R E V I E W

by Prof. D.Sc. Veselin Kostov Yanchev, Department of History of Bulgaria, Faculty of History at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

for the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", according to 1.3. Teaching pedagogy... (Methodology of teaching history. Education and civic education in the 20s-30s of the 20th century), announced in the State Gazette, no. 56 of 30 June 2023

For participation in the announced competition only one candidate submitted documents - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov Stoichev.

Georgi Yakimov is a graduate of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a master's degree in 1989. In the following 13 years, he was a teacher in history in high schools in Sofia. From 1994 to 1998, he was a part-time assistant in "Bulgarian Historiography". In 2001, he defended his PhD thesis and received the title of Doctor of History. Since 2002, he has been a senior assistant in History Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of History of Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski", Department of Archival Studies and Auxiliary Historical Disciplines, and since 2004 he has been chief assistant. In 2012, he completed his habilitation in the same department.

Over the years, G. Yakimov established himself as a historian and methodologist with broad interests and knowledge in various spheres of the historical past, its interpretations and teaching in a long chronological period - from the middle of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century.

Associate Professor G. Yakimov participated in the announced competition for professor with 52 publications, all published after his habilitation. The scientific output of Associate Professor G. Yakimov not only covers, but significantly exceeds the points required for a professor according to the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of the current Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria. In total, his points are 1269 out of the required 550, or 2.3 times more than the minimum national requirements for participation in a procedure for the academic position of professor. His production has an original character and no element of plagiarism is detected.

The submitted publications outline three main directions of the research and creative activity of G. Yakimov.

The first is related to the contemporary problems of the civic education in a global and Bulgarian context, presented in 2 studies and 12 articles or a total of 14 publications.

The second direction includes the publications analyzing the educational standards and requirements for textbooks in History and Civilizations, as well as the author's textbooks and study aids on the subject.

The third direction is related to the study of the problems of the Bulgarian education system and of the civic education in Bulgaria in the 20s - 40s of the 20th century. They are synthesized in his monograph "Specific Features of Bulgarian Education (1934 - 1939). Reforms, nationalism, civic education". This is also the main work presented by Associate Professor Georgi Yakimov for participation in the competition.

The short chronological scope of the monograph, dedicated to only six, albeit key years in the development of the Bulgarian educational system, is actually misleading about the significance of the study. In practice, it traces in detail the ideological, organizational and practical functioning of the school education from the beginning of the 20th century to the beginning of the Second World War. The monograph is a thought-out, systematized and in-depth study in which the problems of the education are brought out and skillfully woven into the context of the overall intellectual, political and economic development of the Bulgarian society and into the world trends in education and politics.

This result is a product of the author's accumulated vast professional experience, his conscientious attitude to the facts and details and his profound knowledge and understanding of the societal processes.

All mentioned above is a rationale for my positive vote for awarding Georgi Yakimov the academic position of "professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", according to 1.3. Teaching pedagogy... (Methodology of teaching history. Education and civic education in the 20s-30s of the 20th century).

Sofia, 20 October 2023 Prof. D.Sc. Veselin Yanchev