

OPINION

By: **Prof. Yuliya Trifonova Yorgova-Ford, PhD, Burgas Free University**
Scientific specialty "Management",
Professional field 3.7 Administration and Management

Regarding: open call for the academic position of **Professor** for the professional field 3.8. *Economics /Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Human capital/* at Burgas Free University (BFU).

1. Call information

The Call is open with announcement in State Gazette, No. 25/26.03.2021, p. 137 for the needs of the Faculty of Business study of the BFU.

2. Information about the participants in the Call

Assoc. Prof. Mariya Ivanova Neycheva, PhD, is the only participant in the Call.

She acquired the PhD degree in the scientific specialty 05.02.01 "Political Economy (General Economic Theory)" in 2008. Since 2013 she holds the academic position of "Associate Professor". Assoc. Prof. Neycheva, PhD, has extensive teaching and practical experience. Over the years she has been a part-time assistant at the University of National and World Economy - Sofia and Business Colleges, an expert in business organizations, and since 2003 she has been a full-time lecturer at BFU. She is currently serving a second term as a Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Business study at BFU. Participates in and leads numerous international, national and university research and educational projects. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neycheva is a holder of high honours for her work as a lecturer and participant in project activities.

3. Compliance with the requirements for holding the academic position

3.1. Quantitative requirements

From the submitted call documentation the following findings can be made regarding the fulfillment of the National minimum requirements and the Additional requirements of Faculty of Business study at BFU for holding the academic position of "professor":

- the National minimum requirements have been surpassed and a total amount of 790 points has been reported with a required minimum of 550 points;
- after acquiring her PhD degree, the candidate has worked 3233 hours with a requirement of 2000 hours;
- 3 monographs with a total volume of 46 ed. quire were published upon request of 2 with a volume of 25 ed. quire;
- 2 textbooks and 1 handbook were issued upon request for 2 textbooks;
- with a total of 28 publications after her PhD degree, 9 of which outside Bulgaria as well as with her participation in 6 projects and the management of 2 of them the quantitative requirements are exceeded many times.

3.2. Quality requirements

The high quality of the scientific production and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, is indisputable and has received recognition not only in Bulgaria but also abroad. The following facts may be put forward in support of this claim:

- 3 studia (1 individual and 2 co-authored), published in scientific journals, referenced and

indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus);

- 9 citations in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus);

- award of the Ministry of Education and Science for quality implementation of an international educational project under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Neycheva, PhD, specifically the Intensive program "Strategic business solutions in a risky and rapidly changing environment";

- member and Head of scientific juries on doctoral and habilitation procedures at BFU and other universities;

- development of new training courses and programs for bachelor's and master's degrees.

The documents being submitted give rise to the finding that the application of Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, fully meets the mandatory requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the additional requirements of the Faculty of Business study at BFU, related to teaching and research.

4. Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, is a lecturer respected and highly valued by colleagues and students at BFU. Over the years, she has conducted classes in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Management Economics and others at both Master's and Bachelor's levels.

The results of the regular surveys of students about the quality of education at BFU invariably put Assoc. Prof. Neycheva, PhD in the leading positions in terms of teaching methodology, satisfaction with her courses, etc. Her work on material preparation as well as her participation in the accreditation procedures of the Faculty of Business study at BFU is also highly appreciated.

All this gives grounds for the conclusion that Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, has the necessary teaching competencies and experience to hold the position of "professor".

5. Brief description of the submitted scientific work/publications

The application package submitted by Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD for this competition contains a total of 20 publications, including: 2 individual monographs; 1 individual and 4 co-authored studies as 3 of the latter are referenced in Scopus; 11 scientific articles and conference papers, of which 1 in Scopus; 1 textbook and 1 handbook.

The majority of the presented scientific papers are focused on exploring human capital and in particular the link between education, the labour market, and economic growth, which is in the scope of this Call. However, the applicant's scientific interests and demands exceeds the limits of this area of research.

The submitted main habilitation thesis - a monograph titled "Human Capital, economic growth, labour market: theoretical paradigms vs. empirical evidence" - is a completed author's study with indisputable scientific and practically oriented contributions. It focuses on a particularly contemporary and important issue - the growing role of human capital as a major factor in the development of modern economies. The monograph successfully accomplishes the author's goal to summarize the main theoretical findings as well as to present empirical evidence on the impact of human capital and the intellectual potential of the population on the aggregate economic activity and dynamics. In the study a special attention is paid to the (mis)match between the employees' obtained and the required qualification and how that (mis)match influences economic growth and also to the education quality's paramount role. I believe that the work's main merit is the recommendations it makes toward the educational policy in Bulgaria based on the empirical results.

The second monograph, titled "Economics of a multinational corporation: prerequisites,

practices, and consequences”, presents important questions about multinational corporations through the prism of economic theory. Combining the theoretical and the practical orientation of her exposition, the author gives examples, statistical data and results based on the empirical research on real-world examples in the international production.

Without being commented in detail, the other presented scientific works of the candidate show that they are the result of in-depth scientific and applied research in the field of economics.

The documents for citations of her works in journals (some of which referenced and indexed in Scopus), which are attached to the Call prove that Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD is acknowledged and renowned by the Bulgarian and international scientific community.

In summary - the scientific papers submitted for review by Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, fully meet the requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in professional field 3.8 "Economics, (Microeconomics, macroeconomics, human capital)" at BFU.

6. Summarised evaluation of the main scientific and applied contributions of the candidate

I accept the scientific and applied contributions claimed by Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD. I believe that they are authentic, significant and included in the presented scientific papers. The achievements of the candidate confirm her in-depth knowledge and abilities to conduct research and to solve scientific and practical problems in the field of economics.

Supporting this statement, the following contributions could be mentioned: further development of the neoclassical model of growth with human capital, introduced by Mankiw, G., D. Romer, D. Weil and the empirical of the restricted and unrestricted model for the new EU member states from Central and Eastern Europe as well as Iceland; the development of a theoretical framework of the channels and mechanisms through which qualification mismatch influences aggregate product; a summary of the main theoretical formulations in the field of multinational enterprise and an analysis of a comprehensive empirical material for the foreign direct investments and the practices being applied by the multinational corporation, etc.

7. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or questions about the works submitted for participation in this open Call. I recommend that Assoc. Prof. Neycheva, PhD boldly share her rich experience with younger colleagues by guiding doctoral students at BFU and other universities.

8. Conclusion

Based on the evaluations of the submitted scientific papers, the teaching activities and the main scientific and practical contributions of Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD, it could be claimed that they fully meet the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and Regulations for Academic Staff Development of BFU.

This overall high evaluation gives me a reason to strongly support the application of Assoc. Prof. Mariya Neycheva, PhD for the award of the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 3.8. Economics (Microeconomics, macroeconomics, human capital).

16 July 2021
Burgas

Signature:
/Prof. Yuliya Yorgova, PhD/