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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

**SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION**

**PETRU MAIOR UNIVERSITY of TARGU MURES**

**05- 07<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Mission Director:

**Professor Gheorghe Grigoras, Ph.D.**



## SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

A. Evaluated institution: **PETRU MAIOR UNIVERSITY of TARGU MURES**

B. Evaluation period: 05 – 07.03.2015

C. External Evaluation Commission:

No. crt.	Name of evaluation expert and University	Position of evaluation expert in the Commission
1.	Professor Gheorghe GRIGORAS, Ph.D., University "Al. I. Cuza" Iasi	Mission Director
2.	Professor Engineer Ioan Calin ROSCA, Ph.D. University "Transilvania" of Brasov	Mission coordinator
3.	Mihaela BĂJENARU - ARACIS	Scientific secretary
4.	Professor James Wickham, Ph.D. - Ireland	Foreign expert
5.	Professor Viorel LEFTER, ASE Bucharest	Expert in Consultative Commission
6.	Professor Doinita CIOCIRLAN, Ph.D. – Romanian-American University of Bucharest	Expert in Institutional Commission
7.	Mirela BILC, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj- Napoca	Evaluator student 1
8.	Mihai BELCIU, University "Vaile Alecsandri" of Bacau	Evaluator student 2
9.	Professor Vladimir Klein MARASCU, Ph.D., University "Transilvania" of Brasov	Program expert (bachelor's degree – IF) <b>Economic Industrial Engineering</b>
10.	Professor Valeria SOROSTINEANU, University "Lucian Blaga" of Sibiu	Program expert (bachelor's degree – IF) <b>History</b>
11.	Professor Lucian BERCEA, West University of Timisoara	Program expert (bachelor's degree – IF) <b>Law</b>
12.	Professor Mihai ROMANCA, Ph.D., University "Transilvania" of Brasov Professor Iuliana CIOCHINA, Ph.D., University "Constantin Brâncoveanu", Pitesti	Program expert (bachelor's degree – IFR) <b>Management</b>

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### D. General framework of evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation of PETRU MAIOR UNIVERSITY with the office in TARGU MURES, Nicolae Iorga Street no. 1 (UPM Targu Mures) was made for the purpose of identifying and certifying the extent that the evaluated institution satisfies public interest, identifying the existence in the institution of the necessary mechanisms for permanent following of the process of increasing quality in the teaching activity, learning and research, but also in the exercise of the legal right of granting diplomas and university qualifications.

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 European Social Fund by the Sectorial Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013, Priority Axis 1 "Education and professional training for the support of economic growth and development of knowledge-based society", Major Field of intervention 1.2 "Quality in higher education" and based on the protocol concluded on 14.10.2014 between the Romanian Agency of Quality Assurance in



Higher Education (ARACIS) represented by **Professor Jordan PETRESCU, Ph.D.**, as representative of ARACIS Council and the **Petru Maior University of Targu Mures** represented by **Professor Calin ENACHESCU, Ph.D.** 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 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 Petru Maior University of Targu Mures.

#### **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 sheets (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. Method of work:**

- 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:**

- o The whole activity of Petru Maior University of Targu Mures is based on the Charta of University, approved by Ministry of National Education by letter no. 46683bis/22.09.2011. The mission and objectives of Petru Maior University of





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GIORGHIU

Agenția Națională de  
Asigurare a Calității în  
Învățământul Superior

Targu Mures is defined in Chapter 1 of Charta (MISSION, VISION AND OBJECTIVES OF UNIVERSITY). The University as higher education institution is defined as didactic and of scientific research, which aims at:

- Training of specialists with higher studies for education, research, socio-economic activities, cultural activities by training youth in the three educational levels Bologna type: bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctor's degree;
- Research for truth, materialized by fundamental, applicative and dedicated research works;
- The transfer of knowledge and good practices to society and in the service of society by consultancy and counselling services which support the regional development in the spirit of generous principles of sustainable development concept, which validates the slogan of the institution: a university for the community.
- The Petru Maior University has Code of ethics and academic integrity by which it defends the values of academic freedom, university autonomy in accordance with the special status of the institution and has practices and mechanisms for application. In university there is a Commission of University Ethics which works based on own regulations (the Regulations for organization and functioning of the Commission of University Ethics).
- The Petru Maior University has practices of internal audit regarding the main fields of university activity.
- The Petru Maior University of Targu Mures has an organizational structure defined by the organization chart of the institution and has a coherent system of regulations used for the management of activities, by observing the legal regulations in force materialized by:
  - Regulations for organization and functioning of UPM;
  - Internal Regulations;
  - Regulations of academic management bodies of university, their functions and prerogatives;
  - The Regulations for organization and carrying out of elections and competitions for the management structures and positions of UPM.
- The strategic management is based on the Strategic Plan elaborated for 4 years (The Strategic Development Plan 2013 – 2016) and annual operational plans published on the Internet (<http://www.upm.ro/conducerea/index.html>) by which it establishes the managerial strategies in the fields: educational, scientific research, quality of education and research, human resources, and in related fields.
- The University has an efficient administration and control mechanisms and optimization of its activity, according to the legal provisions. UPM is affiliated to internal and international organizations such as the National Association of General Administrative Managers from Public and Humane Universities – Heads of University Management & Administration Network in Europe, being represented by DGA, which is also member in their management committees.



- The Petru Maior University of Targu Mures has adequate educational spaces for different forms of education and for research in total useful area of 8071.14 m<sup>2</sup> which are in property in proportion of 100%.
- The student hostels assure the accommodation in the limit of 813 places; according to the discussions with students and the management factors it resulted that for the month of September the degree of satisfaction of accommodation requests is 95% and in January 100%.
- The library has 55,383 titles of publications of which 52,649 monographs, 1448 courses, 1286 periodicals, most of them in printed format or in electronic format. The University has subscription to the online library Springer link which allows the consultation of over 1,356 periodicals and more recently to JSTOR, which allows the access to 350 periodicals of language and literature.

**b) Educational effectiveness:**

- The Petru Maior University promotes a transparent policy of recruitment and admission of students, based on own methodology. The admission to study programs is made by competition brought to the knowledge of the interested persons by display at the university office in leaflets, flyers and on the university website <http://admitere.upm.ro/>, visits to high schools, at least 6 months before the admission dates.
- The insertion level of bachelor's degree graduates in postgraduate programs is studied by the Counselling and Career Orientation Centre. Based on the study made in the centre it results that over 50% of graduates of classes 2012 and 2013 attend master's degree programs.
- The satisfaction level of students regarding the professional and personal development assured by the university is studied by the Counselling and Career Orientation Centre. In the university there is an evaluation system applied by the students to the didactic activities performed by the teaching staff, by completing the form applied after each semestrial cycle of training by the Counselling and Career Orientation Centre.
- The programming of research is made by the Scientific Research Plan at university level, in which the research plans of the faculty and departments are integrated, approved by the university senate, whose provisions are analysed and regularly evaluated by the Scientific Council. the Publishing House of university has worked since 1995, accredited by CNCSIS and there are edited a series of periodical publications, which valorise the research results: Scientific Bulletin ISSN 1841-9267, Studia Universitatis Petru Maior Series Philologia, Studia Universitatis Petru Maior Series Historia, Studia Universitatis Petru Maior Series Oeconomica, legal current ISSN 1224-9173, level B+ classification CNCSIS.

**c) Quality Management:**

- In UPM there is a Quality Council, a Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance at university level and subcommissions at faculties level, department level and study program level which work in integrated way and Quality Manual which presents system procedures and operational procedures.



- The evaluation of study programs is made every year, the reports of evaluations are archived at each evaluation level according to the Regulations regarding the initiation, approval, monitoring and regular evaluation of study programs.
- In UPM there has been performed a documentation of Quality Management System (QMS) which includes: Quality Policy and Objectives, Quality Manual ed. 3, rev. 0, developed based on the standard ISO9001:2008, ARACIS requirements and ENQA standards ed. 3, 2009; The Process Matrix; 6 system procedures; 27 process procedures.

**I. Observations and suggestions of evaluation experts presented in the reunited meeting of Evaluation Commission and University Management:**

- Correlation of subject sheets with Grid 2 RNCIS regarding the competences assured by the subjects from curriculum.
- the University makes efforts for the subsidizing of financial resources by research projects
- revision of curriculum (Law) and changing of offer of optional subjects, since the university year 2015/2016, in the meaning of observing the succession of subjects, the elimination of superpositions of classified list and content between subjects and improvement of the coverage degree of subjects with didactic materials (university courses, seminar notebooks) published in national prestigious publishing houses.
- Involvement of Petru Maior University of Targu Mures in the counselling and orientation of high school graduates towards higher studies;
- Structuring the communication between students and their representatives by as many means as possible to facilitate the access to information (for example, consultation timetable).

**J. Strengths:**

- Very well trained academic staff with a special practical experience, concerned by the assurance of a quality educational process;
- A very well applied academic and administrative management system at all levels, permanently monitored and perfected;
- The existence of detailed procedures for various didactic and administrative activities which made public and applied;
- Implementation of a modern software system (Internet, intranet) which assures good communication in the university and outside of it;

**K. Weaknesses – suggestions:**

- The lack of a student canteen and a medical office; foundation of a medical office and development of a canteen with a capacity adjusted to the number of students;
- Insufficient involvement of the students in research activities; increasing the involvement of students in research activities and opportunities offered by the university (for example, organization of "Scientific Week" in the whole university);
- A low activity in the field Alumni; active involvement of the university in the formation of network of Alumni members;

**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 05-07 March 2015 in the Petru Maior University of Targu Mures and mentioned in point G of this report, we can draw the following conclusions:

- The information available, included in evaluation reports correspond to what was noticed on the field;
- The Petru Maior University of Targu Mures has an adequate infrastructure for the educational process. We noticed the existence of modern equipped educational spaces, a research base connected to the university profile, modern equipment and devices. Adequate spaces for social, cultural and sportive activities, library and own publishing house;
- The University has a valuable body of teaching staff which covers all the didactic activities for all the study programs;
- There is an optimal relation between the number of teaching staff, with basic position in university and total number of students, which assures a high quality level in all study programs;
- The results of scientific research activity are materialized in studies, works, monographs, articles or volumes of scientific communication sessions.
- The university website is updated and easy to use and offers all the necessary data to future candidates or those who want to know the activity in the university.

### M. Qualifying mark:

Having in view the fulfilment of performance standards stipulated by the quality assurance law in higher education by the Petru Maior University of Targu Mures, which are 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 Gheorghe Grigoras, Ph.D.**

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