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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 /155/1.2/S/141894

Key Area of Intervention 1.2 "Quality in higher education"

EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF PETROSANI

ARACIS
2015


PERSONA FIZICĂ
TOŞA GEORGET
Traducător autoriza
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Autorizația nr.9376/31.07.20



EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

A. Evaluated institution: University of Petrosani

B. Evaluation period: 26 - 28 March 2015

C. External institutional evaluation commission:

No.	Name of the evaluator University	The position of the evaluator within the Commission
1.	Professor Doctor of Engineering Lucian Puiu GEORGESCU, University "Dunarea de Jos" of Galati	Mission Director
2.	Professor Dumitru MIRON, PhD, The Bucharest University of Economic Studies	Mission Coordinator
3.	Professor Dumitru GASPARG, PhD, West University of Timisoara	Expert evaluator of the <i>Consultative Commission</i>
4.	Professor Doctor of Engineering Gabriel Marius PETRESCU, Oil & Gas University of Ploiesti	Expert of the <i>Institutional Commission</i>
5.	Professor Benas ULEVICIUS, PhD, Lithuania	Foreign Expert
6.	Professor Mircea NICOARA, PhD, Politehnica University of Timisoara	Program Expert – <i>Mining Engineering</i>
7.	Professor Stefan PENTIUC, PhD, University "Stefan cel Mare" of Suceava	Program Expert – <i>Computers</i>
8.	Professor Maria VINTAN, PhD, University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu	Program Expert – <i>Electromechanics</i>
9.	Professor Geo-Leonardo MANESCU, PhD, University of Craiova	Program Expert – <i>Industrial Energetics</i>
10.	Professor Aurel ALECU, PhD, Politehnica University of Bucharest	Program Expert – <i>Mining machinery and equipment</i>
11.	Professor Floare CHIPEA, PhD, University of Oradea	Program Expert – <i>Sociology</i>



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12.	Adrian PETCU, Politehnica University of Bucharest	Student evaluator UNSR
13.	Alina BOSANCEANU, University "Stefan cel Mare" of Suceava	Student evaluator ANOSR
14.	Oana SARBU, ARACIS	Technical Secretary

D. General framework of the evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation was performed under the project entitled *"Development and consolidation of the quality culture at the level of Romanian Higher Education system – QUALITAS"* (POSDRU/155/1.2/S/141894), co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013, 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"* and under the protocol agreement concluded on 16.10.2014 between the **Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)**, represented by **Professor Iordan PETRESCU, Ph.D.** as the representative of ARACIS Council and the **University of Petrosani**, represented by professor **Aron POANTA** as rector, on the establishment of undergraduate study programs under evaluation of ARACIS.

The external institutional evaluation process was conducted according to the methodology of ARACIS, the law of higher education and specific procedures mentioned in the evaluation guide.

The External Institutional Evaluation of the **University of Petrosani (UPET)** based in Petrosani, Universitatii Street, no. 20, postal code 332006, was performed *in order to certify the quality of education, scientific research, the institutional, administrative and managerial structures, academic results and performance of the University, thereby contributing to promote public confidence in the rules and standards of granting academic qualifications and diplomas by the institution.* The external institutional evaluation of **UPET** was also conducted with the purpose of *comparing the findings and recommendations made by the evaluation team at the previous institutional evaluation with the progresses made by the higher education institution.*

E. Objectives of the external institutional evaluation:

- a. verification of compliance of information and data presented by the visited institution in the Self-Evaluation Report, as well as of those listed in the annexes to the report;
- b. verification of compliance of the legal framework for the organization and functioning of the institution;
- c. assessment, in terms of quantity and quality, of teaching staff and all the aspects of related to their activity;
- d. assessing the existence of specific regulations for all kinds of activities, of procedures and methods for implementing them;
- e. the assessment of institutional capacity as it was described in the Self-Evaluation Report and argued by the annexes to the report, as well as by findings on the spot in terms of material resources, the existence of all functional structures (academic and administrative management, etc.);



- f. examination of the enforcement of regulations in force related to students' professional activity, from admission to graduation, by using the system of transferable credits, internships, by providing the framework necessary to conduct specific research for the second and third cycle study programs, etc.;
- g. assessing educational effectiveness by verifying the performance standards related to the content of curricula, learning outcomes, conducting scientific work, capitalizing research, providing learning resources etc.;
- h. assessing the implementation of quality management in all aspects and all areas of activity covered by the mission in the institution visited;
- i. assessing the way in which the code of ethics and academic integrity is applied and a real scientific and academic environment is provided;
- j. Assessing the level of transparency of public information regarding specific activities conducted within the University of Petrosani.

F. Procedures used to achieve the objectives of external institutional evaluation:

- a. organizing meetings and discussions with the staff in the institution's academic and administrative management;
- b. conducting a detailed visit on the spot, which included most education and research areas of the institution, in order to ascertain the material resources, their quality and their level of performance, the way they are used, etc.;
- c. organizing meetings and discussions with teachers, students, graduates and with a number of employers;
- d. visiting secretariats and some administrative departments in order to ascertain the compliance of procedures regarding the records of students, records of students' professional activity, issuing study documents, records on teachers, financial administration, public procurement etc.;
- e. elaborating the visiting records (in the evaluated study programs and at institutional level) and the Report of External Institutional Evaluation Commission;
- f. analysis of the institutional Self-Evaluation Report and Annexes to the report.

G. Procedure:

- a. activities conducted by the Commission for institutional visit in its integrity: the initial meeting with the University management (Rector, President, vice-rectors, scientific secretary, deans), with the representative of Quality Assurance Department (QAD), with the contact person for the institutional evaluation, with the representatives of study programs; the visit on the spot;
- b. differentiated activities conducted by the members of the Commission: study programs evaluation by program experts; the institutional evaluation by the Institutional Commission expert, the Consultative Commission expert, the mission director, the mission coordinator, the foreign expert and the scientific secretary;
- c. activities conducted by the experts of commissions, the mission director and the mission coordinator, the foreign expert., the scientific secretary and students in the Commission: meeting organized with the students of the evaluated institution, the meeting organized with the graduates; the meeting organized with the employers;



- d. activities conducted by the foreign expert: the meeting with the university's academic and administrative management and with the representative of QAD, the visit in the Campus of University / Faculty together with the students in the Institutional Evaluation Commission;
- e. the students in the Institutional Evaluation Commission conducted specific activities in terms of total autonomy, according to a schedule defined by themselves;
- f. analysing the evaluation results within the External Institutional Evaluation Commission in its integrity;
- g. Presenting the evaluation summary in a meeting which brought together the External Institutional Evaluation Commission and the University management (Rector, President, vice-rectors, deans, department managers, coordinators of administrative structures) the representative of QAD, the contact person for the institutional evaluation and the study programs representatives.

H. Findings of External Evaluation Commission – Summary:

a. Institutional capacity:

- The University is a public legal entity, integrated in the Romanian higher education system and operates in accordance with the Romanian Constitution, the law on education, the University Charter and its own regulations, as well as with the defining principles of the European Higher Education Area;
- Within the University Charter, there are listed 35 regulations and methodologies. The spot checks made by the members of the Institutional Evaluation Commission revealed the physical existence and publishing of these documents of regulatory nature on the university's website. This ensures transparency of the regulatory framework for all members of the university community;
- The operationalization directions of the mission statement of the University are materialized on three levels as follows: the Mission of education and professional training; the Mission of Research – development – innovation; the Civic and cultural mission;
- According to the National Education Law no. 1/2011 and in compliance with the provisions of the Methodology of elections for the governing structures of the University of Petrosani, successive elections were held at department / faculty / university level. Senate elected a president and the presidents of the specialized committees of this deliberative forum by democratic, universal and secret vote. Based on the Methodology of election for the management structures of the University of Petrosani and the Referendum organized within the university, the Rector was elected by the entire academic community;
- The University of Petrosani has no code of ethics and academic integrity, but within the University Charter, there is a consistent component by which are created the conditions for defending the values of academic freedom, university autonomy and ethical integrity;
- Within the university, the transparency of decisions and activities is ensured and the academic freedom of teachers, support and research staff is respected, as well as the students' rights and freedoms. Most of the decisions issued by the university



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management are posted on the university's website and the websites of the faculties;

- In recent years, the university management has been given a strategic component in developing and implementing **Strategic Plans**. Based on these key documents, the **Operational Plan of UPET**, respectively the annual plans of faculties (each faculty has its own operational plan which it subsequently assessed) and studies made on internal and external environment of organization, are annually developed and put into practice. In UPET operates a Public Internal Audit Department which is in charge of conducting internal audits, in accordance with the field regulations;
- On 01.10.2014, the total number of positions in the list of positions of UPET was 301, of which 168 occupied by tenured university professors on full-time basis and 133 vacancies. Of the permanent professors at the university level, 31% of teaching positions are occupied by the teaching staff having the academic rank of professor or associate professor.

b. **Educational effectiveness:**

- Within the University of Petrosani, the recruitment and admissions processes at all three cycles of study (bachelor, master and doctorate), are conducted in accordance with the principle of university autonomy, qnf by complying with national laws and regulations and its own methodology. Following the evaluation sample of some of the students files, that *the national quality standards in force are met*. The enrollment of foreign students is lawfully in force. A large number students of Moldova Republic study within UPET, of wich 226 study undergraduate programs and 28 study master academic programs; they greatly appreciated the study conditions they enjoy here;
- It was noted that students' professional activity is conducted in accordance with the national legislation in the field of higher education and the University Charter;
- Students passing from one year into another is based on a procedure that complies with national regulations. Regular assessment of students is made through written or oral examination. The minimum grade to pass the exam/colloquium is 5;
- After the licence/dissertation exam, legal study documents are issued, respectively, bachelor/master diploma and the supplement to diploma, by the Bureau of Diplomas/Study Documents that manages study documents in compliance with the law in force;
- The graduates of the University specializations are required on the labor market, most of whom were recruited positions corresponding to qualifications acquired. The university has a system for monitoring the trajectory of graduates through the *Graduate Tracer Survey Sheet*, a tool that allows outlining an overview of the evolution of graduates per year, professions, employment fields. *The internal evaluation reports of study programs* within the University revealed that in the period 2010-2014, the rate of graduates employability was over 50% for all study programs evaluated;
- Each faculty sets out the directions of scientific research and the research teams. The university operates seven research centers, accredited by the University Senate on the basis of a specific procedure. Following the verification of operational documents within the research centers, it was found that they have their own plans and research programs;



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- Establishing the research areas and topics to be addressed has, as benchmarks, the priority directions derived from scientific research strategy and mission of the University of Petrosani, as well as the provisions of the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2014-2020.

c. Management of quality:

- Within the University of Petrosani, with the approval of the Senate and the Rector's decision, were set up and operates the following organizational structures specific to management of quality: **the Commission for evaluation and quality assurance in the University of Petrosani (CEQA)**, the **Quality and Admissions Department (QAD)** which main mission is to support CEQA and implement quality assurance system, **those responsible for quality issues** at all levels: Faculties and Departments;
- ***Procedures for initiating, monitoring and regular review of programs and activities:***
 - Initiation of new study programs, planning, monitoring and assessing the quality of programs conducted within the university is done systematically, by complying with uniform rules defined by the Regulation on initiation, monitoring and periodic evaluation of study programs;
 - Decision making related to the offer of study programs is based on: observing national regulations, requirements of the area, the number of candidates in the admission competition, harmonization with the labour market, the need to develop complete lines of Bachelor-Master-Doctorate education, the compatibility with research directions of coordinating departments etc. It can be appreciated that the study programs offered by the University are developed based on academic qualification requirements and the Nomenclature of MECS on study fields and specializations in force;
 - The regular updating of curricula is designed to maximize the chances of graduates to access the labour market and contribute to a better perception they enjoy. Within the meetings that the evaluation committee has had with **the representatives of graduates and employers**, it was noticed **their involvement** in the processes of adopting and improving the qualifications framework offered by the study programs of the University and those amending the regular changing of curricular designs.
- ***Transparent procedures and objectives of learning outcomes assessment:***
 - **Examination and grading of students** within the University is done considering the *Regulation on students' professional activity and under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)*. The University monitors the way the examinations are conducted and, through specialized compartments, they develop studies regarding the correctness of examinations, whose results are communicated to the teachers.
- ***Procedures for periodic evaluation of teaching staff quality:***
 - The university operates 169 tenured university professors and 45 associate professors who conduct methodical and teaching activities with 3334 students, which implies an average ratio of 20 students per teacher. Regular assessment, promotion of teachers and the establishments of teaching and research workloads consider the scientific performance of teaching and research staff;
 - Self-evaluation and evaluation by the Director of Department is performed annually, in compliance with that regulation and other procedures in force. The university has multi-criteria assessment tools; promotion or award of merit gradations and differentiated



salaries or continued employment (if applicable) of persons who reached the retirement age are set based on them.

- ***All the individual evaluation reports within each study program evaluated in accordance with external institutional evaluation procedures show compliance with the methodological requirements.*** For students at all university levels, UPET provides enough learning resources (manuals, handbooks, bibliographical references, readers, anthologies etc.) for each study program, through the specific network of libraries;
- The learning resources are provided by the Central Library of the university and those libraries at the department level. Within the University of Petrosani, there is a Central Library with over 298,351 volumes corresponding to a total of 93 553 titles; of 298,351 volumes (253.663 published in Romanian language and 44.688 published in foreign languages), 217,772 are books, 21,401 periodicals, 56,803 state standards, 1708 theses and 667 are not publications;
- Within the Library, free access to learning resources is ensured, with the possibility to access international databases with open access: DOAJ, ScienceDirect, Scopus, the European Digital Library.eu Mendeleev Platform;
- The University of Petrosani promotes a policy of public information on all relevant data related to its work. Transparency of information on the services provided by the university and their quality is ensured in various ways, through coordinated actions at institutional level, of which the most important are: updating the university website structured in faculties and departments providing information on the study programs, human resources, facilities offered to students, schedules and other matters of interest to the public in general and for students in particular.

I. Comments and suggestions of the evaluators, presented within the joint meeting of the Evaluation Commission and the University management:

Following the external evaluation process of the institution and its study programs, the evaluation team makes the following **recommendations**:

- **regarding the teaching process:**
 - capitalization of the opportunities identified, including for improving the quality of study programs that have potential for development;
 - permanent revision of curricula regarding: the proportion of fundamental, complementary and specialty subjects, in compliance with specific standards;
 - promoting national mobility programs, both for students and for teachers;
 - permanent concern for improving the quality and relevance of practical programs for students;
 - minimizing the share of summative training of students and increasing the share of formative training;
 - promoting measures leading to strengthening the skills of students in terms of critical and creative thinking, integrated teamwork and proactive spirit.
- **regarding the scientific research:**
 - developing and implementing a proactive policy in the field of scientific research;
 - increasing the number of research projects conducted in partnership with researchers from other countries;



- tracking and highlighting the ISI citations of papers published by members of the academic community, increasing international relevance of each teacher;
 - trying to develop international collaborations, including by completing them by publishing scholarly articles as co-authors together with teachers from partner universities;
 - broader materialization of bilateral international agreements through joint projects;
 - setting up and developing organizational structures to support and promote the transfer of technology, best practices, innovative solutions and to provide engineering advice and assistance;
 - developing supportive regulatory mechanism and adequate logistical support for better student involvement in research.
- **regarding the relationship with students:**
 - increasing transparency in relationships with students;
 - developing a database to facilitate contact between graduates and employers, thus perfecting the system for monitoring the employability of graduates;
 - intensifying efforts to increase the visibility and attractiveness of study programs within the University, nationally and internationally;
 - enhancing the efficiency of internships for students, which is also requested by students who participated in the discussions.
 - **regarding the sources of funding:**
 - promoting the proactive spirit and creativity values over the managerial level;
 - intensifying efforts to diversify the sources of funding, particularly by increasing the share of funds raised as a result of research and consultancy;
 - attracting foreign undergraduates, master and doctoral students in relation to the development of study programs taught in international languages.
 - **regarding the institutional activity:**
 - implementation, with greater intensity, of values that define the modern university governance;
 - the use of multi-criteria assessment results from the University to motivate the teaching staff, both for teaching activities and for research;
 - improvement based on the management of continuous improvements of forms of peer review evaluation of teachers by students, self-assessment, respectively faculty evaluation by the management of the faculty.
 - J. Strengths:**
 - very good good material base;
 - research activity adjusted to regional needs;
 - significant collaborative activity in relation to the economic environment (applicable contracts, studies, reviews, etc.);
 - good employability of graduates in the economic environment;



- socio-cultural facilities and leisure activities for students and teachers.

K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- difficulties in attracting valuable high school graduates;
- difficulties in attracting young people to fill vacant teaching positions;
- the existence of a number of teachers without a PhD.

L. Conclusions:

Following the visit between 26 and 28 March 2015, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission assessing the quality of educational and research processes, based on the institutional self-evaluation documents and the findings during the visit concludes that the *University of Petrosani* ensures the appropriate quality requirements and standards and, on that basis, creates the conditions for ensuring quality in the future.

Therefore, based on the issues referred to in this Report and the records drawn during the evaluation, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission proposes the granting of “**high degree of confidence**” to the *University of Petrosani* for the management of the institution in terms of quality assurance for study programs and compliance with academic standards for granting graduation diplomas.

M. Score proposed:

Given achieving of performance standards stipulated by the law on quality assurance in higher education by the University of Petrosani, substantiated by all the documentation used in the process of institutional evaluation, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission of ARACIS proposes granting the score: **HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE**.

Mission Director:

Professor Doctor of Engineering P. GEORGESCU

Score granted:

Based on the External Evaluation Commission’s proposal, institutional self-evaluation documents, findings during the assessment visit between 26 and 28 March 2015, and the other documents of Annexes, the ARACIS Council concludes that the University of Petrosani is an institution of higher education properly ensuring the quality requirements and standards and, on that basis, creating the conditions for ensuring quality in the future.

ARACIS Council gives to the University of Petrosani the score **HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE** regarding the institutional management in terms of quality assurance for study programs and compliance with academic standards for granting graduation diplomas.

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Subsemnata TOȘA Georgeta, interpret și traducător autorizat pentru limbile engleză și franceză, în temeiul autorizației nr. 9375/31.07.2003, eliberată de Ministerul Justiției din România, certific exactitatea traducerii efectuate din limba română în limba engleză, că textul prezentat a fost tradus complet, fără omisiuni, și că, prin traducere, înscrisului nu i-au fost denaturate conținutul și sensul.

INTERPRET ȘI TRADUCĂTOR AUTORIZAT,

Am
PERSOANA FIZICĂ
TOȘA GEORGETA
Traducător autorizat
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