

The External Evaluation Report of an Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD)

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I. Introduction¹

This external evaluation report for the doctoral field of “Communication sciences” at Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, has been carried out between 2 to 5 November, 2021. The evaluation is based on the documentation provided by the institution, online meetings developed during the evaluation and the input provided in response to questions asked by the evaluation team, that was composed of:

- Professor Somena LACHE, PhD, mission director, Transilvania University of Braşov;
- Professor Ioan DEAC, PhD, coordinator of the evaluation of the field of communication sciences, “Mihai Viteazul,” National Intelligence Academy Bucharestandti;
- Associate Professor Rubén ARCOS, PhD, international expert, Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid;
- Std. drd. Costel-Marian DALBAN, student expert, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University iaandi.

The evaluation was based on the national legislative framework on the evaluation of doctoral studies:

- Law nr. 1/2011 of the national education;
- HG no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies;
- MEN Order no. ANEB No 3651/2021 on the approval of the Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral studies and of the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in evaluation;
- ARACIS Guide for carrying out the process of periodical external evaluation of the fields of doctoral studies, from 21.04.2021;
- Internal evaluation report of doctoral studies, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, the field of communication science, 2021 (in Romanian and English).

Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, has the right to organize doctoral studies in the field of Communication Sciences according to OMECI 32164/22.04.2009 (Annex 1 (visit)). In the doctoral field Communication Sciences there are two doctoral studies schools: *The Doctoral School of Communication, Public Relations, and Advertising (SDCRPP)* and *The Doctoral School of Political and Communication Sciences (SDSPC)*. Both doctoral schools function as structures of the Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences (FSPAC).

In the field of doctoral studies, 12 doctoral supervisors and 104 doctoral students were enrolled for the period under evaluation (2015-2020). A number of 18 doctoral students graduated. In September 2020, in the field of doctoral studies Communication Sciences, 58 doctoral students are enrolled.

¹ Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



II. Methods used

The external evaluation conducted by this international expert is based on the following methods and tools:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and its Annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit (if such documents have been requested);
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates of the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with the Doctoral advisors affiliated to the IOSUD;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School.
- Findings provided from visits;

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators²

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- *Doctoral studies in the field of Communication Sciences are carried out in two doctoral schools: The Doctoral School of Communication, Public Relations, and Advertising (SDCRPP) and The Doctoral School of Political and Communication Sciences (SDSPC). The doctoralschool uses the same educational resources (materials, teaching, scientific and personnel, except for doctoral supervisors) of FSPAC, which serve both bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies. The reason for the distribution of doctoral studies in two doctoral schools within the same faculties is given by the structure of the specialized university departments to which the doctoral supervisors belong: the Department of Journalism, respectively, the Department of Communication and Public Relations. This structuring on professional specializations is likely to ensure a better integration of university studies in the professional field, a better capitalization of human resources, but also a diverse community of students and the possibility of organizing mixed research teams. During the discussions with the doctoral supervisors, a methodological distinction was also highlighted, specific to the doctoral approaches of the two doctoral schools.*
- *Following the analysis of the documents in the external evaluation file and the online meetings we observe that IOSUD UBB has the organizational capacity, the material and financial resources, the human resource and the highly qualified expertise for carrying out doctoral studies.*

Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources

² Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

- general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):

- (a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School(s);
- (b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct;
- (c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);
- (d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;
- (e) functional management structures CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings;
- (f) the contract for doctoral studies;
- (g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

- We assess that the indicator is fulfilled based on:

- a) The Regulation of the Doctoral School of Communication, Public Relations and Advertising (SDCRPP) and the Regulation of the Doctoral School of Political and Communication Sciences (SDSPC) were drafted and updated in 2017, in accordance with the IOSUD UBB Regulation and in compliance with all the legal provisions in force. The regulations are approved by CSUD UBB and endorsed for legal compliance by the Legal Service of UBB. The SDCRPP regulation was on the FSPAC website, (SDCRPP <http://sdcrrp.ro/admitere.html>), and the SDSPC regulation is also on the FSPAC website (<https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/doc/regulament.pdf>). The regulations of the doctoral schools SDCRPP and SDSPC are also presented in annexes provided.
- b) The methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of their Doctoral Schools (CSD) is specified in the Operating Regulations of the doctoral schools. In the IOSUD UBB Regulation, references are made to the appointment of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students (Annex A.1.1.1.b (visit)). The directors of the doctoral schools are appointed at the proposal of the CSUD and with the approval of the UBB Senate, respectively the Decision no. 22991/2017. (Annex A.1.1.1.b directors of doctoral schools).
- c) The general way of organizing and conducting doctoral studies is provided in the Regulations of the two doctoral schools (Chapter 2. General provisions). Doctoral studies in the evaluated field are planned for a period of 3 academic years and include: a) the advanced university training program and b) the institutional research program, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Doctoral Studies GD 681/2011. The admission to doctoral studies is regulated at IOSUD UBB level, through the Methodology for admission to doctoral studies in Babeş-Bolyai University, for the academic year 2021-2022 and through the Methodology for organizing and conducting admission sessions at UBB, under the conditions of

suspension of face-to-face teaching activities. The SDCRPP has its own admission regulation published on the website(<http://sdcrrp.ro/admitere.html>), while the SDSPC refers to the IOSUD admission methodology(<https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/doc/Metodologiei-de-admitere-la-studiile-de-doctorat-2021.pdf>).

- d) The quality of doctoral supervisor and the equivalence of the doctorate obtained in other states within IOSUD UBB is made by applying the Methodology on automatic recognition, by the higher education institutions, respectively the institutions organizing doctoral studies in Romania, of the quality of doctoral conductor obtained in accredited higher education institutions abroad, approved by the UBB Senate by Decision no. 1755/2017. At the level of the SDSPC and SDCRPP doctoral schools, the procedure established for all doctoral schools by IOSUD (FDI procedure) applies.
- e) According to the regulations of the two doctoral schools, the councils of the doctoral schools meet at least 3 times a year (Chapter 4 The Council of the Doctoral School). From the documents attached to the Self-Evaluation Report, it results that 1) THE SDCRPP had periodical meetings, proven with decisions, minutes, meeting convocations (Annex A.1.1.1.1.e); 2) THE SDSPC had periodic meetings, proven with decisions, minutes, meeting convocations (Annex A.1.1.1.1.e);
- f) All doctoral students sign a doctoral study contract. The model of this contract is attached in Annex A. 1.1.1.f. , together with models of addenda for the extension or interruption of doctoral studies. SDCRPP and SDSPC have the study document posted on the page dedicated to admission to doctorate (<http://sdcrrp.ro/admitere.html>; https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/doc/RO%20Contract_de_studii_st-comunicarii__2021.pdf).
- g) The elaboration of the training program based on advanced university studies is made in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of the two doctoral schools (Chapter 4 of the doctoral school council), the specific procedure for the elaboration of this program being presented in Annex A.1.1.1.g, and involves analyzing the proposals of doctoral supervisors, graduate doctoral students and employers. The proposals are finalized in the form of the curriculum of the doctoral study program (Annex A.3.1.3).

The indicator is fulfilled.

- **Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.** The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.
- The acceptance of new doctoral supervisors, as well as regulations regarding the way in which a doctoral supervisor can be withdrawn the membership of the doctoralschool: the acquisition of the membership of the doctoral school, as a doctoral supervisor, is specified in the regulations of the doctoral schools SDSPC and SDCRPP, in Chapter 5 The doctoral supervisor, al. (4) and (5). The conditions and the method of withdrawal of the membership of the doctoral school is specified in the IOSUD UBB Regulation (Annex A.1.1.2 (visit)).
- b) the mechanisms by which decisions are taken regarding the opportunity, structure and content of the training program based on advanced university studies: The elaboration of the training program based on advanced university studies is made in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of the two doctoral schools (Chapter 4 of the doctoral school

council), the specific procedure for the elaboration of this program being presented in Annex A.1.1.1.1.g, and involves analyzing the proposals of doctoral supervisors, graduate doctoral students and employers. The proposals are finalized in the form of the curriculum of the doctoral study program (Annex A.3.1.3).

- c) the procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor of a certain doctoral student and the procedures for conflictmediation: the procedure for changing the doctoral supervisor of a certain doctoral student, the conditions and the way of ensuring this right of doctoral students are specified in the IOSUD UBB Regulation (Annex A.1.1.2 (visit)). Avoidance of conflict of interest is specified as a right (Cap. 5, al. (11), lit. g) and as an obligation (Ch. 5, al. 12, lit. f) of doctoral supervisors; as an obligation of doctoral students (Ch. 6, al (2), lit. f).
- d) the conditions under which the doctoral program can be interrupted: the conditions for the interruption of the doctoral program are mentioned in the regulations of the doctoral schools SDSPC and SDCRPP at Chapter 2 of the. (9), (10) and (11). Interruptions are limited to 3 years. If the apt that the doctoral study program is extended by the period corresponding to the interruptions, according to the specifications of gd 681/2011, is specified in the IOSUD UBB Regulation (Annex A.1.1.2 (visit)).
- e) ways of preventing fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism: the rejection of incorrect conducts in scientific research and attempts at plagiarism is provided for in the regulations of the sdspc doctoral schools and SDCRPP at Cap. 9, al. (10), (17), (22) and Chapter 10. Observance of scientific, professional and university ethics.
- f) ensuring access to research resources: the right of the PhD student to have access to the research resources necessary for research is specified in the IOSUD UBB Regulation (Annex A.1.1.2 (visit)). In the documents submitted, relating to subscriptions to scientific databases, it appears that doctoral students have access to these databases.
- g) the frequency obligations of the Doctoral students: the frequency obligations of the Doctoral students, to the training program based on advanced university studies and to the individual scientific research program, are specified in the IOSUD UBB Regulation (Annex A.1.1.2 (visit)).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.2. The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.

- The experience of doctoral students in the field of PhD Communication Sciences is carried out with the help of specific platforms. IOSUD UBB doctoral students are enrolled in the platform of Academic Info <https://academicinfo.ubbcluj.ro/Info/> .

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.2. The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.

- The software used to calculate the similarity percentage are Turnitin and Ithenticate. In order to carry out the process of checking the degree of similarity, the PhD student submits an application that is approved by the coordinator and by the sd director. Additional information



in Annex A.1.2.2. The procedure for generating and analyzing the similarity report is approved with the CSUD Decision of 3933/08.03/2017, according to the evidence in Anexele A.1.2.2. (visit).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.3. The IOSUD makes sure that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding

Performance indicator A.1.3.1. *Existence of at least one research or institutional/human resources development grant at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or the existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral theses advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address themes relevant for the respective domain and, as a rule, are carried out with the involvement of doctoral students.*

- *At the level of SDCRPP and SDSPC doctoral schools, as part of SDCRPP, there is a project in implementation – project POCU123793, Researcher, future entrepreneur – in which a number of 10 doctoral students are involved, with research grants specific to their doctoral research topics (Annexes A.1.3.1 (visit)).*

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator* A.1.3.2. *The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of evaluation, who for at least six months received additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research on institutional / human resources developments grants is no less than 20%.*

- *At the level of the SDSPC and SDCRPP doctoral schools, between 2015 and 2020, there were 10 students who also benefited from other sources of funding, especially through research/institutional development grants. Out of the total of 58 Doctoral students enrolled in the budget at the time of evaluation, 17 have funding from sources other than the state budget (Annex A.1.3.2 (visit)), representing the percentage is 29.31% > 20%.*

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator* A.1.3.3. ³ *At least 10% of the total amounts of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students through (conferences, summer schools, training programs abroad, publication of specialized papers or other specific forms of dissemination, etc.).*

³ Indicators flagged by asterisk (*) have a special status, exclusively with reference to the evaluation process of the Areas of Studies University of doctorate in Conditions Art. 12 from annex No. 1 at Order Minister Education No. 3651 from 12.04 2021 On Approval Methodology of assessment a Studies University of doctorate and a Systems of Criteria Standards and Indicators of performance Use in assessment. In If failure to comply their Agency Grants IOSUD o period of the much 3 Years for Correcting Those Deficiencies.



- *The budget of the field of communication sciences, calculated for the two doctoral schools SDCRPP and SDSPC, for the period 2015-2020 is 4,365,150 lei. For the professional training of phd students, SDCRPP and SDSPC spent together the amount of 313,080.16 lei, representing a percentage of 7.17% < 10% of the budget of the doctoral study field Communication Sciences, according to Annexes A. 1.3.3. a and A. 1.3.3. b.*
- *A detailed list of expenditures can be found in Annex A.1.3.3.*

Recommendations: increase expenses over 10% of the total amounts

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD/doctoral schools have a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities.

Performance indicator A.2.1.1. *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.*

- *Doctoral students of the doctoral schools SDSPC and SDCRPP in the field of Communication Sciences carry out their activity in the two buildings of FSPAC, on 71 Traian Moşoiu Street and Miners Street nr. 85. The lecture and seminar rooms are equipped with hardware and software infrastructure in accordance with the specifics of the research activity in the field of Communication Sciences, according to Annex A.2.1.1. In addition to the FSPAC research infrastructure, the doctoral students of SDCRPP and SDSPC also benefit from the research infrastructure of UBB.*
- *The UBB library, to which doctoral students have access, provides 86 scientific databases, of which 23 are accessible online, of which JSTOR, A to Z - Electronic resources in BCU, EBSCO, SpringerLink, Emerald, ProQuest, Cambridge, ScienceDirect, Wiley Online Library, ADT (Arcanum Digitalis Tudománytar), EISZ (Elektronikus Információs Zoltalattas), Baza legislativa LEX, Refnitiv (Thomson Reuters) Eikon, Euromonitor International Passport, Statista, Clarivate Analytics, Scopus, databases that cover the areas of interest of doctoral students in the field of PhD Communication Sciences.*
- *The FSPAC library, which includes the SDSPC and sdcrrp, has a total fund of 20,860 publications (books and magazines). The FSPAC Library provides a sufficient number of subscriptions to Romanian and foreign periodicals: 32 titles - abonamente in the country or abroad; 74 titles - international exchange or donation.*
- *PhD students in the PhD field of Communication Sciences have access through the project ANELIS PLUS (Annex A.2.1.1 (visit)) to the Science Direct Journals, SpringerLink Journals, Wiley Journals, IOP, AIP, APS, ACS, MatSciNet, IEEE/IEL, Emerald, SAGE HSS, CAB Abstracts with fulltext, CABI Forest, CABI VetMed, Clarivate Analytics, Scopus, SciFinder ProQuest Central, Cambridge Journals, Nature, as well as at the National*



<https://portal.anelisplus.ro/content/depozite-institutionale-si-relatia-cu-depozitul-nationalWarehouse>.

- In order to learn, to document and to be evaluated, doctoral students have at their disposal the learning platform created in this respect (Annex A.2.1.1 (visit)).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resource

Standard A.3.1. At the level of each Doctoral School there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure a quality educational process.

Performance indicator A.3.1.1. *Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but not less than three) meet the minimum standards of CNATDCU in force at the time when the evaluation was conducted, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.*

- In the doctoral domain of communication sciences, in the two doctoral schools, there are 12 doctoral supervisors, of which 7 meet the minimum empowerment standards related to the 25 CNATDCU Commission, in force at this time, which represents 58.33% > 50%. Annex 3.1.1 reflects in summary the PhD supervisors' actions. Within the SDCRPP, 7 doctoral supervisors work, out of which 6 meet the minimum empowerment standards related to the 25 CNATDCU Commission (85,71% > 50%). Within the SDSPC, 5 doctoral supervisors work, of which 1 meets the minimum enabling standards related to the 25 CNATDCU Commission (20% < 50%).
- As can be seen, even if on the PhD field Communication Sciences the requirement to have at least 50% doctoral supervisors who meet the enabling standards, on each school separately this requirement is met only by SDCRPP.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.2. *At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

- There are 12 doctoral supervisors employed as Titular UBB according to Annex A.3.1.2
- A 100% of doctoral supervisors in the field of communication sciences are tenured

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator A.3.1.3. *The subjects in the training program based on advanced university studies related to the field are taught by the teaching staff or researchers who have the quality of doctoral/qualified supervisor, professor / CS I or associate professor / CS II with proven expertise in the field of teaching subjects or other specialists in a field that meet the standards set by the institution for the aforementioned teaching and research functions, following the law.*

- Based on the internal evaluation report and annexes provided, we agree that

The indicator is fulfilled



Performance Indicator A.3.1.4. *The share of doctoral supervisors who coordinate more than 8 doctoral students at the same time, but not more than 12, during their doctoral studies, does not exceed 20%.*

- *Based on the internal evaluation report and annexes provided, we agree that*
The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator A.3.2.1. *At least 50% of the doctoral supervisors in the field subject to evaluation present at least 5 publications indexed Web of Science or ERIH in journals with impact factor or other achievements, with relevant significance for the respective field. The mentioned doctoral supervisors have had international visibility in the last five years, consisting of the quality of member in the scientific committees of the international publications and conferences; membership in the boards of international professional associations; guest at conferences or groups of experts held abroad or as a member of a committee for the defense of doctoral theses at universities abroad or in co-supervision with a university abroad.*

- *Based on the internal evaluation report and annexes provided, we agree that*
The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator A.3.2.2. *At least 50% of the doctoral supervisors assigned to a field of doctoral studies continue to be scientifically active, obtaining at least 25% of the score required by the minimum standards of CNATDCU in force at the date of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory to obtain the certificate of qualification, based on scientific results from the last five years.*

- *Based on the internal evaluation report and annexes provided, we agree that*
The indicator is fulfilled

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest

Standard B.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies has the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution or a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available

- *We agree that the doctoral schools in which the field of doctoral studies operates have the ability to attract candidates in a significant number, according to the indicator B.1.1.1.*

Performance Indicator *B.1.1.1. *The ratio between the number of graduates at master's level of other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who have registered for the admission contest for doctoral studies in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition in the field of doctoral studies is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition in the field of doctoral studies is at least 1.2.*

- *According to Annex B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of master's degree graduates of other higher education institutions enrolled for admission in the last 5 years and the number of places financed from the state budget year is the following: 2016 – 0,00; 2017 – 0,00; 2018 – 0,64; 2019 – 0,36; 2020 – 0,53. This makes an average of 0,31 (>0,2) . Accordingly,*

The indicator is fulfilled

Standard B.1.2. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.

According to indicator B.1.2.1. the doctoral schools in which the field of doctoral studies operates have mechanisms for the selection of candidates who demonstrate scientific research capacity and university performance.

Performance Indicator B.1.1.2. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria that include: academic, research and professional performance of candidates, an interest of candidates in scientific or artistic/sports research, publications in the field and a proposal for research. An interview with the applicant is a mandatory part of the admission procedure.

- *The Regulation of the Doctoral School of Communication, Public Relations, and Advertising states that the „doctoral admission is carried out according to the BBU Doctoral admission methodology (updated every academic year). The admission to doctoral studies is made through an annual contest in September. The examination consists of taking a written test based on bibliography and presenting a research project to the admissions committee.” The methodology is publicly available at the SDCRPP website: <http://sdcrrp.ro/admitere.html>*
- *The SDSPC refers to the IOSUD admission methodology: <https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/doc/Metodologiei-de-admitere-la-studiile-de-doctorat-2021.pdf>. (Romanian). In particular, “(1) After evaluating the performance of the candidates in the competition tests, the admission commission nominates, based on the established selection criteria, the candidate who is to occupy the position of doctoral student put out to competition. This candidate will be able to be registered on the respective place only after obtaining the favorable approval of the council of that doctoral school (according to art. 32 paragraph 3 of GD 681/2011) in which the doctoral supervisor is holder and if the respective doctoral school is provisionally authorized or accredited; (2) The minimum average that a candidate must obtain in order to be declared admitted is 7.00. The average is calculated to two decimal places without rounding.”*

Recommendations: We recommend to include admission regulations in the specific website for SDSPC (<https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/en/admission.html>), (including an English version) in a similar way to SDCRPP to increase chances of attracting further international candidates.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance indicator B.1.2.2. The expelling rate including renouncement/dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after the admission does not exceed 30%.

- *According to data provided (Annex 1.3.46), in the period 2015-19 the Rate of expulsion and dropout of doctoral students 3 years after enrollment was 27.25% < 30%.*

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs



Standard B.2.1. The training program based on advanced university studies is appropriate to improve doctoral students' research skills and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.

- *The doctoral programs shows in the syllabi a strong commitment with research ethics and integrity as well as development of research methods knowledge and skills .*

Performance Indicator B.2.1.1. *The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.*

- *The syllabi published at both SDCRPP (<https://english.sdcrpp.ro/cursuri.html>) and SDSPC (<https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/en/courses.html>) show relevant disciplines as well as in-depth study of research methodology.*

Recommendations: No recommendation

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.2. *At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.*

- *The study plan of SDCRPP includes a specific course in the study plan on ethics and integrity in communication sciences and political science research. The course is conducted by professor Sandu Frunză. With regards to SDSPC, professor Ilie Rad conducts the course on General research methods and methodology for the elaboration of scientific papers that shows a commitment to research ethics and awareness on plagiarism.*

Recommendations: based on findings from the online meeting with graduates we encourage the doctoral schools to increase the time (number of hours) devoted to compliance with intellectual property when accessing journal research articles of publishing houses and include subtopics on OA publishing.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.3. *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses “the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities⁴.*

- *The objectives, competences and specific contents of courses are specified in the courses syllabi.*

Recommendations: The doctoral schools may consider highlighting the differences between SDCRPP and SDSPC in the study at the doctoral level of communication, for facilitating the decisions of prospect students on which of the schools fit better with their interests on potential research topic themes.

The indicator is fulfilled

⁴ Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.



Performance indicator B.2.1.4. All along the the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counseling / guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meetings.

- Findings from visit show that this indicator is met

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.5. For a field of doctoral studies, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing guidance must not exceed 3:1.

- Even if Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca Internal evaluation report of the doctoral studies - Field Communication indicates that the indicator is partially fulfilled, according to data from the visit the ratio is 58 (students): 37 instructors. That is is to say an equivalent ratio of 1.56:1.

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion B.3. The results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation

Standard B.3.1. Doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, patents, products and service orders.

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. For the evaluated field, there is at least one article or another relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained the title of doctor in the last 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission randomly select for analysis 5 such relevant articles/contributions per field of doctoral studies. At least 3 of the selected articles present significant original contributions in the field concerned.

- In the last 5 years (2015-2020) in the field of PhD Communication Sciences, a number of 18 graduates have defended their PhD thesis. According to Annex B.3.1.1 (visit) each Doctoral student has made at least one article or another relevant contribution for the doctoral field: 18 graduates = 147 published scientific articles.
- The scientific works of some graduates were randomly checked, finding that the works are relevant for the field of communication sciences

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (last 5 years), including posters, exhibitions, made at prestigious international events (held in the country or abroad), and the number of doctoral students who have completed their studies in the evaluated period (last five years) is at least equal to 1.

- In the last 5 years (2015-2020) in the field of PhD Communication Sciences, a number of 18 graduates have defended their PhD thesis. According to Annex B.3.1.2 (visit) each PhD student has made at least one article or another relevant contribution for the doctoral field: 18 graduates = 148 conferences. The ratio between the number of their presentations and the number of graduates is 8.22.

The indicator is fulfilled



Standard B.3.2. The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialist in the commissions for public defence of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.

Performance Indicator B.3.2.1. *The number of doctoral theses assigned to a specific reviewer from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD, must not exceed two (2) for coordinated theses in a year by the same doctoral supervisor.*

- *During the period under evaluation (2015–2020), in the PhD field Communication Sciences, a number of 18 doctoral students defended doctoral theses. Each public support committee was set up in such a way that an external official reviewer would not participate in more than 2 (two) public support commissions for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral supervisor (Annex B.3.2.1 (visit)).*

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance indicator B.3.2.2. *The ratio between the number of doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the one in which the thesis is defended and the number of doctoral theses defended in the same doctoral study domain within the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.*

The ratio between the total number of theses allocated to an external scientific reviewer and the total number of doctoral theses – 18 – defended in the field of doctoral studies Communication Sciences, in the period 2015 – 2020), is of minimum 0,055 and maximum 0,277 < 0,3, according to Annex B.3.2.2 (visit).

The indicator is fulfilled

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- *general description of domain analysis.*

Criterion C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system

Standard C.1.1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.

- *The above standard is met for the field of communication sciences.*

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. *The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory:*

- the scientific work of doctoral supervisors;*
- the infrastructure and logistics necessary for carrying out the research activity;*
- the regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organised;*
- the scientific activity of the Doctoral students;*
- the training program based on advanced university studies of the doctoral students;*
- social and academic support services (including participation in various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*



- According to annexes provided (A.1.1.1.a; C.1.1.1.1.) the above is fulfilled.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance indicator* C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral tstudy program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as the general level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program, in order to continuously improve the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.

- According to procedures annexed to Annex C.1.1.2 (visit) the indicator is fulfilled

Recommendations: there are no recommendations.

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources

Standard C.2.1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information is available for electronic format consultation.

- Information of interest has been made available in electronic format .

Performance Indicator C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:

(a) the Doctoral School regulation;

(b) the admission regulation;

(c) the doctoral studies contract;

(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;

(e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;

(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;

(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);

(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;

(i) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.

- All these information has being made available through different institutional channels, including the websites: <https://english.sdcrpp.ro/index.html> , <https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/SDSPC/en/index.html>

- Although the navigation is clear and the relevant information is findable at these websites, the doctoral schools may consider improving the look and feel of the websites in terms of design of some the sections, accesibility, and overall visual identity in a more uniform way to the BBU branding.

- Recommendations: Develop and/or comply with corporate manual of style for BBU doctoral domain websites for branding purposes.

The indicator is fulfilled

Standard C.2.2. The IOSUD/The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies.



- According to the internal evaluation report students have access to “86 databases of which 23 are accessible online. These databases, JSTOR, A to Z – Electronic resources in BCU, EBSCO, SpringerLink, Emerald, ProQuest, Cambridge, ScienceDirect, Wiley Online Library, ADT (Arcanum Digitális Tudománytár), EISZ (Elektronikus Információszolgáltatás), LEX Legislative Base, Refinitive (Thomson Reuters) Eikon, Euromonitor International Passport, Statista, Clarivate Analytics, Scopus, cover the areas of interest of Ph.D. students of the Faculty of Political, Administrative, and Communication Sciences. The subscribed databases can be consulted both from the buildings of the Babeş-Bolyai University and remote, based on the library permit for the current academic year.”

Performance Indicator C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of the their thesis.

- Based of the aboved the indicator is fulfilled

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

- The procedure for generating and analyzing the similarity report is approved with the CSUD Decision of 3933/08.03/2017: The doctoral thesis is analyzed only once, before the public presentation, by the FDI of UBB, with the iThenticate program, but the doctoral supervisor can make unlimited checks of the PhD student's works with the help of the Turnitin program, using institutiona accounts!. Turinitin is also integrated into the Moodle platform, used in FSPAC, where doctoral supervisors can give access to doctoral students to scan their own papers/texts to verify similarity (Annexes A.1.2.2 (visit).

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.

- Annex C.2.2.3 provides information on the “Lista laboratoarelor didactice, cu echipamente și softuri din dotări” for the FSPAC
- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution’s documents and the evaluation visit itself.

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

Standard C.3.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.

Performance Indicator *C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods

abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

- According to relevant annexes provided there is a deliberate and explicit internationalization strategy for UBB in place for the period 2021-2024.
- There exist MOUs with foreign academic institutions for mobility purposes (Memorandum of Understanding), targets a wide range of activities, including the mobility of doctoral students (Annexes C.3.1.1 (visit));
- FSPAC, in which the two doctoral schools operate, holds inter-university "acorduri", including Erasmus+ at doctoral level, in the field of communication sciences;
- A number of 22 (37,93%) Doctoral students out of the total of 58 (100%) doctoral students completed training stages – 37,93%>35%; a number of 25 (43,10%) Doctoral students out of the total of 58 (100%) doctoral students had research mobilities, participation in conferences – 43,10%>20%. (Annex C.3.1.1 (visit)).

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.

- In the period 2016-2020, at the level of doctoral schools in the doctoral field of Communication Sciences, workshops and internships were held annually in which researchers from foreign universities participated. This includes: Professor Jorg Matthes, PhD, from the University of Vienna, Austria (October 2018), Dr. Brigitte Naderer from the University of Vienna, Austria (July 2019), Dr. Claudia Riesmeyer from the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany (May 2019), Professor Michael Meyen, PhD, from the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany (October 2017), Professor Carolina Alzuru, PhD, from the University of Georgia Athens (UGA), USA (March 2020), Professor Bryan Reber (UGA) PhD, USA (May and September 2019), Professor Agnieszka Stepinska, PhD, Adam Mickiewicz Poznan University, Poland (September 2019), Professor Tudor Vlad (UGA) PhD USA (2017 and 2018), and others.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.3.1.3. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees⁵ etc.).

- UBB University and FSPAC participate in educational fairs where marketing activities are carried out on doctoral programs, aimed at discussions and negotiation with international recruiters, especially from outside the EU especially Africa and China. A list of such actions for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 is included in Annex C.3.1.3. A commission for the public support of the doctoral thesis had an international specialist reviewer (Annex C.3.1.3 (visit)).

The indicator is fulfilled

⁵ Doctoral studies are completed by presenting the doctoral thesis in public session in front of a committee whose members hear and judge the final public presentation of the thesis

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u> According to the internal evaluation report the institution evaluated sees the “field of communication sciences is a new field, which enjoys a real success among students, so that the selection base for doctoral students is a rich one.”</p> <p>We agree in that point and also in that doctoral studies in communication science at UBB can benefit from the current interest by institutions and society in general on research topics such as digital communications, strategic communications, mis- and disinformation, digital diplomacy, and applications of digital technologies in the field, including for information reporting, persuasive communications, education and other topics related to digital transformation</p> <p>There are scholarships (Erasmus) for doctoral students and relationships with foreign institutions and experts in place.</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u> Need for improving the results of *indicator (A.1.3.3).</p> <p>The doctoral schools could do better in highlighting the differences between SDCRPP and SDSPC in the study at the doctoral level of communication, for facilitating the decisions of prospect students on which of the schools fit better with their interests on potential research topic themes.</p> <p>RE websites: although the navigation is clear and the relevant information is findable at these websites, the doctoral schools may consider improving the look and feel of the websites in terms of design of some the sections, accesibility, and overall visual identity in a more uniform way to the BBU branding.</p>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u> The internal evaluation report highlight the following opportunity: “The development of creative industries in Cluj-Napoca; encouraging research in this field. Carrying out doctoral works of applied research together, of interest for the profile companies in the area of creative industries.” We agree that this provides and opportunity.</p> <p>Additionally the current interest on research topics related to the field (i.e: mis-disinformation) in international funding schemes, can offer opportunities for hiring doctoral candidates and engage them in research projects.</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u> Programs and syllabi need in general terms to be adaptive to trends and drivers of the media and conntents industry to keep being attractive as an option for prospects students.</p>

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	A.1.1.1.	The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the doctoral school which the field of doctoral studies is part of.	Fulfilled	



2.	A.1.1.2.	The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.	Fulfilled	
3.	A.1.2.1.	The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	Fulfilled	
4.	A.1.2.2.	The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.	Fulfilled	
5.	A.1.3.1.	Existence of at least one research or institutional/human resources development grant at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or the existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral theses advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address themes relevant for the respective domain and, as a rule, are carried out with the involvement of doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
6.	*A.1.3.2.	The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of evaluation, who for at least six months received additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research on institutional / human resources developments grants is no less than 20%.	Fulfilled	

7.	*A.1.3.3	At least 10% of the total amounts of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students through (conferences, summer schools, training programs abroad, publication of specialized papers or other specific forms of dissemination, etc.).	Partially Fulfilled	Recommendations: increase expenses over 10% of the total amounts
8.	A.2.1.1.	The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.	Fulfilled	
9.	A.3.1.1.	Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but not less than three) meet the minimum standards of CNATDCU in force at the time when the evaluation was conducted, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	Fulfilled	
10.	*A.3.1.2.	At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	
11.	A.3.1.3.	The subjects in the training program based on advanced university studies related to the field are taught by the teaching staff or researchers who have the quality of doctoral/qualified supervisor, professor / CS I or associate professor / CS II with proven expertise in the field of teaching subjects or other specialists in a field that meet the standards set by the institution for the aforementioned teaching and research functions, following the law	Fulfilled	



12.	*A.3.1.4.	The share of doctoral supervisors who coordinate more than 8 doctoral students at the same time, but not more than 12, during their doctoral studies, does not exceed 20%.	Fulfilled	
13.	A.3.2.1	At least 50% of the doctoral supervisors in the field subject to evaluation present at least 5 publications indexed Web of Science or ERIH in journals with impact factor or other achievements, with relevant significance for the respective field. The mentioned doctoral supervisors have had international visibility in the last five years, consisting of the quality of member in the scientific committees of the international publications and conferences; membership in the boards of international professional associations; guest at conferences or groups of experts held abroad or as a member of a committee for the defense of doctoral theses at universities abroad or in co-supervision with a university abroad.	Fulfilled	
14.	*A.3.2.2	At least 50% of the doctoral supervisors assigned to a field of doctoral studies continue to be scientifically active, obtaining at least 25% of the score required by the minimum standards of CNATDCU in force at the date of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory to obtain the certificate of qualification, based on scientific results from the last five years.	Fulfilled	
15.	*B.1.1.1.	<i>The ratio between the number of graduates at master's level of other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who have registered for the admission contest for doctoral studies in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition in the field of doctoral studies is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition in the field of doctoral studies is at least 1.2.</i>	Fulfilled	
16.	*B.1.2.1.	Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria that include: academic, research and professional performance of candidates, an interest of candidates in scientific or artistic/sports research, publications in the field and a proposal for research. An interview with the applicant is a mandatory part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled	
17	B.1.2.2.	The expelling rate including renouncement/dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after the admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	
18.	B.2.1.1.	The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	Fulfilled	
19.	B.2.1.2.	At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	
20.	B.2.1.3.	The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses "the learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	Fulfilled	The doctoral schools may consider highlighting the differences between SDCRPP and SDSPC in the study at the doctoral level of communication, for facilitating the decisions of prospect students on which of the schools fit better with their interests on potential research

				topic themes.
21.	B.2.1.4.	All along the the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counseling / guidance from functional guidance commissions,which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meetings.	Fulfilled	
22.	B.2.1.5.	For a field of doctoral studies, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing guidance must not exceed 3:1.	Fulfilled	
23.	B.3.1.1.	For the evaluated field, there is at least one article or another relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained the title of doctor in the last 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission randomly select for analysis 5 such relevant articles/contributions per field of doctoral studies. At least 3 of the selected articles present significant original contributions in the field concerned.	Fulfilled	
24.	*B.3.1.2.	The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (last 5 years), including posters, exhibitions, made at prestigious international events (held in the country or abroad), and the number of doctoral students who have completed their studies in the evaluated period (last five years) is at least equal to 1.	Fulfilled	
25.	*B.3.2.1.	The number of doctoral theses assigned to a specific reviewer from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD, must not exceed two (2) for coordinated theses in a year by the same doctoral supervisor.	Fulfilled	
26.	*B.3.2.2.	The ratio between the number of doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the one in which the thesis is defended and the number of doctoral theses defended in the same doctoral study domain within the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	Fulfilled	
27.	C.1.1.1.	The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory: a) the scientific work of doctoral supervisors; b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary for carrying out the research activity; c) the regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organised; d) the scientific activity of the Doctoral students; e) the training program based on advanced university studies of the doctoral students; f) social and academic support services(including participation in various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
28.	*C.1.1.2.	Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral tstudy program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as the general level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program, in order to continuously improve the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.	Fulfilled	
29.	C.2.1.1.	The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as: (a) the Doctoral School regulation; (b) the admission regulation; (c) the doctoral studies contract;	Fulfilled	

		<p>(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</p> <p>(e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;</p> <p>(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</p> <p>(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);</p> <p>(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</p> <p>(i) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.</p>		
30.	C.2.2.1.	All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.	Fulfilled	
31.	C.2.2.2.	. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	Fulfilled	
32.	C.2.2.3.	All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	Fulfilled	
33.	*C.3.1.1.	<i>IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.</i>	Fulfilled	
34.	C.3.1.2.	<i>IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.</i>	Fulfilled	
35.	C.3.1.3.	The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).	Fulfilled	

The recommendations contained in the report shall be resumed in the indicators' analysis. Other general recommendations may be made that do not fit within a particular indicator.

VERY IMPORTANT!!! – Each identified weakness must be correlated with at least one recommendation to improve the situation! No weakness can be identified without formulating at least one recommendation regarding the way it could be corrected!

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

In our opinion the doctoral domain of communication sciences at BBU is in a good shape with most of the indicators evaluated having been fulfilled and minor cases partially fulfilled (mentioned above). The research production by students and graduates framed under the doctoral programs and related to the communication science domain seems relevant and the processes are aligned with standards. The fact that the communication science domain at BBU is developed by the Doctoral School



of Communication, Public Relations, and Advertising (SDCRPP) and the Doctoral School of Political and Communication Sciences (SDSPC) may create future synergies and a differentiation element with regard to other doctoral offers in the country and become an asset in positioning BBU as a relevant European university for the domain. The specific research skillset of doctoral graduates seems to be valued by potential employers, according to interviews held during the visit.

Given that we have not identified any unfulfilled critical indicators, I propose to
of doctoral studies in the field of Communication Sciences.

VII. Annexes

The following types of documents shall be attached:

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff affiliated to the IOSUD under review, the results - optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation - if applicable.*
- *Scanned documents – any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.*
- *Pictures – if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc.*
- *Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School(s)/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved.*
- *Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report.*