

## OPINION

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regarding the submitted documents for participation in a selection procedure (State Gazette No. 56/30.06.2023) for filling the academic position of "Professor" in the professional filed 1.3. Pedagogy of History Teaching (Methodology of History Teaching. Education and civic education in the 20s-30s of the XX century) at the Faculty of History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

### **1. Procedure and presentation of the applicant.**

The competition for the academic position "professor" by professional filed 1.3. Pedagogy of History Teaching (Methodology of History Teaching. Education and civic education in the 20s-30s of the 20th century) was legally announced in the State Gazette, no. 56 of 30.06.2023. The procedure is carried out in accordance with the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRBA) and the Regulations on the Implementation of this Act, as well as the Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

According to the announced competition, one candidate submitted documents - Assoc. Prof. Georgi Yakimov Stoychev, Ph.D. The submitted documentation for the competition has been precisely systematized in accordance with the DASRBA and the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". It shows that the candidate fully meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "professor".

**Applicant data.** Georgi Yakimov Stoychev graduated from SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", majoring in History in 1989. He was a doctoral student at the Institute of History - BAS in the period 1998-2001, where he defended his dissertation. From 2002 and currently works at the Faculty of History of the SU, successively holding the academic positions of senior assistant /since 2002/, chief assistant /since 2004/ and associate professor /since 2012/ in PF 1.3. Pedagogy of History Teaching /Methodology of History Teaching - history and civic education/.

### **2. Description and evaluation of the candidate's scientific works.**

In the announced competition Georgi Yakimov participated with one monograph, 5 studies, 14 articles, of which four were in scientific periodicals, referenced and indexed in Web of Science.

The monograph "Bulgarian education (1934-1939) Reforms, nationalism, state-civic education", 453 pages, elaborates the essential problems of the Bulgarian educational system in the specified period. The study is distinguished by a clearly formulated research objective, a precise structure, a readable and reasoned analysis, on the basis of which justified conclusions are drawn. The logically structured text focuses on the reflection of the complex socio-political processes of 1934-1939 on the development of Bulgarian education. The new ideological

elements in the concepts of the various political entities are highlighted, with considerable attention being paid to right-wing authoritarian organizations and the ideology of the "new state" in education. The research is distinguished by highly scientific language. It is original, with serious scientific contributions, without any elements of plagiarism.

The presented scientific production of 5 studies and 14 articles, with which the candidate participated in the competition for professorship, is characterized by thematic diversity. It can tentatively be grouped into three thematic scientific research fields: Civic education in Bulgaria and around the world; Historical development of education in Bulgaria and Contemporary problems of teaching History and civilizations.

Georgi Yakimov's permanent research interests in the problems of civic education are fixed in seven of the publications with which the candidate participates in the current competition. Four of them examine the model by which Civic Education is studied in the USA, the Russian Federation, Poland and Great Britain. The other publications from this thematic group are related to the history of the study of civic education in the Bulgarian school and the development of the issue in the last decade. They show a precise knowledge of the problem and a clear view its contemporary state.

The problems of Bulgarian education in a historical context are interpreted in another group of the presented publications. They are indicative of Assoc. Prof. Yakimov's interest in the periods of political changes and their impact on the educational policy of the Bulgarian state. The processes have been studied in depth and important, essential characteristics in the development of the educational system have been substantiated.

Research on the problems of the theory of teaching history in school is another important aspect of the scientific achievements of Assoc. Prof. Yakimov. They are based on a precise knowledge of the normative framework in which school education is structured and the new conceptual concepts that mark the teaching of history. Some of the publications are dedicated to the transformations in school history education in recent years. In these studies, the focus is on problems fundamental to the theory, such as the competence approach and developing the culture of civil society - human rights, the state and politics, economic literacy. The publications convincingly present the author's concept of a modern learning process in history and offer theoretical and pragmatic methodological solutions for its implementation. They are the result of excellent knowledge and critical analysis of the existing educational documentation, the History and Civilizations textbooks, the age characteristics of the students, and his solid training as a historian and methodologist.

Associate Professor Yakimov's research contributions to the theory of school historical education find development and application in the significant number of textbooks /10/ and teaching aids in which he is the author/co-author, used in the national school network /total 32/. They reflect the best achievements in the didactics and methodology of history, which is an indisputable testimony to the skill of Assoc. Prof. Yakimov to transform his scientific achievements into practical and applied models for the Bulgarian school.

In general, the publications of Assoc. Prof. Yakimov presented in the competition are distinguished by their contribution to scientific research and practical application, which is fully in accordance with the nomenclature of the procedure being conducted.

### 3. Educational and teaching, project and expert activity of the candidate.

The educational and teaching activities of Assoc. Prof. Georgi Yakimov are rich and varied. It includes lecture courses: History Teaching Methodology, History and Civic Education, Theory and history of civic education, Fundamentals of civic education, Education for democratic citizenship and other

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov participates in a number of scientific forums such as national scientific conferences and conferences with international participation.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The established teaching and research qualities and abilities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov make me fully convinced that he fully meets the requirements for occupying the competitive academic position of "professor".

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the presented scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov are author's and do not repeat those from previous procedures for acquiring a scientific title and academic position. There is no evidence of plagiarism in the scientific works submitted for the competition.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov in teaching and research activities fully comply with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant Regulations of the SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", which is why I confidently state my **positive assessment** before the respected Scientific Jury for the election of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov Stoychev to the academic position of "Professor" by professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ... (Methodology of History Teaching, Education and civic education in the 20s-30s of the XX century).

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Prepared the opinion:

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