

## **PEER REVIEW**

**by Prof. Dr. Emiliya Konstantinova**

regarding announced 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 dated 16.01.2024

### **Information about the competition**

For the announced 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 dated 16.01.2024, there is only one candidate – Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova.

In accordance 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 Scientific Degrees and Holding the Academic Position of Professor at the National Academy of Arts, the candidate has submitted all the necessary documents, works, and scientific publications.

The available scientometric data on indicators and points presented by Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova meet the minimum national requirements set by the National Center for Information and Documentation, as determined by law for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the respective field.

### **Brief biographical data and academic progression of the candidate**

Liliya Stoilova completed her studies in “Psychology” in 2010 and in “Slavic Philology – Serbian and Croatian” in 2011 at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. She also earned a Master’s degree in “Social and Legal Psychology” from Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. During her studies, she attended lectures at the University of Belgrade (Serbia), the University of Zagreb (Croatia), and the University of Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

As a PhD student at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, she undertook a specialization in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and in 2014, another specialization at Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. She successfully defended her dissertation before the Dissertation Council of the Higher Attestation Commission in Russia in 2017. In 2023, she completed another Master’s degree in “Modern Educational Technologies” at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

From 2012 to 2016, Liliya Stoilova conducted practical sessions in Developmental Psychology for the specialties “Primary School Pedagogy and Foreign Language”, “Social Pedagogy”, “Psychology”, and “Social Activities” at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Since 2016, she has been a lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. After winning the competition for Chief Assistant, she has been teaching “General and Developmental Psychology”, “Psychology of Art”, “Differential Psychology”, “Pathopsychology”, and “Psychology of Giftedness” to students from Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

In 2018, Liliya Stoilova won a competition and received a scholarship for a six-month program “Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers” funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) with Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. During this period, four of her articles were published in Scopus and Web of Science. She participated in the “European Congress of Psychology” in Moscow, one of the most prestigious global congresses. She joined the leadership team of the project “Loneliness versus Independence Throughout Life: Perspectives and Insights from Bulgaria and Russia”, together with Prof. Nataliya Aleksandrova, funded by the National Science Fund.

In 2020, she secured funding for the project “(De)motivational Factors and Characteristics in the Choice of the Teaching Profession Among Students, Pedagogy Majors, and Novice Teachers” from the Scientific Research Fund. The results of this research were published in her monograph *“Motivational Determinants in Choosing the Teaching Profession Among Young People”*, which is presented in the current competition.

Liliya Stoilova’s professional and scientific interests lie in the fields of “Psychological Sciences”, “Psychometrics”, “Statistics”, and “Pedagogy”. She is the author of over 40 publications. Her Google Scholar h-index is 5, and her ResearchGate h-index is 4.

### **General characteristics of the presented scientific works**

The biography of Chief Assistant Dr. Liliya Stoilova demonstrates her active scientific research activity. Among her scientific output, the primary work for her habilitation is *“Motivational Determinants in Choosing the Teaching Profession Among Young People”*, along with various publications where she is either the author or co-author.

The monograph contains an introduction, three interrelated chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography of 112 Bulgarian and foreign sources, spanning a total of 153 pages. The objectives and tasks of the research are clearly formulated, aligning with the subject and scope of the analysis. The structure logically follows the progression from theoretical foundations, clarifying key methods and concepts, to the practical application of empirical research.

The accurate establishment of facts in the first chapter is crucial for achieving the validity of the final analysis conclusions. Notably, the second chapter describes well-defined stages, the number of participants in the study (170 pedagogy students, 247 teachers, and 409 11th-12th grade students from 130 schools), with data collected over two years, indicating a reliable sample. Additionally, the selection of an appropriate model (the twelve-component popular research model) allows for good comparability with other similar models, as well as a quantitative correlation analysis to verify the significance between subscales and a one-factor analysis of variance to determine statistically significant differences across various characteristics such as gender, specialty, and stage of career realization. The third chapter provides analyses of attitudes and motivational factors for choosing the teaching profession, examined through different psychological and cognitive processes, as well as decision-making factors. In conclusion, the author presents the final results of the study. A valuable outcome of the comprehensive analysis is the ten significant recommendations derived from it.

The examined issue is extremely relevant, and in the context of the lack of empirical research, it serves as a valuable source for further studies and analyses aimed at improving motivation and establishing the teaching profession as fundamental to the educational process.

### **Contributions of scientific and applied nature**

The main contributions pertain to the habilitation work and the overall scientific research and pedagogical activities of the candidate, aimed at the development of the scientific, applied, and educational fields with regard to her viewpoint focused on the investigation of specific and significant areas such as psychology and pedagogy. In this context, among the main merits of her scientific output is its applied scientific orientation, which is beneficial not only for specialists and researchers but also for students with interests directed towards practices in the fields of psychological and pedagogical sciences.

Key contributions can be summarized as follows: the applied works analyze current issues in developmental psychology, educational psychology, health psychology, and pedagogy. The summaries, conclusions, and recommendations for educational and therapeutic practices are sufficiently reliable and scientifically substantiated, supported by publications from contemporary authoritative scientific sources. In this regard, several methodologies have been tested and standardized for the Bulgarian sample, which can be considered as a starting point for therapeutic work in dealing with stress, facilitating easier adaptation, and enhancing motivational factors in choosing the teaching profession. Additionally, they can be successfully used in developing programs for addressing challenges related to age-related problems or pandemic situations. Overall, a significant contribution of the research results in the habilitation work and some scientific publications is their

practical application by school administrators and experts at the Ministry of Education, who develop educational strategies and policies.

Given the outlined contributions, the overall scientific research activities, the pedagogical experience, and the personal professional qualities of the candidate, I am inclined to provide a **positive assessment**. Therefore, I **propose to the esteemed Jury that Assistant Professor Dr. Liliya Vitkova Stoilova be selected to occupy the academic position of “Associate Professor”** under Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Education in ...”, specialty “Psychology and Pedagogy” at Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

14.05.2024

MEMBER OF THE JURY:

/Prof. Dr. Emiliya Konstantinova/