

POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA

STUDENTS' SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

**TIMISOARA
MAY 2021**

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Introduction remarks:

This self-evaluation report has been prepared for the institutional evaluation to which Politehnica University of Timisoara is going to be subjected. This report has considered the university documents as well as the experience of the students who have drafted this report.

All the performance indicators from the “External evaluation methodology of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education” have been analysed, addressing those relevant to the student community of Politehnica University of Timisoara.

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CHAPTER A: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

CRITERION A.1. - INSTITUTIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL STRUCTURES

S.A.1.1. Mission, objectives and academic integrity

IP.A.1.1.1. Mission and objectives

Politehnica University of Timisoara is an accredited public higher education institution that functions on the basis of academic autonomy and in accordance with the Law of National Education 1/2011 and its subsequent amendments, and in accordance with the Charter of Politehnica University of Timisoara (UPT Charter). The UPT Charter was adopted through an amendment, following the procedure in force, through the UPT senate vote on 15.05.2014, of the initial Charter, adopted on 21.07.2011.

According to the University Charter, this is a public, not-for-profit higher education institution, with legal personality, of public interest, being part of the national higher education system, accredited with the highest grade.

In Art. 10 of the UPT Charter, it is stipulated that the mission of the higher education institution is to generate, namely to transfer knowledge to society through advanced scientific research, research, development, innovation, respectively through dissemination of results by publication and/or implementation, to ensure higher, university level professional training - according to the Bologna paradigm, on all three of its cycles- bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree- or in a specially regulated system, as well as postgraduate level and lifelong learning, for personal development and employability of the individual and the necessity to meet the competency needs required by the societal environment. Moreover, the higher education institution aims to help set the direction of development of society, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and to cultivate, promote and defend the fundamental values crystallised during human evolution: freedom of thought, speech and action, justice, truth, fairness, honesty, dignity and honour.

The Charter of Politehnica University of Timisoara is drafted in accordance with the principles of the European Higher Education Area, but the mission of the higher education institution is vaguely individualised at the level of European Higher Education Area.

Weaknesses:

- The mission of Politehnica University of Timisoara is vaguely individualised at the level of European Higher Education Area.

Recommendation:

- Individualisation of the mission of Politehnica University of Timisoara at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

IP.A.1.1.2 Academic Integrity

Politehnica University of Timisoara has a Commission of Ethics and Deontology, legally established, that functions on the fundamental regulations of the UPT Charter, according to *Code of Ethics and Deontology* [[Codul de etică și deontologie](#)], which is an integral part of the University Charter, being annexed to it, as well as on the basis of the *Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Commission of Ethics and Deontology* of Politehnica University of Timisoara [[Regulamentul de Organizare și Funcționare al Comisiei de etică și deontologie](#)].

According to the UPT Charter, the structure and composition of the Commission of Ethics and Deontology are established by the rector, approved by the Council of Administration and validated by the Senate. However, within the Regulation of Organisation and Functioning of the Ethics and Deontology Commission of the Politehnica University Timisoara, it stipulates that the structure and composition of the Commission is proposed by the Council of Administration, accredited by the UPT Senate and approved by the university's rector.

Thus, we can clearly see a discrepancy between the two previously mentioned regulations, concerning the procedure of the establishment, approval and validation of the structure and composition of the Ethics and Deontology Commission. In addition to those already mentioned, the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Ethics and Deontology Commission of the Politehnica University Timisoara specifies that this Commission is composed of 11 members, of whom a mandatory student representative. Any UPT student can candidate for this position, they are required to apply by submitting a CV and a letter of intent, followed by the presentation of the candidature in front of the Student Representatives of UPT's Senate, who vote in favour or against it.

Moreover, the commission members are prominent public figures and moral authorities and who have tenure within UPT, in legal conditions. Persons that have executive or managerial functions cannot be a part of the commission, regardless of their level, according to the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Ethics and Deontology Commission of the Politehnica University Timisoara.

The Commission of Ethics and Deontology from UPT publishes reports annually on its site; the reports between 2015-2020 are made public. According to *The 2020 Report of the Commission of Ethics of Politehnica University of Timisoara* [[Raportul Comisiei de Etică din Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara pe anul 2020](#)], this year, the Commission of Ethics and Deontology did not act on its own initiative, and it has not been notified by persons from within or outside of the higher education institution. Thus, the activity of this structure has only covered the following of the enforcement of ethical and deontological principles in case of adopting or reviewing a different legislation of UPT, in accordance with the Ethics and Deontological Code provisions.

The phenomenon of plagiarism is fought against through a verification of the diploma papers, dissertations and doctoral theses with the aid of [iThenticate](#), an anti-plagiarism software. However, the software is not directly accessible to students, as the number of paid licenses at faculty level is limited. Students can use the software via the coordinators of their diploma work, dissertation or doctoral thesis, by requiring them to verify the papers.

At university level, there are no guidelines and there are no information campaigns regarding university ethical and deontological principles. The only way to promote ethical and deontological principles is through the courses in "Ethics and academic integrity" which are mandatory for every master's degree starting with the academic year 2018-2019. Furthermore, starting with the academic

year 2019-2020, there has been also introduced the transversal course in “Ethics and academic integrity in scientific research and dissemination of results” within the doctoral study programme. At the same time, the course in “Ethics and academic integrity” is optional for every undergraduate study programme, but the number of students that request to attend the course is very limited, except for the study programme *Communication and Public Relations*, from the Faculty of Communication Sciences, within which this course is mandatory.

Strengths:

- The mandatory courses in “Ethics and Academic Integrity”, within the undergraduate study programme “Communication and Public Relations” from the Faculty of Communication Sciences.

Weaknesses:

- Reduced activity of UPT’s Ethics and Deontology Commission, because of the limited number of complaints;
- Lack of proactivity of UPT’s Ethics and Deontology Commission due to the absence of self-complaints from 2015 until now;
- Absence of clear practices of promoting university ethical principles that can be correlated with the reduced activity of UPT’s Ethics and Deontology Commission;
- Anti-plagiarism software used by the university is not directly accessible to students, as it is only accessible through the coordinators of the paperwork, dissertation or doctoral thesis.

Recommendations:

- Running campaigns to inform and promote university's ethical principles and the principles related to the Ethics and Deontology Commission, in order to increase the level of trust of the university community within this structure, and to increase the activity of this structure.
- Defining and implementing some clear mechanisms in order to permanently ensure the vigilance and the proactivity growth of the commission related to the warning and elimination of any misconduct as it is stipulated in the Code of Ethics and Deontology of the Politehnica University of Timisoara.
- Offering students the anti-plagiarism software by purchasing the required number of licenses.

IP.A.1.1.3. Public responsibility and accountability

Politehnica University of Timisoara uses operationalised internal auditing practices through the Quality Management System of UPT (SMC-UPT). This system is managed by the university rector who establishes, together with UPT’s Quality Assurance and Evaluation Commission, the strategy, policies, objectives and priorities in the field of quality, monitoring the way in which they are understood and applied in the institution, allocating and verifying the appropriate use of resources related to SMC-UPT.

UPT's Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee (CEAC-UPT) is a working collective organization of the university composed of representatives of teachers, students and employers. CEAC-UPT implements the Senate’s decision concerning the quality assurance and drafts the

annual report regarding the quality assurance, identifies, analyses and comes up with solutions and decisions related to SMC-UPT. CEAC is ruled by the rector, the operative executives being attributed to a coordinator, representative of the rector. The activity of CEAC is operationalised both through the university level commission and through faculty and department level commissions.

The General Directorate of Quality Assurance (DGAC) represents a functional support structure for SMC-UPT, at university level, directly subordinate to the rector. DGAC requires minimal human resources necessary for designing, implementing and supporting SMC-UPT.

The Internal Auditors Committee (CAI) represents a group of people coming from functional departments and services that have benefitted from an adequate training and participate, as part of their job tasks, in quality internal assessment/audit activities.

All these structures have regulations, methodologies and clear and well-defined procedures, and therein representatives of teachers, students and of the economic environment are involved. Moreover, SMC-UPT has an annual reporting system of the activity carried out, the reports being published on the website of the Politehnica University of Timisoara

Strengths:

- The existence and rigorous regulations of the Quality Management System of Politehnica University of Timisoara (SMC-UPT) and of all its component structures.

S.A.1.2. Management and Administration

IP.A.1.2.1 Management system

Within Politehnica University of Timisoara the management activity is carried out according to the provisions of the Law of National Education nr. 1/2011 and those of the Code of Student Rights and Obligations [Codul Drepturilor si Obligatiilor Studentului] concerning the management system of the institution. According to *Chapter 4* of the University Charter, its organizational structure is the following:

- *Academic structures:*
 - Department;
 - Faculty;
 - Permanent Education Centre;
 - E-Learning Centre;
 - Research Institute;
 - Research Centre;
 - Teaching Staff Training Department;
 - “Know-How” Transfer Centre;
 - Library;
 - Publishing house;
 - Typography;
 - Production Unit;

- TV channel;
- Information, Counselling and Career Guidance Centre;
- Sports Association of the University.
- *Administrative structures:*
 - Directions;
 - Services;
 - Offices;
 - Compartments;
 - Studios;

All these structures and the relations between them represent the object of the university's organizational chart [[organigrama universității](#)], attached to the UPT Charter and being an integral part of it.

The executive management structure of the Politehnica University of Timisoara is represented by the Council of Administration (CA-UPT) and it functions according to the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Senate of Politehnica University of Timisoara [[Regulamentul de organizare și funcționare al Consiliului de Administrație al Universității Politehnica Timisoara](#)]. It is composed of the rector, vice-rector, deans, general administrative director and the student representative. Within CA-UPT, the rector, vice-rector, general administrative director and student representative form the Bureau of the Council of Administration, authorized entity that can make any decision as the Council of Administration. The student representative from CA-UPT is chosen through a competition organized by the legally constituted organizations which are members of the Convention of Student Organisations of Politehnica (COSPol) and they are chosen for a 2-year term, being revalidated annually by COSPol.

The legislative management structure of the Politehnica University of Timisoara which represents the supreme management forum of the university, is the university Senate. It represents the university community, and it is the strongest debate, decision and regulatory force within the university, functioning according to the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Senate of Politehnica University of Timisoara [[Regulamentul de Organizare și Funcționare a Senatului Universității Politehnica Timisoara](#)].

The Senate is composed of 68 members of whom 51 (75 %) are teachers and researchers and 17 (25%) are students. 51 mandates of the Senate members– teachers and researchers- are distributed in departments, according to their size given by the total number of tenure teachers and researchers from their structure. Moreover, the remaining 17 mandates of the Senate members - students- are distributed to faculties, according to the number of students from each faculty, but there is at least one vacancy for each faculty.

The members of Senate – teachers and researchers - are elected through a universal, direct and secret vote by all the represented tenure teachers and researchers, for a term of 4 years. Their mandates will rightfully terminate, at request or when the members of the Senate do not hold anymore a tenure position within UPT, namely they have an incompatible position to that of a Senate member.

The student members of the Senate are elected through a universal, direct and secret vote by all the students from a faculty. The voting is organised by the legally established student

organization, for a two-year period, and is annually revalidated by the legally established student organization at faculty level. The mandates of the chosen members will rightfully terminate, at the request of or when those are no longer UPT students, namely they have an incompatible position to that of a Senate member.

At faculty level, the legislative management structure is represented by the Faculty Board, composed of the Dean, Vice-deans, representatives of teachers and students. The Faculty Board is made of, at least, 25% students, and in most faculties, the minimum percentage is significantly surpassed. Those mentioned are chosen in a democratic way, through a universal, direct and secret vote by all the students of a faculty. The voting is organized by the legally established student organization, for a two-year period, and is revalidated annually by the legally established student organization of the faculty.

Moreover, within this structure, there also functions the Faculty Board Office, which is composed of the Dean, Vice-deans and a student representative chosen through a competition organized by the Management Board of the legally established student organization at faculty level, between the student representatives from the Faculty Board.

Even though, nowadays, there is no longer mentioned in any national legislation, it is not recommended that vice-rectors, deans and vice-deans are at the same time members of the University Senate, as it happens at this point within the Politehnica University of Timisoara.

At the same time, through the *Regulation concerning the Organization and Conduct of elections for structures and student representative functions from the Politehnica University of Timisoara* [[Regulamentul privind organizarea și desfășurarea alegerilor pentru structurile și funcțiile de reprezentare a studenților din Universitatea Politehnica Timisoara](#)], the election procedures are, also regulated by the academic year representatives, the student representative from UPT Senate Office, the Presidents of Student Dormitory Committees, Floors Representatives, Student Representatives of Ethics Commission, Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance, Accommodation Commission or other internal commissions within UPT.

Thus, we can clearly see that within UPT, students are represented in most of the structures, through percentages in accordance with the legislation in force, but also the existence of clear and well-defined regulations and methodologies that regulate all the representation functions but also the election procedures of students within them. At the same time, it can be highlighted that both the university management and the faculty management are not involved in any of those election procedures of the representative students.

Weaknesses:

- Article 156 of the UPT Charter allows vice-rectors, deans and vice-deans to be in the same time members of the University Senate.

Recommendations:

- Separation of the executive and legislative powers through the elimination of Article 156 from the Politehnica University Charter.

IP.A.1.2.2. Strategic Management

Politehnica University of Timisoara has four-year strategic plan [[Plan strategic](#)] for the period 2021-2024, which is operationalized through the strategic plans [[planuri strategice](#)] at each faculty level. However, the strategic plans of the Faculty of Automation and Computing and of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for the aforementioned period have not been drafted nor uploaded to the websites, the last uploaded strategic plans of those faculties being those for the 2016-2020 period.

Moreover, Politehnica University of Timisoara has annual operational plans and operational plans at faculty level [[planuri operationale anuale și de planurile operationale de la nivelul facultăților](#)], however, just as in the case of the strategic plans, some operational plans have not been drafted nor uploaded to the university website. The unuploaded ones are the following:

- The operational plan of the Faculty of Architecture and City Planning for of 2021 (the last uploaded operational plan is the one for 2019);
- The operational plan of the Faculty of Automation and Computing for 2021 (the last uploaded operational plan is the one for 2020);
- The operational plan of the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering for 2021 (the last uploaded operational plan is the one for 2019);
- The operational plan of the Faculty of Civil Engineering for 2021 (the last uploaded operational plan is the one for 2020);
- The operational plan of the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunication and Information technologies for 2021 (the last uploaded operational plan is the one for 2019);
- The operational plan of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for 2021 (the last uploaded operational plan is the one for 2019).

Weaknesses:

- Lack of strategic plans of some faculties between 2021-2024;
- Lack of operational plans of the University and of some faculties between 2020-2021.

Recommendations:

- Drafting and uploading to the websites of strategic plans of the Faculty of Automation and Computing and of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for 2021-2024;
- Uploading of all the missing operational plans to the institution's website or their annual drafting, in the future, in case they have never been drafted before.

IP.A.1.2.3. Effective Administration

The Administration of the Politehnica University of Timisoara is described within the institution's organizational chart, and it complies with the regulations of the legislation in force being well regulated and clearly defined. However, Politehnica University of Timisoara does not prove to have an effective administration in relation to its degree of computerization. Even if in terms of information of public interest, the university website contains most up-to-date public interest documents, the site is outdated, does not have a friendly interface, and much of it is not translated into English.

Furthermore, some faculties' websites are outdated, they lack a user-friendly interface, public interest information is not entirely public or is not up to date, and most faculties' websites do not have a full English translation. At the same time, certain documents in some faculties, such as the list of students receiving social scholarships, do not observe the provisions of Regulation (EU) 679/2016 (GDPR).

On the other hand, the university has an online educational environment for academic support for all the UPT faculties and for distance learning. This e-learning platform is called Virtual Campus UPT [[Campus Virtual UPT](#)] and it has been developed and constantly updated by UPT's E-Learning Centre since 2000. The platform is a Moodle-based system, an open-source platform that includes an interface for managing students, teachers, exams, results and learning information, online courses, online laboratory materials or in electronic format, forums, blogs, wiki-type items, messaging, etc. This platform is used by most of the Politehnica University of Timisoara faculties in order to carry out the teaching activities.

Strengths:

- Existence and use of the Virtual Campus UPT.

Weaknesses:

- Outdated university and faculty websites and their unfriendly interfaces;
- Violation of Regulation (EU) 679/2016 (GDPR).

Recommendations:

- Constantly update the institution's websites with necessary documents;
- Invest in updating the websites in order to increase their accessibility and fully translate all university websites into English;
- Use the Virtual Campus UPT to communicate with the students in order to avoid exposing their personal data in the public space;
- Constantly train the administrative staff to familiarise them with the new IT technologies.

CRITERION A.2. - MATERIAL RESOURCES

S.A.2.1. Heritage, equipment, financial resources, student support

IP.A.2.1.1. Spaces for teaching, research and other activities

Politehnica University of Timisoara has sufficient educational facilities, which allows the educational process to be carried out in good conditions, in conjunction with the maximum number of schools available to each faculty, as follows:

- 131 classrooms;
- 86 seminar rooms;
- 432 laboratory rooms;
- 25 research centres;

- 2 university restaurants and a canteen in Hunedoara, occupying a total area of 6141,31 sqm;
- the recently built library up to European standards;
- 2 sports complexes with football, handball, volleyball, basketball tennis, fields, an athletics track, a gym, 2 swimming pools (outdoor and indoor) to which students have free access;
- 19 dormitories occupying a total area of about 64119,12 sqm with about 6000 beds, and a student dormitory in Hunedoara with a total area of about 1994 sqm.

However, some faculties do not have enough space to carry out educational activities, and students must go to other faculties in order to attend courses or seminars. At the same time, in most faculties, educational spaces observe the technical, safety and hygiene-health standards in force, but nevertheless some faculties' buildings (e.g., The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, The Faculty of Industrial Chemistry and Environmental Engineering, the headquarters of the former Faculty of Hydrotechnical Engineering, etc.) are in a state of slight degradation, and their furniture is obsolete and not in the best condition (e.g., amphitheatres with tables fixed in degraded floors, untidy chairs, chalkboards, etc.). Additionally, some faculties, dormitories and one of the university restaurants are not accessible to students with disabilities (lack of access ramps, lifts, sufficiently wide access routes, tactile carpets, etc.).

Access to the library is free of charge for UPT students based on the university student card. The library's operating hours can be found on its website, the operating hours may vary according to different periods during the academic year:

- Normal opening hours: Monday-Thursday: 09:00-16:00, Friday: 09:00-14:00;
- Session hours: Monday-Friday: 09:00-24:00;
- Holiday hours: Monday-Friday: 09:00-16:30.

Furthermore, students benefit from the library's photocopiers, the library's website shows the location of each book in the library and its availability, as well as books for each field of study that is relevant for UPT.

In addition to the above, the library also has at its disposal the following facilities:

- open study room 24h/7 days a week – 24h Library – with 92-seat, RFID controlled access;
- 650 study places, closed, open or flexible;
- IT space with a capacity of 180 seats (virtual machines with dynamic resource allocation, networked with an Internet traffic capacity of 800 Gb/s, wireless or fixed, with uplink speed of 10 Gb/s);
- 28 individual study rooms equipped with computers, telephones, Wi-Fi access;
- 5 group study rooms with a total capacity of 48 seats;
- 1 multifunctional hall (Polyvalent Hall) with videoconference system, 100 seats and two amphitheatres (K1 and K2) with 90 seats each;
- relaxation areas;
- exposure spaces and screens.

As for the university's restaurants, there is a policy by which students and teachers from the university can purchase meal cards worth 8 lei, through which they can buy products without commercial surcharge, which encourages the use of UPT canteen services.

The two sports centres allow free access to UPT students. These include:

- *Sports Centre No. 1:*
 - athletics track;
 - indoor mini football pitch;
 - football pitch;
 - weight room.

- *Sports Centre No. 2:*
 - swimming pools (indoor, with sauna and maintenance equipment and outdoor);
 - sports hall (tennis, basketball, volleyball);
 - tennis courts (bitumen and tartan);
 - basketball courts;
 - football pitches;
 - multi-purpose building.

In order to book a specific sports facility within the Sports Centre No. 2 there is an application where students can choose the day and time to book.

As for student dormitories, UPT has 19 dormitories within the university campus, with about 6000 beds available. UPT students are distributed according to grades, not in a uniform way. The dormitories have rooms of five or two persons. Of the 19 dormitories, two operate as a hotel, and one is for the students of the Faculty of Engineering in Hunedoara. All the dormitories have reading rooms that can be common to the entire dormitory or distributed on each floor. However, some dormitories are in a slight state of degradation and their furniture is quite outdated.

Generally, the accommodation capacity fully covers the demand of the students enrolled at Politehnica University of Timisoara, and the vacancies are used by the students enrolled at partner universities such as the West University of Timisoara (UVT) or the "Victor Babeș" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timisoara (UMFT).

Strengths:

- Modern library, which provides students and teachers with equipment in line with current technological developments and which has numerous workspaces and a room available 24h/7 day a week;
- Accommodation capacity that generally exceeds the demand of UPT students.

Weaknesses:

- Lecture and seminar rooms in some faculty buildings are inconsistent with the student numbers, thus forcing students to move between the faculties' premises in short time to attend courses or seminars;
- Slight degradation and outdated furniture in some faculties or dormitories;
- The structure of the buildings of some faculties, dormitories or university restaurants that is very difficult to be accessed by people with various disabilities.

Recommendations:

- Investments in the construction and equipment of new buildings, in the vicinity of the already existing ones, for the faculties that present a deficit in the number of spaces for educational activities;
- Investments in the renovation of some faculty buildings and dormitories and refurnishing them with new furniture;
- Investments in making all faculty buildings, dormitories and restaurants accessible to persons with various disabilities.

IP.A.2.1.2. Equipment

Politehnica University of Timisoara meets the students' needs by having at its disposal numerous laboratories distributed both in the faculties' rooms and in the 25 research centres, managing to satisfy on large extent the requirements of the students through the wide variety of equipment available for them. Most of the laboratories at the university are well equipped, there are even laboratories built from private funding, with modern equipment, in line with technological advances, but nevertheless, there are laboratories that use outdated equipment, which is not in line with the current stage of development of scientific knowledge or which have limited space or equipment compared to the number of students who use them.

At the same time, most of the seminar and lecture classrooms are equipped with modern video projectors and panels, and some amphitheatres have sound systems, thus providing the right technical equipment for teaching and communication, facilitating teachers' activity and the responsiveness of each student. However, the university has lecture and seminars classrooms with outdated, degraded furniture or chalkboards.

Weaknesses:

- Laboratories with outdated equipment which are not in line with the current stage of development of scientific knowledge;
- Laboratories with limited space or equipment in relation to the number of students using them;
- Lecture and seminar rooms equipped with outdated and degraded furniture and well as with chalkboards.

Recommendations:

- Investments in replacing outdated and obsolete equipment with modern one, comparable to that of the developed universities in Europe;
- Investments in setting up new laboratories so that their total number is in line with the number of students within the university;
- Investments in the re-equipment of lecture and seminar rooms that have obsolete and degraded furniture with new furniture and adequate technical means for teaching and communication.

IP.A.2.1.3. Adequate financial resources for learning and teaching activities, adequate and easily accessible support services for students

The Politehnica University of Timisoara has at its disposal a wide range of financing sources such as state budget funding, fees, grants, sponsorship, partnerships with private economic entities, etc. the higher education institution has realistic annual and long-term budgets, it allocates to adequately achieve its mission and the objectives it has set itself.

Tuition fees are established in a transparent manner, with students having access to the decisions of the Council of Administration by which fees are proposed and adopted, which are published on the university website, but nevertheless the calculation methods and reasoning on which the proposed and adopted fees are based, are not always transparent.

According to [The Rector's Report of 2020](#) it can be noticed that in the income and expenditure budget for this year, the income amounted to 284,325,514 lei and the expenses to 232,000,528 lei.

Recommendations:

- total transparency of mechanisms and judgments on the basis of which the study fees are calculated.

IP.A.2.1.4. The student scholarship system and other material support for students

Politehnica University of Timisoara has a Regulation on the granting of scholarships and social aid for undergraduate and master's students valid from the 2017-2018 academic year in conformity with the legal provisions in force. The university's scholarship fund consists of allocations from the state budget and its own revenues. In 2020, according to the Rector's report, a sum of 1425304 lei was allocated from its own revenues to supplement the stock exchange fund provided from state budget allocations amounting to 25033127 lei. Thus, the percentage of the total scholarship fund allocated by UPT, from its own funds, for supplementing the scholarship fund obtained from allocations from the state budget is low, having a value of 5.69%. Both the types of scholarships awarded by the university and the mechanisms for their distribution and award are public and transparent, being stipulated in the aforementioned regulation and published on the faculty websites for each semester installment of scholarships distributed and awarded. The types of scholarships awarded by UPT and the criteria for awarding them are presented in the table below (Table 1.1):

| Scholarships Category | Amount (lei) | Award criteria |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Performance scholarships I | 1000 lei/month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree, except for 1st year, 1st semester; - granted to students who have the average pass mark equal to 10.00. |
| Performance scholarships II | 800 lei/month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree, except for 1st year, 1st semester; - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's degree, who have the average pass mark equal to or higher than 9.50 but less than 10.00; - granted to students pursuing a master's degree, who have the average pass mark equal to or higher than the lower threshold fixed by the Faculty Council Board for performance scholarship II and lower than 10.00, possibly in a limited number, depending on the size of the scholarship fund allocated to each faculty. |
| Merit scholarships I | 700 lei/month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree, irrespective of the year of study, who do not benefit from performance scholarships; - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's degree, who have an average pass mark of 9.00 or higher; - granted to students pursuing a master's degree, who have an average scholarship equal to or higher than the lower threshold fixed by the Faculty Council Board for merit scholarship I, possibly in a limited number, dependant on the size of the scholarship fund allocated to each faculty; - the minimum threshold for granting merit scholarships cannot be lower than the average pass mark of 7.50 |
| Merit scholarships II | 600 lei/month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree, irrespective of the year of study, who do not benefit from a performance scholarship; - granted to students pursuing a bachelor's degree, who have an average pass mark lower than 9.00; - granted to students pursuing a master's degree, who have the average pass mark lower than the lower threshold fixed by the Faculty Council Board for merit scholarship I, but higher than or equal to the lower threshold fixed by the Faculty Council Board for merit scholarship II, possibly in a limited number, dependant on the size of the scholarship fund allocated to each faculty; - the minimum threshold for granting merit scholarships cannot be lower than the average 7.50 |

| Scholarships Category | Amount (lei) | Award criteria |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Social scholarship | 580 lei/month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - granted to students during their studies until reaching the age of 35 who, at the time of the decision, passed the previous year of study, that is to say, those who have passed a number of exams in semester I with a minimum of 10 transferable credits and who have a status other than 're-registered' and 're-registered with transfer' at the beginning of the current academic year, depending exclusively on social considerations; - granted to orphans by one or both parents, i.e., for whom the placement has been ordered as a protective measure and who do not have an income above the threshold for the granting of the social grant; - granted to students suffering from TB, who are officially registered within medical units, those suffering from diabetes, malignant diseases, severe malabsorption syndrome, chronic renal insufficiency, bronchial asthma, epilepsy, congenital cardiopathy, chronic hepatitis, glaucoma, severe myopia, immunological diseases, rare diseases, Autistic spectrum disorders, haematological diseases (haemophilia, thalassemia, etc.), deafness, cystic fibrosis, HIV infected or AIDS-infected, those with a locomotor disability, ankylosing spondylitis or rheumatic fever; - granted to students whose family did not have an average net monthly income per family member in the 3 months prior to the start of the semester/academic year higher than the net minimum basic salary per economy. |

Table 1.1 — Scholarship types, their respective amounts and award criteria;

Within the University, the scholarships are awarded at faculty level, and for this purpose the Scholarship Committee of the Faculty made up of the Dean as President, the vice-dean as Chief Secretary and the representative of the students in the Faculty Council Board, and in his/her absence, a member of the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of the Faculty, appointed by the student representative to the Faculty Council Board as a member.

Weaknesses:

- The percentage of the total scholarship fund allocated from the university's own income to supplement the scholarships provided by state budget allocations is small, more precisely 5.69%.

Recommendations:

- Increase of the percentage of the total scholarship fund allocated from the university's own revenues to supplement scholarships provided through allocations from the state budget to at least 10%.

IP.A.2.1.5. Administrative staff of student support services

Politehnica University of Timisoara disposes of a large administrative staff for students' support activities, which is structured in faculties' secretariats, rectorate or other UPT structures. Each faculty's secretariats' activities are coordinated by a Chief Secretary who has subordinate secretaries with attributions divided into departments, study programs or study cycles.

Most of the secretariats have the working hours with the public displayed on the faculty or department websites, but there are secretariats, the programs of which are not publicly displayed or are difficult to access by students. At the same time, it can also be noted that most of the secretariats have working hours with the public placed in the first part of the day, taking place from Monday to Friday, generally the program being shorter on Friday than on the other days of the week. It does not fit to different types of students such as master or doctoral degree students, employed or mature students.

However, during the pandemic caused by the SAR-CoV-2 virus, most of the secretariats within the university developed methods and mechanisms for working with students and issuing the documents they requested online. It was also noted that students are not regularly questioned on the work of the university administrative staff and are not invited to assess the work of the employees with whom they have a direct contact.

Strengths:

- the possibility to work with students and issue the documents they request in the online environment.

Weaknesses:

- public work program not adapted to the needs of students in the course of university studies of master or doctoral studies, employed or mature students.

Recommendations:

- Introduction to the secretariat's public work program of at least one day on which the work program is to be placed in the second part of the day or on weekends in order to make the secretariats accessible for students in the course of university studies of master or doctoral studies, employed or mature students;
- Providing training and development opportunities for the university administrative staff;
- Elaboration and implementation of a plan of measures for the improvement of the services of the administrative staff of the faculty.

CHAPTER B: EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

CRITERION B.1. CONTENTS OF THE STUDY PROGRAMS

S.B.1.1. Admission of students

IP.B.1.1.1. Principles of the policy of admission to the study programs offered by the institution

1.1. Principles of the policy of admission to the study programs offered by the institution

At Politehnica University of Timisoara, the admission policy for all cycles of university education (license, master and PhD) and for all forms of education (if full-time, low frequency IFR and distance ID) is transparent and rigorously applied, while respecting the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates, the only criteria applied are academic in nature, and there is no discriminatory criterion of any kind.

Information on the admission process can be found both on the UPT website and on the website of each faculty, in the "Admission" section, for example, the methodology and method of admission, the number of students for each study program, the admission calendar and other relevant information for future students.

As a rule, the admission methodology of Politehnica University of Timisoara is published at least six months before admission, but due to the pandemic of SAR-CoV-2, in the academic year 2020-2021, this was not possible.

The admission process is managed each year, at the level of the faculties, by teams made from both their staff and students through the legally established student organization. In addition to the admission centers organized at the faculty level, there are also area centers, managed by teams formed in the manner described above.

Students can register for admission both online through the *Enroll UPT* platform and physically at the local admission centers within the faculties, but also at the area centers.

Strengths:

- students' involvement in the admission process;
- the possibility to register for admission with the help of the *Enroll UPT* platform;
- promotion of the admission process on all communication channels available to the university, such as: university and faculty websites, social media, University television (TeleUniversitatea Timisoara).

IP.B.1.1.2. Admission practices

At Politehnica University of Timisoara, admission methods vary depending on the faculty and the study program. For seven of the university's ten faculties, the admission average is equal to the average obtained at the baccalaureate exam. Within the Faculties of Automation and Computing and of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies, except for the study

programs Informatics and Informatics - Distance Education -, respectively Technologies and Systems of Telecommunications - Distance Education -, the admission process consists in a competition in the form of a common exam, grid type, in mathematics, based on a methodology drafted yearly.

Every year, the university publishes an exercise book that may be used as bibliography and for getting ready for the exam; the students can access it both electronically on the university website and in physical form, by purchasing from the Politehnica Publishing House.

Within the Faculty of Architecture and City Planning, the admission process is a competition in the form of an exam made up of two parts, namely: first, compiling a portfolio of works comprising two creative works, with a theme chosen by the candidate, and five plans exclusively containing graphic elements on a specified theme, and second, an interview, which offers the candidate the chance to present the content of his/her portfolio, if selected by the examination board.

The university offers candidates for both types of exams, training sessions that normally take place physically in the university premises, but with the advent of SARS-COV-2, these sessions were transferred exclusively online through the ZOOM platform.

On the other hand, the admission methodology includes a section for candidates who have won prizes in top competitions or those who have achieved exceptional results both in competitions organized by the university and in external contests.

Strengths:

- organizing preparation sessions for the entrance exams, for candidates;
- the university provides students, in addition to training sessions, other materials to help them in the process of preparing for the entrance exam;
- admission procedures for students who have won top competitions or for exceptionally successful candidates.

Weaknesses:

- the university does not have admission procedures adapted to students with disabilities.

Recommendations:

- identification of mechanisms for adapting admission practices to the needs of students with disabilities and implement a methodology in this respect.

S.B.1.2. Structure and presentation of the study programs

B.1.2.1. Structure of the study programs

On the university and faculty websites, there is information on the curricula for the three cycles of university studies (bachelor, master and PhD), a list of the post-graduate programs provided by the university, but also curricula and curriculum fiches.

The university provides 53 bachelor curricula, including 3 in distance learning, 1 in part-time and 4 in foreign languages, 77 master's degree programs and 4 post-graduate programs. UPT also organizes doctoral studies in 13 doctoral fields.

The syllabi are an integral part of the curricula, i.e., the expected outcomes of the teaching process take the form of cognitive, technical or professional skills and affectionate values that are achieved by a discipline.

The curricula also include the examination and assessment method for each subject, which is detailed in the syllabi. Where appropriate, the curricula also covers topics that contribute to the acquisition of transversal skills and practical opportunities for students to gain experience in the field of studies.

The study programs are regularly updated by the Domain Boards and specialized Boards, which are standing committees specialized in the process of initiation, internal assessment, monitoring and updating of the bachelor's and master's programs. These

structures are subordinated to the faculties' Councils and comprise teachers, employers' representatives and students' representatives.

Under the *Regulation on the organization and management of the educational process at the undergraduate cycle of the Politehnica University of Timisoara* ([PRECIZĂRI \(upt.ro\)](http://upt.ro)), students have the possibility to study subjects existing in the curricula of other study programs running at the same faculty or another one, if considered appropriate, by submitting an application to the management of the faculty in which s/he studies before the study contracts are concluded. Under the same Regulation, students have the possibility to contract in advance disciplines from the next higher education year.

The talks with university students showed that not all teachers present the students the general and specific teaching objects, the syllabus or the examination and evaluation methods at the beginning of each semester.

Strengths:

- the existence of study programs in foreign languages;
- the degree of flexibility provided by optional disciplines, those developing the transversal skills of students, the possibility of contracting in advance the next year's disciplines and the mobility of students within the university;
- the existence of the domain and specialisation boards as well as the active participation of employers' and students' representatives in them.

Weaknesses:

- the existence of teachers who do not present the students the general and specific teaching objectives of the subject, the syllabus or the evaluation and examination methods at the beginning of each semester.

Recommendations:

- presentation made by all teachers, at the beginning of each semester, of the general and specific teaching objectives of the subject, the syllabus and the evaluation and examination methods.

B.1.2.2. Differentiation among study programs

At Politehnica University of Timisoara, the study programs have a similar structure for all forms of education – full time, part time and distance education. The educational processes are regulated by specific regulations. The ID/IFR and e-Learning Centre (cel) handles the implementation and management of part-time and distance-education curricula. Teaching at part-time and distance-education programs takes place on the university's e-learning platform, named "Campus Virtual UPT".

Strengths:

- the existence of the e-Learning platform "Campus Virtual UPT", aimed at low-frequency and distance learning.

B.1.2.3. Relevance of study programs

As mentioned above, at Politehnica University of Timisoara, the curricula are regularly reviewed by the Domain and Specialization Boards, so that all stakeholders are involved in this process, i.e., representatives of employers, teaching staff and students.

There were no changes to the study programs for the current series of students following discussions with university students, but it was noted that there are enough cases where students consider that some disciplines would not be relevant or up to date. Also, the talks with employers revealed that there are cases in which students are not very well prepared for integration into the labour market, although they know a lot, but often do not understand how a basic set of concepts works in a practical sense, but only from a purely theoretical one. Therefore, employers need to train students again sometimes so that they can provide performance in the workplace.

Strengths:

- in the process of reviewing the study programs, all stakeholders are involved.

Recommendations:

- re-evaluation of the study programs and of the problematic disciplines from point of view of students and employers' representatives, updating of the content of disciplines considered to be out of date in relation to the technological advances in industry and integration of several practical aspects, taken from local industry, into the content of these disciplines.

CRITERION B.2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

S.B.2.1. Using the academic qualification obtained

IP.B.2.1.1. Harnessing through the ability to engage in the labor market

Politehnica University of Timisoara is concerned both with the development of practical skills and competences and with the integration of its graduates into the labour market. As such, one of the actions taken to fulfil this goal is the organisation of the event “Zilele Carierei” [Careers Days], on a six-monthly basis by the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (CCOC).

The university permanently monitors the career of its graduates through its own system coordinated by CCOC, and the statistical data resulting from the graduates’ completion of the questionnaires are published annually in the Rector’s Report.

According to the 2019 Report, during the official delivery of the study papers, the CCOC applied and collected 1143 questionnaires for the bachelor’s degree cycle, and 436 for the master’s degree cycle, representing a total of 1579 applied questionnaires. These are the results obtained from the centralization and interpretation of the questionnaires on the labor market integration of UPT graduates, class of 2018.

**Insertia absolvenților
ciclul licență – promoția 2018**



| Nr. crt. | Facultatea | Absolvenți | Absolvenți chestionați | Absolvenți angajați dintre cei chestionați | Absolvenți angajați în domeniu dintre cei chestionați | Procent angajați dintre cei chestionați | Procent angajați în domeniu dintre cei chestionați |
|----------|---|------------|------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1 | Facultate de Arhitectură și Urbanism | 95 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 75% | 25% |
| 2 | Facultatea de Automatică și Calculatoare | 394 | 66 | 59 | 54 | 89% | 82% |
| 3 | Facultatea de Chimie Industrială și Ingineria Mediului | 80 | 33 | 27 | 15 | 82% | 45% |
| 4 | Facultatea de Construcții | 119 | 65 | 63 | 55 | 97% | 85% |
| 5 | Facultatea de Electronică, Telecomunicații și Tehnologii Informaționale | 241 | 140 | 135 | 107 | 96% | 76% |
| 6 | Facultatea de Electrotehnică și Electroenergetică | 120 | 59 | 53 | 33 | 90% | 56% |
| 7 | Facultatea de Management în Producție și Transporturi | 125 | 90 | 75 | 49 | 83% | 54% |
| 8 | Facultatea de Mecanică | 270 | 134 | 124 | 75 | 93% | 56% |
| 9 | Facultatea de Științe ale Comunicării | 104 | 45 | 24 | 10 | 53% | 22% |

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Figure 1.1 – Graduates of the bachelor’s degree cycle (class of 2018);



Figure 1.2 – Integration of master graduates (class of 2018);

The analysis of the data presented in the report shows that 88,52% of graduates of the bachelor's degree cycle are employed and 62,73% are employed in the field, respectively 96,58% of graduates of the master's degree cycle are employed and 68,09% work in the field. However, given that the percentage of students questioned is 41,08% for graduates of the bachelor's degree cycle, which means 44,15% for graduates of the master's degree cycle, we cannot draw concrete conclusions on their integration into the labor market.

Strengths:

- high percentage of the surveyed students are employed.

Weaknesses:

- low relevance of the statistical data provided by the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (CCOC) study due to the low number of students surveyed;
- absence of a complex study on the professional route of graduates of Politehnica University Timisoara.

Recommendations:

- identify and implement more effective mechanisms for networking with university graduates, but also question them in order to increase the relevance of the data from the following studies;
- carrying out complex studies on the professional path of UPT graduates and publishing the statistical data obtained from these studies.

IP.B.2.1.2. Capitalisation of the qualification by continuing university education

Politehnica University of Timisoara does not benefit from statistics regarding the students' educational pathways, but a large part of the graduates of an undergraduate study program choose to continue their education with an advanced graduate study program either within the faculty they have graduated from or within another faculty of the university, according to a statistics which show that the university has allocated, for the academic year 2020-2021, 1500 places for the master's degree cycle, respectively 85 places for the doctoral degree cycle, and for both cycles of study, the places have been fully filled.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of concrete statistics regarding the students' educational pathway.

Recommendations:

- Conducting studies to compile statistics on students' educational pathways.

IP.B.2.1.3. Level of student satisfaction regarding the professional and personal development provided by the university

Within UPT, several means are used to monitor and evaluate students' satisfaction: questionnaires, meetings with university and faculty heads, and the expression of opinions of student representatives in governing bodies. Furthermore, the university has a semestrial teachers evaluation system, through the UPT Student Feedback platform and which evaluates the performance of the previous semester teachers. As a result of the evaluation process, each faculty prepares reports which are published on the UPT website. The latest reports available on the site are those related to the 2017-2018 academic year.

Most of the students say that they are satisfied with the infrastructure and student services provided by the university.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of written reports concerning teachers' evaluation process in the academic years 2018-2019, respectively 2019-2020.

Recommendations:

- Intensifying the survey of students' opinion on their satisfaction regarding student services and infrastructure provided by the university;
- In-time publication of the reports related to the teachers' evaluation process on the university's website.

IP.B.2.1.4. Student-centered learning methods

Within Politehnica University of Timisoara, student-centred principles of education are known, followed, and applied predominantly. As a result of some discussions with students, it was found that most teachers use student-centred teaching methods, and the relationship between students and teachers is generally one based on partnership. However, there are sufficient exceptions to the aspects mentioned above, namely teachers who show opposition to innovative teaching methods, these oppositions are most likely due to their low pedagogical training concerning the transition to the new way in which the educational process should take place.

In most cases, within UPT resources of new technologies such as institutional e-mail addresses provided by UPT, e-learning platforms such as the Virtual Campus UPT, which has been adopted by almost all teachers since the beginning of the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus, bibliographic resources both in electronic format, disseminated to students through the Virtual Campus or through institutional e-mail addresses and in physical format, available in the UPT Library are used. Additionally,

within the university, auxiliary tools such as whiteboards and video projectors are used, most of the educational spaces of the higher education institution being equipped with them. At the same time, during courses and seminars, the exchange of opinions is generally encouraged, as for laboratories, teamwork is encouraged both for the completion of laboratory works and of the projects carried out by the students.

The university's teaching strategy does not take into account the needs of students with disabilities, the particularities of students with special needs, and the methods of assessment and examination are not adapted to students with permanent or temporary disabilities.

Weaknesses:

- Teachers' oppositions to innovative teaching methods;
- The university does not actively and formally carry out ongoing activities to identify, develop, test, implement and evaluate effective new learning techniques;
- The absence of a teaching strategy and of evaluation and examination methods adapted to students with permanent or temporary disabilities or to particularities of students with special needs.

Recommendations:

- Actively and formally carry out ongoing activities to identify, develop, test, implement and evaluate new and effective learning techniques;
- Development and implementation of a teaching strategy and evaluation and examination methods adapted to students with permanent or temporary disabilities or to particularities of students with special needs.

IP.B.2.1.5. Career guidance of students

Within Politehnica University of Timisoara, there is a Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (CCOC), through which both students and graduates can benefit, according to the CCOC website, from the following services:

- Informing students and graduates through CCOC communication channels;
- Advising students on various issues;
- Psychological counselling
- Aptitude assessment;
- Trainings;
- Seminars;
- Workshops;
- Identification of opportunities for UPT students and graduates;
- Company presentations;
- Career Days;
- Visits to companies;
- Offer presentations made by companies through CCOC information channels (jobs, internships, collaborations, private scholarships, diploma projects);
- Monitoring the labour market integration of the graduates and presenting statistics in this regard to the universities and faculties heads;
- Promoting UPT's educational offer both in the country and abroad
- Various support materials for students: student guides, information and career guidance guides, various brochures and flyers;
- Tools to promote the educational offer of UPT among high school students;
- Study or information visits (to various companies/institutions, Romanian Parliament, European Union institutions, etc.);
- Development of European programs in support of UPT students and graduates;
- Programs management: Euro 200, student camps, special social scholarships;
- Managing a database with CVs of UPT students in order to present them to interested companies;
- Maintaining the relation with the societal environment in the sense of mediating the connection between it with the students and the university in order to identify various opportunities, but also to present the offer of UPT specialists and at the same time their skills.

The Career Counselling and Guidance Centre at the Politehnica University of Timisoara has 7 employees with higher education studies, trained in counselling and guidance, three of them are career guidance counsellors, two are psychologists and one is a sociologist. Through these data it can be noticed that CCOC UPT does not observe OM no. 650 of November 19, 2014 regarding the organization and operation of Career Counselling and Guidance Centres within the Romanian higher education system, which provides for the minimum ratio of at least one career counsellor/psychologist/2000 students enrolled. In the case of CCOC UPT the balance is approximately one career counsellor/psychologist/2518 students. Furthermore, within the CCOC, there are 10 Heads of Student Counselling Offices from each faculty and 25 student volunteers.

Strengths:

- Intense activity carried out within the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre of Politehnica University of Timisoara.

Weak points:

- Violation of OM no. 650 of November 19, 2014 on the organization and operation of Career Counselling and Guidance Centres in the Romanian higher education system.

Recommendations:

- Hiring qualified personnel within the CCOC in order to streamline and expand its activity and comply with OM no. 650 of November 19, 2014 on the organization and operation of Career Counselling and Guidance Centres in the Romanian higher education system.

CRITERION B.3. - SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY

S.B.3.1. Research programs

IP.B.3.1.1. Research scheduling

Politehnica University of Timisoara approaches academic research very seriously. Efforts to maintain a high level of quality in this direction are high but necessary so that the results are as good as possible. The university has clear strategies for the development of the research direction, having set both objectives and activities necessary to achieve them. The main document on which the actions carried out towards the development of this direction are taken is the *Strategic Plan of the Politehnica University of Timisoara for Institutional Development 2021-2024*, adopted by the University Senate.

Politehnica University of Timisoara has 26 research centres meant to support the development of the academic community in this direction. The integration of students in various research projects is essential for the university, methods of financial support being involved, and not only, so that the level of involvement increases from year to year.

Strengths:

- Research programming is realised in an organized way, being a constantly evaluated process, so as to ensure the achievement of the objectives proposed and adopted by the academic community.

Weak points:

- Student involvement is unfortunately low at the bachelor's and master's level, research activities at the university being sometimes not promoted among them.

Recommendations:

- Creating actions towards promoting the research activities among all the university's students, so that the desire for involvement grows even among the fresh students as well.

IP.B.3.1.2. Conducting the research

Politehnica University of Timisoara has a *Code of Ethics and Deontology of the Politehnica University of Timisoara*, which ensures that the research direction followed by the university is in accordance with the rules of professional ethics to ensure permanent vigilance against possible fraud or misconduct from deontology in research activities.

Within Politehnica University of Timisoara, the academic community is strongly focused on the research direction, the university having a research culture, transmitted from generation to generation, so that results in this direction are always a reference point for the seriousness of university activities. The extensive activity that the academic community carries out during a year towards achieving the research objectives can be consulted in the Rector's Report for 2020.

Promoting research opportunities in which students can get involved mainly targets students enrolled in master's or doctoral studies, but it is not limited to them, the resources being available to all students eager to develop in this direction.

The Doctoral School of Engineering Studies, which operates within the Politehnica University of Timisoara, conducts its activity in 13 different research fields.

IP.B.3.1.3. Research capitalisation

Considering that Politehnica University of Timisoara tends to achieve excellence in terms of research, the results obtained are always disseminated among the internal academic community, but also among the academic communities in Romania. The permanent high number of articles published in journals indicates that the entire academic community involved in the development of this direction makes great efforts to maintain a high level of involvement, so that the results remain as good from year to year.

CRITERION B.4. - THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY OF THE ORGANIZATION

S.B.4.1. Budget and accounting

IP.B.4.1.1. Revenue and expenditure budget

Politehnica University of Timisoara has an annual revenue and expenditure budget. On the university website, it can be noticed that all this information is available in electronic format.

Having a clear development strategy, Politehnica University of Timisoara presents an efficient management of its own finances. From the point of view of student life, the financial contribution that the Politehnica University of Timisoara brings, so that the student services are in a continuous development, is an appropriate one, an annual evolution being visible.

IP.B.4.1.2. Accountancy

The accounting organization of the Politehnica University of Timisoara can be consulted on the university website, where the transparency from this point of view can be noticed. Reading the

documents in the respective section demonstrates the good financial strategy that the Politehnica University of Timisoara has, a good management of the available financial resources being visible.

IP.B.4.1.3. Auditing and public accountability

Politehnica University of Timisoara develops internal and external audit processes of the financial activity, the resulting documents being made public. All these documents are also analysed by the UPT Senate, requiring the approval of this decision-making body.

CHAPTER C: QUALITY MANAGEMENT

CRITERION C.1. - STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

S.C.1.1. Structures and policies for quality assurance

IP.C.1.1.1. Organizing the quality assurance system

Politehnica University of Timisoara has a well-organized system in terms of quality assurance, the existing one within the university being the Quality Management System (SMC-UPT). This system is led by the Rector of the university, who, through a close bound with the Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee (CEAC), develops the strategy, policy, objectives and priorities in the field of quality, seeks their knowledge and application throughout the institution, allocates and verifies the proper use of SMC resources.

The Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee (CEAC) is a structure composed of faculty, students and employers representants. Both the organization and the activity of this commission are regulated by means of a regulation approved at the university level. Although it is chaired by the Rector, its operationalization at this level is delegated to a coordinator, who also subordinates the commissions at the faculty and department level, respectively. In the case of the Politehnica University of Timisoara, the CEAC coordinator is also the director of the General Directorate of Quality Assurance (DGAC), a support structure for achieving the objectives of SMC-UPT.

Although the administrative organization of all these structures is very good, unfortunately, within the university, the culture of quality assurance is not understood by the entire academic community, so there is room for improvement in this direction. Although the student community enjoys representation in each of the commissions that ensure the quality of education at the level of university, faculty, department, the activity of these commissions becomes increasingly reduced with the level of operationalization of the commission.

Strengths:

- Very good organization of all structures whose main concern is quality assurance and implementation of activities to achieve this goal.

Weaknesses:

- The reduced activity of the CEAC at lower levels and the reduced transparency regarding the activity performed by these structures.

Recommendations:

- Intensification of CEAC activity at faculty level, respectively department one and realization of individual activity reports of these structures.

IP.C.1.1.2. Quality assurance policies and strategies

Politehnica University of Timisoara develops its activity in this field, based on a list of guidelines in the field of quality assurance. Both the policies developed and the strategies in this field are based on a document agreed at university level, namely the Quality Handbook.

In order to monitor the level of implementation of the objectives proposed by the structures dealing with quality assurance, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee (CEAC) prepares an annual activity report, which is made public on the university website.

Enhancing the quality of education within Politehnica University of Timisoara is also necessary to make it occupy higher positions in various international rankings, so that some strategies in this area are based on indicators that must be reached to achieve better results in such rankings.

Strengths:

- The foundation of all activities through well-defined documents, which are public on the university website;
- The preparation of an annual report and its public dissemination.

Weaknesses:

- Narrow elaboration of some points in the annual report of the Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee;
- Short definition of an operational plan in the field of medium and long term quality assurance.

Recommendations:

- Producing a more detailed annual report of the Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee and annexing the reports of the subordinate commissions at the faculty's level, respectively department;
- Creation of an operational plan with better defined points, containing exact objectives to be met by the commissions at the faculty and department level.

CRITERION C.2. - PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING, MONITORING AND PERIODICALLY REVIEWING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

S.C.2.1. Approval, monitoring and periodic evaluation of study programs and diplomas corresponding to qualifications

IP.C.2.1.1. Existence and application of the regulation on the initiation, approval, monitoring and regular evaluation of study programs

Politehnica University of Timisoara has an "Operational procedure regarding the Initiation, approval, implementation, monitoring and internal evaluation of study programs in UPT", which involves students, graduates and employers in the processes of designing and reviewing study programs.

This procedure, together with the “Regulation for the organization and development of the educational process during the “License” study cycle from the “Politehnica University of Timisoara”, contains elements that allow the periodic monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the didactic act.

The monitoring of study programs is a continuous activity that is carried out through various methods: analysis of learning outcomes, questionnaires completed by students on teacher performance, as well as internal quality audit. Periodic evaluation of study programs, within or outside the institutional evaluation, is done on the basis of self-evaluation reports created in accordance with the specific procedure mentioned above.

The monitoring of study programs is a permanent activity, which takes place at faculty and university level, with the role of providing evidence and objective information on the following aspects:

- the manner in which the study programs are developed, both in the implementation stage and in the normal operation stage;
- the method in which the measure that ensures the competencies associated with the programs is established;
- the method in which the learning outcomes are validated and how the results and progress achieved by the students are recorded.

Strengths:

- Good regulation of the procedures regarding the initiation, approval, monitoring and evaluation of the study programs.

IP.C.2.1.2. Correspondence between diplomas and qualifications

Within Politehnica University of Timisoara, study programs and diplomas are prepared and issued based on the academic qualification requirements and are laid down based on the expected teaching results according to which diplomas are issued.

The aptitudes and knowledge gained by students through the studies are transposed into qualifications according to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The initiation, approval and implementation of a study programme can be done within the NQF for existing qualifications and for qualifications that are to be entered in the NQF.

University study programmes are reviewed regularly through Domain Boards and Specialization Boards. The process involves and consults students, graduates and employers.

Within the review process, study programmes and diplomas are compared to European and international programmes and diplomas.

The correspondence between diplomas and qualifications results from the subjects' role in the formation of competences. Competences are presented on the university and faculties' sites, as well as in the syllabi.

CRITERION C.3. – OBJECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT TEACHING RESULTS ASSESSMENT METHODS

S.C.3.1. Student assessment

IP.C.3.1.1. IIS has strict regulations regarding students examination and grading that is applied rigorously and consequently

The examination and grading of students within the Politehnica University of Timisoara are regulated through the following documents:

- Regulation for the organization and conduct of the undergraduate educational process within the Politehnica University of Timisoara;
- Regulation for the organization and conduct of the Masters' educational process within the Politehnica University of Timisoara (2020);
- Regulation for the examination and grading of students within the Politehnica University of Timisoara;
- Specific regulations (BExS regulation) for the communication of partial and final assessment results to students;
- Specific regulations for students' rights to appeal results obtained for exams/colloquia/projects;
- Grade equivalent chart for international students recommended by the Ministry of Education through the Ministerial Order 3223/8.02.2012.

Assessment methods of acquired knowledge, abilities and aptitudes applied within the Politehnica University of Timisoara include 4 types of assessment tests that the student and at least one other assessor participate in:

- exam;
- distributed evaluation;
- colloquium;
- project.

Strengths:

- Local employers watch the bachelor's thesis/diploma paper presentations in order to attract the best graduates into their own companies.

Weaknesses:

- Some teachers are not used to the company of other teachers during these presentations.

Recommendations:

- Involving at least two teachers in the student assessment process;
- Involving an external assessor in the student assessment process, if the assessor is an employer (in all justified cases).

IP.C.3.1.2. Integration of examination in the teaching and learning process through courses and study programmes

Each subject within the curriculum is designed so that it includes teaching activities and practical/applicative projects, as well as individual study and examination activities. Within the Politehnica University of Timisoara, examination and assessment methods, subject requirements, and the content are announced to the students during the first course of each subject.

Strengths:

- Teachers have a student consultation schedule during which they are available for questions regarding the subject.

Weaknesses:

- Corresponding subject sheets are not found on each faculty's website.

Recommendations:

- Publishing all updated subject sheets on each faculty's website.

CRITERION C.4. – PERIODIC TEACHING STAFF QUALITY ASSESSMENT METHODS

S.C.4.1. Teaching and research staff quality

IP.C.4.1.1. Teaching staff competence and the teacher – student ratio

Politehnica University of Timisoara has competent and well-prepared teachers.

The student – teacher ratio is analysed annually by the Council of Administration and the UPT Senate after the approval of staff reports.

Legal provisions, ARACIS specific standards and funding possibilities are taken into account on this matter.

The university also takes into account the fact that the influx of candidates for admission to different qualifications is not uniform and that there are qualifications that, although they have a lower demand, are absolutely necessary for national and European development.

Within the UPT, there are about 13081 students tutored by about 609 teachers, that are tenured or hired for a limited period of time, according to the 2020 Rector Report. According to the same report, 407 of the 1016 department positions are vacant. A more detailed report of the UPT positions and the faculty and department stats can be viewed in the aforementioned report.

IP.C.4.1.2. Peer evaluation

Peer evaluation is done annually by the academic management according to the university's self-evaluation report.

Peer evaluation is planned mandatorily within each department by the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission at Department Level (CEAC-D), in the first month of the academic year,

after consulting the department head, the list of teachers that are to be assessed throughout the year and the ordinary peer evaluation calendar.

The entire peer evaluation process is based on general criteria and clear, public methods regulated within the “Operational Teacher Peer Evaluation Procedure”.

Evaluation and peer self-evaluation questionnaires can be found on the UPT website.

Weaknesses:

- The resulting statistics are not published on the UPT website.

Recommendations:

- Publishing the resulting statistics on the UPT website.

IP.C.4.1.3. Students' assessment of teaching staff

The assessment of teachers is done after the students complete a CEAC questionnaire in digital format on the university platform.

The questionnaire includes questions regarding:

- teacher behaviour;
- teacher organization;
- degree of involvement;
- teaching quality;
- suggestions;
- students' involvement in courses/seminaries/laboratories.

Teacher assessment is done every semester; students receive codes that, once entered on the UPT website, take them to a questionnaire for each subject.

Following the assessment process, reports are published annually on the university website by each faculty, within which are mentioned the problems signalled by the students and the corresponding improvement measures to be implemented. The last available reports on the website are those of the academic year 2017-2018.

After some discussions with students, a significant number showed reluctance to being involved in the teacher assessment process, due to their impression that the results of the evaluations are not applied in any way and do not lead to an improvement of the current situation. However, students are generally involved in this process. This reluctance has also been observed statistically, during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, when student involvement decreased dramatically, because individual authentication codes were not shared during laboratories, but transmitted to academic year representatives who sent them to the students, after which they would complete the questionnaires before a deadline determined at university level.

Weaknesses:

- Student assessments of teachers are not made public.

Recommendations:

- Publishing the results of the reports regarding students' assessment of teachers, according to LEN Art. 303 par. 2

IP.C.4.1.4. Assessment by the university management

Within the Politehnica University of Timisoara, teachers are self-assessed based on a self-assessment form and they are assessed annually by the department head based on:

- the self-evaluation report;
- the list of their teaching/research papers;
- the reports of the meetings during which the peer evaluation was carried out;
- the reports of the subject and teacher student assessment results.

Results are sent to the university management. The questionnaires are stored in the departments.

IP.C.4.1.5. Conditions for the smooth running of the teachers' activity

In order to ensure a teacher's efficient performance, UPT is obligated to provide them with an auxiliary teacher.

The UPT does not offer opportunities and does not promote professional growth of the teaching staff and the support staff, it does not encourage innovation in teaching methods, but it does place a strong emphasis on utilizing new technologies.

The university does not possess innovation and continuous university level teaching and studying training centres and departments. The Teaching Staff Training Department (DPPD) within the UPT only ensures undergraduate teaching staff training.

The higher education institution encourages and supports scientific activity with the purpose of strengthening the connection between education and research.

The UPT supports academic and auxiliary staff participation in national and international mobility programmes, while the development of academic infrastructure and the purchase of resources necessary for the learning and research process are done in accord with the institution development strategy.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of opportunities and promotion of professional development of teaching and support staff and failure to encourage innovation in teaching methods;
- Lack of centers and departments of innovation and continuous training in teaching and learning at university level.

Recommendations:

- Facilitating the professional development of academic and support staff, promoting them and encouraging and supporting teachers in innovating teaching methods;

- Establishment of centers or departments of innovation and continuous training in teaching and learning at university level or the development of the Department of Teacher Training in order to specialize in this field.

CRITERION C.5. – ACCESSIBILITY OF STUDY RESOURCES

S.C.5.1. Study resources and student services

IP.C.5.1.1. Availability of study resources

The starting point in determining study resources is the bibliographical list for each subject, determined by the teachers that conduct activities for that subject. The teaching staff can request the purchase of bibliographical resources from the Library for a specific subject. This covers the bibliographical requirements for all study programmes managed by the Politehnica University of Timisoara. The Council of Administration monitors and controls the purchase of academic material related to the study programmes.

The new UPT Library building was put into use in autumn 2014. It is the most modern library in Romania and among the most modern ones in Europe, in terms of its organization and of the technology used. The working principle of the Library is a modern one, centred on the users and their documentation needs. The Library has a digitalized loan system, and students have access to certain books from the comfort of their own home, without needing to travel to the library. Even titles that require travelling to the library can be booked online.

Since the university library opened in 2014, faculty libraries are no longer open, and most books have been transferred to the Library of the Politehnica University of Timisoara.

In addition to the modern amenities (computers, printers, scanners, group study rooms and WI-FI access), the library also provides moments of relaxation needed during intensive study periods (lounge chairs, sofas, table tennis room), making it really attractive to the students. During each session, the library is open for longer hours, between 9:00 – 24:00 daily.

The Library of the Politehnica University of Timisoara currently possesses 1,000,000 volumes, and in March this year, 35,000 science and technology e-books were purchased.

Strengths:

- Within the library, there is a reading room with 100 seats that is open 24/7, an advantage enjoyed by many students.

Weaknesses:

- Not all books can be accessed digitally.

Recommendations:

- Adapting (scanning) the books so that they can be accessed in digital format, online, from the comfort of students' homes.

IP.C.5.1.2. Teaching as a source of learning

An essential contribution to this approach is provided by the Teaching Staff Training Department, which offers psycho-pedagogical training services to teachers and students pursuing a bachelor's and master's degree. Professors possess up to date teaching strategies and methods, all of them being shared with students.

Strengths:

- Some teachers use modern technologies in their teaching activities and student examinations, the teaching process being visibly improved.

Weaknesses:

- Some teachers are not familiar with modern technologies, having difficulties using the e-mail, the Virtual Campus or tools that aim to increase the quality of the teaching activities.

Recommendations:

- Training teachers to use new technologies and/or tools designed to increase the quality of the teaching process;
- Conduct training sessions to introduce academics to new methods of teaching and interacting with students.

IP.C.5.1.3. Stimulation and recovery programs

The main students' stimulation and recovery programs that are carried out within Politehnica University of Timisoara are listed below:

- Mathematics recovery program for first year students;
- Physics recovery program for first year students;
- Counselling program for students offered besides the compulsory teaching hours;
- Tutoring sessions offered by all professors.

The first programme runs for half of the academic semester, in 8 of the 10 faculties of Politehnica University of Timisoara.

The second programme runs every year in 3 of the 10 faculties.

The third programme is governed by a guidance regulation. The programme aims to support students in identifying activities that allow them to develop their skills in a comprehensive way.

Students who achieve outstanding results (1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes or mention) in international or national phases of student professional competitions are rewarded with a special scholarship for one academic year, cumulative with any other type of scholarship. The award is approved by the Council of Administration on proposals from the Faculty Councils' Boards.

Furthermore, pupils who wish to opt for certain faculties within the Politehnica University of Timisoara and who have obtained, during their high school studies, distinctions in national (1st, 2nd, 3rd places or gold, silver or bronze medals, or equivalents) or in international school competitions (1st, 2nd, 3rd places, mention or gold, silver or bronze medals, or equivalents thereof) and/or in other national or international competitions (1st, 2nd, 3rd places, mention or gold, silver or bronze medals,

or equivalents), recognised by the Ministry of Education and Research or organised by the Politehnica University of Timisoara, or have qualified, during their high school studies, for the national phase of competitions aimed at establishing representative teams for international competitions, they all will be admitted with an average pass mark of 10.00. Therefore, they will also benefit from a scholarship, thanks to the average pass mark with which they are admitted, according to [HS 84/12.04.2021](#).

At the same time, in order to promote and support the scientific research activity of the students of the master's degree programs of Politehnica University of Timisoara, the university offers, from its own funds, a special scholarship for a number of 50 master's students, according to [HCA 139/13.10.2020](#).

Stenghts:

- The existence and support of remedial activities for students who have certain deficiencies, mainly in mathematics and physics;
- Offering special scholarships from own funds, but also scholarships offered by private companies through faculties.

IP.C.5.1.4. Student services

Politehnica University of Timisoara has 16 student dormitories in Timisoara (10 five-person dormitories, 4 two-person dormitories, 2 one-person dormitories - studios) provided with internet, TV cable, furniture, refrigerator in each room, kitchens and laundry facilities on each floor. The students and staff of Politehnica University of Timisoara can also choose to eat in one of the 4 canteen-restaurants in Timisoara:

- A dining complex, consisting of a fast-food restaurant (on the ground floor) and multi-purpose rooms (upstairs);
- A "fast-food restaurant" (canteen) on the ground floor of the 1MV dormitory;
- Two student restaurants (in House Politehnica 1 and House Politehnica 2).

At the Faculty of Engineering in Hunedoara, students also benefit from a student dormitory and a canteen.

Many students, teachers and various citizens eat at the "fast-food" restaurant located on the Student Campus and on the ground floor of the 1MV dormitory. Based on pre-purchased cards, the university offers, for only eight lei, a warm meal to students and teachers. Moreover, these two "fast-food" restaurants are frequented by students or teachers from other higher education institutions in Timisoara. Most of the students, and not only, rate the food as very affordable and tasty.

Medical care is provided by a Dispensary and a Student Hospital, both located on the university campus (Student Campus) in Timisoara.

Politehnica University of Timisoara has three complex sports centres in Timisoara, which students can use for free:

- Sports Centre No. 1, which includes an athletics track, indoor mini football pitches, a football stadium ("Stadionul Știința"), a gym;

- Sports Centre No. 2, which includes swimming pools (indoor, with sauna and maintenance equipment, and outdoor), sports hall (tennis, basketball, volleyball), tennis courts (bitumen and tartan), basketball courts, football pitches, multi-purpose building;
- Sports Centre No. 3, with a football pitch and lockers.

In addition, there is a sports hall in Hunedoara, within the Faculty of Engineering.

Students also benefit from information and counselling services through the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (CCOC), which operates in conformity with the Rules of Organisation and Operation of the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (ROFCCOC). The CCOC, as well as UPT student organisations, offers multiple volunteering opportunities.

Furthermore, in terms of services, the university's students benefit from the following:

- **WashApp** - a platform through which students can schedule themselves to wash their clothes;
- **BookingApp** - a platform through which students can book the mini-football, handball, basketball or tennis courts within Base 1 and Base 2;
- **Student** – a platform through which students can sign study contracts, upload applications for social grants and pay fees (tuition, backlogs, 3rd presentation, etc.);
- **Primo** – a platform through which students can view titles borrowed from the UPT Library, reserve a title, order a photocopy of it and so on;
- **Tuition management** - a platform through which students can consult their grades, the current year's study contract, as well as the analytical and synthetic situation at the beginning of the student's academic cycle;
- **Virtual Campus** – a platform that represents the online educational environment of academic support for all the faculties within Politehnica University of Timisoara, since the beginning of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, it includes all courses related to the undergraduate and graduate degree cycles, allowing teaching activities as well as student evaluation;
- **Office 365** (e-mail, calendar, OneDrive, etc.) - the university provides students with access to the Microsoft Office suite of software and offers Windows operating system licences via the institutional e-mail address (prenume.nume@student.upt.ro) [name.surname@student.upt.ro];
- **SAS UPT** - is an app for devices running Android or iOS, it supports students by providing them with an interactive way to view the list of entrepreneurial and business themed events (seminars, workshops, presentations of opportunities to attract business fundings, etc.), as well as the relevant information associated with them, thus offering students the chance to experience what the concept of business means and to develop one independently;
- **UPT Student** - is an app for devices running Android or iOS, and is the replacement of the Student Guide, which has been replaced by this app since 2018. Grades and study contract (Tuition Management), schedules of all faculties and study programs, news concerning the community of Politehnica University of Timisoara, regulations and students' locations of interest can be accessed through the app.

Strengths:

- Politehnica University of Timisoara covers, every year, the demand for accommodation in its own dormitories in proportion of 100%.

Weaknesses:

- Student dormitories need renovation, also most dormitories accommodate 5 students/room.

Recommendations:

- Rehabilitation of student dormitories (mainly dormitories with five places in the room and bathroom on the landing);
- Reducing the number of people who are accommodated in a dormitory room, in the case of dormitories that accommodate more than two persons in a room or those that are studios.

CRITERION C.6. - SYSTEMATICALLY UPDATED INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE DATABASE

S.C.6.1. Information systems

IP.C.6.1.1. Data and information databases

Collecting, processing and analysing data and information relevant to institutional quality evaluation and assurance is carried out in a process-oriented manner, on several levels.

The most important aspect is the management of schooling, which is done with the help of an integrated information system, called GISC, which allows the management of study contracts, tracking the results of the knowledge assessment and students' financial obligations, the editing of various reports, as well as the systematization of the data needed to complete the diploma supplement. University students can consult their own academic records online via this "management of schooling".

Recording the assessment results is an ongoing process in all faculties within the university. The status of the records can be consulted at any moment. The deans of the faculties and the rectorate of Politehnica University of Timisoara can continuously monitor the results of the teaching process and, through this, the quality of the study programs.

Weaknesses:

- The Schooling Management Program, as far as some faculties are concerned, is not functioning in optimal parameters. The information (i.e., the grades) is sometimes updated with significant delays. Thus, a student cannot access his/her grades remotely through it, but only by contacting the faculty secretariat.

Recommendations:

- Optimising and updating the students' academic situation by inserting grades and all necessary information in the Schooling Management System (GISC) within each faculty. This will ensure the convenience of the students and, at the same

time, eliminate the time that secretaries would spend answering requests concerning grades, which could be spent for other purposes.

CRITERION C.7. – PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY REGARDING STUDY PROGRAMMES AND, AS APPROPRIATE, CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED

S.C.7.1. Public information

IP.C.7.1.1. Public information offer

In terms of appearance, the university website is user-friendly and intuitive. Each faculty has its own website and similarly each department has its own website.

At Politehnica University of Timisoara, in addition to all the information that can be found on www.upt.ro, useful information is published on www.avizier.upt.ro and also on www.upost.upt.ro.

On the university's website you can find the Education Plan of each bachelor's or master's degree.

All the decisions taken by the Senate and the Bureau of the Senate of Politehnica University of Timisoara are published on the website, where an archive of the last years of these decisions is available. Decisions can be consulted by visiting www.upt.ro/Informatii_hotarari-ale-senatului-si-ale-biroului-senatului_927_ro.html.

Some of the Decisions of the Administration Council can be found on the university's website, which can be consulted at www.upt.ro/Informatii_hotarari-ale-consiliului-de-administratie-_1003_ro.html.

Weaknesses:

- Faculty websites are built in different ways, with no common layout or similar functionality, some of them not being intuitive;
- The websites of some university departments are morally worn and do not meet the needs of students or of the general public;
- The websites of some faculties do not display the decisions of the Faculty Council and the Faculty Council Bureau.

Recommendations:

- The creation of an intuitive structure on which to build the websites of all the faculties;
- The creation of a structure on the basis of which to build the websites of all departments, and update them regularly so that the information reported is relevant to students and the general public;
- Publication, on each department website, of the CVs of the teaching staff in order to show their formation;
- Publication, on each faculty website, of the decisions of the Faculty Council and the Bureau of the Faculty Council;

- Publication, on the university website, of the decisions of the Council of Administration and the Bureau of the Council of Administration.

CRITERION C.8 - FUNCTIONING OF EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE STRUCTURES ACCORDING TO LAW

S.C.8.1. The institutional structure for quality assurance in education complies with the legal provisions and operates continuously

IP.C.8.1.1. The Commission coordinates the implementation of quality assessment and quality assurance procedures and activities

The Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee (CEAC) elaborates proposals for quality improvement in UPT, which are approved by the University Senate. The annual report is published on the university website and is structured in an accessible way.

The CEAC acts based on the regulations for the organisation and deployment of the teaching process at the various Bologna cycles, also including activities to evaluate the quality of education.

Furthermore, the CEAC and DGAC are concerned of the good practices in the field of quality as well as providing members of the academic community with many information in this regard.

CRITERION C.9. - REGULAR EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

S.C.9.1. Institutions undergo regular external quality assurance in conformity with the ESG

IP.C.9.1.1 Accredited HEIs and/or their structures participate in external quality assurance on a cyclical basis, as required by the legislation in force. External quality assurance may take different forms and focus on different organizational levels, i.e., study programs, master's domain, doctoral school, doctoral domain or institution.

Politehnica University of Timisoara observes legal provisions on external evaluation carried out cyclically by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS). The last external institutional evaluation took place in 2015 and was carried out by ARACIS.

Furthermore, in 2012, Politehnica University of Timisoara was externally evaluated by another institution, not specified by law as mandatory, namely by the European University Association (EUA) within the project "Performance in research, performance in educational activity - quality, diversity and innovation in Romanian universities".

This reports comprises 45 pages:

- 1 page Cover page
- 1 page The report drafting team
- 2 pages Contents +
- 41 pages for the Students' Self-Evaluation Report