

Translation from Bulgarian into English

OPINION

On the competition for occupation of the academic position '**Associate Professor**' in professional field **1.3 Pedagogy of the education in ...**

(Methodology of teaching history), announced in State Gazette, No. 21/15.03.2022

Applicant: Chief Assistant Krasimir Sashkov Krastev, PhD,

Faculty of History at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'

Opinion constituted by: Prof. Lyubomira Simeonova Popova, PhD

Faculty of Pedagogy at 'St. Cyril and St. Methodius' University of Veliko Tarnovo

1. Data on the competition

One applicant – Chief Assistant Krasimir Sashkov Krastev, PhD appeared, for participation in the announced competition for occupation of the academic position '**Associate Professor**' in professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of the education in ... (Methodology of teaching history).

The documents, certifying the professional training of the applicant, are correctly presented, in compliance with the current legal framework. Dr. Krastev has met the minimum national requirements in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the additional university requirements for collection, updating and use of science-metric data. The competition is provided with the necessary academic workload and science-metric requirements.

2. Data on the applicant

Krasimir Krastev was born in the city of Pleven. He completed his secondary education in the Humanitarian High School 'St. Cyril and St. Methodius', town of Kazanlak. He has a bachelor's degree in history – archaeology and the competence

of teacher in history and geography, a master's degree in history at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

In 2009 he acquired educational-scientific degree 'doctor' with defended dissertation work on the following topic: 'Bulgaria from 1280 until 1323 (Political history, society and economy)' with scientific tutor: academician Vasil Gyuzelev.

The applicant worked as a teacher in History and civilization and in Geography and economics in Private Specialized High School 'Language World' (2006-2007); teacher in History and civilization/s and in Geography and economics in First Private English Language School 'William Shakespeare' (2007-2008 and 2009-2018) and a teacher in History and civilization in 20th Primary School 'Todor Minkov' in the period 2010-2013.

Since 2009 until 2012 he worked as a part-time lecturer in Medieval Bulgarian history in the National Academy of Art. Since 2013 until now he has been a lecturer in Methodology of teaching history at the Faculty of History at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'. Chief Assistant Krastev, PhD holds lecture courses, pedagogical, current, internship and field practices.

Since 2013 until now he has been a member of the Association of Byzantine and Medieval Studies Researchers in Bulgaria. In 2014 he was awarded the prize of Metropolitan Municipality – Sofia for the best young scientist at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

Conclusion: by the presented in the professional biography information it is evident that Chief Assistant Krasimir Krastev, PhD has substantial experience in the theory and practice of the Methodology of teaching history, which outlines his professional profile of lecturer and scientist, engaged in strengthening the position of the Faculty of History at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'.

3. Publications under the competition

The publications, which the applicant presents for his participation in the competition, are: 2 separate monographs; 2 studies; 4 articles in a journal in Web of

Science; 15 articles, published in journals, registered in the national reference list; 1 textbook in History and civilization - 6th grade (co-authored).

The scientific publications, presented for participation in the competition, are directed towards the current problems of school history education, with main focus on the challenges which the contemporary history lesson faces.

● **Monograph.** The topic for active learning in the contemporary history lesson finds its profound and well-grounded presentation in the main habilitation thesis 'History lesson through the methods of active learning', Bulgarian Historical Heritage Foundation, Plovdiv, 2022, p. 565. The monograph is structured in two chapters, as the first one analyzes active learning, whereas the second one is focused on the organization of the contemporary history lesson. Special attention is paid to the variety of methods and techniques of active learning. The contemporary dimensions of the classification of learning forms are examined.

● **Studies.** In one of the studies (2019) the formation of skills for chronological localization in history teaching during the junior high school stage is examined. Another study (2018) presents Arabic and Syrian sources for the ruling of khan Krum and khan Omurtag.

● **19 articles** are presented, four of which are published in journal 'History', Web of Science (2013, 2018, 2020 and 2021). They are focused on the application of active methods and techniques in history teaching and particularly: the hexagon method, the cross-sense methodological technique and word-logic games. In direct relation to the main monographic work, one of the articles examines the didactic games with rules and their application in the history lesson.

Another part of the articles examines topics such as Krum's legislation in school history education, the baptism of Bulgarians in Arabic sources, education and literature in Medieval Bulgaria, etc.

Conclusion: the presented scientific publications are in the field of historical knowledge and are the logical result of the long-term practice of the applicant as a teacher, lecturer and scientist.

4. Evaluation of the contributions of the presented scientific works

□ The publications specified show internal unity with the main monographic work 'History lesson through the methods of active learning'. I highly appreciate the monograph, which can be considered for a logical summary of the applicant's teaching and scientific activities. The work is remarkable for its theoretical and practical topicality and prospects.

□ By scientific literacy and reasonable pragmatism, the author outlines practical decisions for active learning in the context of the contemporary paradigm, placing the student in the centre of the educational process.

□ The profound analysis of the content and the practical and applied aspects of the methods and techniques for active learning, promoting cognitive interest, initiative and critical thinking, is remarkable for its scientific significance.

□ The reference with citations shows that the author is recognizable in the scientific circles, have citations in monographs, in collective volumes with scientific reviews, in articles, included in journals with scientific reviews. The total number of citations amounts to 162, of which 19 citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; 62 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific reviews; 81 citations or reviews in unreferenced journals with scientific reviews.

In conclusion: I highly appreciate the contributions of the scientific works of Dr. Krastev, as they are charged with scientific and applied value. The presented reference is correctly formed, as it corresponds to the real achievements and his research throughout the years.

5. Teaching activity

Chief Assistant Krasimir Krastev, PhD develops curricula and is engaged with teaching activities in the Faculty of History at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'. He holds lecture courses in the mandatory subjects: 'Methodology of teaching history', 'Interactive methods in teaching'; in the elective courses:

‘Chronology in the teaching of history and civilizations’; ‘The Bulgarian Middle Ages: reality, hypotheses and mythologems in history textbooks’; ‘Project and group based learning’ and in the optional subject: ‘History lesson’.

He participates in pedagogical practices: teaching practice, current pedagogical practice, internship practice and field practice. He is a trainer in a number of seminars with teachers in History and civilizations throughout the whole country.

His extra-curricular activities are diverse – an expert at the Ministry of Education, teachers’ trainer, author and textbooks reviewer.

Conclusion: Dr. Krasimir Krastev is extremely engaged as a lecturer, researcher and expert. He successfully combines all his activities and stands out with his innovative spirit and professional skills.

6. Conclusion

The review of the documents and the analysis of the scientific works of Chief Assistant Krasimir Krastev, PhD leads to the conclusion that his activity is a fine combination of profound scientific interests, purposeful scientific and applied research, successful participation in scientific forums and educational and teaching activity.

In this regard, I firmly state before the honoured panel that I give **positive evaluation** for Chief Assistant Krasimir Krastev, PhD to occupy the academic position ‘**Associate Professor**’ in the higher-educational field 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.3 Pedagogy of the education in ... (Methodology of teaching history).

13.06.2022
Veliko Tarnovo

Member of the Scientific Panel:
/Prof. Lyubomira Popova, PhD/