

STATEMENT

under a procedure for an open competition for the academic position of docent

Scientific area **2. Humanities**

Professional field **2.2. History and Archaeology** (scientific discipline “Prehistory”)

declared by the National Archaeological Institute and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the needs of the Section of Prehistory

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Author of the statement:

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member of the scientific jury by order of the Director of NAIM No I 1696 of September 4, 2026

Only one candidate has submitted his documents and was subsequently admitted to participate in this competition – head assistant Kalin Lyubenov Dimitrov, PhD. He was born in 1967 and has graduated from the St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia in 1992 with a master’s degree in history with a specialization in archaeology. In 2007 he received a doctoral degree in ancient history (including prehistory) from the then Supreme Attestation Commission as a doctoral student in the Department of archaeology of the University of Sofia. His doctoral dissertation, tutored by Prof. Henrieta Todorova, treated of the copper metallurgy on the western Black Sea coast in the fifth and fourth millennia BC. Between 2007 and 2010 he was a research assistant at the Center of Thracology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and since 2010 he has been a head assistant at the National Institute of Archaeology. Between 2016 and 2020 he was concurrently director of the Center of Underwater Archaeology in Sozopol, and from 2020 he has been an acting deputy director at the National Institute of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The first meeting of the scientific jury appointed for this competition reached the unanimous conclusion that Dr Kalin Dimitrov fully complies with the minimum national requirements under article 26, clauses 2 and 3 of the Law for the Advancement of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria and article 1a, paragraph 1 and the relevant addendum (Field 2. Humanitarian sciences. Table 1) of the Rules for its application, as is also evident from the affidavit provided by the candidate. He scores the exact required number of points for indicators 1 and 3 (50 points for a doctoral dissertation and 100 points for a habilitation thesis) and more than the required points for the indicators in Group Г (222.5 points) and Group Д (over 100 points), while his total score across all indicators (over 470 points) also exceeds the total sum fixed in the minimal national requirements. The candidate fulfils as well all other requirements for holding the academic position of “docent” under article 24, clause 1 of

the Law for the Advancement of the Academic Personnel in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Dr. Dimitrov has submitted as a habilitation thesis in the present competition the monograph “Ropotamo and Sozopol. Underwater archaeological explorations 2017–2024”, which is in print in the series “Excavations and Explorations” of the National Archaeological Institute. The monographic treatise is divided in two parts: 1. *Text*, and 2. *Addenda*, and contains a total of 420 printed pages. The first part includes an introduction, ten chapters, concluding remarks and a bibliography (a total of 233 printed pages). Chapter 1 summarizes the previous underwater archaeological investigations along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, with a special accent on the first large attempt for the underwater archaeological investigation of a sunken seaside prehistoric settlement in this country – the site near Kiten (Urdoviza), presented in some detail on pp. 17–28. The main part of the text is devoted to the investigation of the two sites mentioned in the title between 2017 and 2024 (in both cases including also a detailed account of their previous exploration). Chapter 2 contains a detailed account of the methodology and the relevant equipment used in the archaeological exploration of these sites (pp. 29–41); chapters 3 to 5 present the archaeological investigations of the site at the mouth of the river Ropotamo (pp. 42–111), and chapters 6 to 10 – those in the port of Sozopol, between the St. Kirik and St. Julita island and the Skamni peninsula (“the Old Town”) (pp. 112–215). The exposition contains a detailed account of these archaeological explorations, square after square and season after season, of the excavated archaeological complexes, of the accompanying specialized examinations (including numerous radiocarbon dates), and of the general conclusions and the hypotheses derived from them about the character of the two archaeological sites and their evolution during the period of later prehistory (mainly in the Eneolithic and Bronze Ages). The second part (“Addenda”) contains maps, aerial photographs, plans, visual excavation documentation, photographs and drawings of archaeological finds, presented separately for the two sites. The illustrations are of good quality and present an essential and necessary part of the presentation of the effected investigations.

Overall, the book of Kalin Dimitrov deserves high praise. It is, in effect, the first comprehensive monographic study of the submerged settlements from the late prehistoric period along the western Black Sea coast, containing a full publication of the results of the investigations into two of the three such sites studied in detail to date (Ropotamo and Sozopol), as well as a summarised and supplemented presentation of the third site (Urdoviza/Kiten), incorporating new information. The author’s scientific contributions are significant and meet the requirements for a habilitation thesis for the academic position of associate professor (docent).

In addition to the habilitation thesis, the candidate has included in his competition documentation 27 longer and shorter articles (*cmyduu* and *cmamuu*). Six of these are thematically connected with the doctoral dissertation of the candidate for docent tenure; one of these (No 6.1) was published before the

defence of the dissertation and should not be considered in the present competition; the remaining five (Nos 6.2, 7.6, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, and 10.11) however were published later, concern new investigations and can be viewed as a further development of the studies of Kalin Dimitrov on the copper metallurgy in the west Pontic coastal area in the Eneolithic period. Another six publications deal with Eneolithic metalworking and metal trade (Nos 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, 9.1, 9.3, and 10.1). Three publications discuss pre-historic stone artefacts (Nos 9.2, 10.2, and 10.5), two other – the Eneolithic necropolis at Durankulak (Nos 10.3 and 10.4). A number of articles (Nos. 6.3, 6.4, 7.1, 7.7, 7.8, 9.4, 10.7) examine topics relating to underwater archaeology, ancient harbours and the problems facing sunken coastal settlements from the period of later prehistory. The publications submitted by Dr. Dimitrov (many of them co-authored) are of good scientific quality and contain many and contain numerous and substantial scientific contributions.

The academic publications and the research activities documented in the portfolio of Kalin Dimitrov present him as an established and substantial scholar with significant academic contributions and achievements. The academic papers he has submitted in this competition, together with his overall academic record, give me every reason to vote, without hesitation and with complete conviction, in favour of his election for an associate professor (docent) in the National Archaeological Institute with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Sofia, September 27 , 2026

Author of statement:


(prof. Peter Delev)