

External evaluation report for:

FIRST-CYCLE GEOGRAPHY STUDY PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA

Number: 1/01-04-1-357-16/22

Date: September 05, 2022

Dates of visit: September 22-23 2022

Location: Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Banja Luka

Review panel:

Prof. Anđelija Ivkov Džigurski, PhD, representative of the academic community, chairman

Prof. Nikola Vojnović, PhD, representative of the academic community, member

Prof. Uglješa Stankov, PhD, representative of the academic community, member,

Slobodan Dragičević, representative of business and practice, member and

Milica Jovović, student representative, member.

Coordinator:

Jugoslav Vuk Tepić, PhD

External evaluation criteria for the purpose of initial accreditation: Standards for initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs (AVORS, 2021), Rulebook on initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs of Republika Srpska (AVORS, 2021), Instructions for preparation of documentation for initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs (AVORS, 2021),

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1. Application

1.1 Information about the initial accreditation process

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Banja Luka applied for the issuance of a licence for the first-cycle study program of Geography to the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Development, Higher Education and Information Society of the Republic of Srpska (hereinafter the Ministry). After reviewing the submitted documentation and concluding that the application was valid, the Ministry requested the opinion of the Council for Higher Education of the Republika Srpska (hereinafter: the Council). After obtaining a positive opinion of the Council, the Ministry submitted to the Agency for Higher Education of Republika Srpska (hereinafter: the Agency) a request for external evaluation for initial accreditation of the Geography study program which was received on July 25, 2022, and registered under protocol number 1/01-04-1-357/22. The Director of the Agency appointed Jugoslav Vuk Tepić, PhD, as the external evaluation procedure's coordinator for initial accreditation by Decision No. 1/01-04-1-357-2/22 from July 25, 2022. On September 1, 2022, the Agency signed a contract with the University of Banja Luka for external evaluation services for initial accreditation of the Geography study program under number 1/01-04-1-357-3/22. The Review Panel for external evaluation was appointed from the List of reviewers of the Agency by the Decision on the appointment of the Review Panel number 1/01-04-1-357-2/22 from August 30, 2022. After concluding the contract with the members of the Review Panel and signing a statement on the absence of conflict of interest all of them were individually provided with data for logging into the Agency's information system where the documentation proving the fulfilment of the standards for initial accreditation is posted and a checklist was set up in which the members of the Review Panel entered all preliminary findings and observations and thus prepared for a visit to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. At the first joint meeting, which was held online, the process coordinator informed the members of the Review Panel about the technical details of the visit, the time frame for

all phases of the external evaluation, as well as the recommended work methods for efficient and timely execution of obligations. During the meeting, a tentative date for the visit to the higher education institution was agreed upon. At the meeting, the members of the Review Pan had the opportunity to get to know each other and to discuss with each other the way of the forthcoming cooperation.

The Review Panel analyzed the submitted documentation, prepared for the visit, and through direct inspection during the visit to the Faculty of Science and Mathematics of the University of Banja Luka in the period from September 22 until September 23, 2022, checked the validity of the proof of fulfilment of the requirements of the Standard for initial accreditation. The day before the start of the visit, September 21, 2022, a meeting of the Review Panel was held during which the work method for the visit was agreed upon. On the first day of the visit, the Review Panel spoke with the management of the University, i.e. the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the head of the Geography study program, and the academic and non-academic staff of the study program. This was followed by a tour of the premises and equipment of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, which will be used for the operation of the Geography study program. On the second day of the visit, September 23, 2022, the Review Panel presented a preliminary report to the management of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, without announcing the outcome of the external evaluation for initial accreditation and without the possibility of commenting on the preliminary report by representatives of the Faculty.

1.2 Information about higher education institution

Information about higher education institution:	
Name, address and e-mail address of the institution	Univrsity of Banja Luka Bulevar vojvode Petra Bojovića 1A 78000 Banja Luka info@unibl.org
Web address	www.unibl.org

Name, number and date of the founding act	Law on Amendments to the Law on Higher Education 01-577/07 from March 29, 2007
Tax Identification Number (PIB)	401017720006
The registration number assigned by the Republic of Srpska Institute of Statistics	01040251
Name, surname and address (name and headquarters) of the founder	Republic of Srpska - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Number and date of the decision on the appointment of the person authorized to represent	02/04-3.733-1/18 20.03.2018
Number and date of the licence to operate the higher education institution	07.23/602-3900/09 June 22, 2009
Number and date of the licence to operate outside the headquarters	07.23/612-625-2/10 November 12, 2010
Visiting organizational units and responsible persons	Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Prof Goran Trbić, PhD, full professor
Contact person (for visit)	Prof Aleksandra Petrašević, PhD, full professor Head of the Geography Study Program
Phone number	+387 51 319 142

1.3 Application data

Study program that applied for accreditation		
Name of the study program:	Study level	Name (s) of exit qualifications
Geography	First cycle	Bachelor- Geography Teacher - 240 ECTS Bachelor of Science in Geography - 240 ECTS – Geographic Information Systems

		Bachelor in Geography -Tourism - 240 ECTS -
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2.0 External evaluation

2.1 Previous activities

During the preparation for the visit to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Banja Luka, the Review Panel analyzed the submitted documentation, entered observations, remarks and comments into the Agency's system, and prepared a list of questions to be asked during the visit. Acting by the agreed scope of work, the Review Panel made complete preparations for the visit to the Faculty (recorded on the individual accounts of the reviewers in the Agency's system, subject SP Geography PMF, UniBL) for external evaluation in the process of initial accreditation, in the agreed period, September 22 and 23. The day before the start of the visit, on September 21, 2022, a working meeting of the Review Panel was held and the details of the visit were agreed upon. The details of the visit have been agreed upon with the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and are listed in the document Review Panel Work plan and Program of the Visit to the Higher Education Institution.

Also, a Study Program Review Report can be found in the Agency's system which is prepared and integrated into the Final External Evaluation Report for initial accreditation of the study program in question.

2.2 On-site visit to the higher education institution

On the first day of the visit, the Review Panel spoke with the representative of the University and the management of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the head of the Geography study program, and the academic and non-academic staff who will be engaged in the operation of the study program. Details about the participants of all interviews are part of the documentation of the external evaluation and are available at the Agency.

All the aspects of organisation, management and provision of necessary funds and facilities for the operation of the Geography study program were discussed with the management of the higher education institution. It was emphasised that cooperation with the labour market is necessary, i.e. with organisations that require graduates of the Geography study program.

This was followed by a tour of the premises and facilities of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The Review Panel had the opportunity to see the well-equipped laboratories and offices for informatics, geographic information systems, STEM classrooms and other facilities that are necessary for the smooth functioning of the teaching process at the Faculty, such as a library with a reading room, teaching staff offices, classrooms and more. On the second day of the visit, on June 23, 2022, the Review Panel presented a preliminary report to the management of the Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, without communicating the outcome of the external evaluation for initial accreditation and without the possibility of commenting on the preliminary report by the representatives of the Faculty. Also, It was emphasized that in the shortest possible time additional documentation should be submitted and certain changes be made in the structure of the curriculum, so as to fully meet part of the fourth and sixth standards for initial accreditation.

After additional documents for the parts of the fourth and sixth standard for initial accreditation were submitted as well as the consent of the competent authorities of the higher education institution for submitting the documents, the Review Panel made the Final Report on external evaluation for initial accreditation number 1/01-04-1-357-16/22 stating the opinion of the Review Panel that the Geography study program should be granted a licence to operate.

2.3 Evidence of meeting standards for initial accreditation

Information about the higher education institution

In the section containing Information about the higher education institution, very precise data are given that initially refer to the establishment of the University in Banja Luka, and then statistical indicators on the number of employees, visiting professors, associates and the number of students at the University. The text provides information on the publishing activities of the University as well as on scientific results and scientific meetings, exhibitions and other events where achievements in science and culture are presented and exchanged. Data are given on the number of study programs, where it is stated that there are 64 study programs (in the first cycle of studies), 66 programs in the second cycle and 15 study programs in the third cycle of studies at 17 faculties. Then, the information on international cooperation is very well stated, where over 100 agreements signed at the level of the University and over 150 agreements signed at the level of organizational units are active. The largest number of agreements were signed with partners from the countries of the region, with partners from EU member states, with partners from countries that have special relations with the EU even though they are not members, then with partners from the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, as well as with several partners from other countries worldwide. Information related to the workspace of employees and students is very important. It is stated that

the total area of classrooms of about 16,000 m² and laboratory space of about 10,000 m² is available. The university has 20 computer rooms with constant internet access. The libraries have around 185,000 books, and they subscribe to 75 scientific journals. In conclusion, plans for further development and advancement are stated.

Information about the study programme

In the part related to information about the study program, very detailed information is given about its historical development from its establishment at the Pedagogical Academy in 1969/1970 until the last changes in 2013/2014. It is explained in great detail that the duration of studies is 8 semesters and that the total number of credits is 240 ECTS (60 ECTS in each year). It was stated which courses existed in earlier years and explained that due to the needs of the labour market there were changes and cancellations of certain courses and the opening of new ones. This is to be commended and recommended to other institutions because it shows that the higher education institution takes into account the needs of the labour market and is ready to change and transform everything in accordance with the needs and further professional success of students. For that reason, they stated, they decided to form a new study programme, Geographical Information Systems. Information was also provided on the conditions and requirements of enrollment in the second and third level of study. In the end, the goals of the study program are stated, which are in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of Europe, which also shows that the higher education institution takes into account the purpose of the higher education it operates. The description of the Geography study program begins with an explanation of the institutional roots and traditions of study and education in the field of geography at the University. Since 2012, the process of innovating the curriculum of the Geography Study Program of the first cycle of study at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Banja Luka has begun. The goal of this innovative program was to provide more content and quality education, to train young experts for successful professional activities and problem-solving in the field of geography. The new proposed study program is designed to be a significant improvement on the previously well-laid foundations. From the information provided, we can see that there is a historical path from the existence of the Pedagogical Academy to the changes that occurred after 2013/2014. The attached text contains all the necessary information regarding the duration of the studies as well as the number of credits (60 ECTS credits per year). The innovation of the program and other changes made by the University are in accordance with the changes in the socio-political sense as well as with the new needs of business processes and the preservation of the careers of higher education experts in the Republic of Srpska. The new study program Geographical Information Systems is a necessity of today's era. A significant fact is that we are in a high-tech social age of digitization and digital transformation, which has a dominant effect on the future strategic work plans and innovation of all higher education institutions and universities. The options and requirements for enrollment in the second and third levels of study are also explained and planned as a future option.

STANDARD 1. GOALS AND CORE ACTIVITIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

1. Goals and core tasks of the higher education institution

Reference

- Provide a link to the part of the Elaborate that refers to the reasons for the establishment, goals and tasks

Guideline 1.1.

The reasons for starting this study program are mentioned in several places in the Elaborate, the justification is confirmed by the Opinion of the Council for the Development of Higher Education, the obligation to examine the labour market is included, while the goals and objectives are related to the development strategy of the higher education institution. In addition to the above, the Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska (No. 67 from July 10, 2020) is attached, in which the Law on Higher Education is given, detailing I Basic Provisions, II Council for Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska, III Types and Levels of study, IV Higher Education Institutions, V Organization of Higher Education Institutions, VI Students, VII Academic Staff, VIII Bodies in the Field of Higher Education, IX Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Qualifications and Evaluation of Foreign Study Programs, X Records and Public Documents, XI Ethics, XII Financing of Public Higher Education Institutions, XIII Financing of Private Higher Education Institutions, XIV Supervision and Penal Provisions, XV Transitional and Executive Provisions. This document served as the basis for the establishment, creation of goals and basic tasks of a higher education institution within the scope of the Faculty.

- Provide a link to the higher education institution's strategy document and documents that regulate the manner of its adoption and revision (Statute, rulebook, procedure).

Guideline 1.1.

Relying on the Law on Higher Education, which was published in the attached Official Gazette, the University of Banja Luka set its goals and core activities, which are fully in line with the law. The document Development Strategy of the University of Banja Luka for the period 2017-2025 is attached. It describes in great detail the situation at the University of Banja Luka, as well as the vision, mission, key values and strategic goals of the University's development. The development strategy is given very precisely and in detail with numerous graphic attachments. As another attachment, the Statute of the University of Banja Luka was given.

- Provide a link to the part of the proposed Statute which describes the core tasks of the higher education institution and the decision of the authority that adopted it.

Guideline 1.2.

Within the Statute of the University of Banja Luka are given: I General provisions, II Activities of the University, III Organization of the University, IV University bodies, V Faculties, Academy, institutes and their bodies, VI Organization and operation of university studies, VII Students and study rules, VIII Organization of students, IX Academic and administrative staff at the University, X Work

relations, XI Quality assurance of study programs, teaching and working conditions, XII Publicity of the University's work, XIII Records and public documents, XIV Recognition of foreign higher education documents, qualifications and periods of study, XV Equivalence of previously acquired academic titles, XVI Financing of the University, XVII Transitional and final provisions. The Statute was drawn up in accordance with the law and includes the most important elements for the operation and smooth functioning of the University.

- Provide a link to the institution's documents showing the goals of the higher education institution which are concrete, achievable and measurable (strategy of the higher education institution/study program). Guidelines 1.3. i 1.4.

The document Instructions for Development and Improvement of the Study Program is given as an attachment. This document describes in great detail, on 30 pages of text, the guidelines on how to comply with the needs of society and the labour market and with the mission of the University. Also, it contains recommendations for the development of the curriculum of the courses, as well as the procedure for the development of study programs. At the end, there are norms related to curricula, which is a very important part of this instruction.

The organizational, professional and infrastructural segments of UNIBL are clear from the Higher Education Institution Development Strategy. In the instructions for the Development and improvement of the Study Program, there is a special emphasis on Compliance with the needs of society and the labour market, which should be based on a realistic analysis of the labour market and qualification profile.

- Provide a link to the part of the Elaborate that refers to the analysis of the labour market, i.e. the consultations with interested parties that preceded the preparation of these documents. Guideline 1.1.

As stated, this Strategy gives the vision, mission and goals for the further work of the University in great detail. Of particular value is the part that refers to the adaptation of the education system and its orientation to the needs of the local and regional economy. Also, a very important thing is lifelong learning.

There is part 1.2 in the Development Strategy of the Higher Education Institution. Compliance with the needs of society and the labor market, which defines the needs of the domestic economy as well as trends in global labor markets.

- Provide a link to the document that regulates the procedure for adopting, developing and revising study programs. Guideline 1.5.

All documents are harmonized with the Law and logically connected with each other, which is very important for the unhindered development of educational and scientific work at the University. This part appears to be made according to the current legal framework and according to the Instruction for the improvement of the study program.

It is very good that the use of various assessment methods and techniques, from the assessment of presentations, through participation in discussions, research work, participation in group work and work on projects, reduces stress and increases motivation for students, but also that different aspect of learning take part in the final assessment, which enables an individual access to students and thus improves their success in acquiring knowledge and reaching educational standards.

STANDARD 1. Goals and core tasks of the higher education institution

STRENGTHS:

The University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Science and Mathematics, as the leading scientific and research institution in the country, follows the legal regulations regarding the goals and core tasks of the higher education institution.

WEAKNESSES:

None

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 2. THE INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE MECHANISMS

2. The internal quality assurance mechanisms

Reference

- Provide a link to the document(s) that describe the structure, processes, procedures and resources of the Quality Assurance System of the Higher Education Institution. Guideline 2.1.

As the first attachment, a document entitled Strategy for Quality Assurance of the University of Banja Luka from 2012 was given. This document provides complete guidelines for ensuring the quality of work at the University. From development and strategies, through the assessment of students, human and physical resources, the quality of international cooperation, enrolled students and the teaching process, to the quality of scientific work and funding.

Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance Strategy are two documents that regulate guidelines and procedures for ensuring the quality of work at UNIBL.

As a good example, the activity of the Review Panel is based on external evaluation and standards in the field of higher education, which is prescribed by the professional document ST-P AVORS 01 - Standards for the initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs, the

Rulebook on the initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs and UP- P AVORS 01 - Instructions for the preparation of documentation for the initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs which are based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015), but also on clear indicators of the needs of society and the labour market.

- Provide a link to the documents that describe the establishment, responsibilities and powers of the higher education institution's formal body(s) for quality assurance (Quality Assurance Strategy or Policy). Guideline 2.2.

The second attachment is a document entitled Procedure for Monitoring and Improving Quality, where the procedure itself is given in seven points.

The third document is the Quality Monitoring Forms which contains 13 different forms and all of them are aligned with the Quality Assurance Strategy.

The document Procedure for Monitoring and Improving Quality establishes a unique way of monitoring, analyzing and improving quality at all organizational units of the University. It contains an overview of necessary quality records and quality improvement activities.

The procedure established the dynamics of certain activities and the responsibilities, competences and responsibilities of persons on certain issues.

- Provide a list of members of the quality assurance committee, i.e. members of the Quality Assurance Board or Committee (if any). Guideline 2.2.

Provided a link to the staff at the University who are in charge of quality assurance.

STANDARD 2. Internal quality assurance mechanisms

STRENGTHS:

There is an internal organization that ensures quality assurance mechanisms, both at the University and at the Faculty level

WEAKNESSES:

None.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 3. THE ORGANISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

3. The organisation of higher education institution

Reference

- Provide a link to the proposal for an act on the organization and systematization of workplaces. Guideline 3.1.

As an attachment, a document entitled Rulebook on internal organization and systematization of workplaces at the University of Banja Luka was given. The Rulebook includes I General provisions, II Organizational Structure of the University, III Systematization of Workplaces, IV Final provisions. In the end, a tabular presentation of workplaces as well as a schematic presentation is given.

- Provide links to decisions on the appointment of temporary management: steering committee, senate and acting rector or director. Guideline 3.1.

Considering that it is an organizational unit of UNIBL that has been successfully operating for decades, the existing management take care of all aspects of the organization, and the Law on Higher Education published in the Official Gazette and the Statute of the University of Banja Luka are attached.

In the UNIBL Statute document, there is Article 4, which also defines these items:

- 3) election of management bodies and other governing bodies;
- 5) independent development and implementation of curricula and research projects;
- 8) organization and operation of studies, study programs design, knowledge assessment and issuance of diplomas and other public documents.

Organizational units that are visited, responsible persons, as well as the contact persons are listed in The Information on the Visit to the Higher Education Institution.

- Provide evidence for the activities of temporary governing bodies, adopted acts, curricula and other documentation for initial accreditation. Guideline 3.2.

The evidence for the activities of the management bodies, as well as adopted acts, curricula and other documentation for initial accreditation are listed.

STANDARD 3. The organisation of higher education institution

STRENGTHS:

The organization of the higher education institution is harmonized with the Law on Higher Education. There is a Rulebook on the internal organization and systematization of workplaces.

WEAKNESSES:

None.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 4. STUDIES

4. Studies

Reference

- State the name of the study program, type and degree of study. **Guideline 4.1.**
Submit the entire study program in the manner described in the introductory part

The study program, type and degree of study are all stated. All elements of the study program were made according to the regulations, taking into account the legal provisions and the requirements of the Standard.

- Provide a link to a document that clearly defines the goals, **Guideline 4.1.1.**
structure and content of the study program, the policy and procedure of student enrollment, learning methods, knowledge assessment methods, learning outcomes and competencies that students acquire.

In the elaboration on page 11, the purpose, goals and core tasks of the study program are stated where it says "To ensure multidisciplinary in the Curriculum, it is necessary to include courses from areas that are closely related to geographical science: biology, ecology, spatial planning, history, physics, chemistry, etc. This approach to the study of geography will ensure the training of highly qualified personnel who can define and recognize problems arising in the environment and make proposals for their solution". It should be corrected in such a way so as not to include courses, but within the courses in the Curriculum, include contents from because otherwise, by including complete biology, physics or chemistry courses, the study program changes and acquires the features of a dual-subject teaching or an interdisciplinary study program.

After the Review Panel's remark, a lexically correct version was made

The report lists the names of full-time lecturers, lecturers from the University of Banja Luka (from other faculties) and lecturers from other universities. The names do not exactly match the names mentioned in the Syllabuses.

Observed illogicalities and names were corrected in accordance with the notes.

Geography, study program, in the section "Purpose, goals and core tasks of the study program" in the first two paragraphs, the information from the section on Basic information about the study program is repeated without context. What are the specific goals and objectives of the study program? It was stated that its primary goal is to provide meaningful and high-quality education, as well as to train young experts for successful action and problem-solving in the field of spatial sciences. The existing description is too general. In the part "Compliance of the purpose of the study program with the goals and objectives of the higher education institution", the second paragraph talks about the general importance of geographical research and education, while there is no clearly stated connection between compliance of the purpose of the study program with the specific goals and objectives of the higher education institution.

In the section "Employment options of graduated students (provide a list of potential employers)" the option of employment in business entities, institutes and other state and private institutions is mentioned.

It is necessary to state as specifically as possible the areas of work and activity of those organisations. Contracts with organizations where apprenticeships will be held are attached in accordance with this note.

In the courses syllabuses for geographic information systems, books and textbooks older than 10 years are repeatedly mentioned.

Following the suggestion of the Review Panel, the list of literature for courses directly related to geographic information systems was updated with newer literature that is certainly available.

In the Syllabus, it was noticed that literature from an older date is cited for certain courses, and they should be supplemented with contemporary literature and sources of recent scientific results.

The addition was made in accordance with the notes, and newer literature was added.

In the beginning, syllabi were missing for all field classes, all professional practices and the diploma thesis, which show the outcomes and the work plan of these mandatory courses. As well as the names of the lecturers who teach these courses.

The syllabus was supplemented in accordance with the note.

What was noticed in the initial review of the documentation is that there are no optional subjects in the curriculum for the route for future geography teachers. A correction was made so that the curriculum includes both compulsory and optional courses. Corrections were made as recommended in the higher years of study and optional courses were provided, especially in the field of geography teaching methodology, which is of exceptional importance for this route.

In the first review, it was also assessed that there are two-semester courses with an unusually large number of classes. The recommendation was that, in accordance with one of the general principles of the Bologna Declaration, all courses should be one-semester, in order to facilitate students' mobility. The correction was made and confirmed by the University authorities.

Syllabuses are prepared conceptually and content-wise. We especially emphasize the Syllabus for GIS, which is current and it applies information and communication technologies and other devices, Big Data, Cloud technologies, Supercomputers and IoT technologies of the future.

- Provide a link to the documents that regulate the procedures for the development of study programs (adopting, amending and supplementing study programs, procedures for reviewing and innovating study programs, procedures for ensuring the quality of study programs, consultations for interested parties and the labour market). Guideline 4.1.1.

Apart from the formal content that defines that it is necessary to take into account the current labour market, no special procedures are specified that are used for the analysis and the actual need of the labour market. It was presented that the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Srpska makes proposals regarding the enrollment policy for each academic year to the Government of the Republic of Srpska to stimulate the enrollment of students in deficit occupations. It would be useful to introduce other forms of communication with interested parties outside the academic community. Attached are the documents: Instructions for the design and improvement of study programs, which contains Principles, Instructions and recommendations, Procedures for the development of study programs and Norms related to curricula. The instructions contain the most important necessary elements for the development of study programs.

- Provide proof of compliance of the study program with the basic quality standards of the institution, as well as proof of its compliance with other study programs that the institution runs. Guideline 4.1.2.

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Banja Luka is the only faculty that has a study program in Geography, and thus it is a strategic need for the process to take place with the above-mentioned Syllabus and quality assurance.

The Statute of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is given as an attachment and it contains the basic standards of the institution.

- Provide a link to the document that defines the objectives of the study programs and prove the compliance of the study program with this document. Guideline 4.1.3.

As an attachment, the Statute of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics is given, containing all the basic standards of the institution, while the objectives of the study program are stated in the Elaborate.

- Provide a link to the document that regulates the method of awarding ECTS points to individual courses (Regulations on the formation of ECTS points, setting the course code and the course syllabus). Guideline 4.1.4.

The study rules of the I and II cycles provided in the link regulate the method of awarding ECTS points to individual courses. Great attention should be paid to the alignment of the number of credits of each individual course and the time required for learning in the preparation for the knowledge assessment taking into account the amount of material proposed in the list of mandatory reading.

- Provide a link to a document that indicates the compatibility of the study program with at least three study programs that are run at accredited higher education institutions in countries that are signatories to the Bologna Declaration (one of which is from Republika Srpska). Guideline 4.1.5.

Links to the programs are attached:

Study programme: Geography Teaching: 1. Faculty of Geography University of Belgrade (www.gef.bg.ac.rs), 2. Faculty of Philosophy University of East Sarajevo www.ffuis.edu.ba; 3. The Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Novi Sad (www.pmf.uns.ac.rs)

Study programme: Geographic information systems: 1. Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Novi Sad (<https://www.pmf.uns.ac.rs/studije/studijski-programi/osnovne-geoinformatika-2019>), 2. Faculty of Science, Palacky University Olomuc, Czech Republic. (<https://www.geoinformatics.upol.cz/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/gig-2018-19-english.pdf>); 3. Texas A&M University, Geographic Information Science and Technology Concentration <https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/geosciences/geography/geographic-information-science-technology-university-studies-bs/#programrequirementstext>; University of Exeter, BSC Geography with Applied GIS, <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/geography/geography-gis/>

Study programme Tourism: 1. The Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Novi Sad (www.pmf.uns.ac.rs); 2. Faculty of Geography University of Belgrade (www.gef.bg.ac.rs); 3. Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management at the University of Novi Sad (www.ucg.ac.me/fth).

After the correction of the study programme Geography Teaching, student mobility was made possible for that study programme as well.

- Provide a link to the document that defines the learning outcomes of the study program and explain how they were defined, and what activities preceded their definition. Guideline 4.1.6. i 4.1.8.

As an attachment, there is an Elaborate in which the learning outcomes of the study program are defined for each route of the study program

- Provide a link to the matrix of the connection between the learning outcomes of individual courses and the learning outcomes of the study program Guideline 4.1.7.

In the attachment, the Elaborate with the stated outcomes is given again, but it does not contain links to the outcomes in individual syllabi. In the syllabi, the outcomes are mostly well-defined.

- Guideline 4.2. List the qualifications acquired by students of the study program. Guideline 4.2.

The qualifications acquired by the students of the study program are listed in great detail for all three routes.

- Provide a link to the document that describes exit qualifications and evidence of compliance of exit qualifications with EQF. Guideline 4.2.

There is no link in the attachment, but only a reference to the document (Regulation on the list of professional, academic and scientific titles ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska ", no. 117/2014 and 83/2015 and 120/2018)) which regulates exit qualifications and proof of the compatibility of exit qualifications with EQF. These are legal acts that were published in the Official Gazette of the RS and as such have their own full meaning and justification. The numbers of the Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska in which it is found

- Provide a link to the learning outcomes and explain how the qualifications acquired by students are linked to the learning outcomes Guideline 4.2.

Attached again is the Elaborate with guidelines for parts 3.2 and 3.3 in which the results are given.

STANDARD 4. Studies

STRENGTHS:

Curricula are modernized and in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Declaration. For good mobility of students, electives have been increased, and all corrections in syllabi have been made. Recommended literature for students has been modernized. Selected good study programs with which the comparison was made.

WEAKNESSES: In the next steps, electives should be increased in the lower years of study. It is also necessary to further develop the study program in accordance with the needs of the labour market.

Adopt the procedures that are used or will be used for the analysis and actual needs of the labour market.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 5. SCIENCE AND RESEARCH WORK

5. Science and research work

Reference

- Provide a link or submit a list of lecturers and associates who are involved in research, professional and artistic projects and the results of scientific research and artistic work of lecturers and associates in the last five years, including evidence of internationally recognized results in science and research work.

Guideline 5.1.

The Plan of scientific and research work of the Geography study program for the period 2022-2027 was given as a document in which the results achieved so far are given in great detail, as well as plans for further scientific and research work.

- Provide a link to the list of the most important published papers of lecturers and associates in the previous 5 years.

Guideline 5.1.

Lists with the most important published papers of lecturers and associates in the previous 5 years have been submitted.

- Provide a link to the plan of science, research, professional, or artistic work.

Guideline 5.2.

The Law on Scientific Research Activity and the Plan of Scientific Research Work of the Geography Study Program for the Period 2022-2027 are attached.

- Provide a link to the proposed act regulating scientific research, professional, or artistic activities.

Guideline 5.3.

Attachments:

1. Strategy for quality assurance
2. Procedure for quality monitoring and improvement
3. Quality monitoring forms
4. Accompanying activities

STANDARD 5. Science and research work

STRENGTHS:

Lecturers and associates meet all the requirements of this standard.

WEAKNESSES:

No weaknesses were observed. Certain members of the academic staff do not have registered project activities.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 6. ACADEMIC STAFF

6. Academic staff

Reference

- Provide a link to the list of the most important published papers of lecturers and associates in the previous 5 years. • Provide a link to a document that provides a summary overview of teachers teaching in the study program. The document should also contain data related to: the type of contract with the higher education institution, the workload of lecturers on the new study program, the total workload of lecturers at the higher education institution, the workload of lecturers at other higher education institutions in the RS/BiH.

Guideline 6.1. 6.3. 6.5. 6.8.

Links have already been provided to the Agency's system, but no summary list of the most significant results in the last 5 years has been provided, and there are no data about published scientific works and projects for all lecturers which was already mentioned earlier.

Given the importance of the remarks, corrections were made in accordance with the remarks and entered into the Agency's system.

Also, the basic documentation does not provide data related to: the type of contract with the higher education institution, the workload of lecturers on the new study program, the total workload of lecturers at the higher education institution, the workload of lecturers at other higher education institutions in the RS/BiH, which was corrected and entered after remarks.

The workload of lecturers shown at the level of the University does not exist, but it is being developed. Currently, work is being done on creating the total workload of lecturers at the level of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

In the card of lecturers and associates, the following irregularities were observed in the most important works: Dragan Korać - incomplete information so it is not possible to determine the authors and the year of publication. Dragica Delić - listed works older than five years Mirjana Marković - listed works older than five years. Nevena Vučen - the information is incomplete and it is not possible to determine the authors of the works.

According to the Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska (Minimum requirements for promotions to the academic titles at the university, Article 81.) and the Rulebook on the Procedure and Requirements for the Promotion to the Academic Title of the Lecturers and Associates at the University of Banja Luka, which is linked on the form, scientific papers which are stated in the cards of lecturers and associates are not time-limited to a period of 5 years, as stated in the comment of the reviewers, i.e. they are related to the promotion to the academic title procedure. Considering that all lecturers have regular academic titles and associated engagements, the requirements for this part of the standard are fulfilled.

- Provide a link to the list of lecturers and associates employed full-time at the study program with whom the higher education institution has signed employment contracts or employment contracts with deferred effect. The list should contain the data required by the referenced guidelines. Guideline 6.3. i 6.5. i 6.7.

The lists have been corrected and attached of lectures and associates on the full-time study program with whom the higher education institution has concluded employment contracts or employment contracts with deferred effect with the data required by the referenced guidelines.

- Provide a link to documents containing the scientific, artistic and professional qualifications of the teaching staff with whom the higher education institution has concluded employment contracts or employment contracts with deferred effect with evidence of the fulfilment of the conditions and criteria prescribed by law and by the act regulating the requirements for promotion into the academic title. Guideline 6.2.

The conditions for promotion into the academic title, which could be used to check the fulfillment of the conditions and criteria prescribed by the law and by the act regulating the conditions for promotion into the academic title, are not shown separately, because it is considered that valid promotions to teaching positions are relevant.

The Rulebook on the procedure and conditions for the selection of lecturers and associates at the University of Banja Luka, to which the link is attached, regulates the conditions for selection into teaching and associate positions.

In the teachers' cards, only a few (Radislav Tošić and Novica Lovrić) have papers listed by category. The management of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics asked the lecturers and associates to fill out a card but they didn't insist that the entry be done by category. Since the website of the Faculty is in the process of being renovated, that part will be completed in the near future, so this remark from the Review Panel is of a technical nature.

- Provide a link to the list of part-time lecturers and associates with whom higher education institution has concluded employment contracts, or employment contracts with deferred effect with evidence of the fulfilment of the requirements and criteria prescribed by law and by the act that regulates the conditions for promotion to the academic title. Guideline 6.6.

There is no link in the attachment, but there are lecturers in the list who are employed part-time, and this remark is argued as follows:

The lecturers and associates who will be engaged in this study program are only lecturers and associates engaged full-time at the University of Banja Luka and three lecturers with an additional work contract. There are no part-time teachers and associates.

- Provide a link to the list of lecturers and associates with whom the higher education institution has concluded a contract on additional work or a contract on additional work with deferred effect. Guidelines 6.6.

The link to the contract on supplementary work is given, but it contains the list of all hired teachers and it is not clear what kind of contract they have, and, as is already mentioned, it does not have all lecturers' cards. Also, their workload is not visible.

Supplemented and corrected in the Workload Table with the contract type, which is attached as part of the overall documentation.

- Provide a link to the list of lecturers and associates from another higher education institution with whom the higher education institution has an employment contract. In addition to the names of lecturers and associates, the list should also contain data on the workload of lecturers and associates. Guideline 6.6.

Approvals obtained for 1. Miro Govedarica, PhD (the name of the subject for which he was hired in the list of lecturers and associates does not match the name in the approval) 2. Jelena Gučević, PhD (approval for two courses, and in the table it is on one).

Professors Miro Govedarica, PhD, and Jelena Gučević, PhD, already have contracts for additional work at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and are currently in the process of obtaining consent from their home universities, which will be tied to the start of their contract in this study program.

There is no table of the total workload of lecturers at a higher education institution, or the workload of lecturers at other higher education institutions in the RS/BiH. Considering that this guideline is related to the central records of the competent ministry, which is in the drafting phase, it was not considered eliminatory in the sense of a deficiency.

The workload of lecturers shown at the level of the University does not exist, but it is being developed. Currently, work is being done on creating the total workload of lecturers at the level of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

- Submit in electronic form contracts with lecturers and associates that cover teaching in the study program. Guideline 6.3.

Contracts until the visit were not submitted electronically into the Agency's system, but by email in a very unorganized manner. After the visit and discussion about this fact, they were timely submitted and entered into the Agency's system.

- Submit in electronic form decisions on valid promotion to the academic titles. Guideline 6.1. i 6.2.

Missing doctoral diplomas, promotion decisions and work contracts for Siniša Subotić, PhD, associate professor of Pedagogical and School Psychology, Tatjana Marić, PhD, assistant professor, General Pedagogy, Jasmin Komić, PhD, full professor of Statistics at the Faculty of Economics, Dragan Korać, PhD, assistant professor of Information Sciences, Milan Predojević, ma, senior assistant, Information Sciences and bioinformatics, Vukašin Crnogorac, an assistant at Information Sciences and bioinformatics, Jelena Gučević, PhD, full professor at Geodesy, were submitted and explained later, in an appropriate manner, immediately before the visit to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

- Submit in electronic form the decision on the responsible lecturers and associates of the university (by university members), that is, of the college. Guideline 6.3.

The responsible lecturers and associates of the university, by members of the university, submitted in the Appendix Academic staff/associates.

- Submit a confirmation from the pension and disability insurance fund on the registration of lecturers and associates who have an employment contract, except for contracts with delayed effect. Guideline 6.63.

A list of 1424 employees was submitted. Those engaged in the given study program should be marked and the list should be set up again.

A correction was made in a timely manner in the list of all employees; the names of lecturers and associates were marked with a yellow marker. All the recommendations of the Review Panel were met, that is, the requirement of this part of the standard.

- Submit the consent of the higher education institution where the lecturers and associates have a full-time employment contract to be able to conclude an employment contract, additional work contract or employment contract with the higher education institution that is the applicant for initial accreditation. Guideline 6.6.

Submitted consent of the higher education institution where the lecturers and associates have concluded a full-time employment contract to be able to conclude an employment contract, additional work contract or employment contract with the higher education institution that is the applicant for initial accreditation, especially for the teachers listed in the guidelines 6.6.

- Submit a list of the workload of associates that should be in accordance with the requirements of the referenced guideline. Guideline 6.7.

A workload list with the type of contract of teaching staff who will be engaged in the study program has been uploaded to the Agency's system.

STANDARD 6. Academic staff

STRENGTHS: All courses within the curriculum of the study program Geography, in all three majors, are taught by adequate teaching staff and this is confirmed with all the necessary documentation.

WEAKNESSES:

The workload of lecturers at the University level does not exist; it was explained during the visit that it is in the preparation phase, and the total workload of lecturers at the level of the Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics is shown. Although it is not a requirement that lecturers have appropriate references in the last 5 years and mandatory participation in projects, it is necessary to take this into account and encourage younger colleagues especially to work more on their CVs so that the work with students is of a higher quality.

STANDARD 7. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF

7. Non-academic staff

Reference

- Provide a link to the list of administrative staff that contains information and job titles for which they have a full-time employment contract or a full-time employment contract with deferred effect.

Guideline 7.1.

A list of administrative staff and their contracts was submitted.

Attached is a link to the faculty's page, containing the list of the administrative staff of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

- Submit full-time employment contracts or deferred employment contracts for student services administrative staff.

Guideline 7.2.

Scanned contracts were sent by mail. The ambiguities regarding dates of starting work (13 contracts are dated June 1, 2021, and one on September 1, 2021) are explained by the fact that the dates on the contracts are related to changes in the salary basis, or to the changes of the date when work was started.

- Submit contracts for officers engaged in legal and financial affairs, librarian affairs and information system maintenance affairs.

Guideline 7.3.

Scanned contracts for officers engaged in legal and financial affairs, librarian work and information system maintenance work were delivered by mail.

STANDARD 7. Non-academic staff

STRENGTHS:

Non-academic staff meet all requirements of this standard.

WEAKNESSES:

None.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 8. STUDENTS

8. Students	Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to a document that contains an example of a competition for admission to studies (the number of students who enrol, conditions for enrollment, criteria for determining the order of candidates, the procedure for conducting the competition, the method and deadlines for submitting an appeal against the ranking list, as well as the amount of tuition that students pay whose studies are not financed from the budget). 	<p>Guideline 8.1. i 8.5.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the planned number of students for enrollment and evidence of compliance of the number of students with spatial and technical-technological conditions, as well as the document by which the study groups are planned. 	<p>Guideline 8.2 i 8.4.</p>
<p>The number of students was stated, and during the visit, it was noted that it is planned for all students to be financed from the budget funds of the Republic, which is also a legal obligation. Bearing in mind that the Elaborate did not precisely state the needs of the labour market for the study programme Geography Teaching, the Review Panel asked for additional evidence for the planned number of students. During the visit, the Review Panel was informed that for the study programme Teaching Geography, which is one of the study programmes of national interest, the planned number of enrolled students is in accordance with the prescribed minimum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a link to the document that establishes the conditions (general and special), that is, the criteria for the classification and selection of candidates for enrollment. 	<p>Guideline 8.3.</p>

Links to the following documents are attached:

Study rules of I and II cycle and

Rulebook on taking professional exams.

In the document Rules for studying I and II cycle are given:

I General Provisions,

II Organization of studies,

III Student status in the first and second cycle of studies,

IV Evaluation of students' work,

V Study documents,

VI Transitional and Final Provisions.

The second document is the Rulebook on taking entrance exams and was issued by the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Banja Luka.

It contains:

I General Provisions,

II Enrollment in the first cycle of studies,

III Enrollment in the II cycle of studies,

IV Final Provisions.

These two documents contain all the necessary information for enrollment and studying at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Banja Luka.

STANDARD 8. Students

STRENGTHS:

The competition for admission to studies and the accompanying information are publicly available.

WEAKNESSES:

Slow IT support.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 9. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

9. Facilities and equipment

Reference

Guidelines 9.1. i 9.4.

- Provide a link to the proof of ownership of the commercial property where the higher education institution will perform its activities, as well as proof that the property meets the appropriate urban, technical-technological and hygienic conditions.

Attached is the dean's statement that the faculty owns the property and the floor plan of the property of all the floors is given. Given that it is a public higher education institution, it is not necessary to submit proof of ownership. By visiting the premises, it was established that the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics meets the appropriate urban, technical-technological and hygienic conditions, necessary for the smooth running of the educational process.

- Provide a link to the list of rooms with surface area in a higher education institution requesting a licence to operate, or in a department outside the seat of a higher education institution requesting a licence to operate, including a description of the purpose of the premises and proof of fulfilment of the prerequisites for the teaching and scientific process. Guideline 9.2. i 9.10.

The documents Elaborate and Facilities and Equipment are attached.

In the Elaborate, attention is drawn to page 71, where it is given in great detail which and how many facilities the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics has, and in the table on page 72 this is stated in detail.

The Faculty of Science and Mathematics has 3336.28 m² of total usable space where 471 students are studying, and for the next year it is planned to enroll 155 students, so the surface of the total usable space per student is 5.33 m². (Certificate about the number of students added to the site).

- Provide proof that facilities are provided for the work and needs of the student service, secretariat and student parliament. Guideline 9.3. i 9.7.

From the floor plan of the facility given in the attachment, it can be seen that the facility is intended for the work and needs of the student service, the secretariat and the student organization. In addition, the Review Panel verified the credibility of the data by personally visiting those premises. Here is the Statement of the Dean of PMF.

- Provide a link to the list of necessary technical equipment that is used in the teaching process, and which ensures that the educational process is run in accordance with health and safety standards. Guideline 9.4. i 9.6.

In the attachment, in addition to the document Facilities and Equipment, there is also a document Book of inventory, in which everything that the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics owns with 259 individual inventory items listed in great detail. The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Resources and Equipment document is also given, in which everything that the faculty owns is listed in great detail on 134 pages. And the last document, Technical equipment, on 14 pages, everything that belongs to the Department of Geography is stated.

- Submit a certified excerpt from the inventory book proving, among other things, the possession of appropriate technical equipment as well as the required number of computers available to students Guidelines 9.5 i 9.9.

Submitted a certified extract from the inventory book proving the possession of appropriate technical equipment as well as the required number of computers available to students. The Review Panel was personally convinced of everything during their visit to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

- Provide a link to a document that proves that all the courses have appropriate teaching aids for the quality teaching process. Guideline 9.8.

Correctly specified link to the document proving the appropriate number of lecturers for all courses with appropriate teaching aids for the quality teaching process.

- Provide a link to the document where the facilities and equipment of the higher education institution for carrying out scientific work are listed Guideline 9.11.

In the linked document, the equipment and facilities of the higher education institution for carrying out scientific work are listed correctly and in great detail.

The technical equipment is exhaustively listed.

- Provide links to contracts with institutions with which the higher education institution has signed contracts for conducting scientific research work. Guideline 9.11.

Attached is the document Contract with other institutions for performing science and research work and business-technical cooperation. Attached are contracts with 1. Republic Hydrometeorological Institute of Republika Srpska

2. V.I. Vernadsky Crimean Federal University

3. College of Tourism and Hotel Management, Trebinje

4. Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Novi Sad 5. Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, Banja Luka

6. Center for Climate Research, Banja Luka

7. Center for Demographic Research, Banja Luka

8. Services "Gistel" Davorin Bajić and Dragutin Adžić, Banja Luka

9. GEOINOVA – geoinformatic engineering. d.o.o, Banja Luka

- Provide a link to a document that proves the possession of equipment for remote teaching (equipment, classrooms, laboratories, platforms, etc.). Guideline 9.12.

There is a link to a document that lists the equipment, classrooms and laboratories that the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics has, but the documentation does not mention the distance learning platform that the faculty uses. During the visit, Prof. Dragan Matić, PhD, said that the Google platform for distance learning (Google classroom) is in use.

Prof. Dragan Matić, PhD, stated that the System administrator is responsible for managing, hosting and storing data generated by teaching staff and students, and for regulating copyright in the online system.

STANDARD 9. Facilities and equipment

STRENGTHS:

Based on documentation and insights during the visit to the Faculty, it was established that all the requirements of this standard were met.

WEAKNESSES:

It is recommended that students should be provided with additional appropriate study space (e-reading room).

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 10. LIBRARY, TEXTBOOKS AND IT SUPPORT

10. Library, textbooks and IT support

Reference

- Submit a link to a summary of the number of library units in the higher education institution which requested a licence to operate (register of library materials in electronic form). Guideline 10.1.

It was stated that the library has 12,389 library units, and 3,578 of them are geography related. The document of the Library Unit, containing 180 pages of library materials was scanned and was given as an attachment.

- Provide a link to a list of titles of textbooks classified by scientific field and courses (in Serbian and other languages) that are available to students, including electronic editions. Guideline 10.1. and 10.6.

Attached is a document containing a list of literature - a summary of the number and titles of textbooks classified by field and courses, including electronic editions (in Serbian and other languages) that are available to students.

- Provide a link to the act on textbooks (regulation or some other act that regulates library materials in terms of having textbooks for the needs of students). Guideline 10.1. and 10.6.

A scanned handwritten document was given containing a list of registered literature in the library which is very illegible and difficult to understand. During the visit to the Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, it was stated that the making of an electronic literature database is underway in accordance with IT rules and access details.

- List subscriptions to databases of scientific journals or contracts with institutions that enable direct access to databases of scientific journals. Guideline 10.4. i 10.5.

There is a link to the information that the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, through its membership in the Geographical Society, is enabled to publish through the magazine Glasnik, which is published in Serbian and English, in printed and electronic form. Within the scope of the Geographical Society, there is also an exchange of magazines with certain countries from the surrounding area and beyond. There is no documentation on subscriptions to databases of scientific journals or contracts with institutions that enable direct access to databases of scientific journals at the faculty level. Databases exist at the University level, but not for magazines that specialize in geography.

On the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics website, there is a Science section, then SCI magazines, and two tabs List of magazines and Search for magazines.

- Submit a statement on the possession of a reading room with appropriate equipment for access to library content, as well as IT equipment that is necessary for the teaching process and science work. Guidelines 10.2. i 10.7.

The complete technical equipment of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Licenses and more are listed. It is stated that the Faculty has a library with a reading room, a GIS laboratory, and a computer center, which represents IT support for the qualitative development of the teaching process. The documents Facilities, Equipment and Technical equipment were given as an attachment, and a little earlier, along with the document of the Library unit, the dean's statement about the reading room and IT equipment was given.

During the visit to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the Review Panel visited the library with a reading room, the computer center and the GIS laboratory. During the tour of the premises, the Review Panel saw the equipment of the GIS laboratory with a software application for practical use.

STANDARD 10. Library, textbooks and IT support

STRENGTHS:

The library is well equipped. IT support is adequate.
Evidence of compliance with this standard has been submitted.

WEAKNESSES:

It is necessary to enable digital access to library material and scientific literature and to provide clear information on the method of accessing foreign scientific literature.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

STANDARD 11. FUNDS

11. Funds

Reference

- Provide a link to the financial plan for the current year and the decision of the temporary management body on the adoption of the financial plan. Guidelines 11.1. and 11.2.

Attached are the documents Decision on the Financial Plan and the Financial Plan itself. The law stipulates that students of public higher education institutions, who regularly fulfil their obligations, are financed from the Budget of the Republic. Regardless of this benefit, for financing purposes, it is recommended to take into account the possibilities of direct cooperation with companies both through professional expertise and through the realization of international projects as well as through other ways of financing from the business community. This would, to a large extent, solve the problem of high-quality professional practice for students and the needs of companies that want to employ qualified experts in this way. At the same time, we recommend that the faculty's scientific potential be made available to the economy and formalized through the form of dual education. Thus, on the one hand, the student would acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the economy, and on the other hand, this would make the higher education system sustainable, that is, higher education would supplement its own model through recognition of the market and commercial domain of business.

- Provide a link to a bank guarantee in the amount of 50% of the tuition fee for each student, for the continuation and Guideline 11.2.

completion of studies in the event of the closure of the institution requesting a licence to operate or in the case of the closure of a specific study program.

The guideline applies to private higher education institutions.

- Provide a link to the agreement with another accredited higher education institution from Republika Srpska on ensuring the completion of studies for students in case of closure of the institution or closure of a certain study program. Guideline 11.3.

The guideline applies to private higher education institutions.

STANDARD 11. Funds

STRENGTHS:

The requested documents have been submitted

WEAKNESSES:

When creating a financial plan in the future, it is necessary to take into account direct cooperation with companies, joint financing projects, the development of innovations in education along with the digitization of the teaching process. A special emphasis should be placed on the realization of scientific projects.

REQUIREMENTS FULFILLMENT LEVEL

III

3. Final opinion of the Review Panel

After inspecting the complete submitted documentation, visiting the higher education institution and analyzing all the documents, procedures and ways of functioning of the higher education institution in terms of the operation of the study program, and after completing the evaluation process, the following level of fulfilment of requirements of the standards and criteria of the study program was set:

STANDARDS	NIVO ISPUNJENOSTI
1. Goals and core tasks of the higher education institution	III
2. The internal quality assurance mechanism	III
3. The organisation of higher education institution	III
4. Studies	III
5. Science and research work	III
6. Academic staff	III
7. Non-academic staff	III
8. Students	III
9. Facilities and equipment	III
10. Library, textbooks and IT support	III
11. Funds	III

Based on the overall assessment of the quality of the first cycle Geography study program, the Review Panel's final opinion is that the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics meets the prescribed requirements of the Standard for Initial Accreditation. The opinion of the Review Panel is also the basis for the Agency to make a recommendation for initial accreditation with the purpose of issuing a licence to operate.

Members of the Review Panel:

Prof. Anđelija Ivkov Džigurski, PhD,
representative of the academic community,
chairman

Prof. Nikola Vojnović, PhD, representative of
the academic community, member

Prof. Uglješa Stankov, PhD, representative of
the academic community, member,

Slobodan Dragičević, representative of
business and practice, member and

Milica Jovović, student representative,
member
