

OPINION

for the dissertation

of the **Ass. Of the Professor PhD NEDELINA ZDRAVKOVA KOLEVA**

participant in the competition for "docent" in a professional direction 3.2. PSYCHOLOGY /PEDAGOGICAL AND AGE PSYCHOLOGY/, field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences and national security, announced in the State Gazette no. 60/14.07.2023,

announced for the needs of the Pedagogical and Social Sciences Department, Faculty of Pedagogy of Thrace University - Stara Zagora

The opinion was prepared by: **Prof. Dr. of Sciences Krasimira PETROVA Koleva-Mineva** - VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"

1. Information about the contest.

The competition has been announced by Thrace University - Stara Zagora for the needs of the "Pedagogical and Social Sciences" department at the Faculty of Education, and in the security of the reference for the hours from the department, study disciplines that meet the needs of the faculty in the specified professional direction are indicated. When preparing the opinion on the competition, the main documents corresponding to the requirements of the normative framework for the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the University of Thrace were taken into account. There are no violations in the competition procedure. One candidate participated in the competition - assistant professor Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva, professor at the Department of Pedagogical and Social Sciences at the University of Pedagogy, University of Thrace.

2. Information about the candidate.

The candidate for associate professor, Dr. Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva, graduated with a degree in "Special Pedagogy" at Thrace University - Stara Zagora, as well as a master's degree at VTU - "Psychology". In 2019, he defended his doctoral degree in Educational and Age Psychology at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", and since 2008 he has been working as an assistant at the Department of Pedagogical and Social Sciences at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Thrace University - Stara Zagora. Her entire professional experience is related to teaching work at the same university. He is a member of several NGOs and

professional organizations. She mentioned numerous trainings in which she took part or was a trainer, she is distinguished by a rich project activity. In the creative biography, two languages with different degrees of proficiency are indicated and there are many certificates available from studies and participation in various scientific events.

3. Description and evaluation of scientific works.

As. Dr. Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva in the competition for associate professor presents a list of scientific works from almost all scientific genres, including three monographs, 7 articles, reports (two of them in English) and one study. One of the monographs is designated as habilitation. I define the candidate's preparation of the overall documentation as excellent.

The habilitation thesis "Lifestyle and social interest in preschool age" - ISBN: 978-954-305-650-7 Publisher: "Kota". Stara Zagora, 2023 - 142 pages" is dedicated to the well-founded theoretical views of the classics Alfred Adler and Rudolf Dreikurs, namely that lifestyle and social interest are formed in preschool age. The targeted age segment is saturated with intense changes in the child's life, which take place with different but strong dynamics, and the study of the emerging new formations of the period lead to personal formation, to development and to certain risks that are subject to the role of adults. This complex life situation is a challenge for Dr. Nedelina Zdravkova, especially since her research also includes the ethnic component, which provides an opportunity for comparability, for outlining the differences in the family environment and the educational impact of the kindergarten as factors that shape both social interest and lifestyle.

In his other monographic work "Social responsibility and social interest - predictors of teachers' professional suitability", ISBN: 978-954-305-653-8, St. Zagora, "Kota", 2023, p. 188, questions are raised, which are of crucial importance for the development of children through the lens of the outstanding essential role of the teaching profession. Social responsibility and social interest are the basis of the effective realization of the teacher as attitude, training, education and socialization. The very training of future teachers is marked by the interpreted phenomena, and the intended research statistically proves the presence of correlations between current and future achievements of educators and the importance of responsible behavior and social interest as components of the teachers' profile.

The monograph "Social interest and educational environment", Stara Zagora, "Kota", 2023, ISBN: 978-954-305-636-1, 185 pages, was published on the basis of the protected dissertation work of the candidate. The focus of the work is on the study of the social interest of children of preschool age, raised in a family and non-family environment, and correlations between the influence of the environment and the formation of social interest in preschool age are sought. The theoretical basis of the monograph is the individual theory of A. Adler.

Summary of the monographic studies: The candidate shows a lasting interest in the analyzed issues, upgrading and consistency, commitment and attitude, and the created Conceptual model of care for the development of the social interest of children outside the family environment is a contribution to pedagogical and psychological sciences.

The study "Ethnocultural features in the development of social interest in children of Roma origin in preschool age" is based on the trinity of child - parent - teacher and further develops the author's ideas about the interconnected environment - social interest - lifestyle.

I would define the remaining articles and reports as supplementing the candidate's monographic studies. I tentatively divide them into three intertwined spheres of interest: the first – further development of the theoretical analyzes related to the individual psychology of A. Adler; the second - the preparation and realization of teachers through social responsibility and social interest as fundamental constructs and the third - formation of social responsibility, social interest and lifestyle in children from different ethnic groups in preschool age.

Summary: The works of assistant professor Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva presented for review present her in an innovative, positive direction, as a young but already mature scientist, with a highly committed presence, with competence and thoroughness, with a perspective for development and an ambition to prove himself, to discover novelties for others and to leave his mark on science.

4. Scientific indicators.

Dr. Nedelina Zdravkova declares participation in the competition with: - Defense dissertation work, recognized in NACID - 50 points; - One monograph - habilitation thesis - 100 points; - Monograph, studies, articles and reports - 250 items; - Citations – 75 items. Total - 475 points according to criteria A, B, D and

D. It also covers the additional requirements of the University of Thrace for holding the academic position "Associate Professor".

5. Scientific contributions.

I accept the scientific contributions formulated by the candidate, Assistant Professor Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva, PhD, and comment on them as follows:

1. Well-known theories and less popular ones are rethought and presented in a new way, and an attempt was made to introduce a new sound - individual psychology, lifestyle, social interest, educational environment, etc.
2. The dynamics of the preschool age through the factors listed above were analyzed, and factors such as outside the family environment, children of different ethnic origins, children in institutions and services were introduced and clarified.
3. On the basis of an original self-constructed and executed study, a Conceptual model of care for the development of the social interest of children outside the family environment was built.
4. The concept of the training and professional qualification of students - future pedagogues and current teachers from the position of social responsibility towards the profession and social interest in the education and socialization of children from PUV has been further developed.
5. In all the works, the author's commitment to the social and mainly psychological-pedagogical problems investigated by him is visible, and his motivation for analyzing the phenomenon, fact, event chosen by him is clearly defined, supported by psychological and pedagogical theories, presented in a new way original way.

6. Teaching work.

The teaching work of Assistant Professor Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva is concentrated at Thrace University, where she leads lectures and seminars on Social Psychology, Addiction Prevention, Psychological Counseling and Personal Development of Children with SEN, Educational Psychology, General Psychology, Pedagogical and Psychological characteristics of early childhood development, etc. participates in the practical training of students and in its administration. The security of the competition fully corresponds to the

professional experience and qualifications of Dr. Nedelina Zdravkova, as they are mainly in the field of Pedagogical and Age Psychology.

7. Notes and Recommendations.

My acquaintance with the overall scientific and academic activity of Nedelina Zdravkova, assistant professor, PhD, allows me to make the following recommendations - further development of her ideas in the field of scientific activity of pedagogical and age psychology and providing the educational disciplines led by her with aids, tools , textbooks, which is also preparation for her subsequent growth as a scientist.

8. Conclusion.

Expressing my impressions and analyzes of the overall scientific, expert, teaching and applied achievements of the candidate, assessing the relevance and significance of her developments, I give my positive vote for Assistant Professor Nedelina Zdravkova Koleva and recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council to award him the scientific title "docent" in a professional field 3.2. Psychology (EDUCATIONAL AND AGE PSYCHOLOGY), field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences and national security.

15. 11. 2023.
City. Veliko Tarnovo

Signature: /...../
/prof. K. Petrova/