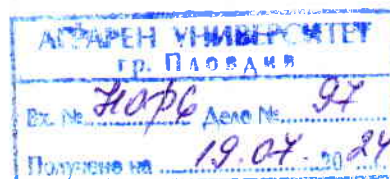




# AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV



## REVIEW

on the competition for "Associate Professor" in PH 3.9 Tourism in the scientific specialty "Cultural and Historical Heritage", announced in State Gazette No. 23 of 19.03.2014 with candidate: Vidin Stoyanov Sukarev,

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimir Vladimirov Alexandrov, AU-Plovdiv appointed according to the Order № RD № RD 16-581/15.05.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury.

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krasimir Vladimirov Alexandrov, Area of HE 3. "Social, Economic and Legal Sciences", PF 3.9. "Tourism", SF "Economics and Management (Tourism), Department of Tourism, Agriculture University of Plovdiv  
*appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD16-581/15.05.2024 of the Rector of the Agrarian University.*

### 1. General data on the applicant's career and thematic development;

Vidin Stoyanov Sukarev was born on 13.05.1977 in the town of. She graduated from the University of Plovdiv. He lives in Plovdiv. He lives in Plovdiv and works as an assistant professor at the Department of Tourism of the Agrarian University and RIM Plovdiv. He completed his secondary education in 1994 at the Secondary School Hr. Г. She graduated in 1994 from the school of Prof. Hr. She graduated from Plovdiv in 1994. He obtained a master's degree at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. She graduated from St. Cyril and Methodius University in 2000 with a degree in History. After defending his dissertation thesis "Spiritual culture and spirituality of the Bulgarian XV-XVII c." with diploma № 33965 from 19.04.2010, he was awarded a PhD in the scientific specialty "History of Bulgaria". Since 2003, the candidate has been working at the Plovdiv Museum of History, at present he is the head of the scientific group at the museum and the head of the department "New and Recent History".

From the submitted documents, characterizing the career development of the candidate for Associate Professor, I can draw the general conclusion that he meets the requirements of the APRRA, the Regulations for the Application of the APRRA and the Regulations of the AU for the Application of the APRRA, related to the necessary

qualifications, work activity and experience for holding the academic position of Associate Professor.

## **2. General description of the submitted materials.**

In the competition for "Associate Professor" Dr. Vidin Sukarev participated with a total output of 25 scientific publications, grouped as follows:

Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 4 (not evaluated);

Scientific publications in the nomenclatural specialty - 21, of them:

Monographs - 3 (including 2 independent)

publications with impact factor and impact rank - 4;

publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals - 14;

The personal participation of Vidin Sukarev in these 25 publications is illustrated by the fact that 21 of them (or 87%) are independent and 4 are co-authored;

In preparing the review we accepted 21 issues for evaluation (4 of the publications related to the dissertation are not reviewed), which according to our approximate calculations (in the list of publications only the printed pages are counted) have a total volume of about 880 pages.

The presented synthesized characterization and evaluation of the scientific production of Dr. Vidin Sukarev determines our conclusion that it meets the requirements of Art. 24, item 3 of the Law on Research and Development, Art. 53, item 3 of the Regulations for its implementation, in conjunction with Art. 78, par. 78(1)(3) of the AU Implementing Rules of the RIDA.

## **3. Main areas of the candidate's research work. Demonstrated skills or aptitudes for conducting research.**

The scientific production of Dr. Vidin Sukarev is mostly focused in a specific scientific field. His main monographic work *"Plovdiv Municipality and the Construction of Urban and Tourist Infrastructure, 1944-1990, a Study on the Institutional, Economic and Everyday History of Plovdiv"* and most of the publications are dedicated to cultural heritage as part of cultural tourism. With a nuance to these issues is the content of another 4 of the scientific works, which refer to cultural heritage in the context of tourism, prospects for cultural tourism in times of crisis, cultural heritage and traditions. Indirectly linked to this main direction are 6 other publications, whose content focuses on museum work and the impact of historical events related to ethno-cultural diversity, and the national psychology of Bulgarians. Another

main direction in the research work of the candidate for associate professor (evident from the content of 4 other scientific publications) is related to the evaluation of the development of the town of Gdansk. Plovdiv in historical order after the liberation and the second half of the 20th century .

The content of Dr. Sukarev's scientific publications, in my opinion, corresponds to the specific field of the announced competition. Moreover, it is closely linked to the academic disciplines he teaches. To Dr. Sukarev's scientific portfolio I add his participation in two research projects.

#### **4. Evaluation of the candidate's pedagogical training and activity. His/her role in the training of young researchers.**

Dr. Vidin Sukarev is a well-established lecturer with teaching and pedagogical practice for more than 15 years. Cultural and Historical Heritage of Bulgaria, Landscaping, Bulgarian Foreign Routes, Museum Studies, National Psychology, Economic History. Also, the candidate teaches classes in English with Erasmus + students." It is evident from the data presented that his total teaching load (in number of hours) for the last academic years significantly exceeds the required minimum hours. Principal asst. Dr. Vidin Sukarev is the supervisor of more than 10 successfully defended graduates in the professional field 3.9 Tourism.

Actively works with student research teams in developing projects and papers for scientific conferences. In general, the candidate's content orientation and teaching and pedagogical workload meet the requirements of the competition under Art. 1, items 2a and 2b of the Regulations of the AU for the implementation of the Law on Research and Development. Dr Vidin Sukarev is fluent in written and spoken English, Italian, French and Turkish, which further supports his teaching activities, collaborative work with students and fellow teachers, and participation in joint projects with partners from abroad. Dr. Sukarev's professional and linguistic competence, specialization in cultural tourism and cultural and historical heritage allow him to participate in the global project ENFORCE (Regenerative cultural tourism thru storytelling), funded by the EC.

The information presented in this part of the review gives me grounds to give a positive assessment of the pedagogical preparation, teaching experience, role in the preparation of students and the degree of correspondence of the competences of the candidate for Associate Professor with the specificity of the competition.

**5. Significance of the obtained results, proven by citations, publications in prestigious journals, awards, membership in international and national scientific bodies, etc.;**

The scientific creativity of the only candidate in the competition for associate professor prof. asst. Dr. Vidin Sukarev is characterized by significant results. It is distinguished by purposefulness and thematic concentration. The monographic works show thoroughness in research, especially the monograph submitted for habilitation with a volume of 488 pages. The publications are reviewed by established and authoritative habilitated scientists. They are mostly in specialized publishers and databases (Scopus and Web of science). In all of them, the author's personal involvement is clearly indicated. From the citation list presented, we find that the total number of citations, excluding author citations, is 8, with 3 in Web of science and one in Scopus. The submitted materials indicate membership in the prestigious academic organization "Center for Economic and Historical Research". The candidate is the author of more than 20 museum exhibitions; organizer of several scientific conferences; part of the team of various successful national and international projects.

**6. Significance of contributions to science and practice. A reasoned response to the question of the extent to which the candidate has a clear research profile;**

I accept the scientific contributions presented by Dr. Vidin Sukarev in a separate reference with a recommendation for a clearer distinction of their originality, methodological, scientific and applied affiliation. On the basis of my awareness of the achievements in the field of his scientific interests at home and abroad, as well as the declaration of authenticity, I assess the contributions presented as the personal work of the candidate for Associate Professor.

In their systematized form, I define the contributions in the main monographic work and the other reviewed publications in methodological and theoretical as well as in practical and applied aspects as follows:

**SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Enrichment and further development of scientific knowledge in the study of the historical development of the construction of tourist infrastructure and resources in Plovdiv throughout the twentieth century and the factors determining its development; theoretical review and critical analysis of scientific achievements in the field of cultural and historical heritage; research on the development of tourist infrastructure, resources and policies;



### **APPLIED CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Applied problems related to local government policies for the development of tourism, history and the work of institutions responsible for the preservation of movable and immovable cultural heritage; Identification of specific aspects, directions and perspectives for the development of cultural and historical tourism in the city of Sofia. The following are the main objectives of the project.

Thus presented, the scientific contributions in the work of Dr. Vidin Sukarev enrich the scientific knowledge about the cultural and historical heritage and tourism and present the candidate for associate professor as an established researcher with an outlined profile of research work and consistent development in the chosen scientific field.

### **7. Critical comments and recommendations**

In spite of the undoubted positive aspects and achievements of Asst. Dr. Vidin Sukarev we would like to note some critical remarks, namely:

- *Thematic limitation and profiling of its research activities;*
- *Studies with a regional scope predominate.*

In connection with these remarks are our main recommendations for the future work of Dr. Vidin Sukarev: to broaden the content and subject scope of his research in the field of cultural tourism; to concentrate his attention on the development of textbooks and teaching aids; to focus in future project activity, as well as using the author's solid research and competence in cultural and historical heritage issues.

The above criticisms do not detract from the achievements of the candidate for Associate Professor. The works submitted for review have a well-structured language text and composition. The studies are distinguished by a clearly formulated aim, thorough research and useful conclusions and recommendations for science and practice. Dr. Vidin Sukarev's style is clear and understandable. His logical thought confirms my impression of a good knowledge of the problems he investigates.

### **8. Personal impressions and opinion of the reviewer**

I know Asst. Dr. Vidin Sukarev for almost 20 years. My impressions of him are that he is a well-established and with great potential for development scientist and lecturer in the field of cultural and historical tourism. My professional and personal contacts with him convince me that he enjoys respect and authority among his students, colleagues and tourism professionals at home and abroad. A respected citizen of the town. He is a

respected citizen of Plovdiv, contributing not only to science but also to the development of the city as a cultural capital of Europe.

## CONCLUSION

On the basis of the analysis of the candidate's scientific and scientific-applied activity, I consider that Vidin Stoyanov Sukarev meets the requirements of the RASDP Act, the RASDP Regulations and the Rules of the Agrarian University for its application, which I can argue with the following: I did not find any violations in the competition procedure; Dr. Vidin Sukarev as the only candidate in the competition holds the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; he has held the academic position of "Principal Assistant Professor" at the University of Plovdiv for more than five years; he is provided with the required by the norm auditorium and extracurricular employment; he has published a monographic work and sufficient in volume, structure and quality, unrelated to the doctoral dissertation scientific production, with clearly outlined original, methodological, scientific and applied contributions.

All this gives me the reason to POSITIVELY EVALUATE the overall activity of Vidin Stoyanov Sukarev and to vote "FOR" his award of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Department of Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, PH 3.9 "Tourism."

Date: 16.07.2024

Plovdiv

REVIEWER: 

(assoc. prof. PhD K. Aleksandrov)