



Observations on the University Titu Maiorescu

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The answers are numbered according to the document forwarded by email in the PDF format.

1. Legal Status

So far according to the document prepared as a self evaluation by the University under evaluation by the agency and the legal texts available, it appears that the constitutive document fit with the legal obligations, mainly Law 239/2002 Si HG n° 944/2002.

- 1.1. The headquarters are in Bucharest, sector 4. But the university has different colleges or faculties in and outside Bucharest.
- 1.2. From the self evaluation and accompanying documentation, it appears that the didactic missions and research missions meet the criteria of requested quality. Courses are taught by professors and adjuncts with the appropriate degrees and diplomas. It seems that there is a perfect relation with the specializations. The study programs appear to be of high level. A special attention has been put on the Law programs and on the programs in economics. They meet the international criteria.

2. University Charter and rules specified by the charter

- 2.1. The University charter does exist and meets the legal rules (see supra n° 1). It has been amended from time to time and the present version is dated 2008.
The internet site of the university offers the possibility to read the provisions. The principles set up at the European level for high education and research, are the objectives of the University Titu Maiorescu.
- 2.2. The rules are present in the public data and so far as I can say are complying with the legal provisions.
- 2.3. Students' professional activity is considered through e-learning and distant learning.

Report on UTM for ARACIS by Joël Monéger, Professor Université Paris-Dauphine strictly confidential

3. Institution's management , Managerial structures

All rules seem to be strictly applied and the rector has been appointed according to the law and the regulation of the university.

- 3.1. All the highest positions in the University are occupied by tenured professors and associate professors. It must be noted that most of the professors with management positions are very efficient in merging their teaching and management obligations.
- 3.2. Non applicable
- 3.3. The highest librarians have received a special preparation in Librarian studies. They are helped by persons with different professional levels. The library visited seems to be correctly managed and it was easy to find the books or documents I was looking for.

4. Teaching Staff

Conditions for publication of positions meet the legal criteria. Exams are organized twice a year including oral and writing exercises. The short list is later approved by the >Senate according to the by-laws of the University Titu Maiorescu.

- 4.1. So far, the professors and adjuncts meet the legal requirements to occupy their position according to the data and self report.
- 4.2. The tenured professor appears to satisfy to the criteria set up in the accreditation of the university.
- 4.3. It is difficult to check on that point, but it appears from the self evaluation that the teachers do not teach more than the three teaching load authorized for quality.
- 4.4. Emeritus professors seem in small number and they follow the rules of less than one teaching load.
- 4.5. According to the self evaluation report, the University policy seems very strict. An in-depth investigation could not be carried out on such point, but from the answers given by the rector, pro rector and some deans, there is a strong presumption that it is the real situation.
- 4.6. Same comment as 4.5.
- 4.7. According to the self evaluation report and answers given to the expert, it is a compulsory obligation mentioned in their contracts. Exchanges of information are organized with other institutions. For example, associate professors have to present a certificate from there home university.
- 4.8. It appears from the report and answers given by deans that tenured teachers have a PhD or a doctorate degree. Assistant professors are not doctors in social sciences or economics and law.

- 4.9. Junior assistant professors must take some courses of psychology in the department of pedagogy.
- 4.10. It is quite remarkable that those documents are in a great number and easily available in the library.
- 4.11. It is difficult for a foreign expert to check on that point. A full audit, point by point, course by course would be necessary and a long period of time should be necessary to carry on such an investigation. From the documents given and the self assessment prepared for the experts, a positive answer is most appropriate.

5. Material Basis

From the documentation and from the visits made in the different building owned by the University, it is quite clear that the institution possesses the appropriate patrimony needed for carrying high education at a high level of quality. Some specific bodies or committees are in charge of quality assessment within the University.

- 5.1. At first view, the University Titu Maiorescu owns a great number of teaching rooms and laboratories and is working to offer to the Medical Dentistry School a number of new seats for education of dentists. So far, international standards will be met after the completion of the new Dentistry School.
- 5.2. IT equipments are present in many rooms, but the question does not fit with the fact that as today there is no Master of Science cycle. From a foreign point of view, it seems that in social sciences, economics and law, the offer in IT is correct and meets the level of most French Universities.
- 5.3. From the visit of the Library for Law students and students in economics, around 38000 volumes are offered for reading. The high cost of books, especially of foreign books in certain areas, the effort made is a good sign of a quality project. Again, an investment in IT and online data is important. From the discussion with students, it appears that there is a need for the development of loans of books outside the library. But, it is interesting to note that the catalog of the library is accessible by internet.
- 5.4. It seems so. Seats were available while visiting the place and the ratio between the number of students and the number of seats appears satisfying.
- 5.5. According to the self assessment report, the library has 120 full text foreign journals and more than 40 Romanian journals. The need is always higher than the possibilities, except may be in Harvard, Yale or

Stanford. The library is connected to other libraries and they exchange books on request.

- 5.6. See above 5.4.
- 5.7. Yes, standards are met.
- 5.8. The need is considered and a special attention is made for distant learning students. They receive a CD with all the information needed. It is the way used in most European universities for distant learning students. In my university we do use direct access to an intranet with the documentation available on line.
- 5.9. The verification seems to infer a positive answer for dentistry and social sciences at least.

- 6. **The university owns the buildings where are the class rooms and laboratories but the hospital and clinics are rented.**

7. Financial activity

It can be said from the information offered that a qualified staff in the accounting and financial departments has been hired.

- 8. **The information on the budget matter, and/or banking matters given in the annex show that the UTM meets the criteria set up by the legislation.**
- 9. At first view, it seems that the legal rules are strictly followed. A full audit cannot be made with a one-day visit.
- 10. The approach is different in a private university where all expenses of the institution have to be financed without any tax support by the Nation. Never the less, the calculations made in the University under scrutiny seem to be made with that type of tool.
- 11. Full information is available and clear elements are offered on the website to potential and actual students on the costs of education in the different colleges and faculties.
- 12. There is no external audit. An internal audit is made every year and an annual report must be discussed and approved by the Senate. IN 2006, the newly appointed Rector ordered an audit.

Students

- 13. There is a precise methodology to assess the candidates in the different faculties and schools. The methodology suggested by the Ministry is strictly followed and foreign degrees are checked directly by the ministry. In the future, the rule might change for EU students and EU university degrees.
- 14. It appears from the report and discussions with the Deans and the Rector that the regulations enacted by the government and the law established by the Parliament is the rule. Students are assessed according to their rank and grades.
- 15. Yes to both questions according to the data.

16. The procedures followed for graduation and for granting diplomas are following the legal requirements. It has been checked especially in the law school.

Research Activity

17. The UTM has specific plans for developing research in certain fields. The scientific plans are approved by the university council which decides the allocation of resources on the basis of a pre-approved strategic plan.
18. The UTM plan is made on the basis of the national plan. Even without any master of research, more than 300.000€ have been dedicated to research at the UTM. Such a sum shows a real investment in research.
19. As for valorization of research, an important number of publications and presentations at a national and international level can be noticed. The international development seems pretty good and meets the international criteria according to the size of UTM.
20. Yes, each faculty or school is organizing at least an annual meeting and the university organizes a general symposium of all faculties every year since 2007. Such a symposium is a great idea to allow researchers and professors to understand what means research outside their own field and it should cross fertilized researches in the different fields.

Institutional Commission's assessment on the Institution's mission

The self assessment report shows eloquently that the UTM is very aware of what are its missions.

It takes into account the national framework of qualifications and the requirements of the market and according to the alumni who gave information they appreciate that the programs are while respecting the legal criteria for accreditation, adapted to the evolution of the requirements of an evolving economy. Open days and job fairs are organized and they seem very helpful for students in search of jobs.

A. Institutional Capacity (see green booklet , pp. 68-81)

Standards and performance indicators

A.1. Institutional Administrative and Managerial Structures

1. Missions and objectives

See above the comments already made. Performance and excellence seem to be the clear objectives of the UTM

2. Academic Integrity

UTM has organized a special commission for ethic. This commission works at all level and concerns all personnel.

An annual report is made and some sanctions for infringement of the ethical rules have been decided in the recent years.

3. *Public Liability and responsibility*

Yes an internal audit is made every year which results are submitted to the University Council.

Management and administration (p.68)

1. *Management system*

Leadership is obvious in that private university where the levels of power are important. General rules and principles established by law or regulation of the ministry of education are met.

2. *Strategic Management*

The University Titu Maiorescu has a ten-year period strategic plan and it appears to be updated every year according to the main objectives and the results of the year. It is under the control of the Rector and the Senate is informed. It is for the different schools and faculties to apply the plan and to report to the Rector. According to the organization plan, the University has an administration which applies the legal rules at all levels and a control is organized vertically to assure the execution by all levels.

Computerization is still in progress and the performance is quite good. All members of the team are connected through Internet.

A2. Material Basis

1. *Spaces for education, research and other activities*

From a visit on premises it appears that the building program is still important but the main buildings are carefully organized to allow an appropriate distribution of rooms between the classrooms, libraries and laboratories. A new hospital for students is under construction. In the future, it might be necessary to improve accommodation of students. Sport is important and sport facilities exist outside the university with its support. The level meets the European criteria in that field and an international comparison would place the university under scrutiny at a good level on the scale.

2. *Equipment*

A special attention has been put on the equipment of classrooms with communication material and Internet seems to be easily available as well as audio-systems and projections for PPT or video... Again, in an international or European evaluation, the level would be good.

3. *Financial resources*

The annual budget seems to be of an appropriate level to cover the prospective expenses by actual and prospective resources for the incoming period under the annual budget. In practice, the university is well managed and it is interesting to note that the new building for the Administration at the Rector level has been financed with proper resources even if some sponsors

have been helping the university since its creation. It is a common practice in the European Union for private and in certain States for public Universities.

4. Scholarships and Student support

There is a social service for the most difficult situations and a system of scholarship base on merits. The funds are mostly University funds (the report mentions 94%).

B. Educational Effectiveness

B.1. Study Programmes content

1. Principles of the policy of admission

The admission policy is transparent and published on the site of the University and therefore available to any candidate or applicant. There are also brochures available on demand or during the open-days visits.

2. Admission practices

The admission criteria are in conformity to the legal regulations and works on the basis of previous diploma and grades.
The foreign students must on a preliminary basis be accredited by the Ministry of education.

B.2. Scientific Research Activity

1. Planning

The strategic plan (see above) contains the scientific objectives by different domains according to the national research policy. It is approved after discussion by the Senate and it can be revised every year if necessary.

2. Research achievements

Resources are in equilibrium with the objectives and so the results. The atmosphere is quite dynamic and seems to be motivating. The doctoral level is in development and in certain fields it appears that the proper accreditation by the Ministry is allowing new developments.
It might be appropriate that the Law Faculty starts doctoral studies and that doctoral thesis be prepared in Romanian Law or/and with foreign partners such as the Faculty of law of University of Orleans or the Institut Droit Dauphine in the University Paris-Dauphine.
So far, the standards in force are respected

3. Research Valorization

Valorization is really apparent in medicine and dentistry but also in social sciences, economics and law through publications of books, articles in Romania as well as in foreign journals.

B.4 – Financial Activity of the Organization

1. Income and Expenditure budget

The budget is approved on an annual basis by the Senate on a proposal made by the Rector. There is also a fiscal code and bank accounts which are used for different purposes but allow a strict control by an auditor. The control by the Senate takes into its field the control of the bank accounts.

2. Accounting

So far as it is possible on a quick visit, it appears from the self-assessment report and answers given to the external visitor that accounts are computerized and under control according to the law and regulations enacted by the government.

3. Audit and Public Liability

The audits required by the law seem to be done according to the law.

C. - Quality Management

S.C. 1 Quality Assurance Structures and policies

1. Quality Assurance system organization

Titu Maiorescu has a commission charged with programs and this commission according to the report is aiming at improving the quality of programs in cooperating with other institutions and looking at their practices and offer of study programs. It has been especially checked for the Law Faculty and it is going beyond a simple bench marking.

2. Quality Assurance policies and strategies

The UTM has a vision and therefore it has specific policies and strategies at the level of different faculties as well as the level of the university itself, to be successful (see self report, p. 31).

C.2 - Periodical approval, Monitoring and evaluation of study programs and diplomas

1. Existence and enforcement of the rules on the periodical initiation,

No specific comments can be made here. They are redundant with the preceding comments.

2. Correspondence between diplomas and qualifications

Evaluation of the diplomas is made through and evaluation by alumni and also at the occasion of the signing of exchange conventions. For example, the University of Orléans in France has made an evaluation of the students and programs before signing an international agreement by which students and professors are visiting each place and a French Master in Law is now taught at UTM.

C.3 - Objective and Transparent Procedures of learning results of evaluation

UTM has rules concerning the Students exams and about the marking which appear to be correctly applied and are well known by students and teachers from the regulations. The ECTS system is apparently correctly applied by the faculties. All grades and marks are available and statistics allow the UTM and its professors to reconsider what could be a problem in those areas.

C4. - Periodical evaluation Procedures of the teaching Staff Quality

1. Relation between the numbers of Students and teaching staff

So far, it appears from the self assessment report that the University has good procedures on this matter. The ratio between number of students and teaching staff is of 1/12. Such a ratio appears to be very good. It would meet the highest criteria in Europe or the USA. 70% of the professors are tenured. Professors from UTM are also visiting foreign universities where they can learn some new trends in teaching.

- 2. Peer Review is practiced on a regular basis and professors and teaching staff can read their evaluation.*
- 3. Evaluation of professors by students started in 2007-08 and is now part of the ordinary life (see Report, p. 33). During the meeting with students and alumni it was very clear that the professors are considered as excellent teachers.*
- 4. Same for the university managers by annual self assessment and evaluation by superiors.*

C.5 - Learning resources Accessibility

1. Availability of learning resources

A special visit has been made in the faculty of Law. From that visit and the self evaluation report there is no doubt that the students have a full access via internet and libraries to a documentation and books that it is not always easy to get in other places. Some students would appreciate to have the possibility to take books and documents at home in the evening or on weekends. It is not the rule as to now in UTM.

- 2. Students services are present in the different faculties but there are no lodging facilities on the campus. It is very common in the EU for urban universities.*

C. 6 - Updating database with regards to the Quality Internal assurance

UTM has indicators, but everyone knows that data in that field are difficult to gather and therefore to evaluate.

C.7 –Transparency of Public Interest information concerning study programs is the rule (see Self assessment report, p. 35).

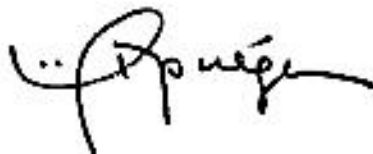
C.8- Functionality of education quality assurance... according to the law

In the university Titu Maiorescu specific procedures are at work to inform the Senate with the appropriate tendencies and data. The self assessment report shows that the UTM is willing to stick to the law.

This report has been made on the basis of a visit of the university and the reading of the self evaluation report. Questions put to the deans, alumni and students as well as staff have permitted to recoup the information proposed by the university.

The redaction and finalization of the report has been made in Paris after returning from Bucharest.

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