



**REPORT
OF THE EXPERT PANEL
IN THE PROCEDURE OF INITIAL ACCREDITATION OF THE
STUDY PROGRAMME
University Graduate Study Programme in
Sustainable Agriculture and Environment
University of Slavonski Brod**

Date of accreditation:
9 May 2024

June, 2024



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INTRODUCTION

The Agency for Science and Higher Education (the Agency) is an independent legal entity with public authority, registered in the court register, and a full member of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

All study programmes delivered by public and private higher education institutions are subject to the initial accreditation of study programmes, a procedure conducted by the Agency in accordance with the Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Science (Official Gazette 151/22) and by following *the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (ESG) and good international practice in quality assurance of science and higher education.

The Agency's Accreditation Council appointed an independent expert panel for the evaluation of the University Graduate Study Programme in Sustainable Agriculture and Environment University of Slavonski Brod.

Members of the Expert Panel:

- Prof. Andreja Borec, PhD, University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Republic of Slovenia, Chair,
- Assoc. Prof. Vibor Roje, PhD, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Republic of Croatia,
- Assis. Prof. Janja Filipi, PhD, University of Zadar, Republic of Croatia,
- Prof. Johann Vollmann, PhD, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria,
- Anđela Horvat, student, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Republic of Croatia.

The Expert Panel held meetings with the following groups:

- Management,
- Head of the study programme,
- Full-time teaching staff that will participate in the delivery of the study programme,
- Students,
- Representatives of the business sector, potential employers.



The Expert Panel visited the laboratories, fields, the library, the student administration office and the classrooms as well as the Biotech Centre in Slavonski Brod.

The Expert Panel drafted this Report on the initial accreditation of the study programme University Graduate Study Programme in *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment*, University of Slavonski Brod based on the Proposal of the Study Programme University Graduate Study Programme in *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment*, University of Slavonski Brod, other relevant documents and the site visit.

The Report contains the following elements:

- Basic information on the study programme,
- Detailed analysis of each quality standard, recommendations for improvement and quality grade for each standard,
- Final recommendation of the Expert Panel,
- Appendices (quality grade summary by each assessment area and standard and the site visit protocol).

In the analysis of the documents, site visit and meetings held at the higher education institution University of Slavonski Brod and writing of the Report, the Expert Panel was supported by:

- Iva Žabarović, coordinator, ASHE,
- Marija Omazić, interpreter,
- Ivana Rončević, translator of the report, ASHE.



BASIC INFORMATION ON THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Name, seat and OIB (Personal Identification Number) of higher education institution:
University of Slavonski Brod, Trg I. B. Mažuranić 2, 35000 Slavonski Brod, OIB
33027834374

Name and type of study programme: *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment*,
University Graduate Study Programme

CroQF/EQF/QF-EHEA level: 7.1. sv

Scientific or artistic area and field of study programme: scientific field of Biotechnical
Sciences, area of Agriculture

ISCED FoET classification: 081(Agriculture)

Programme duration: 2 years (4 semesters)

Number of ECTS points acquired on completion of study programme: 120

Academic or professional degree / qualification obtained upon the completion of the
study programme (if the study programme has several specializations, the issued
degree/qualification cannot be named according to the specialization, but at the level of
the study programme): University Master of Engineering in Sustainable Agriculture and
Environment

Language of delivery: Croatian language

Place of delivery of the study programme (at the head office or outside the head office of
the higher education institution): Slavonski Brod

Method of delivery of the study programme: Classic in-person

Admissions quota (for full-time and part-time students): 25 full-time students

Academic year in which the study programme delivery is to commence: Academic year
2025/2026



In case of joint programmes delivered by Croatian higher education institutions, please include a list co-providers/partners:

THE EXPERT PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION TO ASHE'S ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

1. to issue a licence

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF EACH STANDARD, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND QUALITY GRADE

I. Internal quality assurance

1.1. Clear justification for the introduction of the new study programme has been provided with regard to the mission and strategic goals of the higher education institution, as well as economic and societal needs.

Analysis:

The University of Slavonski Brod proposed this specific study programme based on their previous experience in other study programmes and detailed surveys conducted among various stakeholders, including companies and SMEs. Sustainable agriculture and environment inevitably overlaps within fundamental subjects and knowledge in the field of agriculture but it still ensures specificity of the proposed study programme. The study programme proposal is aligned with the mission and strategic goals of the University. The Croatian Employment Service has provided a positive opinion on the compatibility with the labour market, but since there is no similar study programme and qualification in the Republic of Croatia so employability cannot be determined. Admission quotas are aligned with the capacities of the University but cannot be applied for the labour market. Considering the current situation of students' interest in the area of biotechnical sciences and in the field of agriculture throughout Europe, and the potential number of interested students from the surrounding area, the University of Slavonski Brod should reduce admission quotas. The proposed study programme is comparable with similar accredited programmes in the Republic of Croatia and EU member states.



Recommendations:

Considering the current situation of students' interest in the area of biotechnical sciences, field of agriculture throughout Europe, and the potential number of interested students from the surrounding area, the University of Slavonski Brod should reduce admission quotas.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

1.2. The study programme has undergone an appropriate internal quality assurance process and has been formally approved by the higher education institution.

Analysis:

The University of Slavonski Brod has published a quality assurance policy and it is publicly available. Internal and external stakeholders, including students, employers, professors and the local community participated in the process of development of the *Sustainable agriculture and environment* study programme, with special emphasis on the agricultural high school in Slavonski Brod and other institutions with which the University collaborates. The University has provided relevant information for the establishment of a new study programme. *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment* study programme has been approved by the University Senate and the Faculty Council.

Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

1.3. The higher education institution will collect, analyse and use relevant data for the effective management and continuous enhancement of the study programme in accordance with the published quality assurance policy.

Analysis:

The University of Slavonski Brod has a quality assurance policy and it is publicly available. The quality assurance policy contains all elements for continuous monitoring and enhancement of study programmes, all procedures and key indicators for monitoring the quality of programme delivery, collection methods and defined measurable indicators and deadlines for their implementation are defined. Evaluation procedures are prescribed, including student's evaluation of the study programme. Regulations and documents on quality assurance are aligned with the ESG standards.



Recommendations:

Students' evaluation should be performed at the end of each semester and results of the evaluation should be discussed with the students.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

1.4. The higher education institution informs the public about the study programmes it offers, as well as plans to offer new programmes, i.e. change made to existing ones.

Analysis:

The University of Slavonski Brod has a strong collaboration with various stakeholders through projects and organised student practice. They are present in the local community through the lectures, presentations and events, all information is published on the website and social media. Information on admission requirements, learning outcomes, teaching and assessment methods are publicly available on the website, together with the information on employment possibilities on completion of the study programmes.

Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled



II. Study programme

2.1. The proposed study programme is compatible with the qualification standard entered in the Croatian Qualifications Framework Register.

Not applicable.

Analysis:

Recommendations:

Quality grade:

Not applicable.

2.2. The intended learning outcomes at the level of the study programme are aligned with the competences a student should gain by completing the study programme, as well as with the CroQF and EQF level.

Analysis:

At the overall level of the study programme *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment* of the University of Slavonski Brod, the learning outcomes have been defined in the study programme application. The definition of learning outcomes has been given and it is compatible with the education level 7. Learning outcomes have been described with respect to student's knowledge level, acquired skills, development of independence and responsibility, and finally competencies; examples have been given on the study programme level. The learning outcomes are closely aligned with professional requirements, and similarity to internationally recognised leaders in the field of agriculture and environment protection (respective programmes from EU universities in the Czech Republic, Italy and Greece) is guaranteeing professional standards and a contemporary content of the programme. The intended learning outcomes reflect competencies required in different spheres of the labour market such as family farm management, agricultural production management, environmental protection on regional and state levels as well as other administration and management positions both in the public and private sectors. The competencies needed have also been confirmed in a meeting with external stakeholders from different sectors. All stakeholders have supported the new study programme, they emphasised the importance of permanent education, acquiring of new skills and sustainable production methods to achieve competitiveness of the farming sector as well as communication skills for creating better consumer awareness of healthy food production and regional agricultural operations. The learning outcomes have been compared with three relevant programmes in the Republic of Croatia (i.e., study programme in *Environment, Agriculture and Resource Management* of the Faculty of Agriculture / University of Zagreb, study programme *Nature and*



Environmental Protection from the Department of Biology / Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, and the study programme *Ecological Agriculture* from the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek). On the level of courses, learning outcomes of the presented study programme are fully comparable with about 40-70% similarity which ensures a high relevance and quality of the learning outcomes. The development of both generic (e.g., project activities, project management and interaction in complex settings) and profession-specific competences (e.g., agricultural ecosystem management under ecology and environmental sustainability considerations) is included in the described learning outcomes. In addition, learning outcomes are aligned with the Croatian Qualifications Framework for the education level 7. The study programme *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment* is a graduate programme, its learning outcomes are clearly different from the existing bachelor study programme. The University of Slavonski Brod has a corresponding and accredited undergraduate study programme on *Ecoengineering and Nature Protection*, which started in the academic year 2022/23; thus, students of that programme might continue their studies on the graduate level by enrolling in the new master programme.

Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

2.3. The intended course outcomes are aligned with the intended learning outcomes at the level of the study programme.

Analysis:

The study programme proposal contains intended course learning outcomes which have been defined for all individual lectures and practices planned. Learning outcomes contain essential details. They are descriptive and clearly related to the content of the courses, so they are helpful for a successful completion of each course. The study programme proposal also contains information on alignment of the course outcomes with the overall programme outcomes (Table 2, pp. 28-29). The 10 overall learning outcomes are well balanced across the study programme, while individual courses may have a different focus serving some learning outcome and not covering others; this is necessary and reflects the differences between courses/subjects. The intended course outcomes include both generic competences (e.g., analysis and categorization of biological, technological or legal circumstances) and profession-specific competences (e.g. decisions on plant protection measures, recommendation of soil conservation measures, agronomic decisions in specific crop or soil matters, etc.).



Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

2.4. The study programme content allows students to achieve all the intended learning outcomes.

Analysis:

The study programme is on the Master of Science (MS) level delivering specialised professional competences in the field of sustainable agriculture. Nevertheless, it is foreseen that students acquire important generic competences as well. Horizontal student mobility is given, as students can enrol in courses of similar content and learning outcomes as in the present study programme at the University of Zagreb or the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek as well as in other higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia. As the study programme is fully compatible with the European Higher Education Area and the Bologna system, horizontal mobility would be granted between the University of Slavonski Brod and international HEIs in the European Union as well. This would also apply to the option of doing a master thesis in a foreign institution with co-supervision from the home university. The University of Slavonski Brod is in the process of setting up an international office to practically support student mobility. There is an ordinance on international mobility, according to which the University can approve grants for students to support their international mobility activities. Vertical student mobility is ensured, as students completing the master study programme *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment* can continue their education on the doctoral level at Croatian HEIs offering several biotechnical and agricultural sciences interdisciplinary study programmes. This applies to respective EU HEIs and their doctoral programmes as well.

In the study programme proposal, the content of each individual course is presented in the course description, where it is aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the course. All courses are offered within a semester plan and a meaningful sequence of compulsory courses in the first and elective courses in the second study year is given; specific requirements for enrolment in courses have not been defined based on the course description.

Core disciplines in the field of sustainable agricultural production related to field crops, horticultural and fruit crops and their related biological, chemical and environmental disciplines are well represented in the study programme which ensures that students will acquire professional expert competencies in the field.

Recommendations: None.



Quality grade:

Fulfilled.

2.5. ECTS distribution is aligned with the anticipated actual student workload.

Analysis:

ECTS credits at the University of Slavonski Brod are allocated in accordance with rules and recommendations applicable in the European Higher Education Area and ECTS credits which are allocated for every element of the study programme are based on total student workload, which includes all planned activities. The University of Slavonski Brod used appropriate mechanisms to ensure that ECTS allocation is aligned with actual student workload. ECTS credits allocated to courses within the study programme depending on the actual student workload amount to 3 – 6 ECTS credits. Analysis of the study programme determined mechanisms for the enhancement and revision of student workload expressed as ECTS credits.

Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

2.6. Student/professional practice is an integral part of the study programme (if applicable).

Analysis:

The University of Slavonski Brod put in a lot of effort into student/professional practice, which is an integral part of the study programmes and it is organized outside the higher education institution, in cooperation with the labor market, where this is applicable. Many companies and small farms from the surrounding area have a very good cooperation with the University. Student/professional practice is one of the elements of the study programme and is allocated an appropriate number of ECTS. Cooperation with companies and small farms is good and it is possible to conduct student/professional practice in a systematic and responsible manner, which will ensure the achievement of intended learning outcomes connected with student/professional practice and feedback from employers in companies or farmers is sent to the University in detail. Students acquire new knowledge and skills through student/professional practice, which they themselves confirmed and evaluated as very useful. Students describe what they have learned through a practice diary that they deliver to their mentor at the faculty.



Recommendations:

Student/professional practice is very well organized, and the students are very happy to do it. The student/professional practice can be improved by introducing a thesis that the students will do on the same topic as in the student/professional practice. Students would get a lot of practical knowledge and skills by interpreting the topic in a scientific way.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

2.7. If the completion of the study programme allows students access to a regulated profession, the programme is aligned with national and European regulations and the recommendations of national and international professional associations.

Not applicable.

Analysis:

Recommendations:

Quality grade:

Not applicable.



III. Teaching process and student support

3.1. Admission requirements and criteria as well as the admissions procedure are clearly defined and transparent, and guarantee that students will possess the necessary prior knowledge.

Analysis:

The admission requirements and criteria for this study programme are clearly defined in accordance with the usual practice in the Republic of Croatia for enrolment at this kind of graduate study programme, *i.e.* graduate study programme in the area of biotechnology. Namely, a successful completion of an undergraduate study programme is required: (i) the students who completed some of the related undergraduate study programmes (*i.e.* undergraduate study programme in the field of agronomy) will be admitted at this graduate study programme without further requirements, while (ii) students who completed an undergraduate study programme from some other scientific field, and would like to enrol to this study programme, will be obliged to attend classes and pass the exams of some subjects (so-called 'differentials') from the related undergraduate study programme at the Department of Biotechnology of the University of Slavonski Brod. The criteria (i) ensure a selection of candidates who possess adequate prior knowledge, while (ii) criteria provided for potential candidates who have not attended and completed some of the related/similar B.Sc. studies are only roughly defined and it is not clear if they will ensure an adequate prior knowledge. Procedures for recognition of prior learning are defined. The University of Slavonski Brod has defined the documents that a candidate has to show during the enrolment process.

Enrolment conditions criteria and the procedure are clearly defined and published in a timely manner.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to the Department of Biotechnology of the University of Slavonski Brod to generally define (and to publish it in an appropriate manner) which those differential subjects are, at least for some of the 'typical' undergraduate study programmes from which candidates may be interested to enrol in the graduate study programme *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment* (*e.g.*, economics, biology, forestry, etc.).

Quality grade:

Partially fulfilled



3.2. The planned teaching methods guarantee student-centred teaching and the achievement of all intended learning outcomes.

Analysis:

The management of the Department and the teachers show great enthusiasm to prepare and to perform teaching in a way that will ensure that students acquire a high level of quality of knowledge. Still, since the University and the Department are very young, there are inevitably some lacks of resources, both technical and personal. Thus, the Department of Biotechnology is in the course of procurement of equipment, but the biggest challenge for whole University of Slavonski Brod is the construction of new building which will provide (much more) complete technical and spatial resources that will be aligned with high quality requirements for conducting the proposed graduate study programme. But, it can already be noticed that the University of Slavonski Brod and the Department of Biotechnology have very good collaboration with some institutions in their town, such as 'Biotech', High school 'Matija Mesić' and some others, where some parts of the teaching are performed on a satisfactory quality level. The Department of Biotechnology has established their own testing field where some parts of practical lessons are performed.

Anyhow, there are various modes of delivery of the programme that will ensure reaching of the declared learning outcomes. Various, modern, teaching methods are planned, and they will ensure student-centred teaching process. The curriculum and syllabus are designed in a manner that will ensure an even load of students. At the University, there are modern technologies which will be used in the teaching process.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to the Institution to let them persist on the completing (with subsequent employing in teaching) of their technical resources in accordance with practices and experiences in similar institutions in Croatia and Europe.

Quality grade:

Partially fulfilled

3.3. The higher education institution has provided evidence that adequate support will be ensured for future students.

Analysis:

The Department of Biotechnology along with the whole University of Slavonski Brod provides such support for their students that is quite usual in higher education area in the Republic of Croatia. Also, during the meeting with the teachers of the Department of



Biotechnology the Expert Panel learned that students will have their mentor/tutor who will help them overcome potential obstacles and deal with challenges during the study. The students of the undergraduate study programme *Ecoengineering and Nature Protection* who will enrol in the proposed graduate study programme and who met with the Panel members during the accreditation visit testified that they have a very nice and easy communication with their teachers. Moreover, one student who has had experience studying at a bigger Croatian university claims that, due to a small number of students at the Department of Biotechnology, the relationship between teachers and students is very good and that a student at this Department is not only a number but is treated as a person with his/her name.

The University of Slavonski Brod collaborates with the Croatian Institute for Public Health of Brod-Posavina County with which it ensures various types of medical and psychological support for students.

The University of Slavonski Brod employs an adequate number of qualified professionals, administrative and technical staff.

Recommendations:

The Panel recommends to the Department of Biotechnology to maintain such a good approach to students in future.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

3.4. Objective and consistent evaluation and assessment of student achievements are planned so as to ensure the achievement of all intended learning outcomes.

Analysis:

The criteria and methods for evaluation and grading of student achievements are planned according to usual practice in Croatian universities. They are well presented in the study programme. Also, from the CVs of the teachers of the proposed study programme it can be noticed that many of the teachers have attended and completed various high level courses in the area of pedagogy and educational psychology and that leaves room for optimism that they will know how to change and update the methods and criteria for the assessment of student achievements in the future, according to experience they will obtain by working with students at the new study programme.

The evaluation and assessment criteria and methods are in a good connection with the expected learning outcomes as well as with the teaching methods that will be applied in courses. Objectivity of the evaluation and assessment of student achievements is ensured. The intended evaluation methods are designed by also taking into account special circumstances of studying for students who suffer some deprivation(s).



There is a possibility of student appeals and subsequent feedback on evaluation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended both to each teacher and to the Department of Biotechnology to permanently analyse the efficacy of their evaluation methods and criteria and to change it according to every subject requirement.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled



IV. Teaching resources and infrastructure

4.1. The higher education institution has ensured adequate teaching capacities to deliver the study programme and achieve the intended learning outcomes.

Analysis:

All courses of the proposed study programme are covered with teaching staff selected for the title of the corresponding field and area of the course in which they participate. Fifteen teachers (14 teachers and 1 assistant) are expected to participate in the proposed study programme, of which 13 teachers are permanently employed at the University of Slavonski Brod (for one teacher in Table 5, the Mechanical Engineering Faculty is indicated as the resident institution, although probably the University of Slavonski Brod was meant?) and one teacher of an elective course comes from the Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food and one assistant for two compulsory courses comes from the Secondary medical School Slavonski Brod. All other information for each teacher involved in the proposed study programme (Table 5) is satisfactory.

The teacher/student ratio indicated is 1:3.94 with no anticipated changes in the near future.

The total annual teaching load of all teachers does not exceed 20% of the total annual standard, and, on average, the percentage of teaching load of all teachers is less than 10%. The HEI defined the intention to support teachers in their scientific, teaching and professional development by the Ordinance on the procedure of appointment/reappointment into grades and corresponding job positions, which was adopted by the Senate of the University of Slavonski Brod. Formally, the requirements have been met, however, more international cooperation and staff exchange would improve the scientific, teaching and professional development.

Recommendations:

The Expert Panel suggests that the University management encourages more cooperation in international research projects, Erasmus programs and other forms of scientific and professional development of teachers.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

4.2. The qualifications and professional experience of external associates are appropriate for the delivery of the study programme and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

Analysis:



The University is planning to engage only one external associate: Assist. Prof. as a teacher for the course *Sustainable Animal Husbandry and Processing of Animal Products* (elective course). His scientific work is adequate for his field of teaching and he has authored a sufficient number of relevant scientific and professional papers.

As the proposed study programme is not running yet, we cannot estimate if the HEI will encourage the student practice at the institution where the external associate is employed. Also, it is difficult to estimate the participation of external associates in the supervision of final theses in the future.

Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

4.3. The premises, equipment and entire infrastructure (classrooms, laboratories, library, etc.) are appropriate for the delivery of the study programme and ensure the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

Analysis:

The University of Slavonski Brod has enough own space in the area of 9,300 m² for the delivery of teaching. The available space is spread over several locations. Most lecture rooms, labs and teacher offices are situated in the building of the Biotechnical Department. There is also an experimental plot in the area of 10.86 hectares in Slobodnica near Slavonski Brod. One part of laboratory practices will be organised in the Regional Biotechnological Research Centre of the Brod-Posavina County in Slavonski Brod, with which the University has cooperation agreements and they have already stated they have excellent cooperation. The Biotechnological Research Centre is well equipped for the study process. Other infrastructure is adequate for the delivery of the proposed study programme although other labs which the Panel saw during the tour of the HEI will be updated. The wireless internet access for students and teachers is ensured, and the supply of computers in the IT classroom is satisfactory.

In the future, the University will apply for EU funds for the construction of a university building in a new location.

The minimum required area of 1 m² per student has been ensured.

Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled



4.4. The library premises and resources, as well as access to additional services ensure the availability of literature and library services for the delivery of the study programme.

Analysis:

The Library of the University of Slavonski Brod consists of two departments (Department of Social Sciences and Humanities and Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Technical and Biotechnical Departments) and according to that it is situated in two locations. The library is well equipped with a adequate number of book volumes, although emphasis is put on literature in the technical sciences. The students have access to different teaching materials mostly only in printed form and older editions.

We have clarified the shortcoming related to the library evident from the Table 7 and these are: the number of e-journals with full-text access whose subscriptions the HEI funds with own or University's resources is 0, the total number of e-journals to which staff and students have access is only 1, the number of bibliographic databases which are funded with the HEI's own or university resources is 0 and the total number of bibliographic databases to which staff and students have access is 0.

Nevertheless, during the visit to the library it was emphasized that the library is in the process of modernization to meet the conditions of a HEI.

Recommendations:

The Expert Panel recommends more access to up-to-date teaching materials, both in printed and e- form, increased number of e-journals with full-text access, increased number of bibliographic databases which are funded with the HEI's own or university resources, and increased total number of bibliographic databases to which staff and students have access. This would improve learning and studying conditions for graduate level programme.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled

4.5. The higher education institution ensures the availability of the necessary financial resources to organise the activities and provide a high quality of delivery of the proposed study programme.

Analysis:

Based on the available materials and discussions with the management of the University, the Expert Panel concludes that funds are guaranteed for the organization of work and the quality implementation of the planned study programme.



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Recommendations: None.

Quality grade:

Fulfilled



☐ AMEND THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Rationale:

OPINION OF THE EXPERT PANEL AFTER PROGRAMME AMENDMENTS

FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXPERT PANEL MEMBERS:

The Expert Panel received from the University the revised document Initial accreditation procedure application form for University Graduate Study Programme *Sustainable Agriculture and Environment* of the University of Slavonski Brod according to our recommendations and suggested improvements sent on 24 May 2024. The recommendations and improvements from Expert Panel members were organized in three chapters: Learning outcome description, General recommendations for all courses descriptions and Recommendations for individual courses.

The Expert Panel thoroughly reviewed the improved version of the document and prepared a preliminary report with a final recommendation according to each chapter:

- I. Learning outcome description – the suggestions were fully considered.
- II. General recommendations for all courses descriptions – the suggestions were considered, except for the part that refers to literature. The Expert Panel suggests again to update required readings with more recent literature especially in courses where modern literature is necessary. The Expert Panel also noticed that the citing of literature, especially after improvements, is not uniform even by individual courses (e.g. the year of publication is missing, the year of publication is sometimes stated before the title, sometimes after the title, some of them are in brackets, some are not).
- III. Recommendations for individual courses – the suggestions were considered, the Expert Panel would like to draw attention to superficial corrections at the course **Sustainable Crop Production Systems and Grassland Management** – only supplementary readings were added, not particularly closely related to grassland management; **Rural Development** is correctly listed as a compulsory course in Table 9, but in the course description it is left as an elective course; by the course **Genetics and Biotechnology in Agricultural Production** corrections were barely satisfactorily followed.



The Expert Panel believes that the University will consider stated concrete corrections as constructive suggestions for the improvement of the proposed study programme. Moreover, the Panel also recommends that the University teachers get engaged in scientific research as much as possible. This implies the publication of results in international scientific journals that are indexed in important databases, Web of Science, even Current Contents. It is especially recommended that the researchers from the Department of Biotechnology choose renowned journals for the dissemination of their results (namely, the journals that are published by traditional, renowned publishing houses or various national or foreign/international professional institutions). For excellent reputation of the proposed study programme the University management should encourage more cooperation in international research projects, Erasmus program and other forms of teachers' personal and professional development.

The Expert Panel believes that following of all the final suggestions and recommendation will lead to a unique and modern graduate study programme which will attract domestic and foreign students and teachers.

a. ☒ **ISSUE A LICENSE, rationale**

b. ☐ **DENY THE REQUEST FOR ISSUING A LICENSE, rationale:**



ANNEXES

1. Quality grade summary - tables

<i>Quality grade by assessment area</i>			
<i>Assessment area</i>	Not fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Fulfilled
<i>I. Internal Quality Assurance</i>			X
<i>II. Study programme</i>			X
<i>III. Teaching process and student support</i>		X	
<i>IV. Teaching resources and infrastructure</i>			X



<i>Quality grade by standard</i>			
<i>I. Internal Quality Assurance</i>	Not fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Fulfilled
1.1. Clear justification for the introduction of the new study programme has been provided with regard to the mission and strategic goals of the higher education institution, as well as economic and societal needs.			X
1.2. The study programme has undergone an appropriate internal quality assurance process and has been formally approved by the higher education institution.			X
1.3. The higher education institution will collect, analyse and use relevant data for the effective management and continuous enhancement of the study programme in accordance with the published quality assurance policy.			X
1.4. The higher education institution informs the public about the study programmes it offers, as well as plans to launch new programmes, i.e. changes made to existing ones.			X



<i>Quality grade by standard</i>			
<i>II. Study programme</i>	Not fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Fulfilled
2.1. The proposed study programme is compatible with the qualification standard in the Croatian Qualifications Framework Register.		n/a	
2.2. The intended learning outcomes at the level of the study programme are aligned with the competences a student should gain by completing the study programme, as well as with the CroQF and EQF level.			X
2.3. The intended course outcomes are aligned with the intended learning outcomes at the level of the study programme.			X
2.4. The study programme content allows students to achieve all the intended learning outcomes.			X
2.5. ECTS distribution is aligned with the anticipated actual student workload.			X
2.6. Student/professional practice is an integral part of the study programme (if applicable).			X
2.7. If the completion of the study programme allows students access to a regulated profession, the programme is aligned with national and European regulations and the recommendations of national and international professional associations.		n/a	



<i>Quality grade by standard</i>			
<i>III. Teaching process and student support</i>	Not fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Fulfilled
3.1. Admission requirements and criteria as well as the admissions procedure are clearly defined and transparent, and guarantee that students will possess the necessary prior knowledge.		X	
3.2. The planned teaching methods guarantee student-centred teaching and the achievement of all intended learning outcomes.		X	
3.3. The higher education institution has provided evidence that adequate support will be ensured for future students.			X
3.4. Objective and consistent evaluation and assessment of student achievements are planned so as to ensure the achievement of all intended learning outcomes.			X



<i>Quality grade by standard</i>			
<i>IV. Teaching resources and infrastructure</i>	Not fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Fulfilled
4.1. The higher education institution has ensured adequate teaching capacities to deliver the study programme and achieve the intended learning outcomes.			X
4.2. The qualifications and professional experience of external associates are appropriate for the delivery of the study programme and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.			X
4.3. The premises, equipment and entire infrastructure (classrooms, laboratories, library, etc.) are appropriate for the delivery of the study programme and ensure the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.			X
4.4. The library premises and resources, as well as access to additional services ensure the availability of literature and library services for the delivery of the study programme.			X
4.5. The higher education institution ensures the availability of the necessary financial resources to organise the activities and provide a high quality of delivery of the proposed study programme.			X



2. Site-visit Protocol

**Inicijalna akreditacija
Sveučilišni diplomski studij
Održiva poljoprivreda i okoliš
Sveučilište u Slavonskom Brodu**

**Initial accreditation of
University Graduate Study Programme in
Sustainable Agriculture and
Environment
University of Slavonski Brod**

PROTOKOL POSJETA / SITE VISIT PROTOCOL

Mjesto događanja / Venue

Sveučilište u Slavonskom Brodu, Trg I. B. Mažuranić 2,

	Četvrtak 9. svibnja 2024.	Thursday 9 th May 2024
9:00 – 9:30	Sastanak s Upravom visokog učilišta (<i>bez prezentacije</i>)	Meeting with the Management of HEI (<i>no presentation</i>)
9:30 – 10:15	Sastanak s voditeljem studijskog programa	Meeting with the head of the study programme
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Pauza i interni sastanak članova Stručnog povjerenstva</i>	<i>Break and internal meeting of the panel members</i>
10:30 – 11:10	Sastanak s nastavnicima koji će biti angažirani na studijskom programu (<i>u stalnom radnom odnosu – bez prisustva uprave</i>)	Meeting with teachers (<i>full time employed – without management of HEI</i>)
11:10 – 11:40	Sastanak sa studentima prijediplomskog studija Ekoinženjerstvo i zaštita prirode – <i>otvoren sastanak za sve studente</i>	Meeting with students of Undergraduate University Study Programme in Ecological Engineering and Nature Protection – <i>open meeting for all students</i>



11:40– 11:50	<i>Pauza</i>	<i>Break</i>
11:50 – 12:30	Sastanak s vanjskim dionicima (predstavnicima strukovnih i profesionalnih udruženja, poslovna zajednica, poslodavci, stručnjaci iz prakse, organizacijama civilnog društva)	Meeting with external stakeholders (representatives of professional organisations, business sector/industry sector, professional experts, non-governmental organisations, external lecturers)
12:30 – 14:00	Obilazak visokog učilišta (<i>knjižnica, nastavni kabineti, laboratoriji, informatičke učionice, ured za studente, predavaonice</i>)	Tour of the HEI (<i>library, teaching offices, laboratories, computer classrooms, office for students, classrooms</i>)
14:00 – 15:15	<i>Radni ručak Stručnog povjerenstva</i>	<i>Working lunch</i>
15:15 – 15:45	<i>Organizacija dodatnog sastanka o otvorenim pitanjima, prema potrebi</i>	<i>Organisation of additional meeting on open questions, if needed</i>
15:45 – 16:15	Interni sastanak članova Stručnog povjerenstva (<i>priprema za završni sastanak</i>)	Internal meeting of the panel members (<i>preparation for the exit meeting</i>)
16:15 – 16:30	Završni sastanak s upravom	Exit meeting with the Management of HEI