OPINION

from **Prof. Dr. Evgenia Kalinova**, Department of History of Bulgaria,
Faculty of History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

for the scientific publications of Senior Assistant Professor
Dr. BORIS PLAMENOV BOEV,
participant in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
in the field of higher education 2. Humanities,
professional field 2. 2. History and Archaeology,
scientific specialty "Historical Demography – Legislation in
the field of migration policy between the two world wars",
published in Darzhaven vestnik, № 92, 31. 10. 2025.

Information about the competition:

The competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" has been announced for the needs of the Historical Demography Section of the Demography Department at the Institute for Population and Human Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The required legal deadlines and procedures have been respected. The only participant in the competition is Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Boris Plamenov Boev.

Brief information about the candidate:

Boris Boev is a graduate of the French Language High School in Sofia. In 2007, he graduated with a degree in History from the Faculty of History at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". He also obtained a master's degree in Modern and Contemporary Bulgarian History from the same faculty and became a doctoral student in Modern Bulgarian History. In 2017, B. Boev defended his doctoral dissertation on "Student Organizations and Movements in Bulgaria (1931-1939)". Since June 1, 2018, he has been pursuing postgraduate studies with a scholarship named after Prof. Ivan Duychev at the Prof. Ivan Duychev Center for Slavic-Byzantine Studies in Sofia. His academic career began on May 1, 2019, and continues to this day as a senior assistant at the Institute for Population and Human Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Fulfilment of the requirements for the academic position:

Boris Boev has submitted well-prepared documentation for participation in the competition. According this information, Dr. Boev meets all the mandatory requirements: he holds a doctoral degree and has over six years of experience in the academic field (i.e., more than the required two years, as evidenced by the attached reference from the Institute for Population and Human Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). The information provided on the fulfillment of the minimum requirements of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the

academic position of “Associate Professor” shows that B. Boev not only meets them but actually exceeds them.

B. Boev participates in the competition with an original monograph “Migration Policy in Bulgarian Legislation between the Two World Wars (1919–1939)” (Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, 2025, 196 pp.). It corresponds to the subject and scope of the competition and does not repeat the topic of the doctoral dissertation.

In addition to the monograph, the candidate also presents a published book based on his doctoral dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of “doctor” (“Love for Science, Love for the People. Student Organizations and Associations in Bulgaria (1931–1939)”. Sofia, St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2018, 400 pp.).

The candidate also participates in the competition with 12 other articles that are not included in the publications required for the doctoral degree. One of them is published in the refereed and indexed journal “Epochi” (“Concepts for Resolving the Bulgarian Refugee Issue in the Context of the Creation, Amendments, and Additions to the Law on the Settlement of Refugees and Securing Their Livelihood (1920–1928)”); seven are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, and four are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and edited collective volumes. It is important to note that B. Boev's scientific activity is focused on the problems of modern Bulgarian history and, in particular, on their demographic dimensions, which corresponds to the profile of the competition.

Opinion on the candidate's scientific works:

Boris Boev presents scientific publications that are relevant to the topic of the competition. The legal requirement for a published habilitation work, other than the dissertation, has been met. “Migration Policy in Bulgarian Legislation between the Two World Wars (1919-1939)” is an in-depth look at how legislation addresses the problems of refugees arriving in Bulgaria, emigration from the country, and internal migration. These issues form the core of the three chapters of the monograph, and in this context, the structure is entirely appropriate, as are the chronological boundaries – the interwar period was a time of serious demographic challenges, and its choice is entirely justified, since the study of the close relationship between migration policy and legislative activity as a whole has so far been neglected by Bulgarian historiography, despite numerous studies on individual aspects. B. Boev is very well acquainted with these studies, uses them correctly in his monograph, but most importantly, he develops them further very successfully.

Boris Boev aims to clarify the concept of the Bulgarian state's migration policy in the period between the two world wars by examining the legislative measures adopted and the means of their implementation. This goal is successfully achieved through research and the analysis, using the appropriate methodology, of relevant sources on the subject, such as the State Gazette, the stenographic diaries of the National Assembly, certain archival documents, and memoirs. In the first chapter, B. Boev examines the immigration policy reflected in Bulgarian legislation. The painful issue of the thousands of Bulgarian refugees who arrived in the country after the national

catastrophes is addressed in a series of laws on their settlement (the Law on the Settlement of Refugees and Securing Their Livelihood of 1920; the Law on Refugee Loans of September 1926 and the related Law on the Agricultural Settlement of Refugees of December of the same year).

Following the debates in parliament on the laws provides a deeper insight into the concepts for resolving the refugee issue. According to the author, the first concept to emerge was that of returning refugees to their places of origin, and under the BZNS government, the second main concept emerged, according to which "*refugees should be regarded as a population settling in the country permanently, and all actions in this direction should be aimed at the smooth implementation of this process*". The economic, social, financial, and organizational measures and means for implementing the second concept, which are laid down in legislation, are traced. At the end of the chapter, adequate and interesting conclusions are drawn.

The second chapter of the monograph analyzes legislation in the field of emigration policy, with the author explicitly emphasizing that this legislation covers only Bulgarians, while noting that no legal measures were discussed regarding the existing emigration of Turks, Greeks, and others. B. Boev notes that the legislation on emigration during the interwar period was a continuation of the state migration policy from the beginning of the 20th century, aimed at restricting emigration and placing it under control (according to the Emigration Act of 1908). The restrictive, organizational, and financial measures and means affecting the emigration of Bulgarians from the country, as set out in the 1927 amendments and additions to this law, are traced in detail. An important aspect analyzed by the author is that of legislation on international passports and tickets. In this regard, I find interesting the question of the significance of the laws of 1888 and 1897 and the ordinance-law of 1935: they apply to Bulgarian subjects, which also include other ethnic communities, such as Bulgarian Turks. The author could explain whether and how these laws affected the process of their emigration, especially in the second half of the 1930s. There is another statement in the book that B. Boev could clarify and seek an explanation for the specificity mentioned: "*One of the specific features of the period under study is that laws were established – proposed and voted on – relating solely to the movement (internal and external) of the Bulgarian population, even though during the period 1919 – 1939 other migrations occurred - Turks and Greeks (leaving the country), Russians, Armenians (settling in the country), and others"*.

In the second chapter of the monograph, B. Boev examines the legislative measures and means adopted mainly in the 1930s concerning specific groups of emigrants: seasonal gardeners, students, and political emigrants. The conclusion that the ruling and opposition parties were most often unanimous and had a positive attitude towards this temporary migration, based on the interests and opportunities of the state, is well-argued. The conclusions to the chapter demonstrate the author's ability to conduct an in-depth analysis of historical and demographic processes.

The third chapter focuses on internal migration in the context of Bulgarian legislation. B. Boev traces the formation and evolution, on the one hand, of the policy of resettling people living in flood-prone, low-yield, mountainous, or densely populated areas of the country and, on

the other hand, of the concept of solving urbanization problems. The author's work in researching, systematizing, and analyzing the different points of view on these issues contained in the Stenographic Diaries of the National Assembly deserves high praise. B. Boev's ability to critically read the academic literature and defend his point of view also leaves a good impression. The author's style is academic and very clear, which facilitates the perception of the large volume of information. In my opinion, the monograph is a serious and mature scientific study on a topic of essential importance for historical and demographic science.

The articles submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition are divided into two subject areas. The first is related to the topic of the habilitation thesis ("Concepts for resolving the Bulgarian refugee issue in the context of the creation, amendments, and additions to the Law on the Settlement of Refugees and Securing Their Livelihood (1920–1928)"; "The Law on the Agricultural Settlement of Refugees – Measures for Resolving the Refugee Question and Means for Their Implementation (1926–1937)"; "The Refugee Loan Act of 1926 and the Concept of Settling Bulgarian Refugees"; "Concepts for Resolving the Bulgarian Refugee Question in the Context of the Creation of the Law on the Agricultural Settlement of Refugees in 1926"; "Measures for resolving the Bulgarian refugee issue and means for their implementation in the context of the Law on the Settlement of Refugees and Securing their Livelihood (1920–1937)"; "The emigration issue in Bulgarian legislation (1919–1939) – concepts, measures, and means for its resolution." The publications listed above show the path of B. Boev's scientific research, which ultimately led to the completion of the comprehensive monograph. In this sense, they do not require separate evaluation, as they are included to one greater or lesser extent in the book. The other six articles are once again focused on the 1930s, and most of them belong to the area of interest of B. Boev, related to his previous research on the history of student organizations and movements during this period. To a large extent, they are summarized in the second monograph with which B. Boev is participating in the present competition.

My overall impression of Boris Boev's studies submitted for this competition is that they are professional, objective, and cover significant and important scientific issues.

Significance of contributions to science and practice:

If we judge the scientific recognition of an author by the number of citations, the citations of B. Boev's publications listed in the reference list are still not particularly numerous, but in this case, it should be noted that both of his monographs were published very recently, and I am convinced that their dissemination and use are yet to come and will quickly be reflected in the number of citations.

Since I share the understanding that academic growth requires an active position in the life of the academic community, I would like to note B. Boev's participation in three scientific projects, in reviewing materials for publication in scientific collections from national forums for doctoral students and young scientists in the social sciences, as well as in the work of commissions for the accreditation of the doctoral program in "Historical Demography" and for the quality of doctoral training in the Department of Demography. These participations are an

important indicator of scientific activity. To these should be added those in 14 national and international forums, where B. Boev presented scientific reports on the main topics of his scientific research.

An indisputable proof of B. Boev's qualities are the awards of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for young scientists – in 2021 in the field of humanities and social sciences named after Acad. Azaria Polikarov (for the book "Love for Science, Love for People. Student Organizations and Associations in Bulgaria (1931-1939)") and in 2022 in the field of humanities named after Paisii Hilendarski (for the study "Concepts for Resolving the Bulgarian Refugee Question in the Context of the Creation of the Law on Agricultural Settlement of Refugees in 1926").

Conclusion:

In summary, I would like to emphasize that the combination of professional skills and serious publications of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Boris Boev gives me every reason to strongly recommend that he be awarded the academic position of "Associate Professor".

6 February 2026 Prof. Dr. Evgenia Kalinova