

## **OPINION**

by assoc. prof. Milen Velchev Velev, PhD,  
Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University - Burgas

Member of the scientific jury in the competition for holding the academic position of PROFESSOR, determined by order № UMO - 132/19.05.2021 of the Rector of Burgas Free University, in area of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional field: 3.8. Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Human Capital), **State Gazette, issue 25/26.03.2021.**

Candidate: **assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, Burgas Free University**

### **I. General characteristics of the scientific and applied-science production of the candidate**

#### **I.1. General description of the materials presented (monographs, textbooks, reports, projects, etc.) by research areas**

Assoc. Prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, is participating in the competition with 20 publications, of which 15 are independent works.

The following publications should be distinguished among all the presented ones:

- ✓ The two independent monographs: Neycheva, M., Human capital, economic growth, labour market: theoretical paradigms versus empirical evidence. Burgas Free University, 2021, ISBN: 978-619-253-000-6; Neycheva, M., Economics of the multinational corporation: prerequisites, practices, consequences. Flat, Burgas, 2018, ISBN: 978-619-7125-42-9.
- ✓ A report, published in an academic journal, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases of scientific information: Neycheva, V., E. Nikolova, M. Neycheva, Web-based and blended learning for interdisciplinary studies in universities. Proceedings, 6th International Conference on Multimedia, Computer Graphics and Broadcasting, MulGraB 2014, 2015, p. 13–16, DOI:10.1109/MulGraB.2014.10.
- ✓ Three studies, published in an academic journal, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases of scientific information: Neycheva, M., I. Neychev, Overeducation and economic growth: theoretical background and empirical findings for the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Economic Studies (Ikonomicheski Izslevania), 5, 2020, pp. 124-142, ISSN: 0205-3292 (Print); Neycheva, M., How might the negative impact of higher education on growth be explained? The role of vertical qualification (mis)match in an MRW-type model. Economics of Transition and Institutional Change, vol. 27(4), 2019, pp. 943-969, ISSN: 2577-6983 (Online); Neycheva, M., K. Joensen, Higher Educational Attainment for Growth: the MRW model for Iceland. Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research, vol. 63(3), 2019, pp.301-316, ISSN: 0031-3831 (Print), ISSN: 1470-1170 (Online).

Besides the six publications stated above, the candidate is participating in

the competition with 14 articles, scientific reports, textbooks and coursepacks, published in acknowledged academic journals both in Bulgaria and abroad.

Five of them are works of joint authorship - 4 studies and 1 report from a scientific conference.

When reading these works it becomes obvious that interesting, relevant, and at the same time complex and significant issues of the economic theory and practice have been studied. The quality of the publications themselves reveals that the candidate for the academic position of “professor” proves to be a very good research worker, capable of identifying issues, analyzing them, formulating conclusions and substantiating ideas on this basis.

Assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD has participated in four national and two international scientific and educational projects, and has managed one of them.

### **I.2. General characteristics of the scientific, applied-science and teaching activities of the candidate.**

The scientific and applied-science activities of assoc. prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, show consistency, logic, continuity, scientific correctness and constructiveness. Her persistent interest in investigating the issues of human capital, economic growth and labour market becomes obvious. Her good literary awareness and successful use of the most modern research approaches in formulating and proving scientific theses are impressive.

On this basis, the personal contribution of assoc. prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, found in the in-depth investigation, creative rationalization and further development of the theory and methodology in the field of the economic theory, becomes clear.

The teaching activity of assoc. prof. Mariya Neycheva is related to her interests in the field of Macroeconomics, Managerial Economics, Transnational and Multinational Corporations and Banks, etc. Information on fully or partially developed training courses, included in the platform for electronic learning „Moodle“ of BFU, has been appended.

For the purposes of her teaching activity assoc. prof. Neycheva has designed a textbook on business economics and a coursepack on managerial economics.

It should be noted that in 2014, assoc. prof. Neycheva received an award for quality implementation of the program „Strategic business solutions in a risky and fast-changing environment“ (MES), and 2019 she received the award of „Teacher of the year“, First edition of the annual awards of Evgeny Mosinov Foundation - Burgas.

### **II. Quantitative characteristics of the scientific production of the candidate**

The reference to the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements for holding the academic position of “professor” according to the annex to article 1a, paragraph 1 of the Regulations on the Implementation of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, shows the following:

Indicator 1 - Dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree of “doctor” – 50 points.

Indicator 3 - Habilitation monograph - 100 points.

Sum total of the indicators from 4 to 10 – 315 points

A published monograph which has not been presented as a main habilitation work – 1 pc. independent – 100 points.

Articles and reports, published in academic journals, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases of scientific information - 1 pc. - 10 points.

Articles and reports, published in refereed, scholarly reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 10 pcs. - 100 points.

Studies, published in academic journals, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases of scientific information - 3 pcs. - 90 points.

Studies, published in non-refereed, scholarly reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 2 pcs. - 15 points.

Sum total of the indicators from 11 to 13 - 145 points

Citations or reviews in academic journals, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 9 pcs. - 135 points.

Citations in scholarly reviewed monographs and collective volumes - 1 pc. - 10 points.

Sum total of the indicators from 14 to 21 - 180 points.

Participation in a national scientific or educational project - 4 participations - 60 points.

Participation in an international scientific or educational project - 1 participation - 20 points.

Management of an international scientific or educational project - 40 points.

A university textbook published - 40 points

A university coursepack published - 20 points.

Detailed information has been attached by assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, on the fulfillment of the additional requirements of the Center for Economic and Management Sciences for holding the academic position of “professor”, pursuant to article 59 (3) and Annex №3 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in BFU.

This shows that assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, exceeds the quantitative characteristics of the scientometric indicators - of the total number of minimum 550 points, she fulfills 790 points.

### **III. Assessment of the results and scientific contribution of the candidate**

The main part of the materials presented for reviewing are grouped in several main directions:

- ✓ The human capital, measured by means of the level of education of the workforce, and its impact on the long-term economic development;
- ✓ Investigation of the dependence “education of the workforce - labour market and qualification mismatch - economic growth“;
- ✓ The sphere of multinational corporations;
- ✓ Microeconomic issues.

According to the information about the original scientific contributions, presented by assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, the following *theoretical contributions* stand out:

1. The neoclassical model of human capital growth, developed by Mankiw, Romer, Weil, has been further developed in two directions: 1). differentiation of

the impact of the different levels of education – secondary and higher 2). distinction drawn between the vertical qualification mismatch (over-education of higher-educated employees) and the qualification match.

2. A theoretical framework of the channels and mechanisms of influence of the qualification mismatch on the overall product has been built.

3. The factors for the qualification mismatch have been systematized, with the factors pertaining to the demand for a certain type of education (educational degree) being differentiated from those arising from the supply of a certain type of education (educational degree).

4. A method has been developed for the evaluation of the vertical qualification mismatch in higher-educated employees (ISCED 5-8), combining the static approach of the match matrix with the statistical approach, based on the secondary education level for a given type of employment.

The following *practically applicable contributions* are specified:

5. Empirical evaluation of the neoclassical human capital growth model, developed by Mankiw, Romer, Weil with or without limitations on the parameters in the model for the new member-states of the EU from Central and East Europe (2000-2016), as well as for the economy of Iceland (2000-2015).

6. A systemic analysis of the scientific publications in the data bases of scientific literature Scopus and Web of Science in the period between 1996 and 2019, providing empirical evaluations of the effect of human capital (education) on the overall activity and growth in the new member-states of the EU from Central and East Europe.

7. An empirical evaluation of the impact of foreign language learning in the secondary school as one of the indicators for the quality of the workforce, on the overall activity in the European countries.

8. A systematization of the basic theoretical statements in the sphere of the multinational enterprise and an analysis of extensive empirical material about the direct foreign investment and the practices applied in the activity of the multinational corporation.

9. Development of methods for the evaluation of the necessity, applicability and the effect of the technological innovation and its application in two real organizations - a public organization and a manufacturing enterprise.

I accept all the contribution moments of the candidate set out. I think that they are the personal achievement of the author, and are relevant and significant for theory and practice and could be primarily related to enriching, specifying and refining the existing scientific knowledge. Here the contributions in the field of the further development of the theory of human capital and the mechanisms of influence over the economic growth can be pointed out as well as studies in the sphere of multinational corporations, microeconomic issues, etc.

From the information about the citations of the candidate in other scholars' publications, presented in the documents of assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, it becomes clear that she has been cited 10 times altogether, including 9 citations in academic journals, refereed and indexed in world famous data bases of scientific information, or in monographs and collective volumes, and 1 citation in scholarly reviewed monographs and collective volumes.

A conclusion can thus be made that the publications of assoc. prof. Neycheva are well known to the academic community.

#### **IV. Evaluation of the originality of the works presented and of the authenticity of the scientific data presented**

The publications of assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, are dedicated to interesting, relevant and complex economic issues. This enables the demonstration of greater profoundness and the use of stronger scientific argumentation, and makes her personal opinion stand out more convincingly.

I consider the works presented original and authentic, and I have not found any evidence of plagiarism.

#### **V. Critical notes and recommendations.**

I have no critical notes. I will take the liberty of giving the candidate for the academic position of “professor” the following recommendation:

It would be great to expand the scope of research work in the future by focusing on other specific factors affecting the economic growth. This will allow an analysis and comparison of the direction and degree of impact of the various growth factors.

My recommendation is not of such a nature as to change my overall positive opinion of the research work of assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD. Rather, it provides a direction for broadening the creative horizon.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

In summary, I give my high evaluation of the research work of assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD. I consider the issues developed to be relevant for theory, necessary and useful to practice. The scientific results have been achieved on the basis of a high level of erudition and knowledge of the modern methodological approaches.

All requirements for holding the academic position of “professor” envisaged in the Law on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria and in the corresponding regulations are fulfilled.

**In my capacity as a member of the scientific jury I confidently declare that I vote positively for assoc. prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD to hold the academic position of “PROFESSOR” in area of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; professional field: 3.8. Economics (Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Human Capital).**

Date  
16.07.2021

Member of the scientific jury:  
assoc. prof. Milen Velchev Veleev, PhD