

In 2013, the Programme of *German studies* of Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' celebrated its 90-th anniversary. This anniversary was closely connected to the 125th anniversary of the University itself, since the German language has been part of the curriculum ever since the establishment of the University in 1888.

The decision to create a *Department of German Studies* was made by the University leadership in 1904. Due to the wars waged on the Balkan peninsula at the time, the establishment of the Department was delayed and was realised only in 1923, when the University's *Faculty of History and Philology* was instituted. Professor Konstantin Galabov, PhD, was elected Head of the Department and held that post until his retirement on a pension in 1958. After him, the leadership of the Department was taken up by prominent scholars and lecturers such as Professor Stefan Stanchev, PhD (1958-1962), Professor Lyubomir Ognyanov, PhD (1962-1972), Associate Professor Tekla Sugareva, PhD (1972-1976), Professor Pavel Petkov, PhD (1976-1993), and Professor Emilia Staycheva, DSc (1993-1999).

In 1999, the *Department of German Studies* was renamed to *Department of German and Scandinavian Studies*. This was due to the merger of the *Department of German Studies* and the *Department of Scandinavian Studies*, which had been created in 1992. The *Department of German and Scandinavian Studies* was headed by Professor Bogdan Mirchev, PhD (1999-2003), Associate Professor Maya Razboynikova-Frateva, DSc (2003-2006), Professor Antoniya Buchukovska, PhD (2006-2007), while the current Head is Professor Emiliya Dencheva, DSc.

More details about the history of the Department of German Studies can be found *here*.

More details about the history of the Department of Scandinavian Studies can be found *here*.

The programmes *German Studies with the optional module "Scandinavian languages"* and *Scandinavian Studies*, which are currently offered at the *Department of German and Scandinavian Studies*, train philologists specialising in the German, Swedish and Norwegian languages. As second foreign languages, the curricula also includes many of the other official languages of the European Union, including Danish, Dutch, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Greek.