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**Institutional Evaluation Report for the Institutional Evaluation of the "Universitatea de Nord din Baia Mare" Romania**

I was appointed by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) as a Foreign Short-Term Expert-Institutional Evaluator for the institutional evaluation of the 'Universitatea de Nord din Baia Mare' in Baia Mare, Romania. The visit and audit of the University took place during the period 20.05.2009 – 22.05.2009. The commission for the evaluation of the Institutional Evaluation consisted of:

- Prof. Victor Munteanu - Universitatea Româno – Americana, Bucuresti –  
Director of the Mission
- Prof. Eugeniu Turlea – ASE Bucuresti  
Coordinator of the group of experts
- Badoi Delia, Masterstudent, Universitatea Bucuresti  
Scientific secretary
- Craciun Andrei, Student, Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara  
Student evaluator 1
- UNSR Bogdan Budeanu, Universitatea Technica "Ghe. Asachi" Iasi  
Student evaluator 2
- Prof. Otto Theodor Iancu, Germany  
Foreign Short-Term Expert
- Prof. Georghe Solomon, Universitatea Politehnica Bucuresti  
Expert of the Consulting Commission
- Prof. Georghe Solomon, Universitatea Politehnica Bucuresti  
Expert of the Consulting Commission
- Prof. Emil Scarlat – ASE Bucuresti  
Expert of the Institutional Commission

The ARACIS was represented by the Scientific secretary Ms. Badoi Delia, Masterstudent, Universitatea Bucuresti.

The "Universitatea de Nord din Baia Mare" was represented by the Rector prof.univ. dr. – ing. Dan Calin Peter. The Vice-Rector prof. univ. dr. Georgeta Cornita was the local coordinator and the contact person to the team of evaluators.

The "Universitatea de Nord din Baia Mare" (UNBM) prepared the Internal Institutional Evaluation Report" which contains 62 pages including 138 appendices. The documentation has been finished on 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2009.

The audit at the University began on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of Mai at 09.00 h.in the Senate Room. Between 09.00 and 11.00 o'clock the director of mission presented the members of the mission and their responsibilities. He fixed the objectives of the mission and gave instructions to the members of the mission concerning the formal documents to be issued. He also introduced the representative of the 'UNBM' University, the Rector Prof. univ. dr.-ing. Dan Calin Peter, the Vice-Rector Prof. univ. Dr. Georgeta Cornita and the Scientific secretary of the UNBM Prof. univ. dr. Vasile Hotea. Between 11.00 and 16.00 h the group of experts discussed with the representatives of the UNBM on the dynamics of the development of the UNBM, normative requirements and aspects of the institutional capacity, education outcomes, scientific research activities, financial activity of the institution and quality management. From 16.00h to 17.15h we had an appointment with a group of about 60 Bachelor Students of the UNBM. Between 17.15 h and 18.45 h we met about 150 alumni and chiefs of Romanian enterprises and administrative institutions from the Baia Mare region. The evaluation work has been continued on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of Mai starting at 09.00 h until 19.00 h. The group of experts met at 16.00 h in order to prepare the final report. The work on the final report was continued on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Mai until 16.00h. A final meeting with the representatives of UNBM took place between 16.00h and 18.00h.

The "Universitatea de Nord din Baia Mare" (UNBM) is a state, accredited higher education institution which functions on the basis of HG (Government Degree) no. 1241/20.09.1996. The of the State Council University started as a Pedagogical School of 3 Years in 1961. In 1974 it has been transformed into the Higher Education Institute of Baia Mare. In 1884, on the basis of the Degree of the State Council no. 21/23.06.1984, the Higher Education Institute in Baia Mare is transferred into the Technical School in Baia Mare.

In Mai 1990, on the basis of the regulation of the Ministry of Education no. 7751, the Technical School is re-established under the previous official name of Higher Education Institute of Baia Mare.

On the basis of the Government Notification of January 4, 1991 and the Decree of the Ministry Education and Science (DME) no. 4894/22.03.1991, the Higher Education Institute becomes the University of Baia Mare, which, in 1996, on the basis of the Government

Decree no. 1241/20.11.1996, receives the current name: North University of Baia Mare (UNBM).

The UNBM has four faculties:

- The Engineering School
- The School of Mineral Resources and Environment
- The Faculty of Letters
- The faculty of Sciences

The University offers first cycle (BA's and BSc's), second-cycle (MA's, MSc') and third-cycle (PhD's ) degrees as well as Life Long Learning diplomas within the full-time system of education.

The number of studying programs at the first cycle level, day courses, increased from 33 in 2006/2007 to 39 in 2008/2009. Within these programmes 25 specializations are accredited or reaccredited according to the Bologna process and 14 have provisional functioning authorization (non Bologna programmes).

Today there are a total of 9 accredited and 11 under liquidation second Cycle- programs and four Ph.D. Domains.

From the total number of 5532 students 82.7 % are first cycle, 15% second cycle and 2.3% third cycle students.

*The analysis of the Internal Institutional Evaluation Report reveals that there is a very unequal distribution of the master students among the four faculties:*

- only 2.6% from the Engineering students and 5.% from the Mineral Resources and Environment students are matriculated in Masters Programmes
- but as much as 32% of the students from the Faculty of Letters and 27% of the students from the Faculty of Science are second Cycle students

*The number of 35 Ph.D. students from a total of 21 Master students is too high and might be explained by the transitional phase to the Bologna structure system. It has to be followed in the future in order to respect the rules for programme accreditation.*

The University changed the programs according to the European Bologna process since 2005. The duration of the Licenta(Bachelor) – Program is three to four years with a total of 180 to 240 ECTS credit points. The duration of the Master – Program is one and a half or two years with a total of 90 to 120 ECTS credit points depending on the program.

*In engineering programs a total of 330 ECTS credit points has to be achieved in order to get even a consecutive Masters degree. This is more than usually needed in a comparable European Masters Degree in Engineering.*

The procedure to promote a student from one year to another requires 34 ECTS transfer points (17 ECTS Points for one semester) total number of required ECTS credit points have to be achieved.

*This procedure is not very effective because it causes a accumulation of exams at the end period of study and leads to a prolongation of the duration of the studies.*

*It is highly recommended to change the procedure by offering exams, as an example, at the beginning of the new semester.*

During the academic year there is no possibility for students transfer between the faculties or specialisations or to other universities.

### **The managerial structures of the Universitatea de Nord din Baia Mare**

The management structures of the University respect the valid legal stipulations. They are defined and described in the University Charter. The charter was altered and adopted by the University Senate on 29 September 2008. The managing staff of UNBM is formed of titular teachers and associates having their main working hours in within the institution.

The collective administrative organisms are:

The University Senate

The Senate' Office

The Faculty Council

The Faculty Council Office

The Departmental Council

The Department Office

in accordance to the Law of Education No. 84/1995.

The election of administrative bodies and functions within the University is based upon the Methodology for organizing and caring out elections of administrative structures and functions.

Elections are held every four years for all administrative positions. The University rector is being confirmed by the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth through the Degree No. 3537/24.03.2008.

The University Senate is made up of academic staff and students democratically elected.

The Senate's office is made of the Rector, the Deputy Rectors, the Chancellor and the representative of the students who are members of the Senate.

The members of the Senate are active in the Senate's Commissions while in between plenary sessions.

The activity of the of the Commissions for Quality Assurance (CEAC) at university and faculty level is supported by the Quality management department (DMC).

The DMC is also in charge with developing evaluation and quality assurance instruments.

*This activity has just been initiated at the department level. No Quality Manual yet exists.*

*No process description at administrative level yet exists but is planned in the near future.*

*It is strongly recommended to follow the activities and introduce adequate quality assurance instruments at the institutional and programme level.*

Remark: *The Senate of the German universities includes besides the teaching staff and the elected representatives of the student community also elected representatives of the technical and nontechnical employers.*

### **Theaching staff**

The UNBM has 337 employee covered by tenured members of the teaching staff of the UNBM, of whom 219 are tenured members of the teaching staff and 2 are consulting Professors; 118 are members of the administrative and auxiliary staff.

204 teaching loads from a total of 423 are vacant. Of these, 132 are covered by tenured members of the teaching staff of the UNBM. 72 are covered by 225 non-tenured teachers who are employed by other institutions. Of these 10 teaching loads are covered by professors tenured within other higher education institutions. The number of teaching staff with a Ph.D. is 140. An important part of the teaching staff at the lecturer and assistant level are Ph.D. Students. The adjunct faculty who are hired on a part-time basis have a professional background and skills in the domain they teach. The qualification is by the documents in the Personal file of adjunct faculty. The Teaching Assistants and the or Assistant Lecturers have certified pedagogical training or are enrolled in training programmes within the Teacher Training Department.

*It is highly recommended to decrease the number of vacant tenured positions, at this moment it reaches 50% because of the significant overload of the tenured staff. Normally a mean number of 9 hours of teaching is foreseen for the tenured staff. The same number of hours can be done by an extra hour based payment. This increases the real number of teaching hours of the tenured staff to 18 hours of teaching per week.*

**Remark:** *In German universities there is a much higher percentage of PhD teachers. In the Universities of applied Sciences for example the percentage is higher than 90 %. In order to achieve a high quality level of teaching it is highly recommended to increase the number of PhD teachers.*

**Remark:** *The high number of hour per hour paid staff from the own University staff has a positive influence on the quality of teaching but may be a certain negative influence on the productivity of research of the involved professors.*

### **Headquarters and Equipment**

The UNBM has a total area of 31 505 sq.m of which 18 810 sq. m are in use. The University also has a cafeteria and 3 hostels for students with a capacity of 660 beds.

A number of 7 auditoria and lecture rooms, 14 seminar rooms and 71 laboratories are used for education. Works on the sport facility have been finalized. The room distribution is managed by the General Administrative Manager and by the appointed Deputy Rector who also coordinates the generation of timetables and status summarizer regarding the load of each room.

A total number of 670 ITC equipment, 75 of which are used by administration are recorded. The construction of a new University hall as well as the extension of the University library and new education facilities are planned in the very future.

Both new equipment and software for education will be purchased during this year.

The library of the UNBM possesses a total number of 2088 657 volumes of which 208 275 are books and 382 periodicals..

The library has subscriptions to Romanian and foreign periodicals and access to well-known international databases as: Springer or GEOBASE:

*The total number of 270 seats of which 161 are in the university library for studying purposes seems not to fulfil the accreditation requirements of 10% of the total number of students (5532).*

**Remark:** *The total number of Books seems not to fulfil the requirements of the students especially from the 3. and 4. Year of study as it was stated during the discussion with the students representatives.*

## Students

From the total number of 5532 students 82.7 % are first cycle, 15% second cycle and 2.3% third cycle students.

*The analysis of the Internal Institutional Evaluation Report reveals that there is a very unequal distribution of the master students among the four faculties:*

- only 2.6% from the Engineering students and 5.% from the Mineral Resources and Environment students are matriculated in Masters Programes
- but as much as 32% of the students from the Faculty of Letters and 27% of the students from the Faculty of Science are second Cycle students

*The number of 35 Ph.D. students from a total of 21 Master students is too high and might be explained by the transitional phase to the Bologna structure system. It has to be followed in the future in order to respect the rules for programme accreditation.*

The discussion with about 60 first cycle students revealed that they are satisfied with their teachers and the level of teaching. They have access to the majority of documents used by the teachers by means of the internal computer network.

*At the mean time they ask for more books especially during the final year of study and the Bachelor thesis. They complain about the big number of lectures introduced with the transition to the Bologna process. This means that the Bologna process is not very well understood at the UNBM and something has to be changed.*

The discussion with about 150 alumni and employers showed that they feel very comfortable with the graduates from the UNBM. Most of them offer also partnership contracts with the University. Some of them offer fellowships for graduate studies.

The students organized themselves in the Pinteazul Association. They plan reunions and events for improving the social environment at the University.

Some of the Students participate in international programs such as "Leonardo" or "Erasmus" of the European Community.

***Remark:*** *It is recommended to increase the language qualification of the engineering and science students. This will improve their mobility capability. In the German Universities almost half of the students are studying one semester abroad. The financial help for studying abroad is also very important. It is highly recommended to get the financial support of the European Community for the mobility activities.*

## Scientific Research

Scientific research represents an important component in the activity of the teaching staff of the UNBM. In within the UNBM there exist 8 centres with 8 basic orientations on 9 domains. Some of the research themes have an interdisciplinary character.

The University has his own scientific publications, CNCSIS and ISI accredited B, B+, C and D. Doctoral schools within UNBM promote research development in their respective fields by actively involving doctoral students in research activities.

*Remark: The number of master students in within the Engineering and Mineral Resources and Environment faculties has to be considerably increased in order to have enough Ph.D. Students from the own University.*

*Remark: It is recommended to increase the number of publications in English language in order to get a better acceptance in the European scientific community. The UNBM has also strong capabilities to influence the local economy and administration development. I strongly recommend applying for research funds from the European Community for scientific projects on regional development.*

## Quality Management

The UNBM pays a special attention to the quality assurance. A central committee of quality assurance supervises all activities at the University level. At the level of the faculties there are committees for the study programmes.

*Remark: It is recommended to do a benchmarking with two well known Romanian Universities ("Al I. Cuza" Iasi and Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara) and may be 2 other universities from Europe (UT Compiègne in France, Universität Freiburg in Germany). A Quality Manual has to be set-up at the University level in the very future.*

## Conclusion

I strongly recommend to attribute the qualification level "Incredere ridicata" to the UNBM based on what I have seen, read and heard. I hope that some of the remarks which I made will help the University Management in the process of continual improvement.

I would like to thank the Rector, Vice Rector and all the University staff for the pleasant atmosphere and the support during my stay in Baia Mare.



I present my special thanks to the ARACIS for the trust and the opportunity to participate at this institutional evaluation in Romania.

Karlsruhe, Germany, 25.05.2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iancu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Otto Theodor Iancu