

PEER REVIEW
by Prof. Dr. Momchil Lyubenov Georgiev
from Prof. Pancho Vladigerov National Academy of Music – Sofia

with regards to the materials submitted for participation in the competition for occupation
of the academic position **“Professor”**
at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv,
under Higher education field 8 “Arts”,
Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”,
Scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing”

The competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” under Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, Scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing” was announced for the needs of the Choreography Department at the Faculty of Musical Folklore. One candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Stoyanova Kazashka from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

To begin with, I would like to briefly note those moments from the biography of the candidate Vesela Kazashka, which are directly related to the current competition. The candidate completed her higher education degrees at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University, as follows: in 1998 – Master’s degree with the qualification “Teacher of Bulgarian and Russian Languages”; in 2002 – Master’s degree in “Macroeconomics”, with specialization “Organization and Technology of Accounting”, and in 2020 – Master’s degree in the specialty “Management Psychology” with professional qualification “Management Psychologist”. In 2014, she was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” for a defended dissertation on the topic: *“Positive Stigma Towards People with Disabilities”*.

The work experience of Vesela Kazashka is multidirectional in serious positions and almost entirely closely related to education. Since 2016 until now she has been working at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv.

Initially, she was in the position of Head of a Professional Training Center”. In February 2017 Dr. Kazashka acquired the position of “Assistant”, and in 2019 she won the qualification for the position of “Associate Professor”, which she is currently holding. From the presented biographical reference, it is also evident that Kazashka, in addition to many years of experience in the field of higher education, also is an active practitioner in the field of management and project financing, which is of great importance in the teaching work in the declared specialty. In support of the above, I would also like to add my excellent personal impressions of our joint work in the implementation of a project with partners from the British Council, Ireland, Greece, and Romania under the Erasmus+ Program in the period 2016-2020, where she demonstrated efficiency, teamwork, and knowledge of the matter in

the field of creation and implementation of new curricula in the field of management-oriented arts.

The documents and materials submitted by the candidate meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Implementation, as well as the Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. In the evaluation of the competition, one monograph, studies and teaching aid, scientific articles, as well as organizational, scientific, and pedagogical activities and research projects, were taken into account.

In quantitative dimensions, the materials are distributed, as follows:

1. **Scientific publications** – 19 pcs.;
 - Monography – 1 pc. (*“Cultural Policies. Opportunities and Challenges”*, 2022);
 - Study – 1 pc. (*“Motivation for Career Development and Teamwork in Modern Research Infrastructure”*, 2020);
 - Study aid – 1 pc. (*“Inclusive Education – Introduction”*, Plovdiv, 2019);
 - Scientific articles – 16 pcs.;
Incl. independent – 13 pcs.;
2. **Organization and participation in international scientific conferences** – 6 pcs.;
3. **Citations** – 16 pcs.

The candidate participates in the preparation, management, and implementation of numerous national and international projects related to art management and international scientific activity – 6 national, 4 intra-institutional, and 2 international projects. The attracted external financial resources for projects with the candidate’s efforts in the period 2019-2023 for the development of the scientific and research activity at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts and for the popularization of science, culture, and art, amount to BGN 104,749.11.

The reference on the fulfillment of the mandatory minimum national requirements for the field of “Arts” shows that they are fully covered. In terms of additional indicators, Vesela Kazashka has successfully developed many activities, which are particularly concentrated in the last 4 years – teaching activity; member of editorial boards; participation in scientific organizations; participation in the organization, development, and implementation of curricula; management and participation in national and international projects; participation in the management and implementation of seminars and scientific conferences; scientific supervisor of graduates and doctoral students from Bulgaria and abroad.

It is evident from the presented materials that Vesela Kazashka is extremely active and has significant contributions in pedagogical, scientific, and scientific-applied activities and as a specialist in the field of project management. Researches with proven original

scientific and applied contributions and accumulated professional experience have received their recognition and some of them have been placed in international journals and collections. The theoretical developments of the candidate also have practical applicability, and the high results in the educational and research activities correspond to the specific criteria and academic requirements for occupation of the academic position of “Professor” with an application in the scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing”.

Taking into account the presented materials and the assessment of their significance, scientific and applied contributions, and in view of the successful activities in an academic and professional environment, I submit to the respected Scientific jury my highest assessment in support of the candidacy of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Stoyanova Kazashka** for the position to the academic position “Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, Scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing”.

24.01.2024

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Prof. Dr. Momchil Georgiev