

**СОФИЙСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
"СВ. КЛИМЕНТ ОХРИДСКИ"  
БЪЛГАРИЯ, СОФИЯ 1504  
БУЛ. "ЦАР ОСВОБОДИТЕЛ" 15  
ТЕЛ. 02 9308 223  
ТЕЛ. 02 9308 564; 02 9308 572**



**SOFIA UNIVERSITY  
ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI  
1504 SOFIA, BULGARIA  
15 TZAR OSVOBODITEL BLVD.  
TEL. +359 2 9308 223  
TEL. +359 2 9308 564; +359 2 9308 572**

## **STATEMENT**

of Assoc. Prof. PhD Daniela Stefanova Stoyanova, from the Department of Archeology at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", member of the Scientific Jury, approved by order of the Rector of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" (RD-38-121/27.02.2024), for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in professional direction 2.2. History and Archaeology/ Archeology - Museology for the dissertation of Diana Nikolaeva Miteva/Kancheva, full-time doctoral student at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", on the topic: "Strategy for the management of the cultural and natural heritage of the municipality of Pavlikeni", with scientific supervisor Prof. Dr. Nadia Manolova-Nikolova.

The topic of Diana Miteva/Kancheva's dissertation presented for public defense is relevant within the framework of the ever-increasing role that cultural material and intangible heritage, historical and natural heritage play in society, and hence the institutions that are engaged in their preservation and management. Despite the long traditions of museum work in Bulgaria and the relatively dense museum network, not to mention adequate maintenance and management to date, this kind of research is rare, not to say lacking, which makes this work pioneering.

The dissertation is a volume of 255 pages, with 177 images included, mainly photographic material (including their in text is, in my opinion, a good decision). The structure of the work consists of an introduction, three chapters with separate paragraphs divided into parts and a conclusion. The bibliography includes the scientific publications, archival documents, Internet sources, as well as 39 interviews taken by the PhD student specifically for the purposes of the work. It should be noted here the impressive personal commitment to improve, activate and function some of the objects on the territory of the Pavlikeni municipality, which undoubtedly provides an opportunity for direct observations and a kind of practical, real experience.

In the Introduction, after a brief history of the city of Pavlikeni and its modern administrative structure, the main goals and objectives are given. The main goal is to follow

the development of the institutions involved in the preservation of the cultural heritage, as well as to propose adequate measures for their development, with which the tasks are adequately defined. In this part, I find the presentation of the content of the subsequent chapters of the work to be too detailed. Here was the place to thank the research supervisor and the colleagues from the Faculty of History for their assistance during the doctoral studies, as well as to the numerous individuals who gave interviews, without whom the work would not have been the same, or to those who supported the implementation of individual initiatives.

In chapter I "Museums and public collections" the museum collections on the territory of Pavlikeni municipality are examined: IM - Pavlikeni, with a branch Ancient Ceramic Center, IM – Byala cherkva, Ethnographic museum exposition – Byala cherkva, Historical museum collection - Varbovka, Ethnographic household collection - Gorna Lipnitsa, Art Residence "Staroto uchiliste", Memorial Museum Collection "Seraphim Severnyak" - village of Gorna Lipnitsa, Agricultural Museum - village of Gorna Lipnitsa, general historical public collections in the villages of Vishovgrad, Duskot, Karaisen and Michaltsi. In addition to the history of the creation and functioning of the individual objects, the author also presents the current state of the objects, critically presents their problems and offers solutions to overcome them. The proposals are not always legally acceptable, but this is hardly the fault of the doctoral student alone. For me personally, the presented state of museum collections, transformed normatively into public collections, without a mechanism for their financing, is indicative of the lack of clear rules and responsibilities to guide the functioning of museums as a whole. And yet, Diana Miteva/Kancheva has committed herself and managed to register several collections in accordance with modern legislation. A summary is also made at the end of the chapter.

In Chapter II "Historical, Natural and Intangible Cultural Heritage" a representative group of sites showing the rich cultural and natural heritage of the Pavlikeni municipality is examined - the Roman catchment near the village of Musina, the Roman obelisk near the village of Lesidren, the localities associated with the heroism of troops of Philip Totyo, Hadji Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha, of priest Hariton, Christian church, natural attractions, the custom of "Ivanovi vlachugi", Todorovden, the folklore festival "Humor in folk art", mask parade, etc. Here again, in addition to the historical development and the current state, Diana Miteva/Kancheva offers measures to modernize the vision of individual objects or events, as well as actively participates in the implementation of activities for their preservation and popularization, related to the organization of reconstructions, scientific conferences,

educational initiatives. At the end of Chapter II, a summary is missing, which would facilitate the inclusion of the results of this part of the work in the following Chapter III.

Chapter III "Perspectives and strategy for the development of the cultural and natural heritage of the Municipality of Pavlikeni" should be of a general nature, outlining measures for the development of a comprehensive strategy for the development of the cultural, historical and natural heritage in the Municipality of Pavlikeni. There is no doubt that this is not an easy and elementary task, even for much better developed areas in this respect. Moreover, the good/successful example that can be built on is generally missing here. With this I can explain the more declarative and recommendatory nature of the author's statement, undertaking to propose concrete actions in certain directions such as the structure of the museum site, Facebook page, relations with visitors, etc. Against this background, the part makes a very good impression about the place of the museum in the educational process, as well as its social functions. In the end, however, there is no doubt that what was done in this work by Diana Miteva/Kancheva shows that the cultural, historical and natural heritage both in the municipality of Pavlikeni and in Bulgaria as a whole is vulnerable to the lack, inapplicability, ineffectiveness of strategies for their protection, their insufficient funding, as well as insufficient/inefficient human potential, both at the local and national level. In this sense, the work is an important step and contribution to the search for solutions adequate to the modern needs of society. In this regard, I recommend that the role of the museum pedagogue be further developed, including by recommending that part of the full-time staff be qualified as such. In small museums, where there is no active collecting work, there are no funds with large collections, this is completely applicable. Also striking is the focus in this chapter mainly on museums and collections, while natural attractions, festivals and customs are not commented on.

The main results of the work are reflected in the Conclusion.

The statement is concise and clear, with adequate use of museological terminology, normative documents, etc.

In conclusion, I can say that the considered dissertation of Diana Miteva/Kancheva is an original study, with its own contributions, and the set goals and tasks are optimally fulfilled.

The abstract answers the content of the dissertation. Contributions are presented objectively. Diana Miteva/Kancheva is also the author of two publications on the subject of the dissertation, and two in print. In addition, there are other publications, thus covering the minimum national requirements.

Everything commented so far allows me to vote positively for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Diana Nikolaeva Miteva/Kancheva.

**15.04.2024 г.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned to the right of the date.

**Assos. Prof. PhD Daniela Stoyanova**