

STATEMENT

by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Gradev

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition

to occupy the academic position "Professor"

at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

by: 2.3. Philosophy (Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, Metaphysics)

In the competition for "Professor", announced in the State Gazette, no. 67 of 2023 Prof. Ivan Georgiev Kolev, Ph.D., participated as a candidate

To participate in the announced contest under: 2.3. Philosophy (Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, Metaphysics) Prof. Dr. Ivan Georgiev Kolev submitted documents as the only candidate.

The set of electronic materials presented by Associate Professor Dr. Ivan Kolev is in accordance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Sofia University. The documents and their attached textual contents are complete. They fully meet the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of ZRASRB and the additional requirements of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

In 1986, Ivan Kolev graduated with a degree in philosophy from the Sofia University. Since 1987, he has been a professor of philosophy at Sofia University. In 2011, he received a doctorate from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, and in 2013 he was elected associate professor at Sofia University. From 2015 to 2023, Associate Professor Kolev was the head of the Department of Philosophy at the Sofia University. At Sofia University, Prof. Kolev leads eight lecture courses, including "Philosophical Anthropology", "Philosophy of Art", "Metaphysics", "Methodology of Teaching Philosophy" and others. Associate Prof. Kolev is the initiator of five master's programs in the Department of Philosophy, three scientific-research, twenty university and ten projects for the development of school education. Since 2017, Associate Professor Dr. Ivan Kolev is the chairman of the Bulgarian Philosophical Society and a member of Steering Committee Member of FISP. He is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Didactics

of Philosophy, Philosophical Alternatives, Bulletin of the Bulgarian Philosophical Society. Prof. Kolev is the author of five monographs. Author and co-author of 34 textbooks and study aids on philosophy, civic education, history of ideas, ethics and law, etc. There are seven scientific publications in foreign publications and twenty-six scientific publications in Bulgarian publications. Associate Professor Dr. Ivan Kolev is the initiator and co-organizer of five international and twenty national conferences. There are seven participations with papers in international scientific conferences and sixty-two in Bulgarian scientific conferences. He directed the series "Kastalia", "Pandects", "Portrets" in LIK publishing house, where he published more than 40 significant books of the world's philosophical, artistic and cultural heritage. There are ten translations of philosophical texts. He is the creator of twenty-five sites for Bulgarian philosophers.

I will focus on the educational and pedagogical and scientific research activities of the candidate, which I find directly related to the specific topic of the competition.

Over the years, Associate Professor Dr. Ivan Kolev has developed and conducted numerous lecture courses on various philosophical disciplines. Ivan Kolev is the initiator and co-organizer of numerous initiatives and projects in the field of both higher education and school philosophy teaching. My assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical and scientific research and applied activities is extremely high. His research is at a high national and international level. Both the teaching activity and scientific research of Associate Professor Dr. Ivan Kolev have a certain contribution in the field of Philosophy, and more specifically, Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, and Metaphysics, which are the subject of the current competition.

The candidate participated with eleven publications in the competition, of which two monographs and nine articles.

In the book *Καρδιά. Philosophy of Feelings* Ivan Kolev attempts to show that the way we articulate feelings in language plays a significant role in the experience we have of them. The author critically examines basic philosophical concepts and concepts of feelings, seeking to single out a certain "logic of feelings" that would enable a systematic arrangement and clarification of the rich and varied palette of feelings.

In the book *Art as a Phenomenal Being. Deduction of categories* Ivan Kolev strives to give a justified definition of art, for which purpose he deduces its categories from the positions of the various figures in the world of art, who for him are contributors of a specific categoriality in

relation to art. Through them, art is defined as "phenomenal being constituted by twelve categories".

In the nine articles, Prof. Ivan Kolev examines essential problems of philosophical anthropology, philosophy of art, metaphysics and artistic practices.

It would have been good if the author had more clearly stated the scope of his monograph *Καρδία*. A philosophy of feeling which has the stated claim to embrace the "logic of the whole" and to give systematically and comprehensively the philosophical vocabulary of feeling. The work, however, is apparently a *work in progress*. This is how I explain that the author here did not stop at the theories about the feelings of the so-called "Scottish moralists" and especially Adam Smith. A modern philosophy of feelings cannot go without examining and evaluating scientific studies and theories in the field of feelings, but in this case even authors like Darwin and Damasio are ignored. The question of the formation of feelings in children is not raised, nor is the long-debated question by philosophers and scientists whether animals also have feelings. I cannot accept as a satisfactory solution that the Greek word *Πάθος* should be translated with the word "pathos", since the research is based on the specifics of the linguistic articulation of feelings. Translations into various languages of Greek and Latin terms for feeling are in most cases merely listed, without historically and critically examining their articulation in the respective language and culture. The etymological, historical and critical analysis is not always carried out to the end for the Bulgarian concepts. The bibliography is not exhaustive and authors named in the text are not in it. Greek concepts are given in Greek, sometimes with a Latin transcription. In the two monographs submitted for the competition, there are too many typographical and proofreading errors that should be corrected.

To summarize: the works presented for the competition are rich in problems and topics that address important and topical issues of philosophical sciences, his teaching activities reveal erudition and breadth of research horizon. We have before us the candidature of one of our outstanding specialists in the field of philosophical anthropology, philosophy of art and metaphysics, with a great contribution to the development of school teaching in philosophy. Ivan Kolev has thirty-five years of teaching and research experience and an international reputation.

After reading the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, on the basis of the analysis of their significance and contributions, I find it justified to give a positive evaluation and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the

Faculty of Philosophy for the election of Ivan Georgiev Kolev to the academic position of "Professor" at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. 2.3. Philosophy (*Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, Metaphysics*).

October 29, 2023.

Prof. Dr Vladimir Gradev