Превод на английски език / English Translation

(Съгласно изискването за публичност по ЗРАСРБ)

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dilyana Nikiforova, PhD

regarding: Dissertation for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) **in the Higher Education Field:** 8. Arts **Professional Field:** 8.3. Music and Dance Art **Doctoral Program:** Choreography **Author of the dissertation:** Teodora Marincheva Staneva **Topic of the dissertation:** "Development of Modern Dance in the Secondary Education System" **Scientific Supervisor:** Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD (Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar")

1. General Characteristics of the Dissertation and the Candidate

The submitted dissertation by Teodora Marincheva Staneva consists of 484 pages, structured into an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography (comprising 139 literature references and 24 Internet sources), and 19 appendices. The main text includes 4 tables and 3 figures.

Teodora Staneva holds a Master's degree in "Ballet Directing" from AMTII "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv and Bachelor's degrees in "Choreography" and "Journalism". Her extensive practical experience as a senior teacher, choreographer, and artistic director provides the necessary expertise for the scientific conceptualization of the research domain.

The relevance of the topic is high. The study addresses a gap in Bulgarian dance pedagogy regarding the structuring of professional training in "Modern Dance" in secondary schools following the Pre-school and School Education Act (2016). The dissertation holds practical significance, as the author is also the creator of the analyzed curricula.

2. Evaluation of Results and Contributions

The candidate's contributions are substantiated and valuable to dance pedagogy:

1. **Scientific-Theoretical Contributions:**
    - **Terminology Clarification:** Distinction between "modern dance" (historical core of author techniques) and "contemporary dance techniques" (variable component of postmodern and contemporary practices).
    - **Historical Continuity:** Analysis of François Delsarte's system and its development through Jaques-Dalcroze, Rudolf von Laban, and modern dance pioneers (Martha Graham, José Limón, Lester Horton).
    - **Comparative Analysis:** Synthesis of American, Russian, and Bulgarian experiences into an adaptable educational model.
2. **Scientific-Applied and Practical Contributions:**
    - **Conceptual Educational Model:** Development of the first author curricula for the "Modern Dance" specialty under the 2016 regulatory framework.
    - **Vertical Integration:** Structuring a curriculum from Grades 8 to 12 based on a spiral progression model, linking classical ballet foundations with modern/jazz dance, improvisation, and stage practice.

- **Comprehensive Assessment System:** Defining criteria that measure technical execution, body awareness, musicality, and artistic expression.

3. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

1. **Volume and Structure:** The overall volume of 484 pages is extensive. Some historical overview sections in Chapter I could be presented more concisely to emphasize the author's analytical conclusions.
2. **Impact on Results:** These remarks do not diminish the scientific and practical value of the achieved results.
3. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the candidate publish these results as a practical methodology guide for dance educators in specialized arts schools.

4. Statement on Plagiarism

No evidence of plagiarism was found in the dissertation or abstract. All sources are properly cited.

5. Conclusion

The dissertation meets all formal and qualitative requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA).

I **unequivocally express a positive vote** and recommend that the Scientific Jury award **Teodora Marincheva Staneva** the educational and scientific degree **"Doctor" (PhD)** in Professional Field **8.3. Music and Dance Art**.

Date: November 05, 2026

Member of the Scientific Jury: ..........

(Assoc. Prof. Dilyana Nikiforova, PhD)