

## PEER REVIEW

by

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Regarding:

the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Atanasov Kolev with regards to a competition,  
announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv  
for occupation of the academic position “Professor”  
under Higher education field 8 “Arts”  
Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”  
Scientific specialty “Project Management”

Only one candidate participates in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for occupation of the academic position “Professor” in the specialty “Project Management” under Professional field “Theory of Arts”, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Atanasov Kolev, Associate Professor of Project Management at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

For his participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev submitted an application for admission to the competition, a creative autobiography, diplomas, certificates of teaching experience, documents for the necessary qualifications, a table – reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position “Professor”, as well as scientific developments published in various publications, etc.

Vasil Atanasov Kolev graduated with Master’s degree in “Art Management” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv in 2010. Since 2014, he has been an Assistant at the same Academy. In 2018, Kolev successfully defended his doctoral degree on the topic: “*Methodology in Project Management and its Features in Art Organizations*”.

As an educator, he has developed curricula for the disciplines “Project Management”, “Projects and Financing in Art”, “Development and Implementation of Projects”, “Project Financing of Musical and Stage Productions Module”, and “Cultural Tourism”.

In November 2019, he was elected Associate Professor of Project Management under Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”.

Prior to his participation in the current competition, Vasil Kolev produced two monographs. The first one is “Plovdiv – Art Organizations and Their Management Profile”,

co-authored with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Kazashka and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Ruseva, ISBN 978-954-2963-38-7, published by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2018. The second one is the independent monographic work *“Georgi Hristov. To Be a Teacher by Vocation”*, with which he participates in this competition.

The monograph *“Georgi Hristov. To Be a Teacher by Vocation”* was published in 2021 by the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, ISBN 978-954-2963-96-7. It has been reviewed by Prof. Petya Barkalova, Doctor of Philological Sciences, and Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak.

The work presented to the Scientific jury in electronic format is 203 pages long, together with the reviews, and consists of an introduction, five chapters, a congratulatory address, conclusion, reviews, list of literature used, as well as list of Georgi Hristov’s personal archive.

The monographic work is dedicated to Georgi Hristov Anastasov – an honored and head teacher from the City of Sandanski. Regardless of the fact that the research is dedicated to a teacher of Bulgarian language and literature, Vasil Kolev has looked for and found parallel lines between the scientific account of the famous teacher and his scientific endeavors, more specifically the implementation of his large local history project *“Folklore and Ethnography Expedition”*, which can be defined as the culmination of Georgi Hristov’s pedagogical activity.

The overall idea for writing the monograph was formulated by the author Vasil Kolev as an aspiration *“on the basis of the preserved documents and through the eyes of the direct participants in the events to fully and comprehensively present the life and activities of the teacher Georgi Hristov, who gave a part of himself to several generations of students in the period from 1952 to 1988”*. He was later awarded by the State Council of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria with the title *“Honored Teacher”*.

Recently, the scientific development base does not abound in researches about prominent teachers in secondary schools, who played a role in the formation of a number of generations of Bulgarian citizens. This makes the monograph a good source of information about events not only of an educational nature, but also as a chronicle of public and social processes in the Sandanski region.

As specific research methods, Vasil Kolev compiled surveys, with which he interviewed contemporaries of the teacher, and these surveys also have their practical and applied results, such as the discovery of evidence for the enrichment of the collection of the National History Museum with objects discovered and donated to the Museum by students under the guidance of Georgi Hristov and others.

Care has been taken in researching the teacher’s pedigree, his significant publications, and the feedback of others about his educational work. The social situation in Bulgaria in the eighties of the 20th century, as well as the birth of the idea in the teacher of Bulgarian language and literature at the Yane Sandanski Polytechnic High School in

Sandanski, to implement with his students a local history project to study the folklore and ethnography of the Sandanski region, are also outlined.

Vasil Kolev competently describes the implementation of the project and the publicity of its results as publications in the “Pirinsko Delo”, “Uchitelsko Delo”, and “Sandanska Tribuna” issues, as well as in scientific publications cited in detail in the monograph.

There are 41 literary sources used and cited, including regional and central periodicals, local studies, and documents of the European Union. The monograph has a precise statement, lexical concepts, and means of expression suitable for the relevant study. The intonation is not nostalgic; it has a legitimate patriotic and motivating tone. The general scientific and social value of the research lies in the involvement of dozens of names of students, teachers, educators, and personalities from the Sandanski region, who participated in or supported successful projects in order to reveal the roots of Bulgarian self-awareness and affirm national pride and self-esteem.

The monograph is accompanied by a summary that objectively points out the important points of the study. I believe that the author’s reference to the original scientific contributions of the development accurately outlines the qualities of the monograph and the moments that give value to the scientific text.

Among the documents for the competition, Vasil Kolev’s study *“The Yellow School Project. The Quest to Preserve an Infrastructure Project – Part of Bulgarian History”*, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, 2023, ISBN 978-619-7682-29-8, also deserves to be mentioned.

The Yellow School is a building of national importance, a cultural monument, which is currently part of the Fund of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, as the Academy is making efforts to restore the building to a form close to its construction in 1868. Any research, including this, can and should be an engine not only for academic perseverance, but also for the formation of urban energy for the restoration of the building. For this reason, I appreciate the writing of the study about the Yellow School as a useful idea.

In addition to a description and analysis of the processes in their chronology, the text presents interviews with direct participants in the events related to the attraction of additional funds from donations and charitable causes. As the author himself emphasizes, “events supporting the organized activities with evidentiary material and attracting the attention of the public, media, and political figures in support of the preservation and restoration of the Yellow School are presented”.

The topic is important for the Academy and for our scientific community, since the Yellow School is the only building in Bulgaria that was built in 1868 for educational purposes by the Bulgarian diaspora in Plovdiv and functioned until 2017 according to its purpose as an educational building. The documents attached to the study, incl. my

correspondence with national representatives provided by my personal archive and my opportunity to convince them to sign a letter of support to the then acting Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the contribution of many more colleagues from the Academy, gives even more documentation and value to the study.

In the list of scientific developments, with which he participates in this competition for professorship, Vasil Kolev has attached 13 scientific publications. They outline the candidate's professional interests in areas such as the development of artists' skills in creating and managing projects; the development over the years of the scientific conference "Spring Scientific Readings", in which Kolev annually has a significant scientific and organizational presence; the treatment of issues related to projects under national programs for the development of education; the role of internal academic projects in the Academy for the preservation of folklore heritage; the study of project financing in the Academy in the period 2008-2022; the issues dealing with the control of legality in the implementation of projects in small organizations from the public sector, etc.

It is in these publications, of which 11 are independent and 2 are co-authored, that Vasil Kolev defends his competence in the field of project preparation, their importance for the development of the social and scientific environment and, in general, the important characteristics of the project activity for the inclusion of the Bulgarian scientific, educational, and other subjects to the general financial and structural existence of the European Union and the modern world in general. Of great importance is the presence of an article in the renowned Web of Science classifier – a fact that is important both for the author and for the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

The attached documents, which testify to the participation of the candidate Vasil Kolev in five national scientific, educational, and artistic projects, deserve attention – seven international scientific, educational, and artistic projects, and especially the management of five national scientific, educational, and artistic projects described and proposed to the Scientific jury.

In addition, Vasil Kolev is a member of numerous editorial boards of scientific publications – six in number. He also attached a certificate of membership in the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

I accept the proposed table – reference for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Professor", the activities, citations, scientific activity, work with students, etc., reported therein.

As a recommendation to the candidate, I can point out the need to match the page numbers indicated in the content of the monograph with the actual page numbers inside the research, which will facilitate more accurate mention and comment on parts of the text.

In conclusion, I believe that the documents proposed for the competition for occupation of the academic position of "Professor" by the candidate Vasil Kolev are correctly selected. I find them credible and unambiguously and categorically reflecting his teaching activity, his successes in scientific activity as a leader of numerous projects and author of publications with competence in the matter, in which he is applying for a professorship.

I will vote "For" and I would like to propose that the respected members of the Scientific jury also vote in support of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev to be elected to the academic position of "Professor" under Higher education field 8 "Arts", Professional field 8.1 "Theory of Arts", Scientific specialty "Project Management".

Reviewed by:  
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