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Agencia Română de
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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”

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

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

Romanian Agency of Quality Evaluation in Higher Education

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**SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION
BANAT’S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY
MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA
4-6 June 2015**

Mission director:

Professor Ioan Ianos, Ph.D.

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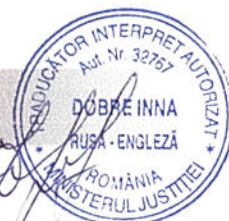
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SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

A.

A. Evaluated institution: BANAT'S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA

B. Evaluation period: 04-06/06/2015

C. External Evaluation Commission:

No. crt.	Name of evaluator and University	Position of evaluator in the Commission
1.	<i>Professor IANOS Ioan, Ph.D., University of Bucharest</i>	Mission Director
2.	<i>SARBU Oana, ARACIS</i>	Scientific secretary
3.	<i>Professor APAHIDEAN Alexandru Silviu, Ph.D., USAMV Cluj-Napoca</i>	Institutional evaluation coordinator
4.	<i>Professor TURLEA Eugeniu, Ph.D., ASE Bucharest</i>	Evaluation expert from institutional commission
5.	<i>Professor SZAMOSKOZI Stefan, Ph.D., UBB Cluj-Napoca</i>	Expert from consultative commission
6.	<i>Professor DUZAN Palic, Ph.D., University Ludwig-Maximilians, Munchen, Germany</i>	Foreign expert
7.	<i>LUCACS Mihai, University of Bucharest</i>	Evaluator student
8.	<i>CAUTIS Florin Bogdan, USAMV Bucharest</i>	Evaluator student
9.	<i>Professor CIMPEANU Carmen, USAMV Bucharest</i>	Program Expert Engineering and environmental protection in agriculture
10.	<i>Professor BAHIM Gabriela, Ph.D., University Dunarea de Jos, Galati</i>	Program expert in Genetic Engineering
11.	<i>Professor VIDICAN Roxana, Ph.D., USAMV Cluj-Napoca</i>	Program expert in Engineering and management in public food and agro-tourism
12.	<i>Professor CODREANU Mario, Ph.D., USAMV Bucharest</i>	Program expert in Veterinary Medicine
13.	<i>Professor GUTTI Sonia, Ph.D., University "Stefan cel Mare" Suceava</i>	Program expert in Control and expert examination of food products
14.	<i>Professor MICLEA Vasile Gheorghe, Ph.D., USAMV Cluj-Napoca</i>	Program expert Extracts and natural food additives

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D. General framework of evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation of BANAT'S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA (USAMVBT) was carried out for the purpose.....

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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 training in support of growth and development of knowledge based society*”, Major Intervention Field 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 **BANAT’S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE “REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI” OF TIMISOARA**, represented by **Professor PIRSAN Paul** 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:

- a) 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;
- b) Checking the conformity of legal framework for organization and functioning of the institution;
- c) 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 UPT mission;
- 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 BANAT’S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



AND VETERINARY MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA.

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

- Realization of meetings and discussions with the staff from the academic and administrative management of the institution;
- 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;
- The realization of meetings and discussions with the teaching staff, with the students, with graduates and with the employers;
- 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.;
- Elaboration of visit sheets (at the level of evaluated study programs and at institutional level) and the report of External Institutional Evaluation Commission;
- Analysis of Internal Evaluation Report and annexes to the report.

G. Method of work:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- The students from the Institutional Evaluation Commission carried out specific activities in total autonomy conditions, according to a program defined by them;
- Analysis of evaluation results in the External Institutional Evaluation Commission in its integrity;
- 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 observes all the normative requirements regarding institutional structures, administrative structures and management;
- By mission and objectives, it is individualized in higher education at regional, national and European level;
- the correct definition of mission which is didactic, scientific research, university extension and consultancy;
- The management system of the university observes the regulations in force, the management principles and good practices in EU;
- Updating of objectives compared to the Institutional Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2016 (four main objectives are correctly defined and achievable);
- thorough management of educational spaces (including the resorts and didactic bases), student hostels and canteen, library, sports base and own publishing house, buildings and agricultural lands;
- drawing up of all financial accounting statements according to the legislation in force;
- the management of financial resources is monitored every year by the university management and by specialized structures;
- the Department of Internal Public Audit functions by own regulations and its reports are analysed by the Board of Directors, and validated by the Senate and forwarded to the line ministry.

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b. Educational effectiveness:

- the study programs from the university fall within the field approved by Government Decision;
- the study programs from the university develop competences corresponding to the qualifications from RNCIS;
- Based on regular evaluations the study programs are revised, changed, completed or if applicable, abandoned or replaced;
- the diplomas obtained after the completion of studies, in every cycle are compliant with the regulations in force;
- the correspondence between diplomas and qualifications is confirmed both by employers at internal and external level, and by exchange programs for students and teaching staff with universities from EU countries;
- the application of an adequate and transparent policy of recruitment and admission of students;
- the admission is based on competition, according to the law;
- USAMVB totalizes 4848 students enrolled in full-time education, distance learning and part-time education (3726 in cycle I, 969 in cycle II and 153 in cycle III); from the total number of students, almost one third of students pay for their tuition; 130 students are foreign;
- there are currently practised collegial evaluation and evaluation of subjects and teaching staff by students, both evaluations follow procedures approved by the Senate;
- most of the students positively appreciate the academic module of training and qualification, respectively the content and utility of subjects as well as the quality of teaching staff,

- a valuable teaching body recruited, selected, trained and promoted only by objective, professional, scientific and ethical criteria which basically cover all the didactic activities provided in study programs;
- the existence of an adequate strategy compliant with the law of workload division for teaching and research activities, aiming at the quality and efficient use of human resources.

c. Quality Management

- the quality evaluation and assurance processes are coordinated by the "Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission" – CEAC at university level; it has under subordination the quality assurance commissions from faculties level;
- the quality assurance of study programs starts from the analyses carried out at department level, teaching staff councils and is completed with the approval by the Senate of internal evaluation reports which are approved, monitored or regularly evaluated by the Senate;
- the internal evaluation reports are subjected to internal audit;
- in reaching the Quality objectives, the university management is supported by the Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission;
- there are implemented procedures for the initiation and design of study programs, collegial evaluation and evaluation by students;
- the Regulations regarding the initiation, approval, monitoring and regular evaluation of study programs were elaborated in full compliance with ARACIS Methodology and Guidelines;
- in the Strategic Plan and in the Operational Plan the quality assurance activities are correctly inserted and well defined together with the necessary resources, including the deadlines for achievement of objectives.

I. Observations and suggestions of evaluators presented in the reunited meeting of Evaluation Commission and University management:

- the stronger supporting of student mobilities in the study program Erasmus-placement for internships in the field;
- the encouragement of internal mobilities of students from all the programs (by the model from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine) in universities with the same profile from the country;
- harmonization of Curricula (keeping the specificity) in all specializations, with similar curricula from the country;
- the increase of optional subjects' percentage and reduction of elective subjects' percentage in the Genetic Engineering program;
- cumulation of research infrastructure and human resource from the biotechnologies field in a single entity (department, research centre) for its use with enhanced efficiency;
- diversification of internship places and improvement of internship contents for a faster integration of the graduates in production;
- Widening the recruitment area of future students to counteract the reduction of schooling population in the area;
- continuation and diversification of university extension activities carried out by University Research Station and the other specific departments;
- improvement of marketing and communication regarding the continuation of specialized studies through master's degree programs, in order to increase the percentage of students who continue their studies in cycle II;
- the attraction of resources for the finalization of investment objectives and especially for the building of Horticulture Faculty.

J. Strengths:

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- valuable teaching staff with remarkable teaching and research activities;
- a regional space of support with which the University interacts in consonance;
- study programs which cover the current needs of workforce market;
- the orientation of scientific research towards the problems faced by agriculture and food industry at regional and national level;
- the existence of a material base, including for the internship of students, which supports performance in teaching and research activities;
- an efficient institutional management;
- close relationship with the economic, social and business environment;
- the attraction of students in research activities.

K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- the alarming approaching of the maximum threshold allowed in ARACIS methodology for the weight of professors and associate professors compared to the other teaching staff; in certain study programs it risks to exceed 50% in the next 2-3 years, if the necessary measures are not taken in due course;
- the position of university in the perimeter of Timisoara where the lands are extremely coveted by real estate and business contractors; we recommend maintaining the general tonus for keeping the current patrimony and to counteract urban aggression.

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 4-6 June 2015 in the BANAT'S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA and mentioned in point G of this report, we can draw the following conclusions:

- *Sufficient and well trained human resources* (511 teaching positions of which 321 filled). The teaching staff is involved in the research activity and the results of these activities are presented in scientific events and are found in specialized books and prestigious scientific articles;
- *Educational resources developed in agreement with the current policies of higher education*. There are study programs integrated in the three educational cycles: bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctor's degree and a strong opening to the socio-economic environment by internship programs and by research activities;
- *Adequate material base*. The teaching and research material base was modernized, so it can be the guarantee of performance support in educational and research activities. At the same time, there is a specific material base which offers sufficient lodging spaces to the students, but also other services such as sports and cultural services;
- *Good quality resources of information and documentation*. The study programs have a book fund in the university library, but also in other locations, which cover the necessity of students and researchers in the field of textbooks, specialized books, magazines, CDs, and access to international databases for many fields;
- *Managerial resources in permanent adjustment by perfecting education*. They are oriented towards the increase in quality of educational process, towards a better



coordination of this process and research activities. An important side is the relationship of persons with management assignments at different levels with the socio-economic environment, with the Romanian and European university environment.

- *The full fulfilment of compulsory normative acts and performance indicators.* The institutional evaluation and evaluation of the six study programs confirmed the attainment of thresholds by which these indicators are considered fulfilled and therefore, the University fulfils all the conditions which assure the carrying out of a quality educational and research process.
- *Constant concerns for improvement of activity.* Compared to the previous visit for institutional evaluation, we have acknowledged the fulfilment of all recommendations made, and the persistence of teaching staff and management body to make progress both in increasing educational efficiency and in the research process.
- The commission for external institutional evaluation of BANAT'S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA, based on the self-evaluation documents of the institution and the observations made during the visit, draws the following conclusion and certifies that this institution which is representative for Romanian higher education of profile assures the conditions for academic quality of education and research services.

M. Qualifying mark:

Having in view the fulfilment of performance standards stipulated by the quality assurance law in higher education by the BANAT'S UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMANIEI" OF TIMISOARA (USAMVBT), 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 Ioan Ianos, Ph.D.
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