

## PROMOTION REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Zlatomira Gerdzhikova, Institute for Balkan Studies & Center of Thracology, BAS  
regarding competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”

Assist. Prof. Dr. Vladislav Ivanov Ivanov is the only applicant for the academic position “Associate Professor” in a professional field 2.2 History and Archaeology at the Institute for Balkan Studies & Center of Thracology, BAS, Department of Medieval Balkans, advertised in the Darzhaven vestnik, issue 55 from June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Assistant Professor Dr. Vladislav Ivanov graduated in 2007 with a master's degree the Department of Byzantium, the Balkans and Medieval Europe at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", where in 2011 he successfully defended his dissertation on “The Order of Hospitallers of Rhodes as a Factor in Balkan Politics (1300–1421)” at the Department of Ancient History, Thracology and Medieval History. Since 2011 he has continued his research activity as an assistant, and since 2013 as a chief assistant, in the department "Medieval Balkans" at the Institute of Balkan Studies & Center of Thracology "Prof. Al. Fol". His research interests are in the history of the Crusades, with focus on the Order of Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

Vladislav Ivanov presented himself in this competition with a total of twenty-two publications, of which one book, one chapter from a collective monograph and twenty articles. To these we must add four translations of sources.

Vladislav Ivanov's book *The Knights of Ioannina, the Crusades and the Balkans (11th-13th centuries)* (2020) presents the Order of Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, its establishment, development and its connections with the events in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans in the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, covering the time from the appearance of the first Hospitallers to the expulsion of the Order from the territories of Syria and Palestine in 1291. The study is extensive, comprehensive and placed in a broad historical context. As an appendix to the study, twenty new documents for the Bulgarian public were added in translation, provided with a scientific commentary. Some of the translations also contain information about the Bulgarian medieval history.

The chapter Ioanite Knights, the Crusades and the Balkans (XI-XIII c.) From the collective monograph Western Expansion of the Balkans: Military Monastic Orders and the Italian Maritime Republics of the XII II XV century (2018) presents the role of the Ioanni knights as protectors of pilgrims in the Holy Land , their Balkan policy in the period 1204–1421, as well as the consequences of the naval actions of the Rhodes hospitallers against the Ottoman Turks. The publication provides a thorough review of the source information related to the Order of Hospitallers and Balkan policy in the period under review.

The main part of Vladislav Ivanov's scientific publications is devoted to the subject of the Crusades. Taken together, including the presented book and a chapter of a collective monograph, they show that the candidate is already an established specialist in this field and new scientific contributions in this field can be expected in the future. Vladislav Ivanov's command of Latin at a level that allows him to use the original source material, as is clear from his translations of documents, also contributes to this.

Vladislav Ivanov's academic activity includes his participation as an editor in the preparation of a number of collections and periodicals related to the history of the Balkans. Last but not least, we should mention his participation in nineteen national and international scientific forums, as well as in five research projects - four at the Institute of Balkan Studies and one at Sofia University.

Special attention should be paid to the grants won by Vladislav Ivanov, that gave him the opportunity to specialize in foreign scientific institutions – the University of Malta, the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the American Research Institute in Istanbul.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the submitted candidacy of Dr. Vladislav Ivanov meets the requirements of ZRASRB, as well as the supplementary regulations of the Ministry of Education and BAS, as well as the agreed rules of IBCT.

Everything noted so far gives me reason to recommend to the scientific jury and the scientific council of IBCT Dr. Vladislav Ivanov Ivanov to be elected associate professor in the competition.