

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction

This external evaluation report has been drafted in my capacity as international expert involved in the periodical external evaluation of the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. I have been a member of the team coordinated by PhD Natalia Veronica Stoica (full professor of civil law at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies) and made up by Mr. Ioan-Dumitru Apachitei (PhD student in Law at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi) as well. The evaluation period has been from 15 to 18 November 2021. Due to the pandemic context caused by the COVID-19, the ARACIS Ciscowebex platform and the platform of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest have been used for the meetings in which I have participated to.

The overall objective of the periodical external evaluation of the Institution Organising Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD) and of the doctoral study fundamental domain of Law within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has been the assessment on the fulfilment of the standards and criteria,¹ which are needed in view of the maintaining of accreditation. The periodical external evaluation has been carried out by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS).

The external evaluation process of the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest is based on the provisions of: (1) the Romanian Law of National Education No 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions; (2) the Romanian Government Decision No 681 of 29 June 2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, with subsequent amendments and additions; (3) the Romanian Government Emergency Ordinance No 75/2005 on Quality Assurance of Education, approved with amendments and additions by Law No 87/2006, with subsequent amendments and additions; and (4) the Order 3651 of 12.04.2021 of the Romanian Minister of Education to approve the Methodology for evaluation of doctoral studies and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation. Furthermore, the ARACIS Guides have been especially useful, namely: the Guide on conducting the

¹ As set out in Annex No. 4 of the Guide on conducting the process of Periodic External Evaluation of Doctoral Study Domain.

process of periodic external evaluation of institution organizing doctoral study programs (IOSUD), the Guide on conducting the process of periodic external evaluation of doctoral study domains, and the Guide for external evaluation of doctoral studies in hybrid mode.

The IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a single doctoral school, which is in the field of Law. By virtue of Art. 12(6) of the GD no. 681/2011, the Doctoral School of Law is a department of the Faculty of Law. It counts on 10 PhD study sub-fields according to the fields of expertise of the PhD supervisors, namely: civil law, criminal law, criminal procedural law, criminal executorial law, commercial law, general theory of law, European Union law, administrative law, international public law, and intellectual property law.

The Doctoral School of Law within the IOSUD – “Nicolae” Titulescu” University of Bucharest has been approved by the Order of the Minister of Education, Research and Youth no. 3004 of 07.01.2004, as a result of the granting the status of Doctoral Organizing Institution to the “Nicolae” Titulescu” University of Bucharest. Furthermore, following institutional evaluation made by the ARACIS, the “Nicolae” Titulescu” University of Bucharest obtained the high degree of confidence rating for the period 2012-2017 and 2017-2022.

From 2015 to 2020, this Doctoral School of Law had between 8 and 11 PhD supervisors. This difference on the number of the PhD supervisors is due to special circumstances, such as passing away and retirement. It is worth mentioning that two new PhD supervisors have registered with this Doctoral School in 2021. During the period assessed by this evaluation, 66 new PhD students have been admitted for doctoral studies and 28 PhD students have got their respective PhD degree. It is also worth mentioning that 67 PhD students were enrolled in the 2015/2016 academic year, 62 PhD students were enrolled in the 2016/2017 academic year, 66 PhD students were enrolled in the 2017/2018 academic year, 67 PhD students were enrolled in the 2018/2019 academic year, 61 PhD students was enrolled in the 2019/2020 academic year, and 61 PhD students were enrolled in the 2020/2021 academic year. Moreover, during 2015-2020, 9 PhD students were expelled, namely: 5 of them were withdrawn from the PhD studies and 4 were expelled due to lack of results, exceeding deadlines and attempted fraud.

It should also be mentioned that this Doctoral School of Law is tributary to the private character of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University from Bucharest. For various reasons, it has been more difficult for this Doctoral School to develop a doctoral programme. However, the serious and conscientious work of its staff over the years has enabled it to consolidate its position as a solid and prestigious academic institution in the Romanian university landscape on PhD studies.

II. Methods used

Due to the pandemic context caused by the COVID-19, the external evaluation process has been conducted virtually. As required by Article 2 of the civil agreement signed with the ARACIS on 1.11.2021, I had to use my own knowledge, skills and experience in order to prepare this Report. Moreover, I used the qualitative and quantitative data available in the documents provided by the ARACIS and the Doctoral School of Law regarding this external evaluation, both before and during the evaluation mission.

The online meetings through the ARACIS Ciscowebex platform and the platform of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest (namely, with representatives of the persons in charge with the direction of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and of the Senate of this University; with members of the Ethics Commission; with doctoral supervisors; with members of the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC)/Department for Assurance of Quality; with directors and persons in charge with the research centers and laboratories within the Law domain and doctoral studies in general; with the PhD students; with representatives of graduates for the Doctoral School of Law, with members of Doctoral School Council and of Doctoral University School Council; with employers’ representatives of Doctoral graduates in Law; as well as with the Director of the Doctoral School of Law and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report.

In relation to this, I should made a special reference to the following methodological aspects I have taken into account in order to prepare this report, namely: the analysis of the internal evaluation report of the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, its 108 annexes, and the additional documents that kindly have been prepared and made available by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest during the evaluation mission on 15-18 November 2021. The website of the evaluated University and the online meetings and discussions as scheduled by the ARACIS (see Annex) have been especially fruitful for the preparation of this report. Each meeting and discussion consisted of questions asked by the members of the Team of evaluation and answers we got, which occasioned an active and relevant debate so necessary for writing this Report.

III. Analysis of ARACIS’s performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The domain analysis was carried out in accordance with the Romanian legislation and ARACIS standards. The facts, the documents provided by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and the its Doctoral School of Law (before and during the evaluation mission) as well as the online evaluation meetings have been taken into consideration for the assessment of this domain.

As a general description of the domain analysis, the finding is that the IOSUD at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest meets the vast majority of the conditions required on its institutional capacity for an effective functioning of doctoral studies in Law, as it results from the analysis of the following criteria, standards and indicators.

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

As a general description of the analysis of the criterion, it is noted that the IOSUD at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has implemented or are in course of implementation the necessary administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources laid down in the specific legislation on the organisation of doctoral studies.

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.

The IOSUD within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has implemented the vast majority of the effective operating mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organisation of doctoral studies, as shown by the analysis of the following 2 indicators. The first indicator has been partially fulfilled and the second indicator has been fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:

(a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;

Within the IOSUD of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, there is only one Doctoral School in operation, in the field of Law, and such School holds the capacity of department within the Faculty of Law, under art. 12, para. (6) of GD no. 681/2011. In relation to this, within the meeting of the Senate of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, dated 21 September 2011, the decision was made for its activity to be organized according to the Regulation for Organization and Carrying Out of the School’s doctoral studies, without the need for a separate institutional regulation, as well as for the exercise of the CSUD tasks/prerogatives to be carried out by the University Senate. Please find below an excerpt of the tests of the Senate’s Decision dated 21 September 2011:

“1. The Doctoral School’s activity is carried out within the Regulation thereof, without the need for an institutional regulation;

2. The exercise of CSUD tasks/prerogatives shall be carried out by the University Senate/the University Board of Management, in the instances provided by Law no. 1/2011.

(Annex no. 24 – decision of the University Senate of 21.09.2011).

Considering the specific status of the “Nicolae Titulescu” IOSUD of Bucharest, there was no need to separately adopt the following regulations: The methodology for CSUD elections; The methodology for carrying out the competition for the Head of the CSUD, as these are carried out similarly to the regulated procedures for department managers.

The Regulation for Organizing and Carrying Out the Doctoral Studies of the Doctoral School for LAW was adopted within the Meeting of the University Senate dated 21 September 2011, plus its three annexes, namely: Annex no. 1 (Selection and Admission Procedure), Annex no. 2 (Methodology for Completion of Doctoral Studies) and Annex no. 3 Guide for Drafting the Doctoral Thesis (Annex no. 25 containing the three annexes of the Regulation, namely, x Annex no. 25/1, x Annex no. 25/2 and x Annex no. 25/3).

The Regulation is available to view on the IOSUD webpage, sections *Doctorate-Documents*.

As to the standards by which doctoral school elections take place and the evidence concerning the carrying out of such elections, the Doctoral School’s Council and Head are elected according to art. 11, para. (2) final thesis of the Regulation for Organizing and Carrying Out of Doctoral Studies, namely:

(i) members of the doctoral school council are elected by universal, direct, secret and equal ballot vote, cast by the PhD supervisors within the Doctoral School.

(ii) The Head of the Doctoral School is elected according to the Methodology for setting up and electing managerial structures and offices within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest”.

Taking into account the Self-assessment report and its annexes prepared by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest as well as the website of this University, I consider that the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies has represented the internal regulation of the Doctoral School of Law for years. This legal text has been prepared by Professor Augustin Fuerea (full professor of law) and has been approved by the Senate of the University on 21 September 2011. This Regulation has been revised in several occasions so far (in November 2019, July 2020 and October 2020) in order to be adapted to the legislation in force in Romania. I consider that this Regulation has not been enough in order to provide the internal regulations of the Doctoral School.

However, I do consider that the Regulation on the organization and carrying out the Doctoral School of Law, which has been approved by the Senate of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission), represents the internal regulation of this Doctoral School of Law. I also estimate that this legal text contains all the current legal requirements of the Romania’s legislation in this field.

(b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;

As to the standards by which doctoral school elections take place and the evidence concerning the carrying out of such elections, the Doctoral School’s Council and Head are elected according to art. 11, para. (2) final thesis of the Regulation for Organizing and Carrying Out of Doctoral Studies, namely:

(i) members of the doctoral school council are elected by universal, direct, secret and equal ballot vote, cast by the PhD supervisors within the Doctoral School.

(ii) The Head of the Doctoral School is elected according to the Methodology for setting up and electing managerial structures and offices within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest”.

Article 11(2) of the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, which has been approved by the Senate of this University on 21 September 2011, contains references to how the members of the Doctoral School Council are elected. This Article also mentions that the Director of the Doctoral School of Law will be elected according to the Methodology for setting up and electing management structures and functions. Such a Methodology has been approved by the Senate of this University in October 2012, which has been amended on 23 September 2013, 17 June 2015 and 16 February 2017. In addition, on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission) the Senate of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has approved the Methodology on the organization of the public competition for the appointment of the CSUD director. The

same day the election calendar for the post of the CSUD director has been also approved by the Senate of this University.

Regarding the election of representatives for the PhD students in CSD, it has been mentioned that there are references to the election of such representatives in different structures of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. However, so far such a methodology has not been adopted in this field yet.

c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);

The methodologies for organization and carrying out of doctoral studies (admission of PhD students, rollout and completion of doctoral studies) are contained in Annex no. 1 and Annex no. 2 to the Regulation for Organizing and Carrying Out the Doctoral Studies, listed on the IOSUD webpage and available for public consultation on the website www.univnt.ro, the DOCTORATE section.

Also, in consideration of art. 65, paras. (1) and (2) of the Code for Doctoral Studies, adopted by GD no. 681/2011 according to which The doctoral thesis is drawn up according to the requirements set within the Doctoral School Regulation. The Doctoral School may determine the standard format of the Doctoral Thesis, which may include graphic formatting and structure elements, with the PhD students having to comply with such standard format, the Doctoral School went on to draw up a Guide for drafting the doctoral thesis (annex to the Regulation for Organizing and Carrying Out the Doctoral Studies and x Annex no. 25/3 - Guide for drawing up theses) available on the IOSUD webpage: [02_ghid_redactare_teza.pdf \(www.univnt.ro\)](#).

The Doctoral School’s Council has met as often as required in order to decide upon the following: the registration and expulsion of PhD students, upon the proposal of PhD supervisors, members of the Doctoral School; setting the requirements for discontinuance of doctoral programmes, setting the attendance duties of PhD students, reassignment of PhD students if any of PhD supervisors have ceased their activity, approval of the individual study plans for PhD students and other tasks set under art. 14 of the Regulation for organization of doctoral studies. The frequency of meetings of the Doctoral School Council is certified by the meeting minutes.

I consider that Chapter VI and Annexes 1-2 of the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies, which was approved by the Senate of the University on 21 September 2011, contains the methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students and for the completion of doctoral studies). The provisions of this Regulation related to the doctoral studies in Law have been developed by the Methodology on the organization and carrying out the admission to university studies at Bachelor of Art, Master and PhD levels, which has been approved by the Senate of thie “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 25 April 2012.

d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;

Firstly, I consider that Article 17 of the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies, which was approved by the Senate of the University on 21 September 2011, sets out the specific regulation for doctoral supervisor. Several paragraphs of this Article refers to the recognition of the status of a doctoral supervisor and how the doctoral degree obtained abroad may be considered equivalent to the one got from “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. Moreover, on 14 September 2017 the Senate of this University has approved the institutional Regulation on the organisation and conduct of the obtaining the certificate of competence to supervise PhD Thesis (available at: https://www.univnt.ro/wp-content/uploads/doctorat/documente/05_regulament_abilitare.pdf). This legal text has been revised on 30 October 2019 and 1 October 2020.

In addition, Article 10(1) of the Regulation on the organization and conduct of the Doctoral School of Law, which has been approved by the Senate of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission), refers to the acceptance of the doctoral supervisors who got this condition abroad.

Secondly, regarding the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad, at present the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest does not count on such tools.

e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;

As to the means by which the Doctoral School’s Council carries out its business, please note that it is currently made up of the following members: Ion NEAGU PhD, University Prof., Gabriel Boroï PhD, University Prof., Viorel Roş PhD, University Prof., Smaranda Angheni PhD, University Prof. (PhD supervisor outside the Doctoral School), Andreea Livădariu PhD candidate (PhD student), Assistant Prof. The Council has convened in meetings, as follows:

- In 2015/2016: 8 meetings;
- In 2016/2017: 8 meetings;
- In 2017/2018: 13 meetings;
- In 2018/2019: 7 meetings;
- In 2019/2020: 15 meetings.

On the basis of the self-assessment report prepared by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and the Annexes prepared by this academic institution, it may be affirmed that during the period 2015-2020 the Senate of this University has celebrated numerous meetings.

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

PhD students sign with IOSUD a Doctoral Study Agreement providing the parties’ rights and obligations (Annex no. 26).

As to the domestic procedures for review and approval of proposals concerning the subjects of training programmes based on advanced university studies and individual programmes, the Doctoral School Council is the one drafting the Doctoral Study Programme Framework Agreement (namely, the subjects,

the number of lecture/seminar hours), and the one approving individual doctoral study plans for PhD students, according to the proposals of PhD supervisors separately adapted to every PhD student.

Taking into account the facts, the assessed institution's documents as well as the evaluation mission itself, I may affirm that, at present, the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has a template of contract for doctoral studies. The Rector of the University, the doctoral supervisor, and the doctoral student sign this contract.

g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

On the basis of the evaluation mission itself, I consider that the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has established serious and strong internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies. These procedures apply at the level of the Doctoral School of Law for each PhD student.

Recommendations: Firstly, to continue with the election process for the post of CSUD director. Secondly, to adopt a specific methodology on the election of representatives for the PhD students in the CSD in Law. Thirdly, to regulate the necessary mechanisms in order to recognize the equivalence of the doctoral degrees obtained abroad.

The indicator is partially 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 Regulation of the Doctoral School of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University by drawn up by the Doctoral School's Council after consultation of and based on the proposals of all PhD supervisors (according to art. 14, letter a) of the Regulation) and was approved by the University Senate during the meeting of 20 September 2011. The Regulation was reviewed several times in order to be put in agreement with legal regulations (laws, Government decisions, orders of the minister of national education (Annex no. 25).

The Regulation for organisation and carrying out of doctoral studies, implemented by the Doctoral School, sets the compulsory criteria, procedures and standards aimed at the minimal aspects provided under art. 17, para. (5) of the Code of Doctoral Studies, as well as other numerous provisions and regulations necessary for the organisation and operation of the School, according to its particulars (that of organiser of doctoral studies without State funding, despite the fact that it would be entitled to such funding), such as those related to study programmes, the rights and duties of PhD supervisors and PhD students, admission and expulsion of students, access to research resources, relationships between PhD supervisors and PhD students, the format and quality of theses, the procedure for taking up the thesis examination.

As such, the Doctoral School's Regulation contains and sets compulsory criteria, rules, procedures and standard aimed at the following aspects:

- (i) The setting for organising and carrying out doctoral studies within the Doctoral School operating within the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest (the University), as institution organising doctoral studies in the field of "law" and its status, which is equivalent to that of a department of the Faculty of Law.
- (ii) The content of a doctoral study programme (an initial cycle of advanced studies within the School, and a second cycle, of individual studies, ending with the submission of a thesis, all of these together and under the guidance and coordination of PhD supervisors);
- (iii) Duties of the University's Senate (determining the strategy, approval of the regulation for organisation and operation, approval of the Doctoral Study Framework Agreement, tuition amounts, approval of partnerships and of study organization in co- partnership, approval of applicable measures for providing a high quality and originality of theses, as well as compliance with deontology and anti-plagiarism rules, granting support to PhD students for studies abroad etc.);
- (iv) Management of the Doctoral School (the School's Council, head, means of election, Council tasks and meetings);
- (v) Organisation of the Doctoral School's secretariat, procedures and means of operation and communication with PhD candidates and anyone interested by the School's activity;
- (vi) The criteria required to become a members of the Doctoral School of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University and the affiliation procedure (upon proposal by the School's Council, by decision of the University's Senate);
- (vii) The rights and duties of PhD Supervisors and the liability thereof for the quality of the supervision process and of the theses drawn up by PhD candidates;
- (viii) Loss of the Doctoral School membership, upon request and/or in compliance with the rules set under the Code of Doctoral Studies;
- (ix) Replacement of the students' PhD supervisors, upon request or for objective reasons;
- (x) Admission to doctoral studies and registration, doctoral study agreement and the content thereof, tuition fees;
- (xi) Duration of doctoral studies, discontinuance and extension of studies;
- (xii) Rights and obligations of PhD Students, access to research resources and support in carrying out the training programme, liability for the quality of results;
- (xiii) Training programme and its structure. Within the training stage, based on advanced university studies, the following are provided as study subjects: a compulsory subject for all doctoral sub-fields, which is the "Deontology of the scientific research activity", and three specialised subjects set by PhD supervisors, together with every PhD student separately.
- (xiv) Expulsion of PhD students, instances and procedure for expulsion;
- (xv) Doctoral thesis, prerequisites, drafting guide, review of similarities, amending the thesis's title, submission of thesis and the examination before the guidance board and the examination board, and assessment thereof.

Thus, the Regulation contains more than the minimum provisions set by art. 17, para. 5) of the Code of Doctoral Studies.

On the basis of the analysis of the facts, the assessed institution's documents as well as the evaluation mission itself, I consider that the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies of Law (approved by the Senate of the University in September 2011), the institutional Regulation on the organization and carrying out of doctoral studies programmes (approved by the Senate of the University on 17 November 2021), and the Regulation on the organization and functioning of Doctoral School of Law (approved by the Senate of the University on 17 November 2021) fulfill all the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As a general description of the analysis of this standard, it is noted that the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has the necessary logistical resources in order to carry out the doctoral studies' mission, as shown by the analysis of the following 2 indicators. Both indicators have been fulfilled.

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 IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest uses an appropriate IT system to keep track of the doctoral students and their academic background (Annex no. 27), which operates and is efficient for keeping track of, monitoring and checking the academic background of the doctoral students at any time, its own database developed by means of this system being constantly updated with changes in the background the doctoral student.

The software used is named ELIS and it provides the following information: candidates rejected at the entrance examination for doctoral studies, enrolled doctoral students, expelled doctoral students, doctoral students who suspended their studies, doctoral students who extended the duration of their doctoral studies. Data related to exams, papers, reports and marks obtained, status of fulfilment of financial obligations (payment of fees), etc. can also be accessed for each doctoral student.

As my evaluation has been conducted on the basis of evidences sent by the ARACIS and the documents available on the website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, on the one hand, and the virtual meetings through Zoom hold on 15 and 16 November 2021, on the other hand, I have to use the information contained by the Internal Evaluation Report of Doctoral School – Law and the Annexes prepared by this University. Therefore, it has not been possible for me to see these aspects *in situ*. Therefore, I am not able to make any recommendation.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The Doctoral School uses a software programme to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses (Annex no. 28 – Agreement concluded with the provider of the antiplagiarism software). In compliance with the obligation provided by Article 67 para. (2) letter (b) (*“the doctoral school carries out the review of similarities using a software recognized by the National Council for the Validation of Titles, Diplomas and University Certificates (CNATDCU); the doctoral school may additionally request the use of a nationally-developed programme for checking similarities; similarity reports are included in the “doctoral file”*) and in consideration of the provisions of Article 47 of the Regulations for doctoral studies of our University, the Doctoral School uses, electronic document comparison service from Plagiarism-System/Antiplagiarism through Internet SRL as of May 9, 2016, and, respectively, by using the internet service sistemantiplagiat.ro to verify the percentage of similarity in doctoral theses. The agreement for these services is concluded annually.

The procedure to verify doctoral theses by similarity review is provided both by Article 47 of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies and by Annex no. 2 of the Regulation on the organization and process of doctoral studies regarding the Methodology for the completion of doctoral studies, considering that the similarity report is a document in the doctoral file (Annex no. 25/2).

The PhD students have the opportunity to verify their originality, respectively the existence or non-existence of similarities, both by accessing the University system and other verification systems available on the Internet, verification by the anti-plagiarism system available to the University being available at the request of the PhD students (e.g.: x Annex no. 29/1, thesis of the PhD student M. A. M. verified by means of the antiplagiarism system while completing it) and x Annex no. 29/2 – similarity report for a chapter of the thesis at the request of the PhD student A. L..

In order to get acquainted with the system of verification of similarities and to apply it in future works, the “Ethics of research activity” exam involves the preparing a written paper verified with the anti-plagiarism system used by the University, the result of this first verification carried out at the beginning of the PhD studies of each student being made available to the PhD students and PhD supervisors (Annex no. 21 – similarity reports for PhD students, articles x Annexes no. 21/1 - 21/2 - 21/3 - 21/4 - 21/5 - 21/6 - 21/7 - 21/8 - 21/9 - 21/10 - 21/11 - 21/12 - 21/13, for all PhD students who passed the entrance examination and enrolled in 2020).

Through the documentation and information made available, I consider that the IOSUD of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has had and has used an appropriate software program for checking the percentage of similarity in all the PhD theses.

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.

The IOSUD within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has tried to make sure that financial resources have been used optimally during the period 2015-2020, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies have been supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding, as shown by the analysis of the following 3 indicators. 2 of the 3 indicators have been fulfilled and a third indicator has not been fulfilled.

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

Even if “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest is entitled to assistance from the State, respectively, to being allotted funds from the State budget and to “additional funding from public funds” pursuant to the law [(Article 222 para. (7) and Article 223 para. (3) of the Law no. 1/2011)], being accredited and having the capacity of institutions organizing doctoral study programmes, has never benefited of budgeted commitments, and this despite the fact that in the hierarchy established on the basis of the results obtained at the entrance examinations for the legal professions, the Law School of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest is in the 5th-6th place, higher than other law schools from State universities, and the results of the Doctoral School are also very good, exceeding both in terms of quantity and quality the theses completed by at least 4-5 of the six Doctoral Schools belonging to the same “hexagon”.

All material resources of the University have been obtained from the founders’ contributions and income obtained from the fees paid by the students.

The activity of the PhD students under the guidance of doctoral coordinator for the preparation of doctoral theses is a research activity, and it is carried out on the basis of the study contracts concluded between the PhD students and „Nicolae Titulescu” IOSUD of Bucharest. No research grant was in implementation within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on the date of the report, as no appropriate funding lines for the field of Law have been identified.

However, we mention that the doctoral coordinating professors of “Nicolae Titulescu” University took part in the performance of such contracts. Thus: The following members of the faculty and doctoral coordinators participate, as coauthors, in the preparation of the extensive work initiated by the Romanian Academy –“Andrei Rădulescu” Legal Research Institute, in partnership with “Titu Maiorescu” University, named the “ROMANIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF LAW”, of which first volume (letters A to C) was published in 2018, and its 2nd volume (terms starting with the letters D to Î) was delivered to the publishing house for publishing this year. The first volume of this work was awarded the “Andrei Rădulescu” award by the Union of Legal Advisers. The co-authors of the first two volumes of this extensive work are: Nicolae Popa, Professor, PhD – scientific consultant; Vasilica Negruț, Professor, PhD – Administrative Law; Mirela Gorunescu, Associate Professor, PhD – Criminal Law; Raluca Miga Beșteliu, Professor, PhD and Roxana Popescu, Associate Professor, PhD – Public International Law; Augustin Fuerea, Professor, PhD – European Union Law; Viorel Roș, Professor, PhD and Paul George Buta, Associate Professor, PhD –



Intellectual Property Law (Annex no. 30 – Cover of the 1st volume of the Romanian Encyclopaedia of Law).

Mr Gabriel Boroi, Professor:

- he was a manager and member for the research grant “*Contract no. 19 / June 11, 2007 for Consulting services for reforming the Civil Procedure Code of Romania, Book II* (funding of the World Bank).
- participated in the Romanian-Swiss project with funding from the Swiss government “Assistance for strengthening the institutional capacity in training judges and prosecutors for the application of new laws”;
- participated in the Romanian-Norwegian project “Strengthening the ability of the Romanian legal system to respond to the new legislative and institutional challenges”, Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, Programme RO 24 “Judicial Capacity-building and Cooperation”.
- he was an expert in the Committee for drafting the Civil Code (adopted only by the Romanian Senate in 2003), 2002;
- he was an expert in the Committee for drafting the Civil Procedure Code, 2007-2008;
- he was an expert in the Committee for drafting the Law for the implementation of the Civil Procedure Code, 2009-2010.
- between December 2013 and 2018, expert member in the International Project carried out by the National Administration of Penitentiaries, Romanian Patriarchy, “Filantropia” Organization, Italian Ministry of Justice, Italian Ministry of Labour, as well as several Italian non-governmental organizations, a project called: “Employment and Qualification Strategy through Learning and Activities for Freedom” (information in the selfassessment sheet of Professor Gabriel Boroi).

Mr Ioan Chiș, Professor:

- scientific co-director for the GRANT approved and funded by the Ministry of Education and Research, “Systems to ensure effective management of crisis situations and disaster response, detection and alert systems – Identifying the types of missions and specific requirements in conditions of certainty and uncertainty”. The activity was carried out with a research team from the “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy of Sibiu, National Defence University, “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Institute and National Information Academy.
- he was an expert in commissions for drafting certain regulatory instruments on the penitentiary system;
- he was an expert for the Communist Repression Dictionary under the patronage of the Institute for the Research on Totalitarianism attached to the Romanian Academy 2010, chapter “Expressions and Institutions of Repression in Communist Prisons” (information in the self-assessment sheet of Professor Ioan Chiș);

Mr Augustin Fuerea, Professor:

- member of the research team for the al Grant “Preventing and fighting against illicit drug trafficking and consumption with a view to integration in the European Union. Measures to render prevention and control more efficient”, which was declared eligible for funding in 2006;
- scientific research team coordinator, Scientific Research Contract concluded with, for drafting the Study no. 1 named “*Evaluation of the level of concordance of the Romanian legislation with the EC acquis, at the level of 2002, by negotiation chapters*”, within the project PAIS II
- member – drafting the learning and auxiliary materials, as well as provision of staff training services for modules I, II and III (according to the execution schedule Annex no. 4 to the contract) within the project

“Development of the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the management of European dossiers, transposition and application of the EC (EU) acquis” SMIS code 32862;

- member in the Scientific Research Contract no. 1 of December 5, 2018

- National Direct Research Contracts. Organizing institution: “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest; Beneficiary: Next Eco Recycling SA; Position: Member; Value (Lei): 10,000; Commencement Date of the contract performance: December 5, 2018; Date of completion of the contract performance: January 4, 2019 (information in the self-assessment sheet of Professor Augustin Fuerea);

Mrs Vasilica Negruț, Professor:

- Project “To employment, by practical training”, Contract funded by OPHC/90/6.13/6.14/107584, Decision no. 225 of August 23, 2019, Priority Axis 6 – Education and skills, Specific Objective: 6.13, 6.14 Traineeships for high school and university students in the agricultural, food, industry and services sectors;

- Project “Social services for each elderly person – service procurement package in each community”, Decision no. 230 of August 30, 2018, Operational Programme Administrative Capacity, Skills make the difference! Priority Axis 1 Efficient Public Administration and Judiciary System. Specific Objective 1.1 Development and introduction of common systems and standards in public administration optimising citizen- and business oriented decision-making processes in line with SCAP, Project code: 110476, SIPOCA CODE: 203;

- Project “Quality systems and internationalization in higher education in the field of tourism – environment – culture”, Decision no. 189 of May 13, 2014, Axis 1 Education and professional training supporting the economic growth and knowledge-based society development, Main field of intervention 1.2 Quality in higher education, Contract Code: POSDRU/156/1.2/G/141248, Beneficiary: “Danubius” University of Galați; Project “Skills, professionalism and European dimension by integrating ITC in the educational field”, Decision no. 341 of August 14, 2012, Contract Code POSDRU/87/1.3/S/57406, Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013, Priority Axis 1, Main field of intervention 1.3, within which “Danubius” University of Galați was the Partner no. 4, based on the approval of the Addendum no. 2, recorded by OIPOSDRU MECTS under no. 264/c April 12, 2012, Beneficiary: School Board of Botoșani County;

- Project “Skills, professionalism and European dimension by integrating ITC in the educational field”, Decision no. 341 of August 14, 2012, Contract Code POSDRU/87/1.3/S/57406, Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013, Priority Axis 1, Main field of intervention 1.3, within which “Danubius” University of Galați was the Partner no. 4, based on the approval of the Addendum no. 2, recorded by OIPOSDRU MECTS under no. 264/c April 12, 2012, Beneficiary: School Board of Botoșani County.

- Project: “Development of the European management system of university qualifications and capitalization of informal skills”, Decision no. 97 of April 25, 2012, Axis 1 Education and professional training supporting the economic growth and knowledge-based society development, Main field of intervention 1.2 Quality in higher education. Contract Code: POSDRU/86/1.2/S/63252. Beneficiary: “Danubius” University of Galați;

- Project: “ Studies on the competitiveness studies of the small and medium enterprises sector in the perspective of local and regional sustainable development through economic and financial policies” /(STUD_COMP_IMM), MEEdCT, ANCS-CNMP, within the programme PN II, identification code 92121/2008. Beneficiary: “Danubius” University of Galați. Decision no. 1174 of October 1, 2008;

- Project "Let's manage better the public funds" within the Proximity Programme Romania-Republic of Moldova 2004-2006, Phare CBC 2005, budget line B22.0202, priority 2, action "people to people". Beneficiary "Danubius" University of Galați, partner Cahul District Council, Republic of Moldova, Decision no. 989 of December 1, 2007 (information in the self-assessment sheet of Professor Vasilica Negruț).

It is well-known that the doctoral supervisors of the Doctoral School of Law within the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest have an extensive and outstanding research background. There are evidences of getting various research or institutional/human resources development grants for the field of Law by the doctoral supervisors of this Doctoral School. However, I do not have enough information in order to assess if these projects have been effectively developed by the supervisors only in the framework of this Doctoral School. In addition, no PhD student seemed to be engaged in such projects. From the online meetings on 15, 16 and 18 November 2021, I may say that there enough evidences that this situation will be remedied in the future.

Recommendations: To apply for new research or institutional/human resources development grants in which doctoral students to be involved.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.

Although there is no reference to this Performance Indicator in the Internal Evaluation Report of Doctoral School – Law within "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest and the Annexes prepared by this University, during the online meetings on 15 and 16 November 2021 I have had the opportunity to note that the PhD students has got a strong support from the Doctoral School of Law in order to do Erasmus stays at foreign universities.

Furthermore, it should be underlined that 41.8% of the PhD students during the 2015/2016 academic year, 37.1% of the PhD students during the 2016/2017 academic year, 22.7% of the PhD students during the 2017/2018 academic year, 28.36% of the PhD students during the 2018/2019 academic year, and 31.15% of the PhD students during the 2019/2020 academic year have been employed as judges, prosecutors, civil servants, etc. Against this background, there was no need to get financial support for their doctoral research from "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.² *At least 10% of the total amount 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 (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

Although there is no reference to this performance indicator in the Internal Evaluation Report of Doctoral School – Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and the Annexes prepared by this University, I consider that virtual meetings held on 15 and 16 November 2021 and the additional information prepared by this University during the evaluation mission have given me the opportunity to get the necessary information for assessing this aspective in a positive way.

During the period 2015-2020, 3 of the 384 PhD students have done 6 Erasmus mobilities and 52 of these doctoral students have participated to scientific events in Romania and abroad. In addition, other PhD students have made research stays at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

As a general description of the analysis of this criterion, it is noted that the IOSUD at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has implemented the necessary administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources laid down in the specific legislation on the organisation of doctoral studies.

Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD has a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies’ specific activities.

The IOSUD at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies’ specific activities, as shown by the analysis of the following indicator that is fulfilled.

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.*

² The indicators marked with an asterisk (*) hold a special status, referring exclusively to the evaluation of doctoral studies domains, as per Article 12 from the annex No.1 of the Order of the minister of education No. 3651/12.04.2021 approving the Methodology for evaluating university doctoral studies and the system of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation. In case they are not met, the Agency extends a period of maximum 3 years to IOSUD to correct the respective deficiencies.



The premises and material resources of the IOSUD/Doctoral School allow the conduct of research activities in the assessed field in accordance with the mission and undertaken objectives. The PhD students have access to the following research and documentation premises/sources/resources:

Premises intended for carrying out activities within the Doctoral School

The Doctoral School has rooms (ground floor, Room 29) intended exclusively for the joint activities of PhD supervisors and PhD students (courses, seminars, exams, meetings between professors and PhD students, meetings of the steering committees, thesis prepresentation, meetings of the Doctoral School Council, individual study, discussions between PhD students, etc.).

In addition to the usual resources, it is also equipped with two computers with internet access, video projector and the latest scientific papers in English and French, available to students with direct access to them according to their doctoral fields. These papers are purchased by the University at the proposals submitted by the PhD supervisors and PhD students.

Library of the Institution organizing Doctoral Study Programmes – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest

The library of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest was established as a public university library, intended to provide the necessary document collection for the educational process. It is a library specialized in the profile of the faculties of the University (Law, Economic Sciences, Social and Administrative Sciences), the procurement of the documents aiming at encyclopaedic resources. The library aims to permanently improve the information resources to respond optimally to the study, research and documentation interests of students.

It is a library specialized in the profile of the university and its faculties, but the procurement policy aims to encyclopaedic resources and relevant papers for the fields in which they are published and necessary to the students.

The library has approx. 30,000 specialized works and has 208 places for reading.

The bibliographies of the disciplines provided in the curricula are covered by the publications held in their own collections.

The total documentary collection of the library includes 24,732 volumes in collections, of which 20,007 volumes, representing 11,035 titles (treatises, courses, monographs) and 6,725 volumes, of which 143 periodicals (newspapers and magazines) and 75 active titles in 2020. Among them, 6,331 volumes are less than 5 years old, as follows: 4,296 volumes representing 2745 titles are treatises, courses, monographs and 2,035 volumes representing 90 active titles, of which 19 new subscription titles (newspapers, magazines). In 2020, there are 75 titles of periodicals.

Of the total documentary collection of the library, 17,775 reference sources are in the field of Law (7787 titles of treatises, courses, monographs, and 129 titles of periodicals, of which 70 titles of magazines and newspapers active on September 30, 2020). Among them, 3,470 volumes of reference sources are less than 5 years old (of which 2,031 titles of books, monographs and treatises and 82 titles of magazines and newspapers active on September 30, 20120).

The reference sources in foreign languages include 1902 volumes.

The following are also available at the library:

- i) Regulatory instruments, case-law specialized article databases:
 - (a) Access to international databases;
 - (b) Access to the Hamangiu digital library;

- (c) Access to iDrept.ro, a legal information platform designed for the activities of documentation and study of Romanian and European regulations; for case-law selected by relevance, containing over 15,000 cases from national and European case-law, processed with notes, annotations, comments of professionals and judicial practice containing over 287,000 judgments of the Romanian courts, over 600 contract templates, applications and legal actions that can be used as a template for current legal operations;
- (d) Access to the Lex Expert database, which includes: Romanian regulations, European Union regulations, case-law and comments, this database being used by courts, prosecutor's offices and the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- ii) Open web resources: over 40 web resources (websites, Romanian and foreign periodicals) with open access, to which other 2 computers with internet access in the Room of the Doctoral School are added;
- iii) Other equipment: 10 computers for users in the library, connected to the internet and intranet; WiFi connection, reading room with 208 places, with a total area of 356.75 sqm.

Number of individuals involved in providing secretarial services

The secretarial services in the Doctoral School are provided by Mrs Cristina Iordache, secretary/adviser of the Doctoral School since 2008. Cristina Iordache graduated from the Faculty of Management and Public Administration, within the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest and the Master's programme in Management of Public Organizations and Services within "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest. For improving her education for the position of secretary, these studies were completed by the Advanced Course "Correspondence and Secretarial Techniques" organized by "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest.

The research infrastructure and the research services provided are presented to the public through the specialized platform: Facilități | Admitere (univnt.ro) (Annex no. 31).

Taking into account the assessed institution's documents, the website of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest, the information got during several online meetings, and the personal opinions of the members of the evaluation mission, who have personally visited this Doctoral School of Law on 17 November 2021, and have shared with me in our online meeting on 18 November 2021, I consider that in the last years the Doctoral School of Law within "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has consolidated itself as one of the leading Romanian doctoral schools of Law. It has a very solid material and research infrastructures that allow PhD students to carry out their doctoral research in an excellent context.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

As a general description of the analysis of this criterion, it is considered that the Doctoral School of Law within the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest fulfills the vast majority of the requirements on quality of human resources for the effective organisation of doctoral studies, as shown by the following analysis of standards and indicators.

Standard A.3.1. At the level of each domain there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.

I consider that there is sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program within the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, as shown by the analysis of the following four indicators. Three of the indicators have been fulfilled and the fourth one has been partially fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.

The Doctoral School had, between 2015 and 2020, a maximum number of 11 PhD supervisors, and a minimum number of 8 PhD supervisors, all of them being university professors and the authorisation granted pursuant to the regulations in force on the date on which they have become PhD supervisors and it organized doctoral studies for 10 sub-fields, namely:

- Civil Law, through Professors Liviu Stănciulescu (until 2017) and Gabriel Boroi;
- Criminal Law, through Professor Vasile Dobrinioiu;
- Criminal Proceedings Law, through Professor Ion Neagu;
- Criminal Enforcement Law, through Professor Ioan Chiș;
- Commercial Law, until 2019, through Professor Stanciu D. Cărpenaru;
- General Law, through Professor Nicolae Popa;
- European Union Law, through Professor Augustin Fuerea;
- Administrative Law, as of 2017, through Professor Vasilica Negruț;
- Public International Law, until 2020, through Professor Raluca Miga-Beșteliu;
- Intellectual Property Law, through Professor Viorel Roș.

The capacity of PhD supervisors ceased for two of them, and a third individual is currently ending her activity as PhD coordinator, as follows:

- Mr Liviu Stănciulescu, Professor – no places were scheduled for enrolment since 2017 in his specialisation field; since then, he was completing the activities with the PhD students who have not completed their studies until that date;
- Mr Stanciu D. Cărpenaru, Professor – when he died on November 25, 2019, his PhD students being taken over by the PhD supervisors with specialisations in the closest fields for the PhD students’ theses, namely by Professor Gabriel Boroi and Professor Viorel Roș, pursuant to the Decision of the Doctoral School (Annex no. 32 for assigning the PhD students of Mr Stanciu D. Cărpenaru).
- Mrs Raluca Miga-Beșteliu, Professor – she resigned from her position of PhD coordinator in 2020, her PhD students being taken over by Professor Vasile Dobrinioiu and Professor Augustin Fuerea (Annex no. 33 –assignment of the PhD student S. O. to Professor A. Fuerea and x Annex no. 34 – assignment of the PhD student S. O. to Professor Vasile Dobrinioiu).

All PhD supervisors carrying out their activities in the field of doctoral studies LAW have achievements with relevant significance for the field in which they coordinate PhD, which shows that high standards of scientific research are maintained, as shown by their self-assessment sheets.

The PhD supervisors have published books at publishing houses in the country with recognized prestige in the field of legal sciences (treatises, monographs, university courses, commented legislation), articles/papers in prestigious scientific journals and studies in collective volumes. The publishing houses where the works were published are recognized publishing houses, such as CH Beck Publishing House, Universul Juridic Publishing House, Hamangiu Publishing House, Wolters Kluwer Publishing House.

The PhD supervisors are also members of the editorial boards of prestigious scientific journals in the field of LAW and have participated in the organization of conferences, as well as in conferences, as moderators or participants with work.

The publications of the PhD supervisors are quoted in books, book chapters, volumes published at Romanian publishing houses with recognized prestige in the field of legal sciences, as well as in prestigious Romanian scientific journals in the field of legal sciences.

All PhD supervisors have participated in international and national conferences and published their articles in specialized publications, namely, in the magazine Lex et Scientia and Revista Română de Dreptul Proprietății Intelectuale, which are published as follows: the first magazine is published at the University's initiative, and the second magazine is published at the initiative of the University and of the Scientific Association for Intellectual Property Law, as well in other periodicals published in sub-fields of law (Revista Dreptul, Revista de Drept Privat, Revista de Drept Public, Revista de Drept Penal al Afacerilor, Revista Română de Arbitraj, etc.).

The activity of scientific research carried out by the PhD supervisors and their contribution to the development of the science of law have been recognized over time by awards from the Romanian Academy and the Union of Legal Advisers for the activity they have carried out in the field of law.

Last but not least, the PhD supervisors were members of commissions for filling teaching vacancies, authorisation commissions and/or commissions for public defence of doctoral theses as members or, as the case may be, expert consultants.

In particular, we note the involvement of the PhD supervisors in editing and publishing valuable publications in the field of law.

The scientific research of the PhD supervisors is documented by their updated CVs and the sheets on meeting the authorisation criteria, which include the list of published works, as follows:

- 1) x Annex no. 35 – self-assessment sheet of Gabriel Boroi, Professor, PhD,
- 2) x Annex no. 36 – self-assessment sheet of Ioan Chiș, Professor, PhD,
- 3) x Annex no. 37 – self-assessment sheet of Vasile Dobrinoiu, Professor, PhD,
- 4) x Annex no. 38 – self-assessment sheet of Augustin Fuerea, Professor, PhD,
- 5) x Annex no. 39 – self-assessment sheet of Ion Neagu, Professor, PhD,
- 6) x Annex no. 40 – self-assessment sheet of Vasilica Negruț, Professor, PhD,

- 7) x Annex no. 41 – self-assessment sheet of Nicolae Popa, Professor, PhD,
8) x Annex no. 42 – self-assessment sheet of Viorel Roș, Professor, PhD

In my opinion, according to the Annexes 35-42 of the Self-Assessment Report prepared by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, more than 3 PhD supervisors of the Doctoral School in Law, who represent more than 50% of them, meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.

Out of the 11 PhD supervisors of the Doctoral School of “Nicolae Titulescu” University who were active between 2015 and 2020, 10 PhD supervisors were employed as tenured professors of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest; therefore, the indicator A.3.1.2. is met.

Mrs Vasilica Negruț, Professor, who was a professor at “Danubius” University of Galați joined the Doctoral School in 2017, and, in 2021 Ioan Lazăr, Associate Professor (formerly of “1 Decembrie” University of Alba Iulia and Ovidiu-Mircea Ursuța-Dărăban, Associate Professor (formerly of University of Oradea) joined the Doctoral School, under employment contracts concluded on indefinite period with “Nicolae Titulescu” University as scientific researchers.

With regard the other PhD supervisors – Gabriel Boroș, Ioan Chiș, Vasile Dobrinou, Augustin Fuerea, Ion Neagu, Nicolae Popa, Viorel Roș, as well as those who ceased their activity, namely Stanciu D. Cărpenaru, Raluca Miga Beștelu and Liviu Stănculescu – they have held teaching positions only at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

For all those who reached the retirement age, the University Senate has approved each year to continue the collaboration with Professors Ioan Chiș, Vasile Dobrinou, Ion Neagu and Nicolae Popa and Liviu Stănculescu, pursuant to Article 289 para. (3) and (6) of the Law no.1/2011. Mr Viorel Roș is not retired, and he continues his activity pursuant to Article 289 para. (3) and (6) of the Law of National Education no. 1/2011.

Taking into account the findings from the Self-Assessment Report prepared by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest as well as the official documents presented to the members of the evaluation mission that visited personally this Doctoral School of Law on 17 November 2021 and whose opinions were mentioned to me during our online meeting on 18 November 2021, I may affirm that at least 50% of all doctoral advisors have had a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD of this University during the period 2015-2020. Actually, all the doctoral supervisors have had such a contractual relationship with this University during the assessed period.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.3. *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*

According to the curriculum of the last year of doctoral studies, disciplines in the training programme based on advanced university studies related to the field are supported by professors or researchers who have the capacity of PhD supervisor Associate Professor with proven expertise in the field of the disciplines.

Ref. no.	Name of the course	Course Leader	No. of course hours	No. of seminar hours	Assessment type	No. of credits
1.	Ethics of scientific research	Viorel Roş, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	6
2.	Protection of new and utility creations and distinctive signs of professional activity	Viorel Roş, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
3.	Protection of formal creations in Roman law, European law and conventional law	Viorel Roş, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
4.	The right to good administration. Regulation and good practices	Vasilica Negruţ, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
5.	Administrative law of assets	Vasilica Negruţ, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
6.	Elements of substantive law of the European Union	Augustin Fuerea, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
7.	The jurisdictional system of the European Union	Roxana Popescu, Associate Professor,	2	1	E	8

		PhD				
8.	Theory and philosophy of law	Nicolae Popa, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
9.	Constitutional justice	Nicolae Popa, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
10.	Criminal enforcement theory and practice	Ioan CHIS, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
11.	Fundamental institutions involved in carrying out criminal justice	Ion NEAGU, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
12.	Advanced Criminal Law	Mihai HOTCA, Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8
13.	Advanced Criminal Proceedings Law	Bogdan MICU, Associate Professor, PhD	2	1	E	8

The curricula/PhD student for the year – admitted and enrolled PhD students in 2020 are as follows:

Ref. no.	Sub-field	Enrolled candidates	PhD	Disciplines of the Training Programme based on advanced university studies
1.	Intellectual Property Law - Viorel Roş, Professor,	(i) Budileanu Cristiana-Georgeta (ii) Olariu Cristina		(a) Protection of new and utility creations and distinctive signs of professional activity (b) Protection of formal creations in Roman law, European law and conventional law
	PhD			(c) Elements of substantive law of the European Union (d) Ethics of scientific research
2.	Criminal enforcement law - Ioan CHIS, Professor, PhD	(i) Florescu Gabriela (ii) Giurgea Ioan-Mihai (iii) Prună Elena-Aurora (Dogaru) (iv) Rus Andrei (v) Tecoi Ruxandra Elena (Brincuş)		(a) Criminal enforcement theory and practice (b) Advanced Criminal Proceedings Law (c) Advanced Criminal Law (d) Ethics of scientific research
3.	Administrative Law - Vasilica Negruţ, Professor, PhD	(i) Ieremie Maria Cristina (ii) Ulariu Constantin Claudiu		(a) Administrative law of assets (b) The right to good administration. Regulation and good practices (c) Elements of substantive law of the European Union (d) Ethics of scientific research
4.	Criminal Proceedings Law - Ion NEAGU, Professor, PhD	(i) Andrescu Alina (ii) Călin Radu Bogdan (iii) Petre Georgian Mirel		(a) Advanced Criminal Law (b) Criminal enforcement theory and practice (c) Fundamental institutions involved in carrying out criminal justice (d) Ethics of scientific research
5.	General Theory of Law - Nicolae Popa, Professor, PhD	(i) Marin Andrada-Georgiana		(a) Theory and philosophy of law (b) Constitutional justice (c) Elements of substantive law of the European Union (d) Ethics of scientific research

The professors teaching the disciplines from the student training programmes are:

- (i) Mr Ioan Chiș, tenured professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University and PhD supervisor specialized in the field of “Criminal Enforcement Law”;
- (ii) Mr Augustin Fuerea, tenured professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University, PhD supervisor specialized in the field of “European Union Law”;
- (iii) Mr Ion Neagu, tenured professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University, PhD supervisor specialized in the field of “Criminal Proceedings Law”;
- (iv) Mrs Vasilica Negruț, Professor at “Danubius” University of Galați and PhD supervisor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest specialized in the field “Administrative Law”;
- (v) Mr Nicolae Popa, tenured professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University, PhD supervisor specialized in the field of “General Theory of Law”.
- (vi) Mr Viorel Roș, tenured professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University PhD supervisor specialized in the field of “Intellectual Property Law”.
- (vii) Mr Mihai Hotca, tenured professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University, Rector of the University, course leader, “Advanced Criminal Law”.
- (viii) Mr Bogdan Micu, tenured associate professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University, Dean of the Law School of the University, course leader, “Criminal Proceedings Law”.
- (ix) Mrs Roxana Popescu, tenured associate professor at “Nicolae Titulescu” University, course leader, “Jurisdictional System of the European Union”.

All the individuals listed above are experienced members of the academic teaching staff in the field of the discipline they teach. The indicator is met.

As it can be read on the website of „Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest (<https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/doctorat/domenii-de-doctorat/>), at present there are 9 fields for PhD research, namely: civil law, administrative law, general theory of law, European Union law, criminal proceedings law, criminal enforcement law, intellectual property law, competition law, and contravention law and procedures in public law

Taking into account the findings from the Self-Assessment Report prepared by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and its annexes, the website of this University as well as the information got during the online meetings on 15 and 16 November 2021, I may affirm that the study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.4. *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs³ does not exceed 20%.*

According to this criterion, the duration of doctoral academic studies taken is 3 years, according to article 159 para. (3) of Law no. 1/2011 of national education.

This criterion is met within the Doctoral School, without being any PhD supervisor who coordinates at the same time more than 8 PhD candidates, but not more than 12 during the doctoral studies.

Thus, at the date of this report, the situation per advising professor with the activity of PhD supervisor is the following:

PhD supervisor	PhD candidates in the first three years of internship /PhD supervisor	PhD candidates in extension or grace period
Gabriel BOROI, PhD Univ. Prof.	Cercel Cristian-Răzvan	Catea Roxana Mihaela
	Ivănescu Georgiana Coman	Meiu Emilian
	Rugină Cristian Răzvan	Costea Corina
		Panait Alexandra
		Șchiopu Silviu Dorin
		Ochea Vlad Victor
		Dinescu Adrian
Augustin FUREA, PhD Univ. Prof.	Larion Iuliana Mădălina	Solacolu Maria
	Dabija Corina Bardă – <i>under a period of interruption of studies</i>	Bantaș Dragoș Adrian
		Stoica Andrei
		Papuc Patricia Casandra
Vasile DOBRINOIU, PhD Univ. Prof.	Olănescu Sandra Sophie	Nicolae George Octavian
Ion NEAGU, PhD Univ. Prof.	Andrescu Alina	
	Călin Radu Bogdan	
	Țucă Alina Marilena Oprea	
	Manea Liliana – <i>under a period of interruption of studies</i>	
	Petre Georgian Mirel	
Nicolae POPA, PhD	Olănescu Alexandru Vladimir	Stoica Florin

³ 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

Univ. Prof.	Marin Andrada Georgiana	Nicolae Beatrice
		Radu Bianca
		Mărgoi Horațiu
Livi STĂNCULESCU, PhD Univ. Prof.	<i>He does not have PhD candidates in the first 3 years of internship.</i>	Mihai Daniela
		Văsii Gabriel
		Petrescu Răducu
		Suru Amir
		Dănilă Matei
Viorel ROȘ, PhD Univ. Prof.	Bălan Ioana Victoria Maftai	Banu Adriana
	Olariu Cristina	Irimescu George
	Budileanu Cristiana Georgeta	Marinescu Ana Maria
	Curelea Adrian	Livădaru Andreea
		Sirbu Cristina
Ioan CHIȘ, PhD Univ. Prof.	Marcovici Dantes	Tudor Iulia
	Giurgea Ioan Mihai	Magdalena Nicolae Cătălin
	Rus Andrei Claudiu	Chiriță Adrian
	Crețu Cosmin Iulian	Oprișan Simona Cîreșica (Nedelcu)
	Tecoi Ruxandra Elena	
	Prună Elena Aurora	
	Florescu Gabriela	
Vasilica NEGRUȚ, PhD Univ. Prof.	Zorzoană Ionela Alina	Tagarță Crina (de SMET)
	Ulariu Constantin Claudiu	Preda Florina (Mureșan)
	Ieremie Maria Cristiana	Zăgărin Adelin

It results from the presented situation that no PhD supervisor exceeds the number of eight PhD candidates in the three-year study period, and regarding the total number of PhD candidates in coordination during the internship or grace period, no PhD supervisor exceeds number of 12 PhD candidates.

Taking into account the documents provided for this evaluation as well as the findings of the Self-Assessment Report and its Annexes as well as the additional information prepared by this University during the evaluation mission, I may affirm that the percentage of doctoral supervisors of the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 PhD students and no more than 12, is higher than 20%. However, if it is taken into consideration only those PhD students of the first three years of doctoral studies, this percentage is lower than 20% as no PhD supervisor of this Doctoral School has concomitantly coordinated more than 8 PhD students.

Recommendation: To offer new places for doctoral studies taking into account the total PhD students already admitted by the Doctoral School of Law in previous years and who have not finished their PhD studies yet.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Standard A.3.2. The Doctoral advisors within the domain are carrying out a scientific activity visible at international level.

The doctoral supervisors, who are part of the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, are carrying out a scientific activity visible at international level, as shown by the analysis of the following two performance indicators. Both of them have been fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.2.1. *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.*

All PhD supervisors present relevant achievements in the field of LAW, in the period of time subject to self-evaluation, consisting of works written and published by publishers and journals listed in international databases or books (treatises, monographs, university courses, annotated legislation).

Within the IOSUD of "Nicolae Titulescu" from Bucharest operates the Centrul de Cercetare Studii Juridice, Economice și Socio-Administrative (C.S.J.E.S.A.), (*translated name: Research Center for Legal, Economic and Socio-Administrative Studies*), which is an academic research unit, without legal personality, organized within the university, established to concentrate and develop professional experience, for conducting high-performance scientific research in the field of legal sciences, international and community, economic, sociological relations, as well as of the public administration field. (Annex no. 43).

Within IOSUD - "Nicolae Titulescu" University, the scientific research activity is conducted under the auspices of CSJESA - Centrul de Studii Juridice, Economice și Socio-Administrative (*translated name: Centre for Legal, Economic and Socio-Administrative Studies*), which operates in the university. CSJESA has its own organization and functioning regulations (Annex no. 44), which place special emphasis on the research carried out in connection with the cycle of bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies.

Centrul de Studii Juridice, Economice și Socio-Administrative (CSJESA) (*translated name: The Centre for Legal, Economic and Socio-Administrative Studies*) is certified to carry out research and development activities by the Decision of the National Authority for Scientific Research no. 9696/14.07.2008, Annex no. 1, item (3), (Annex no. 45), posted on <https://www.research.gov.ro/ro/articol/1424/politica-cdi-politicinationala-calitatea-in-cercetare-atestarea-acreditarea-unitatilor-si-institutiilor-de-cercetaredezvoltare>), with attestation performance standard of 36.92, decision that is given based on GD no. 551/2007 for the approval of the Criteria and standards, as well as of the Methodology for evaluation and attestation of the capacity to carry out research-development activities by entities and institutions whose purpose of activity is research-development and accreditation of the entities composing the national interest research and development system (GD no. 477/2019).

In recent years, important projects have been implemented within CSJESA, such as "Prevenirea și combaterea traficului și consumului ilicit de droguri în perspectiva integrării în Uniunea Europeană. Măsurile

de eficientizare a prevenirii și combaterii (translated name: Preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking and consumption with a view to integration into the European Union. Measures to make prevention and control more efficient" (research contract concluded with the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education and University Scientific Research), *Procesul penal în România, între celeritate și legalitate*" (translated name: Criminal trial in Romania, between speed and legality) (research contract concluded with the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education and University Scientific Research), *„Fundamentele dreptului penal al Uniunii Europene”* (translated name: Fundamentals of European Union Criminal Law) (research contract concluded with the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education and University Scientific Research), *„Uniformizarea practicii judiciare și armonizarea cu jurisprudența CEDO, imperativ al îndeplinirii justiției”* (translated name: Standardization of judicial practice and harmonization with ECHR jurisprudence, imperative of making justice).

One of the most important events held under the auspices C.S.J.E.S.A., which is attended by both PhD supervisors and PhD candidates with high academic value scientific papers, is the International Scientific Conference “*Challenges of the Knowledge Society*” (CKS), a scientific event that has won a well-deserved place in international conferences dedicated to the social sciences. Organized since 2007, the CKS Conference provided an opportunity to meet many researchers from both the country and abroad (Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Hungary, Macedonia, Croatia, USA, Japan, Finland, Georgia, China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Greece, Ukraine, Serbia, Kosovo, Indonesia, Hong Kong, etc.).

The scientific contributions registered in each edition of CKS, once the evaluation procedure by the scientific committee set up annually, are published in the conference volume, CKS Journal - online academic journal, in Lex et Scientia journal or in the Romanian Journal of Intellectual Property Law, the latter being listed each in four international databases, considered relevant according to Annex no. 24 of Order no. 6129/2016 of the Ministry of National Education. Thus, the Lex ET Scientia International Journal (LESIJ), which has been published since 1996 and has been classified, since 2009, as B + by CNCIS, is listed in the following international databases:

- CEEOL - <http://www.ceeol.com/>
- EBSCO - <http://www.ebscohost.com/>
- HeinOnline - www.heinonline.org
- ProQuest - <http://www.proquest.com/>

At its turn, the Revista Română de Dreptul Proprietății Intelectuale (translated name: Romanian Journal of Intellectual Property Law), which has been issued continuously, quarterly, at the initiative of the Scientific Association for Intellectual Property Law and the “Nicolae Titulescu” University since 2004 and which publishes the research results of teachers, researchers, PhD candidates and of intellectual property law practitioners, is recognized by the National Council for Scientific Research - CNCIS (code - 662) and is listed in the following databases:

- EBSCO - www.ebscohost.com;
- CEEOL - www.ceeol.com;
- Hein Online - www.heinonline.org și
- Worldcat - www.worldCat.org



These international databases are recognized for the field of legal sciences according to Order no. 6219/2016 regarding the approval of the minimum necessary and mandatory standards for conferring didactic titles in higher education, of the professional research development degrees, of the quality of PhD supervisor and of the authorization certificate, Annex no. 24 lit. c) items (3), (4), (10) and (18).

Starting with the 9th edition, respectively the one from 2015, the International Scientific Conference Challenges of the Knowledge Society - CKS is organized in partnership with Complutense University of Madrid and the Deusto University in Bilbao, Spain.

In recognition of the high level of scientific research conducted on the occasion of the Challenges of the Knowledge Society conference, the 2019 edition (Annex no. 15 – Letter of patronage), which took place between 17-18 May 2019, received the Patronage of the Romanian Presidency at the Council of the European Union. Three judges of the European Union General Court, namely Judge Octavia Spineanu-Matei, Judge Viktor Kreuschitz and Judge Jesper Sevenningsen (Annex No. 46 - CKS Program, 2019 edition) will participate as special guests in this edition of the CKS).

International visibility is also proved by the inclusion of the university journal Lex Et Scientia International Journal - LESIJ in international scientific catalogues, such as: British Library, Institute Library, George Town Catalogue, etc. (Annex no. 47 – Print screen of cover page LESIJ).

In the academic year 2014-2015, the electronic platform CESUNT – Scientific Research of “Nicolae Titulescu” University was developed and launched, aiming at the fast and secure collection of data on the research activity of all teachers in the university, as well as that of PhD candidates. The application is web-based and can be accessed via the Internet from any computer, tablet or smartphone, by using an Internet Browser (Annex no. 48, platform print-screen - link: <http://CESUNT.univnt.ro>).

The entire PhD supervisors' research activity is reported annually by them, and the reporting is posted on the CESUNT platform (Annex no. 49 report 2016, x Annex no. 50, report 2017, x Annex no. 51, report 2018, x Annex no. 52, report 2019, x Annex no. 53, report 2020).

The PhD candidates' activity is also reported annually and posted on the same platform (Annex no. 54 report 2016, x Annex no. 55, report 2017, x Annex no. 56, report 2018, x Annex no. 57, report 2019, x Annex no. 58, report 2020).

On this platform, the information is taken over the information for the annual carryover of the scientific research activity at IOSUD level. The annual reports of the scientific research activity can be accessed on the link <http://csjesa.univnt.ro/materiale.html>.

The CESUNT application is made with PHP 5, MySQL, Twitter Bootstrap, HTML, Javascript and CSS and is hosted on a local server of the University. Each teacher is assigned a username and password and they individually upload their research activity in the previous year on their page.

The application forms correspond to the minimum standards required and mandatory for conferring teaching degrees in higher education and professional degrees of research and development in the

panels of Legal Sciences, Sociology, Political and Administrative Sciences, Economic Sciences and Business Administration. Following the completion of the forms by each doctoral advisor and PhD candidate separately, different reports can be made, e.g: individual reports, reports on faculties, departments, etc.

From a second consideration, PhD supervisors have national and international visibility, by the number of quotations, by the quality of members in professional associations and/or in their governing bodies, but also by the quality of members in the management of national and international journals.

Regarding the professional associations and/or their management bodies, of which PhD supervisors are part, we list, for example: the Academy of Legal Sciences, the Institute of Administrative Sciences “Paul Negulescu”, the Union of Romanian Lawyers, the Scientific Association of Property Law Intellectuals, Association of International Law and International Relations, Romanian Association of Foreign Policy, Academic Society of Administrative Sciences, Romanian Society of European Law.

I consider that there are extensive proofs on the scientific results of the doctoral supervisors within the Doctoral School of Law at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. Furthermore, during the assessed period they have had a relevant international academic visibility both in the Romanian Academia and abroad. This relevant research activity has been supported by the large openness of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, which has allowed the doctoral supervisors to be in contact with researchers and professors from many other countries and universities. It is expected that this tendency will be maintained in the future.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.2.2. *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.*

The indicator is met according to the following. Thus, PhD supervisors who work in the field of doctoral LAW academic studies present achievements with relevant significance for the field in which they coordinate doctorates, which reveals the maintenance of high standards on scientific research.

PhD supervisors have published books at publishing houses in the country with recognized prestige in the field of legal sciences (treatises, monographs, university courses, annotated legislation), articles/studies in upmarket scientific journals and studies in collective volumes. Also, PhD supervisors are members of the editorial boards of upmarket scientific journals in the LAW field and have participated in the organization of conferences, as well as in conferences, as moderators or participants with works.

The works of PhD supervisors are quoted in books, book chapters, volumes published by Romanian publishing houses with recognized prestige in the field of legal sciences, as well as in upmarket Romanian scientific journals in the field of legal sciences. The quotations of all PhD supervisors' publications total a

very large number of quotations (x Annex no. 35 – 36 - 37 – 38 – 39 – 40 – 41 - 42) PhD supervisors self-assessment sheets, quoting sections).

The activity of scientific research and contribution to the development of the science of law, carried out by PhD supervisors, has been recognized, over time, by been awarded prizes by the Romanian Academy and the Union of Legal Counsellors for its work in the law field.

Last but not least, PhD supervisors were part, as members or, as the case may be, specialized referees, of commissions for occupation of teaching positions, namely for public defence of doctoral theses.

In opinion, as showed in the Annexs no. 35-42 of the Self-assessment report, during the period 2015-2020 each doctoral supervisor within the Doctoral School of Law at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has acquired at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force currently.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The Doctoral School of Law within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest demonstrates educational effectiveness and meets all the following criteria, standards and indicators.

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

As a general description of the analysis of the criterion, it is noted that the Doctoral School of Law meets all the standards and the performance indicators, as it is described below.

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.

The Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has shown its capacity to attract candidates from outside this University, as shown by the analysis of the following indicator that is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of graduates of masters’ programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.

I consider that this performance indicator should not be evaluated in this external evaluation report. As is well-known, the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest is a private entity and as such its Doctoral School of Law has the same legal nature. Even if this University could have been entitled to have access to public funds, it did not use them. Therefore, it is not relevant if the percentages have been respected by this higher education institution.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As a general description of the standard analysis, the finding is that the candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional experience, as shown by the analysis of the following two indicators. Both indicators have been fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.

Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, intelligence workers, teachers, diplomats, officials in specialized public institutions and in the bodies of the European Union enrolled in the admission contest to doctoral academic studies.

Some of the candidates are graduates of two higher education institutions (legal studies and political sciences, medical studies and legal studies, technical studies and legal studies, military studies and legal studies, economic studies and legal studies), all are graduates of master courses or their equivalents, organized by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and other higher education institutions, and some of the candidates and graduates are holders of doctoral degrees previously obtained in other fields (economics, military sciences, philosophy) - x Annex 59, drawn up in compliance with the protection of personal data, in accordance with Regulation (EU) no. 679/2018 on the protection of personal data.

Regarding the organization of exams of admission to doctoral studies, the necessary data (number of places, fields of study, PhD supervisors, topics and bibliography) are published on the University website under the heading Doctoral Admission, the site being accessible to candidates.

Admission to studies is based on examination in the subjects in which candidates wish to pursue doctoral studies. The number of places of each PhD supervisor, the bibliography for the exam and the dates on which the exam takes place are announced (posted on the university website in the Doctoral Admission section). The activity carried out, including the research one, counts in the evaluation of the candidates and the interview with each candidate is mandatory for the evaluation (Annex no. 60 - print screen with the announcements of doctoral admission in the period 2016-2020).

Given that this performance indicator is included in the standard entitled “*Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance*”, to prove the quality of candidates admitted to doctoral studies, we specify that every academic year, PhD candidates with outstanding scientific activity and practice were involved in teaching activities, as follows:

- Academic year 2015/2016: 29 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2016/2017 : 24 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2017/2018: 18 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2018-2019: 19 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2019-2020: 19 PhD candidates.

Also, 20 of the PhD candidates who obtained the doctorate title at the Doctoral School became teachers at the University, being currently university assistants, lecturers, associate professors or university professors, with positions in the management structures of the University (it is about: Gheorghe Anca Nicoleta Univ. PhD Lecturer, Sitaru Dan Alexandru Univ. PhD Lecturer, Fierbințeanu Gabriela Assistant PhD Lecturer, Angheliescu Carla Alexandra Assistant PhD Lecturer, Nazat Catalin Bogdan Assistant PhD Lecturer, Nemeș Vasile PhD Lecturer, Conea Alina Mihaela Assistant PhD Lecturer, Iacob Oana Adriana Assistant PhD Lecturer, Bărbățeanu Valentina Assistant PhD Lecturer, Spătaru Negura Laura Cristiana Univ. PhD Lecturer, Ștefan Elena Emilia Univ. PhD Lecturer, Ene Dinu Cornelia Univ. PhD Lecturer, Buta Paul George Assistant PhD Lecturer, Cliza Marta Claudia PhD Lecturer, Hotca Mihai Adrian PhD Univ. Prof., Slăvoiu Radu Assistant PhD Lecturer, Sinescu Mircea Constantin Univ. PhD Lecturer, Hărățau Lamya Diana Assistant PhD Lecturer (Annex no. 61 – Centralizing report of PhD candidates who have been involved in teaching activities as research assistants/PhD candidates acting as Assistant Lecturer).

In my opinion, Articles 21-28 of the Regulation on the organization and conduct of the Doctoral School of Law, which has been approved by the Senate of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission), contains numerous provisions regarding the admission to the doctoral programme of Law in a serious way. These provisions are completed by Articles 27-33 of the institutional Regulation on organisation and carrying out of the doctoral university programmes (approved by the Senate of this University on 17 November 2021) as well as by a specific Methodology of admission to different levels of academic studies that has been adopted on 25 April 2012. This comprehensive legal background shows that the admission commission usually takes into account various criteria in order to admit the best possible doctoral students.

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 admission⁴ does not exceed 30%.

The dropout /abandonment rate of PhD candidates at 3, respectively 4 years after admission does not exceed 30%. In the period 2015-2020, 66 PhD candidates were enrolled (respectively the academic years 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020). 9 students among them were expelled, of

⁴ 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

which 5 as a result of their waiver to continue the studies, another 4 being expelled for lack of results, exceeding deadlines and for attempted fraud. The expulsion rate is 13% (Annex no. 62 - Centralizing report of PhD candidates enrolled in the first year in the period 2015-2020, which also includes the number of expelled PhD candidates, containing personal data, is not published).

According to the information provided by the internal evaluation report and the additional information prepared by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest during the evaluation period, the expelling rate has been considerably lower than 30%. Thus, this rate has been of 0.3% during the 2015/2016 academic year, of 0.08% during the 2016/2017 academic year, of 0.28% during the 2017/2018 academic year, of 0.15% during the 2018/2019 academic year, and 0% during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 academic years.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

As a general description of the analysis of this criterion on the content of doctoral program in Law, it is observed that the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest fulfills the standard and the five indicators, as shown below.

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 training programmes for students admitted and enrolled in doctoral academic studies are prepared by the PhD supervisor together with the PhD candidate, the number of disciplines at the choice of the PhD supervisor and the PhD candidate being three, to which is added as a compulsory discipline for all PhD candidates, regardless of the field of study, Deontology of scientific research activity, as shown below.

This system of advanced training was implemented by the Doctoral School in the academic year 2016, respectively from the date when, according to the law (GD no. 681/2011) the discipline “Deontology of scientific research activity” became mandatory.

The disciplines chosen by the PhD candidate supervisor together with the PhD candidate include subjects appropriate to the research topics chosen by the PhD candidates and often, among them is the “Substantive law of the European Union”.

The Doctoral School of Law has implemented a training program that is appropriate for improving doctoral students' research skills and for strengthening ethical behavior in science, as shown by the analysis of the following five indicators. Each indicator has been fulfilled.

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.

According to art. 40 of the Regulation of Doctoral Academic Studies, entitled “Doctoral Programme”, the organization and development of the programme of doctoral academic studies is regulated as follows:

- (1) The programme of doctoral academic studies ensures the formation of professional and transversal competences specific to level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and of the National Qualifications Framework reflected in the activity planning documents.
- (2) The doctoral programme is carried out within the doctoral school under the coordination of a PhD supervisor and includes: a) a training programme based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school and b) an individual scientific research program.
- (3) The form of conducting doctoral academic studies is low attendance, according to the agreement with the advising professor.
- (4) The doctoral coordinator also establishes the minimum attendance required for the activities in the doctoral program.
- (5) The PhD candidate must attend all those activities that Law no. 1/2011, the Code, the Charter and the present Regulation, as well as the PhD supervisor provide for them, respectively establish them as mandatory, as well as to prepare the documents related to such attendances and the annual research reports.

Also, according to art. 41 of the Regulation:

- (1) The doctoral programme that is carried out within the doctoral school includes:
 - (a) a training programme based on advanced university studies within the Doctoral School;
 - (b) an individual scientific research program.
- (2) The training programme based on advanced university studies involves taking 4 exams, of which the discipline Deontology of scientific research activity in the legal field is recommended, for which 6 credits and 3 specialized disciplines established by the PhD supervisor and PhD candidate, of 8 credits each.
- (3) The participation of a PhD candidate in the training programme based on advanced university studies and the choice of study elements within this programme that must be followed by the PhD candidate are established by the student’s PhD supervisor.
- (4) The Doctoral School Council recommends, as a means of information, training and making up of ethics skills in scientific research, observance of intellectual property rights and plagiarism prevention, the inclusion of the discipline Deontology of scientific research activity in PhD candidates’ training programme of the Doctoral School.
- (5) The PhD candidate may independently opt for the courses within the advanced university studies provided by the Doctoral School of the University or by other doctoral schools.
- (6) The PhD candidate who has previously completed research masters or completed doctoral or scientific research internships conducted in the country or abroad, in upmarket universities or in research and development universities, may benefit from the equivalence of these studies with those from a training programme based on doctoral academic studies. The equivalence is proposed by the PhD supervisor and is approved by the Council of the Doctoral School.

For example, for PhD candidates admitted to doctoral academic studies in 2020 (but the situation is similar for the previous years), the study disciplines established by PhD supervisors with PhD candidates were the following:

1. For Criminal Proceedings Law

- (i) Advanced Criminal Law
 - (ii) Criminal enforcement theory and practice
 - (iii) Fundamental institutions involved in carrying out criminal justice
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 - 2. For Criminal enforcement law
 - (i) Criminal enforcement theory and practice
 - (ii) Advanced Criminal Proceedings Law
 - (iii) Advanced Criminal Law
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 - 3. For General Theory of law
 - (i) Theory and philosophy of law
 - (ii) Constitutional justice
 - (iii) Elements of substantive law of the European Union
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 - 4. For Administrative Law
 - (i) Administrative law of assets
 - (ii) The right to good administration. Regulation and good practices
 - (iii) Elements of substantive law of the European Union
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 - 5. Intellectual Property Law
 - (i) Protection of new and utility creations and distinctive signs of professional activity
 - (ii) Protection of formal creations in Roman law, European law and conventional law
 - (iii) Elements of substantive law of the European Union
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
- (Annex no. 63 – Training plans for students enrolled in the year 2019/2020).

On the basis of the Self-assessment report and its Annexes, I may affirm that the training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students and, moreover, at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the ethics of scientific research, which is so relevant for a serious doctoral research.

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.

As shown above, within the training programme based on advanced university studies there is, since 2016, a discipline dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, with well-defined study thematic on these topics. The discipline, entitled *Deontology of the scientific research activity* has as course leader the Director of the Doctoral School, Viorel Roş, PhD Univ. Prof. and is attended by all PhD candidates enrolled in the first year in a discipline taught in the doctoral programme (Annex no. 64 - Discipline sheet – Deontology of scientific research activity).

The discipline is organized in the form of 6 courses (12 hours) and 3 seminars (6 hours) and a number of 6 credits. At the end of the Deontology courses and in order to take the exam in this subject, PhD candidates draw up a paper on a topic chosen by them together with the course holder, which is then subject to similarity check, and students and PhD supervisors who guide them are informed about its results. The evaluation method is done by oral exam.

The criteria of evaluation of the seminar activity are the following:

- participation in the didactic activity;
- appropriate use of penal legal language in debates;
- appropriate use of theoretical and legislative knowledge;
- solving concrete legal problems with the help of acquired knowledge.

For the examination taken by PhD candidates in 2020-2021, the reports are subject to x Annex no. 21 and 21/1- 21/2 - 21/3 - 21/4 - 21/5 - 21/6 - 21/7 - 21/8 - 21/9 - 21/10 - 21/11 - 21/12 - 21/13 - similarity reports for PhD candidates.

The course “Ethics of scientific research” is offered to all the PhD students. Furthermore, I consider that each doctoral supervisor is keen on the integrity in academic research, being an essential guide for his/her PhD students.

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 activities⁵.*

During the doctoral academic studies, PhD candidates take exams in the first year (in all four subjects) and the papers (minimum 2, maximum 3), the acquired knowledge being verified by the exams taken and by defending the papers prepared by the PhD candidates before the guiding commissions. Each year of study, PhD candidates prepare an activity report that is presented to the leader and the guiding commissions.

IOSUD has created the mechanisms to ensure that the training programme based on advanced university studies, related to the evaluated field, aims at “learning outcomes”, specifying the competencies, skills and attitudes that PhD candidates should acquire after completing each discipline or through research activities.

⁵ Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology of 17 March 2017 regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.

The training programme based on advanced university studies, related to the field of LAW, is not only individualized according to the specialization chosen by the PhD candidate, but is focused on learning outcomes, the training programme being monitored by the PhD candidates' guiding commissions.

The discipline sheets reveal the competencies, skills and attitudes that PhD candidates should acquire after completing each discipline or through research activities. Each discipline sheet includes the professional and transversal competences, as well as the general and specific objectives aimed (Annex no. 65 – Discipline sheets within the training programme based on advanced university studies, for the academic year 2018/2019).

The doctoral studies end with the elaboration and defence of the doctoral thesis, for which the procedure is regulated in the Regulation of the Doctoral Academic Studies of the Doctoral School.

The thesis prepared by the PhD candidate is subject to the following verifications and evaluations prior to its public defence:

- its verification by the PhD supervisor before being given by the PhD candidate the form in which he/she is to present himself/herself for the anti-plagiarism check;
- checking of the similarities, respectively the potential risk of plagiarism;
- the evaluation of the similarity report by the PhD supervisor, together with the PhD candidate and taking the necessary measures for the hypothesis in which the similarity report reveals a significant percentage not accepted by the Regulation of doctoral studies;
- restoration, if necessary, of the work followed by a new verification of similarities;
- presentation of the work of the guiding commission, evaluation by the commission and endorsement of the public defence/non-defence of the thesis;
- the public defence of the thesis, preceded by its verification by the members of the support commission and finalized by the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

I consider that the IOSUD of "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has several mechanisms in order to assure that the academic training for each PhD students addresses „the learning outcomes”. Besides the doctoral research plan, which is signed at the beginning of the doctoral training period, the IOSUD has established an operational procedure for the doctoral students in order to be evaluated periodically and to present their research reports each year of their doctoral training.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

All PhD candidates benefit from the counselling/guidance of some functional guiding commissions. Thus, at the beginning of doctoral academic studies, a guiding commission is established for each PhD candidate, which supports the PhD supervisor and the PhD candidate, the commission being composed of three members, in the specialties closest to the field of doctoral studies (Annex no. 66 – guiding commissions for each doctoral year 2016-2020).

Before this commission, examinations are held, papers are presented, the doctoral thesis is presented for the preparing the defence. The guiding commission carries out its activities in accordance with the provisions contained in the Regulation of Doctoral Academic Studies. Thus, in accordance with art. 43 of the Regulation: “(2) In order to ensure a coherent scientific background of the PhD candidate, the PhD supervisor approves the plan of the doctoral thesis and plans, within the individual scientific research program, 3 oral presentations before of the PhD supervisor and the guiding commission (....). (3) The effective date of each presentation mentioned above is established by the PhD supervisor, following the receipt of a written request from the PhD candidate. The period between two consecutive presentations is at most 12 months. The PhD supervisor cannot be absent from any presentation, and at least 2 members from the guiding commission must be present at each presentation. (4) After each presentation, a report shall be drawn up in which the main observations and recommendations made by the PhD supervisor and the members of the guiding commission and the grade obtained shall be recorded. A copy of the minutes, signed by the PhD supervisor and the members of the guiding commission who were present is then submitted to the secretariat of the Doctoral School.

The fact that PhD candidates benefit from the guidance/counselling of the guiding commissions also results from the following provisions of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies:

- art. 44 para. (1) let. c): the PhD candidate violates the obligation to make, at least once every 12 months, a presentation of the progress of the scientific research programme before the guiding commission and the PhD supervisor, by elaborating the research report;
- art. 44 para. (2): The expulsion is ordered by rector's decision, at the proposal of the PhD supervisor, with the approval of the doctoral school council. For the cases of expulsion provided in let. a)-e), g)-j) the report prepared by the PhD supervisor and the guiding commission is required.
- art. 47 para. (4): When the PhD supervisor decides to continue the procedures, the PhD candidate submits a printed copy of the doctoral thesis to the PhD supervisor(s) and the members of the guiding commission, for a specialized evaluation.
- art. 47 para. (5): The doctoral thesis is presented in the guiding commission; after this preliminary defence, which may be public, the PhD supervisor and the guiding commission decide on the official submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defence; the acceptance report of the PhD supervisor and the agreement of the members of the guiding commission are included in the “doctoral file”.

Article 47 para. (6): If violations of good conduct in research are identified, including plagiarism of results or publications of other authors, making up of results or replacement of results with fictitious data, in the evaluation of the thesis by the PhD supervisor or guiding commission, public defence agreement shall not be obtained

I consider that there are enough proofs that during the doctoral training each PhD student of the Doctoral School of Law is benefiting from the counselling and guidance of a specific doctoral guidance commission, which is created according to the internal legal framework of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The commissions guiding PhD candidates are made up of teachers from the fields closest related to the field of doctoral studies for each candidate.

The members of the guiding commissions may participate in the guiding activities, and this presence is also useful for the members of the commissions for their preparation, in order to coordinate individual or group research activities, respectively to train them as future PhD supervisors.

According to the data available on Annex no 66, if it is taken into account the number of the PhD students enrolled for the first time in the doctoral programme of Law and the number of doctoral supervisors that made up each commission providing doctoral guidance for each such student, it may be affirmed that the ratio between the number of PhD students and the number of teaching staff or researchers providing doctoral guidance is much lower than 3:1. It is not possible to make a more comprehensive assessment, for example taking into account all the PhD students enrolled for year academic year of the period 2015-2020.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As a general description of the analysis of this criterion, it is noted that the Doctoral School of Law at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a clear and solid strategy regarding 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.

It is considered that the PhD students succeed in capitalizing on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, products and service orders, as demonstrated by the assessment of the following two indicators, that have been fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. *For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.*

The PhD candidates of the Doctoral School of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University who completed their studies and defended their doctoral theses made valuable works, some of them being impact articles, others being the theses themselves that were published by upmarket publishing houses in the country.

The Self-assessment report prepared by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains details of the relevant papers published by 29 of the PhD candidates under the supervision of Professor Gabriel and who have completed their studies by publicly defending their theses. The tables from pp. 59-63 of this report has not been introduced in my Evaluation Report as I am considering it not to be necessary in this regard.

As my evaluation has been conducted online due to the pandemic caused by the COVID-19, it has not been possible for me to select 5 of these papers in order to assess on the originality and relevance of the academic research conducted. But, the members of the evaluation mission, who have personally visited in situ this University on 17 November 2021, have told me during our online meeting on 18 November 2021 that this kind of information has been shown to them by the evaluated University. Therefore, I consider that there are strong evidences in order to assess this performance indicator as being fulfilled.

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 within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

The scientific research carried out during the doctoral studies is materialized by PhD candidates by participating in scientific seminars, round tables, national and international scientific conferences and publishing the results of research in specialized publications, the University facilitating for PhD candidates capitalization on the results through the annual scientific conference it organizes and through the two journals that appear, one under the exclusive auspices of the University, and the second also at the initiative of the University, journals that are listed and recorded in four international databases recognized as valuable in Annex no. 24 of Order no. 6129/2016 of the Ministry of Education.

We mention, in context, the fact that according to the Doctoral Academic Studies Agreement concluded between IOSUD “Nicolae Titulescu” from Bucharest and PhD candidates, the latter have the obligation to attend the International Conference Challenges of the Knowledge Society (CKS), in order to capitalize on the results of doctoral studies, and that the participation in international conferences and the publication of the results in publications and/or foreign with international recognition represent the criterion of evaluation of the activity during the doctoral internship and of the final grade awarded for the public defence of the thesis.

The research and publishing activity of PhD candidates during the internship is reported annually on the CESUNT platform and becomes public by posting the research reports on the University’s website.

We mention that the PhD candidates of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest attended also other international and national conferences, among which we mention:

- Annual Ius Commune Conference in 2018 of the University of Maastricht in collaboration with the University of Antwerp, PhD candidate George Irimescu (Annex no. 67);
- Annual Ius Commune Conference from 2020 of the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands), PhD candidate George Irimescu (Annex no. 68);
- International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary (Annex no. 69, Programme of Conference and doctoral student participation);
- Biennial International Conference, Ninth Edition, organized by the Faculty of Law within the West University of Timișoara and the European Centre for Legal Studies and Research Timișoara (Annex no. 70, Conference Program);
- “Teaching Intellectual Property to the Youth”, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization in partnership with the Romanian Copyright Office, the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and the Scientific Association for Intellectual Property Law and the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest
- Doctoral School (Annex no. 71, Conference programme);
- Simplificarea – imperativ al modernizării și ameliorării calității dreptului 2015, organized by the Institute of Legal Research (2015);

We note, however, that PhD candidates participated in international conferences organized by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and published works in the journals *Lex et Scientia* sau *Revista Română de Dreptul Proprietății Intelectuale*, which are listed and recorded in international databases.

Taking into account the PhD students’ obligations during their doctoral studies to publish and actively participate to scientific abroad as well as the high dynamism of this University to edit prestigious legal journals both in Romanian and in English, I may affirm that the ratio has been considerably higher than 1.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As a general presentation of this standard, the finding is that the Doctoral School of Law fulfills this standard as both indicators has been fulfilled as shown by the assessment made below.

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.

This criterion is met, as it appears from the report of the referees/commissions for public defence by the PhD candidates, from below:

Name of PhD candidate	Date of defence	PhD supervisor	Members of the commission
Axente Monica	23.10.2015	Nicolae Popa	Emil Moleuș PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University),

			Ion Craovan, PhD Univ. Prof. (George Bariju University), Ioan Muraru, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Hanciu Oana	05.10.2015	Raluca Bepteliu	Dumitra Popescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (Romanian Academy), Irina Zlatescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (SNSPA), Nicolae Pops, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Stavoiu Radu	24.10.2015	Vasile Dobrinou	Nicolae Volenciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Anastasiu Criq, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Bogdan Micu, PhD Lecturer (UNT)
Şaguna Monica Fighiroaie	16.12.2015	Augustin Fucera	Raluca Bepteliu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT), Smerenda Angheni, PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University), Dragoş Alexandru Sărau, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB)
Circa Honorius	24.06.2016	Nicolae Pops	PhD Univ. Prof. Nicoleta Diaconu (Spiru Haret University), PhD Lecturer Roxana Popescu (D. Cantemir University), PhD Univ. Prof. Augustin Fucera (UNT)
Tomescu Ghenea Viorel	30.09.2016	Augustin Fucera	Dumitra Popescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (ICJ), Raluca Miha Bepteliu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT), Roxana Popescu, PhD Lecturer

Iacob Oana	22.10.2016	Raluca Bepteliu	Dumitra Popescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (ICJ), Irina Zlatescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (SNSPA), Augustin Fucera, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Iugan Andrei Viorel	22.10.2016	Vasile Dobrinou	Nicolae Volenciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Alexandru Boro, PhD Univ. Prof. (UTM), Mirena Damasciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Geamănu Radu	06.05.2017	Ioan Chiş	Nicolae Volenciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Andrei Zărafu, PhD Lecturer (UB), Mihai Hotca, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Chilăia Gabriela	26.11.2016	Ioan Chiş	Nicolae Volenciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Andrei Zărafu, PhD Lecturer (UB), Mirena Damasciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Nicolescu Alin sorin	25.11.2017	Vasile Dobrinou	Alexandru Boro, Prof. PhD (UTM), Norel Neagu, PhD Lecturer (Univ. Romano - Americană), Mihai Hotca, Prof. PhD (UNT)
Savu Mariana	21.12.2017	Viorel Roş	Teodor Bodonş, PhD Univ. Prof. (Lucian Blaga University from Sibiu), Edmond Gabriel Ottescu, PhD

			Univ. Prof. (Craiova University), Vasile Nemes, PhD Lecturer (UNT)
Sterescu (Theodor) Delia Narcisa	14.12.2017	Gabriel Boroi	Traian Briciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Ioana Nicolae, PhD Univ. Prof. (Transilvania University from Bragov), Viorel Roş, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Voitagescu Dan Julian	14.12.2017	Raluca Bejelita	Dumitra Popescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (Romanian Academy Inst.), Irina Zlătescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (SNSPA), Beatrice Onica Jarka, PhD Lecturer (UNT)
Cartemir (Cartemir- Stoica) Nadia Claudia	20.01.2018	Ion Neagu	Carmen Paraschiv, PhD Univ. Prof. (UTM), Andrei Zărnău, PhD Lecturer (UB), Miocă Damaschin, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Hidolitu Adrian	23.12.2017	Vasile Dobrinioiu	Noril Neagu, PhD Lecturer (Romanian - American University), Ioan Molnar, PhD Lecturer (Dimitrie Cantemir University), Traian Dima, PhD Univ. Prof.
Alecu (Voichici) Eugenia	10.05.2018	Stanciu Căpămaru	Smaranda Angheni, PhD Univ. Prof. (UTM), Gheorghe Piperea, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Vasile Nemes, PhD Lecturer (UNT)

Pupăza Andrei Lucian	26.05.2018	Vasile Dobrinioiu	Alexandru Boroi, PhD Univ. Prof. (UTM), Noril Neagu, PhD Lecturer (Romanian - American University), Miocă Damaschin, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Tamaş (Damaschin) Eniko	24.03.2018	Gabriel Boroi	Ioana Nicolae, PhD Univ. Prof. (Transilvania University), Roxana Malefi, PhD Lecturer (Transilvania University), Viorel Roş, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Gema (Dimitriu) Ioana Mihaela	26.09.2018	Augustin Fierres	Dumitra Popescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (ICJ), Roxana Popescu, PhD Lecturer (D. Cantemir University), Nicolae Popa, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT)
Buşcă (Onişor) Amelia Raluca	18.12.2018	Stanciu Căpămaru	Lucian Bercea, PhD Univ. Prof. (Univ. de Vest of Timişoara), Radu Catănel, PhD Univ. Prof. (Babeş-Bolyai University from Cluj Napoca), Vasile Nemes, PhD Lecturer (UNT)
Dumitrăscu Ramona Anca Denisa	25.05.2019	Viorel Roş	Edmond Gabriel Ottescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (Craiova University), Adrian Circa, PhD Lecturer (“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu), Paul Popovici, PhD Lecturer (Universitatea Creştină “Dimitrie Cantemir” of Cluj- Napoca).

Dumitru Cornelia	21.12.2019	Viorel Roş	Edmond Gabriel Olteanu, Prof. (Craiova University), Teodor Bodoasca, PhD Univ. Prof. (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), Gheorghe Gheorghiu, PhD Lecturer (Valahia University of Târgovişte).
Neagu Constantin Marc	21.03.2020	Ioan Chiş	Anastasia Crişu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Carmen Paraschiv, PhD Univ. Prof. (UTM), Mihai Holca, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNT).
Băncilă Andrei Dorin	20.06.2020	Ioan Chiş	Georgeta Ghebreu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Andrei Zărfău, PhD Lecturer (UB), Mirela Gorunescu, PhD Lecturer (UNT).
Glăşteanu (Ştefan) Laurenţia Florentina	25.07.2020	Ioan Chiş	Vladimir Beliş, PhD Univ. Prof. ("Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest), Marius Popa, PhD Lecturer ("Ovidius" University from Constanţa), Bogdan Micu, PhD Lecturer (UNT).
Tomescu Raluca- Antonietta	26.06.2020	Stanciu Clăpăreanu/Viorel Roş	Smaranda Angheni, PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University), Lucian Bercea, PhD Univ. Prof. (West University of Timisoara), Vasile Nemeş, PhD Lecturer (UNT).
Bocşan Gheorghe	26.09.2020	Augustin Fucsea	Nicolae Popa, PhD Univ. Prof. (UNIVNT), Stefan Deaconu, PhD Univ. Prof. (UB), Andrei Zărfău, PhD Lecturer (UB).

As shown by this table contained by the pp. 64-70 of the Self-assessment Report prepared by the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest, the number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD, has not exceeded two in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in 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 total number of theses defended in the period 2015-2020 was 29, and for their evaluation were requested and 30 professors participated as external referees in the commissions for public defence of doctoral theses, who participated 1-5 times as referees, according to the table below.

No.	External referee	Number of participations	Ratio
1.	Danitra Popescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (Romanian Academy)	5	0.172
2.	Andrei Zarnău, Univ. Lecturer (University of Bucharest)	5	0.172
3.	Nicolae Volonciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Bucharest)	4	0.137
4.	Smaranda Angheni, PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest)	3	0.103
5.	Irina Zlătescu, PhD Univ. Prof. (SNSPA)	3	0.103
6.	Roxana Popescu, PhD Lecturer	3	0.103
7.	Alexandru Borsi, PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest)	3	0.103
8.	Norel Neagu, PhD Lecturer (Romanian-American University)	3	0.103
9.	Edmond G. Olteanu, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Craiova)	3	0.103
10.	Anastasiu Crișu, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Bucharest)	2	0.068
11.	Texdor Bodoșcă, PhD Univ. Prof. („Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu)	2	0.068
12.	Ioana Nicolae, PhD Univ. Prof. (Transilvania University of Brașov)	2	0.068
13.	Carmen Paraschiv, PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest)	2	0.068
14.	Lucian Beroea, PhD Univ. Prof.	2	0.068
15.	Emil Molcuț, PhD Univ. Prof. (Titu Maiorescu University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
16.	Ion Craiovan, PhD Univ. Prof. (George Barițiu University of Brașov)	1	0.034
17.	Dragoș Alexandru Sitaru, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
18.	Nicoleta Diaconu, PhD Univ. Prof. (Spiru Haret University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
19.	Trăian Briciu, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
20.	Ioan Molnar, PhD Lecturer (Dimitrie Cantemir University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
21.	Gheorghe Piperca, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
22.	Roxana Malefi, PhD Lecturer (Transilvania University of Brașov)	1	0.034
23.	Radu N. Catană, PhD Univ. Prof. (Babeș Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca)	1	0.034
24.	Adrian Circa, PhD Lecturer („Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu)	1	0.034
25.	Paul Popovici, PhD Lecturer (Dimitrie Cantemir University of Cluj-Napoca)	1	0.034
26.	Gheorghe Gheorghiu, PhD Lecturer (Valahia University of Târgoviște)	1	0.034
27.	Georgeta Ghebre, PhD Univ. Prof. (University of Bucharest)	1	0.034
28.	Vladimir Belig, PhD Univ. Prof. (Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy)	1	0.034
29.	Marius Pops, PhD Lecturer (Ovidius University of Constanța)	1	0.034
30.	Ștefan Descomu, PhD Univ. Prof.	1	0.034

According to the information contained by pp. 70-72 of the Self-assessment Report prepared by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, 30 specialists coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized have participated to the the public defense of the 29 PhD theses that has taken place during the evaluated period. In addition, the ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school has been considerably lower than 0.3.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The assesment of the domain dedicated to the quality management of the Doctoral School of Law has been carried out in accordance with the Romanian legislation and ARACIS standards. The facts, the documents provided by the ARACIS and the Doctoral School of Law within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest (before and during the evaluation mission), and also the online evaluation meetings have been taken into consideration for this domain analysis.

As a general description of the assessment made, the finding is that the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest meets all the conditions required on its quality management for the doctoral studies, as it results from the analysis of the following criteria, standards and indicators.

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

As a general description of the analysis of this criterion, it is noted that the Doctoral School of Law count on an internal quality assurance system that is periodically implemented.

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 Doctoral School of Law has an institutional framework and procedures in place as well as relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance of its doctoral activity, as shown by the assessment of the following 2 indicators that have been fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain 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 IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:

(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;

IOSUD has developed and periodically applies an internal evaluation and monitoring procedure for the evolution of doctoral schools. “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest periodically conducts the

internal institutional evaluation, based on the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the quality assurance commission.

Among the evaluated criteria are:

- (iii) the scientific activity of PhD supervisors;
- (iv) the infrastructure and logistics necessary for carrying out the research activity;
- (v) the regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized;
- (vi) social and academic support services (including participation in various events, publication of articles) and counselling provided to PhD candidates.

IOSUD has developed and periodically applies a procedure for evaluation and internal monitoring of the activity within the Doctoral School. “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest periodically conducts the internal institutional evaluation, based on the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the quality assurance commission and the Methodology regarding the evaluation of teachers and research staff.

According to the Regulation of the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance The tasks of the quality monitoring commission in higher education at university level are to monitor, evaluate and propose appropriate measures to improve the quality level of teaching and system activities in UNT. The activities subject to the monitoring process are teaching, bachelor's, master's and doctoral activities.

The evaluation considers the way of admission and the observance of the principles/rules, the study programmes, the organization of the courses, the teaching strategy/the resources used, etc.

The self-assessment reports are posted on the IOSUD website, www.univnt.ro, Section “Quality Assurance”, subsection Rector's report on the state of the university, and these reports contain information regarding the Doctoral School, among which we list: the situation of the study programmes/specializations, the situation of enrolled students, the situation of university staff, the situation of research activities by calendar years, the situation of compliance with university ethics and ethics of research activities, the situation of professional insertion of graduates from previous promotions, etc.

Taking into account all the facts and documents facilitated by the ARACIS and the Doctoral School of Law from “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, I may consider that this Doctoral School has an adequate evaluation process and internal quality assurance system of the scientific work of its doctoral supervisors.

(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;

On the basis of the facts and documents facilitated by the ARACIS, the website of this Doctoral School of Law as well as the opinions expressed by the members of the evaluation team in our meeting on 18 November 2021 (based on the in situ visit at this Doctoral School on 17 November 2021), I consider that PhD students have the necessary infrastructure and logistics in order to carry out their respective doctoral research.

I consider that the existence of the Centre of Legal, Economics and Socio-Administrative Studies (in Romanian, C.S.J.E.S.A) within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest (<http://csjesa.univnt.ro/acasa.html>) has given the PhD students the possibility to have access to a solid legal specialization in different fields. At the same time, it has created strong synergies for teaching and doctoral research.

(c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;

Taking into account the different sources I have analysed in order to prepare this report, I consider that the Doctoral School of Law from “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has adopted and implemented specific procedures and subsequent rules regarding doctoral studies in Law.

d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;

I consider that there is a large and already consolidated activity of doctoral students in Law. In this regard, many example may be named: participation to national and international conferences; participation with book chapters to relevant publications in their field of study; active participation to the activities of the Centre of Legal, Economics and Socio-Administrative Studies (C.S.J.E.S.A.); etc.

e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;

I consider that there is a training program based on advanced academic studies of PhD students at the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

There are extensive evidences that the PhD students of the Doctoral School of Law at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest can benefit from social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling. During my meetings on 15, 16 and 18 November 2021, I have had the opportunity to see the strong and serious commitment of the doctoral supervisors with the task to train new PhDs and give them the opportunity to teach at the Faculty of Law of this prestigious University.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

In order to monitor the level of student satisfaction with the quality of educational services provided by the institution, the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance has developed a form for evaluating, by



students, the activity of teachers, approved by the University Senate. The answers given to the questions in this questionnaire are centralized, analysed and lead to the improvement of the quality of the teaching act.

PhD supervisors are directly and straight aware of the needs of PhD candidates in discussions with them during the doctoral internship, respectively on the occasion of meetings during courses in the in-depth study programme and those of preparation and drawing out of papers and doctoral works that the PhD candidates use to participate in conferences, doctoral theses, all of which are conducted under the guidance and control of coordinators and guiding commissions and evaluated each time by professors and committees.

The preparation of papers and works and participation in conferences are permanent obligations for PhD candidates during the doctoral internship, so that they have the opportunity to make their needs known constantly.

The needs of PhD candidates are expressed in writing and brought to the attention of the supervising professors and through the periodic reports of the PhD candidates, reports in which the PhD candidates present their achievements and expose their needs in the preparation process.

The identified needs of the students are capitalized by procuring materials necessary for studies and research activity, especially by choosing the in-depth study disciplines, procurement of papers, access to databases.

Regarding the degree of satisfaction/dissatisfaction of PhD candidates for the quality of studies and the results obtained, they are expressed by PhD candidates, usually at the end of their studies, but they have the opportunity to make them known to the Doctoral School Council who can order the measures necessary to remedy the deficiencies reported in accordance with the Regulation on organization and operation and the provisions of art. 29 of the Code of doctoral academic studies.

Thus, at the request of a PhD candidate for whom the change of PhD supervisor was initially imposed for objective reasons (the objective reason being the termination of the quality of supervisor), the change of the second PhD supervisor was admitted in favour of the one considered by the applicant to be the closest to the scope of the thesis and to their needs (Annex no. 33), grounded request to replace the PhD supervisor and (Annex no. 34), Decision of the Doctoral School Council to replace the PhD supervisor at the grounded request of the PhD candidate).

During several of the meetings I have participated to on 15 and 16 November 2021, I have had the opportunity to note that the Doctoral School of Law has implemented the necessary mechanisms in order to get feedback from its PhD students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

It is evidence that there is transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources within the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. This may be assessed according to the criteria, standards and indicators analysed below.

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

The Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Law has implemented an accurate system in order to provide information of interest to the PhD students as well as to future PhD candidates. Moreover, public interest information is available for electronic format consultation. This standard has been assessed on the basis of the indicator mentioned below, which has been fulfilled.

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;

On the University’s website, the DOCTORATE section, the documents listed below are published and which, are accessible for students:

- (i) Regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral academic studies (Annex no. 25);
- (ii) The Admission Regulations, which is Annex no. 1 to the aforementioned Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral academic studies (Annex no. 25/1);
- (iii) The standard contract for doctoral studies, which contains the data necessary for concluding the individual contract with each PhD candidate individually (Annex no. 26);
- (iv) Regulations for the completion of studies including the procedure for the public defence of the thesis, which is Annex No. 2 to the Regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral academic studies (Annex no. 25/2);
- (v) The content of the training programmes based on advanced university studies are established by the PhD supervisor together with each student and are part of the doctoral file of each PhD candidate;
- (vi) The academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research topics of the PhD supervisors in the school, as well as their institutional contact details. The doctoral fields, the doctoral professors, their CVs and the list of the main papers published by them are posted on the University’s website;
- (vii) The information, data and rules of the standards for the elaboration of doctoral theses are included in the “Guide for writing doctoral theses” which is an annex to the regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral academic studies (Annex no. 25/3);
- (viii) Information on opportunities for PhD candidates aimed at attending conferences, publishing articles, awarding scholarships, etc. are published in the form of announcements on the University’s website, PhD candidates having the opportunity to learn about them and take steps necessary to exploit opportunities;

(ix) Links to abstracts of doctoral theses that follow to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time, location where they will be defended, at least 20 days prior to the defence (Annex no. 72, examples of links to the abstracts of some doctoral theses).

The list of PhD candidates of the Doctoral School, as well as their contact details are personal data that cannot be published without the express consent of the PhD candidate. The record of PhD candidates, their contact details, their evolution during the doctoral internship (from admission and enrolment, to the termination of the quality of PhD candidate) are kept by the secretariat of the Doctoral School in the file of each of them. PhD supervisors for students in coordination, or for those for whom they carry out teaching activities, as well as the members of the Doctoral School Council, within the limits of the decision-making needs concerning them, also have access to the data regarding the activity of PhD candidates and their files.

All the information related to this aspect of the performance indicator C.2.1.1 is available on the website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest in the part dedicated to doctoral studies (<https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/doctorat/>).

(b) the admission regulation;

The website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains the rules approved for the admission regulation to the Doctoral School of Law.

(c) the doctoral studies contract;

I have observed a relevant transparency from “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest in relation to all the aspects on doctoral studies. The website of the University (www.univnt.ro) is a tool in this regard.

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

The website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains detailed regulation on the procedure for the public presentation of each PhD Thesis.

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

There is detailed information regarding the content of the training program based on advanced academic studies, which is available for the public at large.

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

The academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the doctoral supervisors within each domain of the Doctoral School of Law, as well as their institutional contact data have been published on the website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

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

Although this aspect could be improved, I have observed the conviction of this University to protect personal data of its PhD students. Therefore, this aspect of the performance indicator C.2.1.1. should be assessed taken into account the Romanian legislation on personal data protection.

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

The website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains detailed information regarding the standards to be developed during the doctoral studies.

- (i) *links to the doctoral theses’ 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.*

The “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest makes available the doctoral theses’ summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented. This information is usually made publicly well in advance before the presentation of the PhD thesis.

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.

The IOSUD/Doctoral School of Law provides its PhD students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies, as shown by the analysis of the following 3 indicators. Each indicator has been fulfilled.

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 their thesis.

“Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest had a contract for access to the Lexis Nexis database, as it results from x Annex no. 73. As of 2021, the University has a contract for access to the Springer database.

PhD candidates also have access to the databases of the European Court of Justice and the General Court, as well as those of the European Court of Human Rights, which can be accessed from computers at the disposal of PhD candidates which is one of the most used databases in higher legal and economic education, available to over 1,800 libraries and which is accessed and provides the necessary information in the activities of study, research and in the preparation of works that serve over 9 million students and faculties. It is a standard element in many research and information programmes.

I consider that all the PhD students have free access to more than one platform providing academic databases, which are relevant to the doctoral studies in Law.

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.*

Each PhD candidate has access, upon request and with the consent of the PhD supervisor, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific creations, at any time during the elaboration of the doctoral thesis. For this purpose, the University had a permanent contract with a provider of electronic document comparison services, all doctoral theses defended since 2016 being subject to such verification.

Currently, the University has a contract concluded with the internet service provider sistemantiplagiat.ro, the purpose of this contract being “the acquisition by the University of the electronic document comparison service, by using the anti-plagiarism system (Annex no. 28 – contract with the provider of program/service of checking of the similarities).

The access to this verification is made through a web browser by accessing the link: <http://www.sistemantiplagiat.ro>. After uploading the web page, a username and password are entered to access the University account.

The PhD candidates have access to the anti-plagiarism verification system at any time, but, as a rule, the verification was requested by the coordinating professor, following the discussions or at the request of the PhD candidate. (Annex no. 29/1 – Report of similarities requested by the PhD candidate A. M. M. and the PhD supervisor in the period of elaboration of the thesis by the PhD candidate). The similarity check was performed at the direct request of the PhD candidate A.L. for chapters of the thesis in progress (Annex no. 29/2 Report of similarities requested by PhD candidate A. L.).

There are enough evidences in order to affirm that each PhD student has access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works. There are specific rules adopted by this University in this field.

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.*

Given the specifics of the Doctoral School of our University, respectively the field of LAW, the establishment of scientific laboratories is not justified. PhD candidates have access, and their needs can be met on account of this access, to the library's book fund, library computers, Doctoral School room

computers and specialized book fund for the Doctoral School, to unlimited accessible resources in the virtual space, there are no limits regarding the use of the internet.

I consider that all the PhD students of the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest have access to diverse facilities depending on their specialization within the Doctoral School. All the evidences provided for this evaluation mission as well as the online meetings (especially the ones scheduled for Monday, 15 November 2021, and Tuesday, 16 November 2021, have given me the opportunity to note that the students of this Doctoral School can benefit from the activities of the Centre of Legal, Economics and Socio-Administrative Studies (C.S.J.E.S.A)) and including the personal libraries of their doctoral supervisors. There is a strong commitment of doctoral supervisors in this regard.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

As a general description of the analysis of the criterion, it is noted that the Doctoral School of Law at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has established and developed a relevant policy of internationalization of its doctoral activities.

Standard C.3.1. There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.

It is assessed that there is a strategy in place, which is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies. This assessment is based on 3 indicators: two of them have been fulfilled by this Doctoral School of Law, and the third one has been fulfilled only partially.

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.

“Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has cooperation agreements (x Annexes no. 74-84 - cooperation agreements) with:

- (1) Instituto Politecnico Do Cavado E Do Ave – Barcelos, Portugal (Annex no. 74).
- (2) Panteion University of Social and Political Science, Athens, Greece (Annex no. 75).
- (3) University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain (Annex no. 76).
- (4) University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary (Annex no. 77).
- (5) Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey (Annex no. 78).
- (6) Galatasaray University, Istanbul, Turkey (Annex no. 79).
- (7) University of Teramo, Teramo, Italy (Annex no. 80);
- (8) Universitatea from Sofia, Bulgaria (Annex no. 81);

- (9) *University of Ruse Angel Kanchev, Ruse, Bulgaria*(Annex no. 82):
- (10) *Jaume I University, Castellon de la Plana, Spain* (Annex no. 83);
- (11) *University Toulouse 1 Capitole, Toulouse, France* (Annex no. 84).
- (12) *University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, Co-supervised doctoral agreement for PhD candidate George Mihai Irimescu* (Annex no. 85).

Carrying out training internships at universities or in foreign public institutions is difficult given that the “Nicolae Titulescu” University does not receive funds from the budget, although it is entitled to it and students bear the costs of doctoral studies. Despite this fact, PhD candidates of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University have done internships abroad, participated in international conferences, or as guests of foreign universities, among those who have stood out in a special manner being:

- (1) Gheorghe Bocşan – with training internships at (i) the Academy of European Law and (ii) the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, (Annex no. 86, PhD candidate’s CV);
- (2) Andreea Livădariu – internship at the General Court of the European Union (Annex no. 87 - letter of acceptance for an internship at the General Court of the European Union)
- (3) Andreea Livădariu – WIPO Academy online course (Annex no. 88 – diploma of graduation of WIPO Academy courses).
- (4) Andreea Livădariu, appointment as arbitrator of the Mediation Centre within the World Intellectual Property Organization (Annex no. 89 - Appointment as WIPO/WIPO arbitrator).
- (5) Andreea Livădariu participation in the conference of PhD candidates organized by the University of Miskolc with graphic presentation (power-point) (Annex no. 90).
- (6) Andreea Livădariu participation as visiting professor to Kadir Has University of Istanbul (Annex no. 91).
- (7) Andreea Livădariu participation as a visiting professor to Angel Kanchev University from Ruse (Annex no. 92).
- (8) George Mihai Irimescu PhD in co-supervision with the University of Maastricht (Annex no. 85 - Co-supervision agreement);
- (9) George Mihai Irimescu participation as visiting professor to University of Kadir Has from Istanbul (Annex no. 93);
- (10) George Mihai Irimescu participation as a visiting professor to the Angel Kanchev University, Ruse (x Annex no. 94).
- (11) Ana Maria Marinescu – Participation as an expert (senior) in the field of copyright and related rights, respectively in collective management in the project funded by the European Commission for Turkey “Strengthening the Turkish Copyright System with a Focus on Fostering Creative and Copyright Based Industries” (“Telif Haklarına Dayalı ve Kreatif Endüstrilerin Teşvik Edilmesi Odaklı Olarak Türkiye Telif Hakları Sisteminin Güçlendirilmesi AB Eşleştirme Projesi”), UE Twinning Project, TR 13 IB OT 01 (Ankara/Istanbul –Turcia). The project took place in the period 2016-2018), carrying out 10 missions (lasting between 7-21 days) (Annex 95 –link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1435520588227&do=publi.detPUB&aoref=137105&userlanguage=en>).
- (12) Ana Maria Marinescu – participation with presentation at the Sub-regional Seminar “Predarea Proprietății Intellectuale către Tineri” (Sub-regional Seminar on aching Intellectual

Property to the Youth”, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the Office Romanian Institute for Copyright (ORDA), the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), the Ministry of National Education (MEN), the Romanian-American University (URA) and Asociația Științifică de Dreptul Proprietății Intelectuale (translated name: Scientific Association for Intellectual Property Law) (ASDPI), with the support of “Nicolae Titulescu” University from Bucharest - Doctoral School, Revistei Române de Dreptul Proprietății Intelectuale (translated name: Romanian Journal of Intellectual Property Law) (RRDPI) and Uniunea Producătorilor de Film și Audiovizual din România – Patronatul Societăților de Producție din Cinematografie și Televiziune (UPFAR/PSPCT) (translated name: Romanian Union of Film and Audio-visual Producers - Patronage of Cinematography and Television Production Companies) (UPFAR/PSPCT) and presenting „Etapele cercetării științifice pentru profesorii de liceu (translated name: Stages of the scientific research for high-school teachers)”, 9-10 May 2017, Bucharest – attendance certificate (Annex no. 96 – Link https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=43644

- (13) Ana Maria Marinescu - National expert for drafting the answers to the questionnaire “Mapping of national remedies against online piracy of sport content”, December 2020 - January 2021, conducted by the European Audiovisual Observatory at the request of the European Commission (Annex no. 97 – Link <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210517IPR04117/tackling-online-piracy-of-live-sporting-events>
- (14) Ana Maria Marinescu – participation in the Regional Conference “Intellectual Property (IP) in the Digital Economy for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)”, organized by WIPO in cooperation with ORDA, OSIM and the Romanian-American University of Bucharest, held between 21-22 September 2017 (Annex no. 98 – Link <https://osim.ro/despre-osim/evenimente/evenimente-2017/conferinta-sub-regionala-intellectual-property-ip-digital-economy-small-medium-sized-enterprises-smes>
- (15) Ana Maria Marinescu - attendance to the Second Regional Conference “Intellectual Property (IP) in the Digital Economy for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)”, organized by WIPO in cooperation with ORDA, OSIM and the Romanian- American University of Bucharest, held between 21-22 September 2016 (Annex no. 99 – PhD candidate CV).
- (16) Adrian Hărățău, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates „Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article “The Impact of Entering into Force of the New Criminal Code on the Offence of International Trafficking of Risk Drugs Participation in the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary (Annex no. 69).
- (17) Lamya-Diana Hărățău, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article “Self-Defense in Special Situations. (Annex no. 69).
- (18) Andrei Lucian Pușcașu, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article Legal framework of educational measures involving non-deprivation of liberty in Romanian criminal law. (Annex no. 69)
- (19) Radu Slăvoiu, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article Privacy in the Romanian Criminal Law. (Annex no. 69)
- (20) Andreea Livădariu, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary, with the article The Protection of Notorious and Reputed Trademarks According to Romanian and Community Trademark Law. (Annex no. 69)

- (21) Ana Maria Marinescu, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary, with the article EU Directives in the field of copyright and related rights. (Annex no. 69)
- (22) Ioana Mihaela Dimitriu, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary, with the article (Ir)Relevance of EU law in two cases with international stake: Micula versus Romania and Electrabel versus Hungary. (Annex no. 69)
- (23) Sorana Pop, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article, Legal Regime of Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles at International, Regional and National Level. (Annex no. 69)
- (24) Ghenea-Viorel Tomescu, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article “EU in crisis: current challenges in the area of CFSP” – legal perspective. (Annex no. 69)
- (25) Matei Dănilă, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article “Insurance of Assets regulated By Special Law Mandatory Home Insurance In Romanian Law”. (Annex no. 69)
- (26) Edgar Laurențiu Dumbravă, attendance to the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary with the article “Release of Minors”. (Annex no. 69)
- (27) Other conferences and participations - PhD candidates had in the period 2016- 2020 a significant number of participation in conferences. Thus, they participated in conferences: in 2016 - 7 PhD candidates, in 2017 - 16 PhD candidates, in 2018 - 27 PhD candidates, in 2019, - 13 PhD candidates, in the year 2020, - 31 PhD candidates (Annex no. 54 – 55 – 56 – 57 - 58).

Taking into account all the documents and facts provided by the ARACIS and the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, as well as the information I have gathered during the online meetings scheduled on 15 and 16 November 2021, I may affirm that this Doctoral School has a specific strategy on internationalization. In relation to this, it should be mentioned that on 16 July 2020 this University has adopted its Strategy of internationalization for the period 2020-2024. Moreover, this University has signed different Erasmus agreements and an agreement for joint supervision of PhD thesis with the University of Maastricht. I am convinced that this work dynamic will also be followed in the future and even at a higher intensity.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

Within the evaluated field of studies, it is supported, including financially, the organization of doctorates in international co-supervision, respectively the invitation of first- rate experts to have courses/lectures for PhD candidates.

On 22 January 2018, an Agreement was concluded between the University of Maastricht and IOSUD “Nicolae Titulescu” in Bucharest for the organization of a co- supervised doctorate - respectively of PhD candidate George Mihai Irimescu (Intellectual Property Law, entitled „Protecția mărcilor neînregistrate

(Protection of Unregistered Trademarks)”) (Annex no. 85 - IOSUD co-supervision agreement “Nicolae Titulescu” from Bucharest and the University of Maastricht).

They defended dissertations in front of the University’s teaching staff, members of the Doctoral School, PhD candidates and university students, leading personalities in the world of law upon awarding DHC degrees, such as:

- Mr. Francis Gurry, Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, in October 2016 (Annex no. 9);
- Mr. Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court of Justice of the European Union, in May 2019 (Annex no. 10).
- Professor Andre Lucas from France, probably the most important author of works in the field of copyright and related rights in France and Europe.

Taken into account the documents prepared for this evaluation mission and different meetings during the virtual meetings on 15 and 16 November 2021, I may affirm that the Doctoral School of Law is interested in an international cooperation between Universities through the signature of international co-tutelage agreements and in counting on international leading experts that are invited to deliver conference for doctoral students.

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 committees etc.).*

The scientific research activity of the teachers and PhD candidates of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest enjoys international recognition, the works of PhD supervisors and those made by PhD candidates being published in journals listed and recorded in international databases.

PhD candidates have participated in international conferences, have completed training courses, or are pursuing a doctorate under co-supervision. Foreign specialists also participated in the annual International Conference of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University and published their papers in the conference publications.

Among the actions that demonstrate the internationalization of doctoral studies, we mention:

- The award of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to two of the most prominent figures in law, namely Francis Gurry, Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization and Mr Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court of Justice of the European Union (Annex no. 9 and Annex no. 10);
- Inviting three judges of the General Court of the European Union to the Conference Challenges of The Knowledge Society of 2019, a conference organized under the Patronage of the Rotating Presidency of the European Union by Romania (Annex no. 46 – CKS International Conference Programme in 2019).

- Participation of a judge of the General Court of the European Union and of some Romanian judges from the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the Bucharest Court of Appeal in the Seminar organized by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest - Doctoral School at the Seminar “Mărcile, probleme noi (dar) și (mai) vechi în dreptul român și în dreptul Uniunii Europene”) (Annex no. 100 – Conference Programme of February 7, 2020, link [http://csjesa.univnt.ro/stiri/marcile, probleme noi si vechi in dreptul roman si dreptul ue-54.html](http://csjesa.univnt.ro/stiri/marcile,_probleme_noi_si_vechi_in_dreptul_roman_si_dreptul_ue-54.html)).
- Participation of PhD candidates of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest in the International Conference of PhD candidates “Via Scientiae Iuris”, Miskolc, Hungary (2015) – x Annex no. 69.
- Participation of PhD candidates Andreea Livădariu and George Mihai Irimescu, as visiting professor at four actions of the University of Turkey (Kadir Has University - 2 programmes) and Bulgaria (Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, Bulgaria - 2 programmes) x Annex no. 91, 92, 93, 94;
- Participation in the conference of the University of Maastricht (1 PhD candidate) – 2018 (Annex no. 67);
- Participation in the conference of the University of Maastricht (1 PhD candidate) – 2020 (Annex no. 68);
- Conducting a doctorate under co-supervision with the University of Maastricht in the field of intellectual property law (1 PhD candidate) – (Annex no. 85).
- Carrying out training internships at the European Union Court (1 PhD candidate) 2019-2020 (Annex no. 87).
- Carrying out training internships at the Academy of European Law (Annex no. 86);

I consider that the IOSUD of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has made relevant steps towards the internationalization of its activities for doctoral studies. However, this University should be more active in this field in order to attract international PhD students and to include international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees. It would help it in this regard as it is settled in Bucharest.

Recommendation: To include international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees and to attract international doctoral students.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic prestige of this Doctoral School of Law - Dynamism and strong involvement of the doctoral supervisors. - Strong legal background of the PhD students. - Consolidation of graduates of the Doctoral School as members of the teaching staff of this School. - Strong involvement of PhD students in the academic activities of the Doctoral School of Law. 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few manifestations of internationalization despite of being settled this University in Bucharest. - Inexistence of a doctoral supervisor in the field of public international law despite of the existence of a Faculty of International Relations and Administration and of a specialized field on international and European Union law within the Faculty of Law. - Degree of access to research grants involving PhD students
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being a consolidated Doctoral School of Law in the academic landscape of the European Union. - Being a dynamic University from the capital of one of the European Union's Member States. - Attractiveness of its doctoral offer of studies and their relevance to the national, European and international market. 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pandemic caused by COVID-19. - Potentially, there may be external threats arising from the environment in which it operates and carries out its activity. - Compatibility of doctoral research activity with the professional activity of PhD students in the field of law.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the</p>	Partially fulfilled	<p><i>Firstly, to continue with the election process for the post of CSUD director.</i></p> <p><i>Secondly, to adopt a specific methodology on the election of representatives for the PhD students in the CSD in Law.</i></p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>		<i>Thirdly, to regulate the necessary mechanisms in order to recognize the equivalence of the doctoral degrees obtained abroad</i>
2.	PI	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.	PI	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.	PI	A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.		
5.	IP	A.1.3.1. Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.	Partially fulfilled	<i>To apply for new research or institutional/human resources development grants in which doctoral students to be involved.</i>
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.	Fulfilled	
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount 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 (attending	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).		
8.	CPI	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.	CPI	A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	Fulfilled	
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
11.	PI	A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.	Fulfilled	
12.	PI *	A.3.1.4. The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.	Partially fulfilled	<i>To offer new places for doctoral studies taking into account the total PhD students already admitted by the Doctoral School of Law in previous years and who have not finished their PhD studies yet.</i>
13.	CPI	A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of:	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
14.	PI *	A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years	Fulfilled	
15.	PI *	B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.		
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled	
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	
18.	PI	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.	PI	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	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.		
20.	PI	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	
21.	PI	B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.	Fulfilled	
22.	CPI	B.2.1.5. For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.	Fulfilled	
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1. For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		significant original contributions in the respective domain		
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.	Fulfilled	
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	Fulfilled	
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in 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.	PI	C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>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 IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:</p> <p>a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;</p> <p>b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;</p> <p>c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;</p> <p>d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;</p> <p>e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;</p> <p>f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.</p>		
28.	PI *	<p>C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
29.	CPI	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 training 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' 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. 	Fulfilled	
30.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
31.	PI	<p>C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.		
32.	PI	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.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
34.	PI	C.3.1.2. In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
35.	PI	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.).	Partially fulfilled	<i>To include international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees and to attract international doctoral students.</i>

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has consolidated itself in the Romanian academic landscape of PhD studies as a solid and prestigious academic institution and has become a centre of reference for doctoral studies.

It is a young Doctoral School of Law, which has been able to take advantage of its human capital as well as to attract PhD students with an outstanding legal background.

General recommendations:

1. To consolidate and diversify the strategy of the Doctoral School of Law for gathering information on the quality of the doctoral activities carried out.
2. To improve the quantity and quality of the information uploaded on the website of the Doctoral School of Law.
3. To work on the indexation of the legal journals edited by this University (*Challenges of the Knowledge Society*, *LexetScietia*, *Romanian Review of Social Sciences*, *Revista Romana de Dreptul Proprietatii Intelectuale*, *Global Economic Observer*, and *Computational Methods in Social Sciences*) in SCOPUS. The work already done in relation to the dissemination of this legal journals in different databasis is an excellent start.
4. To apply for international calls for Jean Monnet Actions, such as Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence co-funded by the European Commission. For example, several doctoral supervisors have the profile to obtain Jean Monnet Modules and Jean Monnet Chairs. Moreover, the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest could apply for a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the basis of the previous activities developed by the Research Centre for Legal, Economic and Socio-Administrative Studies (in Romanian, C.S.J.E.S.A.) so far.
5. To recruit a new doctoral supervisor in the field of public international law and, if possible, of a new doctoral supervisor in the field of private international law as well.



Against this background, I consider that during the evaluated period (2015-2020) the Doctoral School of Law at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has continued consolidating itself in the Romanian academic landscape of PhD studies as a solid and prestigious academic institution in the field of law at both national and international level.

VII. Annexes

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *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.*

Signed in A Coruña (Spain) on 23 November 2021

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