

REVIEW

by Prof. Eleonora Mihaylova Mileva, DSc, PhD

**member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of
"Professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in...
(Physical education and Sports - Basketball),**

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**Order of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski " - RD 38-445/
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Legality of the procedure

The competition for the academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the Department of Sports at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", includes only candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iren Yordanova Peltekova. From the duly presented documents and the detailed described scientific data on the individual indicators of the candidate, it is clear that the applicant fully meets the minimum national requirements for professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... There are reasonable grounds for announcing the competition. No violations were found in the procedure, and all the necessary requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Application of Scientific Degrees and for the Holding of Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" were observed.

Biographical data and professional development of the candidate

Iren Yordanova Peltekova graduated with a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from The NSA "V. Levski" in 1992 with two specialties - physical education teacher and basketball coach. In 2012 she acquired a PhD degree in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... (Methodology of teaching basketball).

She started her professional career as a basketball coach at BC "Buba" - Sofia in 1995. Since 1998 she has been a part-time teacher in sports basketball at Sofia University and the NSA. Since 1999 she has been a full-time lecturer in sports basketball at the Department of Sports at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", successively holding the academic positions of assistant professor and head-assistant professor. She received her habilitation as an associate professor in 2014 at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" according to 1.3. Pedagogy of education of physical education and sports (basketball). From 2001 until today she has been the basketball coach of the representative students' basketball teams (men and women) at Sofia University. The solid educational qualification and the ascending professional career of the candidate are a solid argument for the announcement of the current competition for professor of physical education and sports - basketball.

Research and scientific contributions

Iren Yordanova Peltekova participated in the competition for the academic position of "professor" with 1 monograph, 1 book, 1 textbook, 2 scientific articles in peer-reviewed and indexed journals, 6 articles in scientific journals in Bulgaria and abroad and 9 reports from national and international scientific conferences. It should be noted that 15 of the scientific articles and reports are independent and only 2 are co-authored. 6 of the materials are published in a foreign language - English and Russian. All scientific papers are presented in renowned scientific journals and are in the field of the announced competition.

It is necessary to emphasize that by all criteria Assoc. Prof. Peltekova exceeds the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Professor" - 751 points, at the required 550.

Separately, the candidate for the position of "Professor" presented a list of all publications, covering 66 titles.

According to their main content, the scientific works of the candidate in the competition can be divided into the following areas:

1. Professional training of sports pedagogical staff, future teachers of physical education and sports - publ. № 1, 3, 6, 11, 18, 20.
2. Sports training of students from training-profiled groups in basketball - publ. № 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16.
3. Competences of sports teachers in higher schools as a prerequisite for improving the quality of sports education - publ. № 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 19.

All publications from the first research area have a significant contribution for the improvement of the professional qualification of sports teachers. Undoubtedly, that refers to the monograph "Assessment of technical skills in basketball. Professional training of teachers of physical education and sports" (Univ. Publishing House "St. Kl. Ohridski", 2020) (№ 1). It is dedicated to the problem of improving basketball skills in the training of future sports teachers. The theoretical and practical preparation of the students is connected in an interesting way with the basketball game and the acquisition of specialized technical skills. The developed specialized system for assessment and control of the technical basketball skills of the students in the specialty "Physical Education and Sports" is a scientific contribution in the field. Practical normative tests have been proposed and the respective rating scales have been formed for each of them.

The book is the first of its kind on the proposed issues. The monograph is the result of many years of professional interests and extensive pedagogical experience of the author in the field of basketball and academic teaching at the Alma Mater.

Of special interest to the first research area are publications which analyze significant professional and personal qualities and competencies of physical education teachers, sports teachers and basketball coaches in the context of vocational education and training (№ 11, 18, 20). The article about students' mistakes when shooting at the basket, aimed at the technical training of future sports educators has to be noted here (№ 6).

To the second group of publications, the developed models for basketball training are especially valuable for the pedagogical practice, as one of them is the only one of its kind in our country so far (№ 2). The proposed basketball exercises for shooting and conditioning of students are very useful for the training process (№ 2). I would also like to point out the application of specialized tests to establish the level of students' training and physical safety during basketball activities (№ 10), as well as, the measurement of the density of practical basketball activities in the education of students (№ 15).

The publications from the third research area are important for optimizing the quality of education, in order to provide feedback to students and improve communication between participants in the learning process (№ 17, 19). The research on teachers' self-assessment of their professional qualities, as well as, the students' assessment of their sport pedagogues, deserves positive evaluation (№ 7, 8, 9, 14). A significant part of the candidate's scientific publications are presented at international and national scientific forums at home and abroad.

The publishing activity of Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova is reflected in 15 citations (150 points, at 100 points minimum) in various scientific journals. Of these, 5 citations have been published in referenced publications in world-famous databases, 5 are included in monographs and 5 - in publications with scientific review. These facts support the relevance and significance of the candidate's research output. The number of citations for the period 2004-2020 is impressive - a total of 50, officially presented by NACID.

Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova is an active participant in a total of 8 research projects, being the leader of 2 of them. The projects are financed from the budget of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski ", Scientific Research Fund. She is a research supervisor of three doctoral students, one of whom has successfully defended his dissertation in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in... at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

The main contributions to the research activity of Assoc. Prof. Iren Yordanova Peltekova are:

1. An innovative set of specific basketball tests to establish the level of technical training of students, and future teachers of physical education and sports has been developed and implemented in practice.
2. Specific organizational and methodological approaches have been proposed, for improvement of the organization of the basketball training process for students from the profiled groups.
3. Important professional competencies and personal qualities of sports pedagogues have been researched and analyzed, as well as, current problems of their quality training in an academic environment.
4. The problems of communication with students are studied in theoretical and practical terms, in order to improve the quality of the educational process in sports.
5. Significant data with contribution to the history and development of the sport of basketball at Sofia University have been studied and systematized.
6. She also has a contribution to the management and complex practical organization of basketball competitions, with purposeful emphasis on

school and student competitions (documentation, implementation, practical recommendations to teachers, etc.).

Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova is a respected university lecturer with over 22 years of teaching and coaching experience. There are many separate study programs developed by her in the Bachelor's and Master's degrees for the various faculties and specialties of Sofia University.

For the academic year 2019/2020 the candidate has realized a total of 736 hours of teaching, of which 300 hours of lectures and 436 hours of seminars and practical exercises in compulsory and elective courses. The lectures were held in 3 educational programs at the Bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Faculty of Sciences in Education and Arts and in 3 Master's programs at the Faculty of Sciences in Education and Arts at Sofia University.

She conducts seminars and practical exercises in the discipline "Sports-Basketball" at the Department of Sports for all specialties at Sofia University, as well as "Sports - Sports Improvement, basketball" for all faculties at the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. She is a holder of the compulsory discipline "Methods of teaching basketball" at the Faculty of Sciences in Education and Arts for the specialty "Physical Education and Sports" and the compulsory discipline "Sports training - modern trends and approaches" to the same Faculty at the Master's degree. It should also be noted the obligatory disciplines "Sports and Health Education", "Educational sports-organizational practice" and "Organization of sports events and championships in sports games", specialty "Physical Education and Sports" at the Faculty of Sciences in Education and Arts in Master's programs.

Iren Peltekova is the chairperson of the working group of the Department of Sports on the proposal and content of the Master's program "Sports Activities and Tourism", and she is currently the head of the same program.

For the needs of training the students in basketball, the candidate has written the study guide "Basketball competitions. Organizational Guidelines and Judging" in co-authorship with Borislav Peltekov (№ 3). It provides better learning of the material and the formation of practical skills. The content is aimed at expanding the knowledge and preparation of students from the study groups in basketball from all faculties of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Expert activity

Assoc. Prof. Iren Peltekova shows a very high professional commitment related to the activities of the Department of Sports and other faculties and structures of Sofia University. She has been the Deputy Director of the Department of Sports since 2018 and was the Head of the Department of Sports Games and Mountain Sports in the period 2010-2017. She was a member of the Council of the Department of Sports at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" from 2013 to 2017. She has been a member of the Departmental Scientific Council since 2016. She has acted as the coordinator in charge of the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication for the Department of Sports since 2008.

Since 2009, the candidate has participated annually in the organizing committee of international scientific conferences of the Department of Sports at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She was the coordinator for the specialty "Physical Education and Sports" at the Faculty of Sciences in Education and Arts from 2009 to 2014. She has been a member of the working group for accreditation of professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in physical education and sports for the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor's degree since

2011. She is a member of the supervising team on quality and internal audit at Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski".

Assoc. Prof. Peltekova is a member of the editorial boards on the proceedings of the International Scientific Conference and the Annuals of the Department of Sports.

Iren Peltekova regularly participates in the state examination commissions for students majoring in "Physical Education and Sports", Bachelor's degree. She is a member of the commission for preparation of the sports pedagogical requirements for the entrance exam in the specialty.

The candidate for "Professor" has great public activity and is a member of many sports organizations: Chairman of the Board of Sports Club "Fortuna Basketball", co-founder and member of the General Assembly of "Sports Club Academic - Sofia University", also of "Volleyball Club - Sofia University" and others.

Sports achievements and coaching

Assoc. Prof. Peltekova has numerous awards and high sports achievements as a basketball coach. She was nominated for coach of the year at Sofia University in 2008 and 2014. She was a student basketball champion with the NSA women's team (1999). The team of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski" (women), led by her, was a student basketball champion in 2014 and 2015. Acting as a 3x3 basketball coach, she was a student champion with the team of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (women) - 2015 and 2019. She won the sixth place at the European Student Basketball Championship 3x3 (2015).

Since 2003, she has been a multiple medalist as a coach in basketball and 3x3 basketball of the representative team, women, at Sofia University "St. Kliment

Ohridski". She has twice been awarded by the Bulgarian Basketball Federation for her contribution to the development of basketball in Bulgaria.

Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iren Yordanova Peltekova is an established and erudite specialist in the field of pedagogy of physical education and sports (basketball). She is distinguished by competence, precision, depth and correctness in her professional activity. The presented scientific production is based on her long-term and deep interest in sports pedagogy and basketball training in higher education. Her research works, developed and tested in practice, can be defined as authentic, original and innovative. They help Bulgarian higher education basketball coaching and training to reach the European standards in the field of science and have a strong theoretical and practical contribution. At the same time, the candidate's active and long-term pedagogical work and her contribution to the preparation of sports pedagogical staff, the multifaceted and significant expert activity, her high sports achievements as a basketball coach, give me sufficient reasons for an overall positive assessment of the candidate. On these grounds, I confidently propose to the distinguished Members of the Specialized Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iren Yordanova Peltekova the academic position "Professor" 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 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Reviewer:

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