

# VASIL LEVSKI NATIONAL SPORTS ACADEMY

## STANDPOINT

from

*Assoc. Prof. Nikolai Angelov Panayotov, Ph.D.*

**Subject:** dissertation for the award of the scientific degree "DOCTOR"( Ph.D.)

**Author:** Boyana Konstantinova Kotseva

**Topic of the dissertation:** "ANALYSIS OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALPINE SKIING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA"

**Grounds for writing the opinion:** Order of the Rector of NSA "Vasil Levski" № ZP-25 / 15.01.2021. for approval of the Scientific Jury for conducting a procedure for public defense for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor" by Boyana Konstantinova Kotseva at the Department of Snow Sports.

### **An overview of the dissertation**

The presented dissertation refers to the professional field 7.6. Sports. The subject of the research is related to the conditions for practice and development of alpine skiing for people with disabilities in Bulgaria. The condition of equality of all people, regardless of their physical characteristics and the promotion of skiing and snowboarding enable people with disabilities to practice snow sports.

Already here I dare to say, based on the results obtained and the conclusions made, that the subject of research is characterized by the necessary relevance.

The dissertation is developed in the classical structure, which unites the main parts: theoretical, methodological and evidential, divided into separate chapters with logically differentiated paragraphs, plus the traditional introduction, conclusion on sports theory and practice and applications. Its quantitative parameters are: it contains 177 standard pages, the texts are very well illustrated with 31 tables and 53 figures (some of which are photos). The information provision is from 88 sources, 13 of which are in Cyrillic. The design of the dissertation is in line with modern printing requirements.

### **Standpoint on methodological constructs**

In the theoretical part, Boyana Kotseva makes a complete and professional analysis of adapted skis, including historical aspects, specialized equipment for their practice, as a sport of excellence. Considers the different types of competitions and organizations uniting people with depending on their disabilities - Para Olympians, Special Olympics, Deblindpix.

Stepping on this basis, Kotseva characterizes the foreign experience and good practices in the management and organization of adapted skis at the national level. She examines the components of the infrastructure and the connection between them in the ski areas and last but not least the human resources that ensure the practice of adapted skis.

The chapter logically ends with a hypothesis arising from the review and proven in the development.

### **About the methodology and research methodology**

The aim of the research work is clearly and precisely formulated and corresponds to the set five research tasks.

The object and the subject of the research are delineated correctly.

The study involved 65 ski teachers, 2 ski school managers, 3 hotel managers, 8 volunteers - 5 people with disabilities who use a wheelchair in their daily lives and 3 parents.

After skillful planning, preparation and implementation of the work goes through five stages, which due to the nature of the study are not strictly limited in time.

The data from the conducted researches are processed by precisely selected and reliable statistical methods. Used: variation analysis, correlation analysis, factor analysis, comparative analysis.

### **Standpoint on the results obtained.**

The presented dissertation is a theoretical and experimental scientific research that fully meets the requirements for the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" and is a logical result of the innovative research in the field of adapted skis by Boyana Kotseva. The obtained scientific and applied results described in the paper are the following:

- The results of the survey, which quantifies the attitude of professional ski teachers to work with people with disabilities, are processed through variation analysis;

- With the help of factor analysis, a detailed and in-depth study of the survey results was made. Thanks to the factor analysis, the in-depth questions are grouped into four factor groups. This gives us valuable information about the motivation of ski teachers when working with people with disabilities;

- A comparative analysis of the management, organization and development strategies in Bulgaria and the leading countries in sports policies for people with disabilities.

A practical and fruitful moment are the presented training plans for people with disabilities. This is a consequence of Kotseva's extremely active participation in the education and training of skis for people with disabilities.

The conclusions and recommendations are a logical conclusion of the obtained results and their subsequent analysis.

**The scientifically applied contributions of the presented dissertation are the following:**

- An analysis of the organizational capabilities in leading countries with regard to sports in the field of sports with people with disabilities;
- The natural features in Bulgaria and the implemented policy in sports with disabilities are analyzed.
- Plans for ski work training for people with disabilities have been developed;

*The abstract* meets the requirements. It really reflects the structure, content and results of the dissertation.

*I declare that I have no joint publications with Boryana Kotseva.*

**Conclusion**

Undoubtedly, we have before us a serious and in-depth scientific work in the field of adapted skis.

I can highly appreciate the rich professional personal experience, the research demand and the level of the presented work.

All that has been said so far about the merits of the dissertation, as well as the fact that it meets the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application, the circumstances that I have not noticed deviations in the procedure, I offer to the members of the respected Scientific Jury (according to ZP-25 / 15.01.2021 of the Rector of NSA "Vasil Levski"), **to award the scientific degree "Doctor" to Boyana Konstantinova Kotseva in professional field 7.6. Sports.**

January 20, 2021

Sofia

Signature:

(Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Panayotov)