

OPINION

by **Prof. Veselina Georgieva Ivanova, PhD**
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member of the scientific jury in the procedure for filling the academic position "Associate professor", determined by order No. RD-641/22.02.2024 of the Rector of Trakia University, Stara Zagora

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences

Professional direction: 1.3 Pedagogy of training in....

Specialization: Teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature

For the needs of the department: "Preschool and primary school education",
Faculty of Education

I. Contest details

The competition for the academic position of "associate professor" was announced in SG No. 99 of 28.11.2023. The only candidate is Desislava Ilcheva Siderova, PhD, currently an assistant professor in the teaching methodology of Bulgarian language and literature in the Department of PNUP at the Faculty of Education, Trakia University. The documents for participation in the procedure were submitted within the established period and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University. The competition is provided with the necessary horary of academic employment.

II. Overview of the candidate's professional/competency profile

The information presented in the professional biography of Desislava Siderova about activities and positions held is in accordance with the profile of the announced competition for the academic position of "associate professor". The master's degree of higher education with the specialty "Bulgarian Philology" was obtained at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in the period 1994 – 1999. After a three-year course of study in the Master's program "Social Affairs" at the Academy of Economics "Dimitar Tsenov", Svishtov, in 2004 she received a Master's degree in Economics, majoring in "Insurance and Social Affairs". Followed by: specialization in English through an intensive five-month training course in 2004; two-semester training to acquire an additional pedagogical qualification for intercultural education at the "Neofit Rilski" Secondary School, Blagoevgrad; short-term hybrid pedagogical course for assistants and doctoral students at the Doctoral Center of the Faculty of Education, Trakia University in 2021; in 2022 training on the topic "Development of electronic learning resources" under the project "MODERN:A "MODERNIZATION in partnership through digitization of the academic ecosystem" of DIPKU, Trakia University.

After a successfully defended dissertation on the topic: "Textocentrism in the linguistic-literary education of student teachers", As. Prof. Desislava Siderova obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

III. Research profile, highlights, contributions

In the competition procedure, Assistant Professor Desislava Siderova presents a scientific production for review, which includes:

- monographic work "Metacognitive strategies for preschool education in Bulgarian language and literature";
- published monograph, which was not presented as the main habilitation thesis "Intermediate horizon for literary and musical education" (co-authored with D. Petkova);
- scientific publication – a book based on a defended dissertation work for awarding an educational and scientific degree "doctor": "The text as a phenomenon of the educational environment";
- 15 publications, of which 1 – in a scientific edition, referenced in world-famous databases with scientific information; 14 – published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes;
- Study published in a non-refereed peer-reviewed journal or published in edited collective volumes.

Of the publications, 13 are independent and 2 – in co-authorship, and a part of them are from participation in scientific forums.

In terms of quantity, quality and issues, the publications of As. Prof. Desislava Siderova, PhD correspond to the scientific profile of the announced competition.

The presented scientific production can be divided into the following thematic directions:

1. Linguistic and didactic university training (9.1)

The linguistic and didactic competence of future elementary teachers is put in focus as an essential component of professional competence. As a strong contributing point, I highlight the proposed algorithm for performing the sound-letter analysis of the word according to the priorities set forth by Dr. Desislava Siderova in the linguo-methodical training of student teachers.

2. Literary education at the primary stage (7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.14)

The emphasis in this group of publications by Dr. D. Siderova is on the methodology for the linguistic construction of the literary text in the context of anthropocentrism in education.

With a contributing character stand out:

- the systematized methodological option for developing the ability of independently ask questions by pupils in primary grades through typology, leading to transfer in a variable educational situation;
- the in-depth theoretical analysis of the change of educational strategy in literary communication in primary grades;
- the proposed types of questions and tasks in connection with the dynamics in the formation of skills for working on the means of verbal imagery in primary school. Here their stimulating function on the students' research activity is significant.

3. Linguistic-literary education in an intrasystem integrative context (5.1, 7.4, 7.7, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 7.13, 17.2)

The group of publications with the widest representation emphasizes the possibility of realizing synergy in education through textual phenomenology.

I fully accept the contributions highlighted by Dr. Siderova in this thematic area, to which I would add **the achieved translation of the leading concepts: from communication with the text through integration to transversality through the text for synergy in education.**

4. Metacognition in the practical application of knowledge in the field of the Bulgarian language and literature (3.1)

With a very high contribution, I note the **Model for practical application of knowledge in the field of the Bulgarian language and literature**, based on the reflexive approach in education, presented in the monographic work of Dr. D. Siderova. In the monograph, metacognitive strategies are systematized, supporting the professional training of both students and working teachers (as a two-way process in the created constructivist environment) for their application in the real conditions of the kindergarten. Research methods such as modeling, theoretical analysis, pedagogical observation, etc. have a strong presence in the monograph.

5. Interdisciplinarity and literary education (4.1 and 6.1, 17.7, 17.8)

In a practical-applied plan, in the separate group of publications, the focus is on intermediality in the Bulgarian educational environment, understood as applied goal setting, systematized approaches and options, and the author's examples in the field of interaction between literature and music.

A strong point of contribution is the intermedial methodological system created and tested through joint teaching, developing the professional competence of future children's and elementary teachers to implement pedagogical interaction based on communication between the literature and music education process.

6. Literary education and intercultural education (7.5)

On the basis of selected texts for qualification activities in the field of intellectual education, Dr. Siderova has systematized in groups the proposed author's techniques in the education of students.

7. Literary education and natural science education (7.6, 7.8, 7.12)

A contribution to this group of publications is found in the author's view of interdisciplinary interactions, perceived in their possibility of realizing holism in education through the phenomenology of literary education as an aesthetic category in the context of key cultural competence and knowledge in the field of natural sciences.

Data on citations of Dr. Desislava Siderova's works are presented, which argues for their significance and "notability":

- citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or collective volumes – a total of 6 citations (90 points);
- citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – a total of 2 citations (20 points).

IV. Pedagogical and expert activity

The overview of the entire activity of As. Prof. Desislava Siderova since the beginning of 2005 as an assistant in teaching methodology in Bulgarian language and literature convinces of her consistent development as an academic teacher and researcher, which unfolds at different levels – participation in applied and scientific-research projects, educational and scientific production:

- conducted classes for students according to author's study programs for 6 elective subjects, of which 4 were independently developed and 2 – co-authored, and 3 optional subjects;

- participation in 6 national and 18 intra-university projects;
- language editing of scientific texts.

V. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor"

The scientific report proposed by As. Prof. Desislava Siderova, PhD, is a certificate of fulfillment of the minimum requirements for holding the position of "associate professor" with a total quantitative indicator of 495.83 points.

I have personal impressions of Desislava Siderova – they are of a colleague who is extremely responsible and precise in her work and correct in her professional relationships, with high professionalism and a visible presence in the academic environment.

Conclusion

On the basis of the analysis of the presented documentation regarding the scientific, teaching and expert activities, as well as the professional qualities, **I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to elect to the academic position "associate professor" as. Desislava Ilcheva Siderova, PhD**, in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of training in ..., specialty "Methodology of training in Bulgarian language and literature" for the needs of the department "Preschool and primary school pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

27/03/2024

Prepared the opinion:
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