

OPINION

By: Asst. Prof. ILIYA ALEKSANDROV VARBANOV, PhD
Member of the Scientific Jury
on the competition for holding “professor” academic position in 7.
Healthcare and sport higher education field, professional direction 7.6
Sport, specialty sport (Basketball), for the needs of the “Basketball,
volleyball, handball” department,
National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski"

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTEST

The contest was announced by publication in the State Gazette, Issue 97 / 13.11.2020, p.84, for applying for the academic position “Professor” in the professional strand 7.6. Sport, specialty sport “Basketball”.

All legal requirements of the Law for Higher Education and the Regulations for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Taking Academic Positions, have been met.

The main motive for announcing the contest is the demand for a leading educator in the “Basketball” discipline, moreover currently there are no Professors in the Section, since five lecturers – of whom two Professors – have retired in the last several years.

The proposal by the Department committee was aligned with the standpoints of the Faculty and the Academic Boards, who supported the request by Department “Basketball, Volleyball, Handball”.

2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

The only contestant who applied for the procedure for the Professor position is Asst.Prof. Tsanko Angelov Tsankov. He was born on 12.11.1963 in Shumen. He was fascinated by the charm of the basketball game back in his early-childhood years, and he has participated in teams of all age groups – from Boys to Men, through the Adolescent Boys National Teams.

In 1982 Tsanko Tsankov was admitted as a regular student to the University of Physical Education and Sports (VIF) “Georgi Dimitrov”. After completing his military service, he started his higher-education study in 1984. During the four-year period (1984-1988) he took part in competitions as a player of the Representative Basketball Team at the University. He graduated, with very good grades, from two VIF University majors: 1. Physical Education and Sports Teacher, and 2. Basketball Training Coach.

Right after his graduation, Ts. Tsankov participated in a competition for Basketball Assistant at the "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball" Department, presenting himself successfully.

Along with this, he started working on a dissertation thesis, which he successfully defended in 2004 and obtained his Doctorate degree. In 2007, Dr. Tsankov became an “Associate Professor”. In 2010 he was elected Head of

Basketball Section at the NSA, which contributed to his development as a good manager.

In 2016, he headed the “Basketball, Volleyball, Handball” Department. That same year, he was elected Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy, as well as a Member of the Academic Board.

He has been on an open-end permanent employment contract since his enrollment in the University, and has 34 years of professional experience in the field, of which 32 years at the National Sports Academy “Vasil Levski” (former VIF “Georgi Dimitrov”).

Prior to his habilitation, Tsanko Tsankov lectured mainly to the Bachelor’s Degree students, and then guided his postgraduate student from the Republic of Turkey, Ilkay Yazarer in the development of his dissertation thesis, successfully defended on 14.12.2016.

Asst.Prof. Tsanko Tsankov, besides his coaching work, which is among the most prominent in his professional experiences, masters his skills and qualifications as a:

- Chairman of the Licensing Commission of the Bulgarian Basketball Federation.
- Member of the Coaching Committee at BFBasketball.
- Member of the BOC Committee of Sports for School and University Students.
- Chief Coordinator of the Basketball Methodological Unit at the “Academic” University Sports Association.
- Member of the Executive Management Board of the Multi-Sports Club of the “Vasil Levski” National Sports Academy.
- President of the NSA basketball club.

As a training coach, he has prestigious sports achievements with “Academic” Sofia as an assistant coach of their men’s basketball team; chief coach of NSA (men and women); numerous times Champion of the student’s basketball league; chief coach of the National Basketball Teams – women-cadets, adolescent women and women under 20 years of age.

In addition, he has been working as the chief coach of the kid’s school at NSA Basketball club since 2000 and at present.

3. TEACHING AND SCIENTIFIC-WORK EXPERIENCE

After his Doctoral habilitation, Asst.Prof. Tsanko Tsankov seriously engaged in his scientific research and development work.

During that period, he wrote 22 publications, of which 7 as a single author, 3 as a first co-author, and in other 12 he is a member of the authors’ collective. In addition, he has 1 publication with each of his supervised Doctoral candidates – total of 2.

Under his guidance, except the dissertational thesis of Ilkay Yazarer from Turkey, the other candidate who has successfully defended his Doctoral thesis in

2018 is Baurzhan Zaurbenkov from Kazakhstan. Apart from them, there is another successful Master's graduate who was supervised by Mr. Tsankov too.

Asst. Prof. Tsanko Tsankov is a long-term lecturer at the "Vasil Levski" NSA. He is a prominent sports educator and psychologist with unmatched sense of humor. He works as a lecturer and leader of coach-training courses at the post-graduate institute at NSA, heads the Basketball discipline in the Master's Degree, and is a member of the editorial boards of the Spanish specialized issue "*Revista observatorio del deporte*" and the Bulgarian one "*Sport and Science*".

Asst. Prof. Tsankov participated in various scientific congresses and conferences, in Bulgaria as well as abroad. In Bulgaria, he is author and rapporteur for: Sofia – NSA and UNWE, Veliko Tarnovo – VTU "St. Cyril and St. Methodius", Shumen – University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin of Preslav".

Internationally, Asst. Prof. Tsankov has published as follows:

- in Chile (publications № № 7, 8, 9), indexed in the Web of Science,
- in Spain (publication № 12),
- in Serbia (publ. № 11),
- in Kazakhstan (publ. № 22).

In Bulgaria his publications are in:

- Trakia Journal of Sciences (№10), indexed in the Web of Science,
- in magazine "*Sport and Science*", NSA – publications № № 14, 15, 16, 18, 21.

- in "*Sport, Stress and Adaptation*", the publications are, respectively, № № 17 and 19.

In Veliko Tarnovo, the publications are № № 20 and 25.

In Shumen, the respective publications are № № 23 and 24.

The rest of the publications are, respectively (not counting the dissertation):

1. The Monograph "Multiyear training of basketball players - Women" is structured in a way that depicts the trends and specific characteristics when building and conducting the yearslong training of basketball players. Great applicable contribution carry the practical methodology advices and models listed there, regarding the education and study of sports training of adolescent female basketball players. This is also a prerequisite for improving the contents of the educational-training curriculum process, and for increasing the efficiency in coaching work.

2. A Tutorial textbook, including a basketball chapter, for the education curricula at the sports schools, in co-authorship with M. Borukova.

3. "Almanac of the Department of Basketball, Volleyball, Handball", in co-authorship with G. Brestnichki for the basketball chapter.

In relation to a similar publication in "Sport and Science" magazine, special edition 2, 2017, there Ts. Tsankov is the sole author, I think that there was not enough attention focused on some of the lecturers, with respect to their sports, pedagogical and scientific achievements.

Asst. Prof. Tsankov has been cited numerous times by graduates, post-graduates and educators, which is a positive testimonial for him. To be more correct, some quotes of those citations could be enclosed.

The participation of Asst. Prof. Tsankov in scientific and educational projects can be listed as follows:

1. Curricula development for sports schools.
2. Technique for training handball players' anticipation abilities by introducing Internet communication, using specialized software and interactive tests.
3. Optimization of the curricula for physical education and sports in the secondary schools.
4. Participation in an international scientific and educational project - Student Practices, in 2013 and in 2018.

In his work, Asst. Prof. Tsankov uses Russian and English languages (written and spoken).

Our recommendations for the candidate's future work would be that, we believe, it is necessary for Asst. Prof. Tsankov to prepare more Bulgarian doctoral students, for the purpose of better professional continuity.

Assoc. Prof. Tsankov manifests himself as a good-hearted person, compassionate, professionally competent, responsible and accurate.

CONCLUSION

All the above reasons convince us that the overall activity and experience of Asst. Prof. Tsanko Tsankov: teaching, sports training and pedagogy, scientific, creative and human, are at top level.

In this context, the contribution of Asst. Prof. Tsanko Angelov Tsankov is undisputed; both for the Department "Basketball, Volleyball, Handball", as well as for the NSA "Vasil Levski" and Bulgarian basketball. Based on the aforementioned grounds, I hereby give my **positive vote**.

I suggest to the Scientific Jury to grant Asst. Prof. Tsanko Angelov Tsankov the academic position "PROFESSOR".

17.02.2021
София

Member of the Jury:
(Asst.Prof. Iliya Aleksandrov Varbanov, PhD)