

Opinion

for the application of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tzvetan Stefanov Vasilev,
Department of Classics, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”
in the competition for the academic position Associate Professor at Sofia University “St.
Kliment Ohridski” in professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical languages), published in
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by Prof. DLitt. Mirena Hristova Slavova, Department of Classics, Sofia University “St.
Kliment Ohridski”

The only applicant, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tzvetan Stefanov Vasilev, PhD, is entirely eligible for obtaining the Associate Professor position in accordance with the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Art. 105 of the Regulations for the conditions and the order for acquiring academic degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University.

The candidate meets the national minimum requirements according to the Act of development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Dr. Vasilev participates in the competition with two monographs and five articles related to the topic of the contest. They outline two main scientific fields in the candidate’s research work, which originally connects the classical languages with the study of history and culture of Bulgaria and the Balkans: the Greek language of the frescoes in the Christian churches, on the one hand, and the Latin texts created by the Bulgarian Catholics, on the other. The first monograph *Greek language of churches with mixed inscriptions from the XVII century in Bulgaria* (498 pp.) was published in 2017 on the basis of his dissertation for obtaining of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”, and the other one is a critical edition and study of the Latin manuscript of Peter Bogdan *On the antiquity of the fatherland and Bulgarian affairs* in two volumes, 2020 (volume one – critical edition, translation and commentary, 619 pp.; volume two – paleography, textology, language, 159 pp.). Both monographs have been reviewed by the

leading specialists on the relevant issues and have been published by the prestigious University Publishing House “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

The two volumes of the habilitation work, dedicated to the text critical edition and commentary on the rediscovered treatise of Peter Bogdan, are an indisputable contribution to the study of Latin sources for the Bulgarian lands, achieved thanks to the high professionalism and philological competence of the author. They contain paleographic, text critical and linguistic analysis of the Latin text, as well as a valuable study of the more than 100 sources with different genre characteristics used by Peter Bogdan. This research was highly appreciated in the nomination of Dr. Vasilev for the Prize “Pythagoras” for Breakthrough in Science in 2021.

Two of Dr. Vasilev’s articles are related to the same issue and are published in authoritative journals included in the bibliographic and reference database SCOPUS. The other three articles have been published in editions from the National Reference List and are a continuation and extension of Tsvetan Vasilev’s research of the Greek language of the mural inscriptions. They summarize his contributions to the bilingualism in the context of artistic activity and frescoes in the churches of the Balkans, the epigram of Theodore Prodromos of the Kremikovtsi Monastery, and the texts accompanying the images of St. Theodore the Studite (co-authored).

The participation of the contestant with papers in 11 scientific conferences is also impressive, which is indicative of his authority as a specialist.

Besides, the teaching experience of the candidate is rich and varied. Dr. Vasilev teaches a wide range of lecture courses and exercises in Classical languages in the bachelor’s and master’s programs of the two Philological Faculties of Sofia University and the Faculty of History. I highly appreciate his responsibility and dedication as a lecturer and emphasize that his qualification successfully fits into the academic curriculum.

At the same time, he actively and devotedly participates in the organization and mentoring of student internships and is responsible for the methodological work and relations of the Department of Classics with the National High School of Ancient

Languages and Cultures, thus continuing the successfully established traditions of the university classical community in its care for reinforcement of classical education.

In addition, Dr. Vasilev's involvement in several projects qualifies him as an authoritative scientist with ability to participate in large research projects and to attract external funding for the development of research.

In conclusion: My overall evaluation of the application under review is positive. Therefore I am glad to suggest to the esteemed scientific jury that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Tzvetan Stefanov Vasilev obtain the academic position Associate Professor in professional field 2.1. Philology (Classical languages) at the Department of Classics, Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridski".

June 15, 2022, Sofia

Prof. DLitt. Mirena Slavova