

R E V I E W

by Prof. Vladimira Stefanova Angelova, PhD

Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

of Scientific Works Presented in Relation with Participation in a Contest for

Occupying the Academic Position of “Associate Professor”

at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

Under Higher Education Area: **1. Pedagogical Sciences;**

Professional Field: **1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching...;**

(Methodology of Teaching Physical Education and Sports Training)

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the contest for occupying the academic position of “associate professor” announced for the needs of the Department of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports of the Faculty of Pedagogy in state gazette, issue № 34 of 03.05.2022 and the Web site of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”: **assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD** from Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

1. Summary of the candidate’s procedure

With order № RD 21-243 of 29.06.2022 of the Rector of Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’(PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in a contest for occupying the academic position of “**associate professor**” at PU under higher education area: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field: 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching (Methodology of Teaching Physical Education and Sports Training) announced for the needs of the Department of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

Only **one candidate** has submitted documents for participation in the announced contest: **assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD** from PU “Paisii Hilendarski”.

The set of materials submitted by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD in paper and electronic form complies with the Regulations on the Academic Staff Development of PU and includes the following documents:

1. application form to the Rector for admission to the contest;
2. CV in EU format;
3. diplomas for *MSc.* educational-qualification degree – an original and an appendix;
4. diploma for *PhD* educational and scientific degree – original;
5. list of scientific works;
6. scientific works (copies);

- 6.1. declarations of co-authorship;
- 6.2. list of citations;
7. reference on compliance with the minimum national requirements and the additional faculty requirements;
8. annotations of the scientific publications according to Art. 65. of Regulations on the Academic Staff Development of PU (in Bulgarian and English);
9. self-assessment of the candidate's contributions;
10. declaration regarding the enclosed documents' originality and authenticity;
11. work record certificate;
12. documents regarding educational work;
13. documents compliant with the requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy.

At the first meeting held on 07.07.2022 the scientific jury accepted the documents related to the contest and found that the scientific works presented by Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD are compliant with the minimum national requirements and the additional faculty requirements and was therefore admitted to participate in the contest.

At that meeting I was elected a reviewer in the contest. After reading and analyzing the materials I found that there are no procedural irregularities.

The set of documents presented by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is accurately prepared and organized in a systematic way which allows an objective and complete assessment of the results achieved by the candidate in the contest for occupying the academic position of "associate professor".

Assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is participating in the contest with 30 scientific papers: 1 (one) monograph, 1 (one) studio research paper and 28 scientific papers of which 18 (eighteen) are independent. All of them are developed and published after acquiring the academic position of "associate professor" and after acquiring the PhD educational and scientific degree.

All the scientific works comply with the profile of the contest and meet the requirements and therefore are accepted for reviewing.

2. Brief biographical information about the candidate

Assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD graduated from the Mathematical High School "Academician Kiril Popov" in Plovdiv in 2007. In 2013, he obtained a Master's degree in the specialty "Dental Medicine" at Plovdiv Medical University.

The professional career of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD started in 2013 at the Faculty of Education of the PU where he still works. Consecutively he held the academic positions of: assistant (2013 – 2016) and assistant professor (2016 – until now) in the Department of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education.

In 2015 he acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training (including Methodology of Physical Therapy).

The main activities and responsibilities of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD are: educational, scientific and administrative.

Some of the administrative positions held by the candidate are:

- Coordinator of practical training in the courses "Water Sports" and "Winter Sports" with students from the Bachelor degree programme "Pedagogy of Teaching Physical Education " (full-time and part-time education);
- Coordinator of practical training in the courses "Winter Sports" with students from the Master's degree programme "Sports at School";
- Chairman of the examination committees of the practical exams in the courses "Water Sports" and "Winter Sports" with students from Bachelor degree programme "Pedagogy of Teaching Physical Education" (full-time and part-time education).

Another fact worthy of respect is the participation of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD in faculty committees for the preparation of documents for program accreditation of the professional field "Pedagogy of teaching ..." at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the PU. The candidate also participates in the editorial board of the scientific collection "Contemporary Problems of Physical Education and Sports".

Remarkable is the activity of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD as a football referee, both in football matches in Bulgaria and in international football matches. He has been repeatedly named the best football referee by the Association of Football Referees in Bulgaria.

The main scientific interests of the candidate are in the field of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training, Medicine and Sports Medicine. The professional competence and qualification of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD, are in accordance with the profile of the announced contest for associate professor.

3. Summary characteristic of the candidate's activities

Assessment of the candidate's pedagogical and educational activity

The pedagogical and educational activity of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is over 9 year-long. His educational commitment is in the field of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training. The academic disciplines taught by him to students in Bachelor and Master degree programmes are of different categories: compulsory, elective and facultative. The candidate has developed

12 lecture courses, including: Sports Medicine and Hygiene, Medical-Biological Foundations of Sports, Sports at School, Winter Sports, Water Sports, etc.

Assistant professor PhD Martin Vesselinov Margaritov's participation in the training of foreign bachelors and master degree students from Austria and Germany, from the specialty *Sports - Martial Arts Wing Chun* is also noteworthy.

He is actively involved in the organization and preparation of the candidate-students' practical exam for admittance in the Bachelor degree programme "Pedagogy Teaching of Physical Education".

In the context of the new documents reforming higher education, the Pedagogical Faculty of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" makes a complete change of the curricula of the pedagogical specialties in which the students are trained. Assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD actively participates in the implementation of these changes, actively participates in the periodic updating of educational courses for which the department of which he is a member of is responsible.

The work of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD with students is diverse. He regularly counsels them on issues related to their theoretical and practical training.

The assessment of the pedagogical and educational activities of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is high. In his educational work, he applies the latest achievements of information and communication technologies and uses modern methods and technical tools for teaching.

Assessment of the candidate's scientific-research activity

The scientific production presented by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD relates to the thematic area of the contest. The scientific works deal with current issues from the field of the methodology of teaching Physical Education and Sports Training.

Assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is participating in the contest with: 1 (one) monograph, 1 (one) research paper published in a journal referenced and indexed in the worldwide database of scientific information, 27 (twenty-seven) scientific papers of which 17 (seventeen) are independent, 1 (one) studio research paper, published in a in a non-refereed peer-reviewed journal.

The analysis and assessment of the contributions of the presented production by thematic areas are the following:

- **Researching the problems of hypodynamia and stress and creating and applying models for its diagnosis and prevention**

The scientific contributions in this area can be assessed from the presented monograph "Sports Against Hypodynamia and Stress" [C.1.].

The independent monograph, the structure of which is built professionally and logically is of high theoretical and applied value. The relevance and significance of the work is indisputable for modern society.

The theoretical and practical problems related to hypodynamia and stress have been thoroughly researched, analysed and enriched.

The author's in-depth experimental research is presented, the results of which provide a solid basis for the systematization of the problems of hypodynamia and stress.

Original and useful models for diagnosis and prevention of motor activity have been developed with precision.

The excellent statistical processing of the rich empirical material and the conclusions obtained from the study are also impressive.

Evidence is presented for the need for a variety of approaches to overcome reduced physical activity and stress.

- **Scientific research and papers related to the creation of didactic technologies for the physical preparation of secondary school students**

The theoretical and applied contributions here are determined by the publications: [D.6.1., D.7.1., D.7.5., D.7.6., D.7.7., D.7.8., D.7.9., D.7.10., D.7.11., D.7.12., D.7.22., D.7.24.].

The theory concerning the physical training of primary school students has been thoroughly researched and enriched.

The components determining physical capacity have been developed with skill and professionalism. The possibilities for its improvement by developing the basic motor qualities have been investigated.

The dynamics of development of the motor skills of primary school students were tracked through appropriate physical ability tests.

The competently presented didactic programs for optimizing motor skills deserve special attention.

- **Scientific research and papers related to the creation of technologies for training university students – future Sports teachers**

The scientific contributions in this thematic area can be assessed through the scientific papers: [D.7.2., D.7.3., D.7.13., D.7.14., D.7.18., D.7.19., D.7.20., D.9.1.].

The main studies in these papers present the methodology developed by the author for mastering water and winter sports with students from the Bachelor degree programme "Pedagogy of Teaching Physical Education".

An innovative didactic technology focused on the training of students - future teachers in skiing has been developed precisely and in depth. New modern tools and methods of training are described.

The author built, experimented and presented a unique option for training university students – future teachers in mastering winderfing. A handbook on winderfing has been competently developed and implemented in practice.

- **Scientific papers related to professional sports**

The scientific contributions in this thematic area can be assessed through the scientific papers: [D.7.4., D.7.15., D.7.16., D.7.17., D.7.21., D.7.23., D.7.25., D.7.26, D.7.27.].

The author placed a special emphasis on the training plan which he had applied in practice for the development of the motor skills of football referees. The effectiveness of the plan for their professional training and its role for their overall practical activity is established.

Special attention is paid to the study and analysis of the physical load of elite football referees and highlighting the importance of the correct reading of the pulsograms during their preparation.

The requirements for the personal qualities and types of training for the successful operation of the "Video assistant referee" have been competently stated. Emphasis is placed on the need for mental resilience to act in extreme conditions and make concrete decisions in football matches.

The analysis of the research activity of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD, shows that it is extremely valuable.

Contributions and citations

The presented summary characteristic and my positive assessment of the quality of the submitted materials by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD for participation in this contest show that there is indisputable evidence related to the candidate's serious **scientific and applied contribution** in the field of methodology of teaching physical education and sports training.

Undoubtedly the presented scientific production is ***the candidate's personal work*** while the co-authored papers have a clearly differentiated contribution.

The analyses of the submitted materials by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD give me the cause to note that ***there is no sign of plagiarism.***

The importance of the scientific production presented by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is once again certified by the numerous citations and that means that his production is well known amidst the colleagues from the same scientific field.

The candidate has submitted a reference for 30 citations: of them, 8 (eight) are in monographs and collective journals with scientific review, 22 (twenty-two) – in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

The Regulations on the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria defined the minimum national requirements for the scientific activity of the candidate for acquiring the academic position of “associate professor”. It becomes clear that assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD not only complies with the requirements but exceeds the minimum national requirements for acquiring the academic position of “associate professor”. He also fulfills all the additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy at PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

The next table presents the minimum number of required points by groups of indexes as well as the number of points that the candidate participates with in the contest.

Group of indexes	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total sum of points:
Minimum number of points for “associate professor”	50	–	100	200 + 60 (additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy)	50 + 20 (additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy)	–	400 + 80 (additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy) = 480
The candidate’s number of points	50	–	100	260	195	10	615

The evidence for the compliance with these requirements is presented in reference № 7 of the list of documents.

4. Assessment of the candidate’s personal contribution

My assessment of the personal contribution to the presented scientific production by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is very high.

I can positively and with conviction make the conclusion that the formulated contributions and the achieved results are fully his contribution.

Assistant professor PhD Martin Vesselinov Margaritov's overall activity proves that he is a successful university lecturer and an accomplished scientist.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

6. Personal impression

I know assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD as a lecturer who follows the contemporary trends in education and creates new ones. As a scientist he adheres to the high scientific standards and his scientific production is a proof for that.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD comply with all the requirements of the *Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria*, the *Regulations* on its implementation, and the respective PU Paisii Hilendarski Regulations for occupying the academic position of "associate professor".

The candidate in the contest has presented a significant number of scientific materials of high quality, published after the materials used for the PhD educational-scientific degree defense and the contest for acquiring the academic position of 'assistant professor'. The candidate's work contains original scientific and applied contributions that have been granted national and international recognition. The candidate's theoretical elaborations have practical applicability and part of the work is closely directed to teaching and education. The scientific and lecturer qualification of assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD is undeniable.

The high results achieved by assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD in the educational and research activity fully comply with the requirements for occupying the academic position of "associate professor".

I will explicitly point out that the candidate in the contest complies with the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy for occupying the academic position of "associate professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching. I have no doubts for plagiarism in the submitted scientific work.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works, presented for the contest, and analyzing their significance and the scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions they contain, I find it justified to give my **positive assessment** and to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty of Pedagogy Council to appoint assistant professor Martin Vesselinov Margaritov, PhD to the academic position of "associate professor" at PU Paisii Hilendarski under professional

field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching (Methodology of Teaching Physical Education and Sports Training).

20.07.2022 г.

Reviewer:

Prof. Vladimira Stefanova Angelova, PhD