



Academis
university management solution



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“1 decembrie 1918” University from Alba Iulia

Challenge

The number of students attending our university has progressively grown, as well as the amount of managed information. This fact has determined the imperious necessity of an information system which should offer an open and flexible platform that eliminates the problems related to data redundancy, inconsistency of reporting and lack of data integration present in the old applications used in our university.

Objectives

- standardization and optimization of the administrative activities through the implementation of an integrated information system
- providing real time direct access to information for all users within the university
- optimal management of financial, human and technical resources

Implementation benefits

- it provides an integrated panorama of all the activities performed in the university
- coordination, monitoring and optimization of all the processes within the university
- improvement of the academic management and its harmonization to international standards
- substantiation of decisional processes through correct and complete information related to efficiency and costs
- a more efficient control over the operations of the institution

University Profile

- public institution of higher education and research founded in 1991 in Alba Iulia
- it offers graduate and postgraduate courses (Master and Doctorate courses, specialization courses)
- 4 faculties (History and Philology, Sciences, Orthodox Theology, Law and Social Sciences) and 2 colleges
- 26 specializations and over 6500 students
- client of University Management System (UMS) since 2005

About Academis

Academis is an open and flexible platform, which includes components related to areas specific to the academic environment. The educational management component within the Academis solution – University Management System - manages all the academic related processes and flows and the academic and didactic organization of higher education institutions.

.increased efficiency and competitiveness of educational processes

Under the present circumstances of the educational environment globalization, the higher education institutions must adjust to the competitive requirements of the market. The increase of the university's competitiveness essentially depends on its ability to successfully use the informational technologies and apply them to the students' training and development in a flexible and rapid way.

"1 decembrie 1918" University is a public institution of higher education and research founded in 1991 in Alba Iulia. With more than 6500 students studying within the 4 faculties and 2 colleges, the university takes on to meet the new requirements and tendencies registered at national and European level in higher education. Thus, the main concern of the directive board remains the continuous development and modernization of the specific activities, by complying with the European standards within the educational environment.

Within this context, the directive board of the institution has chosen to make schooling management efficient by changing

the informational applications existent in the university. They have identified the need for an efficient instrument which should automatize all the activities specific to the academic management, optimize the informational flows and sustain the decisional process through accurate and complete information.

The software system that was chosen is the University Management System (UMS), the educational management component of the Academis integrated platform. Academis represents the only software solution certified in Romania and dedicated to the academic environment, which efficiently meets the challenges that higher education is facing nowadays.

The Red Point is specialized in providing complex services and software solutions. The company disposes of a professional team of consultants having experience in the educational environment, able to successfully perform all the activities carried out within an implementation project, under the guidance of project managers with significant experience in the field of integrated systems.

.the decision for implementing University Management System solution

The University needed a flexible information system, easy to use and adapted to the specific internal needs. Due to the fact that the systems existent in the university were difficult to improve and adjust to the new requirements, the directive board of the university decided in 2005 to resort to the services of a supplier specialized in information solutions for the academic environment.

The university was using a series of applications whose target was the financial management and computer didactic activities that had been developed internally by the IT department of the university, but these were lacking flexibility and were unable to provide data integration.

"We needed an efficient information system, which could be adjusted to the practices of our university and to the specificity of the activities that we were carrying out. Moreover, we considered reaching an optimal ratio between costs and performance. University

Management System proved to be the best solution, both from the point of view of the functionalities provided, the high degree of customization that it allows, as well as from the point of view of the ratio quality / price," according to the University Rector, **Univ. Prof. Ioan Moise Achim, PhD.**

In order to make a thorough analysis of the solutions present on the market, the university organized a bid where various companies came up with different solutions. The University Management System got the maximum score according to all the technical criteria stipulated in the Tender Book.

The Red Point had an important role in offering the best solution, because it provided to the university information pertaining to the competitive advantages of the system, the necessary hardware resources, the methodology and procedures for the project implementation, the method of working with the consultants. This information had an important role in making the decision of implementing the University Management System solution.

The project started in January 2005, and the first stage of the solution implementation was finalized in the month of June of the same year. The second stage of the project was targeted an expansion of the system through the implementation of some new processes regarding scholarships, accommodation and diplomas.

For carrying out the project two teams were formed, the university team and The Red Point company team. "Each team had a project manager and precise roles were designed for each user. Each stage of the project was presented in a written document, the communication between the two teams being a very good one. Within the implementation process the standardized development and implementation methodology had a very important role, as well as the rigorous use of the project management," according to the **Education Department Chief within The Red Point, Mr. Marius Isac.**

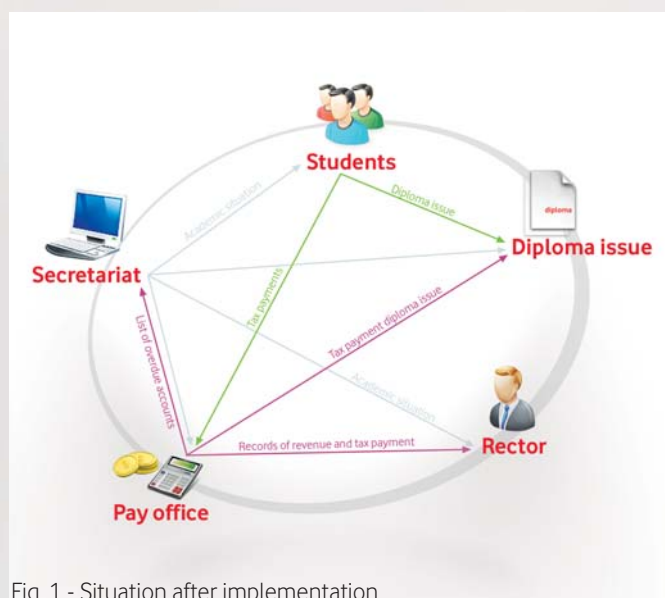


Fig. 1 - Situation after implementation

.University Management System – support for the university’s key processes

The project of The Red Point Company meant the implementation of a nucleus that was vital for the informatization requirements of the institution, for the academic and didactic organization processes, admission exams, student lifecycle and reporting modalities. The purpose of implementing the University Management System solution was to attain unitary and integrated managed processed data.

“The university was handling a great amount of information and in order to have a corresponding management activity we needed a mature and stable solution. We analyzed and reshaped the existent infrastructure, we made an analysis of the requirements and, as a consequence of it, we have updated the system. Then came the configuration itself and the report development,

The Red Point was an active part all along the process and this was materialized in the support it provided during the entire period of the project development. At the same time, the collaboration between The Red Point and the university was a special one: we were permanently helped by the management of the university and the IT Department of the institution was actively involved in the project”, **Mrs. Oana Rusu, the Product Manager** of The Red Point says.

The implementation of the system was performed within all four faculties of the university, within the secretariats and pay offices.

.efficient management of the admission process

Every year the institution organizes the admission process through the UMS solution. For “1 decembrie 1918” University from Alba Iulia the year 2008 has already been the fourth consecutive year when the admission process is managed through University Management System.

This way, within the “1 decembrie 1918” University the flows specific to the admission process were transferred to computer-based systems:

- management and monitoring of student files (personal data, grades, options)
- the possibility to complete and compare the candidates’ files up to the stage of their admission and registration as students
- real-time presentation of the admission situation
- automatic calculation of the averages for each option
- generating admission rankings

The presence of University Management System at the level of all secretariats in the university led to a rapid and visible improvement of all the aspects related to the management of students’ personal data and their academic situations. At the level of pay offices the system proved an easier and more coherent management and records of all the payments performed by the students, tax payments, as well as the automatic printing of the receipts during their registration.



Fig. 2 - Situation after implementation

The direct benefits of having implemented the University Management System from the perspective of the admission process were: a shorter time of information processing and real-time obtaining of the necessary reports during the admission process:

- nominal and synthetic financial reports;
- verification reports regarding registrations / days / periods / nominal and synthetic commissions;
- reports regarding the lists with passed / rejected candidates;
- lists with the registered / unregistered candidates.

At the same time, University Management System provides the financial-accounting department with financial reports regarding: cashed taxes per specializations, academic years, listed nominally or synthetically, amounts to be cashed in, corresponding to the back-payments of the academic tax coming from students, incomes obtained from penalty payments.

Academis, the solution provided by The Red Point specialists, includes the specific needs of academic institutions and the best practices applied to the academic environment, in order to secure a complete and efficient management of the specific processes.

Educational management

The component manages all school related processes and flows (applicants, students, session, tuition, scholarships, diplomas etc.) and the academic-teaching organization within universities.

Economic management

The economic component allows the integrated management of all financial and accounting processes, of human capital, procurement and investments, customers and contracts, and of production processes.

eLearning

The eLearning component provides support for teaching and learning, testing and evaluation, for content administration, and the monitoring of the education process and curricula.

Organizational process management

The component facilitates internal processes aimed at monitoring information and documents within the university.

The Red Point is a Romanian software company specialized in software solution development, business consulting and consultancy in complex software solution implementation. Our major expertise areas are: Education (Higher Education), Transportation Infrastructure (Railways), Private Sector and Public Sector.

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