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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 /155/1.2/S/141894

EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

"Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University of Bucharest

**ARACIS
2015**





EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION SYNTHETIC REPORT

A. Evaluated institution: “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest

B. Evaluation period: 27 – 29 May 2015

C. External Institutional Evaluation Commission:

No.	Name of the evaluator University	The position of the evaluator within the Commission
1.	Professor Iordan PETRESCU, PhD, Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest	Mission Director
2.	Professor Radu OPREAN, PhD, „Iuliu Hatieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca	Mission Coordinator
3.	Professor Zoltan ROSTAS, PhD, University of Bucharest	Expert evaluator of the <i>Consultative Commission</i>
4.	Professor Anton HADAR, PhD, Politehnica University of Bucharest	Expert of the <i>Institutional Commission</i>
5.	Professor Csaba MAKO, PhD, Budapest University of Economic Sciences	Foreign expert
6.	Professor Lucian BERCEA, PhD, West University of Timisoara	Program Expert – <i>Law</i>
7.	Professor Anca DODESCU, PhD, University of Oradea	Program Expert – <i>Economics and International Bussiness</i>
8.	Professor Ovidiu STOICA, PhD, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi	Program Expert – <i>Finance and banking</i>
9.	Professor Nicolae PAUN, PhD, “Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj- Napoca	Program Expert (Bachelor – part-time learning) – <i>Finance and banking</i>
10.	Professor Ioan NISTOR, PhD, “Babes- Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca	Program Expert (Bachelor – part-time learning) – <i>Finance and banking</i>
11.	Professor Adrian BOGDAN, PhD, University of Craiova	Program Expert – <i>Law (Cluj-Napoca)</i>
12.	Professor Mircea ARDELEANU, PhD, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu	Program Expert – <i>French Language and Literature – Modern Languages and Literatures (English, German, Arabic, Italian, Japanese, Spanish)</i>
13.	Iulia POP, “Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca	Student evaluator UNSR
14.	Flavius MARCAU, “Constantin Brancusi” University of Targu-Jiu	Student evaluator ANOSR
15.	Mihai MARCU, ARACIS	Technical Secretary



D. General framework of the evaluation process:

The external institutional evaluation was performed under the project entitled *“Development and consolidation of quality culture at the level of Romanian Higher Education system – QUALITAS”* (POSDRU/155/1.2/S/141894), 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”* and under the protocol agreement concluded on 15.10.2014 between the **Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)**, represented by **Professor Iordan PETRESCU, Ph.D.**, as the representative of ARACIS Council, and the **“Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest**, represented by professor **Corina DUMITRESCU, PhD**, as rector, on the establishment of undergraduate study programs under evaluation of ARACIS.

The external institutional evaluation process was conducted according to the methodology of ARACIS, the law of higher education and specific procedures mentioned in the evaluation guide.

The External Institutional Evaluation of the **“Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest**, based in Bucharest, Splaiul Unirii Blvd, no. 176, was performed *in order to certify the quality of education, scientific research, the institutional, administrative and managerial structures, academic results and performance of the University, thereby contributing to promote public confidence in the rules and standards of granting academic qualifications and diplomas by the institution.* The external institutional evaluation of **UCDC of Bucharest** was also conducted with the purpose of *comparing the findings and recommendations made by the evaluation team at the previous institutional evaluation with the progresses made by the higher education institution.*

E. Obiectivele evaluării instituționale externe:

- a. Verification of compliance of information and data presented by the visited institution in the Self-Evaluation Report, as well as of those listed in the annexes to the report;
- b. Verification of compliance of the legal framework for the organization and functioning of the institution;
- c. Assessment, in terms of quantity and quality, of teaching staff and all the aspects of related to their activity;
- d. Assessing the existence of specific regulations for all kinds of activities, of procedures and methods for implementing them;
- e. The assessment of institutional capacity as it was described in the Self-Evaluation Report and argued by the annexes to the report, as well as by findings on the spot in terms of material resources, the existence of all functional structures (academic and administrative management, etc.);
- f. Examination of the enforcement of regulations in force related to students' professional activity, from admission to graduation, by using the system of transferable credits, internships, by providing the framework necessary to conduct specific research for the second and third cycle study programs, etc.;



Christian University of Bucharest together with the students in the Institutional Evaluation Commission;

- e. The students in the Institutional Evaluation Commission conducted specific activities in terms of total autonomy, according to a schedule defined by themselves;
- f. Analysis of the evaluation results within the External Institutional Evaluation Commission in its integrity;
- g. Presenting the evaluation summary in a meeting which brought together the External Institutional Evaluation Commission and the University management (Rector, President, vice-rectors, deans, department managers, coordinators of administrative structures) the representative of QAD, the contact person for the institutional evaluation and the study programs representatives.

H. Findings of External Evaluation Commission – Summary:

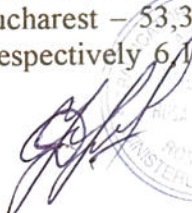

a. Institutional Capacity:

- In 2002, UCDC was accredited by **Law no. 238/2002 on the establishment of UCDC in Bucharest**, under the Constitution of Romania and Romanian legislation, complying with the principles of the international treaties and covenants on Human Rights, the Magna Charta of European Universities and the Bologna Declaration. The educational process and scientific research is organized and governed according to the status of higher education institution, a legal entity of private law and public utility. UCDC operates on the principle of university autonomy, under the University Charta and in accordance with the requirements of higher education system.
- All the academic and administrative activities of UCDC are conducted under the University Charta. This is the fundamental document which states the principles, functions, basic goals and the university's academic and institutional framework.
- According to the Charta, the University's mission is to “promote a creative and innovative learning and research environment, in line with Christian values, in order to form specialists able to support economic and social progress”.
- The University's mission is accomplished through the following objectives:
 - a) continuous modernization of the educational process by improving teaching methodology, the curricula/syllabuses in close correlation with the evolution/demands of society;
 - b) implementation of university strategic management and effective planning process;
 - c) compliance with the principle of quality in the sphere of all activities conducted in the university;
 - d) development of scientific research through the active involvement of all teachers and research staff, and development of partnerships in this field with universities in the country and abroad.
- “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest operates under 29 regulations, 13 procedures and 10 methodologies for conductin the academic activity. These have been identified and verified during the visit. Within the university there is a Regulation of internal organization, last revised on 15.04.2010.





- “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest has a Code of ethics and academic integrity, to protect the values of academic freedom and university autonomy according to the special status of the institution, and has practices and mechanisms for its implementation. Within the university, there is an Ethics Committee operating under its own rules (Regulation of organization and function of the university ethics committee).
- UCDC has the following regulations on the election of collective management (Faculty Council and Senate) and the senior management:
 - Regulation for electing the members of the governing bodies and management functions positions in the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest – the regulation stipulates that the election process is coordinated by the Senate. The members of the Senate are initially elected by the Faculty Council and subsequently by direct vote of the teaching staff. Under the regulation, the Faculty Council consists of all teachers in the faculty and student representatives. The election of the President of the Senate is based on the proposal of the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Association of Culture.
 - Methodology for organizing and conducting the contest for the position of dean in the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest;
 - Methodology for organizing the referendum to decide the manner of appointing the Rector of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest;
 - Methodology for approval, selection and recruitment of the Rector of the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest.
- “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest has concerns for the use of resources and tools to optimize the management activity. The university is currently implementing information management programs in order to optimize the systematization, communication, management and evaluation of material and human resources for teaching and research. All meetings are performed through the videoconferencing system in order to ensure communication with the faculties of UCDC centers in the country.
- The strategic management of UCDC is based on the Strategic Plan, developed over a period of four years, and Annual Operational Plans which set the management strategies in academic education, scientific research within the University, the quality of education and research, human resources and related matters.
- UCDC has the assets necessary to conduct a quality education process. The university has a plan for institutional development and realistic investment plans, dependent on the projected revenues, where investment projects and development of the material basis are provided. University uses a share of revenues from research to develop the material basis.
- The University operates a videoconferencing system connected with all of UCDC centers in the country, a modern auditorium where are held scientific and cultural events, book launches and other cultural and artistic student events.
- UCDC has six libraries, one for each city in which it conducts education and research activities, with a total capacity of 1,391 seats in the reading rooms. The university has 108,592 volumes, respectively 41,495 titles, distributed as follows: Bucharest – 53,310 volumes, respectively 16,680 titles; Cluj-Napoca – 16,749 volumes, respectively 6,136

titles; Brasov – 2,707 volumes, respectively 722 titles; Timisoara – 5,946 volumes, respectively 2,634 titles; Sibiu – 28,406 volumes, respectively 14,860 titles; Constanta – 1,474 volumes, respectively 463 titles.

- UCDC has sufficient funding sources and financial resources, in the short and long term, as well as sufficient financial reserves, to undertake an effective educational process. The medium-term budget projection provides revenue-expenditure balance and is periodically updated according to specific situations in certain periods. In the last five years, the university registered annually a budget surplus that was retained from one period to another, being a substantial reserve for the university.

b. Educational effectiveness:

- “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest promotes a transparent policy of recruitment and admission of students, based on their own methodology. Admission to study programs is done by competition, notified to the interested parties by displaying the information at the headquarters of the University, in flyers and on the institution’s website as well as by visits to high schools at least six months before the scheduled dates for admissions. UCDC presents its educational offer, admission requirements and areas through mass media (radio, TV and print media), internet (www.ucdc.ro), presentations in high schools in Bucharest and neighbouring counties.
- The level of bachelor graduates’ insertion into the labour market ranges between 15% (Political Science); 42.73% (International Economic Relations) and 86.7% (Commercial Management), with an average of 50.17%. In the UCDC, the share of college graduates employed is 50.17% in the field and 22% in other areas. Also, the percentage of graduates who continued their education ranges between 27.18% (Commercial Management in Constanta), 42% (Legal and Administrative Sciences) and 59.65% (Economic Sciences in Brasov), averaging 42.34%.
- UCDC use various ways to assess the students and graduates’ satisfaction towards the learning environment provided by the university. Regarding teaching, students have the opportunity, at the end of each semester, to express their views on the courses and seminars they attended that semester, according to the Procedure for the evaluation of teachers by students. According to information on graduates’ satisfaction, it ranges between 78.6% and 95.5%, the average being 87.17%.
- In UCDC, the methods and learning environments are student-centered. The relationship between student and teacher is one of partnership, and learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students. Teachers use new ICT resources and auxiliary materials, from blackboard to flipchart or videoprojector. Teachers have appropriate training for teaching at university level, both scientifically and methodically. The level of teaching is continually improved (developing interactive teaching methods for effective learning), with new applications in computing and information technology being considered.
- The promotion of research is conducted, at the University level, through the UCDC Scientific Research Strategy for 2014-2020, approved by the University Senate or through the Annual Scientific Research Plans, which are integrated in the research plans of faculties and departments.



- The scientific research activity is organized and conducted on two levels, namely: three research institutes of UCDC which conduct specialized and continuous research in all its components – fundamental, applied, innovative, and 15 research centers are organized within faculties and operate according to the specific of the faculty and study programs.

c. Management of quality:

- Within the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest operates the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance, composed of a chairman and five members (including a student) and subcommittees in the faculties, departments and study programs. All these work in an integrated manner. Furthermore, the University has a Manual of Quality describing the system procedures and operational procedures for the activities.
- The Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance has undertaken measures to improve the culture of quality by organizing trainings and specialized courses in quality management. An internal assessment report is produced annually and published on the UCDC website, and are taken measures to improve the existing situation.
- In UCDC, evaluation of study programs is performed annually, and the reports are archived at every level of assessment under Regulation on the initiation, approval, monitoring and evaluation of study programs. The Regulation contains provisions for monitoring the progress of the study programs, conducted through peer review or evaluation of other study programs conducted by prestigious universities in the country and abroad.
- The university has a information system that integrates all the faculties and provides several modules with specific use: module cashier, student module, accounting module, module publishing information on the web, the application for monitoring scientific research etc. The information system facilitates the gathering of relevant information for evaluation and quality assurance.
- UCDC provides access to public information through the Department of Communication and Public Relations or through the website of the University. The websites of the University, faculties and departments ensure information and transparency needed by both students and any other interested parties (potential students, teachers, etc.).

I. Comments and suggestions of the evaluators, presented within the joint meeting of the Evaluation Commission and the University management:

- increasing the share of optional subjects in the curricula and reducing the share of optional subjects;
- encouraging practical activities for the development and learning of future specialists’ applicative skills;
- improving ratio between the number of students and teachers so as this indicator to reach the current values in the European higher education and to provide student-centered teaching, learning and evaluation;
- continuing efforts to appropriately resize study groups and correlating them with spaces allocated for teaching;





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- intensifying concerns about ensuring international visibility of scientific research conducted by teachers in UCDC;
- attracting funding through projects granted by national and international competition;
- identifying opportunities for co-financing of projects run by European Structural Funds programs;
- better structuring of communication between students and their representatives through as many means as possible, in order to facilitate access to information;
- an active involvement in improving the the university network of *Alumni*;
- improving the monitoring system for students' satisfaction and ensuring appropriate feedback;
- improving the implementation of quality management procedures;
- increasing efforts for internationalization by expanding collaborations with European and non-EU universities.

J. Strengths:

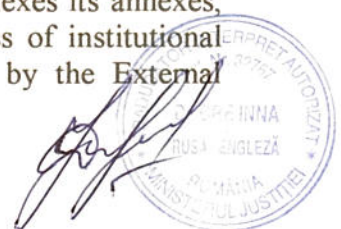
- The well prepared teaching staff, with a good theoretical and practical experience, concerned with providing quality education;
- The well strucured academic and administrative management, at all levels, continuously monitored and improved;
- The existence of stimulating and monitoring procedures for teaching and administrative activities, which are promoted and enforced;
- The implementation of a modern information system (internet, intranet), ensuring good communication within and outside the University.

K. Weaknesses – suggestions:

- UCDC holds bachelor's and master degree programs only in Romanian. It is recommended to devleop master's degree programs in partnership with universities in the European higher education;
- Students are not organized in an associative form of student association type. It is recommended to support the establishment of student associations whithin the university, which could dialogue more easily with the UCDC management representatives;
- Capitalization of research results by their publishing in mainstream journals has a downward trend from 2012 to the present. It is recommended to stimulate publishing in ISI ranked journals with significant impact factor.
- In some specialties, the ratio between the number of students and teachers does not come near the current values of the European Higher Education Area, which provides student-centered teaching, learning and evaluation. It is recommended the recruitment of human resources in close correlation with the study groups.
- Insufficient involvement of students in research; it is reccomended to increase the students' involvement in research and opportunities provided by the University;
- A reduced activity in the *Alumni* field; it is recommended an active involvement of the University in the formation of *Alumni* Network of members;

L. Conclusions:

Following the analysis of Institutional Self-Evaluation Report and Annexes its annexes, the reports of study programs that were subject to assessment in the process of institutional evaluation and their annexes, and as a result of all activities undertaken by the External





Institutional Evaluation Commission during the visit paid between 27 to 29 May 2015 at the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest and mentioned in section G of this report, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The information made available and included in the evaluation reports matches the findings in the field;
- The “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest has an infrastructure adequate to the educational process. It was established the existence of modernly equipped educational spaces, a research base in accordance with the University’s profile, modern equipment, spaces for social, cultural and sporting activities, library and own publishing house;
- The University has a valuable body of teachers covering all professional activities for all study programs;
- There is an optimal ratio between the number of permanent teachers with tenure in the university and the total number of students, which ensures a high quality of all study programs;
- The results of scientific research are evidenced in studies, research, monographs, articles and volumes of scientific sessions;
- The institution’s website is updated and easy to use, providing all the necessary data for future candidates or those who want to know the activity of the University.

M. Score proposed:

Given the achievement of performance standards stipulated by the law on quality assurance in higher education by the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest, substantiated by all the documentation used in the process of institutional evaluation, the External Institutional Evaluation Commission of ARACIS proposes granting the score: **HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE**.

Mission Director:
Professor Doctor of Engineering Iordan PETRESCU

Score granted:

Based on the External Evaluation Commission’s proposal, institutional self-evaluation documents, findings during the assessment visit between 27 and 29 May 2015, and the other documents in the Annexes, the ARACIS Council concludes that “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest is an institution of higher education properly ensuring the quality requirements and standards and, on that basis, creating the conditions for ensuring quality in the future.

ARACIS Council grants to the University of Bucharest the score **HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE** regarding the institutional management in terms of quality assurance for study programs and compliance with academic standards for granting graduation diplomas.

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