

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON A DECISION OF THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL**

### **on the results of the evaluation carried out during a procedure for program accreditation of professional field 3.3. Political Sciences at the American University in Bulgaria – Blagoevgrad**

The procedure was initiated by the Accreditation Council on 8 April 2021 at the request of the higher school. The Expert Team, appointed by the Accreditation Council on 9 December 2021, carried out a review of the institution under evaluation and the documentation presented for the procedure.

At a meeting held at 23 March 2022, the Standing Committee on Social and Legal Sciences, Security, and Defense, approved the report of the Expert Team, and based on it, prepared a report on the results of the evaluation that was carried out. The report of the Standing Committee reflects on findings and evaluations regarding fulfillment of the requirements of the system of criteria related to the procedure that was carried out, following the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) - Part 1 / 1-10 / and within the meaning of Art. 78, para. 3 of the HEA.

On **12 May 2022** the Accreditation Council approved the report of the Standing Committee and voted on the basis of the NEAA adopted "Rules for voting on procedures for accreditation and project evaluation". After summarizing the voting results, the Accreditation Council made the following **decision**:

**1. Grants program accreditation to professional field 3.3. Political Sciences, higher education area 3. Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences at the American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, based on an overall assessment of 9.21 (nine and twenty-one hundredths) as follows:**

**for EQD "Bachelor", full-time form of education in:**

**"Political Science and International Relations", and**

**"European Studies"**

**2. The term of validity of the accreditation is until the next program accreditation of PF 3.3, according to the schedule under Art. 81, para. 2 of the Higher Education Act.**

**3. Determines capacity of the professional field 3.3. Political Sciences of 370 students, full-time education.**

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

1. That scientometric indicators be defined for habilitated faculty in the professional field 3.3. Political Science, and that habilitated faculty of the department be included in the NACID database with their scientometric indicators. *Deadline: the beginning of Academic Year 2023/24.*

2. That an internal regulation be developed to establish the criteria according to which part of the institutional information is defined as "confidential" and is not published. *Deadline: the beginning of Academic Year 2023/24.*

3. That the reasons for the steady decline of student participation in project activities be established, and that the relative share of student participation in projects be increased. *Deadline: the beginning of Academic Year 2022/23.*

4. That the faculty incoming and outgoing mobility be encouraged. *Deadline: permanent.*