

## OPINION

By Full Prof. Iren Yordanova Peltekova, Ph.D., Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski",  
Member of the Scientific Jury, with Order №. 1483 of 20.05.2022 on the basis of Art. 4 (3), (4)  
of ZRASRB, ART. 5 (3) OF PRASTrU and decision of FS of PF, Protocol No. 31 of  
17.05.2022.,

regarding the competition procedure for the academic position of " Full Professor" in "Physical  
Education Teaching Methodology" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,  
professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ..., for the needs of PF, announced by Trakia  
University (Stara Zagora), in SG No. 30/15.04.2022

### 1. General description of the submitted materials and data about the candidate

In the competition for "**Full Professor**" in **direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...** one  
candidate participated - Associate professor **Veselina Georgieva Ivanova, Ph.D.**

The submitted documentation was submitted within the deadline and is in accordance with  
the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria  
(ZRASRB), for occupying the academic position of "Full professor" in professional direction 1.3.  
Pedagogy of training in ...

According to a reference on minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching  
activities for occupying the academic position "professor" under 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...,  
the candidate must have 550 points. Associate Professor Veselin Ivanova, Ph.D. participated in  
the competition with an asset of 768 points. These facts speak for both the fulfillment of the  
Ministry of Education and the high capabilities and merits of the candidate.

**For her participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanova, Ph.D.,**  
submitted 30 scientific publications for opinion, distributed as follows:

Independent monographic work - 1 issue; published chapter of a collective monograph – 2  
issues and 27 articles and reports, three of which were published in scientific publications,  
referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. Of the submitted  
publications, the candidate is the author of 13 independent and 17 co-authored.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova, Ph.D. has also presented an independent university textbook with a  
volume of 289 pages, which can be used both by children's educators and all those interested in  
problems in the field of physical education in the age period 3-7 years (Ivanova , V. "TMFV in  
preschool age", 2022, PF Publishing House, TrU).

The topics of the presented publications correspond to the specifics of the scientific  
direction of the competition.

I consider the presented reference with citations and participation in scientific conferences,  
forums and congresses as evidence of a sustainable and long-term presence of the candidate in the  
scientific field.

All the information in the documentation I reviewed, the references and the materials  
presented skillfully convince me of the candidate's professional capacity.

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ivanova was born in 1962. She completed her secondary education at SSU in the city of Stara Zagora with profiled sports training - swimming and her higher education - "master" at VIF "Georgi Dimitrov" (now NSA "Vasil Levski") in the specialty "Physical Culture" with the qualification "Physical Education Teacher" and "Swimming Coach" in 1984. During his studies, he acquired an additional specialty in "Sports Journalism".

Veselina Ivanova has been a master of sports in swimming since 1977.

The candidate's professional biography includes work as a teacher of physical education and sports at the "Samara" elementary school, Stara Zagora, "Nov Vek" secondary school, Kirilovo village, Stara Zagora municipality and a children's swimming coach at USSh, Stara Zagora and management of Beroe swimming sports club.

In 1988, her professional and academic growth began at the Trakia University in Stara Zagora. In 2006, after a successful defense of a dissertation on the topic "Paradigm for value orientations of students towards physical culture", he received the Doctorate of the National Academy of Sciences.

From 2001 to 2008, she was a "senior lecturer" in physical education and sports at the Ministry of Education of Trakia University. From 2008 to 2011, she was a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of Trakia University, and from 2011, after winning a competition, she held the academic position of " Assoc. Prof." in the same faculty.

Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ivanova has held the administrative position of Head of PNUP since 2016. She has been a member of the Control Board of Trakia University since 2019. She was Deputy. Chairman of the Board of Directors of Trakia University during the term 2015-2019.

Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ivanova systematically participates in committees at the faculty level for accreditation of the "Pedagogy" professional field, leads sections in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, as well as the philological-pedagogical section of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - branch St. Zagora. She is a member of SUB - Stara Zagora branch - until 2019 and of OMEP (collective membership of the Department of PNUP, PF - TrU) from 2021.

These facts speak of active work at the administrative level, of public commitment, loyalty in undertaking commitments, successful combination of teaching and administrative employment, organization and dedication.

## **2. Academic and teaching activity of the candidate**

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ivanova, Ph.D. is significant in volume and diverse in content. The candidate teaches 9 subjects with a horary of 515 hours.

All the subjects she teaches are based on curricula developed by her and are mandatory subjects included in the curricula of the respective majors. She works with second-, third- and fourth-year students in full-time and part-time study both at the Bachelor's and the Master's Programs. Her audit workload is in accordance with the requirements and exceeds the number of hours required as a norm.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova, Ph.D. has been the supervisor of 2 doctoral students and 25 graduate students in the last eleven years. She was the head of seven projects, participated in the Erasmus+ program for teacher exchange.

These activities help her acquire communication and organizational skills, which she applies successfully in her professional responsibilities.

### **3. Analysis of the applicant's scientific achievements, presented in the materials for participation in the competition**

The self-assessment of the **theoretical and theoretical-applied** contributions corresponds to the content of the scientific publications submitted for opinion.

Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanova's scientific publications are in several fields: pedagogical sciences, psychological sciences, biology, sociology.

The scientific and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanova are focused on the role, essence and significance of training in physical education and sports, general and preschool pedagogy. In this sense, the problems considered in the works of Associate Professor Veselin Ivanova are related to the special training, professional competence of the teacher and his readiness to respond to the challenges of the present. The focus of her scientific research is on physical education in kindergartens and schools, competencies and innovations in the educational process, psychological-pedagogical dimensions of pedagogical activity, biological regularities and the social function of motor activity, as well as motivation and satisfaction with teacher work.

The author's vision for the development and well-being of each child during his preparation and realization in the changing conditions of the present and the future, has been developed as a monographic work covering questions and problems related to the use of "children's mobile game" and its importance in modern preschool education.

The value of the scientific research of candidate Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ivanova, Ph.D. is in their close connection with practice. The theoretical views and working models are focused on practice and are widely applicable – combining play with education, the acquisition of knowledge, skills and socialization for children from the earliest age. The candidate also discovers regular connections between the communicative competence of the students of the pedagogical specialties and its importance as a key factor in the implementation of pedagogical interaction between the subjects in the learning process.

The monograph "Children's mobile games in a targeted, meaningful and diagnostic context", 2022, Ed. PF, TrU, has a volume of 134 pages, it has been reviewed by two reviewers (Full Prof. Bilyana Popeska, Ph.D. and Assoc. Prof. Violeta Kartzelianska – Stancheva, Ph.D.). The text in the monograph is divided into 7 chapters, each dedicated to separate thematic areas, focusing on chapter 5 "Moving games and motor development of 3 - 7-year-old children - pages 30 - 77, in which it is presented in great detail, orderly and synchronized training in mastering motor skills in children through selected games and elements of various types of sports. The author knows in detail the specific stages of training, uses appropriate terminology from the various sports disciplines (sports) and has presented in a neat tabular form educational content, which includes: age group, educational core, organizational-methodical instructions and a proposal for using the game. The presented content in tabular form exceeds the function of visual summarization of information, this is the result of the author's skills to systematize knowledge, organize educational content, present in an accessible way the goals of the educational process of physical education in preschool age. As the greatest contribution, I appreciate the one presented in the monographic work - a constructed author's technological model (essentially - Game model with mobile games).

The monograph is an original author's text with a theoretical and practical-applied contribution.

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova, as an author of scientific articles and reports, shows a sustained interest in competencies and innovations in the educational process, psychological-pedagogical dimensions of pedagogical activity, physical education in kindergarten and school, biological regularities and social functions of motor activity.

The texts, which are aimed at competences and innovations in the educational process, have a theoretical and practically applied contribution by presenting the author's vision of the main prerequisites affecting the optimization of preschool physical education, consider various concepts of the relationship between motor activity, play and education, opinions on the origin, its essence and role for man in its biologically, socially and culturally distinct functions.

### **Critical notes and recommendations**

I have no critical comments on the materials submitted for opinion and the activities of the candidate. As a recommendation, I would suggest the candidate to widely distribute his monographic work, so that it can be used in a timely manner by those interested in preschool education, future and active children's pedagogues, looking for a guide to understanding and supporting children's discovery of the world through games.

### **Conclusion**

Having prepared this opinion, I express my absolute conviction that Assoc. Prof. Veselin Ivanova, Ph.D. is a highly erudite teacher, scientist and researcher who has passed through all stages of scientific and academic growth with dignity. I base this conclusion on the biographical reference, the overall scientific-applied, expert and teaching activity.

Based on the above general and specific assessment of the scientific and practical results and contributions of the candidate, and bearing in mind the requirements of the ZARSRB and the Regulations for its application, I make the following **CONCLUSION:**

the candidate associate professor Veselina Georgieva Ivanova, Ph.D. meets all the requirements for occupying the academic position "Full Professor" in "Physical Education Teaching Methodology" in area 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...

**I give my positive assessment and vote with conviction that the academic position "FULL PROFESSOR" be awarded to Veselina Georgieva Ivanova.**

26.08.2022 г.

Prepared the opinion:.....  
/ Full Prof. Iren Peltekova, Ph.D. /