

OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. Tony Shekerdzhieva-Nowak**

AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv

Professional field 8.3 Music and Dance art

Regarding the contributions of the proposed monograph and research activities of **Vasil Atanasov Kolev**, PhD, Assistant Professor at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv for participation in a competition announced in the State Gazette (№40 17.05.2019) for the academic position *Associate Professor*, scientific major *Project Management* at the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts; professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts, in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Application of the ADASRB, and the Statute of AMDFA for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions.

Attached are: detailed professional curriculum vitae, Inventory of author's original scientific contributions related to the applicant's works and citations, statement of the applicant's project and pedagogical activity, statement for meeting the minimum national science-metric requirements in accordance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Regulations for the Application of the ADASRB, amended and supplemented in SG. No. 56 of 6 July 2018, summary of the candidate's overall professional practice, published works, book based on his PhD dissertation, articles and reports published in referenced and indexed in global databases, applicant's participation in international and national scientific projects, as well as his participation in the management, organization and holding of seminars and scientific conferences, in scientific projects outlining the direction of his scientific interests. A summary of the monograph *Plovdiv – art organizations and their management profile*, AMDFA, ISBN-978-954-2963-38-7 with authors Vasil Kolev, Vesela Kazashka and Margarita Ruseva is also submitted.

Vasil Atanasov Kolev, PhD, graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv with a major in Agricultural Economics in 2006 and a Master's Degree from AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev - Plovdiv, specialty **Art Management**, in 2010. In 2018 he defended his dissertation on the topic: **Methodology in project management and its peculiarities in art organizations** and received his Doctorate in professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts. From September 2014 until now he has been an assistant at AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv. The applicant is fluent in English and Russian. As a lecturer he

develops curricula in the disciplines *Project Management, Project Development and Implementation, Cultural Tourism* and a module *Project Financing of Musical and Stage Performances*.

Particularly important to the current competition is the fact that **the applicant meets the minimum science-metric indicators** prescribed by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for occupying the academic position of *Associate Professor* as follows:

Group A indicators - **50 points** required / defended PhD thesis: *Methodology in project management and its peculiarities in art organizations*, Diploma No. 051 / 20.06.2018 /

Group B indicators - 100 points required,

- from **Indicator 3** - Habilitation thesis - published monograph in the relevant scientific field - **100 points** Kolev Vasil, Kazashka Vesela, Ruseva Margarita. *Plovdiv – art-organizations and their management profile*. AMDFA - Plovdiv, 2018, ISBN 978-954-2963-38-7, 378 pages

Group D indicators - **120 points** required,

- from **Indicator 7**, Book published on the basis of a PhD dissertation thesis (Kolev V. *Methodology in project management and its peculiarities in art organizations*. AMDFA - Plovdiv, 2019, ISBN 978-954-2963-40-0) - **75 points**.
- from **Indicator 8**. Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases. Two co-authored papers published in an edition indexed in *Web of Science* - **25 points**.
- from **Indicator 9**. Articles and reports published in specialized editions in the field of arts - 4 articles, two of which are co-authored. – **45 points**.

The total number of points in Group D indicators is 145.

Group E indicators - 40 points required,

- from **Indicator 16** - Citation in a referred and indexed edition, **15 points**,
- from **Indicator 17** - Citation in collective volumes with scientific peer review, 4x10 = 40t.

The total number of points in Group E indicators is 55.

Group F indicators - 50 points are required.

- from **indicator 22**, participation in national scientific projects, 2 x 15 points - **30 points**.
- from **indicator 23**, participation in international scientific projects, **20 points**.
- from **Indicator 24**, management of national scientific projects, 4 x 30 = **120 points**.

The total score of group F indicators is 170 points.

Vasil Kolev, PhD, is a knowledgeable specialist in project management. As an author of a methodology in this field, he promotes the idea that the implementation of project management approach in contemporary art organizations is a must. The new realities of their funding, the reduced government subsidies, and the allocation of funds on a project basis brings to the fore the need for in-depth knowledge and skills in dealing with this still not completely uncovered subject matter – the project development and management of art projects. Specialists such as Vasil Kolev identify and develop competencies for dealing with projects, from the project concept and its definition to the monitoring of its implementation. The presented materials include twelve project proposals prepared with the applicant's participation.

Plovdiv – art-organizations and their management profile is a **monograph** co-authored by Vasil Kolev, PhD, and Vesela Kazashka, PhD, assistants from AMDFA, Prof. Assen Diamandiev and Assoc. Prof. Margarita Ruseva, scientist at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. Published in 2018, the work contains 358 pages, and with a division statement of 03.12.2018 each author has their own 119 pages, with a minimum of 1800 characters per page. The monograph has the following structure: an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, annexes and a references to 201 sources, the monograph examines the management profile and forms of financial and project management of the art organizations registered in Plovdiv. The **aim** of the researchers is to "analyse the peculiarities and status of this specific sector while identifying the difficulties associated with financial management and control, and project implementation, decomposed into ten research tasks." Important points are analysis of the system of financial management and control of funds in the public and private sectors, risk assessment and organizational development; the discovery of the specific regional peculiarities of the creative cultural industries in Plovdiv and the summarized results of the empirical research that determine the practical relevance of the monograph. **Chapter Two**, related to financial management and control in art organizations,

has a theoretical and practical focus. Regulatory documents related to government subsidies, European funds, control bodies and audits at national and European level within the UN are examined in detail, the results of public sector audits are analysed, the main elements of financial management are commented on, while looking for specific gaps in project implementation and proposing solutions for their elimination.

The results of the empirical studies are presented in **Chapter Three** and represent the most significant part of the monograph. The surveys are based on data from the NSI, EUROSTAT and an in-depth questionnaire survey conducted on the basis of 105 valid out of 120 received questionnaires in electronic format. The creative industries and their classification are defined, the cultural and creative industries in the European Union are analysed, and the results are presented in a systematic way in tables and charts. The monograph could be used as a basis for creating an index of creativity, taking into account the specificities of the national statistical system and socio-cultural characteristics. Seven important conclusions, formulated by researchers, related to the analysis of the results obtained can offer a number of short and long-term measures and policies. I accept the theoretical contributions of the monographic work stated by the author Vasil Kolev, PhD, related to his scientific and project activity, as well as his practical and applied contributions and achievements.

Vasil Kolev, PhD, is a member of the editorial board of the *Proceedings of the Spring Scientific Readings 2015*, the Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference on *Science, Education and Innovation in the Arts*, Plovdiv, 12-13.10.2017 and Proceedings of the *Spring Scientific Readings 2018*. He is also a member of the European Network of Researchers - EURAXESS and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

Vasil Kolev has developed curriculums for undergraduate students in: *Project Management, Project Development and Implementation, Cultural Tourism*, and a *Project Financing of Musical and Stage Performances* module.

He has also developing a course curriculum for doctoral students - *Projects and financing in the field of arts*. In conducting lectures and exercises, Vasil Kolev uses interactive methods of work, conducts discussions and presentations on successful real projects, as well as seminars for project development. The modules developed and adapted in the *Art Management* and *Cultural Entrepreneurship* curricula are applicable in secondary arts schools and vocational training centres in Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and the United Kingdom. Vasil Kolev

conducts trainings and approves the curricula at the National High School of Performing and Media Arts - Plovdiv.

My personal impressions of Vasil Kolev, PhD, are related to our common project activities, as well as the organization and holding of the *Spring Scientific Readings* and the International Scientific Conference on *Science, Education and Innovation in the Arts*, Plovdiv, 2017. Vasil Kolev provides exceptional assistance in the overall design of national and international projects, in organizing and conducting hands-on seminars related to business skills development, selection of funding models, knowledge building for policy-making in the field of arts. He is a highly knowledgeable young man who raises the level of the educational process in AMDFA, through his competence and skill.

On the basis of everything mentioned above, in accordance with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I give my positive assessment and propose to the honourable members of the Scientific Jury of the competition for *associate professor* to approve Assist. Vasil Atanasov Kolev, PhD, for the academic position of *associate professor* in professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts, specialty *Project Management* at the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, AMDFA Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv.

Date: August 8, 2019

Prof. Dr. T. Shekerdzhieva-Nowak