



New Bulgarian University

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BULGARIA





Bulgaria is one of the countries that have signed the Bologna Declaration thus undertaking “to attain the Declaration’s objectives”. New Bulgarian University, as a part of Higher Education system in Bulgaria, completely supports this act and would like to contribute to the development of the European space for higher education and its mission is:

- To be a student-oriented, autonomous academic institution for cultivating of enterprising persons, responsible for their own development.

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- To serve as environment for the development of socially concerned persons, prepared for the life under the conditions of democracy, civil society, market relations, European and world integration.
 - To be a liberal academic institution, based on the relation between education, research, and entrepreneurship.
 - To provide general interdisciplinary and narrowly specialized education, based on research work and related to the practice.

NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY



The New Bulgarian University was established on 18th September 1991 upon decision of the Great National Assembly. On 5th July 2001, NBU obtained institutional accreditation from the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency for the maximum 6-year period, and in December 2005 it passed through the second accreditation procedure. In 2004 NBU was accredited by The Open University in Great Britain.



Annually, 12 000 students and single-course students study at NBU in the sphere of Human sciences and humanities and Natural sciences and new technologies. Up to 2006, 9 940 bachelors, masters and post-graduate students have graduated at the university. We have enjoyed significant growth within the last several years: 250 full-time professors are working in NBU 29 departments and centres. By offering in excess of 100 undergraduate and graduate programs, our university strives to establish an academic environment, which is not burdened with the constraints of the total institution and which can offer freedom for diversity and individuation.

NBU considers the extensive collaborative relationships with partners within and outside Europe as one of the ways to ensure the fulfilment of the Mission and it has been very active in its efforts to expand its international contacts since its establishment in 1991.



Present S „Satisfactions“

What is going well?

- **THE** building of an image of an innovative university, offering an alternative to the traditional model of Bulgarian university education, organization and management.
- **THE** set of a wide interdisciplinary training and increased electivity (without mandatory courses), increased general education and start training in bachelor's degree.
- **THE** system of Major and Minor, and individual training programs.

What can we depend on?

- **THE Balanced decentralized and strategically oriented management system by dividing**
- **THE approved public presence - strong market position, scale publishing, prestigious public appearances.**
- **THE highly developed facilities, modern information infrastructure and continuously expanding and advanced integrated information system.**
financial and academic authorities.

What is satisfactory for us (criteria, reasons, measures)?

- THE current system for providing and maintaining quality, based on student feedback, created conditions for the development of teachers in the system for attestation of personnel and regular evaluation of the activities of departments.
- THE ECTS credit system, providing internal and external mobility of students and the possibility they themselves determine the duration of their training.
- THE financial support for training students through social and academic scholarships, student work, free services.

What gives us power?

- **THE** definition for quality of seeks a balance between academic quality, labour market needs, the needs of the individuals for their own development, and the society's needs for educated, responsible and critical citizens.
- **THE** has established a set of procedures to ensure SM, TM and cooperation projects in order to use the opportunities in the frame of LLP which correspond closely to the above stated goals.



What gives us power?

- **THE** highly qualified teaching staff for which we have developed a Training Resource Centre. It provides different training courses for teachers – not only language preparation but also new teaching methods, course updating, participating in transnational projects, etc. The Centre develops a set of approaches to assist teachers in identifying the roots of problems that may jeopardize their best intent to be innovative in establishing formative interactions with students or to undertake extra curricular activities.

What are we proud of?

- **THE** first to introduce the credit points system in Bulgaria.
- **THE** first to introduce the study for the educational degrees specialist, bachelor and master.
- **THE** first to introduce the distance learning and continuing education.

What are our strengths?

- **THE** Internationalization is a priority in the NBU Strategic Plan. So far the Internationalization has developed mainly in the frame of the European educational programs, now incorporated in Lifelong Learning Program. Internationalization of learning through language training, mobility within the EU programs and attract foreign students
- **THE** introduced elements of linking education with research-BA Research Program prominent students, enhanced research component of the master's and doctoral programs and connecting individual programs with experience (internships, scholarships).

What are our strengths?

- **THE** more than 156 international projects were developed under TEMPUS, PHARE, Copernicus, Higher Education Support Program (OSI), CEEPUS, World Bank, British Council, Erasmus, Grundtvig, Comenius, Leonardo etc. The projects with the highest impact on the University development were “University Network for Self-Evaluation, Accreditation and Academic Exchange in Social Sciences”, “Training Local Administration in European Integration”, “Training of HE Administration”, “Training in standards on quality control management”, “Modernisation and organisational development of University libraries”, etc.

NBU is non-discriminating institution, so in all procedures concerning LLP gender equality, integration of disabled student and staff, equal rights for applying regardless of race, age, gender are underlined.

Present *P* “**Problems**”

What are THE mistakes, deficiencies and weaknesses?

- **THE** Restrict training of natural sciences and technology

What interferences impede us?

- **THE** need for strict compliance with administrative and legal constraints - institutional and program accreditation

What leads often to tensions, complains, disappointment and conflicts?

- **THE** unbalanced development of the decentralization process and the outbreak of rivalry between the university structures.


Where are the mantraps (backgrounds, hidden links)?

- **THE** approved public presence - strong market position, scale publishing, prestigious public appearances.
- **THE** lack of an operating system to ensure the connection of education with practice and fitted for employment of graduates Bachelor Degree programs.

Future ○ *“Opportunities*

What else would we be able to do?

- **THE** further innovation and efficiency in the work through decentralization of responsibilities, development of training of staff and linking funding of universities and remuneration structures with the results.
- **THE** active collaboration with leading Bulgarian and foreign research and educational institutions, including in new university networks to increase the competitive ability in the context of globalization and integration into the European education market.
- **THE** establishment of an effective system for maintaining quality, based on continuous monitoring of university activities and structures, including permanent control over economic efficiency



What are the future chances, opportunities, development / progress goals?

- **THE** Curriculum development on undergraduate and postgraduate levels – joint programs, programs in foreign languages, Diploma Supplement
- **THE** Further development of the accumulation aspect of the ECTS credit system
- **THE** Further development of the quality assurance, with comparable criteria and methods

What can we use in our environment?

- **THE** development of departments as closely related, business-oriented research structures.

What else lies fallow?

- **THE** fully exploitation of the potential of Lifelong learning as a range for testing new programs.

What can we extend?

- **THE** encouragement of the mobility with providing better preparation and diminishing the administrative obstacles
- **THE** provided number of courses in foreign languages (mainly in English and French) should be enriched. As it is planned by the Academic council, NBU has to develop at least 2 Bachelor and 2 Master programs taught in a foreign language. (Additionally to the now existing BA in Political Science, MA in Cognitive Science and BA in Computer Networking).

What possibilities do we have?

- **THE** well balanced successful management system
- **THE** highly qualified human resource: the teaching staff as well as the administrative ones.
- **THE** capacity for qualified Project management

Future T “Threats”

Which adverse or threatening developments approach us where, in which context and which form?

- **THE** narrowing of the demographic pool of potential students.
- **THE** limitation of the necessary teaching resources due to the aging teacher empowerment in the country.

What do we have to anticipate?

- **THE** reduction of the number of students in the University and leakage of students from the university because of increasing competition in the National, European and International educational market.

What are our apprehensions

- **THE** attraction of more students from the country and improving the effectiveness of training by establishing a complete university Campus in hospice and sports complex.
- **THE** acquirement of the name of elite European University through training in accordance with European perspective and requirements, preparing for work and life in Europe in the European institutions in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian economy.



What happens if nothing happens?

“Nothing happens” is **not possible** at our university due to the successful university management.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!