STATEMENT

About

Evaluation of the scientific production of Chief Assistant Dr. Boris Plamenov Boev – the only participant in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.2 History and Archeology (Historical Demography – Legislation in the Field of Migration Policy between the Two World Wars), for the needs of the Department of Historical Demography at the Institute of Population and Human Studies-BAS, announced in the State Gazette No. 92/31.10.2025

By

Prof. Dr. Tatyana Ivanova Kotzeva – Institute of Population and Human Studies-BAS – Member of the Scientific Jury

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Boris Boev is a Chief Assistant Professor at the Institute of Population and Human Studies-BAS (since 2019) and a PhD in History of Bulgaria – New Bulgarian History 1878–1944 from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (2017). He has a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in Modern and Contemporary Bulgarian History from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In addition, he has a one-year specialization at the Center for Slavic-Byzantine Studies "Prof. Ivan Duychev" (2018-2019), as well as initial and specialized military training at the Vasil Levski National Military University and the Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy. He has participated twice in the National Program "Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Students", module "Young Scientists" at the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as he is a member of the team of the project "Documents from the Archives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - a source for the demographic development of the Bulgarian lands during the Renaissance" funded by the Natioanl Science Fund at the MoES. He is active as a reviewer of publications for scientific forums. He is the winner of the Third Prize of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for Young Scientist (2021) in the field of humanities and social sciences named after Acad. Azarya Polikarov (for the book "Love for Science, Love for the People. Student Organizations and Associations in Bulgaria (1931-1939)" and of the First Prize of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for Young Scientist (2022) in the field of humanities named after Paisii Hilendarski (for the study "Concepts for Solving the Bulgarian Refugee Question in the Context of the Establishment of the Law on Agricultural Accommodation of Refugees in 1926").

He speaks French, Russian and English, and he has good computer literacy.

2. Required documents for the competition and the science-metric characteristics of the submitted scientific production

For participation in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, the candidate submits all necessary documents and materials. The list of publications includes the habilitation monograph, "Migration Policy in Bulgarian Legislation between the Two World Wars

(1919 – 1939)". Sofia, Marin Drinov Academic Publishing House, 2025, 198 p., monograph based on a dissertation, "Love for Science, Love for the People. Student Organizations and Associations in Bulgaria (1931-1939)". S., Sofia University Publishing House, 2018, 400 p. and 12 studies, articles and reports, of which one is in a journal in a world database and the rest are in non-refereed scientific journals with scientific peer review. A total of six citations are listed in the Citation List, two of which are in refereed journals in the world databases. The total number of points for all groups of indicators needed for the academic position of "Associate Professor" is 385 points, which fulfills the minimum requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations of IPHS-BAS.

3. Assessment of the applicant's main contributions and overall scientific output

The scientific production of B. Boev is focused on two main topics: the migration policy of the Bulgarian state between the two world wars, with a focus on migration legislation, and the functioning of student organizations in the 1930s. The first topic is multifaceted and covers several different topics, which are discussed in separate chapters of the monograph "Migration Policy in Bulgarian Legislation between the Two World Wars (1919 – 1939)". Sofia, Marin Drinov Academic Publishing House, 2025. Various processes, such as the post-war refugee wave, the intensive processes of emigration outside the country and the accelerating internal migration processes of the population to the big cities and especially the capital Sofia have been discussed in the manuscript. These topics have been developed in this monograph, as well as in eight articles and studies in book collections. The second theme is developed in the monograph "Love for Science, Love for the People. Student Organizations and Associations in Bulgaria (1931-1939)". S., Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Publishing House and in four articles and studies.

In the Statement, I focus mainly on the first topic presented in a synthesized form in the above-mentioned monographic work. The monograph has a clear and logical structure, outlined in three chapters – the first is devoted to immigration legislation related to the refugee issue, the second chapter is devoted to emigration legislation related to mass expulsions during the specified historical period, and the third chapter is devoted to legislation related to internal migration and urban policy. The subject of the study covers 12 basic laws and the related regulations, ordinances, and amendments voted by the National Assembly during this period. The main historical source used is the Stenographic Diaries, which reflect the parliamentary debates, the philosophy of the laws expressed in the motives, as well as the measures and means for their implementation. The measures are systematized in several groups: economic, social, financial, organizational, and criminal. In addition, other sources from the Central State Archives, memoirs, memoirs of expatriates, etc. are used. The author knows and references the positions of other Bulgarian historians (I. Deleva, D. Vachkov, Sh. Shterionov and many others), who study this problem in the specific historical period in order to outline the new aspects that he brings to the historical and demographic research field. The author's contribution is to outline the similarities and discrepancies in the positions of the parliamentary parties during the discussion of the bills. For example, the parliamentary confrontations in the discussion and adoption of laws related to the

solution of the refugee problem, "for" and "against" the permanent accommodation of refugees and their provision of living, "for" and "against" the use of a loan from the League of Nations, "for" and "against" the land acquisition and the creation of agricultural maintenance for refugees are outlined. As a final conclusion, the author brings out the non-partisan parliamentary agreement in the voting of the laws on refugees, expressing the political will to solve the refugee issue.

Parliamentary debates on the adoption and voting of emigration laws are considered in a similar way. Based on the Emigration Act of 1908, the author examines the amendments and additions to this law in 1927, as well as the Laws on Foreign Passports and Tickets and the Law on the Promotion of Seasonal Gardening Work Abroad. The two extremely opposite positions of the state regarding emigration are outlined: highly restrictive and punitive measures against emigration from overseas – North and South America, and encouraging legislation against gardeners, masons, etc. workers in Central Europe, students going to study abroad, as well as to some extent to political emigrants through the adopted Law on Amnesty for Political Emigration. The author's generalized conclusion is about a "pragmatic and flexible concept" of the state regarding emigrants, which shows moderation and consistency over the years (p.131).

Chapter Three examines the positions of the various political parties regarding the management of the "housing need" and, above all, the opportunities for supporting the urbanization processes in the big cities, especially Sofia. At the heart of the confrontations is the different attitude towards the privilege or restriction of large homeowners, the promotion of new housing construction and the development of new terrains, as well as the expropriation of municipal properties in support of the homeless. In summary, the author defines the policy in this area as moderate and flexible and seeks to regulate through restrictions and incentives the influx of population to large cities.

In conclusion, the main aspects of the legislative policy of the state in the three areas are outlined, and the author's summary conclusion is about constructivism and consensus in the decisions of the government and the opposition against the background of individual disagreements.

I agree with the author's self-assessment of the contributing moments in the studied thematic area, focusing on the contribution to the study of the complexity of migration legislation, the analysis of the two laws on the refugee loan of 1924 and on the homeless from 1928 and the systematic analysis of archival sources.

4. Critical comments and questions

I think that the study would benefit if there were a clearer methodological framework through which to interpret historical data, in particular, the philosophy of proposed and adopted laws, as well as the arguments of political parties. Very often, the author uses purely demographic arguments to legitimize a position (p.119) – for example, to explain the highly restrictive state policy towards emigrants in North and South America, the argument for population decline is prioritized, since it is believed that this is a permanent emigration. At the same time, gardening expatriates enjoy incentives with the argument that emigration is temporary, but are there also

processes of sedentary gardeners in the host countries? Are there other arguments related to the geopolitical context and the positions of the winning countries regarding the fact that Bulgaria is in the camp of the countries that lost the First World War?

Reading the monograph, the dissonance between the huge number of emigrants – 400,000 emigrants for the period 1919-1939, and the highly restrictive measures against migrants overseas makes a strong impression. This suggests the ineffectiveness of the policy being pursued. What explanation can the author give for this dissonance between legislation and practices?

It would also be interesting to provide factual – statistical and demographic information, if any, about the social composition of emigration flows – across the ocean and to Europe, as well as the development of emigration by year during this period. Similar statistical and demographic information can be supplemented in the other chapters – about refugees, those settling in the big cities and in Sofia by year, in order to track the movement of the population and the dynamics of the processes.

As already mentioned, the author's conclusion regarding the parliamentary debates on refugees, including a debate on obtaining a loan, is that there is a consensus between the government and the opposition; in this sense, it remains unclear to me why the author expresses disagreement with the position of D. Vachkov on the occasion of the debate on the loan (p. 71).

I also recommend expanding the perimeter of B. Boev's publications in journals with an impact factor, which will increase the author’s citation rate.

Conclusion: The scientific production of Chief Assistant Dr. Boris Plamenov Boev is multifaceted and includes original reviews and contributions to the historical and demographic research for the specific historical period – between the two world wars. I will vote with conviction for the awarding of the academic position of "Associate Professor" to Chief Assistant Dr. Boris Plamenov Boev in the field of higher education 2. Humanities, professional field 2.2 History and Archeology (Historical Demography – Legislation in the field of migration policy between the two world wars), for the needs of the Department of Historical Demography at the Institute of Population and Human Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

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