



THE STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR 2016-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

The academic activity is a complex activity implying scientific **research** (generating knowledge), **education** (knowledge dissemination through educational activities) and **innovative services towards the community** (transposing the knowledge into the economy and the society).

The activity of scientific research is a mandatory part of the higher education. In the same time, it is the basic activity conferring prestige to a university and ensuring the students' drawing in, being the catalyzer for all the other types of academic activities. This is also the reason why most international rankings comprise dominantly criteria and indicators related to the scientific research when they intend to set the “*world-class universities*”.

The “Vasile Goldiș” Western University of Arad has in its structure three cycles (Bachelor-Master-Doctoral), six faculties in the field of health, science of the nature, economics, juridical sciences, social and political sciences, engineering sciences, agriculture and forestry sciences, physical education and sport, 43 academic study programs for the Bachelor level, 24 Master programs and two accredited doctoral fields (medicine and biology).

II. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategy of the “Vasile Goldiș” Western University of Arad (VGWU) for the scientific research has as major objective the increase of the university prestige both at national and international levels, by significant contributions to the development of the knowledge, by valorizing the human resource, by capitalizing and developing the infrastructure of research and by promoting inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary research activities.

1. Generating knowledge, respectively obtaining some top scientific and technological results, competitive at national and international levels, aiming for the increase of the University international visibility and for the transfer of the results into the economy and society.

(a) All 3 general components of the research are promoted at the VGWU:

- Basic research;
- Applicative research;
- Innovation.

The inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary research have priority.

(b) The teaching staff or the researchers develop the research activity individually or in teams within a certain subject, in the research centers assigned to the faculties or in the Institute of Life Science for the fields of Medicine, Bio-medical, Biology and Pharmacy.

2. The increase of the performance by obtaining results of excellence, reflected in the increase in the number of papers published in ISI/ BDI journals, of books published by prestigious publishing houses from the country and abroad and of the number of patents.

(a) Establishing of some strategic fields of research which involve the inter- and trans-disciplinary component and provide for the VGWU competitiveness in the country and abroad: The “Vasile Goldiș” Western University of Arad is to support with priority the top fields of interest, especially the research with applicative character which have proven to being asked by the economy, however without neglecting the fundamental research.

In order to identify the priority research domains, some scientometric analyses and “peer-reviews” are to be used in order to identify: i) the fields of excellence for the VGWU academic staff; ii) the Doctoral Schools; iii) the research directions for the Institute of Life Science, for the Research Centers of the University. These fields of excellence must be congruent with the trends at European and international levels, but, where applicable, there can be established fields which may provide for competitiveness for the University in long-term even if they are not international priorities for the time being. We shall also take under consideration the directions which receive funding at national level, and at international one, as well.

Emphasis is to be put on the nationally and internationally acknowledged researchers and research groups in the action of developing new fields and to set research paths able to draw in national and international funding.

(b) The increase of the research quality at VGWU by establishing some performance indicators for the research, respectively by increasing the number of scientific papers, of participation in scientific events in the country and abroad.

The focalization in the research endeavor and in the academic evaluation is defined as:

- ISI (Web of Science) type of publication. They refer to indexed publications in: (a) Science Citation Index; (b) Social Science Citation Index; and (c) Art&Humanities.
- patents;
- innovative products and services, implemented in the socio-economic environment which relies on invention patents and/ or ORDA or international certificates;
- books or chapters of books, published in prestigious Romanian or foreign publishing houses.

Minim general scientific output for each teaching staff's member: one published paper/year in ISI quoted journal for each teaching staff member; a published paper/ year in BDI journal for each tenured or associate teaching staff member; one scientific book/ year for 4 teaching staff members (the courses are not taken under consideration as they are professional obligation);

For the associated teaching staff - double affiliation to at least one scientific paper/ year.

The increase of the weight of the scientific output, which has been previously defined, will be accomplished by:

- Academic promotion (mandatory for PhD supervisors, professors, associated professor);

- Agreements for doctoral and post-doctoral scholarships – funded by the SOPHRD (Sectoral Operational Program Human Resources Development);
- variable waging of the VGWU academic staff depending on the scientific performance

(c) Awarding the research results by:

- different awarding for the ISI papers
- awarding the books and book chapters published abroad

(d) Introducing specific indicators for defending the doctoral thesis (qualifications conditioned by publications according to the grid) and PhD candidates' and VGWU affiliated post-graduates' publications.

(e) Providing the access for the teaching staff, the researchers, and the students to the literature (online databases by Anelis plus and subscriptions to the journals)

3. The human resources development is a priority of the research management at the Vasile Goldiș Western University of Arad.

(a) Obtaining the habilitation certificate for a wider number of VGWU teaching staff members and researchers.

(b). The increase in the researchers' number with the decrease of the medium age for the researchers below 40 years old;

(c) Providing for differentiated waging depending on the scientific performances and the awarding of the results (ISI papers);

(d) Employing researchers in temporary regime from the mobilized extra-budgetary resources from grants or other sources;

(e) Employing permanently researchers who had proved scientific performances for at least 3 years since their employment on defined term;

(f) Employing post-graduates from POCU structural funds, from post-graduate research projects (PD), UEFISCDI funded or funded from other sources;

(g) Setting-up young independent teams (TE) by encouraging the participation in the UEFISCDI organized competition or in other European competitions;

(h) Ensuring the VGWU breeding ground of researchers by:

- Supporting the PhD candidates and post-graduates in the activity of research and performing stages in internationally recognized research teams in order to increase the weight and quality of their scientific production;

- organizing and supporting the activity of the Doctoral Schools and of the post-graduates activity;

- performing jointly the PhD thesis supervision by concluding partnerships with prestigious universities from abroad;

- obtaining structural funds by the POCU for granting scholarships for doctoral studies or for industrial scholarships awarded from other sources;
- supporting the students from 1st and 2nd study cycles (Bachelor and Master studies) in order for them to acquire the skills for research, by taking them into research teams of the projects implemented by the University.

(h) **Bringing about the private system** into research by performing projects in partnerships with RDI companies for drawing in national or European funds, public-private entrepreneurship agreements

A particular attention is to be paid for drawing in funding from:

- The National Plan for Research-Development and Innovation for 2015 - 2020 (NPRDI III), Program 2: Increase of the competitiveness of the Romanian economy by research, development and innovation;
- the Operational Program Competitiveness (OPC).

5. The **increase of the institutional capacity** by drawing in funding for the development of the research infrastructure.

(a) The Institute of Life Science and the Centers for research assigned to the faculties are to purchase equipment from the funding acquired at national or international levels (competition for projects or private sources);

(b) Part of the budget allowed for the administrative expenses for projects (administration) is to be reinvested into the research infrastructure;

(c) Depending on the scientific performances, VGUWU is to allow a budget for development of the research capacity.

6. **Extending the international cooperation** in programs and projects.

(a) Inclusion of the university, the Institute of Life Science and of the Research Centers, and of the Doctoral Schools in national and international research networks;

(b) Organizing conferences, symposiums, international summer schools in order to disseminate the scientific results and to establish international cooperation in scientific purposes;

(c) Organizing scientific lectures at the Doctoral Schools as part of the PhD candidates' individual training program;

(d) Organizing joint international doctoral studies;

(e) Drawing in international students in the Doctoral Schools and organizing doctoral studies in international languages;

(e) Organizing Master studies of research at the level of the faculties and of the doctoral schools in international languages;

(f) Supporting the university BDI journals for their inclusion in new international databases, Scopus and Thomson Reuters in particular.

(g) Supporting the PhD candidates and post-graduates for carrying on research stages abroad.