

PEER REVIEW

by

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Regarding:

the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Stoyanova Kazashka with regards to a
competition, announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine
Arts – Plovdiv 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”

Only one candidate participates in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv 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”, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Stoyanova Kazashka.

Vesela Kazashka graduated with Master’s degree in the specialty “Teacher of Bulgarian and Russian Languages” at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University in 1998. Two years later, she obtained a second Master’s degree in “Macroeconomics” with a specialization in “Organization and Management of Accounting”, and in 2020 she obtained a third Master’s degree in “Management Psychology”. Kazashka has a doctorate in “Special Pedagogy” from Plovdiv University since 2014. In 2019, she was selected as an Associate Professor at the Theory of Arts Department at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

By Order of the Minister of Education, she became a member of the Permanent Expert Commission for Monitoring, Evaluation and Analysis of the Scientific Research Activity, carried out by universities and scientific research organizations. Dr. Kazashka is also a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Union of Psychologists in Bulgaria, etc.

Currently, Dr. Kazashka teaches five disciplines – “European Cultural Policies”, “Inclusive Education”, “Financial Management and Control”, “Financing of Art Products”, and “Language Culture and Communication”.

In the current competition for occupation of the position of “Professor” of Art Theory with a Scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing”, Associate Professor Vesela Kazashka applied with the monograph *“Cultural Policies*.

Opportunities and Challenges”, issued by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2022, with ISBN 978-954-2963-93-6. The text was reviewed according to the requirements for acquiring monographic status by Prof. Dr. Toni Shekerdzhieva-Novak and Prof. Petya Barkalova, Doctor of Philological Sciences.

The scientific work consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, references, and five appendices, all in a volume of 185 pages, together with the reviews present in the book.

Vesela Kazashka defines the purpose of her research as follows: “to make a theoretical analysis of the normative base related to culture and through empirical research to examine the position of experts in the field of culture”. For this purpose, Kazashka studies the normative base related to culture, examines the specifics of cultural policies, analyzes and evaluates the results, and comments on the basic guidelines for the future development of cultural policies in Bulgaria. The starting point and hypothesis coincide with my view that the normative basis, on which the funding of culture is based, needs a quick change, and the funding should be increased. I would like to add something more – culture as a primary element of national security must be maintained in a good public and social condition in order to be able to achieve both its permanent and global goals.

I find the attached comparative data on the expenditure in the State Administration Department, Cultural Services Sector in the EU countries and Bulgaria’s place in these expenditures; the expenditure as a percentage of the total budgetary expenditure in the sector in the period 2017-2020; the allocated percentage for culture from the GDP in Bulgaria from 2016 to 2020, etc., as an incredibly useful data for the problem.

A summary of the monograph is attached to the competition documents, which accurately tracks the discussion points and current scientific and social highlights of the text.

The documents for the competition contain 16 scientific texts by Vesela Kazashka – articles and reports published in specialized publications in the field of art and science, as well as the study *“Motivation for Career Development and Teamwork in Modern Research Infrastructure”*, Plovdiv, Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, ISBN 978-954-2963-66-0.

Vesela Kazashka also presents to the Scientific jury author’s university textbook *“Inclusive Education – Introduction”*, issued by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2019, ISBN 978-954-2963-53-0. The materials reflect the wide range of scientific interests of the candidate in the competition and definitely testify to her high efficiency, punctuality, and conscientious scientific work during their implementation.

The proposed documentation contains the necessary author references, certificates, evidentiary copies of contracts, as well as the mandatory reference for the

fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position “Professor”, which has been filled out correctly and is evidence of the level reached for participation in the competition.

The attached data about Vesela Kazashka’s participation in international, national, and domestic projects, both as an author of scientific texts and as a leader of a number of forums, are impressive.

In conclusion, I can summarize that the documents and materials presented by the only candidate Vesela Stoyanova Kazashka in the competition for occupation of the academic position of “Professor” under Scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts correspond to the minimum national requirements. I did not establish any plagiarism. The topic of the monograph corresponds to the announced competition.

Given everything noted so far, I give my positive assessment of the scientific, scientific-practical, teaching, and administrative activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesela Kazashka. I will vote “For” her election for the academic position of “Professor” under Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.1 “Theory of Arts”, Scientific specialty “Financial Management and Project Financing” and I would like to recommend to the members of the Scientific jury to do the same.

Prof. Dr. Lyubomir Karadzhov