

OPINION

by assoc. prof. Bilyana Virgilova Kostova, PhD

New Bulgarian University, professional field 4.4. Earth sciences

on scientific works presented by the applicant in competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in professional field 2.2. History and archaeology, announced in SG No. 29/12.04.2022 г., with candidate assist. prof. Boyan Youliev

Dumanov, PhD

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced for the needs of the Department of Archaeology at the New Bulgarian University, there is only one candidate - assist. prof. Boyan Youliev Dumanov, PhD.

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

The documents submitted by Dr. Dumanov for participation in the competition are self-assessment, and evidence to it. They fully comply with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff, and the Regulation on the Development of Academic Staff of the NBU. The required number of points according to the minimum national requirements and the NBU's obligatory requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 2.2. History and Archaeology are 570. The points collected by the candidate (806 points) significantly exceed these requirements.

II. Research activities and results

Dr. Dumanov participated in the competition with the mandatory habilitation thesis (monograph), a published book based on a defended Ph.D. thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree Doctor, three articles published in scientific journals,

refereed in world-known databases, two articles/reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review and published in edited collective volumes and three chapters of collective monographs.

Contributions to the monograph “ARCHEOLOGY OF THE OLD IRON MINING ON THE LOWER DANUBE AND IN THE STARA PLANINA MOUNTAIN AREA”:

– Based on data on metal mining, more precisely - iron mining, a reconstruction of the ancient economies of the Balkans is made. It is necessary to note that traditionally archaeological investigations focused mainly on non-ferrous and precious metals mining, despite iron being present in people's everyday life to a much greater extent than the metals mentioned. Thus, iron mining remains neglected to now for study in this aspect. Additionally, from a geological point of view, iron deposits are much more widespread than those of non-ferrous metals, making the study of their mining reasonable for archaeological aims.

– Use of interdisciplinary approach for studying iron mining and the resulting economic development in a cultural and historical heritage context. The interdisciplinary achievement was by archaeological, chemical, and geological studies. All the results obtained are interpreted in archaeological terms.

– The monograph is of significant fundamental and applied value in archaeology, archaeometry, and geoarchaeology. Parallel to this, the descriptions included in the work on the type of ore minerals, methods of ore reduction, charcoal production method, etc., give it educational value for students of the above and related fields.

In addition to the publications corresponding to the minimum requirements, the applicant shows additional 49 articles.

Dr. Dumanov's publications imaged his in-depth scientific activity. Such papers and the numerous lectures delivered at conferences (21) widely promote his work in the scientific community.

The candidate participates in the competition with 45 points from citations in articles published in scientific journals refereed in world-known databases, 10 points from citations in monographs, and 5 points from citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, $h_{index} = 2$. The total number of points (60) exceeds the required number.

The candidate has participated in three research projects and has led one research project (all funded by the Bulgarian Scientific Research Fund, Ministry of Education and Science). The results obtained are of fundamental and practical value.

III. Teaching activities

Dr. Dumanov is a full-time lecturer at New Bulgarian University, with teaching activity entirely in the professional field of the competition. He teaches in both Bulgarian and English (three classes).

The average student evaluation of his teaching is an excellent 4.75 (with a maximum grade of 5.00). The candidate works with the training module "MOODLE - NBU" and has provided the author's teaching materials in the lecture courses.

He participated in the reform and updating of the "History and Archaeology" bachelor program and the "Archaeological Studies" master's program and in the establishment of a joint master's degree program "Archaeology of the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean" (in English).

He has supervised student practices and internships on archaeological excavations and fieldwork in 2005-2015, 2017, and 2019. He has worked with students on three research projects funded by the Bulgarian Scientific Research Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Since 2016, he has supervised 24 successfully defended Bachelor's and Master's theses, authored 18 reviews of Bachelor's and Master's theses, and participated in 60 state examination committees. Dr. Dumanov is a supervisor of one successfully defended Ph.D. student.

IV. Administrative and public activity

Dr. Dumanov has been administratively engaged at NBU since 2005 until now. Between 2005 and 2012 was the Director of the Bachelor and Master Programs. From 2012 to the present has been acting Head of the Department of Archaeology. Between 2012 and 2015 was a member of the Academic Council of the NBU. He has regularly participated in departmental councils, kept his office hours, and held classes regularly. He participated as a trainee in the training program for the teaching and administrative staff of the NBU. He has organized one scientific conference at NBU.

V. Personal impressions of the applicant

Dr. Dumanov is a recognizable scholar of proven competence, respected and valued by colleagues and students, and actively engaged in his work with the Department of Archaeology.

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

The presented scientific works are at a high interdisciplinary scientific level, placing the candidate among the leading scientists in the field. The applicant has submitted a specific and prospective research program.

Conclusion

The candidate, Dr. Boyan Youliev Dumanov, fully meets the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

Based on the above opinion, I give my categorical **positive assessment** of the research, teaching, administrative, and public activities of Dr. Boyan Youliev Dumanov for the academic position of Associate Professor occupation. **I propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively and to admit him to election by the Academic Council.**

14.07.2022 г.

B. Kostova:

Participant of the scientific Jury
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