

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Hrisula Atanas Nedyalkova

of a dissertation on:

INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH A BACKGROUND OF MIGRATION INTO GREEK KINDERGARTENS VIA PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

for Awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences

Professional Field: 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy – Intercultural Education)

University: Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Faculty: Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts

Department: Preschool and Media Pedagogy

Doctoral student: Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska

Research supervisor: Prof. Rosalina Plamenova Engels-Kritidis, D.Sc.

1. Compliance of the procedure with the current regulations

As a member of a scientific jury, determined by order No. RD-38-213 of 10.05.2024 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", I received all the documents and materials necessary for the procedure for acquiring the ES degree "doctor" from Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska. They meet the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" and prove that the individual stages of the doctoral student's individual plan were implemented successfully and on time.

2. General biographical presentation of the candidate (education, qualifications, professional experience, etc.)

Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska obtained a Bachelor's degree of Physical Education and Sports Sciences from the National University "Kapodistrias" - Athens, Majoring in "Teaching and Performance of Traditional Greek Dance",

has a Master degree in Public Administration - Educational Administration from the University of Paphos.

He has a rich career of more than 30 years as a primary teacher, physical education teacher, school director of a primary school in Athens, regular member, president and secretary of the Regional Council of Primary School Education in Paleo Faliro, Athens. She participated in numerous training seminars, conferences, as well as in innovative educational programs as an organizer and trainer. He is a successful organizer of school celebrations and theater performances. She was the initiator of social activities in the school where she works. He is an associate member of the Athletic Club ENOA.

Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska is a full-time doctoral student with studies in English in professional field 1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool pedagogy - Intercultural education) in the "Preschool and media pedagogy" department of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

3. Actuality of the issues of the dissertation work

The modern social and educational situation in the Republic of Greece, as in Bulgaria and in all European countries, necessitated a rethinking and breaking of the pedagogical models in the educational system. Skillfully expanding the inclusive idea in the direction of attention to all children and finding an intersection with intercultural education is a bold, very significant step in terms of research and application. Contemporary theories on the development of intercultural education impose inclusive discourse as key to its effectiveness. In this sense, connecting inclusive education with inclusive intercultural education and highlighting the role of physical education as a connecting, accessible and effective part of the pedagogical toolkit for the social inclusion and integration of migrant children from an early age is significant and makes the topic of dissertation work undisputed.

4. Structure and content of the dissertation work

The presented dissertation work is structured according to the scientific standards that are required for this type of development. Its contents include: introduction, five chapters, conclusion, conclusions, recommendations,

bibliography, appendices, author's contributions and publications of the doctoral student. The dissertation has a total volume of 235 pages, of which 39 pages are a bibliography and 10 pages for appendices. The text includes 91 tables and 11 figures. The bibliography includes 461 titles in English.

No plagiarism was found in the dissertation.

5. Scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions

I accept and confirm the contributions reflected by the doctoral student, emphasizing the contributions that reflect the main achievements in the dissertation work, as follows:

- The noted limitations in the application of the experimental program in future research and the proposed three approaches to overcome them confirm not only the thoroughness, but also the broad vision and commitment of the doctoral student to the problem of the inclusion of children of migrant origin and to the overall effectiveness of the work of the pedagogue in intercultural environment in scientific, organizational and practical-applied terms.

Here I would also like to express my congratulations to the scientific supervisor – Prof. Rosalina Plamenova Engels-Kritidis, D.Sc.

6. Abstract

The abstract corresponds to the content of the dissertation text and presents the content and the main achievements in it in a complete and correct way.

7. Publications about the topic of the dissertation (content and fulfillment of scientometric requirements)

A total of 4 independent and one co-authored publication on the topic of the dissertation are presented.

These are reports and articles printed in conference proceedings and a national scientific forum with international participation. As a number, they meet the

minimum national requirements for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Apart from them, Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska has published 2 monographs, one of which is related to the concept and content of the idea of inclusion of children in education, as well as publications in collective monographs with colleagues from other European countries.

8. Personal impressions

I have no personal impressions of PhD student Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska.

9. Notes, recommendations and questions.

My question is:

– How do you interpret the finding regarding the more positive attitude of parents without a migratory background towards inclusion compared to parents with a migratory background?

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the proven scientific contributions and original achievements, I give a **positive assessment** to the dissertation work of **Vaia Dimitrios Ntouska** and propose to the respected scientific jury to award her the **educational and scientific degree "Doctor"** in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field: **1.2. Pedagogy (Preschool Pedagogy - Intercultural Education)**.

11 June 2024

The author of the Opinion:
Associate Prof. Dr. Hrisula Nedyalkova