

REVIEW

by Prof. D.Sc. Kostadin Iliev Paev,

member of the scientific jury

appointed by means of Order No. ПД-38-467/20.07.2023

of the Rector of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

for the competition for the academic position of **Professor**,

in Professional Field 1.3. *Pedagogy of teaching in ...* (Methodology of teaching

in history. Education and Civic Education in the 1920s - 1930s),

published in State Gazette No. 56 of 30.06.2023.

I. Brief biographical data on the candidate

The candidate Georgy Yakimov Stoychev obtained his Master's degree in History from the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia in 1989, and in 2001 defended his Doctor's degree. From 1989 to 2002 he worked as a history teacher, and since 2002 – as a lecturer at the Faculty of History of the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, first as senior assistant, then as chief assistant and currently as an associate professor.

II. Scientific output of the candidate and fulfilment of the minimum scientific-metric indicators

The total scientific output submitted by the candidate for the competition includes: 1 (one) monograph, 5 studies and 14 articles published in peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes. Additionally, the applicant has submitted several pedagogical publications – textbooks and teaching aids used in the school network. The applicant meets the national minimum scientific-metric indicators and the additional conditions of the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

The candidate's scientific output covers several research fields:

1) the history of Bulgarian education in the 1920s and 1930s;

- 2) the history of civic education in Bulgaria and its contemporary state in Bulgaria;
- 3) civic education in some European countries and the USA;
- 4) didactic problems of economic history and formation of economic literacy in students;
- 5) methodological aspects of teaching history and civic education.

III. Main contributions to the candidate's scientific activity

The main work of the candidate – the monograph *Bulgarian Education (1934-1939). Reforms, Nationalism, State-Civic Education*, published by St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, Sofia, 2023 (452 pp.) – explore the trends in Bulgarian education during one of the most controversial periods in Bulgarian historiography.

In his research, the candidate investigates the relationship between the ideas of the political regimes that ruled the country from 1934 to 1939 and their policies in the field of education. Among the main political formations, the author pays most attention to the Zveno political circle, whose representatives in the government implemented educational reforms after the coup of 19 May 1934. The reform activity of the new government in the educational sphere, realized through a series of ordinance-laws, which strengthened the centralist principle in the management of the Bulgarian educational system and limited the liberal character of educational work, is examined in detail. The issue of the Bulgarian public's reaction to the changes in the educational system, including those of leading educators, has also been investigated; the ideas of the so-called 'creative nationalism' are outlined; and the activities of the state-supported Enlightenment Union, through which the non-partisan regime sought to incorporate Bulgarian teaching into the 'new state', are examined. The author rejects the view, imposed in the recent past, that Bulgarian educators, regarded as ideologues of the 'new education', were the conduits of fascist, chauvinist and racist ideas in Bulgarian education. In conclusion, G. Yakimov concludes that until the end of

the 1930s the Bulgarian education system remained within the tradition established in the post-liberation decades. The author gives civic education an important place in the chronological framework of his study.

The conclusion of the candidate's monographic work is balanced in terms of evaluations and conclusions on the reforms carried out in the period 1934-1939 in Bulgarian education.

Significant contributions are made by the candidate's works devoted to the problems of civic education at home and abroad, the formation of students' basic economic literacy and political culture, and the study of human rights in history education. Some of his publications are logically directly related to the topic of the monographic work.

IV. Critical remarks, recommendations and questions

I consider it more appropriate that the content of the first chapter of the monograph be part of the introduction rather than a stand-alone chapter. Why has the candidate not included his own research on the topic in the bibliography and citations in his monograph?

V. Conclusion.

Taking into account the evaluation of the candidate's scientific production, the conclusion that it is the result of his independent research work, the fulfilment of the relevant scientific-metric indicators and other requirements, I give my positive opinion of the work of Associate Professor Georgy Yakimov Stoychev, and propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of History at the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia to appoint Mr Stoichev to the academic position of **Professor** in professional field. 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in ... (*Methodology of teaching in history. Education and Civic Education in the 1920s - 1930s*).

10 October 2023

Reviewer:

Prof. D.Sc. Kostadin Paev