

OPINION

by Prof. Maurice Grinberg, PhD

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on the submitted materials for application for the academic position of Professor in the higher education field 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.2 Psychology, as made public in the State journal no. 87/17.10.2023 with a single candidate **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena Andonova**

I. Assessment of the compliance with the national minimal requirements

The information about publications and other activities presented by Assoc. Prof. Elena Andonova according to the requirements of NACID shows that she meets the minimum national requirements specified in Art. 2b of the ZRASRB for occupying the position of professor in the professional field 3.2 Psychology. It should be noted that the candidate has far more than the required number of points in some groups of indicators.

II. Research and results

The information provided by Elena Andonova convincingly demonstrates many years of intensive and fruitful research. The various in-depth studies of which she is the only author or a leading author make a very good impression. I believe that the presented scientific works and monographs are of interest to specialists from the field of linguistics and related fields and have important methodological and practical applications.

The publications make a very good impression, as well as the numerous citations from foreign authors in referred international publications (five times more points than required).

The number of scientific and applied projects in which Elena Andonova has participated and/or led is also impressive.

An important piece of research in the materials presented by Elena Andonova is the monograph entitled "Early Language Development: Grammar". This is the second monograph of the candidate aimed at the interesting problem of language ability, and its main topic is the study of the acquisition of grammar in early childhood.

The main contribution of the monograph is the use of the so-called. Language Development Questionnaire VERBA and in particular its version for children from 16 to 30 months – VERBA-2 (Part II "Sentences and grammar"). It allows gathering data on the gradual learning of grammar in early childhood. VERBA-2 is based on the MacArthur Bates

Communicative Development Inventories (MBCDI), adapted and used in research for a large number of languages around the world. Elena Andonova has adapted this questionnaire and used it for the first time for large-scale studies of the language development of children in Bulgaria, the results of which are presented in scientific articles and the monograph presented in the competition.

The monograph briefly introduces the theoretical framework of the questionnaires for communicative development and justifies the importance of collecting data on language development from an early age to examine how children learn language. The exposition is clear, albeit brief, and is an adequate basis for the empirical results presented, which are published for the first time in the monograph.

Numerous analyses of the results obtained are presented, which is a serious contribution, given that they are made for the first time in Bulgaria with a large sample. These results are also an essential methodological contribution that will no doubt be the basis of numerous and important future research.

III. Teaching and teaching activities

The academic and teaching activities of Elena Andonova meet and exceed the requirements of NBU. Participation in the creation and development of the MS programs in Cognitive Science and Developmental Psychology is noteworthy.

An important part of Elena Andonova's academic activity is the organization of the annual International Summer School in Cognitive Science since 2013, which gives students from all over the world the opportunity to get acquainted with the achievements of the various fields in cognitive science.

She actively uses modern approaches in teaching and is the author of courses in cognitive linguistics and psycholinguistics.

IV. Administrative and community service

From the information provided and from personal impressions from 2000 until now, I can confidently say that Elena Andonova has been very active in the administrative and social activities of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology and the Research Center for Cognitive Science.

She has been involved in various organizational and administrative activities as the head of the Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology and the longtime and current Director of the

Cognitive Science Research Center. She has also been a member of the Academic Council of NBU for several years.

She has been a longtime board member of the International Society for Cognitive Science. Elena Andonova is also the initiator and organizer of a series of conferences on child development since 2016.

IV. Opinions, recommendations, and notes on the applicant's activities and achievements

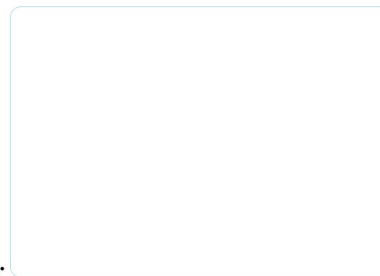
The main contributions of the research activity of Assoc. Prof. Elena Andonova are based on journal publications, including in authoritative refereed journals, and two monographs. They are in several important research directions: early childhood language development, applied research related to the assessment of children's typical and atypical language development, use of innovative approaches in the study of spatial communication and spatial cognition, and research of the so-called experiential basis of linguistic information processing.

I would recommend the candidate to share in future publications the collected corpora of data, results of analyses, and other research results mentioned to be available but unpublished in the monograph, which would stimulate the development of this domain of research in Bulgaria.

In conclusion, based on the above, I fully believe that the presented by Assoc. Prof. Elena Andonova's materials in the competition for the academic position of professor in the higher education field 3. Social sciences, professional field 3.2 Psychology, fully meet the requirements, which is why I strongly support her candidacy.

09.02.2023

Signature:



/Prof. Maurice Grinberg/