

STATEMENT

by Prof. Nikolay Stoyanov Kolishev, D. Sc.

on the theoretical and practical contributions in the publications of Assoc. Prof. Denitsa Petkova Zagorcheva - Koycheva, Ph.D., a participant in a competition for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.1 Theory and management of education (administrative and financial management in the education system), published in the State Gazette, issue No. 41/03.06.2022

I. Biographical Info

Assoc. Prof. Ph.D. Denitsa Zagorcheva graduated in Economics and Management of Industry at the University of Economics, Varna in 1999. In 2003 she completed two Master's programmes: Accounting and Control at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. Cyril and Methodius" and Finance at Burgas Free University. She holds the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in economics and management.

Assoc. Prof. Ph. D. Denitsa Zagorcheva's work experience began in 2000 in the Municipality of Shumen, where she held the position of accountant. From 2004 to 2007 he was Chief Accountant and from 2007 to 2013 she was Head of the Single Budget Accounting Department. In 2013 she won a competition for assistant at Shumen University "Bishop Konstantin of Preslav" at the same time is Deputy-Chief Accountant of DIKPO-Varna. In 2018 she was already chief assistant, and since 2021 she has held the academic position of "associate professor" at the same university.

II. General characteristics of scientific production.

The candidate has submitted for review scientific production in a volume of 17 publications, including 2 monographs, 10 articles and reports published in non-referenced journals with scientific review, 1 chapter in collective monograph, 4 university textbooks and teaching tools.

Since the competition for a professor is in the professional field 1.1. Theory and management of education (administrative and financial management in the education system), I will comment primarily on publications in this scientific field.

In the habilitation work of the applicant "System for successful management of the educational institution", original synthesized and systematized algorithms for effective management of kindergartens and schools are developed. The system is aimed at optimizing the implementation of various administrative activities within the scope of activity of the educational manager (I, 1).

In another publication corresponding to the profile of the competition, the author develops the theoretically valuable idea of presenting the framework of governance of the educational institution with the interrelationships in the management of the processes. The structuring of the common interconnection model is only carried out in relation to the common elements involved in the system. Thus, the level of management of the educational management is presented as a system for management of macro-level, meso-level and micro-level (III, 1). Risk management issues are also analysed in detail (IV, 1).

The analytical approach characteristic of the applicant is also applied in the consideration of the issues of financial management of educational institutions. A practical algorithm for managing finances in educational institutions has been developed, the purpose of which is to optimize the activity of the manager, to inform the pedagogical specialists and to inform users (students and parents) (III, 2). Issues related to the financing of education in Bulgaria for the period 2001-2020 are also analysed (III, 7). The legal aspects of school funding are also duly addressed (III, 10).

In the field of scientific interests of the author are included the relations in the team as an essential factor for the effectiveness of the management. In one of the publications, the candidate reflects in depth on the personality characteristics influencing the behavior of the individual in different formal and informal situations (III, 4).

Also useful for the practice of management are the author's reflections on the role of the school headmaster, in which he is both manager and contractor. This specific role requires knowledge in different areas, includes different responsibilities, requires self-organisation in personal and professional terms (III, 8).

From a pedagogical point of view, I also appreciate the structure and content of the presented two textbooks, a teaching aid and a vocabulary of the specialized vocabulary in the regulations for pre-school and school education (V, 1, 2, 3, 4).

As common characteristics for all presented publications, we can highlight the following: the actuality of the subject matter; logical structure; precision in the definition and use of basic concepts; competent systematization and analysis of significant literary sources; justification of productive practical ideas; highly professional language and style of exposition.

The author's publications on the formation of financial literacy in the field of pre-school and school education deserve attention (II, 1; III, 5, 9)

III. Evaluation of scientific and theoretical contributions.

The scientific and theoretical contributions made by the applicant in the field of administrative and financial management in the educational system correspond to the content of the submitted publications and speak of a good level of professional reflection. As particularly important for the development of the theory of management of education, I would point out the following contributions:

1. A system of management of educational institutions based on the application of algorithms in the different areas of management has been developed and subjected to experimental verification. Part of this system are algorithms designed for directors that ensure the consistency, completeness and timeliness of the performance of their duties. Each stage in the algorithm includes management activities with detailed definition of their characteristics, legal requirements and limitations.

2. With the help of adequate research methods, valuable empirical information has been collected on the level of competence of pedagogical specialists in the different areas of management of educational institutions.
3. A model for the formation of financial literacy in different age groups, in line with the cognitive development in the respective age, has been developed and subjected to experimental testing.

IV. Evaluation of the practical and applied contributions.

The content of the presented publications testifies to the developed ability of theoretical designs to become adequate practical solutions, the realization of which will lead to improvement of the process of training in the educational institutions. As significant practical and applied contributions, we evaluate the practical application of management algorithms, as well as the developed didactic toolkit for the application of the model for financial literacy formation.

V. Teaching activity

I have immediate impressions of the teaching activity of the candidate, as I am the course manager of postgraduate education for acquiring additional professional qualification in education management, in which Assoc. Prof. Denitsa Zagorcheva teaches some of the courses. I have immediate impressions of the teaching activity of the candidate and I can say that she has developed the ability for logical, in-depth, challenging, and informative oral exhibitions, as well as the ability to motivate the trainees and create an interactive educational environment. The textbooks and teaching aids presented by her, support this impression because they are distinguished by competently systematized theoretical and practical information, with resonant accents on the essential and thought-provoking issues. The language and style of the exhibition are understandable and accessible for the specific readership group and with an intriguing way of presenting the curriculum.

VI. Conclusion.

In conclusion, I can state that **I positively evaluate** the quality of the systematization of theoretical information and the theoretical analysis performed, as well as the justified and experimentally verified models for the management of educational institutions through algorithms and for the formation of financial literacy.

The content of the publications is at a level that fully meets the legal requirements for taking up the academic position of "professor" in the professional field 1.3. Theory and management of education (administrative and financial management in the education system)


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