

PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Emiliya Konstantinova

with regards to a competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”
under Higher education field 8 “Arts”
Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”
Specialty “Project Management”
at the Theory of Arts Department at
Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

Information about the competition

Only one candidate – Associate Professor Dr. Vasil Atanasov Kolev, participates in the announced competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” under Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, Specialty “Project Management”. The competition was announced for the needs of the Theory of Arts Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, with an advertisement published in State Gazette, Issue 88 dated 20.10.2023 and on the website of the Academy.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of the academic position of “Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, the candidate has attached all necessary documents, issued works, and scientific publications. The available scientometrics in terms of indicators and points presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev covers the minimum national requirements of the National Center for Information and Documentation, defined by law for the academic position “Professor” in the relevant field.

Brief biographical data and academic growth of the candidate

In the submitted CV of the candidate, it is mentioned that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural College Higher School in Plovdiv. In 2010, he received a Master’s degree in Art Management at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. At the Academy, he successfully defended the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the doctoral program “Musicology and Musical Art” on the following topic: *“Methodology in Project Management and its Features in Art Organizations”* under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” in 2018. Since 2014 until the spring of 2019, he was a lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music,

Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, successively holding the position of Assistant and Chief Assistant. In 2019, after successfully passing a competition, he was appointed to the academic position of “Associate Professor” majoring in “Project Management” under Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”. As a lecturer, he has developed curricula for the disciplines “Project Management”, “Projects and Financing in the Arts”, “Development and Implementation of Projects”, “Project Financing of Musical and Stage Productions Module”, and “Cultural Tourism”.

In the period from 15.01.2020 until 15.03.2020 he received a degree and specialized in Scientific Management at the University of Potsdam, Germany. He is a member of the Union of Scientists and

In connection with the research activity, Assoc. Dr. Kolev participates in various national and international forums. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Kolev is the author and co-author of a number of published articles and reports in specialized scientific publications related to his scientific and applied interests.

As part of his teaching and research activities, Associate Professor Dr. Kolev actively works in a number of national and international projects. Here I will only mention the large-scale international project “Live Skills” (www.live-skills.eu), with Coordinator – the British Council and partner – the National High School of Performing and Screen Arts – Plovdiv. As I was a direct participant in it, I have a broad view of the teamwork with Associate Professor Dr. Kolev. Under the project, the colleague developed the training module “Project Management” in two programs “Art Management” and “Cultural Entrepreneurship”. Similar is the case with the International Project “Night of the Scientists”, financed by the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Programme, where Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev also took an active part for six years in a row.

General characteristics of the presented scientific works

In the documentation for the competition, Associate Professor Dr. Kolev presented a report and an article in co-authorship, published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, as well as 11 reports published in specialized publications in the field of arts. All of them explore the main area, in which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kolev has a scientific and practical interest, namely Project Management and Cultural Policies. In them, the author presents his theoretical knowledge in combination with professional experience from his practice in the field of Project Management.

The included study on the topic “The Yellow School Project” is a research based on documents and interviews about the construction of the Yellow School in Old Plovdiv, its designation as an immovable cultural asset of “national importance”, and the long-term efforts of the academic leadership of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts around the project of its recovery.

The monograph *“Georgi Hristov. To Be a Teacher by Vocation”*, edition of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Plovdiv, 2021, ISBN 978-954-2963-96-7, is presented as the main habilitation thesis. 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 “Expedition of Folklore and Ethnography”. The author draws formal parallels between the teacher’s endeavors and modern project management. Attention is to the personal characteristics and social conditions as a prerequisite for the emergence and implementation of the idea for the project; the publicity of the results with publications in local and national press is reflected.

Contributions of a scientific and applied nature

Vasil Kolev’s scientific publications have both scientific-theoretical and practical-applied contributions.

In the presented study, a contributing point is the collected new factual data concerning the preservation of a national cultural monument through a “successfully implemented investment project”. Specific tools are presented for implementing more effective internal control based on the analysis of problems and opportunities with an emphasis on project management and implementation. Sample projects of Internal rules for preliminary control of legalities, Policies and rules for working with information systems and ensuring information security, which are also of an applied nature in the cultural sector, are developed. The scientific analysis of the possibilities and specifics in the development of projects from the cultural industries in the City of Plovdiv based on the existing cultural diversity is also of a contributing nature, especially for future research as a result of the selection of Plovdiv as the European Capital of Culture.

The contributions of the thesis are applicable to a wider range of scientific fields. The monograph not only presents a complete documentation of the work of a folk teacher, but also the author’s competent point of view on modern management in his local history project.

The practical-applied contributions of the research will definitely be of benefit not

only to students and researchers in the field of arts, but also a basis for guidance in the conduct of cultural policies. They include the teaching approach proposed by Associate Professor Dr. Kolev used in the “LiveSkills” Project funded by the European Commission under the “Erasmus + SSA” Program with participants from four countries as an innovative method that can be applied to more a wide range of learners.

Bearing in mind all of the above, from the candidate’s professional career development, the contributing moments in his scientific research developments and applied aspects, as well as his personal qualities and professional experience, I would like to give my positive assessment and propose to the respected Jury to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Atanasov Kolev for the academic position of “Professor” under Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts” for the needs of the Theory of Arts Department, specialty “Project Management” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

10.02.2024

MEMBER OF THE JURY:

/Prof. Dr. Emiliya Konstantinova/