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The key role of the Institute of National History in the national building process: the case of Macedonian identity

ABSTRACT

This project will deal with the role and function of the Institute of National History (INH) in the process of building of the Macedonian nation. The goal of this project is “without fear and favor” critically to explore and validate the work and the results of INI during the long process of building of the Macedonian nation. I intend to do so in several research phases that will be structured both chronologically and problem oriented. I will analyze the structural and personnel setting of INH, scientific production, goals, assignments and justification of the existence of INH from its establishing up to nowadays. In other words, Since the INH still represents the “guardian” of the Macedonian national identity, the academic historians, in their professional work, are very often facing with an ambivalent and hardly solving position: academic professionalism and ethics on one side, vs. “the need” for proving and defending the national identity, on other side.

The role, function and goals of INH, for the first time, will be perceived, explored and disputed from, the position of, so to say, “inside view.”

Key words: Institute of National History, nation, identity, historiography, Macedonia, Macedonians, national minorities, national myths, narratives etc.