

REVIEW

of the works presented in the contest for awarding the academic title of PROFESSOR, announced by KONSTANTIN PRES LAVSKY UNIVERSITY OF SHUMEN in High Education field 1. Educational Sciences, Professional Field 1.1 Educational Theory and Management (Administrative and Financial Management in the Educational System), in State Gazette, N 41/03.06.2022

Peer reviewer:

Prof. Vanya Spasova Georgieva, Sc.D.

Candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva, PhD

1. Biography and professional-academic activity of the applicant

The professional career of Assoc. Prof. Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva began initially as an accounting, administration and finances specialist for the Municipality of Shumen and continued as an assistant and Associate Professor in the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. As a professor, her lectures are mainly related to the Faculty of Education. Her participation in the development and improvement of educational programmes for evaluation and accreditation of “Bachelor’s” and “Master’s” Educational Qualificational Degrees, as well as the development of theoretical and practical courses which apply innovations in teaching, fulfil the requirements of the contest. The professional characteristic of Associate Professor Zagorcheva clearly shows that she has a significant experience in the organization and training of educational specialists (not only students but active administrators), as well as in the organization of project activities apart from the field of educational planning on which she works as an associate professor.

2. Characteristics of the scientific and scientifically applied

production of the candidate

The fact that the reference with the points according to the criteria of the minimal national requirements of Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva is accurately filled in, must be mentioned. It can be claimed that in fact the materials presented by her do not repeat but go further and beyond the ideas presented in the publications with which she acquired her "doctor's" degree or she participated in the procedure to become an associate professor. More than 40 publications and numerous study guides and text books are listed.

I accept as a quantity and quality evaluation of the works of the candidate which are the object of my review, mainly the two autonomous monographies (one is considered a work for habilitation), as well as the articles and studies related to problems in the "Theory and Management of the Education" field.

The works which were presented have a predominantly theoretical character, but studies with an empirical character are also included, as well as a demonstration of instructional texts about financial parameters and policies in educational management. They immerse the reader specifically in the issues of the financial management of the educational system, something that had not been done so thoroughly in the studies of the educational management in our country.

Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva is completely aware of the regulations and documents for financial management and control of the public sector as well as the administrative obligations of the people who manage the educational institutions. Her competencies in the dynamics and tendencies of the financial side of the educational management in the school environment, risk situations, conflict solving, and staff management within the educational institution must be noted, too. This allows Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva to create her own model of effective financial management for the contemporary educational manager. As she says, the desire to "systemize the fields of management through applying a certain order and interrelations at the completion of all stages" is predominant. This determines the emphasis on the consideration that the management of an

educational institution is mainly an administrative task that has to be done in a certain algorithmic system. Nevertheless, the habilitation work has theoretical-practical value and can serve as a beginning of a series of studies on separate procedures, stages, rules of effectiveness, but for substrategies and school policies as well. The contestant demonstrates an aspiration to analyse and outline that go beyond the parameters of financial management where Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva is a remarkable specialist but also reveals a broader variety of problems that concern the management of the educational institutions. This is the reason why in her habilitation work as well as in the other studies and articles she deals with staff management, innovation and project work management, risk management, qualification, information awareness, quality etc. Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva concentrates mainly on structuring the stages and creating algorithms and rules in areas where the empirical research she has initiated shows the lowest level of competency of the people who participated in the research. This provides the educational character of Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva's works.

The model of forming financial competency for different age groups of the educational system, including pre-school children which has been developed and experimented by Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva, must be paid special attention to. This research was to a large extent motivated by the acknowledgement of the unsatisfactory level of financial competency in Bulgaria (it doesn't only concern the students, but the adults as well) according to the criteria of the research of the The Organization for Economic co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva's model is developed on the ground of the cognitive development during the appropriate age and it is also in conformity with the mental capabilities of the children and students which she has described. The gradual increase of financial competencies connected to the understanding of money as value, opportunity, wealth and instrument, is extremely essential for this research. The methodological system of the so-called demonstrational lessons,

I accept the contributions described in the scientific and the science applied work, listed in a separate file of the documentation of the competition. In addition to that, I would like to emphasize that I have observed enough arguments to give a positive review and recommendation because the following things are present:

- ✓ The information within the documentation for the procedure of the competition and NACID presented by the candidate is well-structured, comprehensible and follows the requirements;
- ✓ There are enough publications, student books and a monography which follow the characteristics of a habilitation work, that does not repeat the subject and contribution of the dissertation work presented during the docent procedure;
- ✓ There is a list of her publications in scientific journals are referenced and indicated, as well as quotations of her work in such editions;
- ✓ The administrative experience that she has acquired allows her to transfer it practically and make useful conclusions in her teaching career.

work of the candidate

3. Main contribution in the scientific, science applied and teaching

education and the entire process of functional competence formation. combining it with the activities connected to the contemporary technological of thinking and particularly financial competency in youth people and especially for them. This makes possible the development of an economical way students predominantly within the project work that is designed and organized processes that form a kind of economic way of thinking in the children and the authors this competency is shaped in the context of wider comprehension of the developing financial competency. According to various publications of western does not include all existing contemporary educational instruments of Unfortunately, the system of developing money awareness which is proposed contemporary knowledge of how to apply the demonstration principle. created by the author of the model, shows good methodological awareness and

4. Critical notes and recommendations

My recommendation concerning future commentaries of theoretical issues about certain phenomena in the educational systems and its analysis, is to demand a more detailed reference to the world recognized (especially European) specialists in the field of the educational management. The list of used materials presented here is quite long, but the text, to a large extent, does not show which parts the author agrees and which she rejects.

5. Conclusion

Based on the abilities to make scientific researches and the educational abilities demonstrated by Assoc. Prof. Zagorcheva in the documentation presented for the competition, the relevance and the significance of her works for the pedagogical community in Bulgaria as well as the presence of a definite spector of scientifically applicable results according to the Law On The Development of the Academic Staff In The Republic Of Bulgaria, I claim that the requirements for acquiring the academic title **PROFESSOR in High Education Field 1. Educational Sciences, Professional Field 1.1 Educational Theory and Management (Administrative and Financial Management in the Educational System)**, are met.

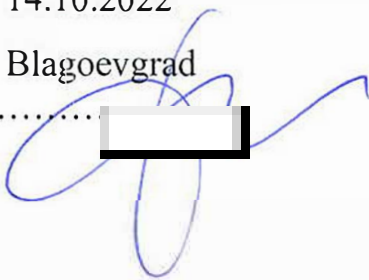
I consider that the scientific jury which was selected to evaluate documents for the competition can vote positively and award Assoc. Prof. Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva-Koycheva the above-mentioned academic title.

My personal decision is to vote “for”.

14.10.2022

Blagoevgrad

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Peer reviewer

Prof. Sc.D. Vanya Spasova Georgieva