

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON A DECISION OF THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

regarding the result of the conducted procedure for **subsequent institutional accreditation of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad**

The procedure was opened at a meeting of the Accreditation Council on 23.11.2023 at the request of the higher education institution (Incoming Ref. No. OA-06-2311/11.10.2023). The Expert Group, approved by the Accreditation Council of NEAA on 29.02.2024, inspected the documentation submitted for the procedure and visited the HEI in the period 11.03.2024-14.03.2024.

At a meeting held on 28.05.2024, the Standing Committee on Educational Sciences and Social Activities adopted the report of the Expert Group and, based on it, prepared a report regarding the results of the completed institutional accreditation. The report of the SC reflected **findings and assessments on the compliance of the presented evidence with the criteria system for the implemented procedure, in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) – part 1 (1-10) and within the meaning of Art. 77, para. 4 of the Higher Education Act.**

On **25.07.2024** the Accreditation Council approved the report of the Standing Committee, according to NEAA's Criteria for subsequent institutional accreditation.

After summarising the results of the voting, the Accreditation Council of NEAA took the following **decisions:**

1. The Accreditation Council awards subsequent institutional accreditation to the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad, based on an overall grade of 8.95 (eight point ninety-five hundredths), in accordance with Art. 77, para. 7 and para. 8 of the HEA.

2. The Accreditation Council determines a term of validity of the accreditation of 6 (six) years, in accordance with Art. 77, para. 6 of the HEA.

3. The Accreditation Council assesses the distance learning environment of the institution as level 4 (incomplete).

4. The Accreditation Council determines a total capacity of 19695 students and doctoral students for the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad.

The Accreditation Council formulated the following **recommendations:**

1. Improve the ratio “teacher under a main employment contract (MEC): students” in the professional fields “Theory and Management of Education”, “Pedagogics” and “Administration and Management”, by announcing the needed number of competitions for filling the relevant academic positions.

Deadline: the end of the academic year 2024-2025

2. Utilise the legally regulated opportunities for using creative leaves by teachers under a MEC.

Deadline: permanent

PROF. ELIZA STEFANOVA, PHD
PRESIDENT OF NEAA