OPINION

by Prof. Rumen Hristov Yankov, PhD, Institute for Population and Human Studies – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Professor – Field 4.4. Earth Sciences

on the scientific publications submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Professional Field 2.2. History and Archaeology, announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 92 / 31 October 2025, with applicant Chief Assistant Professor Boris Plamenov Boev, PhD

I. Research Activity and Results of the Candidate

1. For participation in the competition, the candidate has submitted an individual monographic work entitled "Migration Policy in Bulgarian Legislation between the Two World Wars (1919–1939)", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov", Sofia, 2025, 196 pp. The habilitation thesis is clearly and logically structured into an introduction, three chapters, and a conclusion. This is followed by a list of sources and references, a list of abbreviations, and an English-language summary (5 pp.). The chapters contain the author's analysis of immigration, emigration, and internal migration policy during the specified period in the context of Bulgarian legislation. The legal aspects of migration are solidly substantiated through references to laws, ordinances, and regulations. This regulatory framework is examined within the broader political, economic, and demographic realities of Bulgaria and the Balkans. The subsections specify the candidate's views on the concepts, measures, and instruments of the country's migration policy.

The habilitation thesis of Boris Boev contains significant scientific and applied contributions. It represents a completed study with a clear and logical structure and well grounded conclusions. Within its defined scope, the work examines Bulgarian migration legislation during a period of important geopolitical changes in the region and intensive interstate migration. A high level of depth and detail has been achieved, fully clarifying Bulgaria's migration policy. The development of the topic inevitably engages with complex legal material, without the author losing the methodological grounding of historical-demographic analysis. More than one hundred sources have been used

in the preparation of the study, including monographs, articles, edited volumes, dictionaries, archival materials, and normative documents.

A substantive analysis of legislative texts is applied, distinguishing the measures, instruments, and target groups in the implementation of migration policy. New sources — laws, records from the stenographic minutes of the National Assembly, and others — are introduced into the scholarly discourse of historical demography, shedding light on political debates and the formation of concepts regarding refugee reception and settlement, regulation of emigration, urban expansion, and related processes.

2. In addition to the habilitation thesis, for participation in the present competition the candidate has submitted 8 articles and conference papers and 4 studies, published in peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes. One of the publications appears in a journal indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases. Boris Boev is also the author of the monograph "Love for Science, Love for the Nation. Student Organizations and Associations in Bulgaria (1931–1939)", based on his doctoral dissertation defended in 2017. Two of the articles, as well as the above-mentioned book, were published in 2018.

A special place in the candidate's work is occupied by the topic of student movements and their role in Bulgarian cultural and political life during the 1930s. Of particular contribution are Boev's studies on the establishment and ideological-political connections of various student organizations during this period, as well as their activities within regional, sports, nationalist, professional, and other associations. The topic of student participation in the political life of pre-war Bulgaria is further developed in four of the publications. Another six studies and articles focus on the refugee issue, emigration, and the legal measures undertaken by the state in this regard.

3. Four of Boris Boev's works have been cited six times in scientific publications by other authors, including one book review and one citation in journals indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases. It may be expected that the list of citations—as an indicator of scientific visibility—will continue to expand, considering the recently published monograph (habilitation thesis, 2025) and the fact that the majority of the candidate's publications date from the past few years.

4. Chief Assistant Professor Boris Boev, PhD, is a member of the research teams of four national research projects funded by the National Science Fund, the Ministry of Education, and the Operational Programme “Human Resources Development”. His research results have been presented in papers at 14 national and international scientific forums. The candidate also serves as a reviewer of papers at doctoral and early-career researcher schools.

5. My overall conclusion is that the research work of Boris Boev produces verifiable results and constitutes a substantial contribution to the field of historical demography. The submitted works are the candidate’s own, original in content, and based on reliable historical, demographic, and legal data.

II. Teaching and Educational Activity

Boris Boev is a member of the working team of the National Programme “Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Researchers” of the Ministry of Education and Science, implemented by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He has participated in the Integrated Programme for Training and Support of Doctoral Students in Social and Human Sciences at Sofia University and has completed an individual postgraduate specialization with a scholarship named after Prof. Ivan Duychev at the Centre for Slavo-Byzantine Studies.

III. Administrative and Public Activity

Chief Assistant Professor Boris Boev, PhD, is a member of the accreditation committees for the doctoral programme “Historical Demography” at the Institute’s Department of Demography. He is a recipient of the Third Prize of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for a Young Scientist (2021) in the field of Social and Human Sciences, and the First Prize of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for a Young Scientist (2022) in the field of Humanities.

IV. Fulfilment of the Requirements for Holding the Academic Position

Boris Boev has submitted a correct Report on the Fulfilment of the Minimum Requirements of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, adopted in accordance with the Acton the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. It is evident that he has met the requirements in all sections of the point-based evaluation system.

V. Personal Impressions of the Candidate

My personal impressions of the candidate, although limited to the period of his academic development, are of a responsible and thorough researcher who demonstrates ethical conduct in collegial relations.

VI. Opinions, Recommendations, and Remarks

I believe that the achievements of the candidate's research to date provide a solid foundation that will allow him to expand his research interests toward migration in the Bulgarian lands over broader historical periods and its impact on the demographic profile of both the past and the present. I wish him success in accomplishing the further research tasks outlined in the conclusion of his monograph.

VII. Conclusion

Within the competition procedure, I have not identified any irregularities. The requirements of the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedure for Holding Academic Positions at the Institute for Population and Human Studies – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences have been fully observed. Having reviewed the scientific publications and the documents certifying the candidate's academic activity, I hereby express my unequivocally positive opinion regarding the election of Chief Assistant Professor Boris Plamenov Boev, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.2. History and Archaeology, Scientific Specialization: Historical Demography. I will vote "In Favour" of his admission to election by the Scientific Council for this academic position.

Rumen Hristov Yankov

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