

## STATEMENT

by

Assoc. Prof. Svetla Slavova Ianeva, PhD

New Bulgarian University

Professional field 2.2 History and Archeology

on the submitted materials for participation in the competition for the academic position

“Professor”

in the professional field 2.2 History and Archeology

announced in State Gazette No 54/16.06.2020

in which the applicant is DSc Momchil Nikolaev Metodiev

### **I Assessment of the compliance with the national minimum requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University**

DSc Momchil Nikolaev Metodiev meets (and exceeds in some of the indicators) the national minimum requirements for the research and teaching activities in the field of High education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.2 History and Archeology, specified in ZRASRB and NRAS of New Bulgarian University and necessary for holding the academic position “Professor”.

### **II Research and results**

#### 1. Assessment of the monograph and of the contributions of the author

Momchil Metodiev participates in the competition with two monographs: *The Metropolitan Bishop of New York Andrei: Biography, Memoirs, Diaries*. Sofia: Riva, 2016. ISBN 978-954-320-561-5 and *State Security – Advantage by Inheritance. Professional Biographies of the Senior Officers*. Sofia: Ciela, Institut za izsledvane na blizkoto minalo, 2015. ISBN 978-954-28-1937-0.

The first contribution of the book *The Metropolitan Bishop of New York Andrei: Biography, Memoirs, Diaries* consists in the reconstruction, based on varied and unexplored up to now archival materials, of the biography of an interesting and notable personality in twenty-century Bulgarian history, the Metropolitan Andrei who was the first Metropolitan bishop of the Bulgarian bishopric in North America. The author has succeeded in placing the study of

his life and activities not only in the context of the history of the Bulgarian Orthodox church during the period examined but also into the broader context of the transformations in Bulgarian society, the story of the Bulgarian emigration, as well as of the worldwide developments during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This approach has allowed him to not only thoroughly disclose and present the personality of his main protagonist but also to complement our knowledge about several processes and institutions, including about the activities and methods of State security, using the principles of micro-historical research.

The second monograph, *State Security – Advantage by Inheritance. Professional Biographies of the Senior Officers*, successfully fills an important gap in historiography: while up to now scholarly research and social attention were focused on the collaborators of State security, this book reveals the personalities of the main protagonists of the system – the officers. By reconstructing, on the basis of varied and unexplored up to now primary sources, the social origin and the professional career of two generations of senior officers at different positions in the system of State security, the monograph provides well-grounded evidence that the advancement in the hierarchy of this institution was based on two formal criteria – the social origin and the years of service and that the origin, the personal acquaintances and contacts of the employees were far more important for their career prospects than their education or the quality of their professional performances. Thus a constant characteristic of State security became its anti-meritocratic approach to the selection and promotion of its personnel. The latter transformed this system not only into a repressive but also into a closed and stagnating institution at the service of party and personal interests instead of the interests of society and national security.

## 2. Assessment of the contributions of the other publications of the applicant

DSc Momchil Metodiev has also published a book based on his PhD dissertation entitled *The Popes and Their Empire (II–VII c.)*. Veliko Tarnovo: Gaberov, 2002. ISBN 954-9607-68-22, as well as a monograph based on his DSc dissertation entitled *Between Faith and Compromise. The Orthodox Church and the Communist State in Bulgaria (1944-1989 г.)*. Sofia: Ciela, Institut za izsledvane na blizkoto minalo, 2010. ISBN 978-954-28-0649-3. The latter is the first comprehensive study of the history of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church under communism. The main contribution of this book consists in the in-depth analysis, based on the exploration of new archival sources, of the interrelations between the Orthodox Church and the communist state, of the methods applied by the latter in carrying out the state policy

of enforcement of civil rituals, of the attitude towards the Bulgarian church communities abroad and of the overall picture of religious life under communism within the country.

Momchil Metodiev is also the author of another book – *Legitimacy Machine. State Security in the Power Strategy of the Bulgarian Communist Party*. Sofia: Ciela, Institut za izsledvane na blizkoto minalo, 2008. ISBN 978-954-28-0237-2, as well as of two chapters of collective monographs. He has also published two studies and two articles in editions which are referenced and indexed in world renowned data-bases of scholarly information, as well as 13 studies and 23 articles in other peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes.

The publications included in the application of Momchil Metodiev for the academic position “Professor” cover an impressive range of topics and problems, many of which have not been comprehensively studied before, and represent sound contributions to the field.

### 3. Citations by other authors

The scholarly publications of DSc Momchil Metodiev are cited or reviewed in 6 editions which are referenced and indexed in world renowned data-bases of scholarly information, in 29 peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes, as well as in 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

### 4. Assessment of the results of participation in research projects

DSc Momchil Metodiev has participated in 6 national research and educational projects as: member of the Multidisciplinary commission of experts on the history and educational issues between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia (since 2018); member of the Council of experts of the Institute for Studies of the Recent Past (since 2005); editor-in-chief of the journal “Hristianstvo i cultura” (since 2010); participant in the educational projects of Sofia Platform, supported by the Ministry of Education, “Civic education in action” (2017-2020), “Lessons from the past: what happened before ’89?” (2016 – 2017) and “25 Years Free Bulgaria” (2014 – 2015).

He has also been part of 3 international research and educational projects: „Transition Dialogue 2019-2021. Dealing with change in democratic ways”, educational project organized by Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (May 2019 – December 2021); “The Generation of transition in Europe’s post-communist societies: Challenges for civic

engagement and citizenship education”, educational project organized by Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (August 2018 – February 2019) and „Cold War International History Project”, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC (as research assistant, 2001-2002).

### **III Educational and teaching activities**

Momchil Metodiev’s teaching activities meet all the requirements; he is also active on the electronic educational platform MOODLE – NBU. He has contributed to a text-book in use in the high-school education. Momchil Metodiev teaches in English in the Master’s program “South-East European Studies” at NBU and has also been member of a jury for the award of a doctoral degree at the Department of History of New Bulgarian University.

### **IV Administrative and social activities**

As part-time lecturer at NBU, Momchil Metodiev has contributed to several seminars, examining boards and discussions, organized by the Department of History. Through his participation in various projects, commissions and councils of experts, he has also significantly contributed to the reassessment of the recent communist and post-communist past and to the development of civic education in Bulgaria and in Eastern Europe.

### **V Personal impressions of the applicant**

My personal impressions of the applicant allow me the assertion that DSc Momchil Metodiev possesses all the academic qualities necessary for holding the academic position “Professor” and a great research potential. He has proved his commitment to the teaching process at NBU, his interest in the opinions and in the progress of the students as well as his abilities of constructive dialogue and correct professional interrelations with his colleagues.

### **VI Opinions, recommendations and notes on the applicant’s activities and achievements**

I have stated above my positive opinion concerning the activities and the achievements of the applicant and have no further recommendations or remarks. I fully believe that by joining the academic staff of NBU as professor he could contribute greatly to the consolidation and development of the Department of History as well as to the research activities and to the educational mission of New Bulgarian University.

In conclusion, based on the above, I state my positive evaluation of the academic activities of the applicant in the competition for the academic position “Professor” in the field of High education 2. Humanities, Professional field 2.2 History and Archeology DSc Momchil Nikolaev Metodiev and fully support the presentation of his candidature for election by the Academic Council of New Bulgarian University.

Date: 01.10.2020

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Svetla Slavova Ianeva, PhD