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Institutional evaluation visit - IOSUD/doctoral study domains at the University of Bucharest (17-26 November 2021)

1. Methods used

The evaluation in the domain of law was carried out in remote telematic modality following the indications of Aracis.

The methodology used provided for:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Online Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Online Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Online Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Online Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Online 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.

2. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The domain analysis was conducted according to Romanian legislation in the matter and the international and European best practices in evaluating doctoral schools.

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

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 visit confirmed the existence of complete and specific regulations and their coherent application at the level of the Doctoral School of the university doctoral study domain in Law.



Namely the visit evidenced the adequate presence of:

- (a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;
 - (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;
 - (c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);
 - (d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;
 - (e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;
 - (f) the contract for doctoral studies;
 - (g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
 - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

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 visit confirmed the full coherence between the assessed institution's documents and the concrete implementation of them. Particularly, the admission is satisfactory, because the procedure it is implemented according to the regulations and best practices at domestic and international level. Transparency of procedure is ensured because the information are accessible and published in advance.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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



- The visit confirmed the existence and full effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.

- The facts as findings from the assessed Institution's documents confirm the evaluation of the indicator, also through the evaluation visit, into the limits of an online visit, but performed through satisfactory meetings with the involved actors.

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 visit and discussion with confirm the use of an appropriate software program used to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.

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.*

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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 visit confirmed that the indicator is addressed in a fully satisfactory manner. The documents entirely demonstrate the existence of the requested activities and that financial resources are used optimally for the implementation of doctoral courses. The resources for implementing libraries, technical equipment and students' international mobility are sufficient and the information derived from documents and from the interviews with the Director of the the Faculty of Law Library confirm the high level of infrastructure. Databases and books in the domain of Law are very satisfactory for implementing research activities. However it could be useful to increase governmental funding, also with the participation to competitive European calls for attracting funds for improving infrastructure, human resources, namely the involved mentors/supervisors and mobility. Also the intersectoral approach, with involving public and private sector can be useful for supporting the research activities.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled. Some suggestion is provided.



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%.*

- *The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the satisfactory adequacy of the institution to requested indicator.*

Recommendations:

The indicator is 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 documents and the visit, also through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the institution to requested indicator.*

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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 documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the institution to requested indicator. Overall, the Institution offers a sufficient support to doctoral courses and students' research, with a well organized library that offers the basic facilities for implementing researches in the domain.*

¹ 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.



- However, despite the sufficient level of the existing infrastructure, the international evaluator suggest to to reinforce the library's collection of books, particularly with incrementing the access to international scientific resources, namely printed international journals, and also to increment the number and variety of the online resources, concerning legal databases and journals, also in a interdisciplinary and internationally oriented perspective of the Courses. Can be useful and partially necessary to implement / improve the possibility of a remote access to databases, for offering a full possibility for the students to have studying materials at their home. Finally an improvement of the informatic equipment, hardware and software, to be use by the PhD students. could strengthen the infrastructure, with enhancing students' autonomy.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled. Some improvement is recommended.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

- *The 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 are fully demonstrated by the Institution.*

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.*

- *The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the satisfactory adequacy of the institution to requested indicator.*

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 study subjects in the education program are entirely based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain of Law. The high level of involved scholars is fully demonstrated and their commitment for improving the courses is developed in an excellent manner.

- The courses are taught by a very good and fully adequate staff of experienced professors, supported by qualified young scholars. The teaching staff provides for the necessary activities for successfully managing all doctoral activities from a scientific point of view, with a great attention to the interdisciplinary dialogue. The international evaluator listened on this point a group of students who confirmed the excellent scientific quality of the involved teachers. Also the interviews with graduates with a success story confirm the high level of the legal training, that reinforces the career's opportunities to the best graduates.

- The scholars have the requested academic qualification for implementing the PhD courses' activities. Involved professors adequately encourage and support students to conduct quality scientific research, while providing them with opportunities to which they have access (for instance, with encouraging the participation to conferences, and favouring the possibility of publishing articles, etc.).

- The overall adequacy is also fully aligned to international standards and best practices in the legal field.

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 programs² does not exceed 20%.

- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, entirely confirm the satisfactory adequacy of the institution to requested indicator.

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.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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



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.

- The documents, the information provided by the involved people at visited Institution and the direct knowledge by the undersigned international evaluator of the scientific activities of some involved scholars confirm their international visibility and the high consideration of their studies and publications in the legal domain.

- The requested percentage for performing indicator is respected, taking into consideration the international parameters in the matter of citations for social sciences.

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.*

- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the satisfactory adequacy of the institution to requested indicator.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The domain analysis was conducted according to Romanian legislation in the matter and the international and European best practices in evaluating doctoral schools.

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.

**general description of the standard analysis.*



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.*

- *The capacity to attract a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available is clarified by the documentation. The recognized prestige of the Institution, the high scientific quality and the relevance of the involved scholars, and the well organized PhD Courses demonstrate that the indicator's content is fully satisfactory.*

Recommendations:

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. *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.*

- *The capacity to attract a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available is clarified by the offered documentation. The recognized prestige of the Institution, its high scientific recognition, the relevance of the involved scholars, and the very well organized PhD Courses demonstrate that the indicator's content is fully satisfied.*

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 admission³ does not exceed 30%.*

- *The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the institution to requested indicator.*

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

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



**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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.*

- The training program is seriously based to the better methodological approaches in the legal fields. The in-depth involved disciplines are managed with a high attention to the scientific methodology. The Dean and involved Scholars are renowned scholars with adequate experience in the field and high level of commitment in managing the school also confirmed and appreciated by the interviewed students and graduates.

- The international evaluator recommends a careful consideration of students' desire to increase their interaction with other PhD students, to exchange good practices, and to share the results of their research. The students' suggestion sounds as excellent for improving interdisciplinary sensitivity, for stimulating best practicing in research and for sharing research experience at domestic and international level, and overall stimulating a constructive scientific dialogue.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled. Some recommendation is provided.

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 intersection between different legal perspectives is at the basis of more approaches by the involved disciplines. Particularly, the role of comparative legal approach, clarified during the online meetings, is well based on a ethical perception of law. Overall, the links between ethics and IPR are considered into the PhD Courses.

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 activities⁴.*

⁴ 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.



- According to the IOSUD indications, the academic training program of the Institution well 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 .

- This objective is ensured by a well organized system of periodical evaluation of Phd students progresses.

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.

- Overall, the relationship between students and their supervisors is excellent. The interaction with mentors / supervisors is satisfactory and well organized, both in presence and remotely.

- The PhD students are well oriented in their research activities by the involved mentors and, overall, by the coordinator and the PhD board that follows periodically and with accuracy the progresses of the students, also identifying possible difficulties and proposing adequate correcting activities.

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.

- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

Recommendations:

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.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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



- The provided papers contain significant original contributions in the Law domain that fully confirm the adequacy of scientific value of doctoral activities and the very good implementation of PhD courses.

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.

- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

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.

*general description of the standard analysis.

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.

- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

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 documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

Recommendations:

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.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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 evaluation process and the internal quality assurance is fully respectful of the procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, and all the mandatory criteria are adequately addressed.*
- Then performance indicator is satisfied.*

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.*

- The Institution ensures the implementation of adequate mechanisms during the stage of the doctoral study program.*
- The PhD's organisation offer good opportunities for stimulating useful feedback from doctoral students to identify their needs.*
- Through planned meetings the PhD students' level of satisfaction is adequately monitored.*
- These meetings offer a good opportunity for ensuring the improvement of the academic and administrative processes, also in the light of students' proposals and criticism.*



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

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.*

- All the necessary information listed in the Performance Indicator C.2.1.1 (from "a" / to "i") is offered by the institution's website. Data management and data protection are adequately considered.

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 documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the sufficient adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

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.*



- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

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.

- The documents and the visit, through the online discussion, confirm the adequacy of the PhD Courses to requested indicator.

Recommendations:

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. 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.

- The international mobility is ensured by effective agreements with universities abroad.

- The percentage requested by then Performance Indicator C.3.1.1 is respected.

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.

- The Institution offers sufficient support to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage.

- The indicator / sub-criterion is addressed. However, the international evaluator suggests to improve this aspect through a direct involvement of international scholars in regular teaching activities, also interdisciplinary and in distance, for reinforcing contacts between PhD students and these scholars, and also for orienting the PhD students' decisions about institutions to select for their international mobility.



- The international evaluator also encourages to reinforce the financial support for the domestic and international mobility of the students. In this perspective can be useful an improvement of linguistic skills of involved students, through dedicated courses, for instance of “legal english”.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled. Some suggestion is provided.

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

- The indicator is fully satisfied because IOSUD sufficiently support concrete measures for implementing and reinforcing international activities, e.g. by including international experts in doctoral activities. However, the international expert suggests to reinforce this aspect and encourage a wider participation of PhD students to International stage.

Recommendations: Despite the indicator is satisfied, the international expert suggests to encourage a wider participation of PhD students to International stage.

The indicator is fulfilled. Some suggestion is provided.

External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

3. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <p>- the strengths identified throughout the report will be resumed as part of the indicators’ analysis. Other general strengths that do not fall within a particular indicator may be formulated.</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <p>- the weaknesses identified throughout the report will be resumed as part of the indicators’ analysis. Other general weaknesses that do not fall within a particular indicator may be formulated.</p>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>- possible lines of action for the development of the institution under review shall be identified;</p> <p>- examples of opportunities: a favorable economic environment in the proximity of the assessed institution, the uniqueness of the study programs and their relevance to the local/national market, the overall attractiveness of the study programs etc.</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>- the possible causes of the deficient aspects (the causes of the identified weaknesses), which are practically the threats to the proper functioning of the institution, shall be identified;</p> <p>- besides, there may be external threats, such as: the inopportune economic environment in the proximity of the assessed institution, the conduct of low attractiveness study programs for both candidates and the labor market etc.</p>

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the 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>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
2.	PI	<p>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.</p>	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
3.	PI	<p>A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
4.	PI	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 indicator is fulfilled.	
5.	IP	A.1.3.1. Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.	The indicator is fulfilled.	- <i>The international Evaluator notes that could be useful to increase governmental funding, also with the participation to competitive European calls for attracting funds for improving infrastructure, human resources, namely the involved mentors/supervisors and overall mobility, both for students and staff. Also the intersectoral approach, with involving public and private sector can be useful for supporting the research activities.</i>
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.	The indicator is fulfilled.	
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).	The indicator is fulfilled.	
8.	CPI	A.2.1.1. The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the	The indicator is fulfilled.	- <i>Despite the good level of the existing infrastructure, the International Evaluator suggests to reinforce the library's collection of</i>

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		<p>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</p>		<p><i>books, particularly with incrementing the access to international scientific resources, namely printed international journals, and also to increment the number and variety of the online resources, concerning legal databases and journals, also in a interdisciplinary and internationally oriented perspective of the Courses. Can be useful and partially necessary to implement / improve the possibility of a remote access to databases, for offering a full possibility for the students to have studying materials at their home. Finally an improvement of the informatic equipment, hardware and software, to be use by the PhD students. could strengthen the infrastructure, with enhancing students' authonomy.</i></p>
9.	CPI	<p>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.</p>	<p><i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i></p>	
10.	PI *	<p>A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.</p>	<p><i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i></p>	
11.	PI	<p>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</p>	<p><i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i></p>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
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%.	The indicator is fulfilled.	
13.	CPI	A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: 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.	The indicator is fulfilled.	
14.	PI *	A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU	The indicator is fulfilled.	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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		
15.	PI *	B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats 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>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
18.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	- <i>The international evaluator recommends a careful consideration of students' interest to increase their interaction with other PhD students, to exchange good practices, and to share the results of their research. The students' proposals sound as excellent for improving interdisciplinary sensitivity, for stimulating best practicing in research and for sharing research experience at domestic and international level,</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				<i>and overall for improving a constructive scientific dialogue.</i>
19.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
20.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
21.	PI	B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
22.	CPI	B.2.1.5. For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1. For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor’s title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
27.	PI	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
28.	PI *	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	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
29.	CPI	<p>C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Doctoral School regulation; b) the admission regulation; c) the doctoral studies contract; d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis; e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies; f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data; g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor); h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis; i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation. 	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
30.	PI	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
31.	PI	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	
32.	PI	C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.		
33.	PI *	<p>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.</p>	<p>The indicator is fulfilled.</p>	
34.	PI	<p>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.</p>	<p>The indicator is fulfilled.</p>	<p>- <i>The international evaluator suggests to improve this point through a direct involvement of international scholars in regular teaching activities, also interdisciplinary and in distance, for reinforcing contacts between PhD students and these scholars, and also for orienting the PhD students' decisions about institutions to select for their international mobility.</i></p> <p>- <i>The international evaluator also encourages to reinforce the financial support for the domestic and international mobility of the students. In this perspective can be useful an improvement of linguistic skills of involved students, through dedicated courses, for instance of "legal english".</i></p>
35.	PI	<p>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</p>	<p>The indicator is fulfilled.</p>	<p>- <i>The international expert suggests to encourage a wider participation of PhD students to International stage and activities.</i></p>



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).		

6/12/2021

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