

PEER REVIEW

For the scientific works and pedagogical activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva on the announced competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” announced by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts

in professional field:

1.3. Pedagogy of Education

in specialty:

Fine Arts Teaching Methods

By: Prof. Dr. Emiliya Konstantinova

Only one candidate – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva, participates in the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” in the specialty “Fine Arts Teaching Methods”, in professional field: 1.3 Pedagogy of Education, announced by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. The competition is for the needs of the Fine Arts Department at the Fine Arts Faculty and was announced in State Gazette, Issue 40/17.05.2019.

The documentation, which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva submitted for the announced competition, corresponds to the state and academic normative documents for the occupation of academic positions. The reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements is with supporting material. The author’s references for the scientific contributions of the works and the citations, as well as a list of the applied scientific achievements, are attached.

Assoc. Prof. Zora Yanakieva has obtained two Bachelor’s degrees with majors in “Vocational Training and Fine Arts” and “Pedagogy of Fine Arts”, after which she graduated as a Master of Pedagogy of Fine Arts at Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University in 1999. A year later she was enrolled as a PhD student on a self-study basis at the same higher education institution.

In 2005, Zora Yanakieva successfully defended her doctoral dissertation work on the topic “The Idea of Education through Fine Arts in the Art and Pedagogical Press in Bulgaria in the First Half of the Twentieth Century” before the Specialized Scientific Council in Pedagogy at Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. The following year Zora Yanakieva appeared successfully before the High Attestation Committee with the Council of Ministers.

Zora Yanakieva has 13 years of experience working as a teacher in fine arts in several secondary schools. Since 2007 she has been a part-time lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, and since 2012 she has been a full-time lecturer and Associate Professor after a conducted competition. She teaches Fine Arts Teaching Methods, conducts practical training in the Pedagogical practice of students trained in Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees and provides scientific guidance of PhD students in the same scientific field and specialty, as well as of Masters for defense of their theses.

In her teaching work, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva is an excellent lecturer who has proven her competence and professionalism. The curricula developed by her (as evidenced by the submitted documentation for the competition) and the application of interactive and innovative methods in the lecture courses, successfully develop students’ creative and research thinking and motivate and stimulate their interest in the studied subjects.

She also organizes the preparation of doctoral training programs for the opening of PhD Program in “Applied and Fine Arts and Design” in field 8.2 Fine Arts.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva has presented a large range of scientific works for the announced competition: articles, publications, monographs, academic textbook “Fine Arts. Methodology Exercises – Advanced Preparation Course” and a book on the basis of a dissertation thesis “Development of the Idea of Education Through Art in Bulgaria. First Half of XX century”, co-authored with Prof. Dr. Neli Boyadzhieva (2/3 of the total volume of 231 pages are the candidate’s own author development, as seen in the separation protocol).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva is a member of various academic administrative structures at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts: Vice Chairman of the Control Secretary from 2015 to date; temporarily acting Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts from September until December 2016; Secretary of the Attestation Committee of the same faculty in the period 2013 – 2017; member of Academic Council in the period 2014 – 2015.

A significant moment of the scientific work for this competition is the presented main habilitation work on the topic “Interactive Training in the Professional Education of Students in the Methodology of Fine Arts”. In it the author shows deep theoretical knowledge and competences in the field of Pedagogy of Arts with students. The current conditions in Bulgaria predetermine the issue of the lack of a sufficiently high quality of education, which poses the need for the introduction of active and dialogical training, the purpose of which is to motivate the students. Interactive learning is the focus of research in the study of students in secondary education and less in higher education. Therefore, the research of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva appears timely and up-to-date and corresponds to the new educational requirements for higher quality. Moreover, it is one of a kind in Bulgaria in the field of fine arts education.

The study is presented in the following sections: introduction, four chapters and conclusion. The literature sources used are 132, and in addition, applications describing successfully completed written studies of students from the practical exercises in the process of teaching in fine arts methodology are presented.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva states the subject, object and tasks of the studied topic in the introduction. The aim is to present a pedagogical model for interactive learning, including the organization and activities of the teacher and the students in seminars on the methodology of fine arts teaching, oriented towards the effective conduct and achievement of high results.

The first chapter justifies the actuality of the problem and the nature and the peculiarities of the interactive training in the professional training of students – art educators. The author presents the interactive and traditional didactic methods in the lectures and seminars. Their classification in tabular form /p.72/ is a very good idea and proves their usefulness for the achievement of greater efficiency and quality in the training process.

The second chapter theoretically brings out the essence, goals and objectives of the seminar exercises and their planning and implementation in an interactive mode – forms, group exercises system, didactic methods and approaches.

In the third chapter, the author develops a system of exercises for the conduct of seminars, in which an interactive model of training is applied, which is one of the main merits and qualities of

the work. A classification of this system is made according to certain characteristics and indicators, which satisfy the needs of the appropriate methodology of academic education in the specialty “Pedagogy of Fine Arts Teaching”. The author can be congratulated for the presented system of seminars, developed according to a certain structure – purpose, tasks, forms and content of the class, as well as the questions asked for discussion and the literature for the independent preparation of the students.

The fourth chapter deals with the diagnostic and evaluation of the achievements of the interactive learning of students. A comprehensive analysis of the learning activity has been carried out, in particular during the seminars, as well as of the strengths and weaknesses in the learning process in order to enhance the achievements and results of the students. Criteria are presented for the formation of assessment under a methodology, both of curricular and extra-curricular activity /p. 214-215/, which allows for a fair and objective assessment. In addition, indicators for self-assessment of students’ professional skills and competences are developed.

In this work the author comes to her own conclusions, which prove the importance and significance of the problem posed and gives adequate solutions in the students’ education by introducing an interactive mode.

The monograph “Motivation of Students in the Teaching of Fine Arts” at a volume of 184 pages was also presented for the announced competition in addition to the main habilitation work mentioned above.

The problem of motivation is addressed in connection with the education of students in secondary schools in the subject of Fine Arts. It is one of the most pressing problems in the secondary education system and has been reflected in the scientific literature in various fields, but in the field of fine arts there are only a few articles and publications by relatively few authors. Therefore, the theoretical work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva is a more in-depth study, which has not been done in our country so far.

The stated thesis is that “in the learning process, students form and develop their interests, positive attitudes and motives for learning activities, which once formed and internalized help to increase the success and learning outcomes”. Therefore, the author emphasizes and stipulates the need for educators to make efforts to motivate adolescents using appropriate incentives, methods and approaches tailored to the respective personalities of the students.

Using the theoretical formulations about motivation, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva proves that the use of certain methods, forms, approaches to teaching, teaching tasks, materials and techniques influence the motivation of the students. But their effectiveness is achieved when they are in accordance with the personal qualities, needs and interests of the students.

An extremely strong point in the study is the final chapter, which presents an empirical study of students of different ages, ethnicities and types of training. A questionnaire survey of approximately 60 students has been used to examine interests and needs, the analysis of which provides an objective picture of the stimulus of the educational environment. The comparative analysis also highlights the features and specifics of the preferred incentives.

On the basis of the submitted documentation and the personal impressions of the reviewer, the scientific contributions can be summarized in the following areas: children’s and adolescents’

periodicals; fine arts teaching methods; professional development of students of pedagogy; strategies for the motivation of students.

1. An in-depth theoretical and empirical study of the problem of interactive teaching of art educators is made;

2. The possibilities of interactive and traditional methods are analyzed in a comparative plan. The importance of interactive learning for a better educational process is justified;

3. A system for basic and advanced preparation in the education of students in methodology of Bachelor's and Master's degrees is developed and introduced. Classification of exercises into groups is made based on common characteristics. The advantages of the seminars as a form of training in methodology preparation are clarified.

4. Own pedagogical model in an interactive learning mode, stimulating the creative thinking, with the opportunity for qualitative mastering of the educational content, is developed and introduced. The place and the role of the seminars as an active and motivating form of education are also proved.

5. The difficulties and mistakes of students are analyzed and systematized. The expected results are differentiated. The opinions on the quality of the educational process are examined. The students' assessment of the training in the seminars is substantiated, which supports the interactive learning mode.

6. The interests of students of different ages, ethnicities and different levels of school preparation are researched and proven. The similarities and differences in the preferences of students from Bulgarian and Roma ethnicities in relation to the problems of art are analyzed. The specific problems of the work with Roma students are highlighted, as well as the reasons that negatively influence the motivation.

The two monographs presented are especially valuable for the pedagogical theory and practice and for the professional preparation of students – art educators and beginner teachers and specialists working in the field of art education.

On the basis of all the above and the complete documentation submitted, meeting the minimum scientific requirements, I give a positive assessment of the overall research and theoretical and applied pedagogical achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva and I believe that she should be elected for the academic position “Professor”.

Prof. Dr. Emiliya Konstantinova