**STATEMENT**

by Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Keremidarska PhD,

 Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen,

 Geography, Regional Development and Tourism Department

on a competition for the academic position

Professor of Ethnology (Local Traditions and Cultures)

at Department of Ethnology at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski”,

 with the candidate

**Associate Professor Mira Nikolaeva Markova** **PhD**

**Formal requirements for taking up the academic position of Professor**

 Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD teaches seminar classes on topics: “Bulgarian Ethnology”, “Ethnology”, “non-European Ethnology” and course on “Slavic Ethnology”. She also teaches lectures in the courses “Fate, Ritual and Local Traditions”, “Urban Ethnology”, “Cultural Identity”, “Local Traditions and Identities”, Migration – Village-Town-Village”, “Bulgarian National Tradition in XX century” in the BA programs and “Reginal Tradition, Festival Culture and Museums”, “Regional Traditions and Museology“ (for Erasmus students), “Regional Tradition and Museum Network”, „Local Tradition, Calendar Holidays and Festivals”, “The Balkan Capital – Modernization and European Tradition” and in MA programs.

 Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD has 3 graduated PhD students, 14 graduated MA students. She supervises 4 PhD students, one of which by distance. She also supervises MA program “Cultural Tourism”.

 Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD has 70 scientific publications in Bulgarian and international scientific journals. She has 37 citations in Bulgarian and international scientific journals.

**On the research**

 For the competition for the academic position Professor of Ethnology (Local Traditions and Cultures) Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD presents the monography **Local Cultures and Traditions. Cultural Transformation on Ritual Systems in XXI century.** Sofia, 2022, 194 ISBN 978-954-07-5518- 2. The monography has Introduction, tree chapters, Conclusion, Bibliography and Summary in English. In the Introduction the scholar determinates the aim of the research – development of theoretical and applied model for understanding the ways in which ritual systems function nowadays. In chapter one “The Local Culture – Characteristics and Transformation. A possible escape into History” the author analyzes history researches which main topic is the traditional culture. On that basis the author emphasizes on the importance of the local diversity. In chapter two Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD uses empirical data for *Enyova bulla* and *Nestinarstvo (Anastenaria)* to present the transformation of the local culture in XXI century in Strandza region. In chapter three “Kalwaria (Calvary) Pacławska – Locality and Religiosity in the Dynamics of Contemporary Times” the author emphasizes on the interconnection between fate, ritual, personal preferences and persistent symbols in nowadays Polish religion system.

**Conclusion**

 From the documents is clear that Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD meets minimum state requirements for the academic position Professor of Ethnology (Local Traditions and Cultures). The references for the scientific contributions are accurate with the Bulgarian legislation. I did not find plagiarism in the works of Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD. The used sources are cited accurately. I agree Assoc. Prof. Mira Markova PhD to take the academic position Professor of Ethnology (Local Traditions and Cultures) and I will give my positive vote for the decision of the Scientific jury.

08.09.2022.

Assoc. Prof. Ekaterina Keremidarksa PhD