

PEER REVIEW

**under a competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor”
under Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”,
Specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing” for the needs of
the Theory of Arts Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography
at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv**

**by Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of
Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv
Member of the Scientific jury**

1. Information about the competition

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”, Specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing”, for the needs of the Theory of Arts Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, was announced in State Gazette, Issue 88/20.10.2023.

I participate in the composition of the Scientific jury, according to Order No ПД-27-199 dated 19.12.2023 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

Upon checking the materials provided for the competition, no violations were established in relation to the procedure.

2. Information about the candidate in the competition

One candidate participates in the current competition for occupation of the academic position “Professor” – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Kazashka. She has submitted the necessary materials and documents, which correspond to the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the acquisition of scientific degrees and the occupation of academic positions in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. The competition is provided with the required number of hours.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Kazashka is an established scientist, researcher, and educator in the academic circles. She has three Master’s degrees from Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University – “Teacher of Bulgarian and Russian Languages” (1998), “Macroeconomics” (2000), and “Management Psychology” (2020), as well as one specialization “Organization and Management of Accounting” (2000). Dr. Kazashka also acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in “Special Pedagogy” in 2014 and the academic position “Associate Professor” under

Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing” in 2019.

The main research interests of Assoc. Prof. Kazashka are in several areas: “Management Psychology of Art Organizations and Scientific Organizations”, “Project Financing and Financial Management of Projects”, “Policies and Programs in the Field of Science and Art”, as well as “Work with Children with Special Educational Needs and Art Therapy Practices”. In these fields, her rich research, scientific, and teaching potential is developed, as evidenced by her teaching activities with students and doctoral students and practice at the Artklas Center for Training, Personal Development and Art Therapy. Dr. Kazashka is also the Head of a department at the Center for Excellence at the Center of Plant Systems Biology and Biotechnology (CBSBB) in Plovdiv, as well as author of more than 25 scientific publications and three books (2019, 2020, 2022).

Associate Professor Dr. Vesela Kazashka has developed an active publishing and public activity, popularizing science and art in the City of Plovdiv by organizing the European Night of Scientists. She is the author of a book and an active member of the editorial board with eight appearances from 2015 until 2023.

Prof. Kazashka’s extremely productive project activity deserves special attention. In the period from 2019 until 2023, among her numerous appearances in this area are several significant international projects financed under the Horizon 2020 National Programme – national projects under the Scientific Research Fund at the Ministry of Education and Culture (over seven), including the International Scientific Conference “Science, Education, and Innovation in the Field of Arts” (2019, 2021, 2023); VII International Scientific Conference “Evolution vs. Revolution or on Development Models”, 2020; internal projects financed by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, providing academic publications in the period 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

In the current competition, the candidate has submitted a production that is respectable in terms of quantity and quality – a monographic work, a list and summaries of publications, a reference to contributions in scientific works and citations, a creative autobiography, including additional information about research, project, and teaching activities. All this reflects the purposeful and meaningful activity of a scientist and educator with achievements in the academic circles, who has proven her professional qualities in her scientific career.

The candidate has developed skills and responsibilities to organize and lead the implementation of research and educational activities resulting from her serious professional training and commitment as a teacher of students in the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in the disciplines “European Cultural Policies”, “Inclusive Education”, “Financial Management”, “Financing of Art Products”, and “Language Culture and Communication”. She is also an author and lecturer of courses for doctoral students.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupation of the academic position

The following are submitted for review on the subject of the competition: 1 a monograph as an independent work *“Cultural Policies. Opportunities and Challenges”*, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2022, 180 pages, the structure and content of which correspond to the requirements for this type of scientific development; 16 articles and reports published in specialized Bulgarian and foreign publications in the field of arts, 13 of which are independent; 1 study as an independent work *“Motivation for Career Development and Teamwork in Modern Research Infrastructure”*, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2020, in a volume of 100 pages; 1 published university textbook, which is used in the educational process of students – *“Inclusive Education – Introduction”*, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv, 2019, 200 pages; rich project activity with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Kazashka as a leader or coordinator.

All materials submitted for review are in the direction of the competition and are actively used in the scientific community, as evidenced by the provided reference for 16 citations, of which 2 are in monographs and 14 in Bulgarian and foreign scientific publications.

The significant scientific, research, and educational activity of the candidate is indisputable proof of her activity both before and after her doctorate and associate degree. The educational and research activity presented by Associate Professor Kazashka for participation in the competition exceeds the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position “Professor”.

Based on research and assessment of the materials submitted for the competition, I accept that they are personal, reliable, and the result of the professional experience and competence of the candidate. The attached reference for the scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions in the works of Associate Professor Dr. Vesela Kazashka actually reflect her overall activity and correspond directly to the direction of the competition.

Conclusion: I can confidently state that in the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Professor”, the candidate Associate Professor Dr. Vesela Kazashka presents a scientific production which, in terms of content and quantity, is current and significant for the fields of science and education. The positive assessment argued in the peer review gives me a reason to recommend to the esteemed Jury to vote for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Stoyanova Kazashka for the academic position “Professor” under Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, Specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing” for the needs of the Theory of Arts Department, Faculty of Musical Folklore and Choreography at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

30.01.2024

City of Plovdiv

/Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kolovska/