

## STATEMENT

By Dr Ivan Dimitrov Valchev, Associate Professor in Classical Archaeology, member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by order of the Rector of the Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski” no. ПД 38-407/ 14. 07. 2024, concerning the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 2.2. History and Archeology (Archaeology – Thracian Archaeology).

The competition for the academic position of “associate professor” has been announced for the needs of the Department of Archeology of the Faculty of History of the Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”. The announcement was published in the State Gazette no. 55 of 28. 06. 2024. Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by one candidate – assistant professor Nikola Petrov Theodossiev, PhD, full-time lecturer in the Department of Archaeology. The document acceptance committee appointed by the Rector determines that the candidate meets the requirements of the ZRASB and the Regulations of the University and is therefore admitted to participate in the competition. Appendix 12 shows that assist. prof. Nikola Theodossiev, PhD, meets the minimum national requirements set forth in art. 2b of ZRASB.

Nikola Theodossiev graduated with a degree in History from University of Veliko Tarnovo “St St Cyril and Methodius” (1991) and in 1998 he accomplished his doctorate dedicated to “Northwestern Thrace in the V–I centuries BC”. From 1995 until the present, he has been employed by the Department of Archeology at the Faculty of History of the “St Kliment Ohridski” University.

Assist. prof. Nikola Theodossiev is a lecturer on “Archaeology of South-Eastern Europe in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC” and “Archaeology”, respectively in BA programs “Archaeology” and “History”, as well as two more courses in the undergraduate programs and one in the Master’s program in “Archaeology”. A review of the attached documents did not yield any information regarding master’s theses successfully defended under the supervision of Dr Theodossiev.

N. Theodossiev is engaged in a number of scientific research projects and is a member of several prominent scientific organizations and editorial boards, as documented in the attached materials. The list of citations evinces the candidate’s status as a distinguishable researcher on the international stage.

The proposed by Dr Nikola Theodossiev habilitation work is entitled “The Tholos Tombs in Ancient Thrace”. Sofia, “St. Kliment Ohridski” Publishing House, 2024. The monograph is comprised of the following sections: text section (pp. 9–47), an analytical catalog of selected tholos tombs (pp. 49–150), a list of tholos tombs not included in the aforementioned catalog (pp. 151–155), bibliography (pp. 157–180) and a brief summary in English (pp. 181–182). The book addresses significant issues such as the genesis of tholos tombs in Thrace, their typology and chronology. Additionally, it elucidates the political, social, and religious context in which they were constructed and utilized. The book is an original work by the author, and no instances of plagiarism were identified.

In addition to the habilitation monograph, Dr. Theodossiev presents for the competition eight further publications (Appendices 2–9). His research encompasses both the examination of specific issues pertaining to burial practices in Thrace and the broader studies of ancient Thrace during the first millennium BC.

In conclusion, I cast my vote in favor of the appointment of Dr Nikola Petrov Theodossiev to the academic position of “associate professor” in PN 2.2. History and Archaeology (Archaeology – Thracian Archaeology).



November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Assoc. prof. Ivan Valchev, PhD