

Excerpt from a summarizing report

**To the President of
the Accreditation Council to
NEAA**

SUMMARIZING REPORT

OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMANITIES AND ARTS ON THE RESULTS OF COMPLETED PROCEDURES FOR PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION OF PROFESSIONAL FIELD 8.4. THEATRE AND FILM ARTS

Programme accreditation of Professional field 8.4 Theatre and Film Arts in Bulgaria was carried out in 2013 and 2014 based on the requests of the Rectors of an academy, three universities and one college as follows in the order of their admission to the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency: National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts "Krystju Sarafov", South-West University "Neofite Rilski", New Bulgarian University, Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" and Theatre College "Luben Groys". The visits of expert panels were made according to the established Rules for programme accreditation of professional fields and in compliance with programmes agreed with the relevant universities.

The procedures were completed and the aforementioned institutions have been evaluated in accordance with the Higher Education Act (HEA), the Law for the development of academic staff (LDAS), Rules of Procedure of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency and current criteria system for programme accreditation of higher schools, specifying higher schools; structural units engaged in training; educational and qualification degrees with the relevant majors and forms of training; designated educational capacity in the order of completion of the procedures.

In professional field 8.4. Theatre and Film Arts training is conducted in EQD "Professional bachelor", EQD "Bachelor" and EQD "Master". Foreign students mainly from the neighboring countries of Bulgaria are also trained in this field.

Expert Panels' reports were heard and discussed at meetings of the Standing Committee on Humanities and Arts (SCHA). All universities conducting training in professional field 8.4 Theatre and Film Arts have been accredited for five and six years. The specific assessments for individual universities voted by SCHA in accordance with the Higher Education Act and Criteria system for programme accreditation are listed in Table 1.

Higher school	Assessment of professional field 8.4 Theatre and Film Arts	Accreditation decision	Validity of accreditation
National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts "Krystju Sarafov"	Grade 9.27	10.07.2013 /Protocol №13/	6 years

New Bulgarian University	Grade 9.20	09.10.2013 /Protocol №16/	6 years
South-West University "Neofite Rilski"	Grade 9.10	09.10.2013 / Protocol №16/	6 years
Theatre College "Luben Groys"	Grade 7.90	12.03.2014 /Protocol №5/	5 years
Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"	Grade 7.74	04.09.2013 /Protocol №14/	5 years

After the analysis of the accreditation period the strengths of the educational process in Professional field 8.4. Theatre and Film Arts its *strengths* are clearly outlined, namely:

- The educational process is carried out by qualified lecturers - directors, playwrights, operators, theater directors, actors, set designers, editors, etc., who have bright presence in the country's cultural life and are a model for their students.
- There is an obvious desire to create new and improve existing material and technical base, providing for quality education.
- There have been established relations and there are available contracts with television, theater and film institutions, providing internships and practices to students.
- School curricula are updated periodically in response to constantly changing technological base, feeds, and hence the entry of new means of expression.
- There is an established and well-functioning system for monitoring and maintaining the quality of the educational process, for internal accreditation and self-esteem.

In the accreditation period some *weaknesses* have been found out in the training in Professional field 8.4. Theatre and Film Arts which can be grouped as follows:

- Despite the significantly improved during the accreditation period necessary equipment of all accredited universities, some technical equipment necessary for the normal conduct of the educational process needs renovation and repair.
- The mobility of students and their participation in creative activity has improved during the accreditation period, but is still not optimal for the professional field level.
- Increasing the number of textbooks in Bulgarian language, especially in electronic format, would significantly improve the quality of training.
- Training of foreign students in the professional field would significantly enhance national and international positions in the professional field.

The above mentoned strengths and weaknesses of training in professional field 8.4. Theatre and Film Arts allow the following **GENERAL CONCLUSIONS** to be drawn:

The current state of education in professional field 8.4. Theatre and Film Arts is based on a tradition associated with generations of tutors who have created dozens of successful classes of artists and authors in the field of theater, film and television arts.

The high quality of the educational process is provided by faculty who actively participates with their original production, creating artistic patterns that regularly receive awards at national and international competitions.

Administrative staff in all five educational institutions provides qualified services to students and teachers; there exists a trend to reduce the number of staff and administration in order to optimize the support to the educational process activities.

There is striving to continuously maintain and improve the physical environment including theaters and stages, auditoriums and multimedia rooms, specialized workshops, landscape, recreation, sports etc.

There is a renewal and updating of the existing shooting, mounting and recording equipment, and availability of licensed software, albeit in varying degrees in different educational institutions, depending on their financial capabilities.

Information environment, including libraries, computer rooms, access to modern databases, electronic catalogs and other channels is maintained at a good level.

In many places there have been created opportunities for specific individual plans of students, related to their specific desires and possibilities.

Particular attention is paid to providing students of the upper courses with possibility of internships and practices in leading TV channels, film production studios, production houses, theaters. There is a tendency part of the students to start a job even during their studies.

Students' audio-visual production is competitive at European level, as evidenced by the winners of international competitions and movies festivals.

To all five educational institutions, analyzed in this summarizing report, some recommendations can be made, namely:

Paying more attention to student needs, preferences, interests for continuous updating of programmes, disciplines and courses related to the development of new technologies and communications.

Academic governances and boards, where they are active, should prepare long-term strategic development plans in connection with the decreasing number of students everywhere because of the demographic crisis and the large European competition.

Radical measures should be taken to stop the trend of increasing the age of the teaching staff. Young lecturers should be prepared, considering their adequate remuneration.

To promote and maintain relationships with the users of staff in the field of theater, film and television arts in order to meet business requirements of today and thus provide further education of graduates.

Continuous development and improvement of material and technical base is indispensable to maintain, and why not to increase the number of those willing to be trained in the visual arts.

To ensure financing of best students' projects.

To use all the possibilities offered by European educational programmes.