

## REVIEW

For the research and pedagogical activity of  
*Assoc. Prof. Iren Yordanova Peltekova – Ph.D.*,  
Candidate for the academic position "*Professor*" to the  
Department of *Sports Games and Mountain Sports* from the  
*Department of Sports* of  
*Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"*

**Reviewer: Full Prof. Krastyu Tzarov, Ph.D.**

### **Information about the Procedure**

In the announcement in Government Gazette, issue 67/28.07.2020, from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", competition for "*Professor*" in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... (Physical education and Sports - basketball), for the needs of the Department of Sports, the only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Iren Yordanova Peltekova - Ph.D. The procedure for conducting the competition was correct, without procedural and administrative violations.

### **Information about the candidate**

Iren Peltekova graduated from the Chavdar Sports School in Sofia. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from NSA "Vasil Levski" with acquired specialties: "Teacher of Physical education and Sports " and "Basketball Coach". She was a basketball player (from 1975 to 1992) in all age categories (from teenagers to women), as well as a children's coach at BC "BUBA" (from 1995 to 1997). For the next 2 years (1998 and 1999) she is a part-time teacher of sports - basketball at Sofia University and NSA. As a coach of the NSA women's basketball team, she became the champion of the National students group in 1999. From 2001 until today, she has been the basketball coach of the representative student teams of men and women at Sofia University. In January 2003 she won a competition for a basketball assistant at Sofia University in Professional Field 1.3., and in 2005 she became a Chief

Assistant in sports - basketball. He defended his PhD dissertation ("Methods of teaching basketball in university education") in 2012. In 2014 she was habilitated as an Associate Professor with a monograph named "Sports training in basketball for student teams."

From 2018 until today, Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova is Deputy Director of the Department of Sports at Sofia University. In the period 2011-2017 she was the head of the Department of Sports Games and Mountain Sports. She is the supervisor of three doctoral students, one of which has already defended his PhD dissertation. She is the author of 3 books, 1 textbook and over 60 studies, articles and reports in scientific journals and collections in Bulgaria and abroad.

Her high public activity allows her to successfully combine her teaching activities with the duties of Secretary of the korfbal federation, President of „Fortuna Basketkorf“ and Associate of the Student Sports Association, as well as with her work as a Volunteer in the field of basketball.

The creative path of Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova is accompanied by a constant pursuit of continuous improvement. Proof of this is the many licenses and certificates that she acquires through various forms of additional qualifications.

### **Data on the fulfillment of the requirements for holding the academic position**

From the report presented by Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova it is clear that the candidate has fulfilled the requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" in the above-mentioned professional field within the following limits:

- **Group A, Indicator 1** – PhD Dissertation work (defended in 2012) - **50 points.**

- **Group B, Indicator 3** - Habilitation work - developed and published a monograph in a volume of 160 pages ("Assessment of technical skills in basketball"), aimed at the professional training of teachers of physical education and sports - **100 points.**

• **Group D:**

- **Indicator 5** - Published book, based on the defended dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", in a volume of 213 pages ("University Basketball") - **75 points**;

- **Indicator 6** - Articles and reports, published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 2 pieces (Independently) - **60 points**;

- **Indicator 7** - Articles and reports, published in non-refereed editions with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 15 pieces (13 of them are individual) – **136.25 points**.

The total performance for Group D is **271.25 points**, with a minimum requirement of **200 points**.

• **Group E** - completed **150 points**, with a minimum requirement of **100 points**:

- **Indicator 11** - Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 5 pieces - **75 points**;

- **Indicator 12** - Citations in monographs or collective volumes with scientific review - 5 pieces - **50 points**;

- **Indicator 13** - Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 5 pieces - **25 points**;

• **Group E** - performed **180 points** with a minimum requirement of **100 points**:

- **Indicator 15** - Supervising of a successfully defended his thesis doctoral student (in cooperation with a scientific consultant) - **20 points**;

- **Indicator 16** - Participation in a national scientific or educational project - 6 projects - **90 points**;

- **Indicator 18** - Management of a national scientific or educational project - 2 projects - **60 points**;

- **Indicator 21** - Publication of a university textbook or scientific manual, that is used in the school network - 1 pieces in a volume of 140 pages ("Basketball competitions" - co-authored) - **10 points**.

The **total volume of points** realized by the candidate is **751.25 points** with minimum national requirements for the position of "professor" **550 points**.

### **Evaluation of teaching and learning activities**

Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova is a highly qualified teacher of physical education and sports and has very good pedagogical skills for conducting an effective training process in basketball. Proof of this is her achievements in the educational process with students from different faculties, teaching disciplines and forms of education in both bachelor's and master's degrees at Sofia University.

The total number of hours of her employment in the last 5 years amounts to 4 314 school hours, of which 3 176 are study employment.

The high quality of her pedagogical and coaching activity is supported by the following facts:

- She is 3-time student basketball champion and winner of 5 more medals from the National Student Group;
- Winner of a number of international awards and successes, including 6<sup>th</sup> place at the European 3 x 3 Basketball Championship in 2015.
- She was Coach of the Year at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2008 and 2014.

### **General characteristics of the presented scientific production**

Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova participated in the competition for professor with a total of 20 scientific papers, detailed information on which was given above.

The scientific production of the candidate is dedicated to the theoretical-methodical and applied aspects of the education and training in the conditions of the

higher school. It is the result of systematic research and experimental work on a wealth of factual material.

With some conditionality, the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Peltekova can be attributed to *three subject areas*:

The *first direction* includes 6 scientific publications (1, 3, 6, 11, 18, 20), which are dedicated to the problems of professional training of sports and pedagogical staff.

I appreciate the cognitive and applied value of the monograph, included here, which has a definite contribution to the training and improvement of sports pedagogues from all Bulgarian universities, preparing teachers of physical education and sports.

The following can also be mentioned as contributions in this direction:

- the development of organizational guidelines for the preparation and conduct of basketball competitions for pupils and students, as well as the specific practical recommendations to teachers of physical education and sports, who perform coaching functions (3, 11);

- the disclosure of some important professional competencies and personal qualities of physical education and sports teachers, sports teachers and basketball coaches, which are directly related to their motivation and quality of their education in specialized universities (11, 18, 20).

The *second direction* reflects the candidate's contributions, related to the sports training of students from the specialized basketball groups. Eight of the presented publications (2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16) are dedicated to this problem. The more significant contributions here are related to:

- development and implementation in the training of the profiled basketball groups of two methodological models, which can be successfully applied in the practical activities with students from the profiled groups of all Bulgarian universities (2);

- revealing the peculiarities of the fitness training in the conditions of the higher schools and development and implementation in the practice of a specialized

program for physical preparation of the students before and during the academic year (2, 4, 5, 13);

- study on the organization of basketball classes in higher non-specialized sports schools and increase its quality by improving the overall motor density of the basketball lesson (15 and 16);

- introduction of scientifically-based mechanisms for establishing the functional working capacity of each student in basketball education, which allows the teachers successfully to manage the parameters of the applied training loads (10).

The *third direction* of the scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova can be conditionally formulated as "Competences of teachers of physical education and sports" (7, 8, 9, 14, 17 and 19). The main contribution point here is related to the disclosure of the mechanisms for the application of self-assessment and assessment of students as an important approach to improving the quality of education and developing the personal and professional qualities of teachers in higher education.

I consider it is appropriate to note in particular that the presented scientific papers are written in a very good language and style and are well illustrated. This is one another proof of the quality of the scientific production of the candidate for professor. The reference to the citations is completely correct.

In a spirit of collegiality and benevolence, I consider it necessary to make *some critical remarks* and *recommendations*:

- I believe that it is more appropriate to use the term „technical and tactical skills“, instead of „technical skills“.

- It is generally accepted, that the cited authors in the bibliographic reference, should be arranged in alphabetical order of the surnames.

- The names of the cited authors have not been checked and corrected - only in the Monograph there are more than 5 incorrect surnames of famous sports and

basketball specialists - Zatziorsky, Valtin, Cousy, Skvortzova, Foster, as well as a repetition of one of the literary sources (№ 61 and № 228).

In *conclusion*: The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Iren Yordanova Peltekova – PhD, presented for participation in the competition, fully meets the requirements of both the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", for acquiring the academic position "Professor ". The established scientific and scientific-applied contributions, as well as the overall teaching and research activity of the candidate, define her as a highly qualified and recognized lecturer and researcher in the thematic area of the competition.

Based on all this, I believe, that there are enough scientific arguments to give my *positive vote* on the candidacy of *Assoc. Prof. Iren Yordanova Peltekova - PhD* for the academic position *Professor of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"* in the field of higher education *1. Pedagogical sciences*, Professional field *1.3. Pedagogy of education in...* (Physical education and Sports - basketball), for the needs of the Department of Sports.

**10/27/2020**

**Sofia**

**Reviewer: .....**

**(Full Prof. K. Tzarov, PhD)**