

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ  
ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ

Изходящ № ..... дата ..... 201 г.

Решение № 789 ..... дата 18.12.2019 г.

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## REPORT

by Ilija Georgiev Iliev, Prof. DSc  
Institute for Historical Studies, BAS

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.

Applicant: Elena Marinova Kostova, Sen. Ass. PhD, Institute for Historical Studies, BAS

At the competition announced by the Institute for Historical Research at the BAS for the academic post of Associate Professor Elena Kostova appears with more than 30 publications (see the attached lists of publications), one third of which are related to the topic of her habilitation work. Among them, the result of Dr. Kostova's participation in the Sofia University project for publishing sources for the history of Mediaeval Bulgaria, preserved in the Dubrovnik Archives, namely two volumes of Dubrovnik documents: *Dubrovnik Documents for the History of Bulgaria and the Bulgarians in the XIII - 15th c.* Collection of sources. Published, translated and commented by A. Nikolov, V. Guzelev, E. Kostova, P. Danova, S. Hinkovski, Vol. I (1230 - 1403), Vol. II (1407 - 1505), Sofia; 2017 – 2018.

These publications and Dr. Kostova's numerous contributions to various national and international scientific conferences have already made her a recognizable figure in the field of the mediaeval studies. She is already an authority on the issues of the Late Bulgarian Middle Ages and its specific problems, mainly related to the south-west Bulgarian lands, and recently to the relations between the Bulgarians and Dubrovnik during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom and in the subsequent first centuries of Ottoman rule over the Balkan Peninsula.

At the Associate Professor Contest Elena Kostova appears with a habilitation work on the topic "Bulgaria, Dubrovnik and the Balkans. Political, economic and diplomatic relations (end of XII - XIV centuries) in volume of 285 pages (in the press at Bulgarian Historical Heritage Foundation, Plovdiv, ISBN 978-954-8536-31-8). The work is divided into three areas of scientific research: 1) The documents from the chancellery offices as a source for the development of the Bulgarian-Dubrovnik relations in the Balkan context (end of XII - 1350s); 2) Bulgarian-Dubrovnik trade and economic relations during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom; and 3) Historical portraits.

In the first part of the habilitation work Elena Kostova examines well known and many commented monuments of paramount importance for the epoch and the problems connected with them. This gives her the opportunity to show her good awareness and the level of scientific maturity that has already been attained, so that she can sift the positive

and constructive in the many scientific disputes on the documents involved and take her own position on the most important ones.

The second part is the most contributing to the habilitation thesis of Dr. Kostova. Here she demonstrates her qualities as a promising researcher of the Bulgarian medieval past in the broad Balkan context and the achievement gives reason to expect her further works. Here, I will note in passing the contributions of the habilitation work on the role and place of the Dubrovnik consuls in the Balkans, as well as on the duties paid by foreign traders in the Balkans, and in particular in the Bulgarian lands.

The third part is devoted to two figures in Bulgarian medieval history, for which source material examined by Elena Kostova allows to better reconstruct their biographies. These are Queen Anna-Neda and Nicola Bulgarina, to whom Dr. Kostova recently dedicated her report to an international conference, organized in the beginning of December 2019, organized by the Institute for Historical Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and not indicated in the documents for this competition.

As in her other studies, as well as in the habilitation work, Dr. Elena Kostova has shown a scrupulous attitude towards the source material and a critical attitude towards the achievements of the scientists who worked before her in the same field. This allows her to draw reasoned conclusions and offer realistic restorations of our medieval past - all qualities inherent in an already established scientist.

If we look at the other components required by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, we would see that Elena Kostova has sufficient scientific production, created in the period after the defence of her doctoral dissertation and published in authoritative publications. The scientific community has noticed works of hers and their quotes show that they were not only noticed, but also used for work by colleagues at home and abroad. I have already said that Dr. Kostova's scientific contributions are available, and what she has stated in her contribution record is plausible and well reflected. Her scientific production fully complies with the minimum requirements for the academic post of Associate Professor, which the table presented by the candidate according to the model of the law proves.

All of the above gives me reason to strongly support the election of Senior Assistant Elena Marinova Kostova in the academic post of Associate Professor, for which I will also vote at the closing meeting of the Scientific Board for this competition.

Sofia, 12.12.2019

(Iliya Iliev, Prof. DSc)