

## STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Akseniya Borislavova Tileva, PhD

Trakia University, Stara Zagora

on the dissertation for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences"

Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional field 1.1. Educational Management (Qualification of pedagogical specialists)

Theme: "OPTIMIZING QUALIFICATION ACTIVITIES OF TEACHING PROFESSIONALS: THEORY AND PRACTICE, REALITY AND PERSPECTIVES"

Author: prof. Snezhanka Dobрева Georgieva, PhD

### 1. General presentation of the procedure

By Order No. RD-16-093/20.07.2023 of the Rector of Shumen University "K. Preslavski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for public defence of doctoral dissertation on "Optimization of qualification activities of pedagogical specialists: theory and practice, reality and perspectives" for the degree of Doctor of Science in the field of higher education 1. Doctor of Philosophy degree in Doctor of Education degree 1. Educational Specialty: Educational Management (Qualification of Educational Specialists)

The dissertation work was submitted by Prof. Snezhanka Dobрева Georgieva, PhD, to the Department of Technological Education, Entrepreneurship and Visual Arts - "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Education. The set of materials submitted by the dissertant is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the School of Education and Science for the Degree of Doctor of Science

## 2. General presentation of the thesis

The presented dissertation contains 555 pages divided into an introduction, six chapters, conclusion, bibliography, appendices. The main text is 434 pages, and the twenty appendices presented are related to the research and experimental work on the problem at hand. The text is illustrated with 40 tables, 36 figures, 68 diagrams, 1 histogram and 10 images. The list of used literature includes 487 titles, of which: in Cyrillic - 322; in Latin - 65; Internet sources - 72; normative documents - 29. The twelve publications proposed by the candidate are on the topic of the thesis.

## 3. Topical relevance

The presented dissertation deals with an extremely topical problem for Bulgarian education - optimization of the qualification activity of pedagogical specialists. The studies, researches, experiments, analyses, evaluations and conclusions are relevant to the aim of the research - definition, scientific substantiation and practical-applied research of the organizational-pedagogical conditions contributing to the improvement of qualification and professionalism of pedagogical specialists in the context of ensuring and managing the quality of education. Taking into account the investment of significant public financial resources, such as the funds under the various National Programs of the Ministry of Education in the field of modernization and improvement of the quality of education, in particular, the increase and effectiveness of the quasi-qualification of pedagogical specialists, I believe that the generalizations and conclusions drawn could become a starting point for the development of a standard for the quality of education, which has not yet been adopted.

## 4. Knowledge of the problem

Prof. Dr. Snezhanka Georgieva has many years of expert and managerial practice and demonstrates an excellent knowledge of the problem under study. The generalizations, SWOT analysis and arguments convincingly presented have scientific and pragmatic-applied significance, on the one hand for the subjects of qualification activity - teachers, school management, educational experts, on the other hand for improving the key competencies of students and increasing the quality of education in general.

The presented Appendices contain valuable examples and ideas for organizing an effective process of improving the competences of students preparing to become teachers or principals, for effective supporting and continuing qualification of peda-



gogical specialists, for improving and refining the qualification forms, topics and approaches for conducting short-term training of teachers.

## 5. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology /application of quantitative and qualitative methods/ is relevant to the set goal of the research, contributes to the realization of theoretical - research and pragmatic-applied tasks. The stages of the study follow a logical line that leads to generalizations, conclusions and recommendations with explicit meaning.

## 6. Characteristics and evaluation of the thesis and contributions

The dissertation contains an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices.

Chapter One and Chapter Two contain a theoretical and conceptual analysis of the notions of professionalism, professional development and qualification of pedagogical specialists in the context of the normative curriculum, programme and strategic documents - key propositions on which the empi-rio-pragmatic block of the dissertation is built.

Chapters Three, Four, Five and Six of the dissertation present the experimental-research part of the study. They include: a study of the perspectives of participants in the educational process and stakeholders on the problems of the qualification of pedagogical specialists; the quasi-qualification of pedagogical specialists in Bulgaria as a planned activity; a conceptual statement of the problem of optimizing the activities of improving the qualification of pedagogical specialists; a description and analysis of the experimental activity.

The literature review covers significant scientific works on the topic by Bulgarian and foreign authors.

In summary, I believe that Prof. Snezhanka Dobreva Georgieva, PhD has chosen a problematic and has developed a dissertation that in terms of significance meets the requirements and has serious theoretical and practical-applied contributions.

I accept the formulated 12 (twelve) scientific contributions, which I find original and resulting from the thorough and professional dissertation research of the disertant.

## 7. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the candidate

The scientific publications of Prof. Dr. Snezhanka Georgieva are related to the topic of the dissertation research. Both the topics and titles as well as the content of the publications are competently formulated, based on serious analyses and clearly highlight her authorial position.

The dissertation is the work of the author. The dissertation is distinguished by its scholarly style, analytical rigor and proficiency, while being accessible and readable. The structure of the dissertation is well organized and the conclusions drawn are supported by skillfully derived theoretical and empirical evidence.

## 8. Abstract

The abstract meets the requirements by synthesizing and adequately reflecting the content of the dissertation. No doubts arise as to its originality.

## 9. Recommendations for future use of the dissertation contributions and results

The researched topic treats an extremely important issue in educational theory and practice. The quality of the initial and continuing qualification of pedagogical specialists has a direct correlation with the achievement of the quality of education, in general. In view of the above, I find it appropriate that the data, analyses, conclusions and recommendations of this dissertation research be presented to experts from the Ministry of Education and Science and become the basis for developing a state educational standard for the quality of preschool and school education in Bulgaria.

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains theoretical and practical results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of Shumen University. The submitted materials and dissertation results fully comply with these specific requirements.

Therefore, I confidently give my positive evaluation for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science to Prof. Snezhanka Dobрева Georgieva, PhD in the field



of higher education. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.1. Educational Management (Qualification of pedagogical specialists)

25.08. 2023 г.

Prepared by:



(Assoc. Prof. Axenia Fileva, PhD)