

OPINION

by Prof. Daniela todorova Markova, PhD – Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

on the papers submitted for the **Associate Professor** competition
at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

in: University Education Area 8. Arts,

Professional Field: 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography)

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov participated as the only applicant in the competition for Associate Professor announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 from April 11, 2025 and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

Pursuant to Order ПД – 22 – 1330 by the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (PU) from June 10, 2025 and Report No. ПД -21-1256/10.06.2025 by the Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy, in accordance with Article 4 (3) of the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria Act, Article 2 (2), Article 57 (2) of the Regulations for Implementation of the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria Act and Article 68 (2) of the Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Plovdiv, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the Associate Professor academic position of the University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography), announced for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The set of materials on electronic media complies with the Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Plovdiv and with the Academic Staff Development in Republic of Bulgaria Act. It includes administrative documents and documents evidencing the applicant's scientific research and artistic creative activity. A standard letter of application for admission to participate in the competition; a curriculum vitae in European format; a university education diploma for acquired Master educational and qualification degree (Master of Fine Arts Teacher); a diploma for Doctor educational and scientific degree; a list of scientific papers; copies of scientific papers; a list of citations; a certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements; an annotation of the papers under Article 65 of the Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Plovdiv (in Bulgarian and a foreign language); self-assessment of contributions; a declaration of genuinity and authenticity of the attached documents; a certificate of work experience; documents evidencing academic work; documents evidencing scientific research work; documents relating to artistic creative activity; documents in accordance with the additional requirements of the Faculty of

Pedagogy and other documents (honorary certificate for being acknowledged with Creator of the Year award) have been submitted to the rector.

His application has been supported with the statutory required hours of lectures and exercises which are evident from the summary report on the academic work for the last three academic years in which the applicant was a part-time teacher at the Faculty of Pedagogy. The subjects lectured by him are mainly in the 8.2. Fine Arts scientific area.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

Dr. Nikolay Radulov's curriculum vitae shows paramount experience in the field of the announced competition. He works in the area of graphic design and photography and his main activities are graphic design, pre-press preparation, photos shooting and digital processing, video editing, working with information media, developing and implementing strategies for promoting publishing and advertising. He has been manager of Vreme 2001 publishing and advertising company. In 2008, he completed his bachelor's degree in Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education within which he studied Painting, Sculpture, Graphics, Methodology of Fine Arts Education, Computer Design, Photography at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. Dr. Radulov also graduated from the Master's program Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2010. Later in 2015, he defended his PhD thesis on topic *Watercolor Technique and Professional Training of Students in the Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education Major* and received a PhD educational and scientific degree under the Methodology of Fine Arts Education PhD program in 1.3. Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education professional area. Dr. N. Radulov worked as a part-time lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in 2015–2016 and has been a part-time lecturer at the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Sofia since 2022. His education, work experience and experience in graphic design and photography, as well as teaching experience form a good foundation for the applicant's professional development.

Dr. Nikolay Radulov participated in the associate professor competition with 3 published papers: two monographs: *The Watercolor Technique. New Approaches in Teaching Fine Arts at the University*, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2025, ISBN 978-619-281-043-6 of 176 pages; 2. *The Portrait – from Painting to Photography*, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2025, ISBN 978-619-281-001-6 of 172 pages and one article currently being printed in the Pedagogy journal from 2025 titled *New Approaches to Teaching Watercolor Techniques to Students in Pedagogical and Creative Majors*. It is evident that the issues are specific to the scientific major and are versatile at the same time. Topics related to painting, watercolor technique, photography, graphic design, innovative teaching approaches are treated.

In his main research paper, namely the monograph dedicated to the portrait, Dr. Nikolay Radulov takes a direction that is determined by his personal interests and creative pursuits. His experience as an artist and photographer is an advantage which enables him to examine the issues from the inside, but not from a distance as an outside observer. In this way, the impartiality of the researcher is enriched by the experiences of the artist. The author reveals aspects with different meanings in the complex relationship model - artist (photographer) - viewer. The issues concerning shape, purpose, means of expression, styles, emotional impact, interpretation and manifestations of the portrait as a movement from the repetition of the visible to the revelation of the invisible are examined in depth.

The concept of his research is a result from the preferences of Nikolay Radulov, himself working in the portrait genre. In his creative work, he has created both pictorial and photographic portraits and has been faced with the questions and issues to which he tries to give an answer through his monographic paper. The practice of painting and artistic photography is a good foundation for tracing the proximity between the two kinds of art. Considering that contemporary fine art alters the traditional idea of art and the boundaries between types and genres are expanding, the search is logically directed towards new artistic shapes, means of expression and technologies. These changes confirm the relevance of the problem under consideration of the relationship between painting and photography and the creation of a photographic portrait based on the painting building principles.

The scientific research conducted by Nikolay Radulov in the monograph *The Watercolor Technique. New Approaches in Teaching Fine Arts at the University* is not limited to tracing the historical development of the technique, but opens up other directions of scientific research such as interactive teaching methods; application of multimedia; the concept of “mixed reality” is submitted; the issue of “mixed reality” and academic education is considered. The emphasis is placed on the application of educational video clips as a means of visualization in the education of students in creative majors. A system of visual tasks is proposed, taking into account the differences in the curricula of individual majors, including *Pedagogy of Fine Art Education, Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy, Graphic Design with Advertising*. The tasks contain options that are of lesser or greater complexity, making them suitable for applying an individual approach according to the requirements in different majors and various courses.

His scientific interests coincide with the competition field. The quantitative dimensions of the scientific production meet the relevant administrative requirements for participation in the competition. The scientific research activity exceeds the minimum national requirements (a total of 1,385 points of the current minimum national requirements for holding the Associate Professor academic position).

The applicant has classroom and extracurricular employment in various majors at the Faculty of Pedagogy, including at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. He participates in activities related to organizing student exhibitions. Citations and reviews of implemented author's products are

indicated. The artistic and creative activity of N. Radulov is also impressive which shows transcendent interests in painting and photography. My personal impressions of Dr. Nikolay Radulov are related to the scientific management of his dissertation paper and to our collegial relations subsequently - I would note his responsibility, analytical qualities and abilities to conduct in-depth scientific research.

The applicant's works contain original scientific and applicable **contributions**. The methodological approaches proposed by N. Radulov in both monographs would help students to achieve better results. His scientific papers are directly oriented towards scientific and educational work. They have scientific value and convincingly defend the contribution of Dr. N. Radulov in the professional field. The formulated contributions and obtained results are the personal merit of Dr. Nikolay Radulov and I have no doubt about the authorship of the submitted works.

CONCLUSION

The materials submitted for an opinion **meet** all the requirements set forth in the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Plovdiv. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov are well defended in this current competition.

Having reviewed the materials and scientific papers submitted in the competition and having analyzed their significance and the scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive evaluation and recommend to the Scientific Board to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov to the academic position of Associate Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the University Education Area 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography).**

July 10, 2025

Plovdiv

Prepared by:

(signature)

Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD