

Evaluation by international expert Prof. João Sarmento, University of Minho

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Methods used
- III. Analysis of performance indicators
- IV. SWOT Analysis
- V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations
- VI. Conclusions and general recommendations
- VII. Annexes

I. Introduction¹

In this chapter, the following shall be summarized:

- the context in which this external evaluation report was drafted (**the type of evaluation, the period of the evaluation visit, the composition of the Experts Committee** etc.);

The external evaluation took place in the month of November 2021. Due to the pandemic, all meetings took place online, and no visit on-site was possible. The vast majority of documents was received prior to the meetings described below. On request, other documents were added to complement the information received.

The Geography Evaluation Panel was composed of three people: the coordinator, Prof.univ.dr. Adrian Grozavu, from "A.I. Cuza" University of Iași, myself, Prof. João Sarmento, from the University of Minho, Portugal, as international expert, and PhD student Sorin Furdu, from the University of Oradea.

- details about the doctoral school(s) of which the doctoral domain under review is part (number of doctoral advisors, number of students, institutional context, short history etc.);
- details about the doctoral study domain under review (number of students, institutional context, short history etc.).

The Doctoral School in Geography "*Simion Mehedinti*" - *Environment and sustainable development* was established in 2005, and is located in Bucharest. It was last evaluated and accredited in 2015.

The Doctoral School Mission focuses on the themes of physical geography, human geography, tourism geography and environmental science, the latter renamed from environmental geography in 2018.

The Doctoral School established four strategic objectives, namely increasing the international visibility of the doctoral school; developing research infrastructure; attracting funds for scientific research; and promoting scientific research results;

Since 2018, the school has 24 supervisors (Table 1), 13 of whom meet the National authority of titles and certification in higher education, criteria.

¹ Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



The doctoral school uses the specific infrastructure and resources of the Faculty of Geography, including its library. *The library of the Faculty of Geography* owns a total number of book titles, in physical format, of over 50,000. The doctoral school also uses the two research stations of the Faculty, namely the Orșova Geographic Station and Sfântu Gheorghe Marine and Fluvial Research Station. The former was established in 1964, has plays a significant role in the research related to the area of the Danube Gorge and the south of the Banat Mountains. The latter operating since 2002, it important in the research activities of the deltaic and coastal areas.

Between 2015 and 2019, the total number of accepted Doctoral students ranged from 23 to 31 per year. In the academic year 2018-2019 there were 146 PhD students, and there are currently 122 PhD students.

II. Methods used

This chapter will contain the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, including at least:

Unfortunately, and due to the pandemic situation, it was not possible to visit the buildings included in the institution's property, and therefore no assessment could be made on classrooms, laboratories; libraries; research centers; etc. All meetings were online. Simultaneous translation from Romanian into English was provided.

Administrative support was always available, and continuous contact was kept with Florentina Paraschiv. Several exchanges of information and also zoom meetings took place with the panel coordinator, Prof. Adrian Grozavu, which were key to this report.

On Tuesday, 22.11.2021, between 11:00 and 12:00, via zoom, we met with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review - Prof. Iulia Armas - and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report. Various issues were discussed and clarified.

- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;

On Wednesday, 23.11.2021 between 13:00 and 13:45, via zoom, we met with 10 PhD students: The meeting was conducted in Romanian with simultaneous English translation.

- Meeting/discussions with the Directors/ persons in charge of the research centres/laboratories within the doctoral study domain

On Wednesday, 24.11.2021, between 10:00 and 10:45, via zoom, we met with Directors/ persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories, namely Elena Stuparin from CeLTIS (Centre of Landscape-Territory-Information Systems); Daniel Peptenatu from CAIMT (Centrul de Analiză Integrată și Management Teritorial); Laurentiu Rozlowicz, from the Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies (www.ccmesi.ro); Elena Matei, from the *Research Centre for Regional Analyses in Tourism Environment and Sustainable Development* (<https://cartedd.cc.unibuc.ro/>); Savulescu, from the Orșova Research Station (<http://orsova.geo.unibuc.ro/index.html>); and Alfred Vespremeanu Stroe, from the Geodar GEODAR Research Group in Geomorphology, Geoarchaeology and Paleo-environments and the Marine & Fluvial Research Station, Sfântu Gheorghe, Danube delta (www.coastalresearch.ro).



- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;

On Monday, 22.11.2021, between 15:00 and 16:00, via zoom, we met with ten graduates from the doctoral school. The meeting was conducted in Romanian and translation was available.

- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;

On Thursday, 24.11.2021, between 15:00 and 15:45, via zoom, we met with four employers of Doctoral graduates: Mircea Radulian, from the Physics of the Earth Centre; Viorel Chendes, from the National Hydrology Centre; Vlad Loghin, from Intergraph; and Florian Bodescu, from an Environmental Consultancy Company.

- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;

On Monday, 22.11.2021, between 11:00 and 12:00, via zoom, we met with Iulia Armas, Liliana Zaharia, and Daniel Peptenatu.

- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;

On Wednesday, 23.11.2021, between 11:00 and 11:45, via zoom, there was a meeting with staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain.

- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:

- The Council of the Doctoral School, the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures);
- the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
- student organizations;
- secretariats;
- various departments/administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.);

- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review.

On Wednesday, 17.11.2021, between 15:00 and 17:00, via zoom, there was a general meeting of panel members, to discuss the main methodological aspects related to the evaluation of doctoral studies.

On Monday, 22.11.2021, between 9:00 and 9:45, via zoom, there was a general meeting of panel members, to discuss *the preparation and harmonization of evaluation steps of the doctoral study domains and IOSUD.*

On Monday, 22.11.2021, between 10:00 and 10:45, via zoom, there was a meeting *with representatives of the University and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD).*

On Tuesday, 23.11.2021, between 9:00 and 9:45, via zoom, there was a meeting *with the members of the Ethics Commission.*



On Friday, 23.11.2021, between 16:00 and 16:50, via zoom, there was a meeting to deal with technical issues.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

(a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;

The internal regulations of the Doctoral School are available, in Romanian and English, at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/regulation-unibuc.pdf> They are in place since 2018.

Several documents in Romanian are available at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/regulament/>, such as the internal processes of quality internal insurance of the Council for University Doctoral Studies (CUSD); the *Methodology of monitoring, evaluating and insuring the quality of the University doctoral studies, among many others.*

(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;

Doctoral students are elected by PhD supervisors, two Doctoral students are currently on the Doctoral School Council, which makes for over 28% of the total number of DSC members. Doctoral students are also represented in the Geography Faculty 's Council. The PhD students' representative was elected by universal, direct and secret ballot of Doctoral students and is a full member of the Council.

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

The Doctoral School organises an annual admission competition (information available publically online: <http://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/admitere/>). The information is partially available in English.

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

In the Doctoral School website (<https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/regulament/>) there is a document entitled - HOTARARE cu privire la aprobarea exercitarii calitatii de conducator de doctorat in cadrul scolilor



doctorale ale Universitatii din Bucuresti - which has information regarding these mechanisms. It is available in Romanian only.

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

According to the self-assessment report, the Doctoral School conducts both face-to-face meetings, online meetings and e-mail voting. Regulations can be found at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/regulament/> (Romanian only).

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

Contracts are made in accordance with UDSOI regulations, and are published on the School's website (<https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/regulament/>).

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

Regulations can be found at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/regulament/> (Romanian only).

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.

Doctoral School Regulations are available at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/regulament> and comply fully with all aspects specified in above article 17.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

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

*general description of the standard analysis.

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.

Since 2018/2019 that the University of Bucharest uses a software program named UMS, which allows for the management of candidates, the admission to the doctoral, and the management of doctoral studies. The doctoral school has developed a prototype IT product named *The Doctoral School Platform*, to keep a record of Doctoral students and of their professional activities.

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.*

Since 2013 the University of Bucharest checks the similarity percentage of doctoral dissertations. In 2014 10% of doctoral dissertations, randomly selected were checked. Since 2016, all doctoral dissertations are checked, using two IT programs, which are certified by the Minister and by SistemAntiplagiat.ro.

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.*

Almost 70% of professorial staff members either completed or are currently implementing at least one national and/or international project (Annexes 1-3). Doctoral students were and are involved in these research projects.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

A total of 60% of the 122 Doctoral students received research grants over a period of at least six months from financing sources other than governmental funds (Annex 4a and Annex 5). A list with the names of all these students was provided.

Naturally it is impossible to assess if these research grants are enough to conduct independent research without the need to have part-time or full time jobs. It is critical that the best students are able to find financial support to conduct their research activities without having to spend time performing jobs which are non-research related. Some of these issues are above the responsibilities of the Faculty and lay at National Government and Ministry levels.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.² *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

Roughly 5% of the total research funds accessed via doctoral grants and tuition fees obtained by the university are used to support Doctoral students in attending scientific events, for mobility scholarships for Doctoral students, and to support conferences held by doctoral schools and the publications resulting from these events. Other sources of financing developed through the Structural Funds Service result in over 10.10% used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students. A list of students, who benefited from European funded mobility exchanges and the amounts involved, and the number of students who received research grants is available.

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 self-assessment report lists a number of improvements which were made in the past five years, which range from renovation works and improvement of living conditions of students' dormitories, to a conference hall and various lecture rooms.

The Faculty of Geography has two important research stations - Orsova (since 1964) and Sf. Gheorghe (since 2002). The self-assessment report provides a list of the existent laboratories, and respective equipment.

The indicated problem of lack of space is going to be solved, according to the self-assessment report, with the opening of the new building of the Rectorate and the University of Bucharest.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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



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 doctoral School has a total of 24 doctoral supervisors. Of these, 14, that is, more than 50%, meet the minimal standards of the National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (see Table 7 in the self-assessment report, and Annex 1). Details of all staff is available in the website.

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.*

Out of all the 24 doctoral supervisors in the field of Geography, as referred above, 20 are members of the IOSUD (see Table 7 in the self-assessment report).

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.*

Table 7 in the self-assessment report, lists the 10 teaching staff who are responsible for the doctoral school courses. Details of the courses can be found at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/plan-de-invatamant-2018-2021/> and in the Annex 1.

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 programs³ does not exceed 20%.*

Only two out of 24 thesis advisors coordinate more than 8 doctoral students and in any case they do not exceed 12 student supervisions. Thus, the figure does not exceed 5 %.

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 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.*

Over 83%, that is, 20 out of all the 24 Ph.D. supervisors have at least 5 publications in journals indexed in the Web of Science (WOS) over the period of current evaluation. From these, ten have in excess of 10 WOS papers, and two Ph.D. leaders have published over 20 WOS papers. The list of papers can be consulted in Annex 9.

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.*

Annex 10 lists the main achievements of the 24 staff who are involved in the doctoral school. Individual files for 14 staff are provided in Annex 1 which comply with CNATDCU standards.

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



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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.*

Out of a total 102 available positions funded by the state for the doctoral school, 28 candidates who registered for the doctoral studies admission competition, were graduates of a masters' programme or of other postgraduate institutions in the country or abroad. This means that there is a ratio of 0,27 (see Table 11a in the self-assessment report, and Annex 11).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

According to the self-assessment report, the selection of candidates involves several items and it is made according to the following principles, and include:

“- 30% for the evaluation of expert knowledge. based on the references list proposed by the doctoral supervisor;



- 50% for the research project (scientific background and interests, topic motivation, research objectives and methodology, estimated results, estimated innovative output);
- 20% for the candidate's scientific achievements (publications, participation in scientific events, etc.)."

These criteria are detailed in the Admission Methodology, elaborated by the Council of the Doctoral School, and is available at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/metodologie-admitere/>

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 admission⁴ does not exceed 30%.*

- *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*

According to the self-assessment report, between 2016-2020, the total number of doctoral students who dropped out in the first two years of doctoral studies was 3, which is under 1% of the total number of doctoral students during that time period. During the meetings it was possible to ascertain that the reasons for dropouts were related to personal or health issues.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

**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.*

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

- *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*

According to the self-assessment report, there are at least three courses related to the scientific research training which focus on the in-depth study of methodological research and the processing of data statistics. These are:

1. Quantitative and qualitative spatial methods in environmental research;
2. Anthropocene,
3. Methodology of elaborating scientific papers.

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



4. Ethics and Academic Integrity
5. The communication of the results of scientific research in public

Details on the courses can be found at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/phd-degree-programme-structure/>, although they are only available in English for the years 2019-2020, 2020-2021 & 2021-2022.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

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

- 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

There is a course titled 'Ethics and Academic Integrity'. Details for the years 2018-2021 can be found at <https://scoaladoctorala.geo.unibuc.ro/plan-de-invatamant-2018-2021/>, but in Romanian only.

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 activities⁵.*

- 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

There are several mechanisms in place to verify the development of targeted competencies, skills and Aptitudes. These are related to a) research and reporting applications on doctoral topics; b) the organization of public sessions for communicating research results; c) for practising specific ways of communication; d) regular evaluations by doctoral students of the teaching programme.

The Quality Assurance Commission/Board inspects the quality assurance of the courses, and at the level of the Geography Faculty, they consist of 6 doctoral supervisors, from all three subdomains of the Doctoral School.

It was not possible to open any of the links related to students' feedback which appear in the self-assessment report, which relate to the overall doctoral program and the individual courses.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

⁵Or 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.



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.

- 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

The self assessment indicates that there is an advisory panel whose role is to coordinate, monitor and correct, together with the supervisor, the activity of the doctoral student. The panel consists of three affiliated staff or non-affiliated teaching and research staff, who are appointed by the supervisor, after consulting the doctoral student.

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.

- 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

The number of doctoral supervisors and members of advisory panels, plus all course instructors in the preparation programme of advanced postgraduate studies is 56, for every 122 doctoral students, resulting in a ratio of approximately 2:1 (see annex 12).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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.

- 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

Annex 13a, comprised of three files, provides a publication list of 9, 18 and 21 PhD graduates, respectively. Files are in Romanian only. Nine publications are provided in a folder in Annex 13a, and at least 3 of them provide significant original contributions to the field of Geography.

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.

- 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

According to the self-assessment report, this ratio is at least equal to 1 (Annex 13.b).

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.

- 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

According to the self-assessment report, and in particular to the information gathered in table 16, the number of doctoral theses assigned to one specialist from a higher education institution other than the UDSOI evaluated, does not exceed two, in a year, for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor (see also Annex 15).

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.

- 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

For the evaluation period, the maximum value was 0,075 in the whole domain of Geography, and 0,25, for the subdomain of Human Geography, which is well below the limit of 0,3.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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.

- 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

The University of Bucharest has a Committee for Quality Evaluation and Insurance, which is responsible for the elaboration and implementation of a quality management system. At the university level, the Department of Curricular Development and Qualification is responsible for the provisional authorization, accreditation or periodic evaluation of the undergraduate and graduate programmes.



The coordination of the activity of monitoring, evaluating and ensuring the quality of doctoral schools is the responsibility of the Council for University Doctoral Studies. An *Annual Report of the Committee for Quality Evaluation and Insurance of the University of Bucharest* is yearly published. Students are represented in all structures.

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.

Each year, the University of Bucharest Statistics Department carries out analyses on student and satisfaction. Table 18 provides results related to the Doctoral School, and although it is in Romanian only, it is possible to see that 71% of students are very satisfied or rather satisfied. No comment is made on the results, and especially on the 29% who are not very satisfied or rather satisfied.

At the level of Geography School, the evaluation by the doctoral students is done through online questionnaires. Several links are provided, but it was not possible to open them. At the same time, no discussion was made on the results.

Recommendations:

Clearly present the results of students feedback and discuss its implications.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.

- 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

In the website www.unibuc.ro access it is possible to find the information as listed above. On <https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/> various public information is available, abiding by the general regulations of data protection on the doctoral school's regulations, admission methodology, finalising procedures, including information referring public defences; the content of the academic curricula, information on the dissertation drafting standards, etc.

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.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.

- 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

ANELIS Plus programme allows doctoral students to have free access to a platform of academic data bases, either through direct, IP based access at the University of Bucharest, or by remote access.

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.

- 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

According to the self-assessment report, it possible for doctoral students to access one of the electronic systems of similarity control used by the University of Bucharest under the conditions stipulated in the Procedures on the use of the similarity control electronic system by doctoral students of the University of Bucharest (<https://doctorat.unibuc.ro/studiiuniversitare-de-doctorati>)

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.

- 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

According to the self-assessment report, doctoral students have access to the infrastructure of the faculty, research centres and research stations (Orşova Geographic Research Station and Sfântu Gheorghe Marine and River Research Station), depending on the topic of the doctoral thesis.

Recommendations:

The indicator is **fulfilled**.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

*general description of the criterion analysis.

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

*general description of the standard analysis.

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.

- 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

ERASMUS+ program is in place, and 16 partnerships for doctoral students are listed. In the evaluation period, 6 students made an international mobility under this program. The University participates in the CIVIS network, a network of 8 European universities, which allows for the stimulation of international research work (<https://unibuc.ro/despre-ub/civis/>). Other bilateral agreements were signed, namely with north American universities. Tables 15.1 and 15.2, and Annex 14.a presents data on doctoral students' participation in conferences, symposia and internships.

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.



- 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

Two theses were co-supervised internationally, and details of these processes and research are provided. Table 25 provides a list of 10 international experts who were invited to the doctoral school to lecture during the evaluation period.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

A list of international education fairs participation is provided.

Table 26 lists international experts who were included in 3 PhD theses evaluation panels.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doctoral School is based on the Faculty of Geography, which is one of the most prestigious institution of fundamental and applied geographical research in the country; - Existence of numerous research projects; - Staff is motivated and has an excellent scientific track-record; - The existence of well equipped laboratories, including two field stations; - International relations in the field of scientific research with prestigious universities. - Very close relationship between PhD students and teaching staff. 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small number of administrative staff; - Poor funding for teaching, research and administrative staff; - Reduced number of grants for doctoral students;
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growing need for highly qualified specialists in the labour market; 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for continuous funding so that laboratories do not become outdated;

- High satisfaction of employers with the PhD graduates; - Rising prospects of internationalisation;	- Unpredictability of funding sources.
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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>	Fulfilled	None
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>	Fulfilled	None
3.	PI	<p>A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of</p>	Fulfilled.	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		doctoral students and their academic background.		
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.	Fulfilled	None
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.	Fulfilled	None
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.	Fulfilled	None
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.).	Fulfilled.	None
8.	CPI	A.2.1.1. The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory	Fulfilled.	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.	Fulfilled.	None
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled.	None
11.	PI	A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.	Fulfilled.	None
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%.	Fulfilled.	None
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	Fulfilled	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>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>		
14.	PI *	<p>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</p>	Fulfilled.	None
15.	PI *	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled.	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled.	None
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	None
18.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	Fulfilled.	None
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.	Fulfilled.	None
20.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	Fulfilled.	None
21.	PI	B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.	Fulfilled.	None
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	Fulfilled.	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.		
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	Fulfilled.	None
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.	Fulfilled.	None
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	Fulfilled.	None
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	Fulfilled.	None
27.	PI	C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation	Fulfilled.	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>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"> 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. 		
28.	PI *	<p>C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.</p>	Fulfilled.	None
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; 	Fulfilled.	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
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.	Fulfilled	None
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.	Fulfilled.	None
32.	PI	C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	Fulfilled	None
33.	PI *	C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	Fulfilled	None
34.	PI	C.3.1.2. In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	Fulfilled	None
35.	PI	C.3.1.3. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete	Fulfilled	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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 recommendations contained in the report shall be resumed in the indicators' analysis. Other general recommendations may be made that do not fit within a particular indicator.

VERY IMPORTANT!!! – Each identified weakness must be correlated with at least one recommendation to improve the situation!

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Several important issues raised during the evaluation are resumed and some general conclusions are drawn on the quality of the education provided within the doctoral study domain under review; the Experts' Panel also presents general assessments about the institution. Other general recommendation may also be presented, which cannot be related to a specific indicator and have not been presented at point V.

A decision is proposed, together with the reasons for granting it (if the Experts' Panel members do not reach a consensus, each of them can propose and argue his/her own decision).

- The University of Bucharest, and its Faculty of Geography, is very reputable institution, and offers high standards of education and research;
- Internal regulations of the Doctoral School are appropriated;
- Relationships between the Doctoral School and the community and the society at large should be constantly encouraged;
- Internationalisation is gaining importance and should be continuously promoted.
- Four strategic objectives were clearly set and an action plan to implement them with a time frame was proposed;

VII. Annexes



- *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.*