

O P I N I O N

on the scientific works and educational activities of

Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD,

**presented for participation in a competition for holding the academic
position of *Associate professor* in field of higher education**

**3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.2. Psychology
(Developmental and Educational Psychology), announced by Konstantin
Preslavsky University of Shumen (State Gazette, issue 20, 10.03.2020) for
Department of Technological and Vocational Education, Preschool and
Primary School Education at the Faculty of Education**

**Prepared by: Associate Prof. Vanya Gospodinova Hristova PhD, in
Professional field 3.2. Psychology (Educational and Developmental
Psychology) – Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”**

The present opinion was based on a set of documents applied for participation in a competition announced by the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen in issue 20 of State Gazette of 10.03.2020 for Department of Technological and Vocational Education, Preschool and Primary School Education.

The presented set of documents comply with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for holding academic positions at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. The procedure for the competition was followed correctly.

I. General presentation of the presented scientific material

The sole participant in the competition for holding of the academic position of *Associate professor* in Professional field 3.2. Psychology

(Developmental and Educational Psychology) is **Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD** from Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen.

For her participation in the competition, the participant has submitted a list of 28 titles (including a monograph and 27 own and co-authored publications in Bulgarian and international scientific journals or presented at scientific forums), which have not participated in other procedures. All submitted papers have been taken into account in the preparation of this opinion.

II. Biographical details about the participant

Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD was born on 7th November 1980 in Shumen. She is a graduate of the Science and Mathematical High School “Nancho Popovich” in Shumen. In 2002 she acquired professional qualification as a nurse and right away started working as a nurse in the Children’s ward of the "Multi-profile hospital for active treatment - Shumen AD". In 2004 she acquired the degree of a “Bachelor” in Social Activities in the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo. In 2006 she graduated with honors her Master’s Degree in Psychology in Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen and consequently became the very first full-time psychologist at Shumen’s hospital. In 2007 she acquired additional professional qualification in “Clinical and Counseling Psychology” at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky” and began a one-year tuition in “Management of Caring for Children with Congenital Facial Anomalies” at the University of Nottingham, UK which she successfully completed in 2008. In 2018 the participant acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor in Psychology” at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”. Since 2017 she has been working as a lecturer at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen.

III. General presentation of the scientific production of the participant

The submitted for participation in the competition 28 publications are accepted as complying with the requirements for academic publications. Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD fully covers the requirements for registration in the public register of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, maintained by the National Centre for Information and Documentation. The documents submitted for the competition procedure clearly shows that the individual scientometric indicators have been fulfilled, which reflects the scientific results of the participant, calculated in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 2 Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on its Implementation. The entire scientific production of Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD shows her abilities to conduct independent and innovative research on current and significant issues in the field of developmental psychology as well as the psychopathology of development.

The results of the research are directly related to the scientific and the thematic area of the competition. Most of the works are presented in prestigious international, scientific and academic forums.

IV. Presentation and assessment of the educational and pedagogical activity of the participant

From the presented report on the pedagogical activity of Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD it is clearly evident that the participant is engaged in the tuition of students in Bachelor's and Master's degrees with the disciplines General and Developmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, Special Psychology, Neuropsychology and pathopsychology, Diagnosis and Therapy of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Psychology of Parenting. She introduced a

new academic discipline - Psychology of Parenting - in the curriculum of students in the master's program Innovation in Primary Education.

An important element of the overall evaluation of the teaching work of Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD is the provision of innovations in teaching methods through gamification of teaching in General and Developmental Psychology through the introduction of interactive tools.

Furthermore, the participant cooperate with students in scientific and practical conferences and she takes role in several national projects.

V. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions

From the scientific production presented for participation at the competition by the candidate Sevdzhihan Eyubova, PhD, the following scientific and scientific-applied contributions could be drawn:

- ✓ The advantages of introducing autism-specific screening in early childhood, as part of a national screening program for general development in Bulgaria, have been successfully defended;
- ✓ A systematic overview of the most regularly used tools for specific screening for autism spectrum disorders in early childhood — CHAT, Q-CHAT, Q-CHAT10, M-CHAT, M-CHAT R/F, PREAUT, ESAT, CESDD has been presented;
- ✓ A specific autism screening tool, M-CHAT R / F, has been proposed and a mobile application has been developed to facilitate screening, based on a pilot study and psychometric data on reliability and validity;
- ✓ The opportunities for introduction of autism-specific screening in Bulgaria have been studied through a series of empirical studies with parents and early childhood development specialists - psychologists, speech therapists, special pedagogues, pediatricians, nurses from 21 administrative districts in Bulgaria;

- ✓ Based on the analysis of the results, regarding the challenges in the practice of specialists working with children with autism spectrum disorders and their parents, two functional models for effective communication of unwanted news have been proposed - SPIKES and Safe Cross Code.

For participation in the competition for the academic position of *Associate professor*, the participant presents scientific papers that in quantitative and qualitative terms I consider sufficient to meet the requirements for academic publications and at the same time in terms of content fit perfectly into the context of the competition.

VI. Notes and recommendations

I have no critical notes.

VII. Conclusion

After being acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition and the performed analysis of their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I grant my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to elect Sevdzhihan Ahmedova Eyubova, PhD to hold the academic position *Associate professor* in scientific field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional field 3.2. Psychology (Developmental and Educational Psychology).

08.08.2020

Prepared by



Assoc. prof. Vanya Hristova, PhD