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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”**

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**EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT**

**“GEORGE ENESCU” UNIVERSITY OF ARTS OF IASI**

19-21 MARCH 2015

Mission Director:

**Prof. Nicoleta Corbu, Ph.D.**

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PARTENER



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





## EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

**A. Evaluated institution:** “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi

**B. Evaluation period:** 19-21 March 2015

**C. External evaluation commission:**

No.	The position of the evaluator within the Commission	Name and surname of the evaluator University
1.	Mission Director	Associate Professor Nicoleta CORBU, Ph.D. — NUPSPA Bucharest
2.	Coordinator of the Evaluators Team	Professor Radu OPREAN, Ph.D. — UMF „Iuliu Hatieganu” of Cluj Napoca
3.	Scientific secretary	Mirela VLASCEANU — ARACIS
4.	Foreign expert	Prof. Saulius VENGRIS — Academy of Arts of Vilnius, Lithuania
5.	Expert <i>Advisory commission</i>	Professor Alexandu POPOVICI, Ph.D. — University Oil & Gas of Ploiesti
6.	Expert <i>Institutional Commission</i>	Professor Marius BULGARU, Ph.D. — Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
7.	Program Expert — <i>Musical performance – Singing</i>	Professor Nelida NEDELICUT, Ph.D. — “Gh. Dima” Music Academy of Cluj-Napoca
8.	Program Expert — <i>Musical interpretation – instruments</i>	Professor Teodor TUTUIANU, Ph.D. — National University of Music Bucharest
9.	Program Expert — <i>Mural Art</i>	Professor Daniela CONSTANTIN, Ph.D. — West University of Timisoara
10.	Program Expert — <i>Conservation and restoration</i>	Associate Professor Eugen GUSTEA, Ph.D. — National University of Arts Bucharest
11.	Program Expert — <i>Fashion – Fashion Design</i>	Professor Radu Marcel MORARU, Ph.D. — University of Art and Design of Cluj-Napoca
12.	Student evaluator	Daniel POPESCU — University of Art and Design of Cluj-Napoca
13.	Student evaluator	Mihaela Palade – “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau



#### D. General framework of the evaluation process:

The External Institutional Evaluation of the “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi (UAGE Iasi) was performed for certification (accreditation) of educational process, respectively the study programs, scientific research, academic, institutional, technical, administrative, economic and managerial structures, and for emphasizing academic, professional, managerial, social, cultural, artistic, sporting and image achievements, at national and international level.

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/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 10.14.2014 between the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), represented by **Professor engineer Iordan Petrescu, Ph.D. as the representative of ARACIS Council and the “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi**, represented by **prof. Atena Simionescu, Ph.D.**, as the 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 “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi.

#### 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.

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#### 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 Advisory 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 of University Campus (from Cuza Voda no. 29, Horea no. 7-9, Sarariei no.189) 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:

- “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi meets the ARACIS standards on institutional capacity.
- It is the only university of arts in the country that brings together the three artistic fields – music, visual arts and theatre – in the same institution.
- UAGE operates in compliance with the law, based on a University Charter known to all members of the academic community.

- University functions coherently and effectively in all structures necessary to ensure the proper conduct of activities: the Ethics Committee, Quality Assurance Commission, the internal audit department etc.
- The University has valid and updated operating rules.
- UAGE governing structure uses information communication systems such as the internet and intranet.
- UAGE has a strategic plan up to 2017.
- The lecture rooms have modern and efficient means of communication. For music and theatre, there are 12 laboratories for teaching and research activities and there are 15 laboratories properly equipped for the visual arts.
- The Regulation for scholarships granting is applied at the institutional level, which states that the following types of scholarships may be granted: merit scholarships and social aid scholarship – all from budgetary funds, or scholarships awarded on a contractual basis by economic agents.

#### **b. Educational effectiveness:**

- UAEG Iasi applies a policy for the admission of students. Admission criteria are specific to each faculty and are published in a document called *The methodology for organizing the competition for admission to the undergraduate programs*, approved by the University Senate.
- A large part of graduates are employed or collaborate since their student years with art institutions (orchestras, theatres, musical theatres, operas, publishing houses etc.) or pre-university educational institutions.
- At least 50% of graduates continue their studies with master programs.
- Student-focused learning methods are a practice taken for granted.
- All curricula are provided with internships taking place in institutions of art and culture, secondary education institutions and companies of economic agents.
- Each teacher has a minimum of 2 hours weekly for counselling students, which allows customizing their guidance and orientation.
- UAGE has a structure specialized in student orientation – The Center for Counselling and Career Guidance (CCCCG), integrated in Institute for psychopedagogical training and counselling.
- The University has an institutional research strategy, a strategy that sets out the principles and activities meant to ensure national and international competitiveness and visibility. The research plan materializes in participation in grants competitions, contests, and festivals, art events, which are organized at national and international level, both for teachers and for students.

- Within UAGE, three doctoral schools operate in the field of Music, Visual arts and Theatre, preparing young researchers in the field of art.
- Scientific research and artistic creation in “George Enescu” University of Arts is predominantly focused on participation in exhibitions, biennials, triennials, creation camps, symposia, conferences, theatre and music shows, arts tournaments in the country and abroad; making concerts, films, solo exhibitions and performances – at national and international level. Also, the teaching staff constantly publishes books, chapters, scientific articles included in mainstream publications.

### c. Management of quality

- In UAGE there is a set of operational structures which coordinate quality assurance at all levels: Evaluation and quality assurance commissions of the faculties, Commission of quality and evaluation of education of the University Senate and Commission of evaluation and quality assurance at university level.
- The Commissions for evaluation and quality assurance (CEQA) of faculties aimed at implementing quality assurance strategies in faculties. They play an important role in developing and verifying the records of periodic evaluation and accreditation of study programs at undergraduate level, before being sent for approval to the Commission of evaluation and quality assurance at university level.
- Involving students in the quality assurance and evaluation is a common practice and is conducted at multiple levels.
- Each study program is evaluated annually at faculty level according to ARACIS requirements and criteria so as to ensure quality monitoring and improving.
- Diplomas obtained by the UAGE graduates state that the holders acquired knowledge and general specialized and cross competencies in the field they graduated.
- The peer review is based on Regulation on periodic assessment of the teaching staff and is done at department level.
- The evaluation of students is mandatory, it is held annually and the results are statistically processed in departments, faculties and university.
- University students have a free your access to the resources of the university library, which has 136,697 units / volumes in collections representing 40,436 titles and 11,524 audio-visual documents.
- “George Enescu” University of Arts provides various services to ensure a quality student life for its students. In this regard, we mention: dormitory accommodation, the possibility of practicing sport in the gym, on the tennis fields of 2000 square meters surface and in the fitness hall, counselling and career guidance services, health services.
- UAGE has a computerized system for collecting, processing, analysing and storing data needed for evaluation and quality assurance.

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

- Improvement of internal audit activities.
- A more pronounced focusing of scientific activity on the publication of scientific works.
- Drawing annual operational plans at the level of department, faculties and university and, specifying objectives and specific activities, responsibilities, resources, deadlines and defining measurable indicators.
- Concern for international visibility, not only on artistic performance, but also at scientific-academic level.
- Hiring a person with higher education in the position of Deputy CEO.

## J. Strengths:

- UAGE is a university that has built and strengthened a real prestige over time, supported by multiple achievements.
- The relationship between teachers and students is one of high quality, partly due to the specific of the university, but also to constant involvement and dedication of most teachers of the university.
- Involving students in decision-making at all levels of management.
- Excellent results, both of teachers and students to national and international events in the field.
- Good integration of students into the labour market.

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## K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- Analysing the fulfilment of indicators in annual operational plans at each level and developing a remediation plan for non-compliant cases.
- Including the analysis of indicators in the operational plan at university level in Rector's annual report.
- Increasing the transparency of decisions: disclosure of all decisions of the Board and Senate to all academic community by publishing them on the university website.
- Developing an annual report of the ethics committee and publishing this report on the university website.
- Making an internal audit and publishing the internal audit report on the university website.

## L. Final 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 19 and 21 March 2015 in the “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi and mentioned in paragraph G. of this report, the following conclusions are drawn:

- At the institutional evaluation, five undergraduate programs were examined, as follows: Musical Performance – singing, Musical interpretation – instruments, Mural art, Conservation and restoration and Fashion – fashion design. From the descriptions of visits, in conjunction with the reports from the expert evaluators, it resulted that the standards and performance indicators are met for each of these programs.
- According to data provided and verified by the external institutional evaluation commission, we consider that UAGE Iasi has an adequate organization and a good institutional and managerial capacity to ensure continuous growth and the quality level of study programs and to effectively support the process of training, education and qualification, in accordance with national and European standards.

#### M. Score:

Given achieving of performance standards stipulated by the law on quality assurance in higher education by the “George Enescu” University of Arts of Iasi, 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**.

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Mission Director:  
**Associate prof. Nicoleta Corbu, Ph.D.**

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