

# **S T A T E M E N T**

**by Associate Professor ILIA ALEKSANDROV VARBANOV, PhD  
member of the Scientific Panel  
on the procedure for holding the academic position of  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
in academic field 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.6. Sport,  
Specialty of Sport (Basketball), for the needs of the Department of  
Basketball, Volleyball, Handball**

## **1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION**

The competition for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in the academic field of 7. Healthcare and Sport, and professional field 7.6. Sport, Specialty of Sport (Basketball), for the needs of the Department of Basketball, Volleyball, Handball has been announced in State Gazette, issue 34 of 11.04.2023, page 58.

All statutory requirements of the Higher Education Law and the Regulation on Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions have been observed.

## **2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATE**

Chief Assistant Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. She was born on 29.06.1988 in the city of Sofia. She discovered the charm of playing the basketball game in her years of childhood and she took part in all age groups – from girls to women.

From 2008 to 2017, she competed professionally for the teams of Vinaros – Spain; Irlandesas – Spain; Neftohimik Basketball Club; Montana 2003 Basketball Club; Beroe Basketball Club.

She took part in six European championships for adolescent female players and women up to 20 years of age.

In 2011, M. Tsankova completed her Bachelor's Degree at Vasil Levski National Sports Academy in the specialty of Physical Education Teacher and Basketball Coach, and in 2013, she completed her Master's Degree at Vasil Levski National Sports Academy in the specialty of Physical Education and Sport in the secondary level of Secondary Comprehensive Schools.

In 2017, she defended her dissertation thesis on the subject "Influence of Sports Preparedness on the Competitive Realization of Adolescent Female Basketball Players" and acquired Doctor's academic degree.

After a competition conducted in 2018, she was appointed as an Assistant at Vasil Levski National Sports Academy, Department of Basketball, Volleyball, Handball, Basketball sector. Since 2019, she has been Chief Assistant.

She has more than 40 publications in specialized journals and participations in scientific conferences and congresses.

Since 2017 until present day, she has been working as a coach at the children's school of the Basketball club at the National Sport Academy. In 2018, she was assistant-coach of the women's team and since 2019 she has been Head Coach.

She has a good command of English and Spanish (both written and spoken).

### **3. SCIENTOMETRIC DATA**

Chief Assistant Maria Tsankov-Kaloyanova has provided output with the following scientometric indicators for the participation in the competition for the position of Associate Professor:

1. The dissertation thesis was reviewed and successfully defended at St. St. Kiril and Methodius Veliko Tarnovo University in 2017. It determines the scientific interests of the candidate which are associated with the theory and methodology of sports training in basketball, the competitive realization of basketball players, and the examination of their sports preparedness (indicator A-50 points).
2. The monograph titled „Aspects of technical and tactical training of adolescent female basketball players“ is structured into six chapters in which the specific directions of technical and tactical training are laid down. Exercises appropriate to be included in the training process are developed. The explored issues concerning operational thinking and competitive stress factors are of contributive value for the practice. The indicated practical and methodological advice on training, as well as the study of sports preparedness in adolescent female basketball players, will be in support for the coaches. This is a prerequisite for improvement of the educational and training process content, and significantly increases the effectiveness of coaching work. (section V, item 3, 100 points).
3. As to indicator D, the candidate has presented three research articles in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals, taking into account that only one of them is in co-authorship (210 points). As far as no-refereed publications are concerned, 16 research articles have been presented (5 individual ones and 11 in co-authorship – 291 points). They reveal the potential of the author which is a guarantee for her future development.
4. The number of citations of publications appear to be a positive attestation for every scientific worker. In this section regarding the national scientometric requirements, Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova has been cited

in three peer-reviewed and indexed journals, six times in monographs and 13 times in non-refereed journals. This is proof for candidate's popularity among the scientific community.

5. 100 points are needed for indicator E. She has collected 105 points for her participation in project activities. The participation of Chief Assistant M. Tsankova-Kaloyanova in scientific and educational projects is as follows:

5.1. She took part in the research project titled: „Analysis and assessment of physical capacity of students at secondary schools in the Republic of Bulgaria“ (2018).

5.2. She has been included in Erasmus+ international projects for three consecutive years (2018, 2019, 2020) where she held her classes with foreign students in English.

5.3. Participation in two national educational projects „Student Practices“ (2021, 2020) .

Along with the certifications attesting her performance as a contestant and coach, and the evaluation form for supervising graduates, she completely conforms to the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

As to her personality, Chief Assistant Tsankova-Kaloyanova reveals herself as a well-intentioned, compassionate, professionally competent, responsible and accurate colleague.

## CONCLUSION

All the above circumstances convince us that the overall activity of Chief Assistant Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova: teaching activity, sporting pedagogical, scientific and creative activities are at a very high professional level.

Against this background, the contribution of Chief Assistant Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova is undoubted both for the Department of Basketball, Volleyball, Handball and for Vasil Levski NSA and Bulgarian basketball. Based on above, I can confidently give my **positive assessment** and recommend the Scientific Panel to award the academic rank of Associate Professor to chief assistant Maria Tsankova-Kaloyanova .

**07.08.2023**  
**Sofia**

**Statement drawn up by:**  
**(Associate Professor Ilia Aleksandrov Varbanov, PhD)**