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Agencia Română de
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Project co-financed from the Social European Fund by the Operational Sectorial Program Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013

Priority axis 1 „Education and training in support of growth and development of the knowledge based society”

Major intervention field 1.2 „Quality of higher education”

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

Agreement POSDRU/155/1.2/S/141894

EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND VETERINARY
MEDICINE OF BUCHAREST

ARACIS
2015



EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

A. Evaluated institution: University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest

B. Evaluation period: June 11 - 13 2015

C. External Institutional Evaluation Commission:

Control No.	Evaluator Name	Evaluator position within the Commission
	University	
1.	Univ. Prof. Iordan PETRESCU Ph.D., Civil Engineering Technical University Bucharest	Mission director
2.	Univ. Prof. Ioan Calin ROSCA Ph.D., „Transilvania” University Brasov	Mission coordinator
3.	Univ. Prof. Emilian STANCU Ph.D., University of Bucharest	Expert Evaluator <i>Consultative Commission</i>
4.	Univ. Prof. Anca BUZOIANU Ph.D., Medicine and Pharmacy University „Iuliu Hateganu” Cluj-Napoca	Expert <i>Institutional Commission</i>
5.	Ph.D. Terez KLEISZ, Pecs University, Hungary	Foreign expert
6.	Univ. Prof. Roxana VIDICAN Ph.D., Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine University Cluj-Napoca	Program expert (bachelor–full-time) <i>Agriculture</i>
7.	Univ. Prof. Irina GOSTIN Ph.D. „Alexandru Ioana Cuza” University Iasi	Program expert (bachelor –full-time) <i>Biology</i>
8.	Univ. Prof. Tiberiu IANCU Ph.D., Banat Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine University „Michael I King of Romania” Timisoara	Program expert (bachelor - full-time) <i>Agricultural economic engineering</i>
9.	Univ. Prof. Radu SESTRAS Ph.D., Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine University Cluj-Napoca	Program expert (bachelor - full-time) <i>Landscaping</i>
10.	Univ. Prof. Nicolae PACALA Ph.D., Banat USAMV „Mihai I King of Romania” Timisoara	Program Expert (bachelor - full-time) <i>Zoo culture</i>
11.	Univ. Prof. Camelia SAND Ph.D. „Lucian Blaga” University Sibiu	Expert program expert
12.	Univ. Prof. Gabriela BHRIM Ph.D., „Dunarea de Jos” University din Galati	Expert program expert
13.	Univ. Prof. Ioan Gheorghe OROIAN Ph.D, Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine University Cluj-Napoca	Expert program expert

14.	Univ. Prof. dr. Ichinur OMER Ph.D., Ovidius University Constanta	Expert program expert
15.	Luca CIUBOTARU, „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Iasi	Student evaluator 1 ANOSR
16.	Ionica NISTOR, „Dunarea de Jos” University Galati	Student evaluator 2 UNSR
17.	Mihaela BAJENARU, ARACIS	Technical secretary

D. General frame of the evaluation process:

External institutional evaluation was made within the project: “*Development and consolidation of quality culture at the level of Romanian Higher Education system - QUALITAS*” (POSDRU/155/1.2/S/141894), co-financed from the European Social Fund by the Sectorial Operational Human Resources Development Program 2007 – 2013, Priority Axis 1 „*Education and professional training for supporting the economic growth and development of the knowledge based society*”, Major intervention field 1.2 „*Quality of the higher education*” and based on the protocol concluded on October 15th 2014 between the **Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)**, represented by **Univ. Prof. Iordan PETRESCU Ph.D.** as representative of the ARACIS Council, and **University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest**, represented by **Univ. Conf. Razvan Ionut TEODORESCU Ph.D.** in his capacity as rector, regarding the setting of higher education license studies subject to ARACIS evaluation.

External institutional evaluation process was performed under the ARACIS methodology, higher education quality assurance legislation and specific procedures referred to by the evaluation guide.

External institutional evaluation of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest having been based in Bucharest, 59 Marasti bd., District 1, code 011464, was performed for the reassurance of the reinforcement of the quality of education, scientific research, institutional structures, administrative and managerial, of the University academic results and performances, conducting to promoting the public trust into the higher education qualifications and certificates granting standards by the institution. External institutional evaluation of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest was performed also for the purpose of comparing the findings and recommendations made by the evaluators team during the previous institutional evaluation with the progress made by the higher education institution.

E. Objects of the external institutional evaluation:

- Observance of the information conformity and data presented by the institutions referred to into the Institutional Self-evaluation Report, as well as of those presented by its addendums;
- Observance of the conformity with the organization legal frame and operation of the institution;
- Teaching personnel quantity and quality evaluation and all the aspects related to its activity;
- Observance of the existence of specific regulations for all type of activities, procedures and their implementation;
- Evaluation of the institutional capacity, as it was described by the Institutional Self-evaluation Report and supported by its addendums, as well as by findings on the field, in what concerns the material base and existence of all functional structures (academic management and administrative etc.);

- f. Observance of the regulations in force implementation in relation to the students professional activity, from their acceptance by the University to classes graduation, the use of transferable credits system, practical activity, provision of the required frame for the performance of the specific research activities for phases II and III study programs etc.;
- g. Evaluation of the educational effectiveness by observing the compliance with the performance standards in relation to: the content of the studies program, learning results, scientific activities performance, scientific research capitalization, provision of learning resources etc.;
- h. Observance of the quality management implementation under all its aspects and for all the activity fields that are making the scope of the mission of the observed institution;
- i. Observance of the implementation of the Ethics code and Academic integrity and an academic and real scientific climate is provided;
- j. Observance of the public information transparency level in relation to the specific activities performed within the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest.

F. Procedures used for the achievement of the external institutional evaluation objectives:

- a. Setting up meetings and discussions with the academic and administrative management of the institution;
- b. Performing a detailed visit on the field, containing the majority of the learning and research areas of the institutions, for the observance of the existence of the material base, quality and its performance level, the way it is being used etc.;
- c. Setting up meetings and discussions with the professors, students and graduates and a series of employers;
- d. Visitation of the secretariat and administrative compartments for the observance of the conformity of procedures implementation related to the students registration and their professional activity, registration of documents issuance, registration of the teaching personnel, financial administration, public acquisitions, etc.;
- e. Drafting the audit charts (on the level of the evaluated study programs and institutional level) and the External Institutional Evaluation Commission report;
- f. The analysis of the Institutional Self-evaluation Report and its Addendums.

G. Work method:

- a. Activities performed by the External Institutional Evaluation Commission in its entirety: initial meeting with the University management (rector, president, vice-chancellors, scientific secretary, deans), with the representative of the Quality Assurance Department (QAD), the contact person for the institutional evaluation, representatives of the study programs; making the on field visit;
- b. Activities performed differentiated by the Commission members: study programs evaluation by the program experts; institutional evaluation by the Institutional Commission expert, Consultative Commission expert, mission director, mission coordinator, foreign expert and technical secretary;
- c. Activities performed by the commission experts, mission director and coordinator, foreign expert, technical secretary and Commission students: the meeting organized with the evaluated institution students, the meeting organized with the graduates, the meetings organized with the employers;
- d. Activities performed by the foreign expert: meeting with the academic and administrative management of the institution and QAD representative, visitation of the Agricultural Science



- and Veterinary Medicine University Bucharest together with the students within the External Institutional Evaluation Commission;
- e. Students within the External Institutional Evaluation Commission have performed specific activities under full autonomy conditions, corresponding to a program defined by themselves;
 - f. Analysis of the evaluation results within the External Institutional Evaluation Commission in its entirety;
 - g. Presentation of the evaluation summary within a meeting reuniting the External Institutional Evaluation Commission and the University management (rector, president, vice-chancellors, deans, department directors, administrative general director), QAD representative, contact person for the institutional evaluation and representatives of the study programs.

H. External Institutional Evaluation Commission findings – summary:

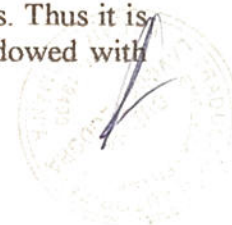
a. Institutional capacity:

- The entire activity of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, is based on the University Charta, adopted by the University Senate on November 25th 2014 and approved by the Ministry by address no. 6559/05.12.2014.
- The mission of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest is to form professionals with a high degree of qualification and competences corresponding to the demands of the work force market within the fundamental fields: “engineering science” and “biology science”.
- As a result, USAMV in Bucharest covers, by approved study programs the following fields: Agricultural science, Biology, Forestry, Horticulture, Zoo culture, Veterinary medicine, Food products engineering, Civil engineering, Environment engineering, Geodesic engineering, Biotechnologies, Applied engineering science, Engineering and management, Engineering and management in agriculture and rural development.

The university, as higher education institution, is defined as being didactic and of scientific research, targeting:

- Training higher education professionals for teaching, research, socio-economic and cultural activities by training the youngsters into the three Bologna type educational levels: licence, master’s degree, and Ph.D.;
- Scientific research, applied by fundamental, applicative and dedicated analysis work;
- Knowledge and good practices transfer to society and in the service of the society by consultancy services and counselling for the regional development in the spirit of the sustainable development generous principles concept, thus, validating the institution motto: “A university for the community”;
- The entire didactic and research activity within USAMV of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest is performed under the national legislations and self-made regulations, approved by the university senate, addendums to the University Charta. Regulations are compatible with the legislation in force into the education field, being approved by the University Senate. The Senate decisions are communicated at faculty and departments level, transparently so, being known within the University and by the university web page;
- Within the University have been drafted: the Internal regulation that applies unitary to the entire university personnel during the performance of some activities in USAMV Bucharest, regardless of the category they are in as well as students’; and the Organization and performance regulation wherein is defined the university structure and training structures, scientific research, supporting structures, administrative structures;

- University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine has an Ethics and professional deontology cod, whereby are protected the academic liberties values, university autonomy in relation to the special position of the institution and employs practices and mechanisms for application. The code is an addendum to the university Charta and it is known by the academic and professional community;
- Within the university there is an *Ethics commission* that functions based on the regulations of the University and based on a self-made regulation. The commission's main activity is the implementation of the ethical code principles and academic integrity;
- The university employs internal auditing practices in relation to the main university activity fields. The audit department performs the internal financial audit for all the departments being drafted, annually, an internal audit report, which is presented and discussed upon within a meeting with the University senate;
- The University chancellor presents annually a Report on the University status, which is public. The Report contains information and data on the financial status of the University, teaching and research personnel, students, material base, scientific research, internal and international relations, internal quality assurance, university ethics and others;
- University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine has an organizational structure defined by the institution flowchart. The University has a coherent regulation system used for the activities management, in compliance with the legal regulations in force. The management of all organizational and academic performance structures is represented by higher education tenured professors, having the didactic position as professor or university lecturer, with basic norm in the university and who meet the conditions mentioned by the elections regulation;
- The University has a strategic plan and annual operational plans. These are published on the university webpage in order to be known by the universities community members and are implemented according to rigorous follow practices and mechanisms. The University strategic plan highlights the institutional priorities and target the following aspects: education program, research initiatives, learning environment, work relationships and the relationship with the community;
- Nowadays, the University employs a Strategy with a horizon up to 2016 being prepared with a new strategy by 2020;
- The University owns its own areas (90%) for the proper performance of the educative activities and scientific research. The faculties own a sufficient number of lecture rooms, their own laboratories, rooms for seminars and other specific activities that are performed by students groups. All lectures rooms are endowed with the logistics required for class support: vide picture projector, protection screen, Internet access, appropriate furniture, and the areas designated for practical activities are set up according to requirements specific to each laboratory and endowed with modern equipment and apparatus allowing the achievement of the objectives set by the chart of each subject;
- USAMV Bucharest has developed an important agricultural patrimony within didactic and experimental farms and supporting the training educational activity (practical activity), corresponding to the three courses. As well as supporting the scientific research activity (application research fields and the speciality consultancy activity for agriculture);
- The University presently owns a modern scientific research centre (The Research Centre for the Study of Agricultural Products Quality – HORTINVEST), providing laboratories with competitive endowments for all assumed scientific fields;
- The University has accommodation in 10 halls modernized within the last 5 years. Thus it is provided accommodation for 42,59% students. In the halls there are offices endowed with household appliance, internet cable, TV cable etc.;

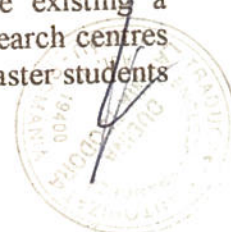




- The University owns a Central Library and faculty libraries providing learning tools in the entire specialty fields wherein are being employed learning and research activities within the University. The Central Library located in Marasti campus has a branch within the Veterinary Medicine Faculty, in 105 Splaiul Independenței, district 5. The Library is functioning based on the University regulations and their own regulations.

b. Educational effectiveness:

- University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest promotes a transparent students recruitment and acceptance policy, based on its own methodology;
- The admission examination is organized for each study program, representing the main recruitment activity of students and class takers. All students have an AB;
- Data on the admission to all type of classes can be found on the website: <http://www.usamv.ro/>
- The University is organizing information and promotion events, such as: the day of open gates, missions for the promotion of the educational offer within high schools etc.;
- Considering the specific of the University a large part of the graduates find a position on the job market. The Faculties within USAMV Bucharest maintains contact with the faculty graduates, and the graduates lists are posted on the webpage of each faculty;
- More than 70 % of the University graduates are employed within two years from graduation to the level of university qualifications received. The number of BA graduates who are attending master's specialities is rising. There are differences from one study program to another and from a faculty to another;
- The satisfaction students level against the professional and personal development provided by the University is studied by the Career Orientation and Counselling Centre;
- Internal analysis made annually, at the level of each faculty, as well as at universities level, shows that over 50 % of the students positively appreciate the learning environment provided by the University;
- The educational activity from the University is based on student focused learning methods and media, which are presented into the subject leaflets and are being brought to their attention by publishing them on the faculties boards. Each faculty provides the professors and students with modern technical means for the performance under the most efficient conditions, of the learning and teaching processes (multimedia systems, intelligent boards, flipcharts etc.);
- The professors are using the modern students notification systems (webpage, e-mail) whereby are provided the materials required for the notification and training and whereby they communicate for the achievement of the objectives of each speciality;
- The University has its own strategy regarding the scientific research, approved by the University Senate and drafts average and short term programs, respectively annual programs. The University provides the development of the materials required for the scientific research and supports the running of research-development projects, provides experimental fields in various ecologic conditions, as well as equipment;
- Scientific research financing is provided by funds attracted by participating in national and international competitions, as well as funds brought by partnership with private bodies;
- Within USAMV Bucharest there is a number of 9 scientific research centres accredited by CNCSIS and/or ANCS a research institute within the field of zoo-culture existing a competitive endowment, appropriate for the research directions. Within the research centres deploy their activity the professors, postdoctoral students, Ph.D. students and master students



- as well as some students who are developing their licence papers on fundamental research themes;
- The results of the professors scientific research activities within USAMV Bucharest are capitalized by publications in speciality publications or by books and treaties published by famous publishing houses from Romania or abroad, as well as by scientific communications to sessions, symposiums and other scientific activities from Romania or abroad, contracts, expertise, consultancy, based on agreements;
 - By the performed scientific activity an important number of professors from universities are enjoying recognition from the national and international community: gold medal for 2 invention patents; 2 UEFSCDI awards for 2 articles in Br J Nutrition and Biomed Res Int J and 2 Excellency diploma and Gold medals at the National inventions exhibition „Proinvent”.

c. Quality management:

- Within the University, the specific evaluation and quality assurance structure is the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission (EQAC), constituted under the national legislation in force in relation to quality assurance and based on its own regulation. The Commission works with the corresponding commissions for each faculty and at department levels for the quality assurance evaluation;
- Monitoring the quality and efficiency of the study programs is performed according to the evolution of exigencies of the workforce market, as well as to the evolution of the knowledge and technologic evolution on international and national level. Revised study programs are subject to analysis and approval by the Academic Council;
- Initiation and approval of the study programs is made by the decisions of the Faculties Councils and University Senate, under the legislation in force and University Charta. The University has an initiation regulation, approval, monitoring and periodic evaluation of the study programs;
- Study programs are periodically revised to correspond to the dynamic of the university and professional qualifications dynamic, workforce market requirements, Bologna requirements, upon request from the study program evaluation commission, together with the annual analysis;
- Implementation of the „Regulations regarding the periodic study programs initiation, approval, monitoring and evaluation” consists of the annual evaluation of each study program based on information and data on the program under all the aspects of its performance: didactic, scientific, material related aspects etc.;
- Within USAMV Bucharest is applied an evaluation system ran by the students of the didactic activity performed by the professors. Students receive an evaluation form for the professors evaluation approved by the University Senate. The Form is applied to the tenure teacher as well as to the teacher performing activities within the subject. The evaluation process is organized and conducted by DAC;
- The results of the evaluation performed by students are analysed by CEAC at Faculty level, which is also performing the information processing, drafts a report and notifies the administrative structures of the Faculty. The evaluation results and the actions taken are published together with the presentation of the annual department/faculty report;
- The University owns an IT department dealing with IT programs implementation and systems maintenance. At the level of Universities and faculties the formed commissions as well as the study programs responsible individuals, scientific secretaries, department directors, study program responsible individuals etc. use the University database and

information from the database of other universities in Europe and the world, for the purpose of increasing the quality;

- By its help are collected, processed and analysed the relevant data and information for the evaluation and institutional quality assurance;
- The University and all its faculties are providing public interest information, generally, and also for students, especially by leaflets edited on an annual basis, by articles published occasionally by the press and permanently on the university website. The University website found at the address www.usamv.ro meets the most exigent of requirements, presenting information on the university and its faculties.

I. Comments and suggestions from the evaluators presented within the reunited meeting of the External Institutional Evaluation Commission and University management:

- Giving an increase importance to the practice component and increasing the partnerships with the economic environment for the performance of the specialty practice;
- It is advised to better capitalize the existing material base within the USAMV Bucharest farms for the practical training of students;
- Making efforts for funding the financial resources by means of research projects;
- In order to increase international and national visibility of the teaching personnel who are performing their activity within the study program evaluated it is recommended to intensify the collaboration based on bilateral inter-institutional agreements, capitalization of opportunities offered by European programs;
- For the completion of the students professional training, the Biology license program should be continued by a masters' program within the same field;
- Continuous harmonization of the subjects chart content according in line with the workforce market and educational services beneficiaries;
- Continuation of the efforts to maintain, keep and modernize the technical-material base, didactic and research laboratories, specialty equipment and apparatus, Dendrology Park, botanical garden etc.

J. Strengths:

- The existence of an academic personnel extremely well prepared, who possesses a vast didactic and practical experience and who manifests a continuous effort in providing a quality educational process;
- The existence of an exceptional material base, made up from didactic and research laboratories, that are providing the achievement of the set mission and assumed objectives;
- The academic management system and administrative one are well set, on all levels, permanently monitored and perfected;
- The existence of coherent and detailed procedures for various educational and administrative activities which are permanently promoted and applied;
- The implementation of a modern IT system (internet, intranet) which ensures the good communication within the University and outside.

K. Weaknesses - suggestions:



- Reduced students attendance to mobility programs compared to the university potential. It is recommended the intensification of collaborations based on inter-institutional bilateral agreements, capitalization of the opportunities provided by European programs (Erasmus Plus);
- Sufficient involvement of students into the research activity; increasing the involvement of students in research activities and opportunities provided by the University. It is recommended the development of the interdisciplinary research on priority research by involving research groups from various fields within USAMV Bucharest;
- Low activity within the Alumni field; active involvement of the University in forming the Alumni network. Contact with the university upon completion must be supported by a more effective Alumni platform.

L. Final conclusions:

Following the analysis of the Institutional Self-evaluation Report and its addendums, reports of the study programs that are making the scope of the evaluation within the institutional evaluation process and their addendums, as well as a result of all the activities undertaken by the External Institutional Evaluation Commission during the audit performed during June 11 – 13 2015 within the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest and mentioned by p. G. herein, the following conclusions ensue:

- Information provided and contained by all evaluation reports correspond to what has been found on the field;
- University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest has an infrastructure appropriate for the educational process. We found the existence of education areas set up in a modern fashion, of a research base in conformity with the University profile, modern equipment and apparatus, areas destined to social activities, cultural and sport related, its own library and publishing house;
- The university owns a valuable professors who cover all professional activities for all study programs;
- There is an optimum balance between the number of tenured professors, with their basic position within the University, and the total number of students, which provides a high quality level to all study programs;
- The results of the scientific research activity are materializes in studies, papers, monographs, articles or volumes of scientific communication sessions;
- The institution website is updated and user friendly, providing all data required by the future candidates or those who wish to know the activity of the University.

M. Suggested score:

Considering the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest has met the performance level provided by the quality assurance law for the higher education institutions, justified by all the documentation used within the institutional evaluation process, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission ARACIS suggests granting the score: **HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE**.

Mission director:
Univ. Prof. eng. Iordan PETRESCU Ph.D.

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





Granted score:

Based on the proposal of the External Institutional Evaluation Commission, on the institution self-evaluation documents, findings during the audit performed during June 11 – 13 2015 and on other documents from Addendums, ARACIS Council concludes that the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest is a higher education institution which appropriately provides the standards and quality conditions, thus, creating the frame for future quality assurance.

ARACIS Council grants the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest the score **HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE**. In what concerns the institution management in relation to the study programs quality assurance and compliance with the academic standards of granting graduations certificates.

Subsemnata DUBINĂ Lavinia Teodora, interpret și traducător autorizat pentru limbile engleză și franceză, în temeiul autorizației nr. 19400, eliberată de Ministerul Justiției din România, certific exactitatea traducerii efectuate din limba română în limba engleză, că textul prezentat a fost tradus complet, fără omisiuni, și că, prin traducere, înscrisului nu i-au fost denaturate conținutul și sensul.

INTERPRET ȘI TRADUCĂTOR AUTORIZAT,

