

ANNOTATION REGARDING DECISION

Of the Standing Committee on Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine regarding the evaluation results arising from the procedure to evaluate professional field 6.1 Plant Growing at the Faculty of Agronomy, University of Forestry - Sofia

The procedure was reviewed and opened by the Standing Committee on Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine on the 22.07.2014 at the request of the Rector of the University of Forestry - Sofia. The Expert Panel approved by the AC on the 02.10.2015 carried out an assessment of the institution under evaluation in the period 11.03 - 13.03.2015. During the meeting which took place on the 30.07.2015 the members of the Committee approved the report of the Expert Panel and used it as a basis for its decision relating to the results of the programme accreditation procedure. The decision reflects the **findings and assessments regarding the conformity of the presented evidence with the criteria under the procedure. In evaluating the criteria measures in the activities under review (educational activities, research activities, management of the higher school and competitiveness of teaching and learning in the professional field), the Standing Committee used the rating scale of ENQA. Verbal evaluations of the criteria measures are “significant conformity” and “full conformity” respectively and are in combination and correlation with evaluations under Art. 79, para. 1 of the Higher Education Act.** After summarizing the results of the vote based on the Voting Rules for Accreditation and Project Evaluation Procedures adopted by the NEAA Accreditation Council, on 30.07.2015 the Standing Committee on Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine took the following **DECISIONS:**

1. **It grants programme accreditation** to the professional field **6.1. Plant Growing** at the Faculty of Agronomy, **University of Forestry - Sofia** with the overall rating of **9,24 (nine point twenty four)** in accordance with Art. 79a, para 2 of the Higher Education Act for the educational degrees of:

Bachelor:

- Bachelor of Science in Agronomy, intramural and extramural education;

Master:

- Master of Science in Crop Selection and Seed Production, intramural and extramural studies;
- Master of Science in Horticulture, intramural and extramural studies;
- Master of Science in Plant Growing, intramural and extramural studies;
- Master of Science in Sustainable Management of Soil Resources, intramural and extramural studies;

2. **The accreditation period is SIX years** in accordance with Art. 79, para 4, p..1 of the Higher Education Act.
3. **Sets out the capacity for the professional field 6.1 Plant Growing at the University of Forestry - Sofia** in accordance with §4Д, para 2 of the Additional Provisions of the Higher Education Act:
 - ***For the educational degree of Bachelor*** - 320 students (intramural and extramural studies);
 - ***For the educational degree of Master*** - 60 students (intramural and extramural studies);
 - ***Total for the professional field*** - 380 students.

The Standing Committee issued the following **recommendations:**

1. Improve consistency of the Bachelor's degree curriculum by allocating the same amount of student workload for 1 credit point across all disciplines; assign academic hours to out-of-class courses and enhance practical training of students in real-life situations.

Period: end of academic year 2016-2017

2. Increase the availability of own course books and manuals for Master's degree courses.

Period: permanent, with annual reports.

3. Take wider advantage of student mobility opportunities under ERASMUS programme.

Period: permanent, with annual reports.

Chairperson of the SCASVM:

(Prof. D.Braikov, DSc)