

## **PEER REVIEW**

on the habilitation work presented by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva

in relation to the competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”

1.3. Pedagogy of Education in ...

by Prof. Dr. Bisera Valeva, Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University

The habilitation work of the only candidate – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva, was presented under the competition announced in State Gazette (Issue 40/17.05.2019) for occupation of the academic position “Professor” for 1.3 Pedagogy of Education in ... (Fine Arts Teaching Methods) for the needs of the Fine Arts Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in the City of Plovdiv.

The professional focus and creative interests of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva, in my opinion, were predetermined in 1987, when she graduated from the Secondary Special School of Performing Arts (City of Plovdiv). In the period from 1987 until 1999, she consistently developed, upgraded and refined her pursuits in the field of fine arts, such as understanding and teaching (Teachers’ Institute, City of Dupnitsa; Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University – Bachelor’s degree, Pedagogy of Fine Arts; Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University – Master’s degree, Pedagogy of Fine Arts). A product of her deep interest and creative thinking is her successfully defended 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” (2005). The selected topic confirms the author’s consistent interest in the arts education, and more specifically, in the methodological aspects of the realization of the emerging personality.

The pedagogical activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts is related to teaching basic and specialized lecture courses, organization of student exhibitions, participation in state exams and more. The methods she uses in her work are focused on the development of the creative and research thinking of the students at all educational levels, as evidenced by the number of successful graduates and doctoral students with whom she is engaged. In addition to the publications presented in the habilitation work, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva is author of the academic textbook “Fine Arts. Methodology Exercises – Advanced Preparation Course” (Plovdiv: Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Ideon Publishing House, 2017, 141 pages, ISBN978-954-2963-21-9). She is also a member of various academic administrative structures at the Academy.

The materials submitted for habilitation are divided into: main habilitation work, monograph supporting the work, a book based on defended dissertation work, university textbook, as well as

numerous studies, articles and reports from participations in various authoritative forums with a focus on the teaching of fine arts in a wide age range. The materials have the characteristics of well thought out and structured academic texts.

The monograph “Interactive Training in the Professional Education of Students in the Methodology of Fine Arts” (Plovdiv: Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Ideon Publishing House, 2017, 294 pages, ISBN 978-954-2963-22-6) is essential in the dynamics of development and the specification of the research and creative interest of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yanakieva. In this work, based on the knowledge and adaptation of principles of the general pedagogy, methodological theory, as well as practice in the field of teaching fine arts, she manages to generate modern approaches that support and stimulate the personal interests of students, catalyze their individual preferences and at the same time contribute to the creation of an adequate artistic product.

The monograph covers the emphasis of the author on the interactive methods and exercises in the teaching of fine arts as an opportunity to look at a specific problem from more perspectives and as an opportunity to transform the teaching from passive (static) into active and dynamic. The role of the teacher, which is transformed from a translator of information (knowledge) into a stimulator and activator of the creative thinking of the students, is emphasized. In this way, the interpretation of the acquired knowledge is considered in depth.

The other monograph presented “Motivation of Students in the Teaching of Fine Arts” (Plovdiv: Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Ideon Publishing House, 2019, 184 pages, ISBN 978-619-7416-72-5), in addition to being a timely and in-depth analysis of various factors related to motivation and, consequently, to the relevant outcomes of art classes, is also interesting with the focus on the nearly unspoken topic of the Roma students and their activity in the arts classes. This issue, also discussed in three of the articles presented, is extremely interesting with the many challenges it presents to the education system and I think it is one of the essential directions of the author’s research quest.

An important part of the research work of Zora Yanakieva, as mentioned, is the large number of publications and her participation as organizer of various student exhibitions, appearances and educational and research projects. In this wide range of creative interests, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva demonstrates a pedagogical and methodological experience, which she summarizes and analyzes adequately in the texts proposed for opinion.

In conclusion, I believe that the habilitation work presented meets the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. On the basis of the creative achievements shown in it and the purposeful pedagogical experience of the candidate in the field of fine arts teaching and

methodology, I propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to choose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva for the academic position “**Professor**”.

Prof. Dr. Bisera Valeva  
Visual Arts Department, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts,  
Sv. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University

10.08.2019

Sofia