

OPINION

Based on order № 25 / 15.01.2021, of the Rector of NSA "Vasil Levski"

From

Prof. Kiril Atanasov Aladzhov, Doctor of Science

of a dissertation on the topic:

**"ANALYSIS OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALPINE SKIING
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA"**

**for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", in the doctoral program
"Theory and methodology of sports science, in the professional field 7.6. "Sports" of Boyana
Konstantinova Kotseva, PhD student full-time study at the Department of "Snow Sports", at
the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski"**

Scientific adviser: Assoc. Prof. Petar Gruev Yankov, Ph.D.

I. Relevance and significance of the developed problem in the dissertation

Every research in sports-related to people with disabilities is relevant and has a significant contribution to these people's sports activities. The doctoral student in her goal well substantiates the dissertation's topic: *"Analysis and assessment of the current state of access to winter sports for people with disabilities and the prerequisites for the development of adapted skiing in the Republic of Bulgaria."*

II. General characteristics of the dissertation, the methods used and scientific achievements.

The dissertation is developed in a total volume of 177 computer pages. The content is formed in 3 (three) interconnected chapters. The work is illustrated with 31 tables and 53 figures. A total of 88 information sources were used, of which 13 in Cyrillic, 61 in Latin, and 14 Internet sites.

The dissertation's adopted structure, consisting of an introduction and three chapters, presented with conclusions for scientific and practical contributions and recommendations, is a logical consequence of the well-formulated goal, main tasks, and methodology for their development.

In Chapter One, the doctoral student made a thorough literature review, and within 52 pages she tried to cover a sufficient number of authors, specialists and literary sources. A historical overview of the development of adapted skis has been made. The specialized equipment necessary for practicing this type of sports activity of people with disabilities is described in detail. The doctoral student made an in-depth review of adapted skis as a sport for high sports achievements. It is stated

that the athletes hold competitions in 3 (three) groups according to their functional ability. As part of the Special Olympics, alpine skiing for athletes with disabilities has been held since 1977.

The International Sports Organizations that develop adapted skis are listed. The doctoral student has studied and reflected the good foreign experience and practices in the organization and adapted skis management. The pedagogical and technical staff involved directly in the organization, provision and practice of this type of sports activity is indicated. It is rightly and proudly stated that "National Sports Academy" Vasil Levski ", in the role of a higher education institution, trains staff in the field of alpine sports."

At the end of this chapter, the working hypothesis is derived, which sounds correct against the background of the dissertation's set goals and objectives.

In Chapter Two, the doctoral student indicated the purpose, tasks, organization and methodology of the research. The dissertation's main goal is "Analysis and assessment of the current state of access to winter sports for people with disabilities and the prerequisites for the development of adapted skiing in the Republic of Bulgaria."

To achieve this goal, Boyana Kotseva has set herself 5 (five) main tasks to solve. The subject and the object of the research are indicated correctly in connection with the set topic. The study involved 65 ski teachers (26 women and 39 men), 2 (two) ski school managers, 3 (three) hotel managers, 8 (eight) volunteers (5 people with disabilities who use wheelchairs in their daily lives), as well as three parents).

A survey was conducted to determine the attitude of professional ski instructors in dealing with people with disabilities. The doctoral student used an adapted questionnaire, created by the American professor Martin Block, in 2002. In the survey, 18 questions were used and analyzed. The study is planned and conducted in 5 stages - from 04.04.2016 to January 2019. The field research was conducted in the ski resorts of Bansko, Borovets, Pamporovo and ski center "Opheliite" on Vitosha.

The following mathematical - statistical methods were used to analyze the results of the study: factor analysis, correlation and variation analysis.

In the third chapter, analyzes of the results obtained in the study are made. The reflected factual data about the available in our country "Natural resources and opportunities for practicing adapted skis in the Republic of Bulgaria" make a good impression. The following points from this section of the dissertation are similarly useful, which can orient the needy: III.1.1 .; III.1.2 .; III.2 .; III.2.1 .; III.2.2 .; III.3.

The mentioned "Organizational models" of the system for adapted skis, in leading countries are also a good reference point for the sports pedagogical staff dedicated to this highly humane activity.

At the end of the dissertation, Boyana Kotseva made the logical conclusions characteristic of this type of research. 7 conclusions and 8 recommendations are given.

III. Critical remarks and recommendations

I believe that the dissertation presented for an opinion is very well structured, appropriately illustrated, and the conducted pedagogical experiment is at a high level. I recommend the doctoral student continue her research in this direction and apply them in practice, taking into account the students' capabilities.

The doctoral student and her supervisor, using the experience and high qualification of their colleagues from NSA "Vasil Levski", to consider the issuance of a Methodological Guide on these issues, based on the study and the theoretical and practical results obtained by him.

I am left with the impression that the doctoral student did not fully comply with the preliminary reviews' recommendations.

IV. Publications related to the topic of the dissertation

The doctoral student presented an abstract, at the end of which is a list of 3 (three) publications related to the dissertation topic. They were published in the period 2014-2019. In the abstract the author has referenced the scientific contributions in the dissertation, which in this form, against the background of the research, sound convincing and suitable for application in practice. According to the doctoral student, *"The lack of specific research and published data on adapted skis as an activity and system in the Republic of Bulgaria gives grounds to believe that this first study on the issues raised in the topic needs to be continued."*

V. Conclusion

I believe that the dissertation has real scientific and scientific - applied contributions and evidence that the doctoral student has the necessary knowledge and skills to implement and implement in the practice of research.

In conclusion, I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the doctoral student Boyana Konstantinova Kotseva the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Theory and Methodology of Sports Science, professional field 7.6. "Sports".

Prepared the opinion:

Prof. Kiril Aladzhov, Dr. Sc.

Sofia, 18.01. 2021