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## **The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain**

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### **I. Introduction**

This evaluation report has been drafted according to the information acquired during the period from November 22 to November 26, according to the official scheduled program, thus in the context of a series of online meetings, with constant reference to the documents provided for through Aracis Cloud.

The commission of experts was composed by prof.univ.dr. Titela Vilceanu (University of Craiova), by Doctoral student Armand Voinov (West University of Timisoara), and by the undersigned prof.Giuseppe Motta, Sapienza University of Rome, as international expert.

The doctoral domain under review is Cultural Studies and the university under review is the University of Bucharest, which currently hosts 22 doctoral schools. In the field of Cultural Studies, the University of Bucharest carries out doctoral studies in three different departmental structures: Space, Image, Text, Territory Doctoral School, Doctoral School in Letters and the Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies.

In the years 2016-20 the Schools have admitted 32 students with State-funded fellowships: 22 students for the Space, Image, Text, Territory school, 9 for Letters and only 1 in 2020 for the Interdisciplinary School, being the candidates respectively 32, 13, and 1.

### **II. Methods used**

The evaluation has been carried out relying on the documents provided for by Aracis, including the internal evaluation report with all the annexed documents concerning the different indicators. Another source of information has been represented by the meetings with the representatives of the doctoral schools and of the institutions such as the doctoral advisors,



directors of various structures of the school, including the Quality Assurance and Ethics Commissions. Furthermore, other categories have been consulted, for instance the graduates of the Phd, the Phd candidates who are still carrying out their research, and in one case the institution where a former Phd student has been professionally employed after completion of studies. On these occasions, the members of commission had the opportunity to clarify some aspects and to have a better understanding of the functioning of the doctoral schools under review.

The visit of the faculties (teaching, research and administrative infrastructure) has been conducted by prof. Titela Vilceanu on November 25, 2021, and the results of the visit have been presented the day after during the final session of the Scheduled program. Many aspects have been further referred, analysed and discussed in the following days by the commission, including in one online meeting. All features have been carefully explained and evaluated, both during the visit and during the entire period of work by the commission.

Thanks to the accuracy of the internal report and the transparency showed during the whole process, the commission did not find it necessary to ask for supplementary documents in order to carry out the process of evaluation.

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

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

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

As previously mentioned, the Doctoral program in Cultural Studies at the University of Bucharest is organized through three different departments. The Doctoral School works under the provisions of the regulation adopted in conformity with Law no. 288/2004 and the decision of the Government no. 681/2011 concerning the Code for university doctoral studies.

The Research Center in Images Study (Centrul de cercetare in studiul imaginii) has been recognized as in 2001 as a center of excellence. The Space, Image, Text, Territory Doctoral School began its work on October 1, 2005 and on October 1, 2014 has been incorporated in the Faculty of Literature (Litere) of the University of Bucharest as its second doctoral school, according to a decision of the university senate. The school is currently structured into a Multidisciplinary center for advanced doctoral studies, the Center for Master studies and the post-doc Research center "Civilization, visual image and writing". In 2014 the Center of Images Study drafted a special partnership agreement with the Faculty of Letters regulating all aspects of organization, finance and activities. The Doctoral School in Letters was founded in 2005: it is the oldest doctoral school in UB and it is considered one of the most prestigious in its domain, at least at national level. The Interdisciplinary School is instead the last to have started to work. All schools are organized following the Bologna system.



**Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.** The regulations concerning the organization of the doctoral programs are very complete and establish clear rules in conformity with law for all aspects of the functioning of the said doctoral schools. In the case of „Space, Image, Text, Territory” school, according to art. 4, the leading structure is composed by the director, the Scientific Council, the director of the center for master studies, the director of the post-doc center, the director of research units affiliated to the school and the scientific coordinator of the Phd programs within the department. The scientific council is composed by the director of the department, an external person and a phd student. All are elected according to specific provisions and criteria, also related to their scientific curriculum.

The meetings of the Council are regularly held twice a semester and this information has been confirmed by the different professors during the meetings too. The regulation concerning the doctoral program of Letters (Litere) contains different provisions (art.4.3) and includes in the Council 3 doctoral supervisors, two external persons and two doctoral students.

The admission of doctoral students is carried out evaluating their research proposal in the fields corresponding to the interests and subjects chosen by one of the doctoral coordinators. The programs are organized in semesters and credits to be assigned according to the teaching program. Credits are gained by the students only when participating actively to the activities of the course.

Some articles (art. 6 for the program of Space, Image, Text, Territory and for Letters, art. 9 for the Interdisciplinary School) enlist in detail the professional competencies that the students are supposed to acquire: among them, the ability of writing scientific articles in Romanian and English language. In this particular issue, the commission had the opportunity to appreciate the experience of some of the graduates and discuss with them about their works. In an analogous way, I've appreciated the initiatives of some of the professors, which are aimed to support the publication of their students through specific journals and collective books resulting from groups of research.

The graduates and students the commission had the opportunity to talk with confirmed the help and support they had received from the coordinators and institutions of the doctoral school, declaring they had enjoyed their constant monitoring and scientific guidance.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.** The doctoral schools' regulations, which as anticipated are exhaustive documents, include the 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 indicator is fulfilled.***

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



**Performance Indicator A.1.2.1.** An appropriate system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background is active and is used by the doctoral schools. The University of Bucharest has established special institutions such as the Department of Quality Management and the Department of Curricular Development and Qualification in order to monitor the whole process and assure the quality and efficiency of the doctoral schools.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

**Performance Indicator A.1.2.2.** The documents and the experience of both professors and students testify the existence and use of appropriate software programs in order to verify the percentage of similarity in doctoral thesis and other academic sources. Though it has been claimed by some students that this software has even generated misleading results, it has been ascertained that the software is regularly used and, last but not least, that students are regularly instructed through specific courses regarding ethics and correctness in academic research. A possible suggestion to overcome any difficulties is to implement or ameliorate the existing software.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

**Standard A.1.3.** *Financial resources are used correctly, and forms of additional funding are supplemented besides governmental funding.*

**Performance Indicator A.1.3.1.** The documents and the internal evaluation file testify the existence of several grants accorded to the professors of the Doctoral school Space, Image, Text, Territory: (for example through the project Detecting Transnational Identity in European Popular Crime Narratives, which is funded by Horizon 2020, and carried out together with 21 European universities), plus two grants obtained by Prof. I. Marin at the University of Washington.

The interdisciplinary School have further obtained financial assistance for two different research projects, respectively beginning in February 2018 and November 2019.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.2.** At least 20% of the students (5 out of 25) have received grants from other international (ERASMUS+), or national sources. In this case, also one student of the doctoral school of Literature Faculty has benefited from two different grants.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.<sup>1</sup>** The table resuming the expenses that have been used for the mobility of students testifies that they had benefited from the financial support of the University

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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.



in order to participate to international conferences. The rate of expenses is currently 30,77%. It has been realized, however, that under the administrative and bureaucratic point of view, being not competent enough to ascertain the correct calculation of the rate, the commission is not able to have a full vision of this aspect. It has been recognized by the university itself, the aim of fully complying with this indicator up to the sum of 2.6 million Ron represents an objective for the years to come.

*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 students benefit from the instruments of the multimedia laboratories plus all the goods mentioned in the Lista de Inventariere dated 12.10-15.11.2020 (including several books, cameras, computers, scanner, printing machines...)

The documents also testify the existence of different rooms, seminar rooms, laboratories and reading rooms, all providing for several computers and other equipment. A special contract has been stipulated for an external space where to conduct research activities and training (Contract de Comodat 15261/09.07.2018).

The research infrastructure also benefits from a relevant number of partnership and collaboration agreements that have been signed with different institutions and organizations and are carefully enlisted in annexes 10 and 11. Annex 12 further specifies the innovations and acquisitions that have been possible thanks to different programs of financial support.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

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

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.1.** The number of doctoral thesis advisors complying with 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, respects the required standards.

*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. In this case, 3 out of 5 advisors are engaged full-time with Iosud.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.** Many of the teachers of the doctoral courses, both the advisors and those who are participating within other categories, show relevant experience and consolidated curricula. Some of them are recruited from international universities.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** Though the documented percentage is 20% and corresponds exactly to what required by the indicator, the fact that one of the professor coordinates more than 8 students and has recently accepted other students indicate that this aspect should be better addressed by the doctoral school.

*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.*

**Performance Indicator A.3.2.1.** All the advisors show relevant experience and numerous scientific articles testifying their long and well-structured engagement, but only some of them could really prove to have acquired an international profile. Notwithstanding, the required criteria of 50% is fulfilled.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.2.2.** All coordinators are active and lively researchers. But only 3 out of 5 respect the standard of 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 fulfilled.*

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

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



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

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.1.1.** The quotas required by this indicator are both respected, being 0,43% (14/32) and 1,43% (46/32).

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.2.1.** Conditions and criteria for admission are established in detail by specific acts that clarify the subjects to be developed by the researchers and the information required in order to develop their research projects. Each doctoral school has a specific document regulating the admission, that of the Interdisciplinary School, in particular, seems more precise in describing in percentage the influence of the different criteria in the process of evaluation.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

**Performance Indicator B.1.2.2.** The expelling rate, including those who renounced or dropped out does not exceed 30%. The reports instead testify a certain, natural, number of students suspending or delaying their research program.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.1.** All 3 doctoral schools' program include at least 3 disciplines that are extremely relevant and necessary for the training of respective students. The disciplines are further explored through the discussion and the presentation of reports or other written expressions regarding the development of research and the content of the doctoral program.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.2.** All programs devote special attention to Ethics and academic integrity with a specific course indicated among the activities of the Plan de Invatamant.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** The graduates and students of the doctoral school seem motivated and well trained, use to participate actively to the Phd programs and to academic events even outside the sphere of it and of the University of Bucharest. However, this finding



has been ascertained only in a limited number of cases, as the commission had the opportunity to track the professional experience of just a few graduates.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled***

***Performance Indicator B.2.1.4.*** The commission had the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the graduates and students who all expressed their satisfaction for the great work of their advisors. Though some possible amelioration is possible, the opinions of the graduates and students do not indicate specific problems but unanimously show a good level of appreciation for the role and guidance of their professors.

***The indicator is fulfilled/***

***Performance Indicator B.2.1.5.*** The ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance does not exceed 3:1, as there are sufficient teachers, researchers and professors in relation to the number of doctoral students.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

***Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.*** The list provided for by the internal evaluation report proves a satisfactory level of academic contributions published by the students. It has also been noticed, in particular, that the publication in an international peer-reviewed journal of one of the Phd students proves that the academic level of some of the students is excellent and internationally recognized.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*B.3.1.2.*** The fact that many students have published their writings on journals and books and have participated to numerous conferences is undoubtedly a positive outcome of the doctoral schools. The ration in this case is 11, as 3 students have presented their work on 33 different occasions.

***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 has not exceeded two in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor, neither in 2019 nor in 2020.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***





**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.2.** Considering the past five years, 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 does not exceed 0.3.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

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

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

**Performance Indicator C.1.1.1.** All the criteria to be assessed have been thoroughly discussed throughout the evaluation process. In conclusion the commission, and the undersigned shares this opinion, agree that the general overview is satisfactory.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*C.1.1.2.** During the course, students are continuously offered the opportunity to consult with their advisors and during the meetings with the commission, they have all expressed their satisfaction. It means that sufficient mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their need and interests.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

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

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

**Performance Indicator C.2.1.1.** All documents concerning the organization, functioning and the regulations of the doctoral school are regularly published and accessible. All information, though some technicalities and some justified legal remarks, are clear and understandable. The necessary level of transparency is thus satisfied.

***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 students could benefit from the access and use of academic data base for the development of their studies and research project.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.2.2.2** All students can access to an electronic software in order to verify the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works. This has been confirmed during the meetings with some of the graduates and students.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.2.2.3.** All students have free access to multimedial laboratories and to the university and research infrastructure. In general, all students enjoy from the opportunities offered by the university for the access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies. As a matter of fact, all three schools permit access to multimedial and specialized labs, the libraries with the respective reading hall. At the same time, it is honestly recognized by the internal evaluation report itself that much has to be done in order to upgrade the existing structure.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

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

*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.** Some mobility agreements have been stipulated with foreign universities and institutions in the respective subject of study, such as Erasmus+. At least 35% of the students have benefited from the opportunity to confront with an international environment of study, in different ways, with mobility programs or participating to international conferences. This kind of activity is fundamental in the context of consolidating a European Cultural Space and according to some of the graduates this aspect could be further implemented.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.2.** Though some international professors and experts are involved in the doctoral schools, the partnerships in offering co-tutored programs are currently not sufficiently developed and need to be further implemented.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.3.** Numerous international initiatives and opportunities are offered to the students. As a consequence, though the doctoral school could further ameliorate its international appeal, the indicator is entirely fulfilled.

***The indicator is fulfilled***



#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <p>- The strength of the doctoral school is represented by the great experience and the huge amount of work that is carried out by some of its advisors. In particular, the Image, Space, Text, Territory Doctoral Program seems well-constructed, organized and developed. It is an innovative field of studies and it is cohesively conducted. As a result, it has proved to be very attractive for possible candidates. The other schools equally proved to be attractive for students but do not appear as well-structured as the above mentioned Image, Space, Text, Territory Doctoral Program.</p>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <p>- As a general impression that could not be entirely reflected in the different indicators, the undersigned has noticed the fact that some of the advisors seem to be excessively engaged. As a consequence, a relative disproportion affects the context of research. The School of Letters, for example, is presented as operative in the field of philology and linguistics, but my perception after the evaluation (documents and meetings) is that it has mainly worked in the field of ethnology, ethnography and cultural anthropology. In conclusion, the three doctoral schools' program could be more cohesive and better assembled.</p>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <p>- The innovation and, under some aspects, uniqueness of the study programs, together with their relevance to the national market, undoubtedly represent interesting elements to fully exploit for its further development. Some points have to be better clarified – for example the scientific appeal of the Interdisciplinary school could be strengthened and its programs clarified, consolidating the position of the respective school at the national and international level.</p>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <p>- The deficient aspects stemming out from the current evaluation do not currently represent serious threats to the efficient functioning of the institution. As a possible consequence of the previously mentioned weaknesses, the minor engagement of one of the current advisors could by the way gravely affect the efficiency and the keeping of good results and the respect of some indicators. In some cases, the requisites are met by the schools but the limited margins leave no room for possible errors or future shortcomings.</p>

#### V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	<b>PI</b>	<p><b>A.1.1.1.</b> 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 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>fulfilled</i>	
2.	<b>PI</b>	<p><b>A.1.1.2.</b> 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.</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
3.	<b>PI</b>	<p><b>A.1.2.1.</b> The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
4.	<b>PI</b>	<p><b>A.1.2.2.</b> The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	Some aspects in the use of the software could be better organized thus avoiding

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.		misleading results when processing the data (as lamented by one graduate).
5.	<b>IP</b>	<b>A.1.3.1.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
6.	<b>PI *</b>	<b>A.1.3.2.</b> 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%.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
7.	<b>PI *</b>	<b>A.1.3.3.</b> 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.).	<i>partially fulfilled</i>	It has been recognized by the international evaluation report that the financial assistance to professional training of doctoral students could be improved.
8.	<b>CPI</b>	<b>A.2.1.1.</b> 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	<i>fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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		
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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
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%.	<i>partially fulfilled</i>	The number of advisors could be enlarged, or the distribution of students among them could be more varied, in order to reduce the risk of not fulfilling the

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				indicator and have a better distribution of students among the advisors. One of them, in particular, seems too much charged.
13.	<b>CPI</b>	<p><b>A.3.2.1.</b> 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.</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
14.	<b>PI *</b>	<p><b>A.3.2.2.</b> 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</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		scientific results within the past five years		
15.	PI *	<b>B.1.1.1.</b> 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>fulfilled</i>	
16.	PI *	<b>B.1.2.1.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
17.	PI	<b>B.1.2.2.</b> The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
18.	PI	<b>B.2.1.1.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
19.	PI	<b>B.2.1.2.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
20.	<b>PI</b>	<b>B.2.1.3.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	These mechanisms, though existing, could be better organized tracking the professional career of all the graduates and presenting it more carefully through a report or a more detailed document. In other words, the activity in this field could be better expressed.
21.	<b>PI</b>	<b>B.2.1.4.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
22.	<b>CPI</b>	<b>B.2.1.5.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
23.	<b>CPI</b>	<b>B.3.1.1.</b> 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	<i>fulfilled</i>	
24.	<b>PI *</b>	<b>B.3.1.2.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
25.	PI *	<p><b>B.3.2.1.</b> 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.</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
26.	PI *	<p><b>B.3.2.2.</b> 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.</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
27.	PI	<p><b>C.1.1.1.</b> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;</li> <li>b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;</li> <li>c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;</li> <li>d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;</li> <li>e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;</li> <li>f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.</li> </ul>	<i>fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
28.	PI *	<p><b>C.1.1.2.</b> 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>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
29.	CPI	<p><b>C.2.1.1.</b> 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"> <li>a) the Doctoral School regulation;</li> <li>b) the admission regulation;</li> <li>c) the doctoral studies contract;</li> <li>d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</li> <li>e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;</li> <li>f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</li> <li>g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);</li> <li>h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<i>fulfilled</i>	
30.	PI	<p><b>C.2.2.1.</b> All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	<p>Today this aspect is particularly relevant and I personally suggest to implement digital resources as much as possible</p>
31.	PI	<p><b>C.2.2.2.</b> Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic</p>	<i>fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.		
32.	PI	<b>C.2.2.3.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	It is recognized by the internal evaluation report itself, that the infrastructure could be upgraded and improved.
33.	PI *	<b>C.3.1.1.</b> 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.	<i>fulfilled</i>	
34.	PI	<b>C.3.1.2.</b> 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.	<i>partially fulfilled</i>	More stable relations could be established for example creating official co-tutelage programs.
35.	PI	<b>C.3.1.3.</b> 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.).	<i>fulfilled</i>	



## **VI. Conclusions and general recommendations**

The programs under review and the University of Bucharest currently play an important role in the Educational and Cultural high studies system of Romania. The strength of the doctoral school is represented by the history of the University itself, with its structures and tradition. At the same time, the professors working within the framework of the doctoral school are all experienced and competent, and the students clearly benefit from their great knowledge and by their personal engagement. In some cases, this is really remarkable. In particular, I think that the Image, Space, Text, Territory Doctoral Program deserve special consideration, as it is an innovative field of studies, and is well-constructed, organized and developed.

The same appeal, as emerged during the evaluation process, is shared by the Doctoral School in Letters, in particular in the research field of ethnography, which has been appreciated by the graduates and students the commission had the opportunity to talk with.

As it has been more recently created, the Interdisciplinary school could be strengthened, consolidating the position of the respective school at the national and international level.

As a general impression that could be not entirely reflected in the different indicators, the undersigned has noticed the fact that some of the advisors seem to be excessively engaged. As a consequence, a relative disproportion affects the context of research. The School of Letters, for example, is presented as operative in the field of philology and linguistics, but my perception after the evaluation (documents and meetings) is that it has mainly worked in the field of ethnology, ethnography and cultural anthropology. In conclusion, the three doctoral schools' program could be more cohesive and better assembled in order to improve their overall position at national and international level.

Currently, there are no serious problems affecting the doctoral programs, and in fact the commission has underlined only some minor aspects that have only partially fulfilled. One general remark that I heartedly encourage is the enlargement of the number of doctoral advisors, in order to consolidate the position of the school and assure its growth in the following years.

As a result of all this, I think that the doctoral program of the University of Bucharest should be confirmed. At the same time, I suggest to consolidate some of the indicators: those that have not been completely fulfilled – as illustrated in this report – and those that have been fulfilled but seem susceptible to create problems in the future, as the margins are restricted and any possible change could be detrimental to the keeping of the necessary requisites.

## **VII. Annexes**

*The following types of documents shall be attached:*

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review, the results - optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation - if applicable.*



- *Scanned documents – any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.*
- *Pictures – if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc.*
- *Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved.*
- *Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report.*

Prof. Giuseppe Motta

Sapienza University of Rome

Rome December 2, 2021

Signature