimova Zlateva,**  
**in connection with participation in a competition**  
**for occupying the academic position "professor"**

**Field of higher education:** 1. Pedagogical sciences

**Professional direction:** 1.3. Pedagogy of training in...

**Scientific specialty:** Methodology of fine art education

Thrace University, Stara Zagora, Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of  
"Information Technologies, Fine Arts and Foreign Languages"

**1. Contest details**

The competition for professor was announced in SG, no. 24 of 03/25/2022. On the basis of a decision of the FS of the PF (Protocol No. 30 of 04/19/2022), in accordance with Art. 4 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), art. 5 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Thrace University (PRASTrU) and a report from the Dean of the PF, a scientific jury was appointed for the holding of a competition for the academic position of "professor" by Rector's Order No. 1202 of 04/26/2022.

Documents for participation in the announced competition were submitted by one candidate - Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva, lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Thrace, Stara Zagora. The conclusion of the Commission for the acceptance of documents is that the submitted documentation of the candidate, Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva, meets the requirements of ZRASRB and PRASTrU for admissibility to participation in the announced competition for the

academic position of "professor" in "Methodology of teaching in fine arts art". There are no violations in the competition procedure.

The present review was developed on the basis of the materials submitted for the competition announced by the Department of "Information Technologies, Fine Arts and Foreign Languages" at the PF of TrU.

## **2. Applicant data**

Ani Zlateva completed her master's degree at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in 1995, specialty "Pedagogy of Fine Art" and qualification "Teacher of Fine Art and Aesthetics at SUS and Specialist in Sculpture". In her professional development, Ani Zlateva worked as a designer and freelance artist until 2002. In 2005, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Methodology of Fine Art Education". In 2006, she was appointed to the position of "principal assistant" in the discipline "Methodology of Fine Art" at Thrace University. In 2013, Ani Zlateva was awarded the scientific title "Associate Professor" in Theory and Methodology of Fine Art Education.

For the period 2006-2020, Ani Zlateva took part in a total of twenty projects: one international, two national and seventeen university projects. From 2009 to 2022, he participated in 31 projects for the creation of sand sculptures, of which 11 were in Bulgaria and 20 abroad. In the period 1995-2000, she took part in 25 exhibitions.

Ani Zlateva's professional experience corresponds to the direction and specialty of the announced competition and outlines her as a

suitable candidate for the academic position of "professor" in the Department of "Information Technologies, Fine Arts and Foreign Languages" at the Faculty of Arts of Thrace University.

### **3. Data on scientific publications**

The scientific production of Ani Zlateva submitted for review for participation in the competition is author's and includes: monographic studies, articles, aids and educational literature. Namely:

- Habilitation thesis (monograph): Interactive art activities in an informal environment. ISBN: 978-954-338-193-7, 2022, Thrace University Academic Publishing House, 282 p.
- Monograph: How to read children's drawings. ISBN: 978-99957-890-5-3 (electronic), ISBN: 978-99957-890-4-6 (paperback). University of Malta. Center for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health, 2019.
- Collective monograph, co-authored chapter: Competency approach in teaching students of pedagogical specialties, ISBN 978-954-314-104-3, ed. Faculty of Education of Thrace University, 2021
- Four articles and reports published in journals indexed in Web of Science.
- Seven articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes.
- Participation in a team in the development of Books for the teacher of 3 and 4 preparatory groups, ed. Boulevard 2000, 2018

- Participation in a team in the development of the Methodical Guide for 3 and 4 preparatory groups, ed. Boulevard 2000, 2018
- Participation in co-authorship in the development of Knowledge booklets for 3 and 4 preparatory groups, ed. Boulevard 2000, 2019

The candidate's scientific output meets the minimum national requirements for holding the position of "professor" according to this indicator. In their entirety, the publications submitted for review by Ani Zlateva are diverse, have clearly defined scientific issues and relate to the professional direction and scientific specialty of the announced competition. Publications correspond to author annotations. Additionally, separation protocols indicating Ani Zlateva's shareholding in collective publications are presented.

The citation reference in Scopus and Web of Science shows that six of Ani Zlateva's publications are cited in seven publications. Nine of her publications have been cited in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes, and twelve in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. This proves that the name of Ani Zlateva is well known among colleagues who research the problems of children's visual creativity both in our country and abroad.

Ani Zlateva is a member of the editorial boards of the magazines "Trakia journal of science" and "Yearbook of the Pedagogical Faculty" of TrU.

As an expert, Ani Zlateva participated in 13 scientific juries with opinions.

She was the supervisor of a doctoral student who defended successfully.

#### **4. Scientific production**

In its entirety, the scientific production of Ani Zlateva presented for review concerns issues related to the theory and methodology of children's visual creativity. Basically, these are diverse problems related to the possibility of using children's works as a diagnostic tool, the development and diagnosis of gifted children, work with children from risk groups, problems of informal education.

The monograph "Interactive Art Activities in an Informal Environment" examines the specifics of the organization and conduct of interactive art activities in an informal environment. The issue of the emergence and concept of non-formal education is considered. Non-formal education in learning and practicing visual arts is presented. The method of using non-formal education in a museum and gallery environment and the main role that museum pedagogy has in its implementation are clarified. Interactive forms of pedagogical interaction in visual arts classes are considered. Interactive activities with art in a popular urban environment are described, experiences from the implementation of interactive activities and their pedagogical aspects of communication with visual art in a museum environment are shared.

The monograph "How to read children's drawings" examines the stages, features and significance of the pictorial process in childhood. Some of the most frequently used drawing methods in modern pedagogical and psychological practice are presented. The monograph is illustrated with children's drawings, collected over a period of more than 20 years,

which show various peculiarities in children's development and reveal the differences in the depiction of individual images. The strong emotional load carried by the drawings is emphasized, which also determines the importance of the messages that the children put in them. The presented articles are related to various aspects of the theory of children's artistic creativity, primarily of preschool children. The object of research is the diagnostic aspect of children's drawings, the communication with artistic works in an informal educational environment and the influence they have on children's emotions and the possibilities for creative interpretations. Emphasis is placed with particular seriousness on working methods that provoke children's interest in works of fine art. The focus of Ani Zlateva's scientific interests are also children from risk groups. The beneficial impact of fine art with therapeutic purposes is explored. Ani Zlateva's research interests are also focused on gifted and talented children who remain unnoticed by educators. A number of indicators are indicated by which we can recognize gifted and talented children in art at an early stage of their development.

The scientific conclusions in the articles are based, on the one hand, on an in-depth broad-spectrum theoretical analysis of the problem, and on the other hand, on a well-argued and well-structured experimental activity. This determines their significance and applicability in pedagogical practice.

Ani Zlateva's participation in groups that created aids and educational literature for preschool children gave her the opportunity to put her

scientific conclusions into practice. In some of the materials submitted for review, she participated not only as an author, but also as an illustrator and graphic designer.

In conclusion, I highly appreciate the language and style of the scientific production submitted for review. Scientific research is distinguished by a clear, logical structure, concise presentation, reasoned conclusions. The published articles and monographs are based on in-depth research and analysis, own experience, long-term experimental work and present conclusions and these that are significant for pedagogical work. They testify to versatility, but at the same time to concentration in the field of visual arts. The scientific issues are also adapted to the specific age characteristics.

## **5. Scientific contributions**

Scientific contributions are examined in relation to individual monographic studies and presented articles.

I accept and confirm Ani Zlateva's detailed reference for scientific contributions regarding individual publications.

## **6. Teaching activity**

The teaching activity justifies Ani Zlateva's participation in the competition for a professorship as a natural and logical step in her professional development. The certificate of her professional commitment shows that the programs developed by her in the individual disciplines are closely focused on the professional direction and the scientific specialty of the announced competition. It is about the

disciplines "Art therapy", "Art therapy and art diagnostics", "Design and layout of educational presentations", "Painting", "Drawing", "Sculpture", "Perspective", "Pedagogy of visual activity in kindergarten", "Modern techniques in art education in kindergarten and 1st - 4th grade", "Theory and methodology in art education in 1st - 4th grade".

The range of specialties in which Ani Zlateva teaches the mentioned disciplines is also wide. In the undergraduate study cycle, these are the specialties POIIGD, POIT, PNUP, PUP, NUPCHE, Special pedagogy, Social pedagogy. In the master's study cycle - the specialties PNUP and PUP.

Ani Zlateva was the supervisor of six graduates from OCS "Bachelor", whose diploma topics are directly related to the problems of children's visual creativity.

## **7. Conclusion**

With her scientific developments and outstanding creative abilities, Ani Zlateva has taken an authoritative place among the collegium of specialists in the field of art pedagogy. She is a proven specialist with original ideas applicable not only in her creative work, but also in theoretical and scientific research. Ani Zlateva's publications demonstrate thoroughness, originality, research flair and skills that allow her to reach significant results with substantial contributions.

In its entirety, her scientific-research and teaching-pedagogical activities fully satisfy the criteria for the academic position of "professor".



This gives me the reason to give my positive assessment and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a Report-proposal to the Faculty Council for awarding the academic position of "professor" to Ani Dimova Zlateva, a candidate in the announced competition for: Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction: 1.3. Pedagogy of training in..., Scientific specialty: Methodology of fine art training. I suggest that the members of the Scientific Jury vote for this proposal.

Reviewer:

(Prof. Dr. Mariana Germidolova)

09/01/2022

the city of V. Tarnovo