

STATEMENT

from

Assoc. Prof. Emil Georgiev Delinov, PhD,
Department of Cybersecurity
Faculty of Digital and Green Technologies
Trakia University, Stara Zagora
(PF 4.6. Informatics and computer sciences)

for

dissertation on a topic
"A Computational Framework for Cross-Modal Art Translation"

with author Viktor Plamenov Matanski

for awarding the educational and scientific degree **"Doctor"**

Scientific Area: 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics,
Professional Field: 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science,
Doctoral Programme: Informatics

This opinion has been prepared and submitted pursuant to Order No. ПД-22-1414 of 17 July 2026 issued by the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", as well as pursuant to the decision of the scientific jury adopted at its first meeting on 21 July 2026, according to which I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury responsible for preparing an opinion within the procedure for the defence of the dissertation entitled "A Computational Framework for Cross-Modal Art Translation" for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD). The author of the dissertation is Viktor Plamenov Matanski, an independent doctoral candidate at the Department of Computer Technologies, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", under the supervision of Prof. Anton Iliev Iliev, PhD, and Prof. Todorka Zhivkova Terzieva, PhD.

General Description of the Submitted Materials.

As a member of the scientific jury, I have received a set of materials in electronic format in accordance with Art. 36, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski".

The submitted documents contain information from which it may be concluded that the doctoral candidate, Viktor Plamenov Matanski, possesses in-depth knowledge and extensive experience in the field of computer science and software development. In 2013, he obtained a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at the University of Plovdiv, followed in 2014 by a Master's degree from the same university. His respective degree programmes were Informatics and Software Engineering. Throughout his professional career, from 2009 to the present, he has worked in the same field. He has more than 15 years of experience in software development and more than 7 years of teaching experience as an assistant lecturer in computer science.

Relevance of the Topic, Knowledge of the Research Problem, and Appropriateness of the Aims and Objectives. The topic of the dissertation is relevant and has potential for future applications and further research both in the field of multimodal models and in the fields of art and cultural heritage. The submitted documents provide grounds for concluding that the doctoral candidate has an in-depth understanding of the research problem. This is evidenced by the review and analysis of 250 literature sources, the developed ontology for cross-modal art, the architectural specification of a multi-agent system for artistic translation, the publicly accessible prototype, as well as the motivation presented and the ideas for future development. The aim and objectives are defined on pp. 21–23 of the dissertation, pp. 5–7 of the Bulgarian-language abstract, and pp. 5–6 of its English-language version. They are clearly formulated and correspond to the subject and scope of the research.

Research Methodology. The methodological framework of the research, its scope, object and subject, as well as the related research questions, are described in detail on pp. 20–23 of the dissertation.

Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation. The dissertation comprises 197 pages and consists of an introduction, seven chapters, and a conclusion. The literature

used is up to date and appropriately selected in accordance with the nature of the research.

In my opinion, the dissertation is logically and consistently structured and presents the individual stages and development of the research.

The introduction discusses the relevance of the topic and clearly formulates the aim and objectives of the dissertation. Chapter One presents an overview of the state of the art. Chapter Two sets out the fundamental principles of the framework and its formal specification. Chapter Three presents the knowledge layer, while Chapter Four describes the multi-agent architecture with its five agent roles. Chapter Five focuses on the implementation of a working prototype. Chapter Six is devoted to the evaluation methodology and the results obtained, while Chapter Seven presents their discussion, the limitations of the research, and directions for future work.

The dissertation abstract summarises the content and results of the dissertation and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements.

The contributions of the dissertation are formulated in the author's statement on p. 173 of the dissertation and summarised on pp. 27–28 of the dissertation abstract. I consider them to be of a scientific-applied and applied nature.

The doctoral candidate, Viktor Plamenov Matanski, has presented three publications on the topic of the dissertation, published in 2016, 2025, and 2026. One of them was published in a journal indexed in Web of Science (WoS), with a Q2 quartile ranking and an impact factor of 4.6. With the submitted publications, the doctoral candidate has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3 of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. The dissertation also complies with the requirements of Art. 24, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. In my opinion, the publications summarise results from the research presented in the dissertation. On the basis of the submitted materials, I conclude that the results achieved are the doctoral candidate's own work.

I am not aware of any evidence of plagiarism.

Critical Comments and Recommendations. I have no critical comments. The doctoral candidate has identified a number of promising directions for the continuation and further development of the research. I wish him opportunities to pursue these directions and every success in his future research work.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the documents submitted under the procedure, I conclude that the doctoral candidate:

- meets the minimum national requirements for the professional field, the provisions of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and its Implementing Regulations, as well as the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski”;
- possesses in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge in the doctoral programme “Informatics” and has demonstrated the ability to conduct independent scientific research.

This gives me grounds to give a positive evaluation and to confidently recommend that the esteemed scientific jury award **Viktor Plamenov Matanski** the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (PhD) in the Scientific Area: 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional Field: 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science, Doctoral Programme: Informatics.

31.08.2026

Member of the scientific jury:

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(Assoc. Prof. Emil Georgiev Delinov, PhD)