

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Maria Vasileva Toteva, MD

regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of education in physical education, specialty "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education"

In the competition for "Associate professor" announced in the Official State Gazette, No. 34 from 11.04.2023 and the National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski" for the needs of the Department of Theory of the physical education. The documents for participation were submitted by the only candidate Chief Assistant Tsveta Dimitrova Traykova, PhD.

Biographical data

The candidate was born in 1965 in the city of Sofia, where she completed her secondary education before 1983 and became a student in the Higher Special School „Georgi Dimitrov“ (now called the National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski"). In 1987 after a successful 4-year study, she graduated with a recognized qualification "Physical Education Teacher" and "Athletics Coach" and a master degree in "Physical Education".

Career development

In 1987 Tsveta Traykova immediately started working as a physical education teacher in 140 secondary school "Ivan Bogorov" - Sofia, where she was teaching for 10 years.

After a successful competition at the NSA "V. Levski" in 1997 she was appointed as an assistant at the "Physical Education Theory" department. In the period from 1997 (26 years) until now, she held the next academic assistant positions.

In 2018, she has defended her dissertation and obtained the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of physical education training.

Scientometric data

According to the all information submitted, I was able to conclude that all the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the NSA "V. Levski" regarding the necessary criteria and number of points for participation in the procedure. This was established by the Commission discussing the documents related to this application, as well as my personal review of the documentation.

The scientific production of Tsv. Traykova includes 19 publications as follows:

- 1 habilitation thesis – monograph;
- 1 book based on a defended dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific doctoral degree;
- 4 publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific databases;
- 13 publications published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collections.

In addition, the candidate participated in the development of 3 research projects as well as in 2 educational ones.

The review of the scientific works reveals that Tsv. Traykova is an independent author in 12 publications, and in the rest 7 publications her active participation in creative collectives is clearly outlined.

The detailed analysis of the printed materials establishes that the studies are mainly focused on the state of physical development and physical fitness, physical activity of children in pre-school age and school students. I emphasize that these are particularly active periods of the development of the human individual, which necessitates a detailed discussion of the biological changes occurring.

I particularly appreciate the significant information on the results of the dynamics of body mass index-a in 5-7 year old children (II.2.1); control and assessment of the physical capacity of pre-school children (II.3.9); somatotypological changes in 6-7 year old children (II.3.11); dependence of motor abilities on height indicators of children from the IV-preparatory group for school (II.3.12). Special attention should be paid to the presented habilitation thesis on the topic of "Motor skills of pre-school children" and the published book based on a successfully defended dissertation under the heading "State of physical development and motor abilities of children in a preparatory group for school (5-7 years old)". The same scientific works reflect the rich experience and awareness of the author, clear formulation and practical application of the methodology of the educational process, introduction of informative research tests, appropriate evaluation (including statistical) methods of the results. I would like to give a very positive assessment of the research related to the role of parents in stimulating the motor activity of their children, which largely determines their behavior, interests and complex development.

Tsveta Traykova is included in the author team of 3 research projects and 2 educational projects (i.e. 5).

The results of the candidate's research activity have been positively evaluated by the professional scientific community and by 13 authors.

The positive modern methodology for the control of publications does not detect plagiarism in scientific production.

The contributions of the overall research activity can be specified in 4 main directions in the field of theory and methodology of physical education. They are distinguished by a prominent scientific and applied character.

Teaching work

The development of scientific problems is an essential part of the professional activity of teachers from any higher education institution. But

still, it's the main educational function of the academic community where the candidate participates.

The analysis of the overall educational activity of Tsv. Traykova found that she is an accomplished, competent pedagogue who successfully copes with the specifics of teaching work. Her timetable for the academic year 2021/22 (according to information from the education department of the National Sports Academy) significantly exceeds the regulatory requirements. She has 387 hours of excessive workload, realized in different study levels.

In accordance with the Regulations of the NSA, she has an agreement to occupy the position of academic mentor for two periods, which is related to constant control of the trainees.

She guided 2 graduate students in the development of their scientific theses.

In conclusion. I would like to express my categorical high assessment regarding the professional qualities of Ch. Assistant Tsveta Traykova. She carries the respect of the NSA academic community due to her undisputed scientific, teaching and organizational competences.

Based on all this, with the greatest conviction, I recommend the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the academic position " Associate Professor " to Ch. assistant Tsveta Dimitrova Traykova, PhD, for which she possesses all the necessary qualities.

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Maria Toteva, MD