

## STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Snezhanka Dobрева Georgieva

Department of Technological Training, Vocational Education, Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy, Faculty of Pedagogy,

Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen

**Subject:** evaluation of the documentation submitted in a competition for the academic position of *Associate Professor* at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of Music Education); candidate - Chief Assistant Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova, PhD.

In the announced in OG, issue 98 / 17.11.2020, by decision of the Faculty of Education (Minutes № FD-02-06 / 14.12.2020) for the needs of the Faculty of Pedagogy at the University of Shumen Bishop K. Preslavsky competition for a full-time associate professor in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of Music Education) is the only candidate - Chief Assistant Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova, PhD from the Department of Musical Aesthetics, Musical Education and Performing at the Faculty of Pedagogy at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky. This opinion was prepared on the basis of order № RD-16-006 /12.01.2021 of the Rector of the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky for conducting a competition for *Associate Professor*, announced in accordance with Art. 69, para. 1 and para. 2 of the Regulations for development of the academic staff at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky and Art. 25 of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

### **I. Professional biography of the candidate.**

Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova was born on 18 May 1962 in Sofia. In 1980 she graduated from N. Vaptsarov high school, Shumen, in a foreign languages class. In 1985 she graduated from the Higher Institute of Musical Pedagogy, Plovdiv, as a master in Musical Pedagogy. In 1994-1995 she had a rhythmic specialization at the Pancho Vladigerov State Academy of Music. Her professional career is closely connected with the system of school and university education. Her two-year practice in teaching (from 1986 to 1988) was followed by professional activities under a permanent contract at the University of Shumen Bishop K. Preslavsky: from 1988 to 1995 – as an assistant in Methodology of Music Education; during the period from 1995 to 2004 she was a senior assistant in Methodology of Music Education and Rhythmics at the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Shumen Bishop K. Preslavsky; since 2004 she has been a chief assistant in Methodology of Music Education, Rhythmics and Children's Music and Stage Directing.

On 18.09.2015 Liuba Zlatkova was awarded the educational and scientific degree *Doctor* in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3.

Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of Music Education) for her PhD dissertation on a subject *Dance genres and their place in music education*.

## **II. Scientific production and activity of the candidate:**

The scientific production presented by Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova for participation in the competition, includes: 1 monography, 23 articles; 7 citations. All submitted publications are in the field of the announced competition. Criteria for positive assessment of the candidate's research activities are her participation with reports in round tables and scientific conferences (national, with international participation). The rich design, applied methodological and creative artistic activity of Liuba Zlatkova (participation in 13 research projects - 1 national, 2 municipal, 11 intra-university, as well as participation in a project for teaching mobility Erasmus+, numerous and active participation in lectures with students, workshops for parents and children) are a good testament in this case. The materials submitted by her under the competition are precisely documented and give in full the necessary information for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2 b, para. 2 and 3 of the Development of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DAPRBA) for *Associate Professor* in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences on the indicators: a total of 430 points - with a minimum requirement of 400 points.

The provided scientific production is a certificate not only for the fulfillment of quantitative parameters, but also for the achievement of qualitative results in the research and applied scientific activity of the candidate.

The monographic work *Folk Art - Rhythm - Spirit - Culture* (2019, 236 pp., University Publishing House Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky, ISBN 978-619-201-311-0) impresses with the depth of insight, the logic of construction and with its original structure. The first chapter of the work presents the multispectral meaning of the phenomenon of folk art as a symbiosis of equal elements that gather knowledge about the human evolutionary development as a hologram; a deep analysis at the polysemantic nature of universal symbols shows their place in the cultural stages of the ethnos and their connection with the civilizational processes of humanity. The second chapter gives another look at the external, the formal, which is supplemented by a philosophical interpretation of the esoteric side of folk art in the third chapter.

In addition to the monography presentation, there are various illustrative materials from the world of folklore (songs, tales, dances, embroideries, costumes, Bulgarian home, etc.) They are a testimony of a researcher who is able not only to theoretically substantiate her views, but also to prove them with abundance of facts. The original exoteric and esoteric intertwining provokes not only the reader, but it is a provocation to contemporary school education, built on the principle of dispersion and fragmentation of educational content. The indisputable contribution of the author is the precision in the use of concepts – the striving for their adequate semantization in chronological terms and in socio-cultural context.

The ability of the author to cross points of view, to summarize the connections between rhythmic models and symbols in folk art in the conclusion is valuable. Last but not least, the monography draws the reader's attention to the integrity of the

world and the need for school education to use the elements and unity of folk art as a model in its future structuring. One of the biggest advantages of Liuba Zlatkova's monographic research is its dialogical sociability to readers of different ages, socio-cultural context and professional commitments; mostly its dialogical perspective towards innovative Bulgarian teachers.

In this competition Liuba Zlatkova participates with 23 articles, a significant part of which are in collections of scientific conferences (national or with international participation) and yearbooks of prestigious Bulgarian universities (The University of Veliko Tarnovo *Sts. Cyril and Methodius*, University of Ruse *Angel Kanchev*, University of Shumen *Bishop K. Preslavsky*). A good testimonial for the popularization of the research activity of Liuba Zlatkova is the participation with articles in recognized scientific journals: *SocioBrains*, *Education and Technology*, *International Journal Knowledge*. The articles outline the main thematic areas of the candidate's research, namely:

- Rhythm, rhythmic code, rhythmic model pattern and folk art (articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8).
- Problems of the exoteric and the esoteric (Article 7).
- Symbolism of folk art (articles 9, 10, 11).
- Rhythmic upbringing, educational opportunities for mastering dance genres (articles 12, 13).
- Educational effects of extracurricular work with students (articles 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22).
- Music lectures and other educational forms for methodical training of teachers (articles 17, 18, 20, 23).

### **III. Evaluation of the contributions of the creative production submitted for participation in the competition.**

Excellent evidence as to why Liuba Zlatkova should hold the academic position of associate professor can be found not only in the quantitative parameters of her publishing activity, but also in her specific theoretical and practical contributions.

The following can be singled out as significant theoretical contributions:

- The definition of important scientific and methodological concepts (rhythm, rhythmic model, form and content of the folk art);

Theoretical concepts for understanding the symbols in folk art as bearers of historical knowledge and carrying tradition and nationality. Theoretical elaborations are skillfully combined with the sharing of practical experience, which is a prerequisite for the contributions of the candidate's publications with methodological and practical application.

- Development and testing of an original methodological system for working with students majoring in “Pedagogy of music education”, related to the awareness of the primary genres in music based on rhythm and movement.

- Purposeful educational activity for introduction of the original methodical system, related to the awareness of the music genres, in the pedagogical practice of the students in the primary school.
- Guide to an original form for extracurricular art work (Non-profit organization *Art Workshop*), allowing the inclusion of students with interests in various arts as leaders of *art studios*, developing the creativity of children in primary school age.
- Conducting educational music lectures with students and pupils of primary school age, aimed at understanding and awareness of music genre and the rhythm in folk art.

### **III. Teaching activity of the candidate.**

Over the years, Liuba Zlatkova has been leading seminars and lecture courses in bachelor's and master's programs in the following disciplines: Theory and methodology of music education in kindergarten; Methodology of music education at school; Rhythmics, Music and stage directing for children; Rhythmic education for teachers. 434 hours of lectures and seminars, aimed at teaching music in kindergarten, primary and secondary school, are in plan for her academic occupation.

### **IV. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

The accumulated theoretical and practical experience of Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Zlatkova is the basis for my recommendation to expand its publishing activities in prestigious Bulgarian scientific journals and specialized international publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information.

### **VI. Conclusion.**

Based on the review of scientific papers and the scientific contributions found in them, I hereby categorically recommend that Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova be given the academic position of *Associate Professor*, as announced in the competition. The present assessment is also substantiated by the adequacy of the documentation provided by the candidate as per the requirements of APRBA, the Rules for application of APRBA and the Rules for the development of the academic staff of the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavsky.

The achieved theoretical and applied results give me the reason to convincingly recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to give a positive assessment of the candidacy and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Shumen Bishop K. Preslavsky to elect Chief Assistant PhD Liuba Atanasova Zlatkova for *Associate Professor* in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... (Methodology of Music Education).

Shumen

March 5, 2021.

Prepared by:



Assoc. prof. Dr. Snezhanka Dobрева Georgieva