

# OPINION

on a dissertation presented for the acquisition of the educational and  
scientific degree „PhD”

to the Department of „Physical Education Theory“ at the  
Vasil Levski National Sports Academy

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

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**TOPIC:** *A model for building intercultural competence among students from the  
Vasil Levski National Sports Academy*

**Author of the dissertation:** Alexandra Gencheva-Vasileva

**Scientific adviser:** Assoc. prof. Vesela Slavova, PhD

The problem of enriching the opportunities for improving the personal and professional development of future specialists in the field of physical education and sports is particularly relevant. The significance of the studied problem is determined by the constantly increasing requirements for professional realization and competitiveness of pedagogical specialists. Everything related to improving the educational process, increasing the knowledge and skills of future specialists in the field of physical education and building intercultural communication deserves approval and increased research interest. This is also my point of view from which I will analyze and give my assessment of the ideas and results in the dissertation submitted to me for review.

The dissertation is structured in a book with a volume of 171 pages, of which 140 are the main text, containing 27 tables and 31 figures, 12 pages of used literature, as well as 19 pages of appendices. In terms of structure, the work is built correctly, including an introduction, three main chapters, conclusions, recommendations, contributions, used literature and appendices. In terms of

structure, volume and sequence of the presentation, the proposed dissertation meets the basic requirements for this type of work.

In the introduction to the dissertation, the doctoral student purposefully motivates the need to conduct such a study.

For the preparation of the first chapter in a volume of 47 pages, 114 sources were used, of which 58 in Cyrillic and 56 in Latin. In the first sub-chapter, Alexandra Gencheva-Vasileva introduces us to the essence and characteristics of intercultural competence, models for building intercultural knowledge, skills and competencies, intercultural competence in the European educational space, as well as the European Qualifications Framework and normative documents and regulations. In the second sub-chapter, contemporary pedagogical approaches, principles and models in education are examined in detail. In the third and fourth sub-chapters, the specific characteristics of intercultural education in the context of physical education and sports and good practices for building intercultural competence are presented in detail. In the fifth sub-chapter, a summary of the theoretical foundations for constructing a model for building intercultural competence is made. At the end of the first chapter, the doctoral student has developed a short, clear and well-constructed working hypothesis, which forms the concept of the dissertation.

In the second chapter “Purpose, tasks, methodology and organization of the experimental study”, in its logical sequence in a volume of 36 pages, the purpose and the resulting five main tasks are presented, formulated clearly and precisely and giving a clear idea of the doctoral student's intentions.

The author has described the object, subject and contingent of her research, and the applied research methods allow for an objective analysis towards achieving the goal and objectives of the work. The organization of the research, the tests for sports-pedagogical control and the mathematical-statistical methods are described in detail. At the end of the second chapter, the author's

theoretical pedagogical model for building intercultural competence of students from the National Sports Academy “Vasil Levski” is presented.

In general, the positive aspects of what is written in this chapter relate to the clearly constructed methodological setting of the study, the appropriate and versatile research methodology. The sequence in which the organization and implementation of the experiment are presented and the precisely selected and described in detail tests for control and evaluation of the achieved results are very impressive.

In structural terms, the development of chapter two is scientifically justified and completely satisfactory, and its content contributes to the high value of the dissertation work.

The analysis of the results obtained in chapter three, in a volume of 46 pages, allows us to draw important generalizations for theory and practice. A huge amount of research and analysis work has been done, which in terms of scale fully meets the requirements of a doctoral thesis. The third main chapter consists of two subchapters, each of which is related to the solution of the corresponding research task in the dissertation.

The first subchapter presents in great detail and professionally the results of the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the empirical data from the ascertaining stage of the pedagogical experiment, including the results of the study of students' attitudes towards participation in international projects and events, as well as the results of the factor analysis of the questionnaire on intercultural effectiveness among students. The second subchapter consistently presents the results of the pedagogical observation, the study of intercultural effectiveness, the study of motivational strategies for learning and the study of theoretical knowledge. An analysis of the achieved learning outcomes and satisfaction with the training provided has been carried out. At the end of the third chapter, a summary of the results of the analysis of the effectiveness of the

methodology of intercultural effectiveness of students from the National Sports Academy “Vasil Levski” is made.

The conclusions and recommendations made correspond to and are based on the solution of the research tasks set and arise from the analysis made.

From the extended scientific search, the research and analysis made in this part of the dissertation allow me to point out the following main contributions to practice:

1. The theory regarding the essence and content of intercultural competence has been enriched.
2. A pedagogical model for intercultural competence in the field of higher education in the Bulgarian context has been developed and tested, and an author's methodology for specialized training for the development of intercultural competence has been created.
3. A reliable scale for assessing academic achievements has been created, which can be used in future training and experimental models.
4. Author's survey instruments have been developed, which can be used in future pedagogical research.

In **conclusion**, I would like to note that the peer-reviewed dissertation has been developed at a very good scientific level, with the necessary theoretical and applied value in the field of intercultural competence. The presented dissertation has a completed form.

The in-depth analysis of the results of the tests carried out, the experiment conducted and the results obtained therein, enriching the knowledge and skills of future specialists in the field of physical education, building intercultural communication and increasing the professional competence of sports and pedagogical staff working in the field of physical education and sports, as well as the relevance of the problem chosen for research, give me reason with full conviction to propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury at the National Sports Academy “Vasil Levski” to award the educational and scientific

degree “PhD” to **Alexandra Gencheva-Vasileva** in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ..., doctoral program “Physical Education in the Educational System”.

May 04, 2024

Prepared the opinion:

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