

PEER REVIEW

for the teaching, research, and artistic activities of

Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova

regarding the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Education in ...”, specialty “Psychology and Pedagogy”, announced in State Gazette, Issue 5/16.01.2024, for the needs of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Faculty of Music Pedagogy, Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska,

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Education in ...”, specialty “Methodology of Music Education”

The present review is prepared in accordance with the documents submitted for the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, in State Gazette, Issue 5/16.01.2024, for the needs of the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department, Faculty of Music Pedagogy. The documents presented for the competition comply with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Rules for the Conditions and Procedures for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova is the sole candidate for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the announced competition. The materials submitted by the candidate meet all requirements and sufficiently cover the necessary minimum of national requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for acquisition of the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

Born in 1987 in Plovdiv, Dr. Stoilova graduated with honors and received a plaque from Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University in two Bachelor’s specialties – “Psychology” in 2010 and “Slavic Philology – Serbian and Croatian” in 2011. She also holds two Master’s degrees from Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University – “Social and Legal Psychology”, which she completed with honors, and a second Master’s degree in 2023 in “Modern Educational Technologies” from the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

As a doctoral student at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University since 2012, she worked under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Nataliya Aleksandrova. In 2013, during her doctoral studies, she completed a three-month specialization in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and in 2014, a specialization at Saint Petersburg State University, Russia, in the Faculty of Psychology, where she continued as a doctoral student. Her early successes include first place and a plaque from the University in a competition for the best article, marking the beginning of her scientific and research work. In 2017, after successfully defending her dissertation, Liliya Stoilova obtained the scientific degree of “Doctor of Psychological Sciences” awarded by Saint Petersburg State University, Russian Federation, recognized by Certificate No 08-00-33/31.01.2020 by the National Center for Information and Documentation of the Republic of Bulgaria as a “Doctor” under Professional field 3.2 “Psychology”.

Dr. Stoilova has extensive teaching experience. From 2012 to 2016, she conducted Developmental Psychology exercises at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Since 2016, she has been teaching psychological disciplines at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, initially as a part-time lecturer, from 2018 as an Assistant on a half-time basis, and since 2020, after winning a competition, as a Chief Assistant. The impressions of Dr. Stoilova’s work as a lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts with students from various specialties and faculties are very positive. Her lectures and exercises are meticulously prepared with attention to students and their interests. A significant aspect of her teaching is the application of modern methods and approaches, digitalizing the educational content according to the specifics of the disciplines.

Among her scientific research achievements are: winning a scholarship competition under the “Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers” Program of the Ministry of Education and Science at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University and publishing six articles, four of which are indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases. She participated in the European Psychological Congress in Moscow in 2019 and won a project from the National Science Fund on the topic “Loneliness vs. Independence Throughout Life: Perspectives and Insights from Bulgaria and Russia”. In 2020, she received funding for the project “(De)motivational Factors and Characteristics in the Choice of the Teaching Profession among School Students, Students in Pedagogical Specialties, and Novice Teachers” through the “Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers” competition of the NSF.

In the current competition, Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Stoilova is participating with a significant number of materials, including a monograph, a published book based on a defended dissertation, and numerous scientific publications, including those indexed in Scopus and WoS. The materials submitted for the competition reveal her deep interests in psychology, psychometrics, statistics, pedagogy, adapting psychological methodologies for the Bulgarian context, and didactic tests. On Google Scholar, the candidate has an h-index of 5. This extensive work documents the serious

preparation, experience, and importance of Dr. Stoilova's scientific research and pedagogical activities as a candidate in the competition.

The main criteria provided by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for selection and appointment are the quality and type of scientific publications, artistic achievements, participation in the educational process of the higher education institution, and awards and distinctions for professional and pedagogical work.

For the award of the academic position "Associate Professor", Dr. Liliya Stoilova presents a habilitation thesis – a monograph titled "*Motivational Determinants in Choosing the Teaching Profession Among Young People*", 2023, published by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, ISBN 978-619-7682-31-1, 160 pages. The book undoubtedly contributes to pedagogical and psychological science, considering the following: so far, there haven't been many developments on this issue in Bulgarian and foreign-language literature. The author validates her idea by applying results from a representative and in-depth study involving a large number of participants. The conclusions have both theoretical and practical significance. What is particularly valuable about Dr. Stoilova's monograph "*Motivational Determinants in Choosing the Teaching Profession Among Young People*" is the integrative approach, grounded in the author's personal professional experience and new ideas.

The aim, subject, object, and tasks of the research are clearly stated. The formulated four scientific hypotheses emphasize the need for an integrative approach, considering contemporary scientific and educational inquiries.

Structurally, the book is presented with an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, and a list of references. Each element is well substantiated, allowing the logic of the inquiries, validation, and interpretation of the results from the overall study to be traced logically in a scientific context.

The introduction sets clear parameters for the research issues. The author adheres to research methods, which are conditionally divided into theoretical and applied levels – theoretical analysis of literary sources, and on an applied level – survey research. The target group of the study is presented – students in 11th and 12th grades, students from pedagogical profiles, and teachers embarking on their professional path.

While the *First chapter* focuses on the problem of motivation and motivational determinants in choosing the teaching profession, as well as the conceptual idea for the preparation of pedagogical specialists and the important factors in this regard that either stimulate or deter young people on the path to professional realization as teachers, the *Second chapter* is dedicated to the organization, design, and methods of the research conducted by the author regarding the motivational determinants in choosing the teaching profession. The *Third chapter* deserves particular attention for its analytical approach to the derived problem. The attitudes towards the teaching profession, motivational factors for choice, but also for alienation from the teaching

profession, are objects of analysis. The *conclusion* of the monograph confirms the author's view on the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach in scientific research of this kind, as well as the challenges facing future teachers, nurtured and educated in our dynamic contemporary society. I definitely believe that the results and conclusions drawn by Dr. Stoilova at the end of the monograph can serve as a basis for new and enriching scientific research with added value, both in theoretical aspects and for practical application.

The book *"Everyday Hassles, Coping Strategies, and Life Satisfaction in Old Age"*, published based on a defended dissertation, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, ISBN: 978-954-2963-80-6, 2021, 210 pages, undergoes scientific evaluation and review. The study focuses on another psychological issue dedicated to older adults – the everyday hassles they face, coping mechanisms, and their role in experiencing life satisfaction. The author highlights the practical and scientific significance of the work, once again projecting into the future with opportunities for new and enriching research in the scientific field.

Dr. Stoilova participates in the competition with a serious portfolio of scientific publications – articles and presentations from scientific forums in the field of Psychology and Pedagogy in Bulgaria and abroad. Beyond the regulations of the national bibliometric indicators of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor", it becomes clear that Dr. Stoilova also engages in active project-based activities.

Particular attention should be paid to the fact that Dr. Liliya Stoilova is a scholar who actively writes on current and significant issues. In the period 2017-2020, the author realized 5 scientific publications in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. Some of them (3 articles) are co-authored, but there are also independent ones (2 articles). Concurrently, the author submits for review in the competition 25 articles and presentations published in non-peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes, written in the period 2013-2023.

In summary, I can state that the scientific production presented for review by Chief Assistant Dr. L. Stoilova is directed towards leading, less explored areas in Psychology and Pedagogy. The author's research is thorough, with representative samples and a significant number of recipients. However, the most essential aspect is the relevance and significance of these studies, which uncover opportunities for further development and deepening of achievements in scientific research, both in theoretical and applied terms.

The active involvement of Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Stoilova as an author of scientific articles is supported by a significant number of citations of her studies in both Bulgarian and foreign literature.

I personally know the candidate, Dr. Liliya Stoilova, from the time when she was appointed as an honorary lecturer in the Musical Pedagogy and Conducting Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in

Plovdiv, and I can attest to my excellent impressions of her as a capable and courteous individual. Currently, Dr. Stoilova serves as the Secretary of the Musical Pedagogy and Conducting Department and handles administrative tasks responsibly. I believe that her work and authority as a habilitated lecturer would further enhance the prestige of the Musical Pedagogy and Conducting Department and Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts as an institution.

The educational and scientific research activities carried out by the candidate far exceed the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor".

CONCLUSION

Based on the materials presented, I give a categorical positive assessment of the scientific research and pedagogical achievements of Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova and recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury that she be awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor" under Professional field 1.3. "Pedagogy of Education in ...", specialty "Psychology and Pedagogy".

03.05.2024

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Plovdiv

Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and
Fine Arts – Plovdiv