




SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION

of the educational programme in

«Geography» (05.03.02, 05.04.02),

Delivered by the Federal State Autonomous Educational
Institution of Higher Professional Education "North-
Caucasian Federal University"



2016

While preparing this presentation we used information from the Self-Evaluation Report and the Report of the External Review Panel of the cluster of educational programmes «Chemistry» (04.03.01, 04.04.01), delivered by the Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education "North-Caucasian Federal University".

The presentation document for the use of the National Accreditation Board.

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GENERAL INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Full name of the educational institution	<i>Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Professional Education "North-Caucasian Federal University" (NCFU)</i>		
Founders	<i>Ministry of Education and Science of Russian Federation</i>		
Year of foundation	<i>1971 – Stavropol Polytechnic Institute</i>		
	<i>1994 – Stavropol State Technical University</i>		
	<i>1999 – North-Caucasus State Technical University</i>		
	<i>2011 – Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education North-Caucasian State Technical University</i>		
	<i>2012 - Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Professional Education "North-Caucasian Federal University"</i>		
Current state accreditation status:			
Type	<i>Educational institution of higher professional education</i>		
Location	<i>Russia, 355029, Stavropol, Pushkin Str. 1</i>		
Rector	<i>Levitskaya Alina, cand. of philol. sc., assistant professor</i>		
License	<i>Series 90Л01 №0000357 reg. No. 0328 dated 06.09.2012, permanent</i>		
State Accreditation	<i>Certificate of State Accreditation No. 0929 dated 21.03.2014, valid till 21.03.2020</i>		
Number of students	<i>20277</i>		
	<i>including:</i>		
	<i>full-time</i>	<i>23168</i>	
	<i>part-time</i>	<i>12475</i>	
	<i>part-time</i>	<i>124</i>	
	<i>externship</i>	<i>10569</i>	

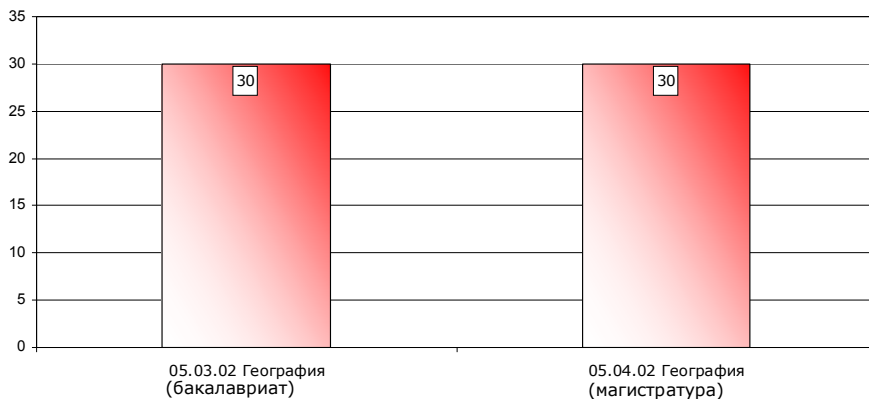
INFORMATION ON THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES UNDERGOING ACCREDITATION

Educational programmes	<i>Geography (05.03.02 05.04.02)</i>
Level of training / Standard period of training	<i>Bachelor's degree programme / 4 years Master's degree programme/ 2 years</i>
Structural subdivision (head)	<i>Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (Dr.of Education, professor Agibova Irina Markovna)</i>
Major Departments (heads)	<i>Department of Socio- Economic Geography, Geo- informatics and Tourism (Dr. of Geographical Sciences, professor Belozеров Vitaly Semenovich); Department of Physical Geography and Cadastre (Dr. of Geographical Sciences, Lysenko Aleksey Vladimirovich)</i>
Date of the site visit	<i>17-19 November,2015</i>
Person responsible for public accreditation of the study programme	<i>Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Shipulin Valentin Ivanovich</i>

SAMPLING RESULTS OF THE PROJECT "THE BEST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF INNOVATIVE RUSSIA"

Indicators	2015
Cluster of educational programmes «Geography» (05.03.02, 05.04.02)	
Number of the given programmes in the RF	114
Number of higher educational institutions to offer the given programmes	67
Number of programmes – winners of the project (% from total amount of these programmes offered in the RF)	7 (6,14%)
Stavropol Region	
Number of the given programmes offered in the region	2
Number of programmes – winners of the project (% from total amount of these programmes offered in the region)	2 (100%)
Number of higher educational institutions and branches in the region	68
Total number of programmes offered in the region	1196
Total number of programmes – winners of the project (% from total amount of these programmes offered in the region)	72 (6,02%)

REFERENCE DATA ON STUDENT ENROLLEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The quality of educational programs' implementation

The evaluation of the graduates' learning outcomes is done on the basis of the analysis and assessment of entrance examinations, formative and summative control in all study courses, and the final attestation of graduates.

According to the results of the final state attestation in 2015 the quality of knowledge of the Bachelor graduates is 81%, the grade point average – 4,2; and of the Master graduates – 100%, the grade point average – 4,8.

Providing up-to-date contents of education

The teachers periodically update the contents of fundamental and applied courses in order to be current with the latest achievements in the sphere of national and world Geography.

In order to increase the professional knowledge of prospective geographers, and their competitiveness in the labour market the major departments have developed 30 elective courses.

Competency of the teaching staff

Highly qualified teachers participate in the programme. 21 teachers are members of the Russian Geographic Society.

Researchers from the Institute of Geography of the RAS are regularly involved in the education process. Among foreign visiting lecturers there were professors from Brazil, Hungary, Japan and Argentina.

Independent assessment of the students' level of knowledge

The students of the Programmes under accreditation have regularly taken part in the project "The Federal State Exam in the Sphere of Higher Education".

According to the analysis, based on the results of students' tests within FEPO-16 and FEPO-17 in 2010-2013, there are 83% of students who have mastered no less than 70% of teaching units from the general humanitarian and social-economic, general mathematics and professional cycle.

Employability of graduates

There is ongoing work on establishing contacts with organizations and companies which are interested in hiring specialists in this area; on concluding agreements on cooperation and work placement for students in order for graduates to show themselves and get employers interested in hiring them on part-time basis or providing jobs after the graduation.

Material and technical resources

The educational process of Bachelor, Specialist and Master Degree students is supplied with adequate and sufficient material resources according to the requirements of the State Educational Standard.

The Departments of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism have developed and certified a number of software products.

Research

Research work at the Departments of Physical Geography and Cadastre and Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism is planned for the period of one calendar year with the focus on the general scientific direction; current research trend, novelty, theoretical and practical relevance of individual research; modern requirements to research and innovative activity for the University staff on the basis of accreditation indicators of the education quality.

Academic mobility of students

Within the framework of the study programmes the Institute is developing cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences Luzern (Switzerland) and The Hague School of Hospitality (the Netherlands).

Since 2011 students from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iraq, Kirgizstan, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine have been studying in the programmes "Geography" (05.03.02, 05.04.02).

International projects

The teachers of the programmes have been developing cooperation with Russian and international partners (the University of Freiburg, Germany; Toyama University, Japan; the University of London, Great Britain).

The teachers of the Departments of Physical Geography and Cadastre took part in international events in Berlin Technological University and the language school Delengua, Granada, Spain.

EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL



Akpambetova Kamshat Makpalbayevna (Republic of Kazakhstan)

Review Chair, foreign expert

Candidat of Geographical Sciences, senior lecturer, Karaganda State University, President of Kazakh Geographical Society

A nominee of Independent Kazakh Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (HKAOKO)



Yamashkin Anatoly Alexandrovich (Russia)

Deputy Review Chair, Russian expert

Doctor of Geographical Sciences, professor, Dean of the Faculty of Geography, N.P. Ogarev National Research Mordovian State University

A nominee of the Guild of Experts in Higher Education



Oganessian Varazdat (Republic of Armenia)

Panel member, foreign expert

Candidate of Technical Sciences, Coordinator of international projects of Erevan State University of Architecture and Construction

A nominee of National Centre for Quality Assurance of Professional Education (ANQA)



Amelina Tatyana Vyacheslavovna (Russia)

Panel member, representative of professional community

Head of the Department for Organization and functioning of specially guided natural territories of the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Stavropol Krai

A nominee of the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Stavropol Krai



Boiko Alexander Sergeevich (Russia)

Panel member, representative of students

4th year student, the History and Philology Faculty, Stavropol State Teacher Training Institute

A nominee of Stavropol State Teacher Training Institute

COMPLIANCE OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW OUTCOMES WITH THE NCPA'S STANDARDS

STANDARD 1. Policy (mission, vision) and procedures for quality assurance

Compliance with the standard: **full compliance**

Good practice

The Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (IMNS) has developed and implemented a system of training highly qualified specialists which includes a system of development and approval of documents regulating the contents, organization and quality control of the education process.

All stakeholders: administration, the Academic Council, teachers, students, graduates and employers are involved in the development of goals and strategies of study programmes.

The vision of the long term prospect of the programme's development is reflected in the Concept of the study programmes.

The methods of achieving goals of the study programmes are being implemented by the current system of internal quality assurance of the academic process.

An effective mechanism of programme quality management is in place.

Areas for improvement

- Representatives of the professional community should be more actively involved in the development of goals and strategies of the study programmes.

STANDARD 2. Approval, monitoring and periodic review of educational programmes

Compliance with the standard: **substantial compliance**

Good practice

The methodological activity of IMNS take the form of logically designed curricula and syllabi, work placement, assessment tools and guidelines for independent work with the consideration of employers' opinion.

A correction mechanism for improving learning outcomes is in place. It is based on consideration of the opinions of students, teachers and employers through questionnaires, analysis of work placement results, reports of the chairs of the Final state attestation boards.

The monitoring of the effectiveness of implementation of study programmes is conducted by way of formative and summative control and final attestation and covers all spheres of education activity: review of the programmes' goals and objectives against their outcomes with the consideration of all stakeholders' opinions.

Areas for improvement:

- All conditions should be created in order for the students to master the programme and receive the qualification in accordance with the requirements of normative documents.
- The second and third year students should have more opportunities to follow individual learning paths. The assessment system should be more transparent.

STANDARD 3. Assessment of student learning outcomes / competencies

Compliance with the standard: **full compliance**

Good practice

Educational programme «Geography» (05.03.02) underwent a successful independent evaluation within the project «Federal internet examination in the sphere of professional education» (Certificate of Quality № 2015/2/107 от 13.11.2015).



The IMNS created an invariant foundation for assessment of students' learning outcomes, which facilitate the enhancement of students' research activity, which in its turn facilitates their mobility and employability. The education process is built in line with the Bologna Declaration and FSES on the basis of the competence approach.

Regular assessment of knowledge, skills and competencies is performed in all study disciplines on the ranking model.

Every year Bachelor and Master students take part in national and international research events.

In order to promote international cooperation a number of partnership agreements have been concluded with foreign HEIs and research centres (Germany, Great Britain and Japan).

The Institute maintains close cooperation with the employment agency, organizations and enterprises. It regularly monitors current and prospective demand for qualified personnel in terms of jobs and qualifications. The Institute is actively involved in organizing career days and recruitment fairs.

Areas for improvement:

- It is necessary to improve the system for testing students' learning outcomes by way of up-dating and increasing the data base.
- A system should be put in place to encourage the students' participation in the programmes of academic mobility.
- It is recommended to strengthen the publication activity of students and to involve them in international research activity.

STANDARD 4. Quality assurance and competency of teaching staff

Compliance with the standard: **full compliance**

Good practice

The IMNS' teachers are highly qualified and have academic degrees and titles: 29 professors (18%), 108 associate professors (68%), 17 senior lecturers (10,6%) and 6 assistant professors (3,4%). Among the teachers there are honorary members of the Russian Geographic Society, a leading researcher of the Geography Institute of RAS, the Head of the Centre for Social Demography and Economic Sociology of the Institute of Socio-Political Research of RAS.

Foreign visiting lectures from Brazil, Hungary, Japan and Argentina give lectures on the issues of Socio-Economic Geography.

The University has in place a ranking system for evaluation of the teachers' performance.

The Teachers of the Institute participate in professional development programmes in Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Geography Institute of RAS.

Several teachers from the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism participated in the DAAD programme in the University of Freiburg (Germany), in the University of Applied Sciences (Luzern, Switzerland), and they also participated in the implementation of the Russian-German international project supported by the German Research Society and the Russian Humanitarian Research Foundation.

Areas for improvement:

- It is necessary to expand the geography of the teachers' professional development programmes including research visits to foreign HEIs.
- The publication activity of the teachers in the journals with high impact factor should be expanded (Scopus, Web of Science, RSCI).

INFORMATION ON THE LEADING TEACHERS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Belozеров Vitaly Semenovich

Doctor of Geographical Sciences, professor, Head of the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism; Honoured Worker of Higher Professional Education of the RF; Honoured Worker of Science and Technology of the RF.

Shalnev Victor Alexandrovich

Doctor of Geographical Sciences, professor of Department of Physical Geography and Cadastre, Honoured Worker of Higher Professional Education of the RF.

Shchitova Natalia Alexandrovna

Doctor of Geographical Sciences, professor, Head of the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism; Honoured Worker of Higher Professional Education of the RF.

Lysenko Aleksey Vladimirovich

Doctor of Geographical Sciences, Associate professor, Head of the Department of Physical Geography and Cadastre

Zolnikova Yulia Fedorovna

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Associate professor at the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism, Honoured Worker of Higher Professional Education of the RF.

Chikhichin Vasily Vasilievich

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Associate professor at the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism.

Avdeev Evgeny Nikolaevich

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Associate professor at the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism.

Zhirenko Galina Nikolaevna

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Associate professor at the Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism.

STANDARD 5. Learning resources and student support

Compliance with the standard: **full compliance**

Good practice

Material, technical and information resources of IMNS meet the requirements of the Federal State Educational Standards and provide for the successful implementation of the programmes.

The library is stocked with all the necessary printed and electronic educational resources. The students have a free access to all library resources. The electronic resources include major national and foreign bases of text documents, such as the university system "Russia", the Russian State Library, e-Library, SCOPUS, the archive of scientific journals of Cambridge University Press (CUP).

All teaching and learning materials have special sections containing materials for students' independent work; students have internet access.

Social support of students is provided in the following areas: medical service, living conditions, catering, sports and recreation.

Students have an opportunity to voice their opinion regarding their satisfaction with the organization of the technical, methodological provision of the education and research process, including through the NCFU's site in the section "Ask the Rector".

Areas for improvement:

- The mechanism of "targeted subscription" for periodical should be improved.
- It is recommended to implement and use individual logistic chains of purchasing textbooks for the NCFU Library.

STANDARD 6. Information system providing effective implementation of the study programme

Compliance with the standard: **full compliance**

Good practice

The University has in place a common education area and an educational portal for students, teachers, administration and support staff on the basis of the software package "Integrated automated system of the HEI's management"

Collection, analysis and dissemination of information necessary for the effective management of the academic process, assistance in the organization of the education process is provided by the Education and Methodology Department and the Department for Informatics. The information on the monitoring learning outcomes makes it possible to compare the effectiveness of study programmes. This is done on the results of interim assessment of students, final state attestation results and the quality of graduation qualification papers.

Areas for improvement:

- It is recommended to improve the mechanism for distant participation of employers in designing and implementing curricula.
 - The publication activity of teachers should be increased, especially regarding the development of electronic textbooks.
- The work on developing interactive textbooks and simulators promoting effective development of skills and application of theoretical knowledge in solving practical tasks should be facilitated.

STANDARD 7. Public information

Compliance with the standard: **full compliance**

Good practice

Public information is carried out through the official NCFU's site, monthly university paper Universitetsky Vestnik of the North Caucasus Federal University (University Reporter), information booklet of NCFU with details on the delivered study programmes, regional and national periodicals.

Career orientation and guidance work conducted by the IMNS staff is an effective tool for attracting prospective students from the North Caucasus and South Federal Regions. The Department of Socio-Economic Geography, Geo-informatics and Tourism has created an information and education portal «STAVGEO.RU», which places educational and research materials for students' independent work.

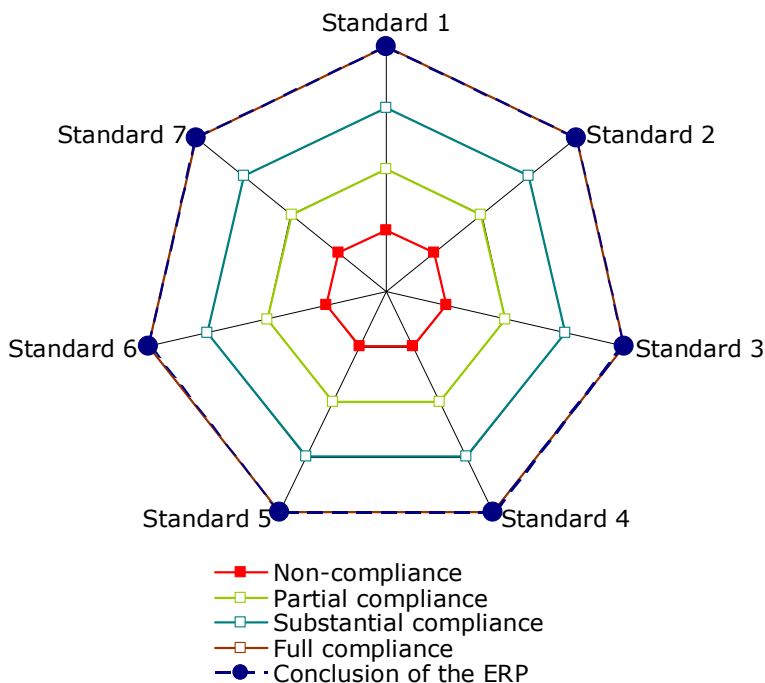
There are regular monitoring exercises on the issues of employability of graduates and their demand on the labour market. The employment results are reviewed at the meetings of the Academic Council and Departments.

The graduates are assisted in searching jobs. They can receive information about major employers, vacancies, and work placement opportunities on the web page "For Students" in the section "Employment and Career" of the NCFU's site.

Areas for improvement:

- The system of monitoring the graduates' employment and their adaptation at the labour market should be optimized.
- It is recommended to develop a system of informing the public on quality of education at the NCFU on the whole and on individual study programmes in particular.

DISTRIBUTION DIGRAM OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW OUTCOMES



Standard 1. Policy (mission, vision) and procedures for quality assurance
 Standard 2. Approval, monitoring and periodic review of programs and qualifications

Standard 3. Assessment of student learning outcomes / competencies

Standard 4. Quality assurance and competencies of teaching staff

Standard 5. Learning resources and student support

Standard 6. Information system providing effective implementation of the study program

Standard 7. Public information

CONCLUSION OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL

Based on the self-evaluation report analysis, documents and data submitted the External Review Panel has come to the conclusion that the cluster of study programmes «Geography » (05.03.02, 05.04.02) delivered by the Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education "North-Caucasian Federal University" **fully** comply with the standards and criteria of public accreditation of the National Centre for Public Accreditation.

The Panel recommends that the National Accreditation Board **accredit the study programmes «Geography » (05.03.02, 05.04.02), delivered by the Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education "North-Caucasian Federal University" for the period of 6 years.**

SCHEDULE OF THE SITE VISIT OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL

Time	Activity	Participants	Venue
November 16, Monday			
Throughout the day	Meeting of the External Review Panel (ERP) members, coordinators of the review of the educational programmes at the Stavropol airport		
November 17, Tuesday			
07.00 – 08.30	Breakfast at “Eurohotel”		
08.30	Transfer to the HEI		
08.45	Arrival at North-Caucasus Federal University (NCFU)		Academic Building №2, Room121
09.00 – 11.00	Meeting of the ERP and coordinators of the study programmers (ERP briefing)		Academic Building №2, Room121
11.00 – 11.30	Break		
11.30 – 13.00	Meeting of the ERPs with university administration	ERP, university administration, heads of structural subdivisions, chairs of major departments,	Academic Council Conference Hall, 218
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch		University Café
14.00 – 15.00	Excursion around the university (visiting classes, libraries, exhibition of monographs, textbooks, etc.)	ERP	Library, Main Building
15.00 – 15.30	Break		
15.30 – 16.30	Meeting with the Institute’s Director and chairs of the departments	Director of the Institute of Life Sciences, Deputy Directors, chairs of the Departments, ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 102
16.30 – 17.00	Work with documentation	ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 121
17.00 – 18.00	Meeting with representatives of professional community	Representatives of professional community, ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 102
18.00 – 18.30	Internal meeting of the ERP	ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 121

Время	Мероприятие		Участники	Место проведения
19.15	Dinner at “Eurohotel”			
November 18, Wednesday				
07.00 – 08.30	Breakfast at “Eurohotel”			
08.30	Transfer to the HEI			
08.45	Arrival at NCFU			Academic Building N 2, Room 121
09.00 – 10.00	Meeting with students	Students, ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 102	
10.00 – 10.30	Internal meeting of the ERP	ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 121	
10.30 – 11.30	Attending classes	ERP	Academic Building N 2, Rooms 208, 212, 239	
11.30 – 12.30	Internal meeting of the ERP.	ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 121	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch			University Café
13.30 – 14.30	Meeting with teaching staff	Teaching staff, ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 102	
14.30 – 15.00	Internal meeting of the ERP	ERP	Academic Building N 3, Room 406	
15.00 – 16.00	Meeting with alumni	Alumni, ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 102	
16.00 – 17.00	Internal meeting of the ERP.	ERP	Academic Building N 2, Room 121	
17.00 – 18.00	Guided tour of Stavropol			
19.15	Dinner at “Eurohotel”			
November 19, Thursday				
07.00 – 08.30	Breakfast at “Eurohotel”			
08.30	Transfer to the HEI			
08.45	Arrival at NCFU			Academic Building N 2Room 121
09.00 – 11.30	Internal meeting of the ERP: discussion of preliminary results of the site visit, preparation of the oral report of the panel	ERP	Academic Building N 2Room 121	
11:30 – 12:00	Transfer to Academic Building №2; 1, Pushkin Str.			
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch			University Café
13.00 – 15.00	Closing meeting of the External Review Panel with the representatives of North-Caucasus Federal University	ERP, university administration, chairs of the major departments,	Academic Council Conference Hall, 218	
15.00	Departure			