

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF A DECISION

of the Standing Committee on natural sciences mathematics and informatics on the results of the completed evaluation procedure for programme accreditation of a doctoral programme "Economic and social geography" in a professional field 4.4 Earth sciences, an area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics at the Southwest University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad

The procedure was opened by the Standing Committee on natural sciences mathematics and informatics on 25.05.2017 at the request of the higher school. The Expert panel, approved by the Accreditation Council on 07.12. 2017, carried out an inspection of the evaluated institution in the period from 28.03.2018 to 29.03.2018.

At a meeting held on 28.05.2018, the Standing Committee adopted the report of the expert panel and on its basis prepared a decision on the results of the completed programme accreditation. The decision **stipulates findings and assessments regarding the compliance of the evidence submitted with the criteria system in the implemented procedure, and in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) - Part 1 / 1-10 / and within the meaning of Art. 78, para. 3 of the HEA (Table 5). The Standing Committee used the 10-point assessment system provided for in Art. 79, para. 1 of the HEA and the rating scale of ENQA.**

After summarizing the results from voting on the basis of the adopted by the Accreditation Council to NEAA "Voting rules of procedures for accreditation and evaluation of projects", the Standing Committee on natural sciences mathematics and informatics took the following **DECISIONS** on 12.06.2018:

1. Awards programme accreditation to a doctoral programme "Economic and social geography" in a professional field 4.4 Earth sciences, an area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics at the Southwest University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad on the grounds of an overall assessment on the criteria of 9.05 (nine, point five hundredths).

2. The validity of the accreditation is SIX years, according to art. 79 (4) of the Higher Education Act.

The Standing Committee on natural sciences, mathematics and informatics formulated the following **recommendations**:

1. To continue the efforts of the University to increase the number of habilitated lecturers in the scientific specialty "Economic and Social Geography".

Term: permanent

2. To increase the publication of scientific papers in the specialty of the doctoral

programme in reference and indexed editions.

Term: permanent

3. To stimulate the mobility of PhD students, including their participation in scientific forums abroad.

Term: permanent

Chairperson of the SCNSMI

Prof. Maria Shishinyova, PhD