

REVIEW

by **Professor Georgi Vladimirov Ignatov, PhD,**

lecturer from the Sport Games and Mountain Sports Division of the Sports
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**Regarding: reviewed scientific works and academic activity
of assistant Donka Dincheva Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD,**

the only candidate for participation in the competition for the academic position „Associate Professor“, announced by Trakia University – Stara Zagora in the State Gazette, Issue 38 of 28 April 2023 on „Methodology of training in physical education (sports animation)“ in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... at the „Preschool and primary school pedagogy“ Division at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

I.Procedure details

The competition was announced for the needs of the Division of Preschool and primary school pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University – Stara Zagora. I participate in the scientific jury of the competition according to Order № 2348 / 29 June 2022 of the Rector of Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

II.Applicant details

Donka Zheleva-Terzieva was born on September 02, 1972 in Stara Zagora. In 1991, he graduated from the Technical School of Economics „Prof. Kr. Dobrev“ – Stara Zagora and acquired the professional qualification „Economist-accountant“. He completed his bachelor's degree in 1996 at the „Vasil Levski“ National Sports Academy with two majors – „Football Coach“ and „Physical Education Teacher“. In 2012, again at the National Sports Academy, he completed his master's degree in the program „Physical education and sports in the middle level of the Secondary Education School“. He worked as a substitute physical education teacher in the period 1996-1999 consecutively in the IV Primary school „K. Hristov“, Secondary Education School „V. Levski“, V Primary school „M. Stanev“, Secondary Education School „Iv. Vazov“ and Secondary Education School „Zheleznik“ – Stara Zagora. From 1999 to 2003, he worked at the „G. Milev“ – town of Radnevo. From 2003 to 2008, he worked again as a substitute in the Professional High School of Electrical Engineering and Technology „G. S. Rakovski“ and Secondary Education School „Zheleznik“ – Stara Zagora. He was a senior teacher from 2008 to 2014 at „Knyaz Simeon Tarnovski“ Commercial High School – Stara Zagora and from 2014 to 2015 at „T. Kableshev“ – Stara Zagora.

Since May 11, 2015, he is currently an assistant in Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training at the Faculty of

Pedagogy at Trakia University – Stara Zagora. From February 2018 to April 2021, she is a doctoral student of independent training at the Department of Pedagogical and Social Sciences at the Faculty of Education of Trakia University. In April 2021, he acquired the educational and scientific degree „PhD” in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.2. Pedagogy, doctoral program „Theory of education and didactics“.

Assistant Donka Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, also has a rich resume, outside of her work as a physical education and sports teacher and lecturer at Trakia University. She was an inter-school club handball player from 1981 to 1988. She was an active soccer player from 1988 to 1997, playing primarily as a defender. Became the football champion of the Republic of Bulgaria in the 1991/1992 season with the team of Women's Football Club „Lokomotiv“ – Stara Zagora. She also played for the Vasil Levski NSA team.

From 1998 to 2013, she was a football referee, and in the period 2006-2013 she was an international football referee for UEFA and FIFA. Since 2014, he is currently a referee observer and delegate in the system of the Bulgarian Football Union. In the period 2017-2021, he was a mentor under the „Mentors and Talents“ program of the BFUnion for the development of women's football refereeing – level 2, and from 2021 he is currently a mentor under the „Mentors and Talents“ program of the BFUnion for the development of football refereeing – level 1. Since 2016, he is currently deputy. chairman and secretary of the refereeing committee at the regional council of the Bulgarian Football Union – Stara Zagora. Since 2017, he is currently the coordinator of the „Grassroots“ program for the development of school football for the Stara Zagora region, as well as the coordinator of zonal tournaments for children and youth at risk under the „Sports – accessible to all children“ program.

He is also the chairman of the Non-Profit Association „Sports Club A big heart“ – Stara Zagora, working in the field of sports and sports animation from 2018 to the present.

III. Summarized quantitative and qualitative data for the pedagogical and research activity of the candidate

The scientific production of Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD fulfills the criteria for science such as truthfulness, reliability, innovation, contribution to science and practice and other features specific to scientific knowledge. The evaluation of the scientific results of the candidate, which he presents as scientometric data, written by National Center for Information and Documentation are as follows:

- Indicators in group A: a total of 50 points.
- Indicators in group C: total 100 points.
- Indicators in group D: total 315 points.
- Indicators in group E: total 80 points.

Additional requirements from Trakia University:

- Indicators in group F: total 30 points.
- Indicators in group G: a total of 115 items.

As can be seen, the scientometric indicators of the scientific activity of assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD and in the six groups (A, C, D, E, F and G) are fulfilled and cover the values of the necessary minimum requirements, in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

As a result of her studies, Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, has acquired specialized scientific knowledge and specific professional skills and competencies, which she successfully applies in academic and professional terms, in research and project activities.

The candidate participated in 6 scientific and educational projects in the field of physical education and sports. Evidence of the high level of professionalism of Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD can also be found in the citation of her 7 scientific works, in a total of 10 publications, magazines and monographs, which is undoubtedly valuable for all specialists.

IV. Description of the scientific works

Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, is the author of 32 scientific papers in the field of physical education and sports. For her participation in the competition, she submitted a total of 25 scientific papers for review in theoretical, scientific-applied and practical aspects, of which by type:

1. Monograph – 1 pc.
2. Published book based on a defended dissertation work – pc.
3. Chapter of a collective monograph – pc.
4. Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review – pcs.

*In the specified 25 works, I do not include her dissertation work and the author's abstract.

The authorship of scientific publications is: independent author of all 25 works. No co-authored scientific publications.

The presented scientific production can be divided thematically as follows:

- Current highlights in the field of physical education science and practice (habilitation thesis – 3.1, publications with №7.14, 7.17, 7.18, 7.20, 7.21, 7.22 and a published chapter of a collective monograph with №10 from the list of scientific works and publications);
- The sports-animation activity and the teacher's competence (published book based on a protected dissertation – 5.1., publications with №7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.7, 7.9, 7.13 and 7.16 from the list of scientific works and publications);
- Extracurricular physical activity (publications with №7.1, 7.2, 7.6, 7.8, 7.15 and 7.19 from the list of scientific works and publications);
- Professional-pedagogical competence obtained as a result of face-to-face and remote forms of education before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic (publications with №7.10, 7.11 and 7.12 from the list of scientific works and publications).

V. Scientific contributions

Of significant interest and contribution is the monograph „The role of the cognitive sphere in physical education education“, published in 2023, which is a work of high theoretical value. The work presents the author's view in relation to the cognitive approach in teaching physical education and sports at school age. In-depth emphasis is placed on the importance of the theoretical potential of the personality as a basis for the formation of skills and habits, attitudes and attitudes in the field of physical education practice.

As a continuation of this issue, the published chapter of the collective monograph „Diagnostic procedures in the field of physical culture“, published in 2021. The chapter reviews the diagnosis in the field of physical culture in the educational system with an emphasis on the control, verification and evaluation of the degree of mastery of motor actions and the level of physical capacity.

Regarding current highlights in the field of physical education science and practice, the author presents six studies and studies of a contributing nature, as follows:

1. A study on the frequency of practicing different types of sports and sports-motor activities in school physical education during the different educational levels and stages with 88 students from the high school stage of the secondary education level from 7 schools in the Stara Zagora region.
2. A study aimed at establishing the expediency of the physical culture minute as a means of combating fatigue and restoring academic performance in students of the 2nd grade.
3. Research on the available knowledge of students in the field of Bulgarian sports. The method of pedagogical research didactic test was used. The contingent of the study are high school students of the secondary level of education from the Stara Zagora region.
4. Study of the coordination abilities of students of primary school age. The scientific research was carried out with 120 students from the initial stage of the basic educational degree from the city of Stara Zagora.
5. Research the degree of satisfaction with the effectiveness of the existing forms, the difficulties they encounter in their work and the recommendations they give to improve the quality of training. The research was carried out with active sports teachers from the cities of Stara Zagora, Kazanlak and Radnevo.
6. Research and analysis of the entry levels of knowledge and skills in handball among students – freshmen from the Faculty of Pedagogy who have chosen to study in the specified discipline.

An important area in the scientific research of assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, is the sports and animation activity and the competence of the pedagogue. In a scientific-theoretical plan, the author develops and approves an author's model for the formation of professional-pedagogical competence for the implementation of sports-animation activities with preschool and school-aged children, the promotion of which was carried out through the book published in 2021 on the basis of a protected dissertation – „The sports and animation

competence of the pedagogue“. The book presents the main highlights of the professional-pedagogical competence and sports animation, as well as the academic profile of the pedagogue as a sports animator and the author's system-structural model for the formation of the sports-animation competence of the pedagogue.

In her articles, the author consistently examines sports animation in an educational environment, aimed at satisfying children's needs for recreation, motor and recreational activities, as well as a study of the structural differences between the two forms of education – regular and part-time in terms of acquired theoretical knowledge, formed skills and relationships as components of competence. Sports animation in a natural environment is analyzed with a focus on moral, health and environmental aspects. The author also analyzes the need for the formation of professional-pedagogical competence for the implementation of sports-animation activity in an educational environment. Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, carried out a study carried out 4 years after the introduction of the elective course „Sports animation in an educational environment“ in the pedagogical specialties of Thrace University, examining the problem of reduced motor activity of people, incl. and the younger generation. Last but not least, in another article of hers, she presents in detail the ways to determine the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes as components of professional competence for carrying out sports and animation activities with children of preschool and school age.

An important field in the research of Assistant Professor Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD is the research presented by her on extracurricular physical activity.

In the author's publications on the subject, the results of a study of the attitude of students from pedagogical specialties – future „carriers“ of a personal example for the younger generations, to physical exercises and sports in their free time are presented. In search of effective non-traditional means for extracurricular work in order to optimize the motor activity of adolescents, the possibilities for implementing sports and animation activities in an institutionally organized environment are presented. In another study conducted in 2019 with 120 students – first-year students studying to become kindergarten and elementary teachers at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University – Stara Zagora, motor activity, their participation and activity in extracurricular and extracurricular forms of work were investigated physical education and sports at school age, their sports interests and desire to practice a certain type of sport or sports-motor activity at the moment. In another work, the author presents an overview of extracurricular physical activity worldwide. Special and extensive attention has been paid to its organization in Europe and in particular in the Republic of Bulgaria, as part of the European educational space. In a subsequent article, research is presented in the field of physical education organized by extracurricular associations, schools and societies with sports, games and tourism orientations. The possibilities for additional motor activity, as a

countermeasure against hypodynamia, which are provided in the city of Stara Zagora, as well as the interest and participation in sports or motor-play activities of 1st grade students are being studied. The last study on this topic is related to the influence of training and competition activities on the formation of morally responsible behavior in adolescent football players.

Also of interest are the author's works on the professional-pedagogical competence obtained as a result of face-to-face and remote forms of learning before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD studies the impact of distance learning imposed by the authorities in the Republic of Bulgaria at the end of 2020 to limit the spread of COVID-19 and determine its impact on students' motor skills. In another two articles, he makes a comparative analysis of data according to „knowledge“ and „skills“ criteria and analyzes them as part of the professional-pedagogical competence obtained as a result of face-to-face and distance forms of education, the latter applied in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 of students from pedagogical specialties at Trakia University – Stara Zagora, as well as a comparative analysis of results according to the criteria „knowledge“ and „attitudes“ as part of the professional-pedagogical competence, obtained and manifested as a result of conducted training in face-to-face and remote forms, the latter applied during the Covid pandemic to postgraduate qualification „Children's Teacher“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy at Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

The presented scientific production in a wide spectrum, its content side, results and conclusions give me the reason to define the author as a leader in the problems of sports and animation activity. From the analysis of the scientific production of Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD impresses the high competence and interpretation of scientific research.

The scientific production proposed by Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD meets the requirements for the academic position „Associate Professor“.

VI. Academic and scientific research activities

The announced competition has a full course load with relevant compulsory and elective courses.

Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, is a main teacher at the Division of „Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy“ at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Trakia University – Stara Zagora. She is a teacher of students in the specialties of Pre-school and primary school pedagogy, Primary school pedagogy with a foreign language, Pre-school pedagogy, Pedagogy of physical education training, Social pedagogy in the educational qualification degrees bachelor and master, as well as in the various post-graduate qualifications for acquiring additional professional qualification „Children's teacher“ and „Primary teacher“. As such, she is the author of 14 innovative curricula for the needs of academic work with students, which are a kind of continuation of her scientific research and long-term research experience. This fact testifies that she is excellently prepared to create, present and continuously update the content of the lecture courses she leads, thus she practically shares with them her effective ways and practices,

how to teach and how to achieve high quality of research and publication activity. In terms of content, the created courses and programs reveal the classic aspect of sports science, but also its modern achievements, additionally illustrated with numerous examples from practice. All this makes them not only theoretically-applied oriented, but also particularly useful and attractive for the wide audience of students, doctoral students, athletes and specialists.

Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, has participated in 17 scientific conferences, 12 of which in our country and 5 abroad. All this testifies that she invests long-term, consistent and purposeful efforts in her academic studies and in achieving high professionalism.

The submitted production for review does not duplicate the work of other authors and is free of plagiarism.

Assistant Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, and I have no publications in common. No violations were found during the competition.

VII. Conclusion

On the basis of the overall analysis of the presented scientific production, of my long-term personal impressions, I believe that the candidate for the academic position of „Associate Professor“, assistant Donka Dincheva Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, has the necessary professional-pedagogical and scientific training. Donka Zheleva-Terzieva, is a respected teacher with extremely rich practical and excellent theoretical training. It successfully combines research activity with specific teaching work and actual activity. He is respected among his students and colleagues.

Based on the above and the qualities of the candidate, I strongly suggest to the Honorable members of the scientific jury to award assistant Donka Dincheva Zheleva-Terzieva, PhD, the academic position of „Associate Professor“ in professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... at the „Preschool and primary school pedagogy“ Division at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

10 August 2023
Sofia

Reviewer:
/Prof. Georgi Ignatov, PhD/