

PEER REVIEW

by

Prof. Yuliya Georgieva Doncheva, Doctor of Sciences

in connection with a competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”,
announced in State Gazette, Issue 35 dated 18.04.2023,
under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”,
specialty “Folk Singing and Methodology of its Teaching”,
for the needs of the Musical Folklore Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore and
Choreography of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

Brief biographical data: The only candidate who participates in the competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Georgieva Petrova-Kirkova, was born in the City of General Toshevo, Dobrich District. She is a graduate of Filip Kutev Secondary Music School in Kotel with specialty in “Rebec and Folk Singing”. From 1994 to 1998, she studied at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in the City of Plovdiv, and received the educational and qualification degree “Bachelor” in the specialty “Folk Ensembles Conducting”. Dr. Kirkova also graduated with postgraduate qualification in “Pedagogy of Music Education” in 1999. She graduated with Master’s degree in two majors – in 2006 “Instrumental Art – Folk Singing” and in 2008 “Instrumental Art – Rebec”. In 2015 Dr. Kirkova received the educational and qualification degree “Doctor” in Musicology and Musical Art. Since 2018, she has been an Associate Professor of “Folk Singing and Teaching Methodology”. Since 2020, she has been the Director of the Language and Specialized Training Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, which is a proof of a highly erudite person, a specialist whom the Rector and the academic management trust. They also rely on her competences to bring the name of the Academy to a much higher level and authority in Bulgaria and abroad.

Teaching experience: Dr. Kirkova teaches the disciplines “Folk Singing” and “Pedagogical Practice”. She also trains students in the “Folklore Arts”, “Folk Ensemble Conducting”, and Pedagogy of Music Education” specialties, as well as at the Language and Specialized Training Department. Its graduates (students and pupils) have participated in numerous national and international competitions, and among them there are laureates of prizes, as well as winners of special and prestigious awards.

Scientific research and creative performances of the candidate: The activity of the candidate and her participation in mentoring and master classes, tours, participations, publication, academic, artistic and creative activities, membership in highly renowned councils and commissions, membership in juries in authoritative contests, etc., is impressive, proving that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Petrova-Kirkova is in demand, recognizable

and valued for her expertise in the field, in which she works, teaches, creates and multiplies her competences.

2. Brief presentation of the materials selected for review according to the various indicators from the scientometric table in the relevant higher education field

Without going into specifics, I will summarize the quantitative data, comparable to the national requirements of the Regulations for implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in relation to the academic position of “Professor”, from the scientometric indicators in field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”:

Group of indicators	Number of points under the Regulations for implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in relation to the academic position of “Professor”	Points realized by the candidate
A	50	50
C	100	100
D	150	205
E	80	115
F	120	190

It is clearly evident that the candidate not only fulfills them, but often exceeds the minimum, showing and proving an indisputable potential for the academic position of “Professor”.

3. Contributions of the habilitation work/leading creative performances

I fully agree with the author’s contributions regarding the main habilitation/monographic work *“Repertoire in Folk Singing Education”*. This is an extremely thorough, well-argued, innovative development, on a subject that no one has dared to research, analyze and develop until now. I agree about the other contributions extracted from/in the monographs, from the scientific publications – reports and articles, as well as in the creative performances, but I would also like to add that she failed to indicate the scientific-applied nature of the academic and artistic creativity, the so-called sustainability in production, efficiency, and practical orientation, with which she works and creates. These are contributions that bring meaning, objectivity, empathy, depth, and purpose to the target group (I would even add that they are in the plural, because it is a fact that it will

be used, now and in the future, by many interested individuals and groups in a diverse plan), which in turn is extremely important to the authority and prosperity of a self-respecting professor, by which other colleagues in the community will be compared and followed.

4. Contributions of the other presented habilitation materials and citations

In the previous item, I summarized, in qualitative indicators, the contributions of her overall academic and creative activity. Regarding the citations, I would like to note here that in Indicator E, out of the required 80 points, she has realized a total of 115 points. Quantitative data shows that she is a followed, significant, and extremely relevant academic scholar and creator.

5. Critical notes and recommendations

Mixed in this item, I would like to appeal to the candidate to strengthen her publication and creative activity outside the borders of Bulgaria, so that it is visible and heard even more, in order to promote Bulgarian science and culture abroad. Writing and presenting in English or in another language, as well as advertising about what is being done in our homeland, will be understood, discovered, and sought after, because it is undoubtedly at a level that we can only be proud of and spread in a sustainable way worldwide!

6. Personal impressions

From the overall scientific and creative production and from the fact that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Petrova-Kirkova is nationally known and recognized, I can say with conviction that with her occupation of the academic position “Professor” she will definitely and unambiguously contribute to the rise of the authority and prosperity of everything, in which she actively participates, mentors, and administers.

7. Conclusion

Based on the above, in a categorical, justified manner, I would like to give my **positive assessment** of the scientific production, the achieved practical results and contributions, as well as the overall appearance of the candidate’s activities. I propose to my colleagues from the esteemed scientific jury, as well as to the members of the Faculty Council, **to vote positively** for the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Georgieva Petrova-Kirkova to the academic position of “Professor” under Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Folk Singing and Methodology of its Teaching”, for the needs of the

Musical Folklore Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

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Prepared by:

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