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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”**

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

SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA

07-09.05.2015

Mission Director:

Professor Ioan LASCAR, Ph.D.

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SYNTHETIC REPORT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION

- A. Evaluated institution: POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA**
B. Evaluation period: 07-09.05.2015
C. External evaluation commission:

No. crt.	Name of evaluator and University	Position of evaluator in the Commission
1.	Professor LASCAR Ioan, Ph.D. – UMF "Carol Davila" Bucharest	Mission Director
2.	Professor Engineer LUNGU Adrian, Ph.D. – University "Dunarea de Jos" Galati	Coordinator of evaluation experts team
3.	Professor TEICHERT Steffen, Ph.D. – University of Applied Sciences Jena, Germany	Foreign expert
4.	Professor POPESCU Mihai Octavian, Ph.D. – Polytechnic University of Bucharest	Representative of Consultative Commission
5.	MIRIAN Carmen - ARACIS	Technical Secretary
6.	Professor MATIS Dumitru, Ph.D. – Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca	Evaluation Expert from Institutional Commission
7.	OLTEAN Andreea – Polytechnic University of Bucharest	Students representative (UNSR)
8.	ALBINA George – Maritime University of Constanta	Students representative (ANOSR)
9.	Professor MANTA Vasile, Ph.D. – Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" Iasi	Program expert – Computers
10.	Professor POP SITAR Petrica, Ph.D. – Technical University Cluj-Napoca	Program expert – Informatics
11.	Professor LAZAR Corneliu, Ph.D. - Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" Iasi	Program expert – Automation and applied informatics
12.	Professor ROSCA Adrian, Ph.D. – University of Craiova	Program expert – Engineering and environmental protection in industry
13.	Professor WOINAROSCHY Alexandru – Politehnica University of Bucharest	Program expert – Chemistry and engineering of organic substances, petrochemistry and carbochemistry
14.	Professor GAVRILA Lucian Gheorghe – Vasile Alecsandri University of Bacau	Program expert – Engineering of anorganic substances and environmental protection
15.	Professor PRADA Marcela – University of Oradea	Program expert – civil, industrial and agricultural constructions
16.	Professor MATEESCU Teodor – Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" Iasi	Program expert – Installations for constructions
17.	Professor MARASCU KLEIN Vladimir – University "Transilvania" Brasov	Program expert – Economic industrial Engineering
18.	Professor VIDA SIMITI Ioan – Technical University	Program expert – Science of

	of Cluj-Napoca	Materials
19.	Professor PETRESCU Valentin Dan – ULB Sibiu	Program expert – machine building
20.	Professor BALAN Radu – Technical University of Cluj-Napoca	Program expert - Mechatronics
21.	Professor TARCA Radu Catalin – University of Oradea	Program expert – Robotics
22.	Professor CANANAU Sorin – Politehnica University of Bucharest	Program expert – Economic Engineering in mechanic field (Hunedoara)

D. General framework of evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation of Politehnica University of Timisoara (UPT) was made for the purpose of identifying and certifying the extent that the evaluated institutions satisfies public interest and the measures it assures for increasing quality in the teaching-learning process and in the exercise of the legal right to give diplomas, certificates and qualifications.

The external institutional evaluation was made in the project called "*Development and consolidation of quality culture at the level of the Romanian higher education system – QUALITAS*" (POSDRU /155/1.2/S/141894) co-funded from the Social European Fund by the Sectoral 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 **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 Politehnica University of Timisoara represented by **Professor Viorel Aurel SERBAN, Ph.D.** (by Professor Mircea POPA, 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:

- 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;
- Checking the conformity of legal framework for organization and functioning of the institution;
- Evaluation from quality and quantity point of view of teaching staff and all issued related to their activity;
- Evaluation of existence of specific regulations for all the types of activities, procedures and their method of application;
- 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 Politehnica University of Timisoara.

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:

- The Politehnica University of Timisoara is a higher education institution with tradition, with a clearly defined mission, with ambitious objectives and in full agreement with the human potential the University has.
- The activity and objectives of Politehnica University of Timisoara are in full agreement with the Magna Charta principles of European Universities and with the ideals of Romanian school, seeking the free, full and harmonious development of human individuality and the formation of competent, autonomous and creative professional personalities;
- The Politehnica University of Timisoara has an exceptional material basis which allows the carrying out of an adequate activity for the research, education, administrative processes and the maintenance of health of students and teaching staff.

b) Educational effectiveness:

- The University has elaborated its own recruitment and admission policy for students and trainees, which it applies in a transparent and thorough way, respecting the principle of equality of chances for all candidates, without discrimination;
- In the reporting period elapsed from the previous institutional evaluation, the scientific production of UPT is measured in a number of 6,254 articles in indexed publications ISI (2,372 articles in ISI journals and 3,882 articles published in ISI proceedings).
- The independent equipment achieved for the reporting period 2009-2014 from research contracts totalized 4,556,357 lei, amount which was mainly oriented towards specialized laboratory equipment (3,515,997 lei).
- Without exception, all the program evaluators proposed the maximum grade, in some cases even suggested the increase of schooling capacity.

c) Quality Management:

- In UPT there is a Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission (CEAC) CEAC activates under the coordination of the rector based on the Regulations for functioning of the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance in UPT approved by the Senate. In UPT there is also the administrative structure General Quality Assurance Department (DGAC) under the direct subordination of UPT rector.
- The policies and strategies for quality assurance are expressed by the strategic plans of UPT and UPT faculties. They correspond both to national legislation and ENQA and EUA directives.
- The tenure teaching staff with basic position in institution covers 650 of 902 teaching positions provided in the job title list (72.06%), which represents a very good coverage degree.
- UPT makes enhanced efforts to correlate the quality assurance policy with the similar actions promoted at prestigious universities which have similar fields of study with UPT.
- The University and its faculties provide current and accurate quality and/or quantity information and data about the qualifications, study programs, diplomas, teaching staff and research staff, the facilities offered to students and any issues of interest for the public, in general and for the students in particular.

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

- Urgent resolution of the problem of University Senate management;
- Performance of external financial audit by a prestigious audit company, recognized on national and/or international level and the results of financial audit are debated by the University Senate and made public;
- The intensification of the efforts of monitoring the tenure teaching staff of the university who do not hold the scientific title of doctor given the imminence of the deadline until they defend the Ph.D. theses;
- The hiring of external collaborators who provide didactic activities in regime of payment by hour should have in view only specialists who have Ph.D. in the subjects they teach;
- The efficiency rendering of tutorship system as key factor in the realization of a learning environment focused on the student;
- The adjustment of current study programs for increasing the communication skills of students in international languages. To the extent that the conditions allow it, they could have in view the diversification of study programs in foreign languages;
- Intensification of efforts for obtaining the capacity to run doctor's degrees of as many teaching staff as possible;
- Motivation/stimulation of faculties with modest results in research and/or engaging teaching staff in wider, interdisciplinary research teams.

J. Strengths:

- Exceptional material basis;
- Research activity carried out at the highest level;
- A relevant collaboration with economic environment (applicative contracts, studies, expert reports etc.);

- Good insertion of graduates in the economic environment;
- Socio-cultural and free time facilities for students and teaching staff.

K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- Difficulties in the attraction of valuable high school graduates;
- Difficulty in the attraction of young engineers for the filling of teaching vacancies;
- Existence of a significant number of teaching staff without the scientific title of doctor.

L. Final conclusions:

Following the analysis of Institutional Self-evaluation Report and annexes to the report, the Reports of study programs, which made the object of evaluation in the Institutional Evaluation process 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 7-9th May in the Politehnica University of Timisoara and mentioned in point G of this synthetic report, the following conclusions emerge:

- From the institutional evaluation and from the evaluations by programs it results that all the quantity and quality indicators related to academic infrastructure are successfully fulfilled, which proves that the university can assure the deployment of the teaching-learning process in very good conditions;
- The performance indicators are fulfilled mainly at levels ref1/ref2/ref3 according to the Visit Sheet, part b). "Performance Standards and Indicators". The reference level 3 was attributed ten times, which suggests the fulfilment of standards at a very good level;
- All the 14 evaluated programs received the qualifying mark "*confidence*".

M. Qualifying mark:

Having in view the fulfilment of performance standards stipulated by the quality assurance law in higher education by the Politehnica University of Timisoara, 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 Lascar, Ph.D.

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