

**Scientific Jury by order of the Rector of Shumen University Bishop Konstantin
Preslavski, Shumen
№ RD-16-183 / 27.11.2020**

STANDPOINT

by Prof. Stefan Hristev Bazelkov, PhD,
Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen - Bulgaria,
member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the academic position of Professor,
announced in the State Gazette, issue. 87/09.10.2020, Field of Higher Education 1.
Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in... (Methodology
of Teaching Physical Education in Kindergarten and School)

I. Data for the Competition

The competition for the academic position of Professor was announced in the State Gazette, issue 87/09.10.2020 for the needs of Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen - Faculty of Pedagogy. Assoc. Prof. Chavdar Georgiev Sotirov, PhD, member of the Department of Technological Training, Vocational Education and Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy, participated in it as the only candidate.

After reviewing the documentation for this competition, I believe that the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria are met.

We do not have joint publications in the scientific production submitted for review by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chavdar Georgiev Sotirov.

II. Biographical Data about the Candidate

Chavdar Georgiev Sotirov was born on March 1, 1965 in the town of Shumen. He started his academic career in the period of 2004 as a part-time assistant professor at Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen. In 2010, after defending a dissertation on "Model for motor preparation of 6-7-year-old children for school", he acquired the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor - PhD" in the scientific field 05.07.01 Theory of Education and Didactics. Since 2011 to the present he has had a full-time employment contract first as a Senior Assistant Professor, and since 2015 as an Associate Professor PhD.

He is currently a member of the Department of Technological Training, Vocational Education and Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy at Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen.

III. Teaching Activity of the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chavdar Georgiev Sotirov is a lecturer with due authority among students and his colleagues from the University and beyond. He completes the tasks set

with accuracy, punctuality and precision. He has successively held administrative management positions in the Faculty of Pedagogy and the whole University of Shumen: Head of the Department of Technological Training, Vocational Education and Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy, Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy, Vice-Rector of Bishop Konstantin Preslavski University of Shumen.

As a lecturer he teaches the disciplines "Pedagogy of Physical Culture in Kindergarten", "Theory of Education and Didactics", "Tourism, Mountaineering, Orienteering", "Hygiene and Health Education", "Tourism Practices", "Innovations in Sports and Tourism Practices in Kindergarten", "Primary School Pedagogy" for Bachelor's degree in Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy and Pedagogy of Physical Education and the discipline "Modern Trends and Approaches in Physical Education in Kindergarten and Primary School Education" for master's degree. He has participated in two national projects and two university projects. He is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - Section Pedagogy, Shumen.

From the joint work with Assoc. Prof. Chavdar Sotirov my impressions are that he is sociable, hard-working, accurate, with very good professional, managerial and organizational qualities.

IV. Scientific Work

In this competition Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chavdar Georgiev Sotirov participates with 13 publications on topics related to the scientific fields in he is interested in and works. The presented publications include: one independent monograph and two co-authored monographs, one textbook and nine articles and reports in collection volumes and yearbooks with scientific review.

The main place among the presented scientific publications is occupied by the monographs. The independent monographic work clarifies the issues related to the pedagogy of physical culture and physical education in preschool education. The main philosophical and pedagogical problems of the educational field "Physical Culture" in kindergarten are studied. A vision is proposed for building a comprehensive concept for achieving competence and educational results in children in different age groups in the specified educational area.

In the other two publications with a monographic character, Assoc. Prof. Sotirov clarifies the scientific issues related to the nature and specific features of tourism and tourist activity. The system of balneological tourism in Bulgaria is structured, as a general characteristic is given and the milestones for its development and its definition as a social phenomenon are outlined. The main issues related to the perspective of this type of tourism from an economic and geopolitical point of view are considered. Mountain tourism has significant potential for development and improvement. In this regard, an argumentative analysis is made, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses, as well as threats to the development of mountain tourism in Bulgaria.

The presented textbook, intended for preparation of students on Bachelor's and Master's degree courses, is of scientific and practical value. It can also help professionals, teachers, parents and all those involved in tourism as a physical activity.

Of the articles and reports submitted for review, one was published in a scientific journal in world-famous databases observed in SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE. The rest have found a place in scientific peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes.

Most of the proposed publications are directly related to the topic of the announced competition and are peer-reviewed before their publication. The main scientific research of the candidate is concentrated on the problems of pre-school education and the transition to the initial stage of primary education.

His scientific position is expressed in several scientific-theoretical areas and areas in the field of theory and methodology of physical education and sports:

1. Giving a scientific explanation of the phrase "pedagogy of physical culture". Taking into account the basic theoretical foundations and functions of pedagogy, the candidate identifies the basic essence of the concept.

2. Clarification of the issue of continuity between kindergarten and primary school. Analysis of the readiness of children and their successful adaptation to the conditions of the classroom system in school education.

3. Revealing the possibilities for the integrative approach in the education of the children from preschool age through physical culture in preschool education.

4. Achieving optimal health status and education of children for environmentally friendly living with the means of physical culture and sports.

5. Based on a study of the coordination capabilities of children, an analysis is made of their opportunities for early sports orientation in kindergarten in the field of sport climbing.

V. Scientific Contribution

The following more important contributions of scientific and practical nature in the presented scientific publications can be summarized:

1. On the basis of the analysis of the concepts pedagogy and physical culture and the current legal and normative regulation of the pre-school education the essence of the discipline "Pedagogy of physical culture" is clarified.

2. An up-to-date analysis of the system for balneological tourism in Bulgaria has been made, as a social phenomenon in the field of travel, recreation, sports and leisure tourism.

3. The problems regarding the psychophysical readiness of the children for a smooth transition and their adaptation and continuity to the school education system are clarified.

4. The possibilities for implementation of integrative training with the help of activities of physical culture and sports are revealed.

5. Based on a study of the motor abilities of children, the main aspects of early sports orientation in early childhood are identified.

6. Scientific summaries have been made related to the health education of children and the development of lasting hygienic habits as a factor for the full realization of the tasks of physical education and sports.

7. Based on a competent analysis the strengths and weaknesses of mountain tourism in Bulgaria are identified. The main negative moments are indicated, as well as the opportunities for its optimization and improvement.

8. A classification of the types of tourism and the specific forms that have a place and opportunities for implementation in preschool and primary school education has been made.

V. Conclusion

Based on the above information on the contributions and overall activities of Associate Professor Chavdar Georgiev Sotirov, PhD, I believe that they meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its implementation at the University of Shumen Bishop Konstantin Preslavski, Shumen. This gives me the reason to vote positively, I call on the other members of the scientific jury to vote "for" the award of Assoc. Prof. Chavdar Sotirov, PhD, to the academic position of PROFESSOR in Higher Education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in ... (Methodology of Education in Physical Education in Kindergarten and School)

January 8, 2021
Shumen

Member of the Scientific Jury:
(Prof. Dr. S. Bazelkov)

