

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON A DECISION

of the Standing Committee on Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics on the results of the completed evaluation under a programme accreditation procedure of a doctoral programme “Natural Geography” in a professional field 4. 4 Earth Sciences, an area of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics at South-West University “Neofit Rilski”- Blagoevgrad

The procedure was opened by the Standing Committee on Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics on 12.06.2018 at the request of the higher school. The Expert Panel, approved by the Accreditation Council on 13.12.2018, reviewed the evaluated institution in the period from 21.02.2019 to 22.02.2019.

At a meeting held on 22.04.2019r, the Standing Committee adopted the report of the Expert panel and, based on it, 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 following 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 summarising the results of the voting based on the "Rules for voting on procedures for accreditation and project evaluation" adopted by the Accreditation Council of NEAA, the Standing Committee on Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics took the following **DECISION** on 13.05.2019:

1. Awards programme accreditation to a doctoral programme “Natural Geography” in a professional field 4. 4 Earth Sciences, an area of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics at South-West University “Neofit Rilski”-Blagoevgrad on the grounds of an overall assessment of 9.21 (nine, point twenty-one hundredths).

2. The period of validity of the accreditation shall be SIX years, according to Art. 79, para. 4 of the HEA.

The Standing Committee on Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics has formulated the following **recommendations**:

1. To stimulate the participation of PhD students in various forms of mobility, as well as their more active participation in project proposals with national and international funding.

Deadline: permanent

2. To stimulate the publication of scientific papers in the specialty of the doctoral program in refereed and indexed national and international publications.

Deadline: permanent

Chairperson of the SCNSMI

Prof. Maria Shishinyova, PhD