

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof. Bagryana Rashkova Ilieva, PhD, “Angel Kanchev” University of
Ruse

Regarding the application of the following candidates for the academic
position of *Professor*

Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Ergidzhan Osman Alinder-Ismailova, PhD

Further Information:

Area of Higher Education 1. Pedagogical Sciences

Professional Field 1.2. Pedagogy (Language, Communication and Intercultural Competences)

For the needs of the Department of Preschool and Primary School Education, Faculty of Education at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen

General Information:

It is Assoc. Prof. Ergidzhan Osman Alinder-Ismailova, PhD, being the sole candidate, applied for the academic position of *Professor*, announced in the State Gazette issue 41 dated 3rd June 2022 for the needs of the Department of Preschool and Primary School Education. There are no violations in the procedure announced. All requirements set in The Regulation on the Terms and Procedure for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and in the Habilitation Procedure at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen are met.

Candidate`s Background

Mrs. Ergidzhan Alinder-Ismailova graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree from *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen in *English Studies* major. In 2005 acquired a Master degree in *Linguistics and Translation* in the same university. Since 2002 and so far she works at *Konstantin Preslavsky* University of Shumen. Her main activities are related to translation from and into English, coordination of rector`s body meetings with representatives of public and private institutions and foreign partners, assistance to foreign students; realization of incoming and outgoing student mobility, etc. Currently, she is a Director of International Relations Center and a lecturer at Department

of Preschool and Primary School Education, Faculty of Education at the University of Shumen.

In the middle of 2018 she successfully defended her PhD dissertation on the topic *Intercultural Communication in the Field of Higher Education*. In 2020 she was awarded with the academic rank of *Associate Professor*: area of pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Intercultural Competences and Foreign Language Teaching).

Assoc. Prof. Ergidzhan Alinder-Ismailova, PhD participates in 4 national projects under the vScience and Education for Smart Growth Program. She also participated in four other intra-university projects of the Faculty of Education and in 2 international projects under the Erasmus+ Programme, coordinated by the University of Patras, Greece.

From all the above stated it can be summarized that the entire professional biography of the candidate is in the field of education and her aim is to clarify intercultural and institutional communication and interaction between representatives of different target communities within that area. Her career development is characterized by a sustainable motivation to deepen her knowledge in the process of forming intercultural competencies in young people. She focuses her efforts on developing an educational paradigm that would strive for ethnic and national cultures diversity.

Applicant`s Scientific Activity

A list of publications is submitted. It consists of author's own expert scientific production. The genre could be summarized as follows:

- 1 monograph;
- 1 book;
- 1 article, published in referenced and indexed in world databases of scientific information;
- 14 articles and papers published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited volumes. Four of them are in SocioBrains (International scientific online journal).
- A published university textbook or a textbook used in schools: Turkish-Bulgarian-Romanian-English Dictionary, Part One, Turkish-

Bulgarian-Romanian-English Dictionary, Part Two, Turkish-Bulgarian-Romanian-English Dictionary, First electronic edition

All the scientific production submitted was published in last three years (2020, 2021 and 2022). All these meet the minimal national requirements to apply for granting the academic rank *Professor*. The publications submitted correspond to the profile of the procedure - the challenges of intercultural and foreign language teaching. Publications are characterized by conceptual correctness, logical arrangement and coherence.

Assoc. Prof. Alinder-Ismailova's research is focused on the specific characteristics of **specific characteristics and problems of intercultural education of young people**. The topic is thoroughly discussed in the monograph (main habilitation thesis) "Reflection and Intercultural Education", where the candidate states that "the study of the ethnic psyche of the ethnic communities in our country, including the various ethnic subgroups, "carrying" their cultural features, cannot provide a reliable basis for knowledge in the field of ethnopsychological pedagogy".

A research focus on multicultural diversity in the modern education system preoccupies the candidate at the very beginning of her scientific career and is the subject of her research quest in the dissertation work, for which I have already given my positive opinion. This consistency and in-depth analysis of the scientific problem is evidence of her enduring interest in a particular area of scientific knowledge.

The subject refers to the publications (article/report published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and No. 10, 14)¹, where Assoc. Prof. Alinder-Ismailova rationally examines intercultural interactions in the context of the educational area and refers to the individual who stands up for himself/herself while interacting with other people, communities and cultures.

¹The numbering follows the order of LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

The second thematic cluster is focused on **the professional foreign language teaching of future pedagogical staff**. In a number of publications (№1,2,4,5,6,7,8,13), the author considers foreign language teaching as an opportunity for learners to master their language skills and to concentrate their efforts on developing communicative competence. "Such training focuses on the process of communication - using language appropriately in different types of social situations".

The third thematic area of the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Alinder-Ismailova is related to **identity** - ethnic and cultural, having an impact on the implementation of successful communication between representatives of different groups. A large number of the publications submitted (No. 3, 11, 12, etc.) could be referred to this thematic area. The author discusses the formation of intercultural competences among young people in the context of the development of students' ability to participate in the dialogue of cultures, based on the principles of mutual respect, tolerance of cultural differences and overcoming cultural barriers.

In conclusion, it can be said that the candidate's research and publication activities is impressive both for its volume and for its broad scientific basis, integrating psychological and pedagogical theories, paradigms and models. One can see from the information submitted, that there is a significant over-fulfillment of the minimum and additional requirements for occupying the scientific position "professor".

Scientific Contributions

The reference regarding to the contributions allows us to summarize that the author comprehensively, thoroughly and precisely evaluates her research results by presenting the contributions in a theoretically applied manner. In general, the **main contributions** of the candidate's scientific output can be summarized as follows:

- There is a lasting interest in current research problems, which is a proof of contributions achieved in their interpretation in modern pedagogical theory and practice in the light of the idea of intercultural and foreign language teaching;
- The problem of intercultural competence as a significant construct of the general and professional competences of the individual in the context of globalization is analyzed and its significance is proved;

- The author's relatively comprehensive concept for intercultural communication among young people on the basis of complex analysis by integrating theory, practice and norms is systematized on theoretical and practical basis.

Teaching Activity

The data show that the teaching commitment of Ergidzhan Alinder-Ismailova, PhD completely corresponds to the profile of the procedure for granting the academic rank *Professor*. The candidate has experience as a teacher. This very fact is proved by her CV and her teaching workload at Shumen University attached.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Ergidzhan Alinder-Ismailova, PhD includes assistance and counselling to foreign students. Moreover, in 2003 she was an expert at the *Foreign students, Postgraduates and Doctoral Students* Functional Dean's Office at the Technical University – Varna. Since 2008 she has been working at the International Relations Center, and since 2017 Mrs Alinder-Ismailova has been the Coordinator in General of Shumen University rector's body.



Conclusion

All publications submitted for scientific review, as well as the professional background construct and reveal a solid pedagogical conception and expertise of the candidate, which proves her status as a researcher and lecturer in the field of procedure announced.

All the findings, evaluations and conclusions set out above give me reason to express my **positive assessment** to grant the academic rank of *Professor* to Assoc. Prof. Ergidzhan Osman Alinder-Ismailova, PhD, Area of Higher Education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.2. Pedagogy (Language, Communication and Intercultural Competences)

10.10.2022

Ruse

Member of the Academic Jury:..........

(Assoc. Prof. Bagryana Ilieva, PhD)