

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyuba Atanasova Zlatkova,  
Shumen University "Diocesan Konstantin Preslavski",

member of the scientific jury

in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in...(Teaching Methodology in Music),

announced in the State Gazette, issue 38/24.04.2023 for the needs of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University, Stara Zagora, regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition by Assistant Dr. Diana Veskova Petkova:

### **1. Professional Development of the Candidate**

Assistant Dr. Diana Veskova Petkova completed her higher education, earning a master's degree in Music Pedagogy from Academy for music, dance and visual arts- Plovdiv in 1993. In 1995, she completed specialization in Music Methodology at the same institution, defending her diploma thesis. In 1996, she obtained a second qualification class from Trakia University Teacher retraining institute "An. Tosheva" in Stara Zagora, and in 2000 year, she received her second professional qualification class from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Center for In-Service Teacher Training. In 2001, she graduated with a master's degree in Macroeconomics with a specialization in Human Resource Management from "Paisii Hilendarski" University of Plovdiv. In 2005, she obtained a qualification as an instructor for basic and specific computer skills training for teachers specializing in "Fine Arts" and "Music" from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 2013, after defending her dissertation on the topic "Optimizing the Music Education Process through Specialized Music Software," she earned the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in...(Teaching Methodology in Music).

Diana Petkova worked as an adjunct lecturer from 2014 to 2020 at Sofia University and Trakia University, delivering lectures and exercises in master's and bachelor's programs, respectively, on topics such as "Semantics of Musical Language," "African American Music," and "Music Theory." From 1988 to 2020, she worked as a music teacher, teaching piano and Bulgarian language in various educational institutions in the villages of Asenovets, Nova Zagora, and Plovdiv. From 2020, she has been working as an Assistant in Music Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University, Stara Zagora. On this basis, she has been developing her professional interests and achieving successful realization. Diana Petkova works in various areas of educational and cultural activities, enhancing her communication and teamwork skills with individuals and organizations through projects in the field of early musical development, using her authorship for interactive group activities such as "Sheet Music Adventures" and

"Musical Adventures." She also works with children with health challenges, including Down syndrome and oncological illnesses, organizing concerts for children with charitable purposes. She further enriches her competencies by participating in various projects, both international, national, and regional. She was awarded an honorary badge in 2015 by the city of Plovdiv, and her students have demonstrated excellent achievements in the national competition "The Key to Music."

Thanks to her diverse interests, participation in projects, extracurricular and extracurricular cultural activities, as well as her effective combination of musical-instrumental and computer skills of various kinds, Diana Petkova shares her experience in various scientific forums, as evidenced by her scientific publications.

## **2. General Description of the Submitted Materials**

### **Scientific Publications**

Assistant Dr. Diana Petkova participates in the competition with the following materials related to her scientific and scientific-applied activities:

- Monographs – 2

- Co-authored monograph - 1

- Articles and reports published in unreferenced journals or published in edited collective volumes - 14, including one co-authored article in a referenced publication from a globally renowned database;

- Study programs for bachelor's and master's degrees, as follows: "Communication through Music and Text in Education"; "Music and Text in Education"; "Musical Education in Early Childhood"; "Musical Education and Cultural Institutions."

These publications contribute to the required points for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor."

## **Reflection of the Candidate's Scientific Publications in the Literature (Notable Citations)**

A reference is provided, including the following citations:

- Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes with scientific review - 4;

- Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review - 8.

## **3. General Characterization of the Candidate's Activities**

### **Scientific and Scientific-Applied Activity**

The directions in Diana Petkova's research can be summarized as follows:

- History of music pedagogy in Bulgaria;

- Musical semantics and its application in education;

- Informal musical education and creating art spaces through a reflexive approach;
- Development and application of specialized music software for educational purposes;
- Integration of music and literature in the education of future elementary school teachers.

The points mentioned above represent the main **contributions** in Diana Petkova's work.

Her published monographs, articles, and reports reveal various aspects of her professional pursuits. They demonstrate the development and refinement over time of her music-pedagogical concept, combining tradition and modernity. The use of specialized music software in the pedagogical-musical artistic process enhances students' and pupils' interest in music and the arts in general, encourages their desire to learn new things, and motivates them to perceive and evaluate art. Understanding the language of music, the specific combination of expressive means and codes it creates, develops flexibility in thinking and a spirit of discovery concerning the form and content of artworks. Understanding, knowledge of history, and the foundations of educational development in Bulgaria and the world are the basis upon which every intelligent individual, future teacher, and parent must nurture the younger generation—respect and a commitment to development.

### **Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution**

An objective analysis of the contributions made demonstrates that they are the personal and independent work of Assistant Dr. D. Petkova. All scientific publications are in an academic style, which defines the significance and originality of her scientific achievements. The reliability of the materials presented in the competition is supported by the corresponding declaration (for the accuracy of the information) signed by the candidate.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the information presented so far, I believe that the candidate meets the requirements of the Law of Development of Academic Community in Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules on the Structure of the Academic Staff in Trakia University, and the Regulation for the Development of the Academic Staff in Trakia University. All of this gives me reason to evaluate her overall work positively.

I vote **positively** and propose to the esteemed scientific jury that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Veskova Petkova be selected for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of teaching in...(Methodology in Music Education) for the needs of the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University.

September 4, 2023

Shumen, Bulgaria

Member of the scientific jury:

Assoc. Professor Dr. L. Zlatkova