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Priority Axis 1 **“Education and training in support of growth and development of knowledge based society“**

Major Intervention Field 1.2 **“Quality in higher education”**

Project title **“Development and consolidation of quality culture at the level of Romanian Higher Education system – QUALITAS”**

Agreement POSDRU /155/L.2/S/141894

SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA

14-16.05.2015

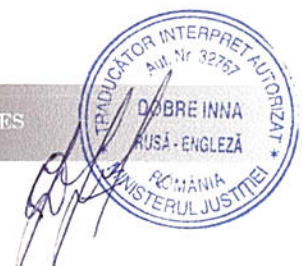
Mission Director:
Professor Gheorghe Grigoras, Ph.D.

PARTENER



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CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN
NETWORK OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES
IN HIGHER EDUCATION





SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

A. Evaluated institution: University of Craiova

B. Evaluation period: 14-16.05.2015

C. External Evaluation Commission:

No. crt.	Name of evaluator and University	Position of evaluator in the Commission
1.	Professor Grigoras Gheorghe, Ph.D. – University "Al. I. Cuza" Iasi	Mission Director
2.	Professor Adrian LUNGU, Ph.D. – University "Dunarea de Jos" Galati	Coordinator of evaluation experts team
3.	Professor Elisabeth Szalay SANDOR, Ph.D. – University of Pecs - Hungary	Foreign expert
4.	Professor Delia PODEA, Ph.D. – West University Vasile Goldis Arad	Representative of Consultative Commission
5.	Expert 1A – Mihaela BAJENARU - ARACIS	Technical secretary
6.	Professor Doinita CIOCIRLAN, Ph.D. – Romanian-American University of Bucharest	Evaluation Expert INSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION
7.	ANOSR – RAUTU Vlad Ionut (Politehnica University of Timisoara)	Representative of students
8.	UNSR – ABDURAIM Elis Sheila, Politehnica University of Bucharest	Representative of students
9.	DAMIAN Gheorghe – Technical University of Cluj-Napoca – North Baia Mare	Environmental chemistry
10.	ROMANESCU Gheorghe – University Al. I. Cuza Iasi	Geography
11.	FRANGA Liviu – University of Bucharest	One modern language and literature (A) – One modern language and literature (B)/ Latin language and literature
12.	ARDELEANU Mircea – University "Lucian Blaga" Sibiu	Translation and interpretation (English, French)
13.	GABOR Adrian – University of Bucharest	Pastoral Orthodox Theology
14.	CATANA Radu – Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca	Law
15.	CHIPEA Floare – University of Oradea	Sociology
16.	1. Mihai Florin – ASE Bucharest 2. BRICIU CONABIE Sorin – University 1 Decembrie 1918 Alba Iulia	Accounting and management informatics - distance learning
17.	1. Marta Ctin – University "Eftimie Murgu" Resita 2. Cristea Horia – West University Timisoara	Finances and banks – distance learning
18.	1. Maniu Inocentiu – Politehnica University of Timisoara 2. Dobrin Cosmin – ASE Bucharest	Management – Distance Learning

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19.	Alecu Aurel, Politehnica University of Bucharest	The Technology of Machine Building
20.	Navrapescu Valentin – Politehnica University of Bucharest	Electric engineering and computers
21.	Bica Romeo Dorin – Petru Maior University Targu Mures	Engineering of electro-energetic systems
22.	GAITAN Vasile-Gheorghita University "Stefan cel Mare" Suceava	Computers
23.	DULAU Mircea – Petru Maior University Tg. Mures	Automation and applied informatics
24.	CRISTEA Luciana – University "Transilvania" Brasov	Mechatronics
25.	SAMUIL Costel – USAMV Iasi	Agriculture
26.	COSTACHE Marieta – University of Bucharest	Biology
27.	COSARCA Constantin – Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest	Terrestrial measurements and cadaster

D. General framework of evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation of University of Craiova with residence at Al. I. Cuza Street no. 13, Craiova (UCv) was made for the purpose of identifying and certifying the extent that the evaluated institution satisfies public interest, identifying the existence in the institution of the necessary mechanisms for permanent following of the process of increasing quality in the teaching activity, learning and research, but also in the exercise of the legal right of granting diplomas and university qualifications.

The external institutional evaluation was made in the project called "Development and consolidation of quality culture at the level of Romanian higher education system – QUALITAS" (POSDRU /155/1.2/S/141894) co-funded from the Social European Fund by the Sectorial Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013, Priority Axis 1 "Education and professional training for the support of economic growth and development of knowledge-based society", Major Field of intervention 1.2 "Quality in higher education" and based on the protocol concluded on 20.10.2014 between the Romanian Agency of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) represented by Professor Iordan PETRESCU, Ph.D., as representative of ARACIS Council and the University of Craiova represented by Professor Dan-Claudiu DANISOR as rector regarding the establishment of bachelor's degree programs subjected to the evaluation of ARACIS.

The process of external institutional evaluation was carried out according to the ARACIS methodology, the quality assurance law in higher education and specific procedures mentioned in the evaluation guidelines.

E. Objectives of external institutional evaluation:

- Checking the conformity of information and data presented by the visited institution in Internal Evaluation Report (self-evaluation) and the information presented in annexes to report;
- Checking the conformity of legal framework for organization and functioning of the institution;
- Evaluation from quality and quantity point of view of teaching staff and all issued related to their activity;





- d) Evaluation of existence of specific regulations for all the types of activities, procedures and their method of application;
- e) Evaluation of institutional capacity, as described in the Internal Evaluation Report and argued by annexes to report, and by observations on the spot regarding the material basis, the existence of all the functional structures (academic and administrative management etc.);
- f) Checking the method of application of regulations in force in relation to the professional activity of students, from admission to university until graduation of courses, the use of transferable credits system, the performance of internship, assurance of the necessary framework for the carrying out of research activities specific for the study programs from II and III cycles etc.;
- g) Evaluation of educational effectiveness by checking the satisfaction of performance standards regarding the content of study programs, the results of learning, the realization of scientific activities, valorisation of scientific research, assurance of resources for learning etc.;
- h) Evaluation of the method of implementation of quality management from all points of view and for all fields of activity, which make the object of the mission of visited institution;
- i) Evaluation of the way in which the code of ethics and academic integrity is applied and the assurance of a real academic and scientific atmosphere;
- j) Evaluation of transparency level of public information in relation to specific activities which are carried out in the University of Craiova.

F. Procedures used for achieving the objectives of external institutional evaluation:

- a) Realization of meetings and discussions with the staff from the academic and administrative management of the institution;
- b) The performance of a detailed visit on the field, which included most of educational and research areas of the institution for the acknowledgement of the material basis, its quality and performance level, the way in which it is used;
- c) The realization of meetings and discussions with the teaching staff, with the students, with graduates and with the employers;
- d) Visiting secretariats and administrative compartments for acknowledging the conformity of application of procedures regarding the records of students, records of professional activity of students, the issue of study documents, records regarding the teaching staff, financial administration, public acquisitions etc.;
- e) Elaboration of visit documents (at the level of evaluated study programs and at institutional level) and the report of External Institutional Evaluation Commission;
- f) Analysis of Internal Evaluation Report and annexes to the report.

G. Method of work:

- a) Activities carried out by Institutional Visit Commission in its whole: the initial meeting with the management of University (rector, president, vice-rectors, scientific secretary, deans), with the representative of Quality Assurance Department (DAC), with the contact person for institutional evaluation, with the representatives of study programs; realization of visit on the field;



- b) Activities conducted differently by Commission members: evaluation by study programs by program experts; institutional evaluation by the expert from Institutional Commission, the expert from Consultative Commission, the mission director, the mission coordinator, the foreign expert and the scientific secretary;
- c) Activities made by commission experts, mission director and coordinator, the foreign expert, the scientific secretary and students from the Commission: the meeting organized with the students of evaluated institution, the meeting organized with the graduates; the meeting with the employers;
- d) Activities made by the foreign expert: the meeting with academic and administrative management of the university and with DAC representative, visiting the university/faculty campus together with the students from the Institutional Evaluation Commission;
- e) The students from the Institutional Evaluation Commission carried out specific activities in total autonomy conditions, according to a program defined by them;
- f) Analysis of evaluation results in the External Institutional Evaluation Commission in its integrity;
- g) Presentation of evaluation synthesis in a meeting which reunited the External Institutional Evaluation Commission and the University management (rector, president, vice-rectors, scientific secretary, deans), with the representative of Quality Assurance Department (DAC), with the contact person for institutional evaluation, with the representatives of study programs.

H. Observations of External Evaluation Commission – synthesis:

a) Institutional capacity:

- The University of Craiova has a university charta, which is a public document elaborated according to the legal regulations in force. According to Charta, the mission undertaken by the University of Craiova is: generation and transfer of knowledge to society by advanced scientific research and education, initial and continuous training at higher level of specialists capable to satisfy by professional insertion the competence needs of socio-economic environment, the initial and continuous training of teaching staff, promotion of European values in the scientific, cultural and educational fields, by international academic cooperation.
- The Charta of University includes the following regulations, methodologies, codes and procedures:
 - The Code of Ethics and university deontology;
 - The Regulations regarding the organization of admission to study programs;
 - The Regulations for completion of university studies;
 - The Methodology regarding the filling of teaching positions in the University of Craiova;
 - The procedures of election of management structures and positions. All the Regulations are in compliance with the normative acts in force.
- In University of Craiova the academic audit targets two components: the quality of educational and research process and administrative activity. Its results are materialized

in an annual report of the rector, which is debated in the Senate and made public. The University of Craiova has implemented and certified the quality management system in compliance with ARACIS Regulations.

- The University of Craiova has a Methodology for election of academic management structures and positions and its procedures were strictly observed during the elections at the level of departments, faculties and University of Craiova.
- The patrimony of University of Craiova is made of six educational units (the central building – Rector's Office, the campus of faculties with electric profile, the campus of Mechanics, the campus of Agronomy, the campus of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport and the University Centre Drobeta Tr. Severin), with a total surface of over 100,000 m². University of Craiova has 12 hostels which fully cover the requests of accommodation of students. Apart from the existing spaces, the university has development plans and realistic investment plans depending on the forecast incomes. The University of Craiova has a complex infrastructure CDI made of large units (three agricultural research-development stations, research infrastructure in applied sciences – INCESA). Most of educational spaces are the property of University of Craiova, respectively 90.85% of lecture rooms and course rooms, 94.64% of seminar rooms and 97.03% of laboratories where the educational and research processes are carried out.
- The Library of the University of Craiova has in the Department of communication of documents 14 libraries of faculties, the German Library (in collaboration with Goethe Institute of Bucharest), the passive warehouse of books and serials, the Library of unique items, the Centre of European Documentation. The current spaces of the library (reading and study) are of over 3,900 m² (of which over 2,000 m² represent the space for study in the student hostels), to which are added the spaces of departments libraries. Inside the university campus the students can consult free of charge online databases such as: Science Direct, Thomson ISI, Springer Link, Engineering Village, Scopus, Oxford Journals, Proquest, IOP Electronic Journals, Classiques Garnier Numerique.

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b) Educational effectiveness:

- The University of Craiova applies a transparent policy for the recruitment and admission of students, based on its own methodology, announced in public at least six months before the application.
- The results of the students during the schooling are attested by student's transcript. The institution issues the Supplement to diploma to all graduates.
- From the self-evaluation reports of study programs and from the checks performed in the visit, it results that at least 50% of graduates of University of Craiova get hired at the level of qualification obtained in university within two years from graduation date.
- The measures taken in the last year by the university management for the promotion of education focused on student are included in the Rector's Report regarding the state of university available online.
- The scientific research from the university has themes anchored in the fields and priority strategic directions of research which in turn were established according to the structure and specificity of the 10 faculties of university and taking into account the experience and expertise in research of the university staff.

- The scientific production of academic body of the university was materialized in the reference period elapsed from the last institutional evaluation by: articles published in ISI magazines: 959, articles published in magazines indexed BDI (national and international): 4292, articles published in the volumes of prestigious conferences: 2810, articles published in other magazines: 1021, books/chapters of books published in national prestigious publishing houses: 1400, books/chapters of books published in international prestigious publishing houses: 194, national contracts: 320, international contracts: 137, contracts with economic agents: 350, contracts won in internal competition: 48, physical experimental models, functional models, etc. ordered by beneficiaries: 27, patents/products with intellectual property right: 99, prizes obtained by teaching staff: 355.
- In the University of Craiova the expenses with the payment of salaries do not exceed 50% of the total incomes of the University, which assures its financial sustainability. Each faculty proposes depending on the specificity of specializations, tuition fees and administrative taxes correlated with the level of costs of educational and administrative services offered to students.
- c) **Quality Management:**
 - The quality management in University of Craiova is coordinated by the Vice-Rector's Office for Study Programs and Quality Assurance by the Quality Management Department (DMC). In the subordination of DMC there are the Commission of Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) and the Quality Assurance Council (with executive role). At the level of each faculty there are Commission of Quality Evaluation and Assurance by study programs (CEAC-PS).
 - University of Craiova has Regulations regarding the initiation, approval, monitoring and regular evaluation of study programs, updated and approved in the Senate meeting of 26.03.2015. The Program Officers and subject teaching staff monitor the compatibility of subjects with international references. In different proportions the study programs are comparable with European study programs.
 - According to the recordings from human resources department, out of 1,615 employees of University of Craiova (on 1st January 2015), 78.8% represent the teaching staff. The teaching staff represents 65% of didactic staff and the auxiliary didactic staff represents 35%.
 - The Library of the University of Craiova has in the Department of communication of documents 14 libraries of faculties, the German Library (in collaboration with Goethe Institute of Bucharest), the passive warehouse of books and serials, the Library of unique items, the Centre of European Documentation. The current spaces of the library (reading and study) are of over 3,900 m² (of which over 2,000 m² represent the space for study in the student hostels), to which are added the spaces of departments libraries.
 - For the accommodation of students, the University of Craiova has 12 student hostels. The accommodation spaces cover about 16.98% of the total number of students from the bachelor's and master's degree cycles. The University of Craiova makes available to students for professional and leisure time the Botanical Garden of Craiova, chalets in the

complex it holds in Rânca Resort, Gorj county and Mircea villa which the university holds in Craiova.

- The University functions in the cycle Plan-Do-Check-Act based on the data and information collected by the software system of University of Craiova. The database is regularly updated and offers a real and efficient feedback. The realization of this cycle is analysed in the Quality Assurance Council which proposes plans of measures subjected to the approval of CEAC.

I. Observations and suggestions of evaluation experts presented in the reunited meeting of Evaluation Commission and university management:

- Most of evaluation experts involved in the evaluation process defended in their individual reports with reasons listed in the visit sheets that University of Craiova assures the carrying out of all educational and research activities by resorting to the best practices resulted from own experience or accumulated from the exchanges of experience with similar universities.
- We recommend the university management that the hiring of external collaborators who provide didactic activities in regime of payment by hour should have in view only specialists who have doctor's degree in the field of subjects they teach;
- The adjustment of study programs for the purpose of increasing the communication skills of graduates in international languages.
- The analysis of the necessity to evaluate the study programs which are in the stage of temporary authorization to obtain their accreditation.
- Disambiguity of the role of commissions who deal with quality assurance in university, in view of assuring coherent process monitoring policies;

J. Strengths:

- Internal and international scientific collaborations in national programs of wide scope with EU financing, won by competition in the reference period, projects in which the University of Craiova has the capacity of coordinator or partner.
- The amplitude and diversity of connections with the social, cultural and economic environment for increasing the quality of didactic process and motivation of young didactic staff.
- The existence of important elements of international visibility of activity in University of Craiova, by concluding a substantial number of partnerships with other higher education institutions from Europe.
- By carrying out annual and multiannual programs funded by European funds, the equipment of University was substantially improved by building the office of the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences (POR project in amount of 13,663,840 Euro) and INCESA (project funded by POSCCE in amount of 12,681,793 Euro).

K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- In the educational offer (Law) there are no study programs in foreign languages (in this period a master's degree program in French is under development, founded on the consolidated partnerships with universities from francophone area).

- There are no international relations with Anglophone universities (Law). The mobilities of students and teaching staff in this academic area are reduced (to this date steps have been taken for this purpose especially with universities from United Kingdom).
- A relatively low number of internship agreements with public institutions whose organization chart provides the position of sociologist (for example, ITM Dolj, Regional Division of Statistics Dolj, AJOFM Dolj etc.) and the satisfaction of students' desire to get involved to a larger extent in sociological research activities on the field.

L. Final conclusions:

Following the analysis of Institutional Self-Evaluation Report and annexes to this report, Reports of study programs which made the object of evaluation in the process of institutional evaluation and annexes to these reports and following all the activities carried out by the External Evaluation Commission during the visit carried out in the period 14-16.05.2015 in the University of Craiova and mentioned in point G of this report, we can draw the following conclusions:

- The University of Craiova assures the quality conditions, fulfils the standards in force and creates conditions for future quality assurance.
- The University of Craiova has an adequate patrimony which allows the carrying out of didactic and scientific activity in good conditions.
- The long-term strategies and the operational short-term and medium-term programs regarding the research activity provide the methods of valorising its results.
- From the institutional evaluation and from evaluations of programs it resulted that the qualitative and quantitative indicators related to academic infrastructure are fulfilled, which demonstrates that the university can assure the carrying out in very good conditions of the teaching-learning process.

M. Qualifying mark:

Having in view the fulfilment of performance standards stipulated by the quality assurance law in higher education by the University of Craiova justified by the whole documentation used in institutional evaluation process, the External Evaluation Commission ARACIS proposes giving the qualifying mark: "**High Degree of Confidence**".

Mission Director:
Professor Gheorghe Grigoras, Ph.D.

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