**STATEMENT**

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mirena Damyanova Legurska –

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regarding the materials submitted for the competition (Official Gazette No. 56/ June 30, 2023) for the academic position of "Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in..., (Teaching Methodology in History) at the Department of Archival Studies and Teaching Methodology in History within the Faculty of History.

For this announced competition, only one candidate has submitted documents: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov Stoychev. The submitted competition documentation includes an electronic media kit of materials that have been meticulously organized in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as with the Procedure for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski."

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov Stoychev's scholarly work comprises 77 publications. For the competition, the candidate has submitted 52 of them for review, including 1 monograph - a habilitation thesis, 5 studies published in issues listed in the National Reference List, 14 articles, of which 4 are in Web of Science and Scopus, 10 textbooks, 10 teacher's books, 5 workbooks, and 7 teaching aids. The candidate has a total of 51 citations, including 4 in scientific issues referenced and indexed in globally renowned databases, 45 in monographs and collective volumes with scholarly review, and 2 citations or reviews in non-referenced journals with scholarly review.

The presented monograph, "Bulgarian Education (1934-1939). Reforms, Nationalism, State-Civic Education," stands out as an exceptional work. It is structured with an introduction, four chapters, and a bibliography with references and scholarly literature. Within its impressive 452 pages, the monograph provides a detailed and analytical presentation of the most important features in the development of education during the specified period, stemming from the political processes following the imposition of the non-party authoritarian regime of "Zveno" and the Military Union. The focus is also on the new educational legislation (regulations-laws), the promotion of the ideology of "creative nationalism," and the intensified state-civic education of children and youth.

The most significant contributions in the monograph are seen in the following directions:

- In-depth presentation of the ideas related to the changes in the development of the Bulgarian educational system in the 1920s and 1930s.

- A detailed examination of the reformist activities of the government of the Nineteen of May (Bulgarian coup d'état of 1934, “Devetnadesetomayski”) in the field of education.

- Elaboration on the ideology of the so-called New State in the field of education, which is based on the views of creative nationalism.

- Tracing the efforts of the non-party regime to incorporate the Bulgarian teaching profession into the "new state" through the Professional Educational Union, including its activities aimed at improving the material conditions of educators and expanding educational and cultural activities.

- An examination of the authoritarian state's efforts to promote a stronger nationalist direction and loyalty to the authoritarian state in the education and upbringing of children and youth within the framework of the so-called state-civic education.

In the other reviewed publications, numerous contributions are observed in both the educational and practical aspects, focusing on civic education, historical education in schools, and the issues of the educational system in the 1920s and 1940s.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov Stoychev's teaching activities are rich and diverse. They include mandatory subjects such as "Teaching Methodology in History," "Civic Education," "History and Civic Education," as well as pedagogical practices: "Observation," "Ongoing Pedagogical Practice," "Internship," and the elective discipline "Textbooks on Bulgarian History during the Revival Period." Assoc. Prof. Yakimov has participated in two research projects and numerous national and international academic forums, conferences, and seminars. He is a co-author of 34 textbooks, teacher's books, workbooks, and teaching aids. He has been involved in preparing state exams in History and Civilizations and in organizing National History and Civilizations Olympiads.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the submitted scholarly works by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov Stoychev are original and do not replicate those from previous procedures for obtaining academic degrees and positions. There is no evidence of plagiarism in the scholarly works submitted for the competition in accordance with the established legal procedures.

The results achieved by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov in his teaching and research activities fully comply with all the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, and the respective Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." Therefore, I confidently provide my **positive** assessment and **recommend** to the esteemed Academic Jury to prepare a report and proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of History at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Yakimov to the academic position of "Professor" in the professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in... (Teaching Methodology in History).

October 17, 2023 Prepared by:

Sofia Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mirena Legurska