

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ ИЗСЛЕДВАНИЯ	
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## REPORT

Of prof. Iliyana Marcheva, Institute for Historical Studies, BAS

On a competition for the academic position of professor in the professional field 2.2. History and Archeology, scientific specialty "History of Bulgaria" (Modern Bulgarian History - Economic and Social History of Bulgaria in the XX century), for the needs of the department "Modern Bulgarian History", published in the "State Gazette", issue no. 66 of 24 July 2020

Only one candidate has submitted documents in the competition - Assoc. Prof. Daniel Hristov Vachkov, Doctor of History since 1994, elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 2008, a graduate of Sofia University, connected his path in science with the Institute for Historical Studies.

He participated with 1 individual and 4 collective monographs, 37 studies and articles, 3 reviews and reviews, compilation and scientific editing of 3 research and documentary collections. All submitted papers were published after the acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor". The works of Assoc. Prof. Vachkov present him as a connoisseur of the economic history of Bulgaria throughout the twentieth century and in particular as one of the leading experts in various aspects of the economic policy of Bulgarian governments.

In scientometric terms, Vachkov's scientific output fully meets and even exceeds the national minimum requirements. According to indicator B (100 points) he presented an independent habilitation thesis - the monograph "Accidents and catastrophes. Chronicle of Socialist Industrialization", Sofia, Institute for the Recent Past, ed. Ciela, 2018, 214 pp. not repeating the research of Vachkov, with which he became an associate professor. According to indicator G - Assoc. Prof. Vachkov collects 355 points (against a minimum of 220), indicating 2 articles in referenced scientific journals, indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 22 studies and articles in non-refereed journals with scientific review or edited collective volumes, as well as four chapters from collective monographs. The abstracts of the papers fully correspond to the texts.

Vachkov's scientific works on the epoch of socialism, in which period I am a specialist, were made using the accumulated scientific and journalistic literature, and this reveals a historiographical culture and awareness, absolutely obligatory for a professor. Archival

sources of the highest quality have been used. Rich source base associated with the so-called "The archival revolution" of the 1990s has already become traditional for the study of the recent past in contemporary historiography, and Assoc. Prof. Vachkov quite naturally fits into it. The approach taken by Assoc. Prof. Vachkov, as the author from the Institute for the Recent Past, whose mission is to comprehend the history of "communism in Bulgaria" from "a more modern liberal-democratic point of view" (<http://minaloto.bg/%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%81/>) (18.10.2020), positions him in the group of scientists, boldly revising the recent past and its interpretations until 1989. This led him to shed light on a neglected aspect of the economic history of the twentieth century and more precisely of the industrial policy during the communist regime - industrial accidents and catastrophes, incl. transport (rail and air). Thus he established himself as an innovator in the economic and social history of the twentieth century.

The main merit of the monograph is the conscientious disclosure at every stage of the regime's development (during and after the war; during Stalinization, de-Stalinization, the reformed 60s and 70s and the crisis of the 80s) of labor accidents, industrial accidents and catastrophes. Each industrial accident is described in view of the conditions and the reaction of the authorities, including the legal consequences for the perpetrators, as well as the cases of amnesty due to ideological and propaganda purposes. Another merit of the author is the convincing revelation through the history of accidents of a number of very characteristic features of the socialist, planned economy such as homelessness, unaccountability, striving to conceal the real facts from different levels in the production and party hierarchy, the discrepancy between promised care for workers and reality, non-compliance with labor instructions, poor control, etc. - all weaknesses hidden behind the monolithic facade of the regime. The helplessness of the trade unions under socialism, which are part of the political system, stands out. A third advantage of the work is the clear style of presenting the material, keeping the thesis without going into unnecessary details, the compiled tables, which are an organic part of the text.

What seems to me to be insufficiently substantiated is the subtitle of the monograph "Chronicle of Socialist Industrialization". As a researcher of socialist industrialization as realizing in Bulgaria the Second and the beginning of the Third Industrial Revolutions during the Cold War, I cannot accept that only accidents and catastrophes determine the chronicle of socialist industrialization. It is much larger and includes many more phenomena. In general, the topic of industrial accidents, power and society raises a number of questions, which

suggests that the author has indeed opened a new field in Bulgarian historiography. One such example is the question of the peculiarities of official propaganda about occupational accidents. The point of the monograph is that accidents at work, accidents and catastrophes are hidden by the regime or belittled, and therefore society, even 30 years after the collapse of the system, is ignorant and nostalgic for it. But every owner of a failed enterprise has such behavior and the socialist state as such an owner of the whole industry is no exception in this respect. In this sense, the work would win if the topic was revealed in comparison (synchronous and / or diachronic) - with the policy of other socialist and / or capitalist countries on these issues of accidents at work, accidents and the state's attitude to them.

The notes and comments made by me do not belittle the significant scientific contribution of Assoc. Prof. Daniel Vachkov, which he gives with his monograph "Accidents and Catastrophes" in contemporary Bulgarian historiography, revealing unexplored aspects of socialist industrialization. Their analysis contributes to the elucidation of the social cost of this process in Bulgaria during socialism.

An assessment of the contributions of Assoc. Prof. Vachkov is also given by the noticed 111 citations of his works, most of which in monographs, peer-reviewed magazines and collections, by Bulgarian and foreign authors. And this testifies that he well recognized in the scientific space. In scientometric terms, according to indicator D, he again exceeds the required points - he has achieved 205 points with a minimum of 120.

Proof of the authority of Assoc. Prof. D. Vachkov in science and in organizing scientific activity on a project basis is his participation as a leader of three projects (one with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and two funded by the NSF) and as a member of a project funded by NSF. In support of facts mentioned above is the impressive number of scientific forums - 77 in the country and abroad, in which Assoc. Prof. Vachkov took part with a report or public lecture.

According to indicator E Vachkov collects 126 points at the required minimum of 100, not only from the management of research projects, but also as a co-author of textbooks.

Evidence of the organizational qualities in the scientific field of the candidate is his successful activity as scientific secretary of the Institute for Historical Studies 2012-2017 and several years as its director.

Having in mind all the above said, I would like to recommend to the esteemed academic board to award Assoc. Prof. Daniel Vachkov the academic position of "professor" in professional field 2.2. History and archeology, scientific specialty "History of Bulgaria" (Modern Bulgarian History - Economic and Social History of Bulgaria in the XX century), for the needs of the department „Modern Bulgarian History”.

Prof. Iliyana Marcheva, Institute for Historical Studies, BAS

30 October 2020