

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Dimitar Iliev Balkanski

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Regarding: the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Professor” in: Higher Education field: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in..., Scientific specialty: Fine Arts Teaching Methods.

Data on the competition

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva is the only candidate in the competition for “Professor” announced by the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for the needs of the Fine Arts Department, Fine Arts Faculty. She has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, in accordance with the state regulatory requirements and within the meaning of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria has the right to participate in it.

Data on the candidate

After completing her higher education (Master’s degree, 1999), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva worked as a teacher of fine arts (City of Septemvri, City of Plovdiv). In 2007, she was a part-time teacher methodologist for students from the specialty “Pedagogy of Fine Arts Teaching” at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, and since 2012 she has been a full-time teacher in the position of “Associate Professor” in the Fine Arts Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva defended her dissertation on the topic: “Theory of Education and Didactics” in 2006 and received her doctoral degree.

The professional interest of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva is in the field of the history of art education and upbringing and the theory and methodology of teaching fine arts in schools and higher education institutions. She has had numerous participations and certificates from national and international scientific forums dedicated to the problems of education through fine arts. She has participated in university and national projects.

Description of the scientific works

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva participates in the competition for “Professor” with 24 publications, which were presented after the acquisition of the academic position “Associate Professor”, of which: 2 monographs (“Motivation of Students in the Teaching of Fine Arts”, Plovdiv, Imeon Publishing House, 2019, 184 pages, ISBN 978-619-7416-72-5); “Interactive Training in the Professional Education of Students in the Methodology of Fine Arts”, Plovdiv, Imeon Publishing House, 2017, 294 pages, ISBN 978-954-2963-22-6; 1 book on the basis of a dissertation work (“Development of the Idea of Education Through Art in Bulgaria. First Half of XX century”, Plovdiv, Imeon Publishing House, 2018, 231 pages, ISBN 978-619-7416-54-1); 1 textbook for students (“Fine Arts. Methodology Exercises – Advanced Preparation Course”, Plovdiv, Imeon Publishing House, 2017, 141 pages, ISBN 978-954-2963-21-9; 20 articles and reports).

All works in the list, presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva, have been published (except for 3 articles, which are in the process of printing) and are directly related to the subject of the announced competition for “Professor” in the scientific specialty “Fine Arts Teaching Methods”. They were prepared in the interval 2012 – 2019 and show the strong publication activity of the candidate.

In my opinion, special attention should be paid to the two monographs. The “Motivation of Students in the Teaching of Fine Arts” discusses the theoretical foundations of the motivation for implementation of the educational activity and its didactic aspects in the teaching of fine arts. At the end of the monograph, a comparative analysis of the results of the study conducted with the students is made. In the monograph “Interactive Training in the Professional Education of Students in the Methodology of Fine Arts” the author thoroughly examines the interactive training in the methodology of fine arts in higher education institutions. Specific content and topics of the interactive training exercises are presented with appropriate diagnostic procedures to take into account the achievements of the application of interactive training.

Extremely useful for the preparation of the future art teachers is the textbook “Fine Arts. Methodology Exercises – Advanced Preparation Course”, which presents the didactic aspects of the methodology exercises in the master’s program. A thematic content of the exercises is offered, including enhancement of the pedagogical competences and an assessment of the achievements in the preparation of students according to the methodology.

Particularly significant and necessary for the theory and pedagogical practice is the book of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva (in collaboration with N. Boyadzhieva): “Development of the Idea of Education through Art in Bulgaria. First Half of XX century”. It describes and analyzes the emergence and development of the idea of upbringing and education through fine arts in Bulgaria in the first decades of the twentieth century, focusing on the role of the artistic press in shaping the aesthetic and artistic culture of adolescents.

The articles and reports include topics that highlight the problems of fine arts education and the new aspects of school and higher education in the field.

The monographs, the textbook, the book and the articles of the author are directed and help to involve students in the educational process of fine arts in the general education school and teach them to apply innovative ideas and methods in accordance with their abilities and interests.

Scientific contributions

The presented scientific documents have theoretical and applied and practical nature and the following important contributions can be highlighted in them:

1. In accordance with the specifics of art education, pedagogical theory and practice is enriched by clarification of theoretical and methodological problems related to the education of students in the field of art education and upbringing;

2. A purposeful theoretical and empirical study of interactive learning is made, included in the formation of students’ professional training in the Fine Arts Teaching Methods. The possibilities and advantages of the interactive methods for conducting effective, motivating and attractive training are clarified;

3. The didactic stimuli of the impact of the educational environment to motivate students to study in the art of teaching are theoretically researched and analyzed. Experimental models for motivational training of students of different ethnicities, ages and types of school preparation are created and tested;

4. Exercises for the training of students in the Fine Arts Teaching Methods in Bachelor's and Master's degrees, necessary for enriching the level of their professional and pedagogical competences and generating creative ideas, are developed. The exercises are applied in an exemplary pedagogical environment, which creates an opportunity for a more comprehensive mastery of the educational content on an applied and practical basis;

5. The necessity of the establishment of a system of indicators for complex assessment and self-assessment of the academic achievements in the vocational training of students in the specialty "Pedagogy of Fine Arts Teaching", ensuring transparency and objectivity of the assessment process, is clarified;

6. An in-depth study of children's and adolescent periodicals in the first half of the twentieth century is carried out in terms of its educational impact on the fine arts, proving the role of specialized fiction in the establishment of aesthetic and artistic culture in adolescents.

Teaching activities

The report on the academic workload (463 of exercises, of which 40 hours of lectures) of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva shows that she carries out teaching activities (lectures, exercises) with students in the specialty "Pedagogy of Fine Arts Teaching", Bachelor's and Master's degrees, in the disciplines – "Fine Arts Teaching Methods", "Pedagogical Practice in Class", etc.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva participates in the development and updating of curricula and plans in the specialty "Pedagogy of Fine Arts Teaching" – for Bachelor's and Master's degrees and for doctoral programs. She also participates in exam committees for semester and state exams and in the preparation of didactic training materials. For the period after the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" she was the scientific adviser of two PhD students who successfully defended their theses and other two who acquired the right of defense. Under her scientific guidance, 7 graduates from the specialty "Pedagogy of Fine Arts Teaching" have defended their theses. She has been a member of a scientific jury and has prepared reviews and dissertation opinions. She has organized numerous exhibitions of children and student art. She has prepared a large number of undergraduate and doctoral students for public appearances and conferences.

As a confirmation of her active pedagogical work in the specialized press, numerous citations of the candidate in monographs (2 pieces) and in non-refereed journals with scientific review (22 pieces) were noted.

The candidate's administrative activity is responsible and diverse: Vice-Chairman of the Control Board of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (from 2015 up to today); acting Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts (2016); Member of the Academic Council of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts (2014-2015); Secretary of the Attestation Committee of the Faculty of Fine Arts (2013-2017) and others.

Conclusion

Given the undisputed qualities of the scientific production, which includes topics and identifies new aspects of education that broaden the range of the issues in the teaching of fine arts in the general and higher education institutions, I strongly recommend to the distinguished Scientific Jury to give a **positive assessment** of the application by proposing Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva to be awarded the academic position of "Professor" on: Higher Education field: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in...

Scientific specialty: Fine Arts Teaching Methods at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music,
Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv.

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City of Shumen

Prepared by: */Signature: illegible/*
/Prof. Dr. Dimitar Balkanski/