PEER REVIEW

Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova, PhD
University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy,
professional field 5.7, Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy,

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 8.2, Fine Arts, Artistic Synthesis and Architectures major

This review has been prepared in execution of Rector's Order No. RD-27/26.05.2026, appointing the scientific jury to conduct the selection, and the resolution of the jury's first meeting, held on 05.06.2026.

Vladimir Petrov, Ph.D in Urban Planning, is participating as the sole candidate in the competition for Associate Professor announced in the State Gazette, issue 30/27.03.2026, pursuant to Art. 25 of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBAct), for the needs of the Department of Fine Arts at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv.

1. **Candidate Data** Vladimir Petrov completed his secondary education with honors in 2009 at the Vocational High School of Construction, Architecture and Geodesy, Plovdiv. He graduated from UACEG as a bachelor in urbanism in 2013 and as a master in urbanism in 2015. During his studies, he completed two successful Erasmus student mobility placements, in Paris (2011-2012) and in Vienna (2017). In February 2024, following a successful full-time PhD program at the Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture, UACEG (2016-2019), and a successfully defended PhD dissertation, he was awarded the PhD educational and scientific degree in professional field 5.7, Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, along with a certificate for demonstrated purposefulness, scientific inquiry and contribution to research activity. He's been a member the BNC of ICOMOS since 2018 and of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria since 2019, when he also gained full design capacity. From 2017 to 2019, while still a PhD student, he took an active part as a part-time tutor in the teaching activities of the Departments of Urban Planning and History and Theory of Cultural Heritage at UACEG. From 2021 to the present, he's been a part-time tutor at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Prof. Assen Diamandiev – Plovdiv. From 2013 to 2017, he worked as a specialist, and from 2022 as chief specialist, at NINCH (National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage). From 2020 to 2021, he was chief expert at Plovdiv Municipality, Directorate of Territorial Development. He currently works as a

researcher at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

2. General Description of the Materials Submitted

The materials submitted for the competition reflect wide-ranging research, artistic-creative and teaching activity, and convincingly support the contributions claimed by the candidate:

- Indicator group **A1**: Diploma and certificate for the defended dissertation The Urban Silhouette: Factors and Influences in the Process of Urban Development, for the award of the PhD educational and scientific degree (A1-1)
- Indicator group **B4**: Realized original works in the field of art, 4 in total, including the Memorial to the Members of the 6th Bdin Infantry Division Who Fell in Battle in 1916, near the village of Kozloduytsi, Dobrich Province, realized in 2017 (B4-1); two solo exhibitions realized in 2026 at the Plovdiv Cultural Institute (B4-2, B4-3); and one at the Penyo Penev City Library in Dimitrovgrad (B4-4)
- Indicator group **G7**: Book published on the basis of the defended dissertation for the award of the PhD educational and scientific degree – Urban Metrics, 2026, 220 pp. (G7-1)
- Indicator group **G9**: Articles and papers published in specialized art publications, 3 solo publications: in the AMDFA Yearbook (G9-1) and the proceedings of the ITA National Conference (G9-2), both in Bulgarian, and the proceedings of the VSU international conference (G9-3), in English;
- Indicator group **G14**: Supporting creative presentation or participation in a collective work in the field of art: participation in the exhibition for the interdisciplinary project The Possible Trap, part of the official program of the international festival ONE Architecture Week 2014, with two audiovisual compositions (G14-9);
- Indicator group **D17**: Citations in monographs or peer-reviewed volumes, 8 citations in Bulgarian publications (D17.1-8)
- Indicator group **D19**: 2 reviews of realized original works or creative presentations in specialized art publications (D19-1, D19-2).
- Indicator group **F28**: Leadership of a masterclass, studio or workshop in the field of art: leadership of 3 original creative workshops at UACEG (F28-1), AMDFA (F28-2) and NINCH (F28-3).

The submitted scientometric summary and supporting evidence show that the uniform national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor have been convincingly met, with a total of 550 points against the required 360, covering several types of activity in equal measure: research, artistic-creative, and teaching-methodological.

3. Reflection of the Candidate's Scientific Publications in the Literature (Citations) Data is presented for 8 citations of V. Petrov's works and two reviews of his output in peer-reviewed Bulgarian publications. No citations in foreign publications were found.

4. General Overview of the Candidate's Records. The candidate's overall activity is consistently tied to the cause of cultural heritage: its study, preservation, and integration into contemporary social life. A rich and varied body of design, artistic and expert-methodological work is presented in the field of immovable cultural heritage protection and urban analysis: projects for conservation and restoration work; projects in interior and exterior design, landscaping and 3D visualization of individual sites and urban structures; graphic design and prepress work for books and albums; the development of architectural-artistic projects and participation in projects; and participation in three solo exhibitions and one group exhibition in Plovdiv, Dimitrovgrad, and Sofia.

Through the submitted materials, Vladimir Petrov, PhD, demonstrates an impressive versatility, combined with an underlying integrity across his interests in different fields: research, art, teaching, design, and expert consultancy. His versatile creative potential, developed over the years, has been devotedly and purposefully given over to understanding and championing the cause of immovable cultural heritage in Bulgaria as a dynamic cultural process.

4.1. Research Activity Vladimir Petrov's research and expert activity covers numerous tasks in the study, documentation, and preparation of scientifically grounded proposals for granting immovable cultural property status to architectural and archaeological sites and complexes, and in drawing up protection regimes for them. Since 2013, he has taken part in two research expeditions studying and documenting immovable cultural heritage sites across Bulgaria. I hold in high regard the candidate's demonstrated ability, in his research work, to trace at every level, from the broadly philosophical to the practical, the enduring significance of the topic of cultural heritage and its role in urban development, a cause he has embraced as his own personal research and creative pursuit, in order to achieve a convincingly complete professional outcome. The candidate demonstrates the ability to work through the theoretical and applied dimensions of his chosen topic on multiple levels, within its complex cultural and historical context.

I regard as the candidate's most complete and significant scholarly contribution his construction of an original theoretical-philosophical framework, according to which the urban environment is a complex dialog system in which people and space exist in a continuous cycle of mutual form-shaping. **The book Urban Metrics** (presented under indicator group D7) presents the revised and further developed research underlying the dissertation The Urban Silhouette: Factors and Influences in the Process of Urban Development. Logically structured in three parts, the book presents three sequential levels of research: (1) the theo-

retical-philosophical framework, (2) international policies and standards in the field of urban development, and (3) a methodological approach and toolkit for urban programming. Vladimir Petrov works with a rich and clearly defined conceptual apparatus, and interprets with ease knowledge and methodological tools from various scholarly fields within the complex and topical theme of historical urban development and its contemporary management as a cultural process. The three articles submitted for the competition successfully complement and enrich the concept developed in the book.

4.2. Educational and Academic Activity According to the attached summary, Vladimir Petrov's teaching load at AMDFA over the past academic year stands out for its considerable variety of disciplines: History of Architecture, Architecture and Artistic Synthesis, Computer Design, Computer Animation and Virtual Reality, and 3D Modeling and Animation. This demonstrates significant potential for contributing to the development of the educational process.

4.3. Applied Research and Implementation Activity The results of the candidate's research activity have been effectively applied in his expert and teaching practice, allowing them to be disseminated to the relevant professional communities and levels of governance. A telling example is the specialized research-and-applied workshop titled **Working with Specialized Software for the Aestheticization and Contextual Development of the Architectural Environment 'Urban Metrics'**, held at the leading national institution in the field of cultural heritage (NINCH), which stands as unmistakable recognition of the relevance and practical value of the research-and-applied tools developed by the author.

The candidate applies a similar approach in an original creative workshop with architecture students at UACEG (**E28-1**), further developing and implementing the method he used in creating two original audiovisual compositions for the exhibition of the research project The Possible Trap, which offer a new reading of the urban landscape by translating specific street silhouettes into musical scores.

4.4. Artistic-Creative Activity The candidate's wide-ranging artistic-creative output presented here brings together results spanning monumental sculptural art, architectural-sculptural synthesis and landscape design through to graphic design. Among the original works under **indicator group B4**, I would single out the project Memorial to the Members of the 6th Bdin Infantry Division Who Fell in Battle in 1916, near the village of Kozloduytsi (Dobrich Province), which not only directly contributes to preserving Bulgarian military memory but also, through its conceptual design and semantic coding, convincingly expresses the author's understanding of historical memory and its role in shaping contemporary cultural identity.

5. Evaluation of the Candidate's Personal Contribution. The materials submitted for the competition provide unambiguous documentation of the candidate's stated personal contributions. I regard the submitted book as a significant stage in the ongoing development of its author's wide-ranging interests, concerning the development of historical urban structures and the integration of tangible and intangible cultural heritage into contemporary urban development, from the philosophical understanding of the urban process to the construction of a contemporary toolkit for managing the city.

6. Critical Remarks I have no critical remarks. I hold the candidate's achievements to date in high regard. I'm convinced it's important for him to make a focused effort to publish his existing and future research results in journals with recognized impact (impact factor), so that his findings become visible and useful within the international scholarly conversation. This would contribute to a fully deserved wider role for the author in developing the concept of managing historic cities as evolving living cultural heritage, one with a key part to play in securing humanity's future.

7. Personal Impressions I've known Vladimir Petrov since he entered the bachelor's program in Urban Planning at the Faculty of Architecture, UACEG, in 2009. Over nearly two decades, I've had the chance to work with him as his tutor, as supervisor of his thesis in the master's program in Urban Planning, and as scientific advisor for his PhD studies at UACEG. I've watched with satisfaction over the years as he grew steadily into an erudite professional, a creative personality, and a researcher with unflagging scholarly curiosity. I greatly value his sense of purpose, his creative approach, his professional confidence, and his ability to see in every undertaking an opportunity for fresh understanding, further development, expansion, and the sharing of experience, knowledge and heuristic ideas.

8. Conclusion. With the materials submitted for the competition, the candidate meets and significantly exceeds the minimum requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and its Implementing Regulations for the academic position of Associate Professor in field 8. The submitted materials stand as convincing evidence of their author's substantial personal contribution. As a key contribution of the candidate, I would single out the integrated approach he has achieved, one that brings together research, creative and pedagogical results.

Based on everything set out above, I confidently propose to the scientific jury that Vladimir Petrov, PhD, be elected Associate Professor in professional field 8.2, Fine Arts, Artistic Synthesis and Architecture major.

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova, PhD

07.08.2026