RESUME

 For participation in the announced competition, Assoc. Prof. Todor Popnedelev has submitted 18 inquiries and documents that meet the requirements of the law. Attached to the documents is the obligatory reference for scientometric parameters covered by the candidate, necessary for participation in the competition for the title "Professor". From the attached CV it is evident that in 1991 he became a senior assistant in the Department of History of Bulgaria at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".

In particular, I would like to emphasize that until his participation in this competition he went through all stages of his university teaching career - senior assistant, assistant professor / 1994 / and associate professor / 2005 / until the current 2022. In other words, he has a significant teaching career. 17 years of experience have passed since the acquisition of the title of "Associate Professor". I draw attention to this fact due to the worrying trend seen in the last few years, that after the adoption of new scientific degrees and titles, some young and capable colleagues show unnecessary "impatience" in their career development without sufficient teaching experience and experience in their chosen field of history.

 From the attached reference it is evident that there is a full correspondence between the code of the announced competition and the long-term teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Todor Popnedelev. He gives compulsory lectures in full-time and part-time education of students in the Faculty of History - Introduction to historical knowledge of the specialties History, History and Philosophy, History and Geography, History and Foreign Language, Archival and Documentary. For students majoring in History and Philosophy, History and Geography and History and Foreign Language - lectures Department and schools in historical science. For students majoring in History lectures on Bulgarian historiography. He reads two elective bachelor's courses separately - Bulgarian Historiography for students of the above doublets and Balkan Historiography for students majoring in History and Geopolitics in the Balkans. There are also 4 master's programs announced, one of which is optional. For participation in a competition for a professor it is especially important to note not only the correspondence between the code of the competition and the nature of the taught disciplines, but also the extent to which this teaching is related to the scientific and applied activities of the candidate. The presented list of scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Todor Popnedelev at first glance convinces us that this correspondence between teaching and research is present. The general list of works includes 3 monographs / chapter from the book The Socialist University / 1950-1989 and the University, two books co-authored by Kostadin Grozev, six studies - one in a scientific journal / in a foreign language / five study collections / one in a foreign language /, 16 articles in scientific journals, 22 articles, interviews and prefaces to collections. It should be noted the participation of Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev in five research projects in the period 2009-2019, 2 research manuals of graduate students / 2011, 2017 /, seven participations in conferences, his active participation in the editorial board of the Third International Congress in Bulgarian Studies, for the organization and successful course of which Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev has great merits. His participation as an editor of various collections -7 in number is also active, among which his participation in the editorial board of the Yearbook of the Sofia University, Faculty of History 2011-2017 stands out. The affinity shown by Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev to this oldest and most authoritative periodical of Sofia University is not accidental, as in recent years he undertook a historiographical study of the topic of the Bulgarian Middle Ages. authoritative periodicals of the Sofia University / 1905-1945 /. This choice is not accidental, if we recall that at the beginning of his research career Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev focused on the historical legacy left by the doyen of Bulgarian medieval studies, to whom his doctoral dissertation was dedicated (then called a candidate's dissertation). Subsequently, as is well known, the work of Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev in Zlatarski's archives led to the publication of his previously unpublished lecture courses, read at Sofia University.

 The monograph presented for the competition for professor is entitled "Bulgarian Middle Ages in the Yearbook of Sofia University, Faculty of History and Philology / 1905-1945 /." It is essentially a continuation of Assoc. Popnedelev's lasting interest in Bulgarian historical periodicals. I will remind you that his habilitation thesis for associate professor was "Journal of Historical Review / 1945 1948 /. Towards the Marxist Reorganization of Historical Science in Bulgaria" published in 2006. The monograph consists of 199 pages. Its content includes Preface, Introduction, Three Chapters, Conclusion, Bibliography and Appendix / short biographical references for the authors in the Yearbook, whose research is analyzed in the monograph /. The structure is built on the chronological-thematic principle, first following the traditional division of the medieval Bulgarian history of the First and Second Bulgarian state. The historiographical study of the publications for these two main periods of our medieval development is placed in the first and second chapters, respectively, and the third chapter analyzes publications, including a larger chronological scope, beyond the accepted traditional periodization. These are, for example, studies of a purely historiographical nature, such as the work of Prof. Svetozar Georgiev "Cultural and historical views of Karl Lamprecht", the lecture of Prof. Petar Nikov "The task of today's Bulgarian historiography", the introductory lecture of Prof. Petar Mutafchiev "East and West in the European Middle Ages, etc. For greater clarity, the content of the three chapters is divided into separate thematic parts, in which there is a separate analysis of publications on the history of the Bulgarian Middle Ages, analysis of the publication historical sources and analysis of linguistic, literary and ethnographic studies. I find it perfectly appropriate that at the beginning of the monograph there is a preface outlining the main tasks of the science of historiography and its epistemological, axiological, prognostic, and moral-ethical functions. The subsequent introduction is devoted to the history of the Yearbook of Sofia University and its transformation into an authoritative periodical for scientific achievements in various fields of knowledge, after which a significant place falls on historical science. Without going into an unnecessary retelling of the individual chapters, I will generally share my impressions of the monograph. First of all, there is no doubt that for its writing Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev has read and thoroughly analyzed a significant number / 45 / of studies of various kinds devoted to problems of political, institutional and cultural history of medieval Bulgaria. In the list of publications we find the names of such great researchers as Vasil Zlatarski Petar Mutafchiev, Petar Nikov, Veselin Beshevliev, Yordan Ivanov, Dimitar Dechev, Benyo Tsonev, Stefan Mladenov and others. It is no secret that initially the Yearbook contains works that later developed and became part of separate monographs, such as Vasil Zlatarski, Petar Mutafchiev, Veselin Beshevliev and others. Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev pays special attention to a problem not so much commented in historiography as the methodology of these authors' work with sources, critical use of information, attitude to the accumulated historiographical heritage on a given issue, approaches to the reconstruction of the historical process in the Middle Ages and its not only eventual clarification, but also philosophical reasoning. The professional approach of Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev to the systematization and analysis of the research under consideration is impressive, as well as the respect to their authors, devoid of effective and unfounded criticisms of scientific or other nature. I draw attention to this fact because in a part of our historiographical heritage, especially after 1945, there are a lot of prejudices and purely political qualifications about the weaknesses of the so-called "Bourgeois historians.". The conclusion made at the end of the monograph sounds convincing that, judging by the historical publications in the Yearbook for the period 1905-1945, with his tireless work a relatively limited circle of historians, linguists, and literary critics, following the best traditions of European science, contribute significantly to the progress in the development of the national humanities.

 Closely related to the in-depth historiographical activities of Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev are several other studies and articles that deserve mention as: "From" nationality "to" state history "ANAMNESIS, year XVI 2021, book 2; "A look at the development of Bulgarian historiography in the twentieth century / national history / year XVI, 2021 book 3"; "Trends in the development of Bulgarian historiography in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Past, books 2-3. Important contributing moments are also contained in the study The State Policy towards the Cultural Heritage in Bulgaria 1878 /. Legislation and professional development in the field of cultural heritage. Historical Reconstruction and Current Situation in the Republic of Bulgaria, University Press, 2020 p.13-59. For those publications, and for all others written by Assoc. Prof. Popnedelev it should be noted the in-depth work with archival materials, the development of convincing hypotheses, devoid of extravagant statements and unfounded assessments. At the same time, there is respect and esteem for what our predecessors did in the field of historical knowledge and the building of our cultural institutions. Undoubted skills to ask appropriate questions and to predispose to openness are shown by Popnedelev in these peculiar interviews with our historians, which he does in various collections. This is, so to speak, part of the "craft of the historian", which Popnedelev has fully mastered. Here is the place to note that through his many years of scientific and teaching work he has undoubted merits for the establishment and development of the subject "Historiography" in the Faculty of History. Now this trend remains to be maintained and further developed by the young staff coming after us. His merits as Dean of the Faculty of History for the staff strengthening and development of the faculty, when various new specialties emerged, cannot be overlooked. Finally, I would like to add that, without a doubt, the peer-reviewed papers and all the contributions are the personal work of the candidate. I mention it in order to meet the requirements that are placed on the reviewers to explicitly state whether the peer-reviewed works are original or can be questioned due to plagiarism. After all that has been said so far, I strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award without hesitation Assoc. Prof. Todor Popnedelev the scientific title "Professor". He fully deserves it for his successful and long-term teaching and research activities at the Faculty of History of Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski".