



Invest in people!

Project 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”

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

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

**EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION
SYNTHETIC REPORT**

“1 DECEMBRIE 1918” UNIVERSITY OF ALBA IULIA

12-14 MARCH 2015

Mission Director:

Prof. Luca Iamandi, Ph.D.

PARTENER



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





EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

A. Evaluated institution: "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia

B. Evaluation period: 12-14 March 2015

C. External evaluation commission:

No.	Name and surname of the evaluator University	The position of the evaluator within the Commission
1.	Luca Iamandi – Danubius University of Galati	Mission Director
2.	Adrian Lungu – "Dunarea de Jos" Univ. of Galati	Coordinator of the Evaluation Team
3.	Gheorghe Solomon – Politehnica Univ. of Bucharest	Consultative Commission
4.	Adriana Giurgiu – University of Oradea	Institutional Commission
5.	Sorin Liviu Damean – University of Craiova	Program Evaluator
6.	Alexandru Ruja – West University of Timisoara	Program Evaluator
7.	Alexandru Chis - UBB of Cluj-Napoca	Program Evaluator
8.	Florin Foltean – West University of Timisoara	Program Evaluator
9.	Mariana Man – Univ. of Petrosani	Program Evaluator
10.	Marius Sorin Dinca – Univ. Transilvania of Brasov	Program Evaluator
11.	Daniela Danciulescu – Univ. of Craiova	Program Evaluator
12.	Dumitru Batar – Univ. Lucian Blaga of Sibiu	Program Evaluator
13.	Milan Pol – Masaryk University, Brno	Foreign Expert
14.	Carmen Mirian – ARACIS	Scientific Secretary
15.	Marius Deaconu – Univ. of Oradea	Student Evaluator
16.	Ioan Nutu Vlad – Politehnica Univ. of Bucharest	Student Evaluator

2

D. General framework of the evaluation process:

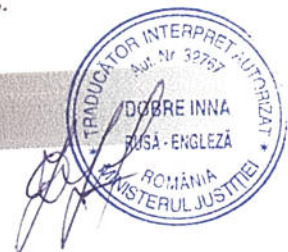
The External Institutional Evaluation of the "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia was performed in order to assess and certify the extent to which the evaluated institution responds to public interest; to identify within the institution the existence of mechanisms necessary for permanent monitoring the process of enhancement of quality of the teaching, learning, research, and also for exercising the legal right to grant academic degrees and qualifications.

PARTENER



EENQA

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



The external institutional evaluation was performed under the project entitled “*Development and consolidation of quality culture at the level of the Romanian Higher Education system – QUALITAS*” (POSDRU/155/L.2/S/141894), co-financed by the European Social Fund through the Sectorial 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 **Prof. Iordan Petrescu, Ph.D. as the representative of ARACIS Council** and the “**1 Decembrie 1918**” University of Alba Iulia, represented by **prof. Valer Daniel Breaz**, 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.

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 in 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 “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia.

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.

4

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 "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia 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.

5

H. Findings of External Evaluation Commission – Summary:

a. Institutional capacity:

- UAB has an adequate institutional capacity to support the learning/teaching and research process, in accordance with the standards and performance indicators. In this respect, it promotes a management system based on EU and national legal standards, and applies the management and the best practices in Romanian higher education and the European space.
- UAB has a very good material base and infrastructure, which was significantly optimized in recent years, with properly equipped research and administrative spaces.
- The functioning at departments, faculties and university level centres on a communication system of operational and strategic decisions, with a focus on continuous improvement of human resources at all levels and categories of staff.

b. Educational effectiveness:

- The structure of study programs developed within the university is in correlation with the National Framework of Qualifications in higher education. Therefore, the research in history has reached national levels of excellence and, in parallel, socio-economic and technological research has been developed.
- The areas in which the UAB prepares specialists meet the development requirements of the area in which it operates, being in accordance with the National Framework of Qualifications and market demands. In this respect, it is worth mentioning Social and Human Sciences, but also the Engineering Sciences through Environmental Engineering, Cadastre and Land measurements and Applied Electronics.
- Learning and research results are expressed by the capitalization of the academic qualification obtained. Thus, the university, which individualizes by its regional modernism, is involved in the socio-economic environment, involvement materialized through partnerships with local government, with prestigious companies in the area and the numerous contracts with the regional business environment.

c. Management of quality

- UAB develops quality assurance strategies which fairly apply procedures regarding the monitoring and periodic review of study programs, in an objective and transparent manner.
- The Quality Assurance and Assessment Commission (QAAC) operates within UAB as an autonomous structure subordinated to the University Senate. Each faculty has its own Quality Assurance and Assessment Commission. QAAC coordinates the quality commissions existing in faculties and establishes study program commissions working in an integrated manner. The assessment of institutional and program evaluations revealed that are met all quantitative and qualitative indicators related to the academic infrastructure, which demonstrates that the university can conduct the teaching and learning process under very good conditions.
- UAB applies objective and transparent procedures for assessing the learning outcomes and the quality of teaching staff.
- There is a Regulation concerning the initiation, approval, monitoring and the periodic review of study programs and activities, focusing on: analysing the structure of the Curriculum; analysing the content of syllabuses of each discipline; establishing the teaching positions; allocating the disciplines according to competences, the teaching position and the scientific achievements proven by the teaching staff; analysing the results expressed by the students' performances.

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

- Explicit mention, in the Charter of UAB, of all regulations applied in the university and their supplementation with all aspects related to the organization and operation of departments and functional compartments;
- Conducting the external financial audit by a prestigious auditing firm, nationally and/or internationally recognized, and the financial audit results to be debated by the University Senate and made public;
- Paying more attention to a more homogeneous establishment of teaching position and providing strictly specialized staff for each specialization field. We recommend to the university management to take complementary measures to rationalize the costs of the educational process so that to avoid unnecessary overload of teachers;
- We recommend the efficientization of tutoring system as a key factor in achieving student-centred learning environment, with a clear definition of mentoring activities in job descriptions and their possible remuneration;
- Following the discussions with employers of UAB graduates, it is clear that efforts should be intensified in order to: i) increase the level of training and in-depth knowledge and understanding of the foundations of students' future profession, namely the capacity to develop correct reasoning; ii) improve practical training, especially given that there is no internship after graduation. We recommend to UAB management to rethink the practical training, both in terms of content and the manner of its organization, in close cooperation with partners in the economic environment, in order to increase the complementary skills of graduates;
- Adapting the existing study programs in order to increase graduates' abilities to communicate in major international languages. To the extent that circumstances allow, diversification of study programs in foreign languages could be also taken into account;
- Establishing a prize pool for performant teachers, for those involved in quality assurance and for administrative staff members with outstanding results in their activities. Assigning a higher percentage of own income for scholarships granted to students, others than those from the state budget;
- Although UAB proves a constant concern for attracting students in research teams at their request, it is recommended that, on average, the number of those involved in the research projects to be at least equal to the number of teachers who derive income from research within the university;
- Appreciating the university involvement in regional projects, we recommend stepping up the efforts to increase the number of grants for young people, awarded through competition;
- Based on the high level of expertise in the field of history, we recommend its capitalization through more ISI publications;

- Enhancing the efforts to obtain the authorization to conduct Ph.D. programs for as many teachers as possible. Undertaking the necessary legal steps to conduct PhD programs within their own doctoral school and not in other universities. Further development of the international partnerships network of doctoral programs which should provide granting of common diplomas and conducting doctoral research in co-tutorship;

UAB has opened a Center of Information, Counselling and Vocational Guidance, whose activity has now little impact among students. We recommend hiring specialized staff in this center in order to provide students with useful information and recommendations for employment.

J. Strengths:

- UAB proves a constant concern for establishing a valuable teaching staff, for maintaining and improving permanently the professional performance of its teachers;
- UAB has a good material base and infrastructure, both in terms of quantity and quality, with modern laboratories and classrooms. UAB infrastructure provides good accommodation conditions in their own dormitories, as well as modern cultural facilities;
- UAB provides a reasonable ratio between the number of students and number of teachers, which ensures an effective teacher-student interaction.
- The UAB organizational structure, defined in the Charter of the University, provides an effective and efficient management at all levels. There is evidence of a quality management system based on a complete collection of procedures and documentation for the management of educational process, tailored to the particular conditions of UAB;
- UAB shows a constant concern for the development of research- development activities, proven by grants and projects with national and international funding, as well as a significant number of contracts with beneficiaries from the economic environment;
- UAB proves a very good relationship with the employers of graduates by organizing the students' practical training in specialized companies, by cooperating with them to equip the laboratories with the latest equipment and technology, and by continuous adaptation of the content of curricula and the topics of scientific research correlated with the dynamics in society;
- The UAB management, the body of teachers in general, has a very good and constructive relationship with the students and their representatives, a fact noted in the meeting of the evaluation commission with the representatives of UAB students.

K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- here are large discrepancies between the UAB Faculties regarding the scientific research. Motivating and stimulating faculties with modest results or engaging teachers in larger, interdisciplinary research teams are necessary. T
- AB website is not very attractive. We recommend redesigning and restructuring the website www.uab.ro in order to become more attractive and provide easier and more intuitive access to public information; U
- low level of communication between the secretariats of faculties. Improving communication between the secretariats of some faculties in relation to students, increasing the number of staff at the secretariat of the faculties with a large number of students, providing a framework for continuous training of the administrative staff. L

L. Conclusions

Following the analysis of Institutional Self-Evaluation Report and the annexes to this report, of the reports of study programs which were the subject of evaluation within the process of Institutional Evaluation and its annexes, and as a result of all activities undertaken by the External Evaluation Commission during its visit between 12 and 14 March 2015 in the “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia and mentioned in paragraph G. of this report, the following conclusions are drawn:

- All the quantitative and qualitative indicators related to academic infrastructure are met, which demonstrates that the university can conduct the teaching and learning process under very good conditions.
- UAB ensures the conduct of all education and research activities by using the best practices from its own experience or systematised based on the exchange of experience with similar universities in the world.
- The continuous comparison of the study programs and the scientific performance with those of universities in the country with similar profiles is an additional guarantee for the accomplishments ensuring the competitiveness at international level, for the quality of UAB graduates, of scientific research and its practical implementation.

M. Score:

Having in view the fulfillment of performance standards stipulated by the law on quality assurance in higher education by the “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, substantiated by all the documentation used in the process of institutional evaluation, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission of ARACIS proposes granting the score: **HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE**.

SOLICITAT RAMBURSARE
FSE-POSDRU
POSDRU/155/1.2/S/141894
ID 141894

Mission Director:
Prof. Luca Iamandi, Ph.D.