**REVIEW**

**By Prof. Nadezhda Georgieva Yordanova – Stoyanova, Dr.**

**University of Shumen “Episkop Konstantin Preslavski”**

of the materials provided for contest

for taking the academic position **“Associate Professor”**

**at Sofia University “Kliment Ohridski”**

by high education field 1. Pedagogical Sciences*,* professional direction *1.3 Pedagogy of training in…* scientific major „Physical education and sports – non-traditional sports in the educational system “.

Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD is a participant in the contest for “Associate Professor” advertised in the Official Gazette, release 35 from 18.04.2023 and on the website of Sofia University “Kliment Ohridski”, to cover the needs of unit “Sports games and mountain sports” at the Department of Sport of SU.

1. Overall performance of the procedure and the candidate

I was appointed, by order № PД 38-295 from 12.06.2023 by the rector of Sofia University “Kliment Ohridski”, as a member of the scientific jury for the contest for taking the academic position **“** Associate Professor **”** at SU by high education field 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3 Pedagogy of training in… scientific major „Physical education and sports – non-traditional sports in the educational system“ to **cover the needs** of the unit “Sports games and mountain sports” at the Department of Sport of SU.

Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova is the only participant who applied for this contest. She is a full-time employee at SU since 2014 after winning a contest at the Department of Sport.

Provided by Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD set of materials is compliant with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of SU.

The candidate Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD provided a total of **31** scientific papers, from which **1** book, **1** monography and **29** articles. All **31** papers are related to the contest problematics and are accepted for review.

***The candidate complies with the requirements of article 24 of LDAS of the Republic of Bulgaria, with the Regulations for applying the LDAS and The regulations of SU “Kliment Ohridski” on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions.***

**Contest procedures were followed. I did not find any violations.**

1. Short biographical data of the attendant

Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD was born in Sofia. From 2002 to 2006 was a student and NSA “Vasil Levski”. She graduated with excellent scores in two majors: Physical education and sports teacher, and Ski coach. She has versatile interests in the areas of sports journalism, management, and non-traditional Bulgaria sports. She fulfilled additional qualifications in sports journalism and in 2009 she gains a master's degree in “Sports management” at NSA “Vasil Levski”. She specializes in the United States in "Management of Sports Facilities". She is proficient in winter and water sports at a professional level and has very serious performances in the field of cricket. In 2015 she became Balkan champion with the national team of Bulgaria.

Marina Nedkova is socially very engaged. She actively participated in the holding of the First European University Cricket Cup. She is a member of the organizing committee and chairman of BSCA.

**The most important moments** in her professional development can be presented as follows:

* **2002-2006** - graduated from the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski", Sofia.
* **2009 -** acquired at NSA, Sofia, Master's degree, Sports Management;
* **2008- 2013–**  part-time lecturer at Todor Kableshkov University of Transport, ChTMU – Sofia and Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".
* **2012 year** Secretary of the Organising Committee of the Women’s European Rugby 7 Championship, Division A.
* **2013** She defended a dissertation and received a PhD.
* **2014 – present –** lecturer at the Department of Sports at Sofia University.
* **2015 -** Balkan cricket champion.
* **2017** - promoted to Chief Assistant;

***PERSONAL COMPETENCIES*:**

Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD is fluent in English. Her computer skills are also very good. She is a highly erudite young teacher with a rich general culture, correct, communicative and tolerant. Excellent competitor and organizer of various events.

***The professional development of the candidate for the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" has naturally moved in an ascending line. These efforts deserve my high praise.***

1. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD initiated and ensured the training of students from different faculties and specialities of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in non-traditional sports. She applies innovative teaching methods. She is an organizer of outsourced training.

Chief Assistant Marina Nedkova, PhD has presented a list of 31 titles in which she is an independent author or co-author, all after acquiring the ESL "doctor". Most of them are about problems related to new and non-traditional sports **(1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 19, 23, 28, 29, 30)**. Others are oriented towards work on sports in higher education institutions. **(1, 2, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24)**; Third are devoted to the physical condition, development and capacity of students **(1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31)**;

* Monograph – 1 pc. (№ 1)
* Book – 1 pc. (№ 2)
* Articles in scientific journals – 5 pcs. (№ 5, № 6, № 17, № 23, № 24,)
* Articles and reports in collections of scientific forums – 24 pcs. (№ 3, № 13, № 14, № 15, № 16, № 18, № 4, № 10, № 11, № 12, № 22, № 20, № 21, № 28, № 27, № 7, № 8, № 9, № 19, № 25, № 26, № 29, № 30, № 31)

**Of the 31 scientific papers – 26 are in Bulgarian, 5 are in English.**

The production presented exceeds the minimum requirements. under Art. 2 b, para 2 and 3 of the ZRASRB for "Associate Professor" in the field of high education 1. Pedagogical sciences. A total of **463 points** were achieved according to the indicators (the minimum requirement is **400 points)**.

All works in the list submitted by the candidate for the academic position "Associate Professor" are published.

The independent articles of Chief Assistant Marina Nedkova, PhD are **10,** and those in co-authorship are **21.** This fact eloquently shows that she works very successfully, both independently and in a team. I would distinguish the article published in the indexed world databases *Trakia Journal of Sciences.*It examines the possibility of maintaining physical capacity at home through flexibility in conditions of limited activity. The study was done not only to prove this possibility but also to take into account the specific qualities of the home environment as a constant in the upbringing of children.

Two other articles (15 and 17), published in the Yearbook of Sofia University which I will analyze are dedicated to the legal basis for assessing the physical capacity of students from high education institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria. The large number of students covered in the research - 386, of which 239 women and 147 men engaged in 13 different sports in physical education and sports classes is noteworthy. Working with them for two years enables colleague Nedkova to develop a *regulatory framework* with a broadly representative range of students with different training. She Created norms for assessment on all tests separately for women and men, allowing for up-to-date assessment and comparative analysis of physical capacity in the future, which can be successfully applied in other high schools. This is an undoubted contribution of Chief Assistant Marina Nedkova, PhD.

Special attention deserves **the monograph** "*Non-traditional sports in the educational system and part of physical education and sports in Universities in Bulgaria" (225p.)***and the book** "Innovations in the educational process in physical education and sports in Universities in the Republic of Bulgaria" (122p.)

In the monograph, the author makes a thorough theoretical analysis and motivates the need to apply new and non-traditional sports in universities. She presents the results of a study of the state of physical capacity of students engaged in non-traditional sports in universities in Bulgaria. Of particular relevance is the data from the survey on the state of the physical capacity of students participating in Physical education and sports classes at the universities of the country after nearly two years of online training. She traces the links between the social importance of physical education and sport and the functionality of the universities’ educational systems, with the inclusion of non-traditional sports in the programs under Physical education and sports to raise the health status of student youth. She studies and analyzes the status and problems of the discipline "Physical Education and Sport" at the university, the state of modern student sports in Bulgaria and the place of non-traditional sports in it. She explores the new moments in the sports and competitive activity of students engaged in non-traditional sports in our country. She tracks in detail the participation in competitions organized at European, national and student levels.

***The book*** explores physical education as a specific student activity, ensuring their socio-cultural status and autonomy in the system of external relations and relations with society, the formation of a personal - significant system of world views and value orientation.

The changes in the social and political life of the country are analyzed, which, according to the author, impact the attitude of students to the content of the educational process – preference for special sports training and desire for competitive sports engagement. Preferences for individual sports have also changed. There has been an increased interest in sports that are a product of countries with developed economies and established education systems. The author emphasizes the need to improve by establishing the current physical education state. Drawing objective conclusions. Opening up new opportunities for applying more effective methods of work in the field of physical education to create optimal conditions for mental activity and physical exertion of students.

The publications are directly related to the theme of the announced contest and are published in journals and scientific collections that are subject to review before their printing. The citations established by the candidate are 11. The documents are accompanied by an official reference stating the citations from Google-Science – 26, in the Web of Science – 2, in Scopus ESEVIER – 1, which indicates a serious interest in the scientific production of the candidate.

***The scientific contributions which stand out from the personal research activities of* Chief Assistant** **Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova,** **PhD *can be categorized as follows:***

* ***Contributions related to innovations in the educational process of physical education and sport in high school and university education***
* ***Contributions in connection with motor activity, physical training and capacity of students;***
* ***Contributions to problems of sports activities at the university;***
* ***Contributions related to new and non-traditional sports and sports disciplines practised in universities;***

**Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks. Rather, I would like to express my satisfaction with the scientific production of Chief Assistant Marina Nedkova, PhD and the perfect presentation of the contest materials.

**Conclusion**

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for the Implementation of the Law and the relevant Rules of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The candidate in the contest has submitted a sufficient and significant number of scientific works - **31**, published after the materials used in the defence of the PhD. In the works of the candidate, there are original scientific and applied contributions that have received recognition as a representative part of them and are published in journals and scientific collections issued by academic publishers. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability, some of them are directly oriented towards educational work. **The scientific and teaching qualifications of Chief Assistant** **Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD are at a very high level and can be defined as undoubted.**

The results achieved by *Chief Assistant* *Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD* in the academic and research activities **fully comply** with the minimum national and additional requirements of Sofia University for the application of the Law on LDASRB.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the contest, analyzing their significance and containing scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** assessment and **recommend to the** Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Department Council of Sofia University for the election of **Chief Assistant** **Marina Nikolaeva Nedkova, PhD to the academic position of Associate Professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"** by field of high education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of education in..., the scientific speciality Physical education and sports - non-traditional sports in the educational system.

Aug 11, 2023

Review prepared by: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Prof. Nadezhda Yordanova, Dr.