



**EXTERNAL EVALUATOR'S REPORT  
FOR ARACIS OF  
"TITU MAIORESCU" UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST  
2016**

Introduction

I was appointed as a Foreign External Evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and was consequently invited to join the evaluation team for the institutional evaluation process of "Titu Maiorescu" University of Bucharest (TMU). The audit took place between Wednesday 14 December and Friday 16 December 2016.

The evaluation team consisted of the following members, in addition to myself:

- Prof. univ. dr. Iordan Petrescu – Mission Director
- Prof. univ. dr. Razvan Nistor – Coordinator of the Experts Evaluator Team
- Prof. univ. dr. Stefan Szamoskozi – Advisory Commission Expert
- Prof. univ. dr. Alexandru Silviu Apahidean – Institutional Commission Expert
- Prof. univ. dr. Radu Catana – Program Expert
- Assoc. Prof. dr. Eugenia Florescu – Program Expert
- Prof. univ. dr. Neagoe Mircea – Program Expert
- Prof. univ. dr. Iuliana Ciochina – Program Expert
- Assoc. Prof. dr. Marius Sorin Dinca – Program Expert
- Assoc. Prof. dr. Alexandru Chis – Program Expert
- Assoc. Prof. dr. Ana Raluca Sassu – Program Expert
- Assoc. Prof. dr. Daniela Danciulescu – Program Expert
- Prof. univ. dr. Inocentiu Maniu – Program Expert
- Prof. univ. dr. Norina Forna – Program Expert
- Roxana Florea – Technical Secretary
- Stefan Marius Deaconu – Student Evaluator (ANOSR)
- Valentina Mihalcea – Student Evaluator (UNSR)

The evaluation process began on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December at 9 a.m. in the Senate Room with the introductory statements of the mission from Prof. univ. dr. Razvan Nistor and he also asked the members of the evaluation team to introduce themselves. Then Prof. univ. dr. Smaranda Angheni the Rector of TMU welcomed the evaluation team and asked the coexist colleagues of the university management to introduce themselves too. This was followed by a tour at the university to see the infrastructure and special facilities of the institution.

Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. the group of experts was working on different aspects of the evaluation. In my role as Foreign Expert Evaluator, I was responsible for establishing an overview of the whole university. I was entrusted the care of the vice-rector Prof. Dumitru Gheorghiu.

In the morning I visited "M" and "V" buildings; the Faculty of Pharmacy and the facility of the Medical Research Institute "Academician Nicoale Cajal"; and one of the Student Hostels (Dorm C5). Early in the afternoon I had an appointment with the head of International Relations Division. At 5 p.m. we had an hour meeting with a group of 60 undergraduate students.

The team continued the evaluation process on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. In the morning I visited "IOR" building (Faculty of Medicine; Faculty of Dental Medicine), then I had an appointment with Prof. univ. dr. Puiu Mihai (Director of the Department of Specialty Psycho-pedagogy Profile). After that the operation of the E-learning (AeL) platform was presented to me. At 2.30 p.m. there was an hour meeting with a group of 25 former students of TMU and at the end of the day at 5 p.m. we met with a group of about 12 graduates' employers.

The evaluation process was finished on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December when the team of experts prepared the final report. The evaluation process was conducted in open and collegial manner.

## General Statements

TMU is a private higher education institution, operates according to the Constitution, the laws that govern the higher education system in Romania and also on the basis of the University Charter and of its own internal regulations and has been operating since 1990.

The latest institutional evaluation was conducted by ARACIS in 2012. As a result of the evaluation the institution was awarded the “High Degree of Confidence” qualification.

It has ten faculties:

- Faculty of Law,
- Faculty of Medicine,
- Faculty of Dentistry,
- Faculty of Psychology,
- Faculty of Finance, Banking, Accounting and Business Administration,
- Faculty of Informatics,
- Faculty of Social, Political and Humanistic Sciences,
- Faculty of Pharmacy,
- Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences (Targu-Jiu)
- Faculty of Nursing (Targu-Jiu)

TMU offers 25 Bachelor, 25 Master degree programmes and 3 PhD programmes also. TMU has 7144 enrolled students (5969 students are in the bachelor, 870 students are in the master, 113 students are in the PhD programmes and 192 students are taking part in different pedagogical trainings) in December 2016. The number of part time students is 1262 of the above mentioned figure.

The scientific potential and quality of human resources at TMU seems to be on a good level.

**Comment:** It might be a challenging situation for TMU that two other private universities are operating in the neighbourhood.

## Managerial Structure

The management of the university is organised in accordance with its legal obligations, which are stated in the university's charter. In terms of structure, the university is led by a Rector, who is supported by only one Vice-Rector. The management activity constantly uses modern software and communication systems such as the internet and intranet to assure interoperability.

Senate is the main decision making body of TMU which consists of a mixture of appointed and elected representatives. There are 33 persons in the Senate at TMU (24 representatives of teaching staff, 9 representatives of students).

The university is divided into ten faculties, which are further subdivided into departments. Each faculty is led by a Dean and also has a Faculty Council (consists of dean, deputy dean, department directors, teachers and students' representatives in proportion to their number in each faculty).

**Comment:** TMU has an efficient and transparent institutional leadership, although the governance of the university seems quite centralised for me.

## Teaching Staff

The number of academic staff at TMU in the academic year 2015/2016 was 462. There were 307 employees in the academic staff who is employed full-time by the university and 106 (39,21%) of them are professors and associate professors. The part-time employed academic staff was 155 in the academic year 2015/16. The ratio total teaching staff / students has been stabilized around the value of 1/15,46.

TMU might encourage the experienced lectures to become associate professors and the experienced associate professors to become professors in order to maintain the academic quality.

**Comment:** The quality of human resources and the scientific potential at TMU is on a good level. The ratio of students to teaching staff is good. It is better than the OECD and European average level.

### Facilities

TMU functions in very nice new buildings (Rectorate Building, M Building, V Building, IOR Building, C3 and C5 Buildings) in Bucharest. TMU also has a campus in Targu-Jiu. I did not have the time to visit the campus of TMU in Targu-Jiu.

Asides from only a very few equipment all the educational spaces fulfil every requirement of the European standards (conference whiteboards, air conditioning, smoke sensors, modern quality furniture, projecting systems, internet access etc.). Also some very modern tools can be found at a few faculties (e.g. Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Informatics).

TMU has a Central Library (named after "Avram Filipas") in V Building and a few deposit libraries at different faculties. The library of TMU owns more than 26000 volumes and 110 periodicals.

TMU also has a nice coffee shop, a very good canteen with a capacity of 200 seats and 2 student hostels with 500 beds. TMU has a bookshop (ensures the printing of the lecture notes, textbooks and of the necessary documents for the implementation of the curricula) and a copy centre but limited sport facilities can be found only in the student hostel at the moment.

**Comment:** In the past few years TMU has made important progress concerning the material resources and investments. It is important to continue this procedure when funds allowed.

I must highlight the modern IT system (hardware and software) and the quality of dorms which are over the national standards according to my experience at private universities in Romania.

## Students

According to the latest data the number of students at TMU is 7144 in the academic year 2016/17 and there are no significant changes in the students' number. Each type of study program (BA/BSc, MA/MSc and PhD) is available for the candidates. TMU has doctoral programme in law, medicine and dentistry. The most popular programmes among the students are at the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Psychology and the Faculty of Medicine. There are only a few foreign students at TMU who are taking part in programmes conducted in Romanian.

**Comment:** I highly recommend, in the interest of increasing the number of foreign students, to develop gradually study programmes conducted in English or other foreign languages at TMU.

The undergraduate students at the appointment seemed to be very loyal to their university. They were pleased with the education and the circumstances. There were quite a number of students who had previous experience at state universities. They mentioned that TMU had paid more attention to the students and the facilities had been much better than at state maintained higher education institutes.

There are many Erasmus Mobility agreements at TMU. Within the Erasmus+ Programme the Student Mobility for Traineeships are more popular among the students than the Student Mobility for Studies. The outgoing students are more than the incoming. The number of the students participating in Erasmus Program could be more.

**Comment:** It is recommended to enter into other European Higher Education Programmes (e.g. CEEPUS) and increase the number of students taking part in mobility activities.

During the discussion with the graduate students they seemed pleased with the members of the academic staff and the university. I was surprised that one of them was also employed by TMU or the clinics with whom the university cooperates.

It was also mentioned that TMU had paid more attention to the students than at state maintained university by students who had previous experience at state universities.

At the meeting with the representatives of the employers, they seemed very satisfied with those students who graduated from TMU. Most of them were from the private sector. In their opinion there is not too much difference between public and private universities, but probably some private institutes had better facilities.

## Research

Research activity is performed by the didactic staff and students. It is mainly carried out by institutes of scientific studies and research as well as research centres. TMU has nine different research institutes (Centre of studies and research in education sciences – “CENED”; Legal Sciences Centre; “ECOINFO” Research Centre; “Economy and Sustainable Development” Research Centre; Research Centre in Laparoscopic Surgery; “Scientia Maioresciana” Research Centre from Targu-Jiu; Research and Mediation Centre for Employment Relations and Social Security; Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Dental Medicine; “Titu Maiorescu” Interdisciplinary Centre of Socio-Human Studies; Integrated Centre of Research-Development in Health).

The interdisciplinary research centres are coordinated by Scientific Council.

The scientific research appears mainly in articles published in ISI, BDI journals, papers presented and published in the volumes of scientific sessions, in university annals, in journals internationally acknowledged or journals accredited at a national level. On the other hand, the research is turned to account by achieving projects financed by European or national funds.

## Quality Management

The Internal Quality Management System of TMU has structures, strategies, policies and procedures for quality assurance of the teaching and research process.

The Commission of Evaluation and Quality Assurance was created for coordination at institutional level and every faculty has a committee of evaluation and quality assurance for operational matters.

All the above mentioned bodies within the university support the management of the TMU in achieving the quality objectives, dealing with the dissemination of standards and quality methodology at a national level. The committees meet and analyse the compliance of institution's policy in quality domain at their levels. The results of these analyses are noted down in the reports, and then they are submitted to the University Senate. I was informed that the Quality Management System (QMS) ISO 9001/2000 was implemented at TMU.

### Conclusion

I was satisfied with what I have experienced; seen, read and heard at the university. I think that TMU has improved a lot since the latest ARACIS visit and it is important to continue this procedure. I hope that some of the comments which I made will help the university Management in the process of continual improvement.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Rector, Vice Rectors, Deans and all the University staff for the pleasant atmosphere and the support during my stay in Bucharest. Also much gratitude to my colleagues from the evaluation team for the professional, open and gentle way in which the audit was conducted.

At last but not least special thanks to ARACIS for giving me the opportunity to participate in this evaluation process in Romania.

Pécs, 29-12-2016



Dr. habil. Péter Várnagy PhD  
Associate Professor  
University of Pécs  
Hungary