

OPINION

By assoc. prof. Korneliya Naydenova, PhD

member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No RD 38-295/12.06.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Regarding: The submitted scientific works for participation in a competition for occupying the academic position "Associate 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 sport – non-traditional sports in the system of education) declared for the needs of the Department of Sport

Contest Details

For participation in the announced competition for the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" (State Gazette 35 from 18.04.2023), within the statutory deadline, documents have been deposited by one candidate – Ch. ass. Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD. Nedkova is on a basic employment contract indefinitely at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" from 27 June 2014. The presented materials meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The above-mentioned documents regarding the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the requirements of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", showed that according to all indicators the candidate meets these requirements and there is a formal basis for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Biographical details of the applicant

Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova was born on May 3, 1983 in Sofia. In 2006 she acquired the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" at the National Sports

Academy "Vasil Levski" with two specialties "Physical Education Teacher" and "Ski Coach". In 2009 she graduated in the educational and qualification degree "Master" with a major in "Sports Management". She completed her studies after acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in 2014, after a successful defense before a scientific jury, a dissertation on "New approaches to improving sports activities in higher education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria".

In the period from 2008 to 2011 she was a part-time lecturer at Todor Kableshev University of Transport, between 2010 and 2013 she held the same position at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski" and from 2012 to 2014 at UCTM. Her professional career at Sofia University began in 2011 as a part-time lecturer, and in 2014, after winning a competition, she was appointed to the academic position of assistant professor. She remained in this position until 2017, when she was appointed Chief Assistant.

Along the way of her professional development, Nedkova has developed significant organizational and social competencies, which are evident from the many additional activities of the Department of Sport, in whose organization and realization she participates. She participates in numerous national and international scientific forums. She is also involved in a number of social activities.

Pedagogical activity

At present Ch. ass. Marina Nedkova, PhD is an established lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She conducts lectures and seminars on the Methodology of teaching PES to students I – IV grade and Didactics of Physical Culture with students from the Bachelor's Degree and the Master's Degree. She complements the required hours of study for the position with practical classes in zumba-fitness, fitness, cricket and rugby, semester exams and consultations with students.

She has developed or participated in working groups that develop curricula for courses at Sofia University. She participates in eight educational and scientific projects, two of which are the coordinator and one manager.

Research activities and contributions

Presented by Ch. Ass. Marina Nedkova, for participation in the announced competition for Associate Professor, list of scientific works includes a total of 31 titles, which cover the minimum national requirements for admission and participation in the competition for "Associate Professor". The list presents four groups of scientific publications as follows:

- ✓ Habilitation work – monograph – 1 pc.
- ✓ Book based on protected scientific work – 1 pc.
- ✓ Articles and reports published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in a world-famous database – 1 pcs.
- ✓ Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 28 pcs.

In the list of scientific works, we find 10 independent and 21 in co-authorship, 5 of which are in English and the rest of Bulgarian. The publications thus presented fully meet the requirements for scientific production under Art. 2 b, para 2 and 3 of the national regulations and the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Sofia University " Kliment Ohridski", with a total of 463 points collected by the candidate. There are no unpublished scientific works. The directions of the scientific research work of Marina Nedkova fully correspond to the profile of the specialty of the announced competition. The scientific works developed from a linguistic point of view are at a high level. There is no evidence of plagiarism or improper use of foreign research data.

The presented publications are based on the author's own research and the respective team of authors and are developed based on modern and reliable methods of scientific research. In the individual publications, Nedkova's ability to analyze and interpret scientific information concerning the state and changes in individual processes and phenomena is clearly visible, which allows her to summarize on the basis of which to derive recommendations for practice. The main direction in the scientific and search is the current state, development and

problems of physical education and sport in higher education institutions. As another direction in the scientific work of Ch. ass. Marina Nedkova can point out innovations in the educational process of physical education and sport in secondary and higher education. The third direction in which the author develops scientific production is in the direction of clarifying the physical condition, development and capacity of students, issues that largely property attitude to the state of health of society. A fourth direction of scientific demand is clearly visible, which can be defined as new and non-traditional sports and sports disciplines practiced in higher schools.

The 5 citations submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition, of which 23 are in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 2, which are in monographs and collective volumes, bring to Nedkova a total of 65 points, which in view of the required minimum 50 are quite sufficient.

The most significant research contribution of the candidate is the one developed by her, which stands out simultaneously with theoretical-methodological and practical orientation, monographic work "Non-traditional sports in the educational system and part of physical education and sport in higher education institutions in Bulgaria". Very rarely in the theory and methodology of physical education authors consider the problems of physical education in higher education institutions. Moreover, here the author analyzes and interprets the problem in a complex way, because of which she reveals and tracks the links between the social importance of physical education and sport and the functionality of the educational system of higher education institutions from the point of view of the inclusion of non-traditional sports in physical education to increase the health status of students.

Nedkova's other works have significant contributing moments, which are in four main directions. In the first contributing direction, which includes publications with numbers 1, 2, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24 are discussed the problems of physical education in higher education institutions, and a number of regularities in

the development and current state of student sport and physical education are outlined. The scientific contributions of publications numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 23, 28, 29, 30 are essential in relation to the theory and practice of physical education in pupils and students, for the most part experimenting and establishing the opportunities for implementation of innovations and innovative approaches in the education of children and adolescents. In articles numbered 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 the author reveals the condition and opportunities for impact in terms of physical condition, development, and capacity of students from higher education institutions in the country. The contribution moments in this group of publications can be derived as such of high social importance, based on the relationship between physical capacity and the health of the individual. With no less contributing influence are articles with numbers 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 19, 23, 28, 29, 30, which reveal the possibilities for the application of non-traditional sports in the training of students.

Conclusion

On the basis of the analyses and assessments of these scientific works and the accompanying documentation on the overall activity, as well as the qualities of a lecturer and researcher of Ch. ass. Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova I can define her as a proven professional in the field of teaching, project and scientific activities. The results of scientific research are of high theoretical value and practical applicability, which allows me to vote with a positive and positive reason, with reason and conviction. to propose to the Scientific Jury to select Chief Assist. Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD for the scientific degree "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in..., (Physical education and sport – non-traditional sports in the system of education) declared for the needs of the Department of Sports at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

16.08.2023г.
Sofia

Prepared by:
(assoc. prof. K. Naydenova)