

**PEER REVIEW**  
**of the scientific works and teaching activity of**  
**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska**  
**Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova**  
**Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Information, Qualifications and**  
**Continuing Education Department – Varna**  
**regarding her participation in a competition for the academic position “Professor”**  
**Higher education field 1. “Pedagogical Sciences”,**  
**Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Training in...”**  
**(Methodology of Music Education)**  
**legally published in State Gazette, Issue 35, dated 10.05.2022)**

**1. General presentation of the received materials**

By order of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for a competition for the academic position of “Professor” at the Academy, under Higher education field 1. “Pedagogical Sciences”, Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Training in...” (Methodology of Music Education) for the needs of the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at the Faculty of Musical Pedagogy. The only candidate, who submitted documents for this competition is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska. The presented set of materials on electronic media is in compliance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. All documents and references related to the candidate’s education, educational and scientific degree, scientific title, teaching, research employment and administrative activity are submitted for review, as well as all scientific and scientific-applied production – precisely arranged.

**2. Brief biographical data of the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska completed her secondary education in 1989 with a special subject “Piano” at the Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance – Plovdiv with a gold medal and a Diploma, and in 1993 – her higher education at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. She is a Master-Teacher of music in kindergarten, elementary, middle and upper courses and with additional specialties: Teacher of piano, solfeggio and aesthetics. After graduating (1993-1995), she worked as a piano and solfeggio teacher at the Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance – Plovdiv. From 1995 to 1998, Dr. Kolovska was an honorary teacher of “Methodology of Musical Education” and “Solfeggio” at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, Music Department. Since 1996 she has been a basic music teacher in the Slantse Full-Day Kindergarten – Plovdiv, and from 1997 until 2012 she was a basic music teacher at St. Constantine Cyril the Philosopher Secondary School – Plovdiv, as a senior music

teacher in primary, junior high and high school stages of education. In 2007 she was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty “Methodology of Music Education”, and in 2008 – First Professional Qualification degree at the Information and Teacher Development Department with St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. In the same year, she also successfully completed the professional qualification “Resource Teacher” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Since 2012 she has been a lecturer – Associate Professor of Music Education Methodology at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Faculty of Music Pedagogy. From 2014-2022, Associate Professor Kolovska continued her education and training in: two-day seminar “Early Music Education”; Electronic training (2015); Montessori method training for children from 0 to 6 years; seminar “How to Communicate Science” (2021) and participation in the master class “Intellectual Property in Musical and Performing Arts”. From 2020-2022 she was the Head of the Music Pedagogy and Conducting Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, and since 2022 she has been Deputy Rector for “Education, Accreditation and Rating System” at the Academy.

### **3. General characteristics of the activity of the candidate**

#### ***Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity***

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska has extensive teaching experience – 28 years and 6 months, of which 10 years and 4 months at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv as a full-time teacher. Since 2012 until now, her teaching activity has been related to lectures, seminars and practical exercises, classroom observation, consultations in Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctorate programs of the Faculty of Music Pedagogy. She has implemented scientific guides for the defense of diploma theses of a large number of graduates – 65, as well as 21 reviews of diploma theses of students from the “Pedagogy of Music Education” specialties of the Bachelor’s and Master’s education and qualification degrees. The number of doctoral students whose supervisor is Assoc. Prof. Kolovska is impressive. Out of 10 PhD students, three of whom are foreign citizens, two have already defended and are successfully completing their studies. These are Mariya Ivanova Stoimenova and Zhan Stefanov Pehlivanov.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska is also: Chairman of an expert commission, Member of a working group, Head of a team of lecturers from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Organizer and coordinator of the Academic Commission. She also develops new programs and lecture courses in academic disciplines, which she leads: *History of Musical Education; Methodology of Music Education in Kindergarten; Methodology of Music Education in Secondary School; Methodology of Musical Education*. Dr. Kolovska also successfully provides methodological support and preparation for over 30 students – bachelors, masters and doctoral students for participation in scientific forums. She is the

author and moderator of annual seminars for Master's candidates and doctoral students (foreign citizens), as well as training courses to improve the qualifications of pedagogical specialists in preschool and school education, Academic exchange under the Erasmus program at the University of Oviedo, Spain, 06.11.2021 – 14.11.2021 under the international project “Early Musical Education of 3-year-old Children in Opera”.

The achievements of Assoc. Prof. Ts. Kolovska in the research activity is expressed in 30 participations in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, effective activity in the organization of the educational process, active activity in the performance of official duties, as well as participation in the trade union and public activity of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Her scientific publications in specialized scientific publications, monograph, research projects – international (2021-2023) “Opera and Early Childhood Education: Building European Awareness through Music in Pandemic Times”, Leading partner: Universidad de Oviedo; Opera Education, un prodeto AsLiCo; Opera de Oviedo, Opera Plovdiv, as a member of the team, and participation in 12 national educational projects, 7 of which she is the head of.

Over ten times Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska has participated as a member of a scientific jury on procedures under the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – with reviews and opinions. She is also a reviewer of four books.

Dr. Kolovska develops effective activities, both in the organization of the learning process and in the performance of official duties. She shows initiative and takes on additional tasks, and participates in the trade union and the public activities of Academy. This is a serious and responsible activity undertaken by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska in the educational process and achievements in research activity, for which she deservedly received two awards from the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts –Plovdiv.

The academic pedagogical experience and the **educational and pedagogical activity** of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska fully meet the criteria for occupying the academic position “*Professor*”.

### ***Assessment of scientific and scientific-applied activity***

The scientific research activity of the author is impressive, consisting of one monograph, 29 scientific articles and reports, as well as huge number of citations – 85. The thematic areas in which Assoc. Prof. Kolovska works are: Professional and pedagogical training of future music teachers; Pedagogical practice in music, as an important factor in the professional development of musicians-pedagogues; Methodological foundations, approaches and problems in teaching the disciplines of the methodological cycle; as well as Contemporary challenges, trends and perspectives in music education.

Her scientometric indicators exceed the minimum national requirements.

The monograph presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska: *“New Methods of Musical Education and Upbringing and Their Integration in the Training of Bulgarian Music Teachers”*, consisting of 163 pages, was published in 2022. It deals with an important problem in modern musical education – the new methods of musical education and upbringing in the context of current educational trends of the XXI century.

The topics in the monograph are arranged in a certain logical order. Specific, distinctive characteristics of the competence approach in the preparation of future music pedagogues are outlined. It is the competence approach that opposes the provision of ready-made knowledge and directs learning towards understanding the information received and the ability to apply it. Thus, the implemented model of musical and pedagogical training gives students the opportunity to touch some of the many-sided connections between theory and practice.

A significant place in the monograph is devoted to the proposed professional qualification framework and a comprehensive approach to building a model of the personality of the music teacher, and in connection with this model the author analyzes and highlights the importance of pedagogical practice in the learning process. In the application of the competence model, new work methods, approaches, and behavior patterns are accurately identified, to the greatest extent corresponding to the competence professional profile of the specialist. At the theoretical level, from the position of leading concepts, it logically brings out the main emphasis – it is imperative that the acquisition of the key competences of the XXI century starts from preschool age. A significant place in the monographic work is also devoted to the theoretical concept of the meaning and results of the application of new methods of musical education and upbringing in the professional training of music students. The attempt made for the adapted application of the theoretical achievements of music pedagogy, music theory, psychology and pedagogy to develop a model for stimulating the creativity and creative imagination of students – future music teachers, in the process of their professional training, is particularly valuable, because the proposed model has been tested. It clearly outlines a substantive and procedural aspect.

I can boldly claim that the monograph of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolovska is valuable, with a precise and exact terminological language. I recommend its use in the musical education of future music teachers at all levels of education.

The 29 articles and reports submitted for review, 2 of them published in refereed and indexed world-renowned databases of scientific information (the second one in print) and 27 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals published in edited collective volumes, deal with current topics, concerning the professional and pedagogical training and practice of future music pedagogues, approaches and problems in teaching the disciplines of the Methodical Cycle, as well as challenges, trends and perspectives in modern music education.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska is an established teacher and lecturer who successfully implements innovative activities with students. The handwriting and style of the author in the presented articles is very accurate, with a reasoned methodology and emphasized practical applicability.

### ***Assessment of theoretical and practical contributions***

The theoretical and practical-applied contributions requested by the candidate in the field of Music Education Methodology correspond to the content of the presented publications and citations and generally speak of a very good level of professional reflection. I would like to point out the following contributions as particularly important:

1. Specific, distinctive characteristics of the competence approach in the preparation of music teachers are outlined.
2. A professional qualification framework and a comprehensive approach to the construction of a personality model of the music teacher are proposed, and in this connection the importance of pedagogical practice in the learning process is analyzed and highlighted.
3. An author's theoretical concept of the importance and results of the application of new methods of musical education and upbringing in the professional training of music students is presented.
4. An attempt is made to adapt the theoretical achievements of music pedagogy, music theory, psychology and pedagogy to develop a model for stimulating the creativity and creative imagination of students – future music teachers, in the process of their professional training, as the model is approved.
5. An attempt is made to thoroughly study the dominant factors for acquiring the professional qualification “Music Teacher”, their hierarchy and dynamics in the process of musical and pedagogical training of students.

### ***Citations***

The citations of Assoc. Prof. Tsv. Kolovska, which are not a small number – 85, are very impressive. They are an indicator that testifies to the recognition of the author among the scientific community and the music-pedagogical college.

## **4. Assessment of personal contribution**

What has been presented so far is indicative of the extremely mature professionalism and accumulated sufficient scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical experience for the next step in the career development of Associate Professor Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska. The significance of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the presented works of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska for the competition for “Professor” is indisputable.

**5. Critical remarks and recommendations** – I do not have any.

**6. Personal impressions**

My personal impressions are based on what has been presented for the competition – all documents and references concerning education, educational and scientific degree, scientific title, teaching, research employment, and administrative activity of Assoc. Prof. Tsvetanka Kolovska, as well as all scientific and scientific-applied production, from which I get an idea of her scientific and teaching activities. From them, I come to the conclusion that she always follows modern trends in education, adhering to high scientific criteria, and this makes her a valuable professional.

**7. CONCLUSION**

The materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska meet all requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. She has presented a sufficient number of scientific works published after the defense of the Educational and Qualification degree “Doctor” and the occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor”. The candidate’s works contain original scientific and applied contributions that have received national and international recognition. Her theoretical developments have practical applicability. Some of them have been published in journals and scientific collections of international conferences. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Associate Professor Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska are unquestionable.

The candidate’s professionalism, her view on the problems of musical education, with clarification of the details, as well as her personal position and the current and significant research activity and subject matter, give me full grounds for a positive assessment and the opportunity to propose Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska, who possesses the necessary qualities, to be elected to the academic position of “Professor”. I recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska to the academic position of “Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under Professional field 1.3. “Pedagogy of Training in...” (Methodology of Music Education).

Reviewer:

01.09.2022

(Prof. Dr. Sevdalina Ilieva Dimitrova)