

"Ovidius" University Constanta	The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
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Institutional Evaluation Report

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This *Report* was approved by the Council of Administration of "Ovidius" University, Constanta, following an *internal institutional evaluation procedure*.

The data in this *Report* are complete, accurate and in accordance with the university code of ethics.

Rector,
Prof. Dr. Sorin RUGINĂ

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I. Introduction

I.1. Legal Framework. Mission. Strategy. Goals.

“Ovidius” University of Constanta (OUC) is a public institution of higher education and a legal entity, part of the public education system in Romania, autonomous and open. Since its opening in 1961 (as a *Pedagogical Institute* with based on a three-year system of study), it has functioned continuously as *Constanta Pedagogical Institute* ([OUC ANNEX 01](#)), *Higher Education Institute* ([OUC ANNEX 02](#)), *Institute of Engineering* ([OUC ANNEX 03](#)). The current name of the university goes back to 1990 ([OUC ANNEX 04](#)) and the current structure is regulated by **Government Decision 575/2015** and **Government Decision 595/2015** ([OUC ANNEX 05](#)).

According to the “Charta of „Ovidius” University of Constanta” ([OUC ANNEX 06](#)), the **mission** “*is to encourage a competitive and collaborative education and research programs designed to create, maintain and distribute knowledge to society*”. In order to fulfill its mission, „Ovidius” University of Constanta operates according to the *Institutional Development Strategy* ([OUC ANNEX 07](#)) and according to the *Annual Operational Plans* ([OUC ANNEX 08](#)). These are public documents well-known to the academic community and are accessible on the website of “Ovidius” University of Constanta, under the heading *About OUC, Official Documents* (<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/>). As fundamental elements of its mission, „Ovidius” University of Constanta assumes a set of six main objectives (art. 11 “Charta of „Ovidius” University of Constanta” - [OUC ANNEX 06](#)).

“Ovidius” University of Constanta complies with *The Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education* (1988), adheres to *The Magna Charta of European Universities* (Bologna, 1988) and the *Bologna Declaration* concerning the European area of higher education (1999).

I.2. Short Historical Background

“Ovidius” University of Constanta (OUC) is a public institution of higher education founded in 1961. In 1990, it became a multidisciplinary university with Bachelor, Masters and PhD degree programs. The university was named after the Roman poet Publius Ovidius Naso, who lived the last part of his life in Tomis, a Greek colony that cradled modern-day Constanta. The spiritual patron of the university left a cultural heritage to the whole humanity having sent to the future generations, through the ancient myths in his *Metamorphosis*, messages about passion and dedication, about the power of love, about creation, evolution and transformation. The *Pedagogical Institute of Constanta* was founded in 1961 ([OUC ANNEX 01](#)), and operated under this name until 1977. At that time, the university included the following Faculties:

- Faculty of Mathematics – with one specialization: *Mathematics*;
- Faculty of Physics and Chemistry - with two specializations: *Physics-Chemistry*; *Industrial, Theoretical and Practical Competencies*;
- Faculty of Natural Sciences with two specializations: *Natural Sciences*; *Agricultural, Theoretical and Practical Competences*;

In 1977, the institution changed its name into the *Institute of Higher Education of Constanta* ([OUC ANNEX 02](#)), which had 6 specialization areas: **Mechanics** (*Mechanical Engineering*), **Construction** (*Hydro-Construction and Land Reclamation*), **Chemistry** (*Oil Processing Technology and Petrochemistry*), **Biology** (*Natural and Agricultural Sciences*), **Physical Education** (*Physical Education*), **Philology** (*Foreign Languages and Literatures*). Between 1984 and 1990, the institution of higher education in Constanta was known as the *Institute of Engineering of Constanta*, in 1990 being named “Ovidius” University of Constanta ([OUC ANNEX 04](#)), which currently counts 16 faculties and 170 study programs.

1.3. Management Strategies and Institutional Structures

At present, “**Ovidius**” **University of Constanta** has a coherent, integrated and transparent management system tailored to the strategy, mission and goals of the university. The management structures were elected based on the principle of representativity, are supported by effective administration and proper financial mechanisms, and function in accordance with the current law.

The management structures of OUC are the Senate and the Council of Administration.

The Senate is the academic community which guarantees freedom and university autonomy, and is the highest decision-making body at “Ovidius” University of Constanta. The Senate operates under the current laws, the National Education Law no.1 / 2011, amended and supplemented, in accordance with the “Charter of “Ovidius” University of Constanta”, on which basis the Senate Regulation ([OUC ANNEX 09](#)) has been elaborated. The Senate is led by the President elected according to the legislation above mentioned.

The Council of Administration is concerned with the operational management of “Ovidius” University of Constanta and implements the strategic decisions of the University Senate, operating under the Council Regulation ([OUC ANNEX 10](#)). The Council of Administration is led by the Rector, confirmed by the Order of the Ministry of Education (no. 288 of 06.18.2014), ([OUC ANNEX 11](#)), the institution representing this structure in relation to the Senate.

The structural elements of the university management which are to be found in the organizational chart of „Ovidius” University of Constanta: *The Academic and Research Structure* and *The Technical-Administrative Structure* ([OUC ANNEX 12](#)), and are a component part of the University Charter approved by the Senate.

By Government Decision 575/2015 and Government Decision 595/2015 ([OUC ANNEX 05](#)), “Ovidius” University of Constanta counts 16 faculties (<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/facultati>). The structure of the study programs organized at faculty level includes 86 Bachelor programs and 76 Master programs.

II. University Dynamics since Latest Evaluation

Ovidius University of Constanta is an accredited university. In 2009 **Ovidius University** successfully completed the process of institutional accreditation and received “High Level of Confidence” rating from RAQAE (the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education) (

ovidius.ro/evaluare-aracis/). In 2011, following the evaluation report by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, **Ovidius University of Constanta** was ranked as a higher education and scientific research institution. The next year, 2012, **Ovidius University** successfully completed the evaluation process and received EN ISO 9001: 2008 certification from TÜV Austria. The evaluation that was conducted by experts from the European University Association (E.U.A.) in 2013 (<http://calitate.univ-ovidius.ro/evaluare-eua/>) confirmed the quality standards of the educational activities, the scientific research and artistic creation at Ovidius University and made recommendations which enabled the present management of the university to promote the institutional strategy in line with the economic and social realities.

II.1. The Dynamics of the Teaching Activities

In the academic year 2015-2016, **Ovidius University of Constanta** offers 170 study programmes (Bachelor's and Master's degree), which are authorized in accordance with the regulations in force, as well as other alternative forms of education and training.

At **Ovidius University of Constanta**, the educational activity of Low Frequency and Distance Education (LF-DE) programmes is administered by the *Centre for Low Frequency and Distance Education* (<http://idifr.univ-ovidius.ro/>) which operates on the basis of its own regulations (**OCU ANNEX 6**). **Ovidius University of Constanta** is a higher education institution that organizes PhD study programmes (<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat/>).

The dynamics of the study programmes (Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees), conducted at High Frequency Education (full time courses), Low Frequency and Distance Education is illustrated in Table 1 (**OCU ANNEX 15**).

Table 1. The Evolution of the Number of Study Programmes (2009-2016)

CATEGORIES	BACHELOR		MASTER		PhD	
	FE*	LF-DE*	FE	LF-DE	Full Time (Frequency)	NF/LF*
2009-2010	81	12	67		8 PhD Domains	8 PhD Domains
2010-2011	82	12	73		8 PhD Domains	8 PhD Domains
2011-2012	79	12	81		8 PhD Domains	-
2012-2013	79	12	82		8 PhD Domains within 4 Doctoral Schools	-
2013-2014	77	11	83		8 PhD Domains within 4 Doctoral Schools	-
2014-2015	77	11	76		8 PhD Domains within 4 Doctoral Schools	-
2015/2016	75	11	76		8 PhD Domains within 4 Doctoral Schools	8 PhD Domains within 4 Doctoral Schools

*FE = Full Time/Frequency Education

*LF/DE = Low Frequency/Distance Education

*NF/LF = No Frequency/Low Frequency Education

As illustrated in Table 1, by reducing the number of the study programmes (Bachelor's and Master's degree) from 173 study programmes in 2012-2013 to 162 study programmes in 2015-2016, the management of Ovidius University has maintained only the highly competitive study programmes that meet two major sustainability conditions: financial sustainability and attractiveness. In the academic year 2014-2015 a large-scale internal study programme evaluation process was conducted at our University, which is, in fact, planned to continue next year, having as main objectives to identify the uncompetitive study programmes and to propose alternatives to comply with the ever-changing market conditions.

Upon the institutional accreditation that was conducted in 2009, November, 11 -13, the Evaluation Commission reported that for the academic year 2009-2010, Ovidius University of Constanta had "1350 academic positions that were tenured by 756 higher education teaching staff, among which 736 members of the teaching staff (97.35%) with tenures at Ovidius University. At Ovidius University there are also 81 members of the teaching staff that are non-academic experts from other institutions and companies. Apart from the tenured teaching staff, there are also 248 auxiliary teaching and research staff and 206 administrative, maintenance and operational staff."

In the academic year 2015-2016, at "Ovidius" University of Constanta there are 1388 academic positions (including Doctoral School staff, Department for Employee Training staff and Centre for Low Frequency and Distance Education staff, which amounts to 100 positions), that are tenured by 697 higher education teaching staff, among whom 634 (90.96%) members of the teaching staff with tenures at Ovidius University. Apart from the tenured teaching staff, there are also 225 auxiliary teaching and research staff and 81 administrative, maintenance and operational staff ([OUC ANNEX 14](#)). The staff establishment is elaborated according to certain Regulations ([OUC ANNEX 13](#)).

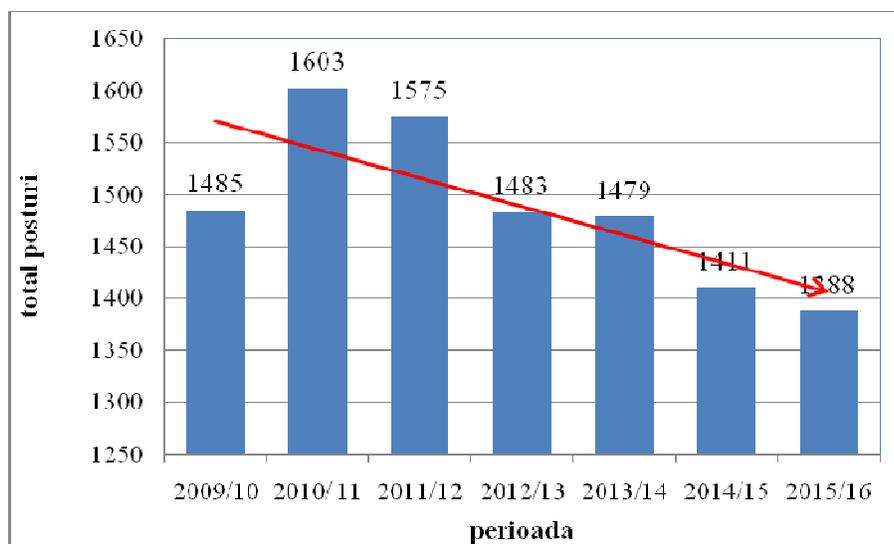


Fig. 1. The Evolution of Academic Positions since the Latest Accreditation

The evolution of academic job positions is presented in fig. 1. It has to be mentioned that fig.1 also includes the positions in the doctoral programs, the DPTT [the Department of Pedagogy and Teacher Training] and the LF-DE centre. As one can notice in fig.1, there is a general preoccupation with reducing

the number of positions, to keep personnel costs within the 65% threshold, as well as to improve quality indicators. In the 2015-2016 academic year the number of positions was reduced by 215 compared to the 2010-2011 academic year (fig.1). The occupancy level has risen in the 2015-2016 year by 4.22% compared to the previous year and by 6.86% compared to 2010-2011. Taking into consideration only the positions involved in the undergraduate and MA programs, the number of positions for 2015-2016 is 1302, which would mean a 55.53% occupancy rate of tenured positions. Regarding the percentage of professors and associate professors with tenure or tenure-track positions, this is around 36%, calculated over the period since the latest evaluation.

The professional quality of full-time Ovidius University faculty staff is attested by the CVs and publication lists which emphasize that they have the academic prerequisites, a PhD degree or are pursuing one, and are undertaking research in the fields of study they teach. A considerable number of faculty members are active or founding members of scientific societies or professional and artistic associations, and many of them have been awarded scientific prizes and awards.

Against the backdrop of the socio-economic context caused by the world economic crisis, student demographic dynamics and numbers of baccalaureate diploma holders, the number of enrolled students at Ovidius University of Constanta has declined over the last 7 years, as shown in fig.2 ([OUC ANNEX 23](#)). The most drastic decline was in the number of doctoral students, partially as a result of the 2011 classification ([OUC ANNEX 24](#)). In the 2015-2016 academic year, doctoral studies have been resumed in two disciplines: mathematics and civil engineering, which makes us believe in the future reinvigoration of doctoral studies.

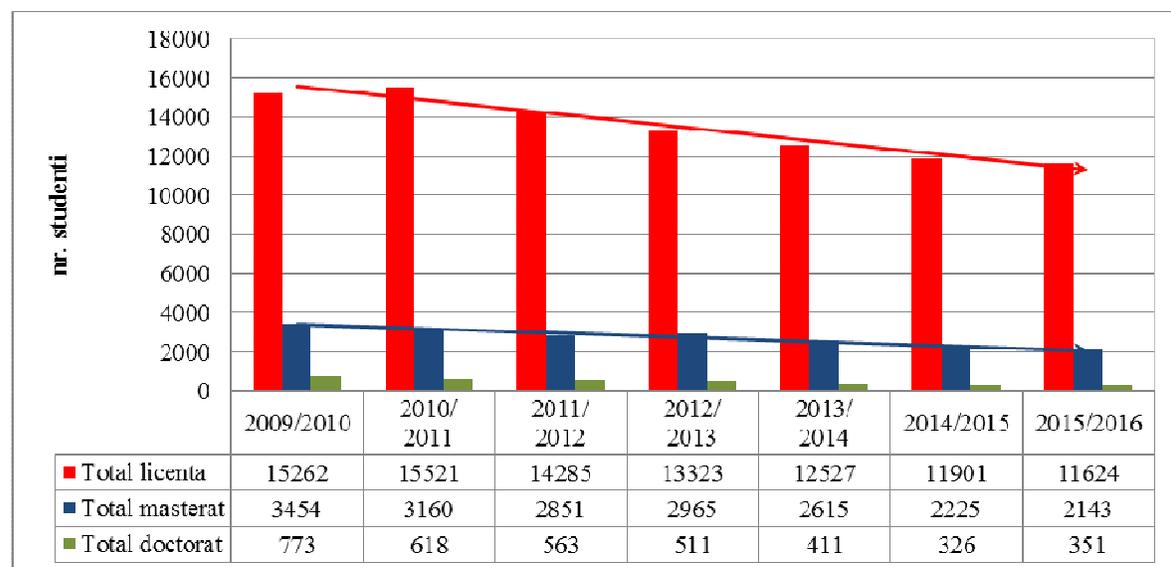


Fig .2. Student number evolution over the analyzed period

At the moment, 15,660 students are enrolled at Ovidius University Constanta, out of whom 11,624 are enrolled in undergraduate programs, 2143 in MA programs, 315 in doctoral programs, and

1542 in other forms of study (preparatory year, DPTT and medical residency), for whom this university represents a unique educational opportunity, benefitting from considerable diversity and flexibility of the programs of study available, high quality of complementary educational services and educational and professional counseling, availability of national and international scholarships, as well as social inclusion packages.

To ensure the efficiency of student affairs and the management of all student problems, Ovidius University Constanta offers students the services of three departments: the Center for Professional and Educational Counseling (<http://consiliere.univ-ovidius.ro/>), the Excellency Center for Students (<http://ces.univ-ovidius.ro/>) and the Center for Continued Professional Education and Development (<http://cfdpco.univ-ovidius.ro/>).

The Center for Professional and Educational Counseling actively analyzes the evaluation results of graduate professional placement, as well as graduates' intentions to pursue MA studies ([OUC ANNEX 55](#)). The methodology employed is that of using questionnaires. Such analyses are undertaken yearly, based on a sample of graduates from all disciplines.

For example, in 2015, 2282 persons were surveyed, out of whom 93.91% were full-time students and 6.09% were part-time students in 2013. The analysis shows that 40% of graduates pursue MA studies, out of whom 82.42% are enrolled at Ovidius University. Regarding employment rates, these are around 50%, which includes 34.84% employed after graduation, and 25.99% during their studies. The employment rate in the specialized fields the graduates have studied in is also high, shortly after graduation, and demonstrates the improved efficiency of the programs of study. This average rate, at 60.01%, is in a positive relationship with the rate of relevance of skills developed during their studies, at 58%, and with future career development opportunities in their current jobs, at 61%.

The university marketing bureau (UMB) of Ovidius University sets out to determine the optimal framework for implementing university marketing policies at institutional level. For this purpose, the UMB undertook, during November 2014-December 2015, sociological research on a number of 483 subjects using the questionnaire method ([OUC ANNEX 43](#)). This study involved Ovidius University students from all years of study and from every undergraduate program. The study analyzed 9 elements including: (i) determining the main objectives underlying the students' choice of Ovidius University; (ii) taking stock of the resources they used to obtain information for their chosen programs of study; (iii) their reasons for choosing their current programs of study; (iv) assessing what students think of the university and how they describe it.

Regarding the main reason for choosing Ovidius University, 38% of those surveyed were convinced by the quality of educational services, and 28% by geographical proximity. Recommendations from family and friends were indicated by 18.3%. The study shows that the main information source was the university website (58%) and the websites of individual faculties (42%). The Open Days event could enjoy greater visibility if it were to be promoted in high schools. The defining elements for a top

university according to those surveyed were: *seriousness, professionalism, competence and material facilities*.

The activity conducted in the field of **foreign students** is coordinated by the Department for Foreign Students (DFS), created by the present management of the university, based on the Decision of the OUC Council of Administration, no. 983 of October 18, 2014, approved through the Decision of the OUC Senate, no. 1398 of November 13, 2014. The mission of DFS is the elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the university strategies regarding foreign students, especially i) the organisation of the admission process for foreign students and ii) services, counselling and assistance in finding solutions for social problems, which foreign students might encounter. The Department for Foreign Students consists of two offices: The Foreign Students Admission Office and the Social Services for Foreign Students Office.

The 1 200 foreign students, from a total of over 15 000 students, lead to a percentage of 8% which places OUC significantly over the national average of 4%. The total number of foreign students has experienced some fluctuations over the years as one can see in fig. 3. The highest percentage is that of foreign currency tuition fee-paying students, followed by the grantees of the Romanian Government. Smaller percentages are covered by Romanian currency tuition fee-paying students and those who benefit from tuition fee subsidy from the Ministry of Education, but not from scholarships.

The DFS analysis took into consideration three factors: (i) the number of foreign grantees or students who benefit from a subsidy from the Romanian state; (ii) the number of foreign students who come from countries within the EU or SEE; (iii) the distribution of foreign students depending on the country of origin for those who are not part of the EU or SEE.

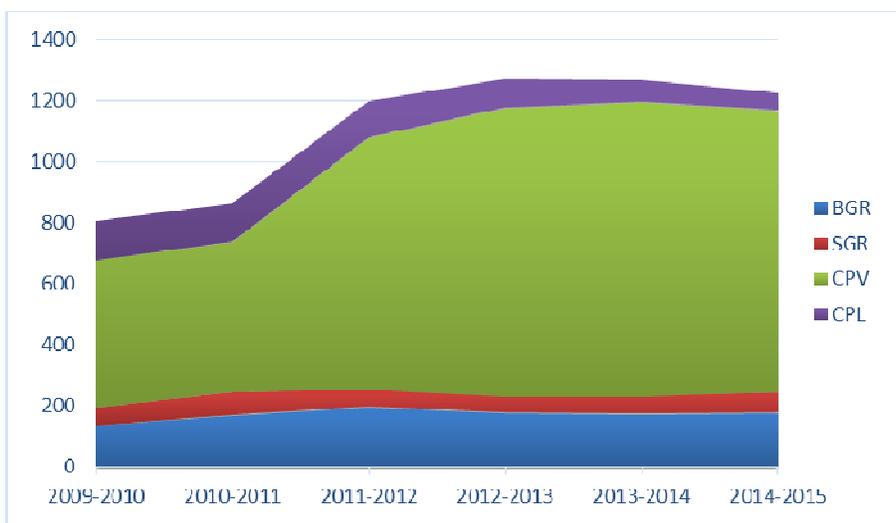


Fig. 3. The percentage of foreign students depending on the type of financing

Regarding the number of foreign grantees or students who benefit from subsidy from the Romanian state, it can be noticed, constantly and in a quite detached manner, that most students in this category come from the Republic of Moldavia. The next countries of origin are Albania, Macedonia and

Bulgaria, countries with relatively numerous Romanian ethnics. The distribution according to the country of origin of foreign students that come from EU or SEE countries enrolled at OUC is dominated by Greece, Greek students being motivated by competitive costs and the geographic position of the city. Other countries are also well-represented, such as: Great Britain, Bulgaria, France, etc. The most significant percentage from the third category, non-EU or SEE is represented by foreign students who come from Turkey, Israel and the Republic of Moldavia. These countries are the definite leaders with a constant number of over 100 students. Other countries of origin with a significant percentage, of over 20 students are: Morocco, Albania, India, Macedonia, Nigeria, Syria and Jordan.

In the following section in order to appraise what the fields of interest for foreign students are, we present the distribution of foreign students in each faculty in the academic years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. The majority of foreign students are enrolled in programs of study in the field of medicine. The Faculty of Medicine is the detached leader also because of its medical program of study in English which attracts students from Israel, Turkey and Greece. The next are the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Dental Medicine with the majority of students from outside the EU who study in Romanian. The Faculty of Letters has a large number of foreign students because of a one-year program that prepares students who want to study in Romanian at other disciplines and also because of the Turkish students enrolled in the English-Turkish BA program. A great part of foreign students from the other faculties are either grantees or they benefit from subsidies from the Romanian state.

Table no 2. The distribution of foreign students on faculties for the period 2012-2015

Faculty	2012	2013	2014	2015
Medicine	712	789	807	785
Letters	126	92	123	126
Pharmacy	146	190	158	122
Economics	56	42	32	51
Dental Medicine	44	50	51	43
Law and Administration	21	27	27	27
History and Political Sciences	25	18	17	19
Mathematics and Informatics	7	7	8	13
Constructions	14	14	13	11
Theology	18	11	12	9
Mecanic, industrial and maritime engineering	13	9	8	5
Applied Sciences and Engineering	6	3	3	2
Physical Education and Sports	3	3	2	1
Natural and Agricultural Sciences	1	4	1	1
Arts	1	1	1	0
Psychology and Educational Sciences	3	1	1	0
The Institute of Doctoral Schools	0	9	4	8
Total UOC	1196	1270	1268	1223

II.2. The dynamics of scientific research

“Ovidius” University of Constanta has as a second goal of its mission the scientific research – development – innovation activities (R-D-I).

Following the institutional accreditation, carried out in November 11-13, 2009, the Evaluation Committee concludes that at “Ovidius” University of Constanta, “the results of scientific research in the last four years materialised in competitions through 107 international projects, 506 national projects, 66 projects with the business environment. 358 papers were published in ISI journals, 44 inventions were patented, 32 technologies, 43 books were published in international publishing houses and 8 awards were obtained from the Romanian Academy and the Academy of Scientists.”

In 2011 the results obtained by OUC in the national university classification process coordinated by the the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports enabled it to be included in B category (education and scientific research), occupying at the time the second place in that category and the 12th among the Romanian universities.

Following the independent evaluation (The National Research Assessment Exercise, NRAE), conducted by UEFISCDI, through a project financed from structural funds, “Ovidius” University of Constanța obtained commendable results as far as the assessment of research and doctoral programmes is concerned (1 second place, 3 third places, 3 fourth places, etc. – Fig. 4)

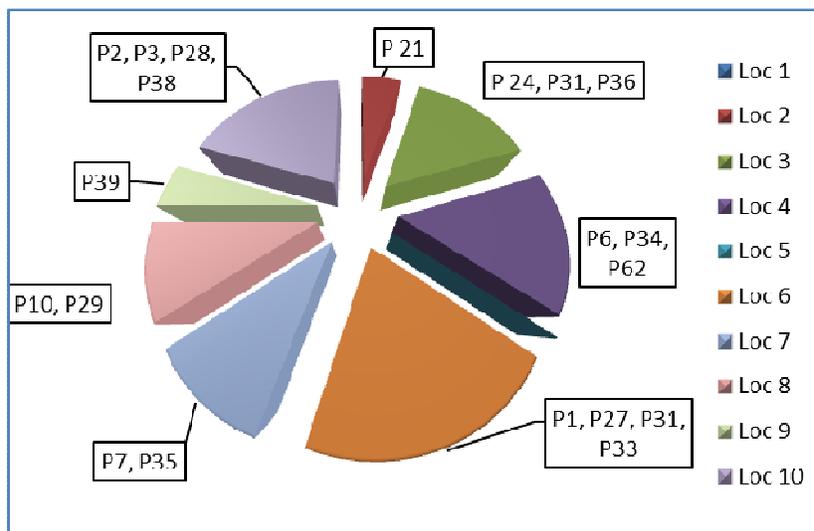


Fig. 4 Places occupied within the NRAE

Starting from the Management Plan written by the Rector of “Ovidius” University of Constanța, in which the development of research and innovation activities represents a major priority, the organisational structure of scientific research activities has been reconsidered and new specific regulations have been drawn, as follows: there is now a Scientific Board of “Ovidius” University of Constanța, a Specialised Committee for research-development-innovation within the University Senate, a Scientific Research and Project Management Department (SRPMD) – [OUC ANNEX 47](#).

Between 2010 and 2015 scientific research at “Ovidius” University of Constanța evolved in

accordance with strategic scientific research directions. The evolution of OUC research, based on indicators drawn up as early as 2009, is featured in Table no. 3. According to the data presented, in the period under discussion teaching and research staff published 826 ISI papers with impact factor and relative influence score (of which 328 over the last 2 years), 522 ISI proceedings papers (of which 293, representing more than half, over the last 2 years), 1802 articles in publications rated B⁺ or included in international data bases and 289 articles in CNCSIS recognized publications. In addition to this, there are 1925 books published by CNCSIS recognized national publishing houses and 190 volumes published by international publishing houses.

21 projects initiated in the period 2008-2009 were carried out between 2010 and 2011, adding up to 4525792.04 lei. Most of these projects were part of the PNCDI programme.

Table no. 3. Research performance indicators dynamic

Results		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of articles published	ISI	154	117	126	101	186	142
	ISI Proceedings	75	45	61	48	155	161
	IDB Indexed	432	327	340	266	276	156
	CNCS recognized Romanian publications (B category)	95	32	40	49	38	35
No. of books published	National publishing houses	248	359	232	130	171	155
	International publishing houses	33	28	44	18	32	35
Research centres		33	33	27	27	28	28
Patent applications (including the number of patents granted)		0 (0)	5 (0)	1 (1)	1 (6)	1(1)	1 (0)
Romanian Academy (or other Academies) awards		0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
"Ovidius" University of Constanța publications, bulletins	ISI	1	1	1	1	1	1
	IDB Indexed	7	7	10	10	11	11
	Others	8	8	12	12	15	15

The 240 national and 51 international grants, as well as the collaboration constructs implemented during the same period, worth over **245.550.302 lei**, **25.339.543 lei** respectively, resulted in increased university income (Table no. 4).

OUC ran a considerable number of programmes financed using structural funds, including 43 POSDRU and 4 POSCCE programmes. Due to its location in the South East of Romania, OUC had access to projects within the Transfrontier Cooperation Programme, especially those targeting Romanian-Bulgarian cooperation. 12 such programs were carried out between 2010 and 2015, with UOC featuring either as a partner or as a leader.

Table no. 4. Project evolution dynamics

Results	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number and value of international projects	11	15	11	8	3	3
[equivalent in Romanian lei]	7062908	7734583	5061835	3915077	253420	1311720
Number and value of national projects	74	50	27	28	27	34
[equivalent in Romanian lei]	44570623	37092428	33589162	32831969	46849022	50617098

“Ovidius” University of Constanta is also one of the beneficiaries of RINNO project, “a model for enhancing the benefits of Romania-Bulgaria cross - border region cooperation by using R&D”, as a member of the Council of RINNO. In this capacity, it participated in the development of strategies, plans and priorities for economic, social and research-development of Romania-Bulgaria border region. “Ovidius” University Constanta will also be beneficiary of the RINNO project database. This database will bring together the research results of universities, research institutions and other organizations engaged in research, innovation and development.

As a result of reorganizing the scientific research within faculties, departments and at university level, 30 research centres / laboratories / centres of artistic creation / sports centres have been institutionalized by defining or redefining the original structures. Of these, the most important are:

- the Centre for Research and Development in the Study of Morphological and Genetic Malignancy (CEDMOG) (2015).
- the Institute for Nanotechnologies and Alternative Energy Sources (INSAE).
- the Institute of Science Culture and Civilization of Dobrogea (2015).

Research centres are typically affiliated with faculty departments, but CEDMOG, INSAE and the Institute of Science Culture and Civilization of Dobrogea have been created at university level. The basic principle from which we started in the architectural shaping of these research centres was to cover, through the research plans, the entire scientific area of the undergraduate, MA and PhD programs coordinated by the departments / faculties / doctoral schools in our institution.

Particular emphasis has been placed on the increase of the value of the scientific journals published by Ovidius University Press, so that currently there is an ISI recognized journal and 11 other journals indexed in various international databases.

For the reporting period, both the staff and students of “Ovidius” University Constanta have successfully participated in various national and international competitions, receiving numerous awards and medals. Thus, the staff have received 86 national and 16 international awards, while the students have been granted 287 national and 90 international awards, thus increasing the national and international prestige of the university. Among the most prestigious awards obtained by “Ovidius” University Constanta, we mention:

2014 – “Creativity Trophy” awarded by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture (CCINA) Constanta, through the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Intellectual Property in cooperation with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks Bucharest in the “Creativity Trophy” event.

2015 - Second Prize for Research awarded by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Navigation and Agriculture (CCINA) Constanta, through the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Intellectual Property in cooperation with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks Bucharest in the “Creativity Trophy” event.

2015 - RINNO Award for “The entire activity for enhancing the innovative benefits of Romania - Bulgaria Cross Border Cooperation” - October 30, 2015.

2015 - in the competition “RINNO- Model for maximizing the benefits of cross-border cooperation between Romania and Bulgaria through R&D investments”, on June 26, 2015, the Annual Ceremony of RINNO awards for Romania-Bulgaria cross-border projects was organized at Grand Hotel Riga, Ruse.

- the award for the most innovative partnership between universities, small and medium enterprises and local authorities, “Cross-Border University Network for Intercultural Communication (CUNIC)” code MIS ETC 795, developed at the Faculty of Letters, institutional coordinator Professor Adina Ciugureanu.

- the award for inter-university cooperation; “Cross Border Oenology and Viticulture Centre-Danube Terraces”, code MIS ETC 600, developed at the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, institutional coordinator Professor Georgeta Beleniuc.

- the award for public - private partnership; “TRANS-TOUR-NET: Creation and Marketing of Pilot Cross-Border Tourist Products in Dobrudzha”, code MIS ETC 37, developed at the Faculty of Economics, project coordinator Dr. Andreea Moraru.

At “Ovidius” University Constanta, we have also established: (i) the Academy of Science, Constanta branch; (ii) the German - Romanian Academy, Constanta branch, and the Academy of Medical Sciences, Constanta branch, which is in its constituting process. Among their members, we mention current professors and retired professors, such as Professor Sorin Rugina - Rector, Professor Mariana Aschie – Director of the Doctoral School, Professor Teodosie Petrescu, Professor Natalia Rosoiu, Professor Vasile Sarbu, Professor Victor Ciupina, Professor Adrian Bavaru, Professor Nicolae Dura.

Doctoral studies in our institution are organized in areas of PhD research in authorized and accredited doctoral schools. The doctoral domains organized within the IOSUD at “Ovidius” University Constanta are: Philology, Theology, Biology, Medicine, Dentistry, History, Mathematics and Civil Engineering, are included in four doctoral schools, with over 50 doctoral supervisors. The dynamics of the doctoral schools in terms of the number of doctors confirmed by Ministry Order, in the respective PhD fields, is shown in the following chart.

Table no. 5. Evolution of the PhD titles granted by Ministry Order in 2009-2015

Graduation year	Total	Doctoral field							
		Biology	Philology	Civil Engineering	History	Mathematics	Medicine	Dentistry	Theology
2009/2010	75	10	8	5	9	4	21	0	18
2010/2011	76	8	9	3	6	1	25	0	24
2011/2012	120	13	19	1	13	3	39	2	30
2012/2013	75	7	16	2	13	2	18	0	17
2013/2014	92	6	19	3	8	4	20	0	32
2014/2015	55	1	8	0	3	1	10	1	31
	493	45	79	14	52	15	133	3	152

“Ovidius” University Constanta is also an institution organizing habilitation contests. The domains for habilitation are: Philology, History, Biology, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Dentistry, Theology.

II.3. The dynamics of international relations performance

The University is committed to regional and international cooperation through international higher education associations. OUC is a founding member of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN), which hosts its secretariat since 1998, and a member of the Association of Balkan Universities (ABU) since 2014. Since November 2015, the OUC has been also admitted in Universities Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC), given its involvement in projects related to the Danube and The Black Sea. In addition, the university is a member of various international associations, which provide advice for their own development, progress and involvement in higher education at a global level. Currently, UOC is a member of the following international bodies and academic organizations: EAU - European Association of Universities; EURASHE - European Association of Institutions in Higher Education; AUF - Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie; BSUN - Black Sea Universities Network; BUA - Balkan Universities Association; DRC - Danube Rectors' Conference.

The activity undertaken in the field of **international relations** is coordinated by the International Relations Department (IRD) established by the new leadership of the university by the Council of Directors of OUC act no. 983 of 10.28.2014, approved by the OUC Senate act no. 1398 of 11/13/2014. IRD's mission is the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the university in international relations, especially concerning *i) the establishment of international partnerships with higher education institutions and research abroad, with international organizations and associations active in the field of education and / or scientific research* and *ii) its participation in EU education and training programs*. The Department of International Relations is structured into two offices: The Office of International Partnerships (OIP) and Erasmus Plus Program Office (EPO) - OUC ANNEX 43. Regarding the international visibility of the university from Constanta, this is demonstrated by ranking consistently

on an honorable place in the category of education and research universities.

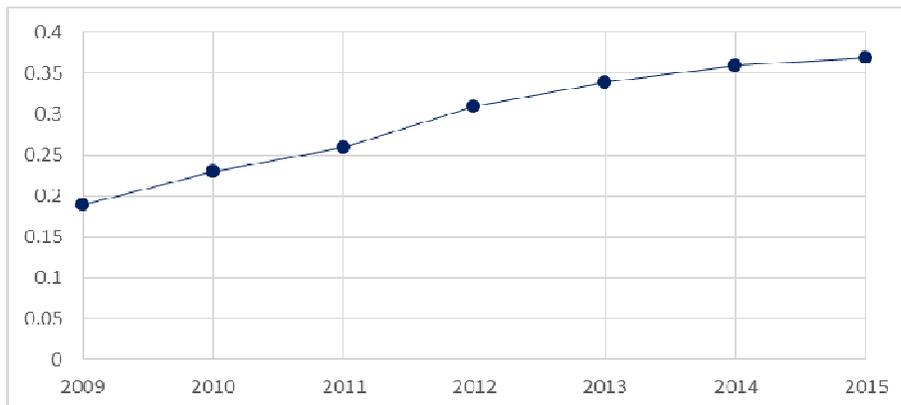


Fig. 5. OUC score in the SCIMAGO -SIR

International rankings place "Ovidius" University of Constanta among the first universities in the country; SIR hierarchy (SCImago Institutions Rankings 2012 World Report) places "Ovidius" University of Constanta among the top 17 universities in the country (out of 120) among the top 187 research institutions in Eastern Europe and among the top 2979 in the world. In the rankings of SCIMAGO Institutions Rankings - SIR, "Ovidius" University from Constanta constantly appears to be the 17th of the Romanian universities, among the first 150 in Eastern Europe and among the first 2500 in the world in (fig. 5). In addition to the six directions of the Bologna Process, "Ovidius" University from Constanta prioritizes the internationalization of studies, with significant emphasis on the exchange of students, teachers and administrative staff with overseas universities. Regarding the internationalization of studies, at present OUC has three undergraduate degree programs in English. The degree programs in foreign languages, which are in taught in English, apart from those provided by the Faculty of Letters, are: Medicine, Informatics and American Studies.

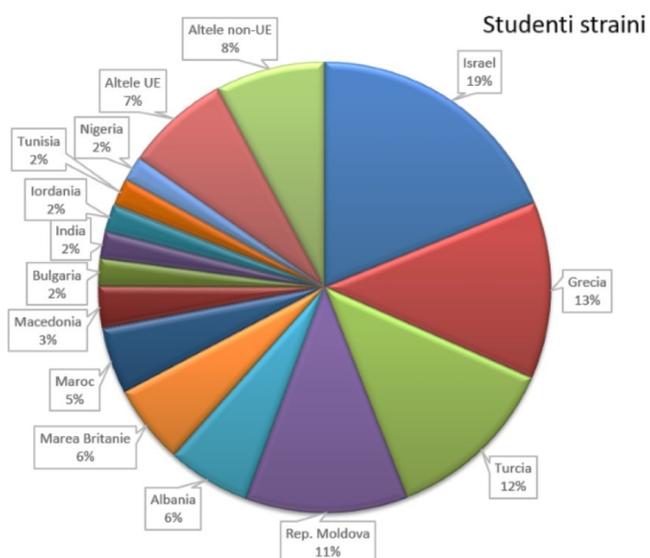


Fig. 6. Share of foreign students by country of origin

According to its strategy of internationalization, “Ovidius” University intends to extend its programs of study in English and in other fields of knowledge. In addition, the preparatory study program in Romanian for foreign students is one of the most popular programs of its kind in the Romanian universities. Year after year, more than a hundred students successfully go through this training because of the teaching quality, diverse international experience, extra-curricular activities, etc. Following the OUC policy expressed in the internationalization strategy, the institution has over 1100 foreign students, of which about 28% from the EU states and the European Economic Area. Our students come from around the world, from the United States and Canada to China. The regions of origin are Europe in the case 49% of students, Middle East, 40%, Far East and Africa, 5%. The most important countries of origin are Israel, Greece, Turkey and The Republic of Moldova (fig. 6).

"Ovidius" University of Constanta received, during the period 2010-2015, funding from European Union funds to achieve mobility for students, teachers and non-teaching staff through the LLP Erasmus programs (2010-2014) and Erasmus Plus (since 1 January 2014).

In the period 2010 - 2014, through the LLP Erasmus program, the University benefited from student mobility of study and mobility of teaching and training for the staff of the institution. Since the academic year 2014-2015, Erasmus Plus, the university has applied successfully for a new kind of mobility, the mobility of practice and carried out for the first time such mobility.

"Ovidius" University of Constanta has continuously enhanced bilateral portfolio underlying the achievement of student mobility and those of teaching and training. If in the 2009-2010 academic year the institution was a partner in 106 bilateral agreements, in the academic year 2015 the number of such agreements has reached 264, with partners from most countries participating in the programme ([OUC ANNEX 43](#)).

The sum used for the financing of teaching and training mobilities grew from 10.788 euros, in 2011-2012, to 20 715 euros in 2014-2015. (See fig 7).

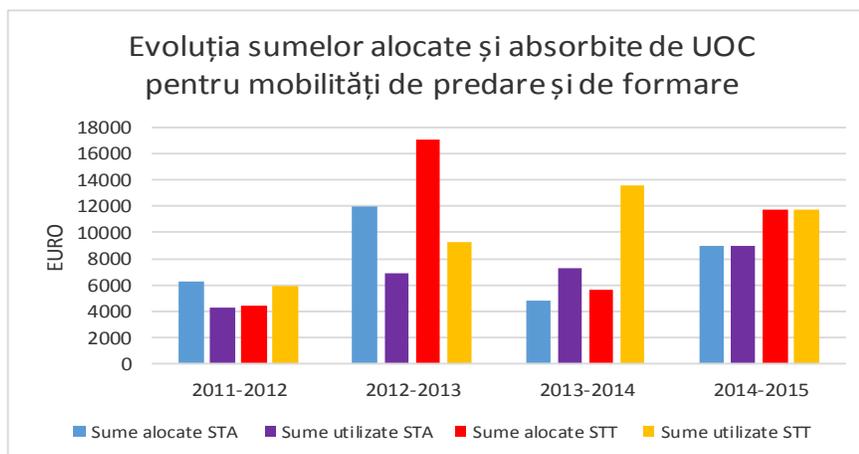


Fig. 7 The evolution of sums allotted and absorbed by OUC in 2010-2015 (Source: BEP data analysis)

The analysis of the mobilities organization and financing through LLP Erasmus and through Erasmus Plus for 2010-2015 is organized in several directions:

1. Student ongoing mobilities for training and internship
2. Teaching and training mobilities for the teaching and non-teaching staff
3. Student incoming for training
4. Incoming mobilities for teaching and non-teaching staff

As we can see from fig. 8, the evolution of the annual “Ongoing” mobilities was not linear, it registered a continuous growth until 2012-2013, with a drop in 2013-2014 and a recovery in the first year of the Erasmus Plus program implementation. As for the “Incoming” type mobilities, in 2010-2015, **„Ovidius” University of Constanta** was chosen by 182 students to study one semester or an entire year. The evolution of the annual mobilities number (fig. 8) shows that in every academic year of the analyzed period, the number of incoming was sensibly equal. In 2015-2016, we foresee that this number will increase, because only for the first semester the university received a number of 31 students.

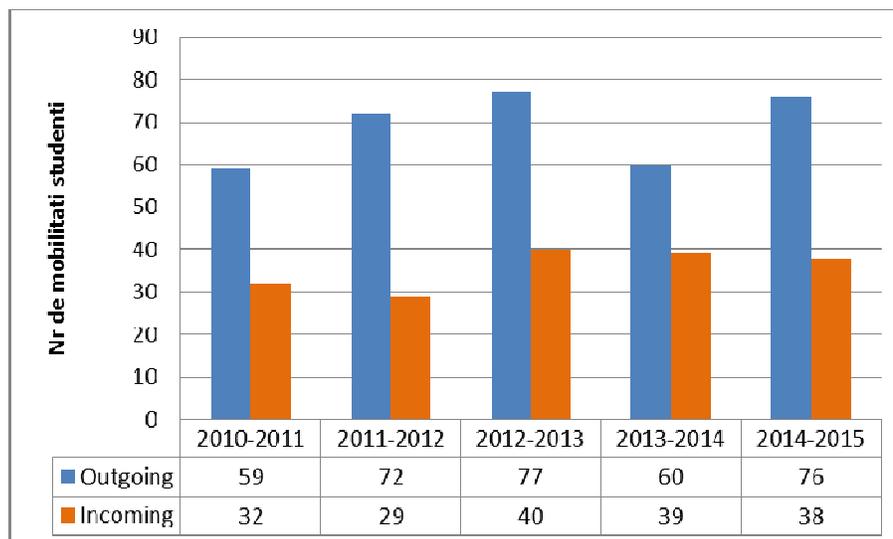


Fig. 8 The evolution of the number of mobilities on the analyzed period (Source: BEP data analysis)

The analysis of the country of origin distribution of incoming students indicates the fact that most of them come from Turkey (72), on the second position is Italy (39), on the third Spain, France, with 12 mobilities each.

During 2010-2015, in **„Ovidius” University of Constanta** took place 103 mobilities destined to the teaching staff and to the non-teaching staff. Of these 56 were teaching mobilities and 47 training mobilities.

During 2010-2015, **„Ovidius” University of Constanta** received a number of 27 teaching staff and non-teaching staff for teaching and training mobilities: 21 teaching mobilities and 6 training mobilities. The analysis was based only on the data for the period 2012-2015, because for 2010-2012 no data is available.

„Ovidius” University of Constanta has a series of collaboration agreements with numerous universities from around the world. The university presently has a number of 59 functional collaboration agreements with academic institutions and research centers from abroad or cultural centers of other states. Apart from Erasmus mobilities, the faculties reported for the last three years 26 individual mobilities for teaching/ researcher staff invited in countries such as France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, Holland, USA, Canada, Japan, Czeck Republic, Australia, Argentina, Mexico and Pakistan.

The partnership with the State Department of the United States, through the Fulbright Commission RO-USA continued, The American Corner being very active during the whole year. Tight relationship with the British Council, Francophone Academic Agency, Goethe Institute and Cervantes Institute also continued. At this moment we are on the point of funding a center of studies in collaboration with the Turkish Republic Consulate.

On the festive occasion of 50 years of existence of „Ovidius” University of Contanta, which was celebrated in 2011, Confucius Class for Chinese language and culture was inaugurated. Confucius Class for Chinese language and culture, at „Ovidius” University of Constanta, benefits on the one side, by the presence of the Chinese trainers, on the other side by a tight collaboration with Confucius Institute, at „Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu. This institution from „Ovidius” University of Constanta (<https://confuciusclassovidius.wordpress.com/>) has as main objective the teaching of Chinese language at the highest standards, using the most modern techniques. Apart from teaching, the following activities take place: (i) training courses for Romanian teachers teaching Chinese; (ii) Familiarization with the Chinese history and culture; (iii) national and international scientific activities (conferences, symposiums, forums etc.); (iv) scientific and cultural exchanges between Romania and P.R. China; (v) cultural activities. In its four years of activity Confucius Class had 550 students. Some of them took part in a Summer School in China. In this academic year, it has 220 students. Over 100 students passed the Chinese international exams (HSK). The best of them were awarded Confucius international grants to continue their study of Chinese language, for a year, to prestigious universities in Beijing and Shanghai. Confucius Class closed agreements with „George Calinescu” Highschool, National College „Mircea cel Batran”, and Traian” Highschool.

The visit of the „Ovidius” University of Constanta delegation, led by Rector, PhD Professor Sorin Rugina, at universities form Beijing (18-25 May 2015) and the visit of His Excellency, Xu Feihong, Ambassador of the P.R. China in Romania, at our university (10 September 2015) marked important moments in Romanian-Chinese relationship.

American Corner Constanta (https://www.facebook.com/American-Corner-Constanta-Romania-176101622416090/timeline?ref=page_internal) a created as a partnership between the USA Embassy from Bucharest and „Ovidius” University of Constanta and it represents, first of all, an information and resource center opened to those interested by US lifestyle and culture, as well as a platform of common programs. American Corner Constanta offers a collection of materials on themes which cover aspects

concerning US culture, lifestyle and values, as well as a historical evolution, and a part of the contemporary American society. American Corner is directly interested in direct interaction with the public, through the use of its resources in training and professional development programs, including students' counseling, as well as art exhibition and cultural activities organisation.

II.4. The dynamic of performances in the field of economic- financial relationship

The surface physical destined to didactic activities (course rooms, seminar rooms, laboratories and lecture halls) is, at present, of over 23.000 square meters. The total surface of student hostels reaches 25868 sq m, with 1398 places, and the surface of other spaces: library, canteen, nautical sports center etc. of over 13000sq m. „Ovidius” University of Constanta owns 23 buildings built on the private property of the institution, while two student hostels are built on a land which is administered as long as the buildings last. 15 of them are older buildings which underwent modernization and consolidation in the last 15 years, and 8 of them are recently built in the last 20 years. Funds for consolidation, repair, rehabilitation, modernization, extensions and new buildings have been obtained from the state budget, the University`s own revenues, PHARE funds and non-reimbursable funds from the European Bank for Investment.

The University`s investment plan in the near future is to build new spaces, including a multifunctional sports center together with administration areas, on a total surface of 10,200 sq. meters.

Since its founding, the material infrastructure of **Ovidius University of Constanța** has been permanently renewed and consolidated, to fulfill the needs of a performance-based higher education. Conference and seminar rooms include technical equipment to facilitate active communication between teachers and students, and the laboratories include specific technical equipment to develop students` professional skills and abilities ([OUC ANNEX 28](#)).

Ovidius University of Constanța has its own budget, the key instrument of financial management. The technical foundation and elaboration of the annual budget are realized according to legal requirements and are based on the principles of decentralization and financial autonomy ([OUC ANNEX 30](#)).

In the management of budgetary and extra-budgetary resources, the University has a unique budget which is the financial instrument for the annual operation of strategic objectives planned by the academic community. This budget is separated for each of the Faculties, and the financial management methods ensure real-time information and transparency; supervision of the budget`s execution being done using the integrated computerized system that allows any remaining amounts and financing sources to be seen at any given moment.

In the last few years, the budget of **Ovidius University of Constanța** has been austere, but balanced, as can be observed in Table no. 6.

Table no. 6. The evolution of revenue and expenditure in the OUC budget

Financial Year	Revenue [lei]	Expenditure [lei]
2015	120.061.789	122.117.985
2014	96 115 519	96 730 570
2013	98 672 869	99 472 869
2012	107.494.970	107.494.970
2011	104.091.322	104.091.322
2010	115.766.195	115.466.195
2009	108.727.524	108.727.524

The University's financial and economic policy has intended to stabilize and consolidate the financial situation, specifically by accumulating important funds at the end of each financial year (chart 9, red bars). By accumulating these funds (chart 9, "initial amount"), the cost of developing activities in a state of budgetary balance has been covered, even in the context of under-financing (chart 9 – "basic financing revenue"). Thus, the revenue from basic funding went down from 55% of the total revenue in 2009 to approximately 43% of the total revenue in 2014 (chart 9).

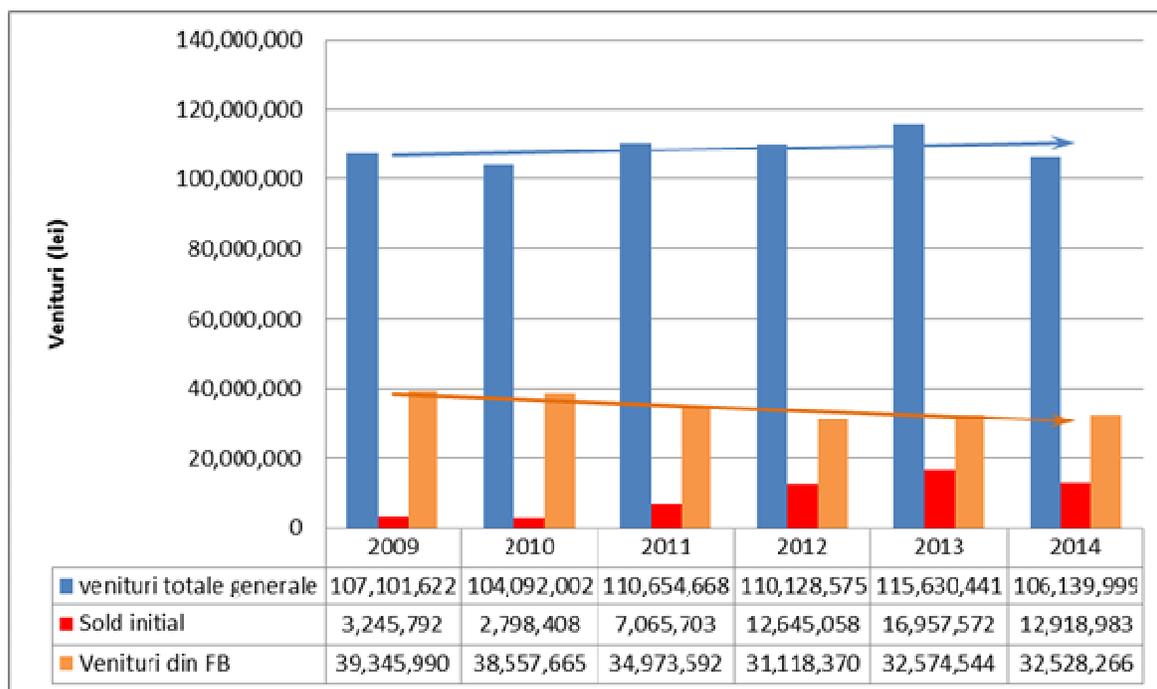


Chart 9. Revenue evolution between 2009-2014

Total general revenue. Opening balance. Basic funding revenue.

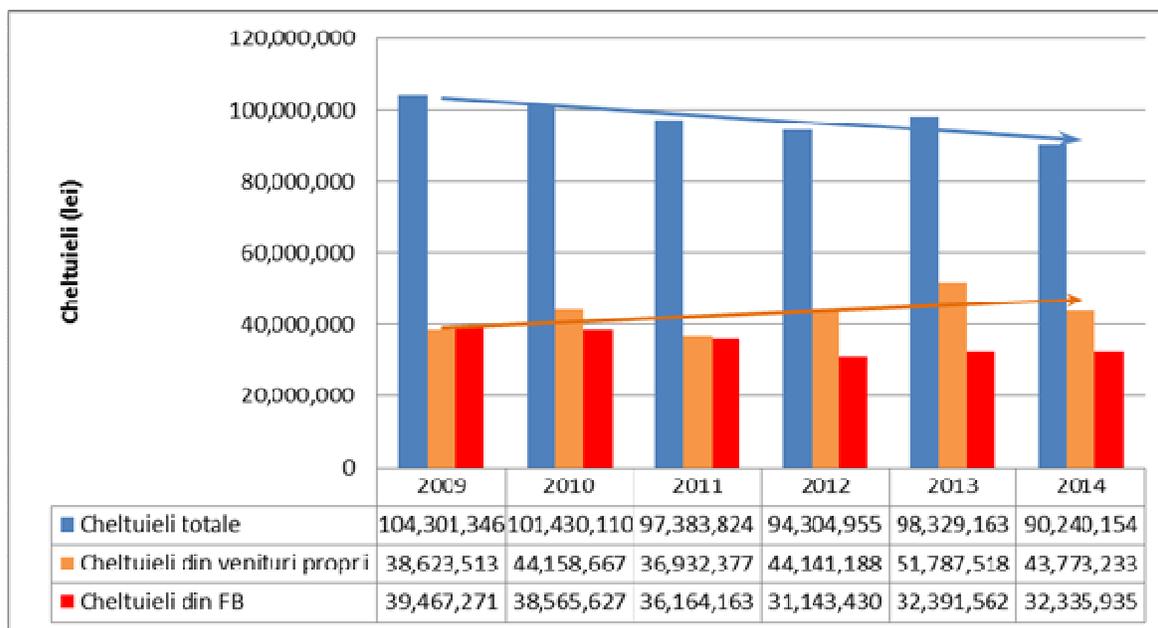


Chart 10. Expenditure evolution between 2009-2014

Total expenditure. Expenditure from own revenue. Expenditure from basic funding.

In this context, a great part of the total expenditure is supported from the University's own revenues (chart 10). The expenditure financed from the basic funding was 84.34% of the total expenditure in 2014, compared to 85.61% in 2013. The percentage of personnel expenditures amounts for an average of 63% of the total expenditure during the analyzed period of time.

Solvency is the capacity of an institution to cover all its debt. A good solvency ratio should be over 0.5; table no. 7 shows that the solvency ratio is between 0.85 in 2011 and 0.93 in 2014.

Table no. 7. Ratios according to the balance sheet

Ratio	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Patrimonial Solvency = equity/ total assets	0,87	0,85	0,85	0,89	0,90	0,93
Current Liquidity Ratio = current assets/current liabilities	1,43	1,37	1,50	1,59	1,84	2,56

The current liquidity ratio (representing the institution's capacity to honor its financial obligations), according to general assessment should be 1.5. Table no. 7 shows that this ratio has grown in 2014 to 2.56.

III. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

C.1. Strategies and Procedures for Quality Assurance

C.1.1. Structures and Policies for Quality Assurance

C.1.1.1. Quality Assurance System Organization

There is a Central Commission and there are Study Program Commissions operating together in the institution. The Assessment and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC) operates at University level ([OUC ANNEX 31](#)), functioning on the basis of Regulations ([OUC ANNEX 32](#)); the Faculty-level Assessment and Quality Assurance Commissions are subordinated to the University-level one.

The Senate, through permanent commissions, controls the quality of the institution's executive activities. In the Senate of the **Ovidius University of Constanța** operate the following: the Commission for Education and Continuous Training; the Commission for Scientific Research and Computerization; the Commission for International Relations and Institutional Image; the Commission for Relation with Students and Graduates; the Commission for Institutional Development, Quality Assurance and Relation with the Economic Agents and Local Community; the Commission for Teaching/Research Activity Assessment and Teaching/Research Positions; the Commission for Granting Scientific and Honorary Titles ([OUC ANNEX 66](#)).

C.1.1.2. Strategies and Policies for Quality Assurance

Within **Ovidius University of Constanța** structures, policies and strategies have been planned and implemented to secure the development and efficient supervision of quality, to create a quality-based culture and to continuously improve quality standards. The internal assessment, assurance, control and improvement of quality are done by the Assessment and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC), operating through the Higher Education Quality Assurance Department, HEQAD ([OUC ANNEX 33](#)), and through Faculty-level Quality Assurance Commissions.

Ref. 1: Each policy is based on achievement strategies with clear and conclusive provisions, stipulated in the Institutional development strategy of "Ovidius" University of Constanta, Chapter VII ([OUC ANNEX 07](#)).

Ref. 2: These policies and strategies are activated in each compartment, department, faculty, and stimulate the participation of each member of the teaching and research staff, as well as of students. The monitoring, assessment and improvement of the results achieved by teaching and research processes are carried out according to the documentation of the quality management system, by monitoring and assessing the teaching and scientific research processes (conducted in each faculty); assessing the satisfaction of the employers and beneficiaries of educational services and scientific research services (through the Center of Educational and Vocational Counseling); the internal audit of the quality management system; corrective and preventive actions, aimed at continuously improving results (by HEQAD, AQAC and the Quality Assurance Committees of the faculties).

**C.2.1. Periodic approval, monitoring and assessment of the study programs
and of the diplomas corresponding to qualifications**

C.2.1.1. The existence and application of the regulations on the initiation, approval, monitoring and assessment of study programs

Min: The Regulation exists and it is enforced.

Ref. 1: The Regulation is associated with a monitoring system of the study programs, based on information and data ([OUC ANNEX 67](#)). Currently, the Regulation is under revision and re-approval procedures.

C.2.1.2. Correspondence between diplomas and qualifications

Min: The curricula specific to study programs and diplomas are elaborated and issued according to the academic qualification requirements ([OUC ANNEX 21](#)).

Ref. 1: The curricula are reviewed regularly to meet the dynamics of the academic and vocational qualifications market ([OUC ANNEX 67](#)).

C.3. Objective and transparent procedures for assessing learning outcomes

C.3.1. Student assessment

C.3.1.1. The university has a Regulation on the students' examination and marking, which is rigorously and consistently applied

Min. There is a regulation for assessing the students' knowledge and skills, as well as specific procedures of consistent knowledge and application by the teaching staff and students. The holder of the course is assisted by at least other specialized member of the teaching staff during examination.

Ref. 1. The Regulation contains a number of detailed implementation procedures, a package of methods for the examination of students, which are consistently presented to all those involved, by including them in the syllabus ([OUC ANNEX 26](#)).

C. 3.1.2. Integrating the examination in the teaching and learning design, in courses and study programs

Min. Under the syllabus, each course is designed to combine teaching, learning and examination. The students' examination and assessment processes are presented in the syllabus and focused on highlighting learning outcomes; they are presented to students at the beginning of each course.

Ref. 1: The assessment, detailed in the syllabus, is structured in order to ensure the continuity and consistency of learning.

Ref. 2: In the syllabus, the assessment forms underline the requirement for students to carry out projects, papers, independent works based on the acquired knowledge, which stimulates the students' creative learning.

C4. Procedures for the periodical assessment of the teaching staff

C.4.1. The quality of the teaching and research staff

C.4.1.1. The ratio of teachers and students

The subjects in the curriculum of OUC study programs are covered by tenured or associated teaching staff, by observing the legal proceedings, on grounds of competence, by applying the university's staffing methodologies for teaching and research positions ([ANNEX OUC 63](#), [ANNEX OUC 64](#), [ANNEX OUC 65](#)).

Min: The university management aims at achieving the optimum ratio between the number of permanent teachers and the number of the students enrolled in each study program, by achieving a balance between the determination of schooling and an adequate policy on human resources, by maintaining a ratio comparable to that of similar universities in the country and in the EU.

In the academic year 2015-2016, the ratio no. of teachers / no. of students is between 1/5 and 1/15.

C. 4.1.2. Peer review

Min.: Within "Ovidius" University of Constanta, there is a "Peer review procedure of the teaching staff", which is applied annually, based on general criteria and collegial preferences.

Ref. 1: The peer review in "Ovidius" University of Constanta is mandatory. By decision of the faculty council, in each department, a committee for the assessment of the teaching and research performance of each member of the teaching staff/ researcher is appointed annually, and there is issued a report on the quality of the teaching and research staff ([OUC ANNEX 68](#)).

C. 4.1.3. The assessment of the teaching staff by the students

Min.: There is a "Procedure for the assessment of the teaching staff by the students", which contains a form for the assessment of the teaching staff, filled in by students, approved by the Senate, which is optionally applied after each semestral training cycle, and whose results are confidential, being accessible only to the dean, the rector and the assessed person.

Ref. 1: The assessment by the students is mandatory; the assessment results are discussed, statistically processed and analyzed at the department, college and university level, in order to ensure transparency and the formulation and improvement of the policy on the quality of training ([OUC ANNEX 38](#)).

C.4.1.4. The assessment by the university management

Min: By the "Regulation on the assessment of the annual individual performance of the teaching staff", the members of the teaching staff self-assess themselves annually and they are also assessed by the head of department.

Ref. 1: This regulation contains an annual assessment form based on multiple criteria and a classification system of the performance in teaching, research and services to the institution and the community. The

peer review results and the assessment made by students accompany this self-assessment ([OUC ANNEX 36](#), [OUC ANNEX 37](#)).

C. 5. The accessibility to adequate learning resources

C.5.1. Learning resources and student services

C.5.1.1. Availability of learning resources

Min: The publishing house of "Ovidius" University of Constanta, i.e. "Ovidius University Press", (<http://editura.univ-ovidius.ro/>) is included in the Catalogue of book publishers and distributors of Romania and it is also member of the Romanian Publishers' Association. This publishing house publishes textbooks, courses, books, specialist periodicals, albums, treatises, handbooks, guidelines, brochures and other promotional materials in printed or electronic form (online, CD, e-books) in Romanian or in another international language.

"Ion Popișteanu" University Library (<http://biblioteca.univ-ovidius.ro/>) is a university-type library which provides info-documentary support for all the subjects taught in higher education and in scientific research fields, regularly purchasing the most important and necessary documents (regardless of their form) and scientific databases. In the library there are 597,850 publications distributed on the fields of health, art, science, etc. ([OUC ANNEX 29](#)).

Ref. 1: The number of seats in the library provides a ratio between the available learning resources and students. It provides free access to any resource, according to the objectives and requirements of the study programs ([OUC ANNEX 28](#)).

SC.5.1.2. Teaching as learning source

Min: The dynamics of the curricula is regulated by the "Regulation for the development, review and approval of curricula". Every year, each member of the teaching staff includes in the syllabus updated teaching strategies for every course, in compliance with the development of the study program, the students' characteristics, the type of education and the predefined criteria ([UOC ANNEX 21](#)).

Ref. 1: Assessment and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC) is established within "Ovidius" University of Constanta as a tool for the internal assessment, assurance, control and improvement of the quality in this higher education institution, its activity involving, besides teachers, students, representatives of the employers too ([OUC ANNEX 31](#)). Institutionally, the activity of AQAC ([OUC ANNEX 32](#)) is carried out by the the Higher Education Quality Assurance Department, HEQAD, which analyses, researches and formulates innovative teaching/ learning strategies ([OUC ANNEX 33](#)).

Ref. 1: Within Ovidius University of Constanta (OUC), the Assessment and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC) is constituted as an instrument of internal evaluation, assurance, control and improvement of quality in the higher education institution. Apart from the teaching staff, its activity is

managed by students, as well as representatives of the employers ([OUC ANNEX 31](#)). Institutionally, the AQAC activity ([OUC ANNEX 32](#)) is carried out through the Higher Education Quality Assurance Department, HEQAD, as a department of analysis, research and formulation of innovative strategies of teaching/learning ([OUC ANNEX 33](#)).

C. 5.1.3. Stimulation and Recovery Programs

Min: Within the university, there are programs for the stimulation of the students with high learning performances and the recovery of those with learning difficulties. The following must be mentioned: the student mobility programs, the studentship system (social, scholarship and merit), the promotion of the private scholarships, the awarding of the high performing students ([OUC ANNEX 53](#)).

Ref. 1: Within the university, at the level of each faculty and for each year, tutorship programs are implemented and managed by the entire teaching staff involved in that particular study program ([OUC ANNEX 54](#)). Ovidius University of Constanta frequently organizes meetings with the representatives of the economic environment with the purpose of presenting the potential employers to the students who thus receive information regarding the conditions for applying for scholarships or part-time jobs.

C.5.1.4 Student services

Min: The university has a considerable number of social, cultural and sport services for students such as: accommodation spaces, sport facilities, reading rooms, computer networks, information centers, various counseling services, all with an efficient administration ([OUC ANNEX 28](#)).

Ref. 1: The university offers various services to the students and provides programs that assure a quality student life (e.g. student camps - <http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/studenti/tabere-studentesti>, free transportation - <http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/studenti/transport-studenti>). Student scientific manifestations are a regular practice at Ovidius University (scientific conferences and workshops of students, PhD students and young researchers) and they are sponsored by the representatives of the economical environment that offer awards for the most valuable achievements. Students' involvement in professional, cultural and sport organizations is a permanent preoccupation.

C.6. Systematically updated database, regarding the internal quality assurance

C.6.1. Information systems

C.6.1.1. Databases and information

Min: The institution has a computerized system, "University Management System – UMS" whose purpose is to manage the didactic and financial processes within the university. Made up of 14 interconnected modules, the UMS system manages the schooling process, the number of students, of teachers, the taxes, admissions, end of study, scholarships, accommodation, graduation diplomas etc - http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/ums/do/secure/inregistrare_user

Ref. 1: The national and European approach to education and scientific research, as well as the ways in which a university takes part in the national and international academic life, in the cooperation to education and research programs and projects, in scientific manifestations, in student and teacher mobility programs are important criteria for the quality appreciation of a higher education institution. The

connection of Ovidius University of Constanta to the national academic realities is provided by the Department of Institutional Strategy and Development and by the Department of Relations with Public and Private Institutions. The purpose of the Department of International Relations is internationality and the external dimension as essential components of the entire didactic and research process within Ovidius University of Constanta.

C. 7. Transparency of information on matters of public interest regarding the study programmes and the respective certificates, diplomas, or qualifications offered

C.7.1. Public Information

C.7.1.1. Offering public information

Min: The University and its faculties permanently ensure transparency for the public data and information, in print (by visual displaying on faculty notice boards), as well as electronically (by publishing it on the university or faculty webpage: <http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/>). This type of information includes data regarding all study programmes and qualifications, diplomas, teaching staff, facilities for students and any other aspects of interest for the public in general and for the students in particular.

C. 8. The operating mode of the institutional set-up responsible for quality assurance in education, in accordance with the law

C.8.1. The institutional set-up responsible for quality assurance in education is organised in accordance with the provisions of law and operates permanently.

C.8.1.1. The Commission coordinates the application of procedures and activities for evaluation and quality assurance.

Min: All procedures and activities for evaluating the quality in education were conceived by HEQAD and AQAC and approved by the University Senate. The Commission has to draw up the annual report on internal evaluation and share it publicly, by visual displaying or by publishing it, also electronically. The Commission also makes suggestions for improving the education quality: <http://calitate.univ-ovidius.ro/rapoarte-de-autoevaluare/>.

Ref. 1: The institution permanently implements the suggestions the Commission advanced for improving education quality and cooperates with universities in Romania and abroad in order to identify and follow the best practices in the field of quality assurance. ([OUC ANNEX 32](#), [OUC ANNEX 33](#)).

Measures to adopt in order to ensure maximum level of accuracy, completeness and trustfulness for the information disseminated by the institution

The Internal Evaluation Report was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Methodology for external evaluation and with all standards, references and performance indicators of ARACIS, the Guide of activities for evaluation of quality with regard to the academic study programmes and institutions for higher education, Part III - External Evaluation of academic quality in accredited institutions for higher education (institutional external evaluation in December 2006), including subsequent amendments and additions.

All information has been officially requested from the heads of all faculties, departments, administrative offices and services etc. in accordance with the respective level of responsibility in the field of quality assurance. The information has been collected by HEQAD and then analysed, processed and synthesized by the members of a Commission responsible with the elaboration of the Report on institutional internal evaluation. At last, the information was approved by AQAC.

A first draft of the Report underwent internal analysis through a commission whose members were nominated by AQAC from among the executive management of the university. Their Report was approved by the Administrative Council of the university, in plenum, on November 24, 2015 (Decision no. 1219).

IV. SWOT ANALYSIS

STRONG POINTS

- ✚ Promoting short and medium-term strategies that ensure the continuity of education and research activities;
- ✚ The OUC Administration complies with the legal frame, performs an effective work, it has control and continuous development mechanisms of its performance;
- ✚ The University has well-articulated regulations for all academic life activities;
- ✚ OUC has sufficient financial resources and an initial annually balance that contribute to its mission and objectives;
- ✚ OUC proves public responsibility by applying internal audit practices for the major areas of academic activity;
- ✚ The existence of excellence programs promoting both teachers and students;
- ✚ The scientific research results are particularly exploited through educational purposes and scientific publications, they are appreciated nationally and indexed in international databases;
- ✚ The existence of a significant number of research centers nationally and internationally recognized;
- ✚ Organising events and internationally relevant scientific meetings;
- ✚ The existence of an Educational and Vocational Centre which aims to achieve surveys/ polls among graduates;
- ✚ The existence of an Image and Communication Department which aims to increase visibility, nationally promoting OUC;
- ✚ The existence of a virtual library with access to international databases;

WEAK POINTS

- ✚ The university has information systems adequate for activities taking place in the administration sector, financial / accounting sector, monitoring of teaching and research activities, but they are not fully integrated and do not facilitate the collection, processing and analysis of relevant information;
- ✚ Limited space for the offices of teachers and a part of the administrative services;
- ✚ Insufficient involvement of students in some university activities that directly concern them.
- ✚ The lack of a canteen in the Campus on University Alley;
- ✚ The insufficient number of programs taught in foreign languages;
- ✚ The low number of doctorates organized in co-tutelle;
- ✚ There is a limited number of doctoral schools;
- ✚ A reduced budget for internationalization;
- ✚ Including in the university mission the elements related to its role in region;
- ✚ External stakeholders should be included in the University Senate;
- ✚ Restructuring the university by reducing the number of programs.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Making electronic library records by using the Aleph software;✚ The existence of its own printing and publishing house, equipped to modern standards;✚ The existence of the e-learning platform;✚ OUC has initiated the formation of the Alumni organization to keep in touch with the graduates;✚ In OUC there is a quality assurance central committee and committees within each faculty, working in an integrated manner to promote a quality culture;✚ Valuable teaching staff with highly specialized skills, holding the scientific title of doctor of science, including members of the Academy of Scientists and of many other Romanian and foreign scientific societies;✚ The significant increase of students and academic staff mobilities by means of study / practice / research internships;✚ A modern university campus, with internet access, video surveillance, access control system in student hostels, student canteen, sports facilities for students and teachers, etc.;✚ The educational offer is periodically adjusted by reference to the European standards;✚ The existence of a Confucius Class for Chinese language and culture which organizes a Chinese language exam, a Summer school in China and offers scholarships in China;✚ Institutional relations with various strategic institutions (Consulates, Embassies, diplomatic offices, etc.)✚ We hold the secretariat of the Black Sea Universities Network - BSUN;✚ The involvement of the economic environment in the academic life activities. | |
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OPPORTUNITIES

- ✚ Positioning UOC on the Black Sea as a unique multidisciplinary institution of higher education in Dobrogea is an opportunity to promote a plurivalent university education;
- ✚ Plurivalence is an opportunity, UOC responding to the educational needs of a diverse school population, urban and rural, with the ability to attract students from all over the country, including from abroad;
- ✚ Developing complex partnerships of professional practice, with the business environment;
- ✚ Increasing the number of graduate programs in directions required by the labor market;
- ✚ Expanding partnerships towards ensuring a better insertion of students and graduates in the labor market;
- ✚ UOC integration into the European System of Higher Education and the European Research Area;
- ✚ Increasing the international visibility through the mobility of teachers and students;
- ✚ Setting up AQAC involving student representatives and representatives of employers signifies an opportunity to promote active, open and constructive policies of an educational process focused on students' needs and responding to the needs of employers

THREATS

- ✚ Plurivalence can be also a threat. Excessive diversification programmes, if not controlled, can lead to the dissipation of potential teachers, may occur programs with few permanent teachers, the reports of teachers/student may be adversely affected;
- ✚ The construction of some niche programs that meet limited requirements on the labor market, are likely to unjustly exhaust human and financial resources of the UOC, for a few students and for a short period of time (niche programs can be organized on very few classes, maximum 2-3);
- ✚ Young population demographic decrease, which leads to decreased number of students;
- ✚ The decrease in level of training of high school graduates;
- ✚ The difficulty of attracting foreign students by limiting school capacity;
- ✚ The decrease in budgeted seats reduces university funding and limits access through high school degree graduates from rural areas and those who come from low-income families;
- ✚ Competition from private universities, who practice lower tuition fees;
- ✚ Changing the educational offer by reorganizing the structure of UOC faculties;
- ✚ Insufficient research funding versus institutional capacity;
- ✚ Frequent changes in legislation and underfunding cause instability in the activity;
- ✚ The poor response of business environment to organizational projects;
- ✚ Reduced interest of teachers for conferences or national journals in the context of promotion criteria;
- ✚ Reduced funding for national research;
- ✚ The revision of study programs according to the National and European Framework is threatened by the legislative instability significantly manifested in Romania;
- ✚ The large size and diversity of the UOC faculties and programs may lead to threats in the application of a functional and efficient integrated management.

V. ANNEX LIST

ANNEX NUMBER	ANNEX TITLE
OUC ANNEX 01	Establishment of the Pedagogical Institute of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 02	Decree 209 of 12 July 1977
OUC ANNEX 03	Institute of College Engineers
OUC ANNEX 04	Government Decision 225 of 1990 on the conversion to university status
OUC ANNEX 05	Government Decision 575 /2015_BA and Government Decision 595/ 2015 MA_PhD
OUC ANNEX 06	Charter of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 07	Institutional development strategy 2012-2016
OUC ANNEX 08	Operational plan for the year 2015
OUC ANNEX 09	Organizational and operational regulations of the Senate
OUC ANNEX 10	Organizational and operational regulations of the Administrative Board
OUC ANNEX 11	Order of the Ministry of National Education no. 288 of 18.06.2014 appointing the Rector
OUC ANNEX 2	Organizational chart of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 13	Regulation for the establishment of the schedule of salary ranges
OUC ANNEX 14	Status of teaching positions 2010-2015
OUC ANNEX 15	Curriculum legislation 2009-2015
OUC ANNEX 16	Distance and part-time learning regulation
OUC ANNEX 17	Regulation on the organization and running of doctoral studies
OUC ANNEX 18	Methodology of admission to BA studies
OUC ANNEX 19	Methodology of admission to MA studies
OUC ANNEX 20	Methodology of organizing the admission to doctoral studies
OUC ANNEX 21	Regulation for the preparation, review and approval of the curricula
OUC ANNEX 22	Methodology for organizing higher education graduation examinations – bachelor/ degree and dissertation examinations within “Ovidius” University of Constanta, starting with the 2014-2015 academic year
OUC ANNEX 23	The evolution of the number of bachelor and master students in the period 2009-2015
OUC ANNEX 24	The evolution of the number of PhD students in the period 2009-2015
OUC ANNEX 25	Student’s Guide
OUC ANNEX 26	Regulation for the assessment of students’ knowledge and skills
OUC ANNEX 27	Procedure on the transfer of students to “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 28	Material resources – The patrimony of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 29	Inventory units organized according to specialization fields
OUC ANNEX 30	Financial statement on the budget, execution account, balance between 2009-2015
OUC ANNEX 31	Decision of the Senate – members of the Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance
OUC ANNEX 32	Regulation for the organization and functioning of the Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance
OUC ANNEX 33	Regulation for the organization and functioning of the Department for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
OUC ANNEX 34	Internal public audit plans and Reports on the public audit activity
OUC ANNEX 35	Scientific Research Regulations
OUC ANNEX 36	Regulation on the periodical assessment of the quality of academic staff
OUC ANNEX 37	Regulation on the assessment of the annual individual performance of the teaching staff

OUC ANNEX 38	Procedure on the assessment of the teaching staff by the students
OUC ANNEX 39	Code of academic ethics and professional deontology
OUC ANNEX 40	Regulations of the organization and functioning of the Ethics Commission
OUC ANNEX 41	Study documents – model annexes
OUC ANNEX 42	Regulation for the organization and functioning of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 43	Internationalization_University Marketing Office_ERASMUS PLUS
OUC ANNEX 44	Internal regulations of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 45	Regulation on students’ professional activity
OUC ANNEX 46	Schedule of salary ranges for the administrative staff
OUC ANNEX 47	Research
OUC ANNEX 48	Tax number. OUC account balance
OUC ANNEX 49	Regulation for the organization and functioning of the Public Internal Audit Department
OUC ANNEX 50	Rector’s report on the status of “Ovidius” University of Constanta in 2014
OUC ANNEX 51	List of persons and specialized studies in the Library department
OUC ANNEX 52	List of persons and specialized studies in the Accounting department
OUC ANNEX 53	Regulation on the award of scholarships and other types of financial support
OUC ANNEX 54	Regulation on the tutorship activity in “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 55	Monitoring reports students, graduates
OUC ANNEX 56	Methodology for organizing the referendum in order to decide the manner of appointing the rector of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 57	Methodology for organizing the elections for the position of Rector of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 58	Methodology for organizing the elections for the Senate of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 59	Methodology for selecting and appointing the faculty deans of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 60	Methodological regulations for the election of the governing bodies and the appointment in management positions within the Institute for Doctoral University Studies of OUC
OUC ANNEX 61	Regulation on the election of student representatives in the governing structures of “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 62	Methodology for electing the department heads and the members of department boards
OUC ANNEX 63	Staffing methodology for permanent teaching and research positions in “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 64	Staffing methodology for definite term teaching assistant positions
OUC ANNEX 65	Methodology on the staffing and remuneration of vacant, temporarily vacant or reserved teaching positions in the schedule of salary ranges of the departments of “Ovidius” University of Constanta by hourly payment/ accumulation at bachelor and master levels, full-time study mode
OUC ANNEX 66	Regulation and procedure on the award of honorary titles
OUC ANNEX 67	Regulation on the initiation, approval, monitoring and periodic assessment of the study programs in “Ovidius” University of Constanta
OUC ANNEX 68	Procedure of peer review of the teaching staff
OUC ANNEX 69	Methodology for the selection and ranking of teacher performance based on articles published in ISI magazines or equivalent.