



SPIRU HARET UNIVERSITY

1. Legal framework and activity of Spiru Haret University. On 19 January 1991, upon the initiative of Aurelian Gh. Bondrea, Prof. Ph.D, the ‘România de Mâine’ Foundation emerged – a non-profit, cultural institution, of science and education, without any political or patrimony intentions.

A number of 25 faculties, with 53 majors, 75 Cycle II Bologna study programmes currently operate (2011-2012) at *Spiru Haret* University, under the auspices of ‘România de Mâine’ Foundation.

On 14 February 2000, *Spiru Haret* University was accredited by the National Council of Academic Evaluation and Accreditation, the only legal body authorized to assess and accredit the higher education institutions, in order to provide a high quality of the education process, which is under the Parliament direction. (Appendix nr. 1)

The Act nr.443 on 5 July 2002, published in the Official Gazette of Romania nr. 491 on 9 July 2002, confirms the fact that Spiru Haret University, accredited, is a ‘higher education institution, legal person of private law and public utility, a part of the national system of education.’

Spiru Haret University has adopted the principles of the education process of Bologna; thus, in 2005, at Bologna, the President and Rector of the University signed Magna Charta Universitatum and committed, in the name of University, to comply and promote the academic autonomy, the fundamental university values and rights, to effectively respond to the challenges derived from shifting to the knowledge-based society and the globalization process.

Spiru Haret University finds itself in organic interdependency relations in the academic, administrative and economico-financial areas, with the other institutional structures and units in the ‘România de Mâine’ Foundation: România de Mâine Television and Radio – national channels, educational, scientific and cultural in nature – singular in the Romanian mass-media context, Institute of Sociology and Public Opinion (ISOP), Institute of Studies for the Economic and Social Development of Romania, Institute of International Relations and European Studies, Academy of National Culture *Dimitrie Gusti*, ‘România de Mâine’ Foundation Publishing House, *Opinia Națională* – a weekly publication for opinions, information and ideas of national interest, computer-based Printing Complex, student clubs, student dormitories, a multi-functional Sports Complex, a Centre of Designing and Constructions Enterprise.

2. The mission of Spiru Haret University consists in shaping individuals to acquire a superior level of training, hence providing them with professional qualifications that will give them real chances within the free market of employment and bringing the development of the scientific research activity, the comprehensive practical application of the scientific, artistic, sports creative process, etc.

3. The structure of Spiru Haret University

In anticipation to the evolution of teaching in the educational field, sparked by the requirements of an increasingly globalized market, by the desire for highest degree quality expressed by a large social category of various ages, by the perspective of the lifelong learning programme, the

affordable school fees, *Spiru Haret* University has braced itself for a superior educational environment, via a modern and competitive infrastructure: a private network of 10,000 latest generation computers, Internet access, television and radio stations owned by ‘România de Măine’ Foundation, a publishing house and a state-of-art printing complex and the Blackboard e-learning platform. The computer-based assessment has proved to be a real success, as the subjective evaluation, the corruption and fraud attempts have been fully avoided. Objectivity, total transparency, instant feedback and short testing times are clear-cut features for the computer-based assessment process.

4. Quality assurance for the education process and the scientific research

A pivotal moment in the improvement process of education has been the shift to the three-cycle studies, in compliance with the Bologna Process: undergraduate – master – doctorate studies (L-M-D), on a 3-, 2- and 3-year duration and a number of 60 ECTS for a year of study. This major remodeling at the University level mainly targets the adjustment of the Romanian higher education and research fields to the similar in Europe, a better correlation of the academic study programmes with the classification of occupations (to be regularly updated), the extension and improvement of ECTS, cooperation in issuing and recognizing the academic diplomas, the promotion of mobility for students, academia and researchers, promotion of the authentic European values.

5. The activity of scientific research – a strategic objective of *Spiru Haret* University

The research-development strategy aims to place *Spiru Haret* University among the most prestigious universities in Europe, via updating of the education system, increasing the creation pace, innovating and implementing the outcome derived from such processes. Our list of the specific research-related objectives includes the following: advancing excellence in scientific research; knowledge dissemination and use; stimulating competition for attracting financial resources; favouring plurality; steering to identifying and using various resources and opportunities; development of the research activity, based on strategic programmes, at the level of institutes, faculties, research centers; a full and complex capitalization of the research outcome.

6. A competitive infrastructure – a solid support for the complex activity of the University

The extension, development and consolidation of its private material resources pool have been major issues for the România de Măine Foundation and *Spiru Haret* University management. The last four years have witnessed significant investments, which greatly supplemented the already existent patrimony.

7. An ambitious institutional management

But for a superior management activity, the remarkable achievements would not have been possible. At the level of *Spiru Haret* University, a managerial team has been built, under the careful supervision of the President and Rector of the University, a team that made possible reaching all its desired objectives.

8. The national and international cooperation of *Spiru Haret* University

Outbuilding, broadening and diversification of the cooperation relations have singled out the 2004-2010 interval, both nationally and internationally, between *Spiru Haret* University and ‘România de Măine’ Foundation on one side and universities, foundations, associations and institutions, on the other.

Upon the awarding the Doctor Honoris Causa title to the His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the University President and Rector was invited by His Sanctity to the Gandolfo Castle, in September 2004. Likewise, in June 2007, the President and Rector of the University was

welcomed in Rome by the Italian President, Giorgio Napolitano and His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI.

Member of the University Alliance for Democracy since 1993 (an organism that gathers over 150 universities in SUA and countries in the Central and Eastern Europe), *Spiru Haret* University has been present at the annual meetings as an active participator. *Spiru Haret* University became a Magna Charta Observatory member in 2005, associate member of the European University Association (EUA) the same year, a founding member of the Balkan Forum for Communications in 2005, a member of the Francophone University Agency (AUF) in 2006 and of the Confederation for European University Foreign Languages Centres – Cercles in 2006, as well. *Spiru Haret* University has concluded agreements of inter-university cooperation, which stipulate exchange for academia, researchers and students, presentation of courses and conferences, joint research projects, practicals, exchange of publications with higher education institutions in Spain, Italy, Belgium, France, Austria, United Kingdom, Republic of Moldova.

The practice, relevant moments and the events above strongly stand out for the ample receptivity of *Spiru Haret* University and 'România de Mâine' Foundation to the world matters, the desire to cooperate in education and research, at European and international levels.