

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Angelov Lefterov, PhD – New Bulgarian University,
habilitated in professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology (History of
Bulgaria)

on the scientific works presented for participation in a competition for the
academic position of Associate Professor, area of higher education 2.
Humanities, professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology, announced in
State Gazette No. 92 of 18 November 2023,
with candidate Chief Assistant Dimitar Gyudurov, PhD

I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University (NBU)

Based on the documentation provided, the candidate Chief Assistant Dimitar Gyudurov, PhD, fulfils the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor set out in the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the NBU Regulation for the Development of the Academic Staff. He is the sole candidate in the competition. In 2013 he was awarded the educational and scientific degree of PhD after successfully defending the dissertation „Minority Policy of Bulgaria – Internal and Balkan Aspects (1919–1928)“ at the New Bulgarian University. After winning a competition in 2014, he was appointed to the academic position of Chief Assistant at the History Department of the NBU. This opinion will concern his publications, work and activities after the date of his appointment as a Chief Assistant.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

In order to participate in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, the candidate presented one published monograph (habilitation paper), another monograph (on a different topic compared to the habilitation paper) and a total of 8 studies and articles.

Given the nature of the competition, the greatest scientific weight is assigned to Dimitar Gyudurov's habilitation paper „Bulgarians and opiates. Production and Trade 1879–1944“, NBU edition issued in 2022. The paper is 269 pages long and concerns a scientific issue which up until then had not been the subject of interest of Bulgarian

historiography and thus there are no monographic studies on this topic. The undoubtedly interdisciplinary approach adopted in the text can be pointed out as its main characteristic, clearly demonstrating the thorough and consistent work with various sources, methods and approaches. In order to produce his habilitation paper, Dimitar Gyudurov has also worked for many years in various archives, exploring their rich funds, without which the study would have been impossible. It is also obvious that the candidate is familiar with foreign-language literature available on this topic. All of this has been instrumental in successfully achieving the initial objectives and coming to clear conclusions as a contribution to the field.

The majority of the other publications which came out of print after the candidate was appointed as Chief Assistant, concern the two main topics of interest, or rather thematic fields, of their author – the minority policy of the Bulgarian nation in the interwar period and what he himself refers to as „social evils“ and the Bulgarian society from the Liberation until 1944. The concept of „social evils“ is understood as the manifestations of negative aspects related to the modernisation of any society, accompanied by a rise in crime and the appearance of hitherto uncharacteristic crime and events. All of those show a broader view of history and the related humanities and social sciences. This makes it possible to talk of interests which go beyond the framework of historical science.

The candidate noted and presented citations of his work mainly by foreign authors, which is a good attestation of his recognisability as a researcher. A major reason for this undoubtedly has to do with the fact that several of his publications are in a foreign language (English) in peer-reviewed and indexed journals. In addition, citations by researchers from various scientific and educational institutions in Bulgaria were also presented, pointing to Dimitar Gyudurov's gravitas as a researcher, especially regarding the selected topics where his interest lies.

In addition to the above-mentioned, the candidate is a member of two organisational committees on holding national conferences, has participated with reports 5 times at national and international scientific fora, including public lectures on behalf of the NBU at an invitation by other universities and institutions.

During the reporting period Chief Assistant Dimitar Gyudurov, PhD, has been a member of the scientific team of 1 research project with an applied science profile. He is also a member of the team of an interdepartmental seminar.

It should be noted that the candidate has also presented his research programme for 2021–2025, which includes finalising two monographic studies.

III. Lecturing and teaching activities

The candidate has the necessary lecturing and extracurricular workload, working actively with the electronic training module MOODLE. He takes part in developing and refining all Bachelor and Master programmes of the History Department, as well as their accreditation. He is an active and long-standing supervisor of student practices and internships. In the last eight years he was the scientific supervisor of 1 successfully defended Bachelor paper (thesis) and reviewed 13 other Bachelor and Master diploma papers. He has participated in a total of 16 committees. The special attention given to students in the History and Archaeology field at the NBU and his responsible work with them explain why the average evaluation from satisfaction surveys among students in terms of course and professor in the last 5 academic years (a total of 10 semesters) is an excellent 4.83 (with a maximum possible score of 5.00).

IV. Administrative and public activity

As soon as he was appointed as a professor at the New Bulgarian University, Dimitar Gyudurov was tasked with administrative activities. More specifically, he was the director of the History Bachelor programme during 2008–2011. He has been a member of the Library Council at the NBU Library for several years, and as of 2022 he is the director of the Programme Council of the History and Archaeology Programme.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate (if any)

In the last approximately 15 years when I have had the opportunity to work and interact with Dimitar Gyudurov, I was able to acquire a multitude of personal impressions which allow me to form my own opinion of him. Among them, the ones related directly to the NBU and to his own work at the institution should be highlighted. I am entirely convinced in the candidate's responsibility, loyalty and conscientiousness. I believe that

Dimitar Gyudurov displays autonomous and independent thinking. He is also committed to helping his students with any problems and shares the understanding that historical science should be upheld and developed at the NBU.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the candidate's activities and achievements

As a recommendation I could make a wish that the candidate emphasise on more active participation in scientific fora, both national and international, as they provide a venue to present his latest scientific achievements to his colleagues.

Conclusion. On the basis of the achievements, activities and personal impressions listed, I believe that the candidate before the honoured Scientific Jury has the necessary qualities. This allows me to give my positive evaluation that Chief Assistant Dimitar Gyudurov, PhD, should be elected for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 2.2 History and Archaeology at the History Department of the New Bulgarian University. For this reason, I propose that his application be allowed for a decision by the NBU Academic Council.

2 February 2023

Opinion given by:

(Assoc. Prof. Zhivko Lefterov, PhD)