

OPINION

by **Prof. Ivanka Nikolaeva Shivacheva-Pineda, PhD**
Thrakia University – Stara Zagora

member of the scientific jury in connection with a competition for the academic position
"Professor" in Methodology of training in physical education, field of higher education

1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ...,
announced in the State Gazette, issue 30/15.04.2022 by Trakia University
for the needs of the Faculty of Education

The opinion has been written in accordance with Order № 1483/20.05.2022 of the Rector of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

In the competition procedure the documents of one candidate have been submitted and that one candidate has been admitted for evaluation - Assoc. Prof. **Veselina Georgieva Ivanova, PhD**.

Professional biography of the candidate

Veselina Georgieva Ivanova graduated with a degree in "Physical Culture" at the HIPE "G. Dimitrov" (NSA "V. Levski"), Sofia, Faculty of Teachers with qualifications Physical Education Teacher and Swimming Coach, and additional specialty "Sports Journalism" in 1984. Since 1988 she has been working as a lecturer (Faculty of Medicine) and until now she has been working at Trakia University, Stara Zagora (Faculty of Education since 2008). In 2006 she acquired PhD degree in scientific specialty 05.07.05. Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. methodology of physical therapy), CM - HAK, Sofia on the basis of a defended dissertation on the topic "Paradigm for value orientations of students towards physical culture".

Her academic development went through senior lecturer (2008) and associate professor (2011).

Since 2016 she has held the position of Head of the Department "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University; for the period 2015-2019 she was Deputy Chairman of the General Assembly of Trakia University; Member of the Control Board of Trakia University since 2019.

General characteristics of the scientific production

The candidate Assoc. Prof. Veselina Ivanova presents for participation in the competition 30 *scientific publications*, of which:

- Habilitation work - 1
- Published chapter of a collective monograph - 2
- Articles and reports published in editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 3
- Articles and reports published in unreferenced journals with peer-reviews or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes – 24.

The publications of Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova are printed in full text. Of the scientific publications presented at the competition 13 are independent and 17 articles are co-authored (another 7 co-authored publications are visible in the separation protocols). The majority of publications (25) are in English. A large part of them (9) have been published in specialized international scientific editions.

In her scientific publications, the author seeks and offers answers to current and significant problems of physical education and sports (PES), mainly in kindergarten and the initial stage of

primary education, as well as in the preparation and realization of teachers for this activity. They present theoretical analysis and empirical studies, for some of which an author's tools have been developed. The following areas of scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova are outlined in her publications and scientific activity: *aspects of physical education* (including adapted) / *motor training* (means, forms, efficiency, etc.) for different age groups (7.1, 7.7, 7.8, 7.10, 7.11, 7.13, 7.21, 7.22, 10.1, 10.2, 20.1); *children's mobile games* and their wide integrative possibilities (3.1, 7.3, 7.4, 7.18, 7.22); *developing and healing possibilities of various sports* (swimming, hippotherapy) for children (7.5, 7.17, 7.20); *professional personal and methodological preparation of students* (7.2, 7.6, 7.7, 7.9, 7.11, 7.12, 7.14, 7.21, 7.23, 15.1-2, 16.1-3); *professional characteristics of active teachers teaching PES* (7.16, 7.24). The submitted materials correspond to the announced competition. Publications that remain indirectly related to the competition are also suggested. They can be grouped into the following groups: *intellectual development* (6.1, 7.15); *socialization and relationships in the children's group* (6.2); *professional characteristic of current and future teachers* (6.3, 7.19).

Popularization of the results of scientific ideas, research and analysis was realized by the candidate through participation in the considered period with 32 reports in *international scientific forums abroad* - Ohrid, Veles, Struga and Shtip (North Macedonia); Constanta (Romania); Kirovograd (Ukraine); Antalya and Edirne (Turkey); Poreč and Petrinja (Croatia); Prague (Czech Republic); Barcelona (Spain); Luxembourg; Rabat (Morocco); Dubai (UAE); Johannesburg (RSA).

The materials attached to the competition also present active organizational and project activities of Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova: participation in the *editorial board* of the Journal Research in Kinesiology - Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia; participation in the *Organizational and Scientific Committee* of the International Balkan Congress for Education and Scientific Forums, organized by the Faculty of Education of Trakia University. The presented materials indicate participation in three national scientific and educational *projects* for the considered period 2011-2022. Prof. V. Ivanova is the initiator and head of seven university projects.

Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova is a member of SUB - Stara Zagora and OMEP (collective member Department "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" at the Faculty of Education, Stara Zagora).

Citation in the scientific literature

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova is reflected in the scientific researches of other authors. The candidate submits 66 *citations* for participation in the contest, of which 6 are from foreign authors - Serbia, Kosovo, Poland, Lithuania, USA, Canada, and 7 in SCOPUS u Web of Sciences. This fact confirms the international value of the publications.

Academic activity

Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova is the *scientific guidance* of two PhD students who successfully defended their Doctorate – Assist. Prof. Galena Terzieva with a dissertation on the topic "Formation of professional competence for adapted physical education in the education of students from pedagogical specialties" (2018) and Assist. Prof. Donka Dincheva Zheleva-Terzieva with a dissertation on the topic "Formation of professional-pedagogical competence for sports animation activity" (2021). Participated as a member of a scientific jury in nine competitions - for the acquisition of the PhD (8) and for the academic position of associate professor (1).

Authorship of *study programs* is indicated in the attached documents. The courses correspond to the scientific interests, publications and the scientific specialty in which the competition was announced. Training programs have been developed and courses are being held in the following disciplines: Theoretical foundations of physical education, Methodology of physical education in pre-school and primary school age - for Bachelor's Degree Programme in Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy; Theory and methodology of physical education in 1.-4. class - for Bachelor's Degree Programme in Primary School Education with a Foreign Language; Motor training and adapted physical activity - for Bachelor's Degree Programme in Special Pedagogy; Biological regularities and

social functions of the motor activity - for Master's Degree Programme in Preschool and Primary school Education 2, 3 and 4 semester training; Methodological aspects of physical education in 1.-4. class - for Master's Degree Programme in ICT in the primary school; Bulgarian folk round dances - optional subject. Assoc. Prof. Ivanova is the author of a university textbook Theory and methodology of physical education in preschool age (2022).

Prof. V. Ivanova has participated in 5 Erasmus *mobilities* for the period 2015-2022 at universities in Shtip and Bitola (North Macedonia) and Portalegre (Portugal), through which she helps to expand her international scientific and academic contacts with colleagues from pedagogical universities and faculties, as well as to enrich the own experience of the academic community of the Faculty of Education.

The active academic commitment of Prof. V. Ivanova also includes the *scientific guidance* of 26 graduates in the Bachelor's Degree (15) and Master's Degree (11), as the topics of the diploma theses correspond to the announced competition.

Fulfilment of the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor"

The scientific production presented by Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova covers the minimum requirements in groups of indicators for the academic position "professor" as follows:

Indicator A – 50 points for a defended doctoral dissertation.

Indicator B – 100 points for published habilitation work Children's mobile games. The issues of mobile games, their integration into physical education at preschool age, their broad developmental possibilities and age specificity are investigated. Exemplary models are presented according to the pedagogical goals and an empirical study of children's relationships in the game activity.

Indicator G - 243 points (min. 200), summarized by four groups of sub-indicators. *Articles and reports* published in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 45 p. *Articles and reports* published in unreferenced journals with peer-reviews or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes – 168 p. *Published chapter of a collective monograph* - 30 p.

Indicator D – 485 points (min. 100).

Indicator E – 145 points (min. 100) for two successfully defended PhD students, participation in an international and three national scientific or educational projects, published university textbook.

Indicator Zh – 455 points: developed study programs; scientific guidance of graduates; management of university scientific research projects; participation with reports at international scientific forums abroad; membership in editorial boards; participation in a scientific jury.

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova is accompanied by the necessary documents. There is no information of plagiarism.

The submitted documents and scientific products presented by Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova correspond to the requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law for development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of Trakia University for the development of the academic staff. The candidate meets the minimum national scientometric indicators for all groups in this competition, significantly exceeding the required 550 points and forming a total of 1023 p. (1478 p. with indicator Zh).

Main contributions

I accept the contributions formulated by Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova. The presented scientific publications outline a complex of serious scientific theoretical and practically-applied contributions. I accentuate in a synthesized form some of them in the field of:

– Methodology of PES training / motor training in preschool and primary school age - analysis and research of essence, elements and formation of motor skills and habits; essence, meaning, goals

and content, regulatory assurance, conditions and possibilities, problems and innovations in training under the assurance; the Bulgarian folk dances in the school PES;

- Methodology of PES training / motor training in the secondary level of school education - study of the effectiveness of training and its optimization, as well as the possibilities of developing reflection in students by using a developed electronic aid for fitness and bodybuilding;

- Adapted training in PES / motor training - an idea and Concept for a curriculum in adapted physical activity for future kindergarten and primary teachers is presented;

- Research and analysis of children's mobile games - essence, age characteristics, as well as their wide integrative possibilities for children's development (literary communication, socialization, preparation for school, etc.), factors, problems and innovations; an exemplary model is presented according to the pedagogical goals;

- Research and analysis of the developing and healing possibilities of swimming and hippotherapy for children, incl. in children with special educational needs;

- Study of professional personal readiness of students as teachers of the PES - motivation for professional work and professional competence;

- Methodical preparation of students as teachers of PES - research and formation of communicative, diagnostic, docimological and reflexive competence; research on good practices and innovations in practical training;

- Professional characteristics of active teachers, teaching PES - study of satisfaction with professional work and leading factors; online learning competencies.

The contributions made in the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. V. Ivanova are a prerequisite for supporting the optimization of physical education and sports training in preschool and school education institutions, the professional activity of pedagogues, as well as the training and qualification of pedagogical specialists.

Conclusion

The submitted documents, the scientific production and the scope of the academic activity of Assoc. Prof. **Veselina Georgieva Ivanova** are the basis for a **positive assessment**. The presented scientific developments define her as a recognizable researcher in the field of pedagogy of physical education and sports education. The stated reasons determine my opinion to **support** the candidacy of **Assoc. Prof. Veselina Georgieva Ivanova** and I propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education to elect her as a "**Professor**" in Methodology of training in physical education, field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in

12.09.2021
Stara Zagora

Member of the scientific jury:
/Prof. Ivanka Shivacheva-Pineda, PhD/