

Competition for occupation of the position of **“PROFESSOR”**  
under Higher education field 8 “Arts”  
Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”  
Specialty “Project Management”  
Theory of Arts Department  
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

**PEER REVIEW**

by Prof. Antoaneta Angelova Ancheva, Doctor of Arts  
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Member of Scientific jury

Only one candidate participates in the competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” under Higher Education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field: 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, specialty “Project Management” – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Atanasov Kolev. The competition has been announced for the needs of the Theory of Arts Department at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. The announcement was published in State Gazette, Issue 88 dated 20.10.2023 and on the website of the Academy. By Order of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, a Scientific jury was appointed. At the first meeting of the Jury, held on 04.01.2024, in compliance with the legal prescriptions for present and absent participation in the meeting, the Chairman and the reviewers were elected. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev has met the required criteria and minimum requirements. I believe that the competition procedure up to this point is in accordance with the state and university normative requirements regarding the occupation of academic positions.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Atanasov Kolev graduated in 2004 from the Agricultural College Higher School in Plovdiv, majoring in Agrarian Economics with Bachelor’s degree /specialist/, and in 2006 from the Agrarian University in Plovdiv, receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics. In 2010, he received a Master’s degree in Art Management at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. During the period 2014-2018, Assoc. Prof. Kolev was a doctoral student at the Academy in the field of “Project Management”. In 2018, he defended his dissertation on the topic: “*Methodology in Project Management and its Features in Art Organizations*”, for which he was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” under Higher education field 8 “Arts”. From 2014 until 2019, Kolev successively held the position of Assistant at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, after which he was elected Associate Professor by unanimous decision of the Scientific jury.

As the only candidate in the competition, Dr. Vasil Kolev presents publications in an electronic medium, which make it possible to build a real idea of the achievements and qualities of the candidate for the academic position of “Professor”. He takes part in the competition with a scientific production consisting of the monograph *“Georgi Hristov. To Be a Teacher by Vocation”*, edition of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2021, ISBN 978-954-2963-96-7, 203 pages.

The research was done on the basis of documents and interviews, and fully and comprehensively follows the life and activities of the teacher Georgi Hristov with a focus on “the realization of a spectacular three-year local history project “Folklore and Ethnography Expedition”.

Twelve articles and reports published in scientific publications are presented, one of them in a scientific publication referenced in Web of Science, as its subject is related to Plovdiv as the “Cultural Capital of Bulgaria”. It also presents part of the results of an empirical study conducted in the City of Plovdiv, among 105 cultural organizations, the purpose of which is to analyze the management profile of art organizations and their possibilities for developing and managing projects financed by the creative programs of the European Union.

Eleven of the publications were issued in collections of international scientific conferences, readings, etc., held at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Their topic is related to the main field, in which the competition was announced, namely project management, development of business skills in their management, implementation of projects in small organizations, the role of academic projects, managerial responsibility, the methodology and techniques of training project management artists, etc.

Also presented is the study *“The Yellow School Project. The Quest to Preserve an Infrastructure Project – Part of Bulgarian History”*, 2023, /Print: ISBN 978-619-7682-29-8, Online: ISBN 978-619-7682-30-4, 75 pages, 113 pp. with appendix/.

The candidate also submits a list of citations.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev has participated in the realization of a number of projects.

Dr. Vasil Kolev’s scientific publications speak of interests in the field of development, management, implementation, and financing of projects, with an emphasis on cultural policies.

The contributions of Vasil Kolev’s scientific publications are both theoretical and practical. He successfully combines a good theoretical preparation with successful practice in the field of implementation, management, and financial management of projects. Kolev

knows the problems under consideration in detail and shows the ability to draw theoretical conclusions and generalizations.

The contributions concerning the presented habilitation work are of a wide thematic spectrum. The monograph not only presents the work of a folk teacher, but refracted through the author's competences in the field of modern management, makes a relation with his local history project.

Also, in the study presented by the author, a contribution is represented by the collected new data – literary and factual, concerning the preservation of the so-called “Yellow School” as a “successfully implemented investment project, which is part of Bulgarian history”.

The analyzes of the specifics concerning the development of projects from the cultural industries in the City of Plovdiv are also of a contributing nature.

New methods and approaches are proposed for application to a wider range of people, including learners.

A toolkit is developed with the purpose to improve control and financial management based on problem and opportunity analysis, with an emphasis on project management and implementation.

And last but not least in terms of importance is the practical and applied contribution of the research, which would be useful in the education of students in the field of arts, as well as in the implementation of regional and national policies.

The contributions formulated above are the personal merit of the candidate. The habilitation thesis shows the author's attitude to the problem under consideration, provokes discussion and creative thinking, and will influence further research in this direction.

Taking into account everything that has been said, which testifies to a scientific production with original theoretical and applied contributions, and the teaching work, I would like to express my positive assessment that Associate Professor Dr. Vasil Kolev possesses the necessary qualities to occupy the academic position of “Professor” under Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, specialty “Project Management” at the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

15.01.2024

Reviewed by:

(Prof. Antoaneta Angelova Ancheva, Doctor of Arts)