

# OPINION

by **Dr. Stoyan Iliev Chilikov, Associate Professor of Paisii Hilendarski  
University of Plovdiv**

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for the academic position of ‘ **Professor**’  
**at** Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.4 Religion  
and Theology  
(CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS )

In the competition for ‘ Professor’, announced in the State Gazette, issue 48 of  
28. 06. 2022 and in the website of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski  
for the needs of the Faculty of Theology, as a candidate participates Dimo  
Penkov

## **1. General presentation of the received materials**

### **Subject:**

By order of the Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski  
I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the  
academic position of 'associate professor' in Sofia University in the field of higher  
education 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.4 Religion and Theology  
(CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS ), **announced for the needs of** the Faculty of  
Theology.

Documents for participation in the announced competition have been  
submitted by the only candidate Associate-professor Dr. Dimo Penkov.

Presented by Associate-professor Dr. Dimo Penkov set of paper materials is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of Sofia University, and includes the following documents:

- Application for admission to the competition;
- Autobiography
- Diploma for Master's degree;
- Diploma for PhD degree;
- List of scientific works;
- Information on compliance with the minimum national requirements;
- Annotations of the materials;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;
- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents for educational work;
- Documents for scientific-research work.

The candidate Dimo Penkov has submitted a total of 16 scientific papers, of which 2 monographs and 12 articles.

Dimo Penkov has a master's degree and a doctorate in theology, obtained from the Sofia University. He specialized in the Regensburg Institute in Germany. He has extensive teaching experience. Initially, he taught at the "SV. Ivan Rilski", then in the Faculty of Theology of Sofia University as a part-time assistant, assistant, chief assistant and associate professor. He was the deputy dean of the Faculty of Theology for two terms, head of an established master's program, of a scientific project and of 4 already defended doctoral students

### **Evaluation of scientific activity**

Assoc. Prof. Penkov's scientific interests are multifaceted, but according to their importance, they are concentrated in two main thematic circles: the first is apologetic-polemical with a focus on patristic texts with the aim of defending

basic truths of the faith. The second circle, which, in my opinion, has been very little developed in scientific research and therefore has a greater probability of scientific innovations and the discovery of new scientific fields, is the Orthodox spirituality of Bulgarian poets and writers.

The monograph "The Philosophical-Theological Arguments of St. John Damascene on the Existence of God (Theological-Apologetic Study)" is also connected with the first thematic circle, which is also presented as a habilitation thesis. The monograph is based on two main scientific problems, which the author was able to answer in the course of the research. This is an exposition of the doctrine of the knowledge of God by St. John Damascene in terms of his philosophical-theological argumentation; and in the second place - the presentation of the evidence for the existence of God by St. John Damascene, where the importance of ancient philosophy regarding his theological system is clearly identified.

The second thematic circle of research interest of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Penkov covers his research on Orthodox spirituality in the writings of distinguished "awakeners" of the word, such as Ivan Vazov, Pencho Slaveykov and Stoyan Mihailovski. This thematic circle was started to be explored by the author already with his doctoral work on the religious-philosophical views of Stoyan Mihailovski. In my opinion, the topics of this circle are very interesting and deserve more attention from researchers. In this context, Dimo Penkov definitely made a scientific contribution with his publications on the religious-philosophical views of the notable "awakeners".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimo Penkov has enough citations in scientific publications.

## **CONCLUSION**

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment to the candidate in the competition. Therefore, I would like to recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy for election of Dr. Dimo Penkov at the

academic position of ‘ Professor’ at the Sofia University in the field of higher education education 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.4 Religion and Theology (CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS ),

6.11.2022r.

Reviewer: .....

Associate Professor Dr. Stoyan Chilikov