

PEER REVIEW

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Todorka Malcheva Ivanova**

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Member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No ПД-27-054/24.09.2019 of the Rector of the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv

under a competition for occupation of the academic position “**Associate Professor**” Higher education field **8. Arts**, Professional field **8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (Ethnomusicology)**, at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv, announced in **State Gazette, Issue 59/26.07.2019**

I. Details of the competition procedure

Only one candidate – **Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Iliycheva Mikova**, participates in the competition for the occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” for the needs of the “Musical Folklore” Department at the Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv. All the necessary documents are presented, which confirm that the candidate undoubtedly fulfills the conditions under the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

II. Professional and biographical data on the candidate

The candidate for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” at AMTI Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv under: Higher Education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts” (Ethnomusicology) Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Iliycheva Mikova was born in 1977.

Education and academic titles:

Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Iliycheva Mikova completed her higher education in 2000 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts with professional qualification “Head of Folk Groups” and “Performing Arts” – Bachelor’s degree. In 2001 she graduated with a Master’s degree under specialty “Ethnomusicology” and completed postgraduate retraining in “Pedagogy of Music Education”. In 2015 she successfully defended her dissertation work on the topic: “*Traditional Practices and Music of the Ethnic Communities in the City of Plovdiv*”, as a result of which she received a “Doctor” degree. From 2003 until 2010 Dr. Mikova was a part-time lecturer at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in the specialties: “Musical Folklore”, “Collection and Decoding of Musical Folklore”, “Music Theory” and “Bulgarian Folk Music”. From 2010 until 2017 she worked as an Assistant, and from 2017 until today – as a Chief Assistant in the same higher education institution.

Scientific interests:

The scientific interests of Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Iliycheva Mikova are in the following fields: Musical folklore – collection and decoding, history of folk art, theory of music and Bulgarian ethnography.

Teaching and educational activities:

From 2000 until 2003 Dr. Z. Mikova worked as a music teacher at a Private Music School in Plovdiv and from 2001 until 2004 she worked as a music teacher and vocalist at the Erika Folklore Formation. From 2003 up to today Dr. Z. Mikova teaches the subjects

“Musical Folklore”, “History of Folk Performing Arts”, “Bulgarian Folk Music”, “Bulgarian Ethnography”, “Collection and Decoding of Musical Folklore”, “Theory of Musical Elements” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Artistic and creative activity:

1. Concerts, shows and performances with authentic costumes and performances by students: “*Proletni Tsvetya*” /*Spring Flowers*/, “*Ruchenitsa*”, “*Ludi-Mladi*” /*Crazy Youth*/, etc.
2. Organizer of the annual “*Martenitsa*” exhibitions.

III. General description of the materials submitted for the competition

In the competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” the candidate participates with production in the following directions:

I. Scientific production:

- I.1. Monograph – 1 pc.
- I.2. Articles after doctoral dissertation – 9 pcs.

II. Artistic and creative production:

- II.1. Annual “*Martenitsa*” exhibitions;
- II.2. Concerts, shows and performances with authentic costumes and performances by students;
- II.3. Participation in a jury in national competitions and forums.
- II.4. Organization and implementation of fieldwork with students as a manifestation of educational creativity.

III. Manager of Project:

“The Unknown” Cultural Seminar at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv – 2016 and 2018 г.

IV. Presentation of the scientific production

The monographic work of Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Mikova “*Milkovitsa – History, Ethnography and Culture*” impresses with the extensive fieldwork regarding the ethnographic and cultural and historical heritage of the village of Milkovitsa. In this discourse, the emphasis in the monographic research is on the collection and documentation of traditional practices in the settlement and the analysis of archival documents and scientific literature.

The area of reflection in Chapter One is the detailed study of geographical, historical and demographic information related to the origin of the settlement on the basis of archival materials, research texts and stories of informants. On this basis, the author also provides information on ethnicity, ambivalent self-awareness and migration processes in the local population.

The subject of Chapter Two is the holiday calendar, traditional practices and family rituals in the village. Their substantive presentation is the result of a variety of research approaches, such as observation, comparative method, historical and biographical approach. The calendar rituals are considered in their entirety: winter, spring, summer and autumn holidays. In the process of elaboration of these traditional rituals, a comparative characteristic with the traditional practices of the neighboring Balkan countries and other Bulgarian regions is realized. In the description of family rituals (birth, wedding, death), attention is drawn to distinctive rituals such as “*Pomana*”, “*Pomana Prizhive*”, “*Razlivane na voda*” /*Water spilling*/ and local traditional games.

Chapter Three, dedicated to music and dance culture, outlines the special place of the brass orchestra in the village, as well as the Diko Iliev round dance at all local holidays. Attention is also drawn to other diverse compositions – vocal, folk, instrumental, dance. Local instrumental tunes are analyzed. Under the influence of personal observations, the author describes the dance performances in the village. Local traditional men’s and women’s clothing, richly documented with various photographs, is presented in detail.

The professionally deciphered instrumental and song examples from the village of Milkovitsa have a prominent presence in the appendices.

V. Publications included in the competition

The candidate for the competition submitted nine publications beyond the scope of her doctoral dissertation, with which she participates in the Yearbook of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Spring Scientific Readings, scientific conferences and seminars. Three of them are in the thematic direction of the attached monograph. The other six are in the field of Bulgarian folklore heritage, as well as in the field of folklore creativity of ethnic minorities in Bulgaria.

VI. Artistic and creative activity

The emphasis in the artistic and creative activity of the candidate is the abovementioned concerts, shows and performances with authentic costumes and performances by students, as well as the annually organized “Martenitsa” exhibitions.

Conclusion

The proposed scientific and artistic production under the announced competition for “Associate Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – City of Plovdiv highlights the following major contributions of the candidate:

1. A meaningful first field research of the village of Milkovitsa is carried out, which results in a comprehensive description of the history, ethnography and culture of the village.
2. The monograph also includes valuable pieces of evidence.
3. Through the in-depth observation, a comparative characteristic with the folklore culture of the neighboring Balkan countries and other Bulgarian regions is drawn up during the research process.
4. Song and instrumental folklore from the village of Milkovitsa is decoded in detail – evidence of the necessary musical qualification.

On the basis of the realized presentation, I believe that the candidate for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Mikova fully complies with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. In view of this, my assessment for the occupation of the so-called academic position by Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Mikova is **POSITIVE**.

The offered scientific work, the achieved scientific results, the contribution moments and the teaching activity give me reason to recommend to the honorable Scientific jury to give a **POSITIVE ASSESSMENT** and to propose to the Faculty Board of the Musical Folklore and Choreography Faculty at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts to select the candidate Chief Assistant Dr. Zoya Iliycheva Mikova for “Associate Professor” under Higher education field 8. Arts, Professional field 8.3. “Music and Dance Arts” (Ethnomusicology).

01.11.2019
City of Shumen

Author of the peer review:
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