

## STATEMENT

**by Assoc. Prof. Veneta Handzhiyska-Yankulova, PhD (UniBIT)**

member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. RD 38-407/ 14. 07. 2024 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (Archaeology - Thracian Archaeology) for the needs of the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", announced in the State Gazette No. 55 of 28.06.2024

Only one candidate participated in the competition – assist. prof. Nikola Petrov Teodosiev, PhD. He has a Master's degree in History from the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" since 1991, and in 1998 he defended his doctorate on the topic "Northwestern Thrace in the V–I centuries" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where he has been working as a full-time lecturer in the Department of Archaeology since 1995.

The majority of the disciplines in which N. Teodosiev teaches are directly related to his scientific interests in the field of Thracian archaeology and funerary practices. At the same time, the documents included in the competition present him as a participant in a number of authoritative scientific organizations and editorial boards, as well as in the implementation of projects. The voluminous lists of citations and publications (not only those submitted for the competition) clearly demonstrate that he is a recognizable scientist, especially abroad, which is probably due to the fact that a large part of his publications are in publications outside Bulgaria.

Based on the documentation submitted for the competition, it is evident that the results of the research and teaching activities of Dr. Nikola Teodosiev fully meet the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor", according to Art. 2b, para 2 of the ZRASB and art. 1a, para. 1 of the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASB and the Annex thereto for professional field 2.2. History and archaeology, as well as art. 105 (1) of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski".

The list of publications included in the competition consists of a total of 9 titles. Among them are one monograph and seven studies and articles, as well as the published doctoral dissertation, all in English, through which Nikola Teodosiev demonstrates his enduring scientific interest in Thracian issues. They examine both various aspects of funerary practices and the multifaceted processes in Thracian society in the 1st millennium BC.

Nikola Teodosiev's scientific interests logically find their expression in the habilitation work he created. The latter has a seemingly usual structure – an introduction, three chapters with "standard" titles, a conclusion, a catalogue and a bibliography. However, upon closer inspection,

readers are left with the impression that in a number of cases the problems are only marked, but not clarified, or it is not clear how a given conclusion was reached. Although the author too often uses words and expressions such as “undoubtedly”, “obviously”, “beyond doubt”. The introduction presented in a very general way and the extremely brief conclusion are also striking. In this case, perhaps the author’s purely authorial style of writing is also evident here.

As a distinctive feature of the monograph, however, the peculiar catalogue should also be mentioned, divided into two parts “Analytical catalogue of selected dome tombs” and “List of dome tombs not included in the catalogue”. For myself, I did not find convincing arguments as to why the most representative examples, which can only support the theses and conclusions expressed in the analysis, are “excluded” from the catalogue.

Despite the remarks made, the monographic work can be defined as a contribution to the study, which manages to unite a huge amount of information accumulated in recent decades (460 titles). The author stands out as an expert on the discussed issues and demonstrates skills in handling the rich available base of ancient sources and archaeological finds.

In conclusion, I express my positive opinion about the appointment of Nikola Petrov Teodosiev to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Department of Archaeology (Archaeology-Thracian Archaeology) at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".



**Assoc. Prof. Veneta Handzhiyska-Yankulova, PhD**