

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
Изходящ № .....	дата ..... 201 г.
Входящ № 787	дата 18.12. 2019
София 1113, бул. Шипченски проход № 52, бл. 17 тел.: 02/ 979 29 38 ; факс: 02/ 870 21 91	

## REPORT

by Snezhanka Rakova-Marinkyova, Assoc. Prof.  
South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad

Regarding: The application of the following candidates for the academic post of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR according to the Bulgarian legislation in Area of Higher Education 2. Humanities in Professional Field 2.2. History and Archaeology. The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette, issue 66, dated 20 August 2019.

Application of: Elena Marinova Kostova, Institute for Historical Research, BAS

Elena Kostova is already among the recognizable names of young Bulgarian medievalists. The experience she has accumulated over more than a decade is due to her constant and deep interest in the study of the late centuries of the Bulgarian Middle Ages. The topics she has worked on have been related to the history of the medieval town of Melnik, the publication of numerous studies related to sources or to specific problems of political and economic relations in the Southwestern Bulgarian lands, including the Principality of Serres and the activity of the other local rulers.

Her habilitation work "Bulgaria, Dubrovnik and the Balkans. Political, economic and diplomatic relations (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> C.), 285 pages (research and publication of sources), present the results of her diligent work with documentary evidence from this period. Elena Kostova initiated and was an active participant in the successfully completed project at the Center for Humanities *Alma Mater* at Sofia University, because of which appeared two new volumes with "Documents from Dubrovnik on the History of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Lands from the 13th to the 15th Century" (2017-2018). In this connection, it is of great importance that she had the opportunity to work in the Dubrovnik archives and to examine the relevant documents in detail.

Her research impresses with the extremely detailed approach to the written sources and the careful examination of all the possibilities for exhaustive comments. The balance in her research approach, while presenting both Bulgarian and Dubrovnik interests is a great success. At the same time, for each document analyzed, she seeks a historical context in which to place the relevant event, looking for a Balkan perspective and an even in a broader context of economic relations in the Eastern Mediterranean. The research follows the interests of Venice, of the Balkan countries, of Dubrovnik itself, and

of the Ottomans, who are also presented in the 14th century. In this sense, we really have a study about "Bulgaria, Dubrovnik and the Balkans".

Elena Kostova is the author of numerous publications related to the above mentioned topic. Out of 30 published articles and studies (including a few that have been accepted for publication), 11 are related to her research on Bulgarian-Dubrovnik relations. Her other publications are mainly devoted to the analysis of new and unknown documents (generally from 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries).

The quotations to her publications have proved the high visibility and importance of her research. The Scientific Contribution Report presented here reflects well enough the innovative points in both her monograph and her other research on specific topics.

The publications presented by Elena Kostova, and related to her application for the academic position of "Associate Professor", are sufficient to fulfill the necessary requirements. These scientific materials meet (and even exceed) the approved "Minimum Requirements" for this academic position according to the the current law on academic development, which can be seen from the candidate's completed forms.

My recommendation is "for" granting the academic rank of "Associate Professor" to Elena Kostova.

Sofia, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2019

Signature:

/Sn. Rakova/