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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

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ARTS BUCHAREST

ARACIS  
2015

*Am*  
PERSONA FIZICĂ  
**TOȘA GEORGETA**  
Traducător autorizat  
**ENGLEZĂ-FRANCEZĂ**  
Autorizația nr.9375/31.07.2003



## EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

**A. Evaluated institution:** National University of Arts Bucharest

**B. Visit period:** 19-21 February 2015

**C. External Institutional Evaluation Commission:**

No. crt.	Evaluator's name University	Position of evaluator in the Commission
1.	Professor Ioan LASCAR, Ph.D., University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila" Bucharest	Mission Director
2.	Professor Engineer Calin ROSCA, Ph.D., University „Transilvania” Brasov	Mission coordinator
3.	Professor Engineer Alexandru POPOVICI, Ph.D., University „Oil & Gases” Ploiesti	Evaluator Expert <i>Consultative Commission</i>
4.	Professor Engineer Neculai SEGHEDIN, Technical University „Gheorghe Asachi” Iasi	Expert <i>Institutional Commission</i>
5.	Professor Mieczyslaw W. SOCHA, Ph.D., University of Warsaw	Foreign expert
6.	Professor Liviu MALITA, Ph.D., University Babes-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca	Program Expert – <i>Fine arts (photography – computerized image videoprocessing)</i>
7.	Professor Maria URMA, Ph.D., University of Arts “George Enescu” Iasi	Program Expert – <i>Fine arts (painting, sculpture, graphics)</i>
8.	Professor Dumitru ZAHARIA, Ph.D., University of Arts “George Enescu” Iasi	Program Expert – <i>Textile arts - textile design</i>
9.	Professor Nicolae SUCIU, Ph.D., Technical University Cluj-Napoca (North University Centre Baia Mare)	Program Expert – <i>Preservation and restoration</i>
10.	Daniel POPESCU, University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca	Student evaluator 1 (ANOSR)
11.	Marius DICU, University of Pitesti	Student evaluator 2 (UNSR)
12.	Doina STANCIU, ARACIS	Technical Secretary

### D. General framework of evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation was carried out in the project called “*Development and consolidation of quality culture in Romanian higher education system - QUALITAS*” (POSDRU/155/1.2/S/141894), co-funded from 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 based on the protocol signed on 16.10.2014 between the Roman Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), represented by **Professor Iordan PETRESCU**, as representative of

  
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ARACIS Council and **The National University of Arts Bucharest**, represented by **Professor Catalin BAILESCU, Ph.D.**, as rector, regarding the establishment of bachelor's degree programmes subjected to ARACIS evaluation.

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

The external institutional evaluation of **The National University of Arts Bucharest with the office in Bucharest, 19 Budişteanu Street**, was performed *for the purpose of certifying the quality of education, scientific research, institutional, administrative and managerial structures, of results and academic performances of the University, thus contributing to the promotion of public confidence in the rules and standards for granting university qualifications and diplomas by the institution.* The external institutional evaluation of **National University of Arts Bucharest** was performed for the purpose of *comparing the observations and recommendations made by the evaluators' team at the previous institutional evaluation to the progress recorded by the higher education institution.*

#### 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 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.

**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. Working procedure:**

- 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:

- UNArte has a good institutional and managerial capacity of assurance and continuous growth of study programs and efficient support of training, education and qualification process for the realization of national and European graduation standards.
- The mission of UNArte is defined by a series of “fundamental roles”: consecration and dissemination of art values as part of spirituality, culture and human civilization; promotion of free artistic expression, critical thinking, renewal and replacement of knowledge and expression means; training and perfection of human resources; participation of Romanian art and science in development of art and universal science; affirmation of identity of national artistic culture; development of Romanian society under the form of a free, legal and democratic state.
- The University carries out teaching and research activities of high quality level, which is best illustrated by the quality and qualification of graduates from all study cycles. The positions are filled with own staff who corresponds from the point of view of professional qualification to the requirements for filling the positions listed in job title lists.
- UNArte has among teaching staff personalities from the field of visual arts with national and international visibility. There is also a good relationship between teachers and students, carried out under the form of collaboration and partnership.
- The National University of Arts Bucharest has the necessary patrimony for the carrying out of quality educational process in agreement with curriculum and number of students. All the lecture halls are equipped with the necessary equipment for supporting the courses: overhead projector, projection screen, Internet access, adequate furniture, and the spaces designed for practical activity are arranged according to the specific requirements of each creation workshop and equipped with devices and equipment which allow the realization of objectives set out in the sheet of each subject.
- The University has eight lecture halls (course rooms – 501.77 m<sup>2</sup>), 60 seminar halls (workshop – 3,151.02 m<sup>2</sup>), 70 laboratories (2,543.78 m<sup>2</sup>), respectively six reading rooms (210.69 m<sup>2</sup>), the total area of the library is 2,328.78 m<sup>2</sup>.
- In the laboratories equipped with computer technology the University assures the deployment of seminars for one study formation by the access of maximum two students to one computer. In the institution there are seven informatics laboratories in which there are 89 computers.
- The library has 198 study seats (which represent 13% of total number of students) and a book fund corresponding to the subjects taught in various study cycles. The library has 143,237 volumes and 14 subscriptions to publications and periodicals.
- The National University of Arts Bucharest has a publishing house and printing press which assure both the publication and printing of a significant number of specialized volumes by which the artistic and scientific research activity is disseminated in the University, which assures the teaching materials necessary for the carrying out of educational process.
- The University has partnerships with other similar programs from abroad and collaborations with prestigious institutions from the country and abroad.

### b) Educational effectiveness:





- UNArte meets the criteria for the content of study programs, the learning results and scientific research activity. The study programs and diplomas are elaborated and issued according to requirements of university qualification. The university graduates benefit from recognition of their diplomas.
- The University has a valuable body of teaching staff, among whom 118 tenure teachers with basic position in the institution. The teaching staff from the University does not cover more than three teaching workloads.
- In the university there are 197 teaching positions, of which 127 are filled by teaching staff with basic workload or with reserved position, with tenure in higher education (64,46%). Out of them, a number of 10 are professors and a number of 31 are readers, which represents 35%. The professor-reader ratio is within the range 25-50% imposed by standards. The legal conditions are fulfilled for the associate teaching staff.
- The University applies a correct and transparent policy of recruitment and admission of students, publicly announced six months before the admission, by advertisements in the local and national press, and on the university website.
- Above 50% of students appreciate positively the learning environment. The artistic university education pays great importance to the development of individuality starting from the uniqueness of each student/artist, and the teaching staff directly guides the intellectual development of the students.
- In the university there are own research plans, the artistic and scientific research mission is one of the strategic objectives undertaken. In case of specific objectives, in the line research we have identified and specified the artistic creation activities by formulation of personal plastic project concept which represents the specialized research. The research has financial, logistic and human resources for the attainment of objectives proposed. During the period 2010 - 2014 the University organized 34 sessions of scientific communications.
- All the students of National University of Arts Bucharest have free access to the learning resources adequate to the specialization and study cycle they attend. The University has its own hostel and a Career Guidance and Counselling Centre addressed to students and its own exhibition space – the Gallery UNA.

### c) Quality management:

- In the National University of Arts Bucharest there is a Quality Assurance Commission whose activity is carried out based on its own Regulations and its own system of standards and indicators. Quality Management involves the carrying out of a process exercised by the Senate, the Commission for evaluation and assurance of quality, the vice-rector – at university level, respectively the Faculty Council and the Dean – at faculties level, Heads of Teaching Departments, study program coordinators – at study program level. At administrative level, the quality assurance is performed by managers and heads of departments.
- The reports of Quality Commission are analysed by departments and contribute to the improvement of their activity. The measures proposed by the commission are continuously implemented. The university implemented the internal management control system in the few last years (SCIM). For the three faculties and specialized departments of UNArte a number of 18 general operational procedures were elaborated and implemented.





- The peer evaluation is compulsory, is carried out every university year, both for the teaching staff and for the non-teaching staff. The individual activity of each teaching staff member is analysed by the Department Council.
- In the University there are Regulations for evaluation of courses by the students and an evaluation form for evaluation of teaching staff by the students. The evaluation by the students is regularly done, they complete the evaluation form of courses and teaching staff on the electronic platform UNArte. The results obtained are analysed by departments by the Head of Department and the evaluated person and they elaborate a statistic situation of professional performance.
- Every year the teaching staff evaluate themselves and are evaluated by the Head of Department. The University has a multiple criteria form which is analysed when the teaching staff is promoted.

**d) Observations and suggestions of evaluators presented in the reunited meeting of Evaluation Commission and University management:**

- Completion of technical equipment with state-of-the-art equipment, access to a wider range of specific equipment and renewal of existing equipment;
- Conclusion of more contracts for specialized internship in companies of the same profile;
- Calibration of the number of students depending on the current material conditions;
- Realization of a partnership between the university and the other art institutions;
- Difficult access to exposition spaces; it was suggested that for the students from bachelor's degree cycle there should be a dedicated exhibition space.

**e) Strengths:**

- UNArte carries out teaching and research activities of a high quality level, which is best illustrated by the quality and qualification of graduates from all study cycles.
- Workshops and laboratories are organized in pavilions with inner courtyards; the students have the possibility to expose works of art and carry out artistic activities in open air and to participate in other artistic events (sculpture, exterior decorations, concerts etc.).
- The students are supported in their activity by the fact that they are engaged in creation activities by participation in exhibitions, specialized internships, scholarships, workshops, courses supported by specialist guests in plastic and visual arts.
- The University and all the faculties offer current and correct quantitative and qualitative information about qualifications, study programs, diplomas, teaching and research staff, the facilities offered to students and any issues of public interest and special interest for students, both by notice boards and display areas from the offices of university and in electronic format.
- The ratio between the number of teaching staff and the number of students is established having in view the optimal deployment of educational process.
- The accommodation requests are fully covered by the university.
- Thorough selection of applicants based on competences.
- The teaching staff - student relationship is positive, individual and very appreciated by the beneficiaries of education.
- The high percentage of employability short time after the completion of studies.





- Appreciation of students and graduates compared to the information acquired in the study years.

**f) Weaknesses - suggestions:**

- Certain procedures and regulations specific to quality assurance activity are insufficiently applied.
- Reconsideration of tuition fees charged by the institution in correlation with the budget allowance and the fees charged to students.
- Increasing the number of applications of students and teaching staff for ERASMUS scholarships, considering the specificity of university and universality of arts field.
- Hiring a specialized company for the regular performance of external financial audit.
- The storage space for students' works is insufficient and the works run the risk of degradation. We recommend finding storage/archiving solutions in adequate conditions for the works of students.
- Popularization of scholarships system among students and display in a visible place of the scholarship report and the list of scholarship beneficiaries.
- The lack of an annual report regarding quality management at university level.
- Public dissemination of results and measures taken after the evaluation of teaching staff by the students to motivate the students to participate in larger number in evaluation activity.

**g) Final conclusions:**

Following the Institutional Self-evaluation Report analysis and annexes to report, the Reports of study programs, which made the object of evaluation in the Institutional Evaluation process and annexes to them, and following all the activities carried out by the External Institutional Evaluation Commission for the visit period 19-21 February 2015 in the National University of Arts Bucharest and mentioned in point G. of this report, we can draw the following conclusions:

- UNArte is a prestigious higher education institution with a long tradition and well-defined and achieved teaching and research mission.
- The University carries out teaching and research activities at high quality level, which is best illustrated by the quality and qualification of graduates from all study cycles.
- During the evaluation process the University provided complete and credible information on the teaching and research processes and another kind of processes.
- According to the data obtained and checked by the external evaluation commission, we believe that UNArte has a good institutional and managerial capacity of assurance and continuous growth of study programs and efficient support of training, education and qualification process for the achievement of national and European graduation standards.
- The experts team ARACIS appreciated the progress recorded from the previous institutional evaluation visit, the constant concerns for continuous improvement of quality in activities carried out by the university and the fulfilment of all the recommendations made.
- The institutional evaluation commission acknowledges that the University falls within the spiritual coordinates established since its foundation in 1864, when Theodor Aman, the rector of that time, said that „... *art indicates and crowns the superior step of social ladder*”.





## h) Score:

Having in view the fulfilment of performance standards stipulated by the quality assurance law in higher education by the National University of Arts Bucharest, justified by the entire documentation used in institutional evaluation process, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission ARACIS proposes the awarding of the score: **HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE**.

Mission Director:  
**Professor Ioan LASCAR, Ph.D.**

## Score awarded:

Based on the proposal of External Institutional Evaluation Commission, the self-evaluation documents of the institution, the observations made during the evaluation visit of 19-21 February 2015, and the other documents from Annexes, ARACIS Council concludes that the National University of Arts Bucharest is a higher education institution which properly assures the quality conditions and standards and for this virtue, it creates conditions for future assurance of quality.

ARACIS Council awards to the National University of Arts Bucharest the score **HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE** for the management of institution in the field of assurance of study programs' quality and observance of academic standards for awarding graduation diplomas.

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**TOȘA GEORGE**  
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