

## The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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### I. Introduction

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral Schools at Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE), periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics I and Economics II. The evaluation visit for this program was during 26-30 July, 2021 and the Experts Committee was comprised by Coordinator Prof. univ. dr. BĂDULESCU Alina from University of Oradea, International expert Prof. univ. dr. Eglantina Hysa from Epoka University, Albania, and PhD student IUREȘ Mugur Victor Constantin from University of Craiova.

ASE was established as a higher education institution, being entitled the Academy of Higher Commerce and Industrial Studies, based on the promulgated „Royal Decree” no. 2,978 of April 6th, 1913. In 1967, the new name of the university became Bucharest University of Economic Studies. In 2011, ASE was included in the category of universities of advanced research and education according to the results of the institutional evaluation and classification of accredited universities in the national education system. Since 2020-2021 academic year, ASE is composed of a total of 13 faculties.

Since 1921, the university was granted the right to confer the academic title of "PhD in Economics", the Regulation for the doctorate at the Academy of Higher Commercial and Industrial Studies being elaborated in this sense, in 1923. In 1997, ASE was accredited as an Institution Organizing Doctoral Studies (IOD), based on the Order of the Minister of National Education, for 8 doctoral programs, in the fields of sciences: Economic Sciences and Law, Cybernetics and Economic Statistics, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management, Marketing, International Economic Relations and Law. In 2011, ASE was reaccredited as an Institution Organizing Doctoral Studies - IOSUD for 10 doctoral programmes, in the following areas: Economic Sciences and Legal Sciences, more specifically in doctoral fields including: Business Administration, Cybernetics and Statistics, Accounting, Economics, Economics and International Business, Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing and Law.

Table 1 Doctoral studies admission organised in the past 5 years and the number of students enrolled in the first year.



Academic Year	State budget financed places	Paid places	Registered candidates	State budget financed places (Romanian Students)	Paid places (Romanian Students)	State budget financed places (Foreign Students)	Paid places (Foreign Students)	Number of students in joined supervision
2015-2016	110	281	243	110	57	3	42	1-in training
2016-2017	110	281	204	110	52	4	14	
2017-2018	110	156	216	110	55	3	24	1- in training
2018-2019	110	249	210	110	49	1	22	2- in training
2019-2020	111	272	248	111	75	4	7	

ASE benefits from “The strategy of Bucharest University of Economic Studies 2020-2030”; “The Strategic International Development Plan 2015-2020”; and “The Internationalization Strategy of Bucharest University of Economic Studies 2016-2027”.

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ASE owns facilities for internet wireless access, including suitable furniture. The software applications used in ASE are licensed for both basic software (operating systems, antivirus programs), specialized software (SPSS, CIEL, EVIEWS, SAS/R) and application software (Microsoft Office package, MS SharePoint, MS SQL Server, other dedicated programs: Eviewports, Stata, etc.).

ASE has supporting administrative staff for students, i.e. faculty secretariats, administrative staff responsible to maintain and monitor the laboratory activities, the Career Counseling and Orientation Center (CCOC), the Public Relations Office, the Social Assistance Directorate, the Department for International Relations, The Directorate for Economic-Social Relations, the Department for Information Technology and Communication and the General Secretariat.

The Doctoral Schools of ASE organizes the academic doctoral studies of domains ECONOMICS I and ECONOMICS II. The Faculty of Theoretical and Applied Economics, is the faculty in which the Doctoral School Economics I operates. This faculty offers educational programmes in the field of Economics as a fundamental science, and provides a holistic view of the theoretical, methodological and strategic-operational foundations of the integrated system of economic sciences. The academic doctoral program Economics I trains and enables doctoral students to conduct complex mainly interdisciplinary scientific research using refined tools of economic analysis and econometric modeling, where appropriate, to explain, assess and interpret the complexity and interdependencies between economic theories and policies.



Whereas the Faculty of Agrifood and Environmental Economics organizes the Doctoral School Economics II. In the period 2005- 2008, the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Agri-Food and Environmental Economics were assigned to the doctoral field of Economics. Subsequently, in the beginning of academic year 2009-2010, the field of Economics was divided into Economics I and Economics II. Doctoral training in this programme is carried out in the fields of agri-food economics and environmental economics, and research topics focus on: economic policies in agriculture, food industry, distribution of agricultural and food products and environmental protection, rural and regional development, agri-food management and marketing.

The curriculum of the Faculty of Theoretical and Applied Economics and the Faculty of Agri-Food and Environmental Economics are monitored from the Quality Assessment Committee. This committee ensures that the activities carried out are in accordance with quality standards, with goals set by the management team and with the internal management control procedures.

**Curriculum for the doctoral field of Economics I** is composed of the following advanced courses:

Course 1: Academic Ethics and Integrity

Course 2: Quantitative Methods in the Scientific Research

Course 3: Methods of Research in Economic Science

Course 4: Present Problems in Economic Theory and Practice

Withing Economics I field of study there are 16 PhD supervisors, 52 PhD students enrolled, from which 21 students are benefiting from funding of the state budgeting. In the last five years (10.2015-30.09.2020), at the level of the Doctoral Schools Economics I, 36 doctoral students completed their thesis.

**Curriculum for the doctoral field of Economics II** is composed of the following advanced courses:

Course 1: Ethics and Academic Integrity

Course 2: Application of Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Scientific Research

Course 3: Increasing the performance of Agrifood fields

Course 4: Strategies for sustainable development of the Agrifood field

In the meantime, withing Economics II field of study there are 12 PhD supervisors, 81 PhD students enrolled, from which 38 students are benefiting from funding of the state budgeting. For the same period (10.2015-30.09.2020), at the level of the Doctoral Schools Economics II, 44 doctoral students completed their thesis.

All 80 PhD students (36 at the Doctoral School of Economics I and 44 at the Doctoral School of Economics II) who have completed their doctoral studies in the last five years in the field of ECONOMICS, attended at least one prestigious international scientific event (held in Romania or abroad), as stipulated in the



minimum criteria necessary to defend the doctoral thesis. A total of 247 conferences were registered at the Doctoral School Economics I and 449 papers at conferences at the Doctoral School of Economics II.

## II. Methods used

This external evaluation report is drafted based on the evaluation visit for this doctoral program in Economics I and Economics II was during 26-30 July, 2021. All the Experts Committee members had the opportunity to join the meetings online and the group Coordinator Prof. univ. dr. BĂDULESCU Alina, could join the institution by consulting during a site-visit at the premises of at Bucharest University of Economic Studies.

Specifically, the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, include the following activities:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its respective annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, spaces and capacities (by Coordinator of the External Evaluation Experts);
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
  - The Council of the Doctoral School, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures).

In support of additional evidence, the PhD student IUREȘ Mugar Victor Constantin from University of Craiova, had prepared a survey for PhD student. Additionally, the Experts Committee members asked to the university some additional documents that helped to clarify and ensured a correct evaluation of each criteria.



### **III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators**

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics I and Economics II at ASE, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The doctoral programme in the field of Economics at ASE is an accredited programme. In 1997, ASE was accredited as an Institution Organizing Doctoral Studies (IOD), based on the Order of the Minister of National Education, for 8 doctoral programs, in the fields of sciences: Economic Sciences and Law : Cybernetics and Economic Statistics, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management, Marketing, International Economic Relations and Law. In 2011, ASE was re-accredited as an Institution Organizing Doctoral Studies - IOSUD for 10 doctoral programmes, in the following areas: Economic Sciences and Legal Sciences, more specifically in doctoral fields including: Business Administration, Cybernetics and Statistics, Accounting, Economics, Economics and International Business, Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing and Law. In September 2011, following the results of the institutional evaluation and classification of accredited universities in the national education system, ASE was included in the category of universities of advanced research and education.

Each evaluation criteria stipulated by ARACIS have been analysed from the self-evaluation group preparing the Self-Evaluation Report, and in this external report the External Experts Committee will evaluate the respective criteria. The three main Domains to be evaluated are A. Institutional Capacity; B. Education Effectiveness; and, C. Quality Management.

#### ***Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY***

In this Domain, the External Experts Committee will investigate (1) The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources; (2) Research infrastructure; (3) Quality and human resources. Each of these criterions is based on some specific standards to be fulfilled by the institution.

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

This criterion is to analyse the existing of the administrative and managerial structures in the institutional level that are in support of the doctoral studies in the field of Economics. Additionally, this criterion considers the financial resources available to maintain the above mentioned programme.

*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.*

***Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.*** *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUO body and the doctoral school, respectively, considering the past five years as period of reference.*



Doctoral programmes are organized based on the ASE Regulation for the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral studies, approved by the respective units and published on the University's website. This is done in regular bases each year before the starting of the academic year 2019-2020. The Faculty of Theoretical and Applied Economics and The Faculty of Agrifood and Environmental Economics organize academic doctoral studies in the field of Economics through the structures Doctoral School Economics I and Doctoral School Economics II. The academic doctoral studies in fields Economics operate on the basis of the legal regulations in force regarding academic doctoral studies, on the internal regulations of ASE and the Regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies - Doctoral School Economics I and the Regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies - Doctoral School Economics II. All the information is provided in on the University's website.

Within ASE the election process in CSUD and in the doctoral schools is organized and conducted on the basis of the Election methodologies provided in the respective annexes of the self- evaluation report. The elections for the position of Director the Doctoral School and for the members of the Council for Doctoral Studies are based on regular basis and approved by the respective units.

The CSUD Director is appointed as a result of a public competition, including the voting of students. The elections for the position of Director the Doctoral School and for the members of the Council for Doctoral Studies are held in accordance with the operational procedure.

ASE ensures a transparent and rigor students' recruitment and admission policy, respecting the principle of equal opportunity for all candidates without discrimination, all of which are detailed in the Methodology for the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral studies. The admission contest is organized according to an admission methodology provided by the CSUD, authorized by the Board of Trustees and approved by the University's Senate. The number of places and themes advertised for public competition by each PhD supervisor are authorised by the Doctoral School Board and the Faculty Board to which the Doctoral School belongs, by the CSUD and the Board of Trustees, and approved by University's Senate for each academic year.

The PhD supervisors are appointed by the Order of the Ministry of Education in accordance with the legal regulations in the field, in force at that moment. Based on the Ministry of Education, a PhD supervisor requires habilitation, and ASE appoints the supervisors based all the requirements. ASE applies existing legal regulations consisting in the procedures elaborated by the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas.

The Council for Doctoral Studies works within IOSUD. At the level of each doctoral school, a Doctoral School Council operates. These structures work in accordance with the provisions of the Law of Education, the Code of Doctoral Studies, and the respective Regulation. The Doctoral School Economics I and the Doctoral School Economics II Councils meet regularly, at least three times a year, at the request



of the Director of the Doctoral School or of at least one third of its members, and whenever necessary to resolve common problems.

Following admission, candidates are registered when the academic year starts, and sign a study contract with ASE, which stipulates the rights and obligations of the parties.

The University's Senate approves the number of places and the themes of doctoral studies in the field of Economics, based on the decision of the Board of Trustees, which is published on the University's website.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.*** *The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.*

The Regulations of Doctoral School Economics I and Doctoral School Economics II include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for issues specified in Article 17, Paragraph 5 of the Government Decision no. 681/2011, including subsequent amendments and additions.

Both, the Regulations of Doctoral School Economics I (RSDE I) and Doctoral School Economics II (RSDE II) include provisions regarding:

- the acceptance of new PhD supervisors (A.11. 19 RSDE I; Art.16 RSDE II),
- the withdrawal from the doctoral school (Art. 21 RSDE I; Art. 19, Paragraphs a, b, c RSDE II),
- decision-making mechanisms regarding the opportunity, the structure and the content of the advanced academic studies training programme Art. 40 RSDE I; Art. 37 RSDE II),
- the procedures about the change of the PhD supervisor of a certain PhD student and the conflict mediation procedures (Article 14, Paragraph 11, Subparagraphs i, j, k, 1, m, r. RSDE I; Art. 10, Paragraph 10, Subparagraphs g, h, i, j RSDE II ),
- the conditions under which the doctoral programme may be interrupted (Article 14, Paragraph 11, subparagraph h RSDE I; Article 10, Paragraph 10, subparagraph k, RSDE II),
- ways to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism (Articles 49, 50 and 54 RSDE I; Articles 46 and 47, RSDE II),
- access to research resources (Article 41 RSDE I; Article 38 RSDE II),
- activity attendance by PhD students (Article 8 RSDE I, Article 5 RSDE II and the study contract).

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



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

This standard ensures the existence of a good system which maintains all the necessary data and details of the doctoral student academic background.

***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 ASE IT System is found to be adequate and effective to keep the full track of doctoral students and their academic progress. This system enables collection, processing and analysing of data and information relevant to quality institutional assessment and assurance. Most of the processes in ASE are computerized: student admission, allocation in on-site campus accommodation, scientific research management, student records, academic records, grade transcripts, scholarships, and intra-community mobility.*

*Recommendations:*

***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 institution has ensured the usage of a sophisticated software to check the percentage of similarity of doctoral theses. Sistemantiplagiat.ro (<https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/clienti/educatie/>) offers detailed similarity report that consists of different coefficients that have been decided as threshold from the scientific bodies of the program. These programs have to be applied for all the doctoral theses and the students work in accordance with the supervisor. The theses whose percentages fall outside of the allowed limits are not approved for public defense. Out of 80 PhD students in total, who completed their doctoral studies in between 01.10.2015-30.09.2020, 100% were accepted for viva following the anti-plagiarism verification procedure. The average values of the similarity coefficients for the vivas in the Doctoral School Economics I in the past five years, presently under assessment, were 4,51 % for C1 and 1,33 % for C2. The average values of the similarity coefficients for the vivas in the Doctoral School Economics II in the past five years, presently under assessment, were 6,44 % for C1 and 1,11 % for C2.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

This standard ensures the availability of financial resources and other internal and external opportunities arising for the doctoral students. This is important to enhance capacities of research and to extend the outcome in a larger target group.

***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.*

The Doctoral School Economics I, in the past 5 years, has granted 4 research / institutional development / human resources grants have been won by PhD supervisors:

- 2 ERASMUS + projects,
- 1 institutional research project, and
- 1 research project in partnership with Korea Development Institute.

Three projects out of these are being implemented at the moment of evaluation (1 ERASMUS + project, 1 institutional research project and 1 research project in partnership with Korea Development Institute).

The Doctoral School Economics II, in the past 5 years, 4 research / institutional development / human resources grants have been won by PhD supervisors:

- 1 ERASMUS + project, and
- 3 research projects.

Out of these, three projects are in doctoral implementation (1 ERASMUS + project and 2 research projects).

In the field of ECONOMICS, a number of 6 research or institutional development / human resources grants (3 for the Doctoral School Economics I and 3 for the Doctoral School Economics II) are being implemented at the time of submitting the present self-assessment file.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is 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%.*

In the field of doctoral studies ECONOMICS, there are a total of 133 PhD students enrolled:

- 52 - the Doctoral School Economics I, of which 21 PhD students are beneficiaries of funds from the state budget in Doctoral School Economics I; and
- 81 - the Doctoral School Economics II), of which 38 PhD students are beneficiaries of funds from the state budget in Doctoral School Economics II.

Additionally:

- 13 PhD students (6 - Doctoral School of Economics I and 7 - Doctoral School of Economics II) benefited from other sources of funding, for at least 6 months, during their studies, which represents 9.77% out of the total number of PhD students enrolled.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is partially fulfilled***

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.1** *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.).*

The revenue from the doctoral scholarships granted to the university through an institutional contract and the revenue from the doctoral students' tuition fees are centralized university-wide. Within the Doctoral Schools Economics I and Economics II, in the field of ECONOMICS doctoral studies, in the period subject to evaluation (2015-2020), the total revenues obtained from the annual budget allowance / PhD student, respectively the tuition fee for PhD students enrolled in the regime fee, were 6.641.585,95 lei (2.698.100 lei for the Doctoral School of Economics I and 3.943.485,95 lei for the Doctoral School Economics II). Within the field of doctoral studies ECONOMICS, professional training expenses reimbursed for the PhD enrolled within the Doctoral School Economics I and Doctoral School Economics II are lower than 10% of the total registered incomes, leading to non-fulfillment of the criteria.

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<sup>1</sup>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.



*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is partially fulfilled***

## **Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure**

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

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

The coordination of the scientific research activity is done by the Research and Innovation Management Department. The doctoral schools programs within ASE include training programs based on advanced studies and individual scientific research programs.

The scientific research activity conducted in ASE is supported by sufficient financial, logistical and human resources to achieve the aimed objectives. Teaching/training rooms have technical equipment, appropriate to the current state of development of scientific knowledge including learning, teaching and communication, which facilitates teaching and the receptiveness of each student (video projector, computer, projection screen, video conferencing equipment, TV studio, flipchart. ASE has facilities for Internet wireless access, including suitable furniture.

The software applications used in ASE have basic software licenses (operating systems, antivirus programmes), specialized software licenses (SPSS, CIEL, EVIEWS, SAS/R) and application software licenses (Microsoft Office, MS SharePoint, MS SQL Server, other dedicated programs: Eviewports, Stata, etc.).

All the evidence related to the above-mentioned infrastructure is attached as information in the annexes of the self-evaluation report as well as on the evidences provided to the coordinator of the external committee members during the site-visit.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



### **Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources**

*This criterion is devoted to the doctoral thesis advisors and the teaching staff for the doctoral school. It mainly deals with their expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, their expertise on the thesis topics, and their capacities to support this programme.*

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

According to this standard, the institution has to ensure sufficient qualified staff supporting the program in teaching and research activities. Their specialization has to be in line with the domain of the programme.

***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.*

According to the last data provided, there were 28 PhD supervisors in the field of Economics, out of whom 16 PhD supervisors are affiliated to the Doctoral School Economics I and 12 to the Doctoral School Economics II. 12 PhD supervisors were affiliated to the Doctoral Schools (8 PhD supervisors - the Doctoral School Economics I and 4 PhD supervisors - the Doctoral School Economics II). Among the PhD supervisors currently affiliated to the Doctoral Schools Economics I and Economics II, the field of ECONOMICS, a number of 22 PhD supervisors (12 PhD supervisors the Doctoral School Economics I and 10 PhD supervisors - the Doctoral School Economics II), respectively 78,55% (75% - the Doctoral School Economics I and 83.33% - the Doctoral School Economics II) meet the minimum standards CNATDCU, necessary and mandatory for the habilitation certificate of in force at the time of evaluation. This indicator is evaluated as a fulfilled one.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

At this moment, within ASE, the activity of supervising PhD students is provided by 208 members of the teaching staff who are PhD supervisors. Out of these, 109 obtained the quality of PhD supervisor before 2012, and 99 of them were affiliated to the doctoral schools after obtaining the habilitation certificate in the period 2012-2020. Out of the 208 PhD supervisors, 16 are retired and are engaged in joint supervision.



In the Doctoral Schools Economics I and Economics II, within the field of doctoral studies of Economics, 71,42% % of the PhD supervisors (68.75% - the Doctoral School Economics I and 75% - the Doctoral School Economics II) are tenured in IOSUD - ASE, these being tenured teachers within the Faculty of Theoretical and Applied Economics and the Faculty of Agrifood and Environmental Economics.

Accordingly, this indicator as well maintains the required percentage of 50%.

*Recommendations:*

**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.*

The supervisors of PhD students are experts in the field, and they show a good track of their academic performance. This is verified from their CVs provided as attachments in the self-evaluation report. The subjects of the Economics programme are taught by PhD professors with proven expertise in the field of the subjects taught. This is verified from their CVs provided as attachments in the self-evaluation report as well. (Annex CSUD-65; Annex\_DE\_I 5)

*Recommendations:*

**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 programs<sup>2</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

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<sup>2</sup>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



Within the Doctoral Schools Economics I and Economics II, the PhD supervisors, at the time of the ongoing internal evaluation report, coordinate at most 7 PhD students within the Doctoral School Economics I, respectively at most 9 PhD students within the Doctoral School Economics II, during the normal period of completing the doctoral training program.

The share of PhD supervisors within the doctoral field of ECONOMICS who simultaneously coordinate more than 8 PhD students, but not more than 12, during their doctoral studies (3 years to which add the extensions granted according to Art. 39 Paragraph (3) of the Code approved by Government Decision No. 681/2011 as subsequently amended and supplemented), does not exceed 20%, being 0% for the Doctoral School Economics I, respectively 8.33% for the Doctoral School Economics II. The details are found in Annex\_DE\_I 6 and Annex\_DE\_I 7.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

Besides the proper academic profile of the doctoral students' supervisors, they have to ensure an international integrity with networking and scientific research output.

***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.*

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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.



From the PhD supervisors in Economics, 92,85% of them have more than 5 papers indexed in Web of Science impact factor journals (93,75% of PhD supervisors affiliated to the Doctoral School Economics I and 91,66% of the PhD supervisors affiliated to the Doctoral School Economics II). In the meantime, all PhD supervisors have other relevant achievements - books or book chapters published in international publishing houses, Web of Science indexed papers, papers presented at international scientific conferences. Additionally, all these professors are having international recognition, such as inclusion in the editorial board members or reviewers in the indexed journals and conferences. All the detailed information is found in their CVs provided as attached in the self-evaluation report and in the official website of the university (Annex DE 18.).

*Recommendations:*

**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.*

As mentioned above, most of the PhD supervisors are being active (more than 50%). Regarding the minimal CNATDCU scores, 79.31% of them (75% in the Doctoral School I Economics and 84.61% in the Doctoral School Economics II) obtained at least 25% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the date of evaluation, necessary and mandatory for the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific results in the past five years. This is verified from the Annex\_DE\_I 9. provided on the self-evaluation report.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

*This domain is composed of three main pillars, (1) The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest; (2) The content of doctoral programs; and (3) The results of doctoral Studies and procedures for their evaluation. Each of these pillars is supported by standards and criteria to be fulfilled.*

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



This criterion is related to the program capacities and attractiveness to enroll a considerable number of students, that present a good quality and demonstrate a good academic, research and professional performance.

*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.*

Through this standard we look at the institutional/program capacities to attract students in order to increase the competitiveness and ensure a good quality by selecting the applicants.

**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.*

Most of the candidates for the competition for admission to doctoral studies is held by candidates graduating from master's programmes organized in other universities. In the Faculty of Theoretical and Applied Economics and the Faculty of Agri-Food and Environmental Economics, within the doctoral field of ECONOMICS, the ratio between the number of master's graduates from other higher education institutions, outside IOSUD-ASE, who enrolled for admission, in the past 5 years and the number of places financed from the state budget presented for competition was 0.68 within the Doctoral School Economics I, 1.09 within the Doctoral School Economics II, respectively 0.92 within the field of doctoral studies of ECONOMICS. This means that the programs could fully fulfill this indicator (at least 0.2). Detail information is found in Annex DE 20.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

This standard is related to the quality of the enrolled doctoral students and their capacities to follow up with the research thesis.

**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.

In the field of academic doctoral studies Economics, doctoral studies are organized in the Doctoral School Economics I and Doctoral School Economics II in accordance with IOSUD-ASE internal rules regarding admission respectively the completion of doctoral studies (Annex\_DE\_03-04). All is made clear and transparent on the website of the doctoral school.

*.Recommendations:*

**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 admission<sup>3</sup> does not exceed 30%.*

The dropout rate of PhD students 2 years after admission was 12% in the Doctoral School Economics I, 15% in the Doctoral School Economics II, respectively 14% within the field of doctoral studies of ECONOMICS, which confirms that it does not exceed 30%. This this indicator is fully accomplished.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs**

This criterion is devoted to the academic program offered to the students, including scientific research training, in-depth research, scientific methodology applied that supports the doctoral thesis, etc.

*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.*

**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.*

Each of the doctoral programs has in total four courses in their curriculum. Curriculum for the doctoral field of Economics I is composed of the following advanced courses:

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<sup>3</sup>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.



- Course 1: Academic Ethics and Integrity
- Course 2: Quantitative Methods in the Scientific Research
- Course 3: Methods of Research in Economic Science
- Course 4: Present Problems in Economic Theory and Practice

Whereas the curriculum for the doctoral field of Economics II is composed of the following advanced courses:

- Course 1: Ethics and Academic Integrity
- Course 2: Application of Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in Scientific Research
- Course 3: Increasing the performance of Agrifood fields
- Course 4: Strategies for sustainable development of the Agrifood field

Course 1 and 2 for each doctoral school are organized within IOSUD by CSUD, and the other 4 subjects are organised within the field of the doctoral studies of Economics. In the Doctoral School of Economics I, the training program based on advanced university studies includes 2 subjects for in-depth study of scientific research methodology and statistical data processing: Applying quantitative and qualitative methods in scientific research, Research methods in economics. At the level of the Doctoral School Economics II, the training program based on advanced academic studies includes a discipline for a more profound study of scientific research methodology and statistical data processing: Applying quantitative and qualitative methods in scientific research.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

The same courses mentioned above are dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, specifically the course “Ethics and academic integrity”. Thus, the curricula is in line with the requirements.

*Recommendations:*

***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 activities<sup>4</sup>.*

The institution has mechanisms in place to ensure that the training programme are based on advanced university studies, related to the field of Economics. This is evident from each syllabus provided as in the self-evaluation report which specifically refer to knowledge, skills, competences acquired by doctoral students after completing the training programme.

The subjects included in the advanced academic training program in the Doctoral School Economics I cover:

- Planning, analysis and employing research results in economics;
- Making decisions to solution economic issues based on economic concepts and a set of economic policies and strategies, based on economic analysis, depending on the progress of the economic, social and political environment;
- Using research theories, principles and methods meant to develop modern models and procedures of analysis and synthesis at macro and micro-economic level; Improving scientific research methods and techniques applied in economics and legal sciences.

The subjects included in the training program based on advanced academic studies related to the Doctoral School Economics II cover:

- The analysis, synthesis and interpretation of economic and social phenomena and processes in order to prepare reports and studies at macro and microeconomic level;
- The integrated application of concepts and methods specific to economic sciences in evaluation and diagnosis, in the development of strategies and decision-making, in leading and coordinating their implementation;
- Using research theories, principles and methods in order to develop modern models and procedures of analysis and synthesis at macro and microeconomic level; Improving the methods and techniques of scientific research applied in economics and legal sciences.
- The specific professional and transversal competences are highlighted in the competences grids and the syllabi included in the annual curricula of the Doctoral Schools Economics I and Economics II - Annex\_DE\_24; Annex\_DE\_25; Annex\_DE\_26; Annex DE 27.

Course syllabuses feature the structure of the courses/seminars and the competences doctoral candidates will acquire upon completion (Annex\_DE\_24-27).

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<sup>4</sup>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.



*Recommendations:*

***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.

The doctoral training is organized in a way that the students receive regular consulting and guidance through one-to-one meeting with the supervisors and also during the meetings with functional guiding boards. These boards are established together with the PhD supervisor at the moment of the student's enrollment. The involvement of the guiding board in advising PhD students is materialized in feedback, regular meetings, activities complementary to those offered by the PhD supervisor.

These regular meeting provide support in articles written jointly by PhD students with at least one of the guiding board members, clarifying on the subject of the doctoral thesis between PhD students and members of the guiding boards, feedback provided during scientific seminars, which may be attended by members of the guiding boards.

*Recommendations:*

***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.

For the doctoral field of study Economics, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching/research staff providing mentoring is **1.18 for Economics I and 22.25 for Economics II (1.75 within the field of doctoral studies of Economic)**. Hence, this indicator is fully addressed.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

This criterion analysis the procedures to measure the output of the research activities of the PhD students. This is at the same time quantitative and qualitative measure of the output of the scientific work for this domain.



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

***Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.*** *For the evaluated 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.*

A minimum of one article or other relevant contribution for each PhD student who obtained their PhD degree in the period 2015-2020 is made available to the evaluation committee for the evaluated field. Annex\_DE\_31. provides a clear picture of the quality of the papers and the topics, which contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.

In addition to WoS and SCOPUS, the articles can be published in other databases. Among the international databases acknowledged, there are: Repec, EBSCO, CEEOL, EconLit, DOAJ, ProQuest etc. The articles published by the doctoral graduates in the Economics field have been published in journals indexed in at least 3 international databases, journals with a good scientific level, which assure the review with the help of individual reviewers.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

During 2015 – 2020 timeline, 80 PhD thesis (36 of the Doctoral School Economics I and 44 of the Doctoral School Economics II) were defended in the doctoral field of Economics. During their doctoral studies these students participated in at least one international conference, abroad Romania. In total, 247 conference papers were registered in the Doctoral School Economics I and 449 conference papers in the Doctoral School Economics II. Annex\_DE\_32. shows that Doctors present, on average, a minimum of 5 conference papers each. The ratio between the number of participations in prestigious international events and the number of PhD students who completed their doctoral studies in the past five years in the field of ECONOMICS is 8.7.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

***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.*

In the PhD school of Economics for a total of 80 doctoral theses defended, (36 within the Doctoral School Economics I and 44 within the Doctoral School Economics II) a number of 45 external scientific examiners participated to Viva-Voce boards. During one academic year, 3 doctoral theses for were assigned to 2 external examiners within the Doctoral School Economics I and 3 doctoral theses were assigned to 3 external examiners within the Doctoral School Economics II. For the other 40 external examiners, the maximum number of assigned doctoral theses, coordinated by the same PhD supervisor, duringing one university year, was maximum 2. The related evidence are found in Annex DE 33.

*Recommendations:*

***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 ratio between the number of PhD theses assigned to a specific scientific reviewer from a higher education institution other than IOSUD and the number of PhD theses defended in the doctoral field of Economics is less than 0.3. The ratio of doctoral theses in Economics allotted to an external referent from a different higher education institution to doctoral theses defended in the past five years was between 0.01 (1:80) and 0.03 (24:80) (Annex\_DE\_34.).

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

*The third domain of this report is devoted to quality management that is related with the institutional procedures and mechanisms to ensure a good quality of the program. This is composed by three main criterions, (1) Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system; (2) Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources; and (3) Internationalization aspect of the institution and programme.*

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

This criterion looks for procedures of timely and periodically implementations of the internal quality assurance and how these internal audits impact to the programme enhancement.

*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.*

**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;*
- (b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;*
- (c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;*
- (d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;*
- (e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;*
- (f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*

The internal evaluation and monitoring and monitoring of the activity of the doctoral schools is carried out in regular bases, each year. This includes the scientific activity of the PhD supervisors, the infrastructure and logistics necessary to can-y out research, the procedures and regulations regulating doctoral studies, the scientific activity of PhD students, as well as the training program based on advanced university studies of PhD students. The details of the process and the procedures to be followed are found in Annex CSUD-68.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

Confirmed also from the respective meetings held with different stakeholders, the managing instances of Doctoral School Economics I and Doctoral School Economics II are implementing mechanisms for collecting the PhD students' feedback (questionnaires to assess the degree of the PhD students' satisfaction, as in Annex\_DE\_35. There are clear plans of measures to address reported deficiencies and to stimulate the scientific and academic performance of the Doctoral Schools Economics I and Economics II to be taken into consideration (Annex DE 36).

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

This criterion involves the transparency of the information and accessibility of learning resources that the institution and the specific program has to follow.

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

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

- (a) the Doctoral School regulation;*
- (b) the admission regulation;*
- (c) the doctoral studies contract;*
- (d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;*
- (e) the content of 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.*

There is a clear transparency of all methodologies and regulations regarding the admission organisation and process. All related information of public interest are available to those interested on





<http://doctorat.ase.ro/>, complying with general provisions about data protection. In the self-evaluation report, table 6, page 24, includes all the available links or the (1) Regulations of the Doctoral School Economics I and the Doctoral School Economics II; (2) Methodology to organize and carry out admission to doctoral studies; (3) Contract for doctoral studies; (4) Methodology to assess and present the viva; (5) Curricula content; (6) Scientific profile and thematic areas/research themes of PhD supervisors, as well as institutional contact details; (7) List of PhD students and their key information (registration, PhD supervisor); (8) Information on the standards to elaborate the doctoral thesis; and (9) Links to the summaries of the PhD theses to be publicly defended, as well as date, time, place of the viva, at least 20 days prior to the event.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

***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.***

The library of ASE (see [www.biblioteca.ase.ro](http://www.biblioteca.ase.ro)) provides access to bibliographic databases with full-text, bibliometric and statistical content, local or online access depending on the specifics of the platform: Jstor Business Collection I & IV, Thomson Reuters Eikon, Bloomberg Finance, CEEOL, Audit Analytics, access to the platform ZP Corporate, as well as other electronic resources with scientific journals, resources available through the Anelis Plus Association within the National Electronic Access to Scientific Literature for Supporting the Research and Education System in Romania - Anelis Plus 2020: Elsevier ScienceDirect Freedom Collection, ProQuest Central, Emerald Management Xtra, Clarivate Analytics (Thomson ISI), Scopus, CAB Ebooks, DeGruyter Ebooks, Elsevier ebooks Freedom Collection.

ASE is a member of ANELIS PLUS Association. In addition, ASE Library users have access to e-book collections purchased with continuous access by Ebrary ebooks ProQuest, Springer ebooks (Business and Economics collection), Emerald ebooks (Business, Management and Economics collection - 1991-2012 archive), Elsevier ScienceDirect ebooks, (Economics, Econometrics & Finance collection).

As an innovation tool, during the second semester of the academic year 2019-2020, ASE library launched a new digital component, namely the online academic library of ASE Publishing House, an online library that includes lectures, textbooks, seminar papers, etc., the authors being ASE academics, while works and papers are published by ASE publishing house. The online academic library is available on the site. The field of doctoral studies ECONOMICS is present all the databases mentioned above.



*Recommendations:*

***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 doctoral student, has access to the one electronic systems of plagiarism checking: <http://dmci.ase.ro/index.php/antiplagiat>. This plagiarism software are recognized by the CNATDCU, used to analyze the degree of similarity of the doctoral students' works in relation to other existing scientific creations. Additionally, each doctoral student has access, upon request and with the agreement of the supervisor, to the electronic system for checking the degree of similarity with other existing scientific works.

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

All doctoral students have access to the laboratories for undertaking research activities, other academic facilities, the research centres or the third-party research infrastructure, according to the specificity of the field(s) included in the doctoral school, and in keeping with the availability of the research infrastructure.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

This criterion analysis includes the strategies toward the internationalization, the available agreements for mobility, projects, networks and so on.

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

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



*and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.*

Based on the prerequisite that all doctoral students are required to attend international conferences prior to the defence of their doctoral thesis, this criterion is 100% accomplished. LBUS has concluded partnerships and mobility agreements with universities abroad, research institutes, companies operating in the specific field of study, aimed at the academic mobility of doctoral students and scholars (Annex C.3.1.1). The average number of PhD student enrolled in the analyzed period was 17. From them, 12 doctoral students participating at an international conference (70.59%) and 7 at mobility periods abroad (41.18%).

Bucharest University of Economic Studies has an internationalization strategy for 2016-2027, in which directions of action are considered to ensure a greater internationalization of academic studies run by the university, including doctoral studies (Annex IOSUD-05). ASE constantly develops mobility partnerships with other universities abroad. ASE signs mobility agreements with foreign universities, aiming at the mobility of teachers and researchers, as well as research mobility for PhD students (Annex IOSUD-71). During the evaluation period, 34 PhD students (42,5%) (16 PhD students from Doctoral School Economics I (44,44%), and 18 PhD students from Doctoral School Economics II (40,90%)) participated in at least one form of international mobility (international conferences held abroad, Erasmus internships or other forms of international mobility) (Annex IOSUD-72).

*Recommendations:*

***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.*

There are no international joint PhD programmes during 2015-2020. In the meantime, there are no co-tutelage with foreign professors.

During the reported period, international experts were invited to lecture for PhD students in the field of Economics. For example, for the subject Current Issues in Economic Theory and Practice. Case studies in Romania, experts from abroad were co-opted, and workshops for PhD students were organized in January 2019 and January 2020, organised by visiting professors from abroad (Annex CSUD-73).

*Recommendations:*

***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.).*

To increase the internationalization of doctoral university study programmes, ASE participates actively at international fairs meant to promote all study programmes in order to attract foreign students, and signs partnerships programs with prestigious universities (Annex CSUD-74).

As a best practice, ASE organizes “Excellence Gala” in annually basis, which gather together representatives from the business environment. It awards the Excellence Award for ' Scientific Research Activity', the candidates for this award being PhD students enrolled in IOSUD ASE.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

#### **IV. SWOT Analysis**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both doctorates in Economics are well-integrated with each other, one fundamental in theoretical background and the other oriented to the agriculture sector that support the sustainable development in national level and beyond.</li> <li>- The number of enrolled PhD students, as well as the PhD supervisors in the field of Economics is satisfactory.</li> <li>- Academic staff in this programme has a wide visibility in the international sphere and their track of academic achievements are highly evaluated.</li> <li>- There is a transparency and clear information available on the websites as well as clear procedures for the ongoing process on this programme.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are limited funding opportunities for the research activities and support of PhD student to extend the professional network and being exposed internationally.</li> <li>- The curriculum applied to this programme is appropriate however, it lacks some deep knowledge in econometrics, statistics, simulations, and ensures like this a good foundation of necessary information and skills for the students.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each of Doctoral Schools are supported by respective research centers, which can reinforce</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p>

<p>further involvement in projects and assist the PhD students with external funding for their research and results dissemination.</p> <p>- Additionally, the program has all the infrastructure capacities to extend collaborations with other universities abroad Romania, that will help in inclusion of international co-tutelage, co-advisership, jury members, and common academic activities.</p> <p>- Due to a good position of Bucharest University of Economic Studies in the national market of HEIs, and being a university in the European Union, this program can attract more international students and foreign qualified staff.</p>	<p>- There are many challenges that staff and students may face while applying for different projects.</p> <p>- The challenges due to high competition among universities to attract more foreign and experienced staff to join this programme.</p>
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## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1		A.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
2		A.1.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
3		A.1.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
4		A.1.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
5		A.1.3.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
6	*	A.1.3.2.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The programme has to increase the opportunities for doctoral students to acquire funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons, by legal entities, or by other relative grants.</i>
7	*	A.1.3.3.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The institution/programme has to ensure a better support of doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system to be used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students such as, conference participations, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers, etc.</i>

8	C	A.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
9	C	A.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
10	*	A.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
11		A.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
12	*	A.3.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
13	C	A.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
14	*	A.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
15	*	B.1.1.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
16	*	B.1.2.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
17		B.1.2.2	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
18		B.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
19		B.2.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
20		B.2.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
21		B.2.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
22	C	B.2.1.5.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
23	C	B.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
24	*	B.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
25	*	B.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
26	*	B.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
27		C.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
28	*	C.1.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
29	C	C.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
30		C.2.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
31		C.2.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
32		C.2.2.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
33	*	C.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
34		C.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
35		C.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at Bucharest University of Economic Studies, this external evaluation report is a periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The **Doctoral School of Economic** has the full legal bases and it is conferred by the Ministry of Education and by the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates.

**The Doctoral field of Economics, divided into two Doctoral Economics I and Doctoral Economics II**, is are accredited fields in the Doctoral School of Economic. The total number of PhD students in this field of study is 133 PhD candidates and 28 PhD supervisors. This is a good number of students and supervisor to ensure a competing PhD programme in the region and beyond. The institution together with the programme administration bodies are using the proper procedures to support the ongoing process of the doctorate field of study in Economics.

In the framework of the periodical accreditation, the institution provided us with a detailed Self-evaluation report which included respective information and attached documentation in support each criteria requested by the accreditation agency. Additionally, during this evaluation process, the Experts' Panel had the opportunity to have online meetings with stakeholders and different supportive bodies of the programme. The details of the meeting are attached as in Annex EE.1. Furthermore, the external experts asked for some additional document, timely provided by the programme representatives, which clarified some issues related to the management of the programme.

Out of 35 indicators to be fulfilled, there are 2 indicators that have been identified as partially fulfilled. These indicators are classified in the category with “ \* ”. Specifically:

- 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", 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%.
  - \*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 conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).

As **general recommendations**, we recommend the following:

1. *The institution and/or the doctorate programme in the field of Economics has to establish a Strategy related to Acquisition of External Funding. As such, the respective staff of the programme can have clear targets to apply for project and they can increase the applications. They need to find out the national and international opportunities for funding. The projects should be target to the focus of the research topics the PhD students will deal/are dealing with.*
2. The curriculum applied to this programme is appropriate however, it needs to address also some deep knowledge in econometrics, statistics, simulations, and ensures like this a good foundation of necessary information and skills for the students.
3. The institution is recommended to adopt an up-to-date digitalization system, that can assist PhD students and academic staff.
4. The institution needs to ensure to PhD students primary data for their research. This can be facilitated by signing mutual agreements with the leading institutions in the market.



5. The Doctoral School can be better organized with some common activities involving their alumni. Since most of them are working in prestigious institutions, having good positions, they can be good ambassadors in supporting and promoting this programme.
6. The programme is recommended to find some ways to extend collaboration in co-tutelage with other professors affiliated to foreign leading institutions. They can be involved in common projects that integrate the respective PhD students of both institutions.

## VII. Annexes

*The following types of documents are attached:*

- The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – **Annex EE.1.; Annex EE.2.**
- Scanned documents –documents requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before and after the visit and referred to in the report – **Anexa\_DE\_10\_drd alte surse fin\_drd budget; Anexa\_DE\_11\_in complementare.**