

## **OPINION**

by Prof. DSc Laura Ivanova Dimitrova  
on the materials submitted for participation in a competition  
for the academic position of “Associate Professor”  
at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”

in: field of higher education 8. Arts  
professional field 8. 2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography)

In the competition for “associate professor”, that has been announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of 11. 04. 2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski“, Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov is participating as the only candidate.

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate**

The competition for “associate professor“ in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8. 2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography) for the needs of the Department of “Aesthetic Education” at the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” has been announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of 11. 04. 2025 and on the website of the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

By order of the rector No. RD-22-1330 of 10. 06. 2025 of the Plovdiv University “Paisiy Hilendarski”, the scientific jury has been determined.

All requirements of the competition procedure have been met.

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov is participating as the only candidate in the competition.

In 1997, Nikolay Radulov graduated in “Technology of Mining Production” from the Technical School of Mining Industry, Panagyurishte.

In 2008, he received a bachelor's degree, and in 2010, a master's degree in “Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education” from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv.

In 2015, he became a PhD at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

From 05. 02. 2012 to 01. 01. 2018 he worked as a computer prepress operator, article writer and photojournalist at “Paradox” company, Sofia.

In the period 2015 – 2016 he was a part-time lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

From 2018 up to now he has been working at “Oborishte” company, Panagyurishte.

From 2018 up to now he has been the manager of “Vreme 2001” company, Panagyurishte.

From 2022 to the present, he has been a part-time lecturer at the “Paisii Hilendarski” University, Faculty of Pedagogy, Department of “Aesthetic Education”, where he has been teaching the disciplines “Fundamentals of Graphic Design”, “Design of Periodicals”, “Graphic Design and Advertising”, “Artistic Photography”, “Computer Applications in Graphic Design”, “Methodology of Fine Arts Education”, “Composition”, “Anatomy for Artists”.

He is a member of the Society of Plovdiv Artists.

He presented two solo exhibitions in 2010, respectively “Painting” at the “Boviel” Gallery, Plovdiv and “Painting, Drawing, Sculpture” in Panagyurishte.

He is the author of the project dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Panagyurishte Colonies, for which he realized a single-figure composition in marble in 2011.

He has participated in numerous events in the field of art in the country and abroad and he has published scientific articles in the field of art.

He is the winner of two awards: in 2013 – “Creator of the Year” of the Municipality of Panagyurishte; and in 2022 – First Prize for the video for the song “Bicycle” in the category “Best Video Production” at the International Music Competition “The Voice of Aphrodite”, Cyprus 2022.

## **2. General characteristics of the candidate’s activities**

The documents submitted by the candidate in this competition meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations of the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”.

In his habilitation work, Nikolay Radulov has included the monographs “The Portrait – from Painting to Photography”, University Publishing House “Paisii Hilendarski”, Plovdiv, 2025, ISBN 978-619-281-043-6. 176 pp.; “The Technique of Watercolor. New Approaches in Fine Art Education at the University”, University Publishing House “Paisii Hilendarski”, Plovdiv, 2024,

ISBN 978-619-281-001-6, 172 pp. and with the article “New Approaches to Teaching Watercolor Techniques to Students in Pedagogical and Creative University Programs”, “Pedagogy” magazine, the article is in a process of being printed.

In the monograph „The Portrait – from Painting to Photography“, the author emphasizes current issues related to the genre of portrait in painting and photography. He pays special attention to the “strong connection” between the two visual arts precisely in the portrait genre. He analyzes modern digital tools as a source for working in the field of the respective genre in both painting and photography.

The monograph “The Technique of Watercolor. New Approaches in Fine Art Education at the University”, examines issues related to teaching watercolor technique in the conditions of training in pedagogical programs such as “Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education”, “Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy” and the creative program “Graphic Design with Advertising”.

A historical review and analysis of the development of the watercolor technique has been made in order to discover and define its “key” features. A connection has been made between the traditions and innovations in the visual arts with regard to the watercolor technique.

The article “New Approaches to Teaching Watercolor Technique to Students in Pedagogical and Creative University Programs” is dedicated to the need of introducing new approaches to teaching watercolor technique in pedagogical programs such as “Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education”, “Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy” and the creative program “Graphic Design with Advertising”.

By examining the dynamic information environment and the rapidly developing digital technologies, the author highlights the need for innovations in university education and proposes a new methodological scheme based on the idea of the so-called “mixed reality” – the use of educational videos, with author N. Radulov, is introduced into student education, with included teaching materials that meet the requirements of the curriculum in the relevant programs.

The candidate in the competition has presented a list of a sufficient number of lectures, master class workshops, scientific publications and artistic and creative performances that took place after the defense of his dissertation in 2015: lectures and master classes outside the Plovdiv University “P. Hilendarski” – 4; participation in an international scientific conference – 1; artistic and creative performances – 14.

The candidate's work contains original scientific and artistic contributions. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, being directly related to the academic work.

The scientific and teaching qualifications of Nikolay Radulov are unquestionable.

His monograph "The Technique of Watercolor. New Approaches in Fine Art Education at the University" is cited in the "Terminological Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Arts" with authors: Maria Popova, Borislav Popov, Ekaterina Petkova, etc., Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Bulgarian Language, Sofia, 2025.

Numerous reviews have been published about his work (14).

The candidate meets the requirements of the NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION (NACID) for the academic position of associate professor, as well as the additional requirements of the Paisii Hilendarski University.

I completely agree with the contributions mentioned by Nikolay Radulov, which I consider to be directly related to the disciplines he teaches.

### **3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

None.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Nikolay Radulov meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the same law and the relevant Regulations of the University of Paisiy Hilendarski.

The candidate in the competition has presented a sufficient number of scientific works and artistic and creative performances that have taken place after the defense of his dissertation.

The candidate's works contain original scientific, artistic, creative and practice orientated contributions.

His theoretical developments have practical applicability and are directly oriented towards academic work.

The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Nikolay Radulov are unquestionable.

The results that have been achieved by him in academic, artistic, creative and scientific research activities correspond to the minimum requirements of NACID and to the additional

requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Plovdiv University “Paisiy Hilendarski”, adopted in connection with the Regulations of the University for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After analyzing the materials and the scientific works that have been presented in the competition and taking into account the significance and the scientific, artistic, creative and the practically orientated contributions contained in them, I am giving my positive assessment and I am recommending to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, for the election of Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov to the academic position of “associate professor” at the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” in: field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8. 2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography).

18. 07. 2025

Author of the opinion:

Prof. DSc Laura Dimitrova