

STATEMENT

**by Assoc. Prof. Silviya Ivanova Filkova, PhD
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Subject: competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the specialty "Health Care Management", professional field 7.4. Public Health, in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sport", announced for the needs of the Department of Health Care, the Affiliate in Sliven of the Medical University Varna, announced in Official Gazette 85/08.10.2024.

On the basis of the Order No. P-109-438/05.12.2024 of the Rector of Medical University Varna and the Decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury with Protocol No. 1, I am appointed to prepare an opinion.

One candidate - chief assistant Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva PhD was admitted to participate in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. She has submitted all the necessary documents, which have been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The deadlines for their submission have been met. I have no comments to make on the procedure for this competition.

Biographical data and career development

Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva was born on 29.09.1964 in Sliven. In 1984 she acquired secondary education at ITHPSSE "Dr. Petar Beron" in Sliven with a professional qualification "Nurse" - general profile, and in 1994 - semi-university education at Semi-Higher Medical Institute - Sliven in the same specialty. In 1999 she obtained a Bachelor's degree at the Medical University - Sofia in the specialty "Health Care" with professional qualifications "Health Care Manager" and "Teacher in Practice at the Medical College". In 2006 she obtained a Master's degree at the Medical University - Sofia with the specialty "Health Care" and professional qualification "Health Care Manager". In 2016 she successfully acquired specialization in Public Health Care at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

Pepa Dzhezheva continues her academic development and in 2019 she obtained a PhD in Health Care Management - the Affiliate in Sliven of the MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna with the title of the dissertation "Chemocontact viral infections - hepatitis B, C, AIDS - occupational risk and prevention among nurses".

Pepa Dzhezheva's professional experience as a nurse began in 1984 in Nursery № 13 in the town of Sofia. She started her career in kindergarten in Nursery School in Sliven. In the period from 2009 to 2013 she was the Head Nurse at the CSVD - Sliven.

Her teaching career began in 1997 at the Medical College - Sliven, Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

In September 2013 she was appointed as "Assistant", and in 2020 until now she has been "Assistant Professor", majoring in "Health Care Management", at the Department of Health Care, the Affiliate in Sliven of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov".

Educational and career development of chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva PhD undoubtedly proves that she has considerable teaching experience and is establishing herself as a competent specialist in her professional field.

She speaks English and Russian.

In an effort to continuously upgrade her knowledge, chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva PhD participates in various trainings and seminars. In the set of documentation for the competition are attached documents for 33 full-text articles. She has participated in 23 scientific forums, 10 of them with international participation. She has participated in four projects.

General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied scientific activity

The materials submitted by the applicant provide the necessary information for a quantitative and qualitative assessment of her academic development. The documentation is detailed and clearly prepared. The submitted works for the competition, 12 in total, reflect part of the research activity in the period 2014-2024.

The list of the scientific production contains a habilitation thesis - monograph - 1 pcs., a dissertation thesis - 1 pcs. And 10 publications in non-refereed journals and collections with scientific peer review - 8 pcs. and in indexed and refereed in world-known databases of scientific information - 2 pcs., in which she is an independent author.

The candidate's publications submitted for participation in the competition show scientific interests focused in three main directions - Public Health; Health Care and Medical Pedagogy. I fully accept, their original, theoretical and practical contribution. The fields in which the chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva PhD are important, topical and promising. The publications in specialized journals, as well as their reflection in the citations she has presented, are the proof of the importance of the conducted research.

Evaluation of the monographic work

The candidate in the competition submits for review one independent monographic work "Problem-based learning - an activating educational technology in the training of nurses". The monograph is extremely interesting and of great practical-applied significance, as it deals with the issues related to the formation of a new type of professionals who will be responsible for the preparation and motivation of the health care reform. In accordance not only with the Bulgarian but also with the European and world standards of good nursing practice. To provide complete, safe and quality health care, which guarantees their competitiveness on our and the international labour market.

Significant professional experience and accumulated teaching experience give the author an advantage to expose the possibilities of applying innovative teaching and learning strategies and technologies for the formation of critical thinking in the education and professional training of nurses.

In her monographic work, the chief assistant Pepa Dzhedzheva PhD professionally and comprehensively defends the importance of problem-based learning as a factor for optimizing the effectiveness of the learning process through the formation of competencies in clinical assessment and the needs of patients for adequate professional behavior.

The monographic work is 130 pages long, illustrated with 10 tables and 12 figures. The literature used includes 113 sources. The work is structured in four chapters. It was prepared by the head as. It has two scientific reviewers and complies with all other requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Science metrics

In fulfillment of the requirements for the present competition, Chief assistant Pepa Dzhedzheva PhD submitted one dissertation; one monograph; 10 publications as follows:

- Dissertation for obtaining the PhD degree on the topic "Chemocontact viral infections - Hepatitis B, C, AIDS - occupational risk and prevention among nurses", defended at the Affiliate in Sliven of the Medical University - Varna in 2019 in the volume of 178 pages - *50 points*.
- Habilitation thesis (monograph) on "Problem-based learning - activating educational technology in the training of nurses", 2024 in the volume of 130 pages - *100 points*.
- Publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information - two publications are presented - *120 points*.
- Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 8 publications equivalent to *100 points are submitted*.

The sum of the indicators for this criterion is *220 points*, which is above the minimum 200 points required by the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

- Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed volumes 4 pcs. - *40 points*.
- Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals - 3 items - *15 points*, which meets the minimum according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The sum of the scores for the indicators under this criterion is *55 points*, which is above the minimum 50 points required under the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The presented scientific production of Chief assistant Pepa Dzhedzheva PhD meets and exceeds the state requirements for the acquisition of the position of Associate Professor in the professional

field 7.4. Public Health, according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activity

Chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva PhD has more than 21 years of teaching experience. The presented reference for teaching workload is above the annual norm for a senior assistant professor, which proves the active participation of the candidate in the educational and teaching process in the Department of Health Care at the Affiliate in Sliven of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna.

Supervised classes in academic disciplines:

- Philosophy and Introduction to Nursing (110 hours/year);
- Nursing care: for surgical patients (50 hours/year); in paediatrics (30 hours/year); for neurological patients (30 hours/year); for maternity and newborn (20 hours/year).); for eye, ear, nose and throat diseases (20 hours/year); for adults (40 hours/year) in the home (40 hours/year) for patients with somatic diseases (55 hours/year); in intensive care and critical care (30 hours/year).
- Nurse behavior in emergency conditions (10 hours/year).
- Clinical Practice.

Participates in the administration of semester examinations in the courses listed.

Critical notes

I have no critical comments to make on the applicant and the documents submitted.

Conclusion

The documents submitted in the competition fully comply with the mandatory requirements and scientific-metric criteria according to the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria for the award of the academic position "Associate Professor".

The evaluation of the candidate's scientific production shows compliance with the scientific-metric requirements in the presence of an acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor", she has held the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor, her scientific-metric indicators cover the quantitative criteria set out in the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Medical University Varna. She has a significant teaching load.

These arguments give me grounds as a member of the Scientific Jury to confidently support the candidature of the chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva PhD and vote positively for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor.

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Opinion Originated:.....
(Assoc. Prof. Silviya Filkova, PhD)

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