

## OPINION

from professor DSc Zhana Atanasova Yankova,  
University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" Faculty of Education,  
Department "Pedagogy and Education Management"

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree '**doctor**'  
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences  
professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy doctoral  
program Special pedagogy with English language training

**Author : Spyridon Petros Panorgias**

**Topic :** "Pedagogical strategies for the sports activity of students with special educational needs in mainstream school"

**Academic supervisor : Prof. Dr. Tsanka Zlateva Popzlateva** , SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student**

By Order No. RD 38-660 of 15.12.2023 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "**Pedagogical strategies for the sports activity of students with special educational needs in the mainstream school**" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree " doctor" in field of higher education: **1. Pedagogical sciences** , professional direction **1.2. Pedagogy** , doctoral program **Special pedagogy** with English language training .

The author of the dissertation is **Spyridon Petros Panorgias** – regular form of teaching in English at the department "**Special pedagogy**", with scientific supervisor **Prof. Dr. Tsanka Zlateva Popzlateva** , With U "St. Kliment Ohridski" .

The PhD candidate completed his secondary education in 1992 in Stuttgart, Germany. In 1998, he graduated from physics upbringing and sports sciences in Thracian university Democritus , Greece. Spyridon Panorgias studied at the nursing

school in 1998 in Lamia , Greece. In 2003, he completed a master's degree in physical activity for specific populations at the University of Thessaloniki, and in 2021 he graduated from the International Greek University of Thessaloniki, a master's degree in management and organization of educational institutions. Since 2002, he has been working as a special education specialist in a Greek school.

Presented by Spiridon Panorgias set of materials on paper is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the SU.

## **2. Relevance of the topic**

The topic of the dissertation research is current, but in the overall aspect of the conducted research this relevance is not perceived, namely which pedagogical strategies are applied to students with special educational needs regarding their sports activity in the schools of the Republic of Greece.

## **3. Knowing the problem**

From what is stated in the dissertation work, it is found that there is an extreme discrepancy in the topic and content, which indicates that the doctoral student does not know well the issues related to the education of children and students with special educational needs in physical education and sports and the application of pedagogical strategies regarding their sports activity.

## **4. Research methodology**

The chosen research methodology implies the objective achievement of the intended goal. A questionnaire consisting of 30 questions was developed for the purposes of the study. The PhD student uses SPSS 25 to process the research results .

## **5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions**

The dissertation was developed in a volume of 199 pages of main text with tables and figures. The study is structured in an introduction, four chapters, conclusions, literature, appendix.

IN *chapter one* interprets the literary sources regarding the characteristics of children and students with special educational needs in physical education and sports. Paragraph 3 entitled "Educational strategies in physical education and sports" describes cooperative learning, inclusive education, educational environment, but does not present

specific strategies that can be applied in the education of students with special educational needs in physical education classes and sport. In the same chapter, the historical development of special and inclusive education is described.

In the *second chapter*, entitled "Physical education and sports for students with special educational needs in the Republic of Greece", the regulatory framework for inclusive education and co-education in Greece, European sports policy, historical development of physical education and sports, the role of physical education and school sports and the Greek legal framework on the education of persons with disabilities. European normative documents related to inclusive education and sports are also described in the same chapter.

*Chapter three* is entitled "Methodology" the purpose of the study, research questions and four (H0 and H1) hypotheses, participants and instrumentation are presented.

The empirical part with the processed results is presented in *chapter four*. The analysed results are visualized with tables and figures.

At the end of the development, an attempt was made to discuss and draw ten conclusions.

*The contributions* of the dissertation research can be reduced to pedagogical practice.

## **6. Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student**

There are three publications on the subject of the dissertation and they meet the requirements of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski". I accept that the text, the results obtained in the dissertation work of the doctoral student Spiridon Petros Panorgias are a personal matter.

## **7. Abstract**

The abstract does not fully contain the main statements in the dissertation work in the part of research design, results and their analysis.

## **8. Questions and recommendations to the doctoral student**

1. Identify the specific purpose and main hypothesis of the dissertation research?
2. Define the tasks on which the scientific research was carried out?
3. Define the object and subject of the dissertation research?
4. Name the educational strategies used by teachers in physical education and sports classes for students with special educational needs?
5. Determine what are the theoretical contributions of the dissertation research?
6. What conclusion would you draw from the scientific study?
7. Specify the correct term you use in the research "inclusive education", "integrated students", "specific needs"?

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific and scientific-applied results that represent a contribution to science and meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the relevant Regulations of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The dissertation shows that the Ph.D **Spyridon Petros Panorgias** possesses knowledge and skills in the scientific specialty Special pedagogy by demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research.

In view of the above, I give my *affirmative price* for the conducted research and *to* propose to the scientific jury to award the scientific degree "doctor" to **Spiridon Petros Panorgias** in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program Special pedagogy with training in English.

05.03. 2024.

**Prepared the opinion :** .....

prof . dpn Zhana Atanasova Yankova

