EVALUATION STATEMENT

regarding Roumen Zhivkov Boiadzhiev’s application for the academic position of Full Professor in Professional Field 2.2: History and Archaeology, Research Area: Late Antiquity (Christian Prosopography), advertised in DV 31/12.04.2019 by Prof. Vasya Nikolova Velinova, DSc (CSVP “Ivan Duychev, Sofia University)

The competition with a single candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumen Zhivkov Boyadzhiev has been announced for the needs of CSVP "Ivan Duychev" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". Compliance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff of Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of the Sofia University has been proven. The applicant has submitted the required set of documents, publications and administrative records necessary for him to be eligible to participate in the competition.

Prof. Boyadzhiev has presented one monograph, one study and 11 articles for the competition. In addition, he has authored two other monographs: *Boyadzhiev, R. Early West European monasticism. The Benedictines and the East to the Middle of the XI Century Sofia, 1996 (ISBN 954-679-007-9)* and *The Late Antique Convent in Rome and its defenders of the Apennines and in the Eastern Mediterranean / Between II and III Ecumenical Council: 381 - 431). Prosopographis Feminarum Christianarum / Saecc. IV-VI /, Parse I. Sofia, 2011, 439 c*. The work, which has been presented as a monograph in the competition, *Lost Africa Sacra. Late Antique Christian North Africa IV-VI c. Chr. The Western Provinces of Africa Proconsularis, Numidia, Byzacena and Mauretania: Christian Urbanism, Bishops and Light Women. Prosopographia Feminarum Christianarum, Pars II / Africa, Saecc.IV-VII. 2019, 491 pages (ISBN 978-954-326-385-1),* is a follow-up to the 2011 book, outlining the applicant's enduring scientific interest in early Christian female monasticism and related cultural and historical issues. This is a topic which is underdeveloped in Bulgarian historical science and the works of Assoc. Prof. Boyadjiev are innovative and very relevant.

The same can be said for the studies and articles presented by the applicant, which have been published in specialized scientific publications in Bulgaria and abroad and in most cases are the result of his participation in prestigious and reputable international scientific forums. The enclosed list of references of his works indicates the interest in the applicant's scientific production and its qualities. The enclosed references for teaching load, for participation in scientific and project activities, for citations in indexed editions, etc. cover and even exceed the requirements of the Law.

Rumen Boyadzhiev is graduate of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " with a degree in Bulgarian Philology with a specialization in Theory and History of Culture. He has been a Fellow of KAAD in Regensburg (1990) and Hamburg (1992-1994). He subsequently defended his doctorate in 1996 on "*Early Benedictine monasticism: the Benedictines and the East until the mid-XI century*." The work has been published in 2011. The rehabilitation work presented in this competition and the three monographs by Assoc. Prof. Boyadzhiev outline his consistent scientific interest in a field of science that is not sufficiently explored in our country.

The habilitation work of Assoc. Prof. Boyadzhiev, presented in the competition for Full Professor, was designed to be a wide panorama of economic and religious life in parts of the provinces of North Africa during the period IV-VI c. The work combines two approaches: a classic historiographical study of political, economic, and administrative processes in the territories indicated, based on statistical methods, and an archaeographic-documentary survey aimed at creating a personal-prosopographic reference book for Christian women.

In applying these two approaches, the author presents for the first time in our country the early history of Christianity in the western North African Horn (Chap. I). After this he focuses on the early history of the Roman provinces in the area, specifically on the urban environment and its development, and on the African economy (Chapters II and III). These chapters are innovative and valuable contributions. The panorama is complemented by observations on the church history and geography synthesized in the chapter - Africa Sacra - Early African Christianity (Chap. IV). Presented within its pages is a detailed picture of the religious situation in the African provinces during the late antique period. The statistical section at the end of the chapter is a valuable contribution in the field of African church geography. It is a result of the analysis conducted by the author on the rich archaeological material. He gives the approximate number of Christian basilicas by provinces and cities, and the number of their ships and their sizes respectively. The fifth chapter (Urban and Archeological Painting) is original for our historiography. Empirical material relating to about 55 settlements in the provinces concerned is summarized. All known names of bishops have been collected.

Within the work a second, the real prosopography part, is distinguished: “*Prosopographia feminarum christianarum (Saecc. IV - VII), Pars II. Prosopographic Corps of Women - Christians from the Provinces of Africa Proconsularis, Numidia, Byzacena and Mauretania / Second Half of IV Century - Mid-VII Century*”. The alphabetical presentation of 160 Christian women from the African lands in question between IV and the beginning of VII century (according to epigraphic or literary data) is included. This part has a contribution character as a list of personal data and an important historical source since, to the best of the reviewer’s knowledge, no special prosopography study has been dedicated only to Christian women of the period.

Thus, the monographic study of Assoc. Prof. Rumen Boyadzhiev gives us an idea of ​​the complex process of Christianization of several Roman provinces. It also presents the attitude of Christians towards Roman heritage against the backdrop of urbanization problems. Particular attention is paid to martyrdom, to the instruments that the early Christian church devised in order to gradually conquer the spiritual space of the old Roman cities. The complex approach of the author, the use of diverse source material - epigraphic, archaeological, literary sources, epistolary corps and church annals - allows us to recreate a vivid picture of an era that underlies the development of Christianity.

Most of the candidate's articles are devoted to this issue. They feature a rich documentary source, with a precise and correct attitude to the source material. New prosopographical information has been introduced into scientific circulation and has made an important contribution to the study of Christianization of northern Africa in late Antiquity.

Rich bibliographic awareness, accurate reading of sources, and the search for unknown information about the era make the publications of Assoc. Prof. Boyadzhiev relevant for contemporary studies, arouse scientific interest and provide new information. This is also true of his lectures. He constantly updates and keeps them up to date on the subject. He holds several seminars, which are met with great interest by the bachelor’s students of “Balkan Studies” and by students in the master’s programs in history.

Given the scientific value of his monograph and the publications presented in the competition, his teaching work and his organizational skills as a leader of scientific projects, I strongly recommend that the Honorable Scientific Jury vote positively for him. I give my positive vote towards his application for Full Professor.

06/08/2019 Prof. Vasya Velinova