

Regarding Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor

in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts

Professional Feld 8.1 Theory of Arts

Scientific major Project Management

Department of Fine Arts

AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

## OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. Antoaneta Angelova Ancheva**

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**Member of the Scientific Jury**

Vasil Atanasov Kolev, PhD, is the only applicant in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in area of higher education 8. *Arts*, professional field 8.1 *Theory of Arts*, scientific major *Project Management* –. The competition was announced for the needs of the Department of Fine Arts at AMDFA. The announcement was published in the State Gazette and on the website of the Academy, and a Scientific Jury was appointed with a rector's order. I believe that the competition procedure so far is in accordance with state and university regulations regarding the recruitment for academic positions.

Vasil Atanasov Kolev graduated in 2004 from the College of Agriculture in Plovdiv, majoring in Agricultural Economics, (bachelor-specialist), and in 2006 from University of Agricultural in Plovdiv, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics. In 2010 he obtained a Master's degree in Art Management from AMDFA – Plovdiv. In the period 2014-2018 he was a PhD student of the Academy in the field of Project Management. In 2018 he defended his dissertation on the topic *Methodology in project management and its peculiarities in art-organizations*, for which he was awarded PhD degree in Field of higher education 8. Arts. Since 2014 he has held the position of an assistant at AMDFA -Plovdiv.

As an only candidate in the competition, Vasil Kolev has submitted publications in paper and electronic format, which provide an opportunity to have a real idea of the achievements and qualities of the applicant for the academic position of *Associate Professor*. He takes part in

the competition with scientific production, and the main habilitation thesis is the monograph *Plovdiv – art-organizations and their management profile*, AMDFA, co-authored with Assistant Professor Vesela Kazashka, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Margarita Ruseva, PhD; each of the three co-authors having 119 pages according to a division statement dated 03.12.2018. The candidate has also submitted 6 articles, 2 of which are authored by him alone, and the rest are co-authored. All of them are published in proceedings and editions in our country, and two of them are registered in *Web of Science*. The publications presented for the competition are different from the publications with which Vasil Kolev acquired his PhD degree. The candidate also provides a list of 5 citations. Vasil Kolev has participated in the implementation of seven projects, one of which is international, and in five of them as a project manager. He has developed syllabi for graduate courses in *Project Management*, *Project Development and Implementation*, *Cultural Tourism*, and *Projects and Financing in the Arts* course syllabus for doctoral students.

Vasil Kolev's scholarly publications demonstrate interests in the field of project development, management, implementation and financing, with an emphasis on cultural policies. The main work that he presents *Plovdiv – art-organizations and their management profile* has a good structure that helps to formulate the goals set, the scope of the study, the theoretical basis and the conclusions drawn. The presentation of the key ideas makes it possible to explore the Plovdiv-based art organizations, forms of management, financial and project management. The interest in this research of Vasil Kolev and his two co-authors - Vesela Kazashka, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Margarita Ruseva, PhD, is provoked by the fact that the existing theoretical base regarding the problem of management of art-organizations in the implementation of projects, as well as the difficulties that arise in applying the mechanisms for their organization and management in the cultural and creative industries, is extremely insufficient. As a result of the analyses made, ten research tasks have been formulated, including the systematization of brief information on the development of the art and culture in the city of Plovdiv; a study of the state subsidies for creative projects provided by the Ministry of Culture; presentation of the main normative documents; review of the basic management theories; analysis of the capabilities of the financial system for management and control of funds, etc.

The contributions of Vasil Kolev's scientific publications are both theoretical and practical. He successfully combines good theoretical background with successful project implementation practice. The candidate knows in detail the issues under consideration and

demonstrates the ability to draw theoretical conclusions and generalizations.

The main contributory character of the habilitation thesis is the presented overview of the development of arts in the city of Plovdiv, as a basis for the development and implementation of artistic and scientific projects. A detailed analysis of the state subsidy provided by the Ministry of Culture for the period from 2007 to 2018 has been made. For the first time, an attempt is made to present specific tools in order to improve the control and financial management of the organizations. A methodological toolkit has been developed and approved, which includes an "Expert in-depth interview information card". The latter serves for the study of the management profile of art-organizations and is applicable to research conducted both in Bulgaria and abroad. The specific management profile and peculiarities of 105 art-organizations in Plovdiv in the period 2016-2018 were analyzed for the purposes of the study. The information from the results obtained is extremely useful for organizations dealing in the field of culture. And last but not least, the practical and applied contribution of the research, which could be useful both in educating art students, and in developing regional and national policies.

The contributions formulated above are the personal merit of the applicant. The monograph shows the authors' attitude to the issue, provokes discussion and creative thinking, and I am convinced that it will influence further research in this direction.

In addition to his major monograph work, Vasil Kolev, as we have already mentioned, has published a number of papers, including in the World Scientific Database *Web of Science*, which in turn is an acknowledgment of the level of institutional scientific activity at AMDFA. I am certain that the candidate's publications are very useful both theoretically and practically.

Considering all the above, which testifies to scientific production with original scientific and applied contributions, and the teaching practice of the candidate, I express my positive assessment that Vasil Kolev, PhD, has the necessary qualities to be granted the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the Area of higher education: 8. *Arts*, professional field 8.1 *Theory of Arts*, scientific major *Project Management* at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts *Prof. Assen Diamandiev* – Plovdiv.

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Reviewer:

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