ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION



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Annex No. 3

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction¹

The present report was created on the basis of the periodic evaluation visit of the Doctoral field - Chemical Engineering, at the Polytechnic University of Bucharest.

According to the agenda, the evaluation visit took place between 15-25 June 2021, being included in the institutional evaluation visit of IOSUD.

The evaluation commission appointed by ARACIS had the following composition:

- Professor Ioan Mămăligă PhD supervisor in the field of Chemical Engineering at the Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" of Iasi and member of the Permanent Commission of Engineering Sciences 2 of ARACIS;
- Professor Alberto Coz Fernandez University of Cantabria Spain;
- Constantin Munteanu, PhD student in the field of Chemical Engineering at the Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi" of Iasi

The specific activities of the evaluation visit of the doctoral field were scheduled between 18- 23 June - online meetings with the members of the evaluation commission and meetings with the evaluation commission and the representatives of the university, faculty, doctoral school management, doctoral field coordinator, doctoral students, graduated doctoral students in the field, employers etc. On June 22, Prof. loan Mămăligă, the coordinator of the evaluation team, paid a visit to the Polytechnic University of Bucharest. During the visit, he had "face to face" meetings with the university management, the management of the Doctoral School, the dean of the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, the coordinator of the doctoral field, and with teachers who lead doctorates in the evaluated field.

 $^{^{\}rm 1}\,\textsc{Each}$ time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



II. Methods used

The Doctoral School "Applied Chemistry and Materials Science" (SD CASM) within the Polytechnic University of Bucharest (UPB) has a tradition of more than 70 years, being among the first technical doctoral schools of industrial chemistry and applied chemistry in Romania, once established with the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science in 1939. In its current form, SD CASM was established on April 20, 2012. At the establishment of SD CASM, the number of doctoral supervisors who had PhD students under guidance was 44. In the first general meeting of doctoral supervisors (June 16, 2012), the Rules of Procedure of SD CASM were approved. Also, there were adopted: the mission and objectives of the doctoral school, the medium and long term strategy, respectively, the code of ethics.

The list of doctoral supervisors, by fields, can be consulted on the SD CASM website (www.chimie.upb.ro/educatie/scoala-doctorala). Two other tenured teachers in UPB (Prof. Izabela Stancu and Assoc. Cristina Busuioc) obtained the certificate of qualification in the field of Chemical Engineering in December 2020 (OM 6305 and 6306 / 22.12.2020), their application for affiliation to SD-CASM of was approved in the CSUD meeting of March 5, 2021 and will receive the decision of the Senate of affiliation.

Currently, SD CASM has 54 doctoral supervisors: 44 in the field of Engineering Sciences / Chemical Engineering and 10 in the field of Exact Sciences / Chemistry.

The internal evaluation report of the evaluated doctoral university field was made available to the members of the evaluation team, and it could be consulted and analyzed before the visit. The report was prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Guide developed by ARACIS. The report was accompanied by annexes containing all the information necessary for the evaluation of the doctoral field.

During the external evaluation visit, it was requested extra information regarding the distribution of at least 10% of the value of doctoral grants to support doctoral students in activities for publishing research results, participation in conferences, specific endowments etc. During the evaluation visit, all the activities were organized according to the visit agenda attached to this report.

At the beginning of the evaluation there was a meeting of the members of the evaluation commission at which aspects were discussed regarding the analysis of the internal evaluation report of the PhD in Chemical Engineering from UPB, the analysis of the documents accompanying the report, and the way of meetings scheduled during the visit.

The next meeting of the Evaluation Commission was with the representatives of the management of the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science (dean - Prof. Cristina Orbeci, vice deans, department directors, doctoral school coordinator - Professor Ileana Rău) and with the contact person for the field of Chemical Engineering (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Oana Pârvulescu). The meeting lasted about 60 minutes and it was recorded. It was presented the main objective of the evaluation visit of the doctoral field, the stages that will be completed during the evaluation visit, as well as the way in which the activities within the visit were about to take place. The faculty



management has shown its readiness to support the evaluation committee with new materials, at request.

The meeting with doctoral students of the Chemical Engineering field was organized on Friday, June 18, at 13.00 local time, and it was attended by 22 doctoral students. The meeting was organized on the Zoom platform, provided by ARACIS, lasted about 60 minutes and it was recorded. There were discussed aspects regarding: students' motivation to continue their studies in doctoral programs, how admission took place, involvement of PhD students in research projects, research internships at other universities (including international mobility), financial support provided by the university for publication of scientific articles and participation in conferences, access to specialized literature, election of student representatives in management structures, etc.

On the same day, starting at 15.00 local time, an online meeting was organized with the directors / managers of the research centers / laboratories. The meeting was recorded and lasted about 50 minutes. The main research directions within the doctoral field, the material base made available to doctoral students by the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, the latest endowments with research facilities and equipment were presented.

The recorded meeting with graduates of the doctoral field of Chemical Engineering, organized at 16.00 local time, was attended by 14 doctors in the field of Chemical Engineering. Most of them work in research and higher education.

The meeting of the evaluation commission with the teachers from the doctoral field of Chemical Engineering took place online, on Teams platform, administered by UPB. The recorded meeting was attended by 17 PhD supervisors in the evaluated field and lasted 50 minutes. The following topics were discussed: the new research directions recently introduced, the collaboration with students, how the university provides support to teachers regarding new research topics.

The meeting of the evaluation commission with representatives of the employers of the graduates of the doctoral field Chemical Engineering (Online meeting with employers of Doctoral graduates in the field) took place on June 23, starting at 15.00 local time. Its duration was about 50 minutes and the whole discussion was recorded. Five representatives of the employers of the graduates of the evaluated field participated. They appreciated the quality of the graduates of the doctoral field of Chemical Engineering, their involvement in research projects at the level of companies, and their participation in the organization of scientific events in partnership with UPB. It was recommended to use more intensively the very good material base, in projects that should be oriented towards practical (more direct) applications.

The next meeting was with the representatives of the faculty and of the doctoral school, in order to present the main findings resulting from the evaluation of the doctoral field and the quality improvement recommendations. It was organized on Wednesday, June 23, starting at 16.00 local time. The members of the evaluation commission presented the main aspects found during the evaluation visit, made assessments regarding the evaluated doctoral study program, the quality of the teaching staff, the quality of the material base, the existence and functioning of the management and quality structures at IOSUD and the evaluated field. A series of recommendations were made in order to increase the quality of doctoral studies in this field.



On June 22, Prof. Ioan Mamaliga paid a visit to the Polytechnic University of Bucharest in order to carry out the activities provided in the guide for conducting evaluation visits of doctoral fields.

During the visit there were meetings with: IOSUD management, doctoral coordinator in chemical engineering, PhD teachers (PhD supervisors, members of the guidance teams), management of the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, Chief Secretary of the faculty, coordinators of the main laboratories / research centers. The following objectives were part of this visit: classrooms, research laboratories, UPB library, canteen.

The most representative laboratories visited are:

- Laboratory for innovative products and processes (https://erris.gov.ro/LPPI---UPB)
- WEIGHT (https://erris.gov.ro/PESO--UPB)
- Mass Transfer in Green Process Engineering (https://erris.gov.ro/MT---UPB)
- Advanced Organic Synthesis and Structural Analysis Laboratory OSSAL (https://erris.gov.ro/OSSAL)
- Advanced Electrochemical and Corrosion Analysis Methods, AdElCoMet
- (https://erris.gov.ro/AdElCoMet-UPB)
- Research Center for Environmental Protection and Friendly Environmental Technologies
- (https://erris.gov.ro/CPMTE---UPB)
- EcoNanoCoat (https://erris.gov.ro/EcoNanoCoat-UPB)
- Laboratory of Functional Inorganic Materials (https://erris.gov.ro/LabFIM-UPB)
- LBioIng (https://erris.gov.ro/LBioIng---UPB)
- Advanced Polymer Materials Group (https://erris.gov.ro/APMG---UPB)
- National Research Center for Micro and Nanomaterials (https://erris.gov.ro/CNMN----UPB)

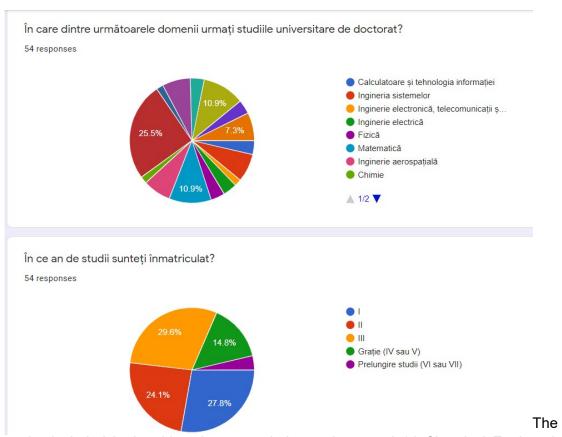
The laboratories have exceptional equipment, including state-of-the-art equipment, and newly arranged and generous spaces. There are qualified personnel who ensure the operation of equipment, appliances, installations.

During the visit, the students of the evaluation commission created and forwarded an online questionnaire (Google form) on the degree of satisfaction of doctoral students at the Polytechnic University of Bucharest.



à docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSex4xuwllrl	F9f8kDGsnH_Wzzvl9bscRqJWbFJy4oSaUlMkKeA/viewform	
Meciuri live online AllAnalytics - Terry		
	Chestionar privind gradul de satisfacție al studenților doctoranzi din Universitatea Politehnica din București	
	În care dintre următoarele domenii urmați studiile universitare de doctorat?* Calculatoare și tehnologia informației Ingineria sistemelor Inginerie electronică, telecomunicații și tehnologii informaționale Inginerie electrică Fizică Matematică Inginerie aerospațială Chimie Inginerie chimică	

The answers from all areas of study are shown in the following images.



questionnaire included both grid and open-ended questions, and 14 Chemical Engineering PhD students answered. The statistical processing of the answers and the issues raised can be viewed in Annex II.1.



The questionnaire ended with an invitation of free expression: "If there are other aspects of the doctoral studies you want to mention about and were not included in the previous questions...", to which most of those who completed had nothing to add . The few existing answers pointed to financial issues, as follows:

"Allocate a budget for each department to procure missing materials"

"1. Extremely small scholarship, even to support minimum expenses, given the daily attendance at the faculty"

"To receive information on the financing for publication of articles and travel to conferences"

An open-ended question was also included: "What are your expectations for completing your doctoral studies?" in which the doctoral students of the field of study Chemical Engineering expressed their desire to continue their career in teaching and research, mainly.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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.

*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;
- (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 itselfanalysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The indicator is fulfilled. There are enough regulations and mechanisms in the doctoral school for carrying out the chemical engineering domain.

Recommendations:

1. Specific regultations to take into account not only scientific papers for the final thesis but also patents with industry in order to reinforce the research, development and innovation with the industry.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled.

I do not have any recommendation

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. There is an IT system for all of the academic part of the PhD students. The system is in Romanian language

Recommendations:

1. To include English language in the IT system, at least for international students.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. There is a software to verify all thesis and details. The software is in Romanian language

Recommendations:

1. To include English language in the software.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. There are more grants than the indicator established. In addition, the PhD students of the chemical engineering domain have more funding from national and international projects, increasing the possibilities to have a good quality of live in Bucharest with the total budget. In addition, it has some sponsors in the program.

Recommenda tions:

- Try to increase the institutional budget of all PhD students in order to avoid the use of other funding to complete the salary of the PhD student. In this way, the budget of other projects can be used to be able to hire technicians and other types of contracts that greatly help in the research work of the faculties included in the chemical engineering domain.
- 2. In addition, the institution can increase the budget for funding small research groups in order to promote these kinds of groups.

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%.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. All of PhD students in the chemical engineering domain receive additional funding sources from research projects.

Recommenda tions:

The recommendations in this indicator are related to the previous one (see Indicator A.1.3.1).

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.).

- 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 indicator is fulfilled in the chemical engineering PhD domain at a global point of view. However, some PhD students do not know about some of these iniciatives and they lost the opportunity to use them.

Recommenda tions:

- 1. Increase the publicity of these kinds of iniciatives in all PhD students and coordinators in different media.
- 2. Increase the funding for open access publications

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

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.



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.

- 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 indicator is totally fulfilled. The infrastructure of the chemical engineering PhD domain is more than enough for the research in all of the areas of the chemical engineering, from experimental to modelling, simulation and optimisation of the chemical processes.

Recommenda tions:

- 1. Try to increase the use of all of the infrastructure in order to do some external analysis aprt from the research and teaching activities. This can be useful to increase the possibilities of collaboration with the industry in the main areas of the program.
- 2. Try to increase the possibilities of collaboration with other faculties and programs for a better use of the infrastructure.
- 3. Try to increase at institutional level, the funding for the mantenance of all of the infrastructure.

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.

- 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 indicator is totally fulfilled. There are so many coordinators with the minimum standars of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates and the majority of them are teachers in the faculties related to the program.



Recommenda tions:

1. Try to use more different criteria apart from the scientific research related to patents and other knowledge transfer for the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in order to reinforce the collaborations with different institutions in the research and to increase

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.

- 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 indicator is totally fulfilled. About 60% of all doctoral coordinators have full-time employment contract at the University.

Recommendations:

1. Try to increase this indicator to more than 60%, increasing the quantity of teachers at the University with the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.

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.

- 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 indicator is totally fulfilled. The coordinators of the doctoral theses are not only from the accademy but also from other institutes with a high expertise in chemical engineering field.

Recommenda tions:

- 1. Try to increase the co-tutelage with specialists in industries related to the chemical engineering topics.
- 2. Try to increase the co-tutelage with more international researchers.



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%.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. There are enough coordinators to have a very good ratio of PhD students per supervisor.

Recommendations:

- 1. Try to increase the co-tutelage with specialists in industries or with more international researchers related to the chemical engineering topics (see Indicator A3.1.3).
- 2. Try to stablish regulations and funding for the reinforcement of small research groups in order to increase the number of doctoral theses for this kind of groups.

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.

- 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 indicator is totally fulfilled. There are so many coordinators with more than enough scientific publications, projects, international conferences and so on.

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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:

- 1. Try to use more different criteria apart from the scientific research related to patents and other knowledge in order to reinforce the collaborations with different institutions in the research and to increase the innovation.
- 2. Try to increase the training programs related to writing papers and proposals for all teachers at the University in order to increase the quantity of teachers as supervisors of doctoral thesis.
- 3. Increase the funding and possibilities to publish in open access.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. The advisors are continuously being active in research and innovation in the topics of the chemical engineering domain.

Recommendations:

- 1. Try to reinforce the collabroation with industry and to establish some grants in industries related to chemical engineering domains in order to reinstate PhDs in research, development and innovation departments within those industries.
- 2. Try to increase the possibilities of funding for Post doctoral research projects.
- 3. Try to increase the courses and units at the University related to international projects in order to increase the training of the personnel at the University in the preparation of proposals.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. There are so many PhD students in relation to master students in the field of chemical engineering.

Recommendations:

1. Try to increase the possibilities of collaboration with industries related to the field in order to increase the number of PhD students wiirking in these fields and more related to the market than the basic research.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. All PhD students have an admision procedure related to the previous experience, the grades, and an interview.

Recommenda tions:

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1. Try to increase the possibilities of PhD students working in companies relate to the field of chemical engineering.

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.



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

The indicator is fulfilled. In addition, the PhD students have the possibility to do the PhD at a part-time and they also can interrupt the period of time, increasing the possibilities to fulfill this criteria.

Recommenda tions:

- 1. Try to increase the possibilities of accommodation and other issues in order to help the possibilities of the students to continue with the PhD.
- 2. Try to increase the social activities at the University for PhD students in order to create a good atmosphere in the institution.
- 3. Try to add a unit at the university for helping the PhD students at a psicological point of view. There is an increase of these kinds of problems during the PhD.

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

The indicator is partially fulfilled. The PhD students have some mandatory courses during the PhD degree; however, because of the different possibilities and futures of the PhD students, the courses shold be increased, especially in subjects related to research, innovation, outreaching and enterperneuship.



Recommenda tions:

- 1. Try to increase the number of courses (they can be optional) in the PhD program, especially in subjects related to research, innovation, outreaching and enterperneuship.
- 2. Try to increase the practical part of the courses in the program. For example, the PhD students can prepare a project and a scientific paper at the end of some courses.

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

The indicator is fulfilled. The course about Ethics is very interesting and this is a highlight of the program.

Recommendations:

 Try to increase the competences related to intellectual property, not only in the courses but also in the possibilities to finish the doctoral thesis.

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

The indicator is fulfilled. The IOSUD has enough mechanisms. The academic training is not very complicated in this case, so it is easy to fulfil it.

Recommendations:

1 The recomme

1. The recommendations in this case are more related to the increase of courses and all of them where explained in the *Indicator B.2.1.1*.

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.

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



- 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 indicator is fulfilled. The counselling/guidance of the PhD students are given by several mechanisms and collaborators, including the relationships with other PhD students from the program, the relationships with different research institutions and departments, and also the representatives. In addition, the supervisors of each PhD students have a high experience in the guidance of the students. On the other hand, the students need to prepare 2 scientific reports per year and this facilitates the continuation of the training.

Recommendations:

- 1- Apart from the guidances related to the reseach and training activities, the PhD students can have more options of social activities with other PhD students in different programs at the University.
- 2- Other recommendations in this indicator are related to the previous ones.

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
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The indicator is fulfilled. This program has enough coordinators to decrease the ratio PhD student per coordinator.

I have no recommendations in this indicator.

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



- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
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The indicator is totally fulfilled. All finished PhD theses fulfil the criteria of the National Ministry. In addition, some of the students use the posibility to finish the doctoral thesis as compendia of papers instead of the traditional one.

Recommendations:

- 1. My recommendation is again aboout the increasing of patents and other transfer knowledge options instead of publication in order to finish the doctoral thesis in order to increase the possibilities of collaborations with the industry and other related sectors.
- 2. Increase the possibilities to publish in open access.

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
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The indicator is totally fulfilled. The students participate in several international conferences. In addition, some of them are organised at the University and/or the institutes related to the program and they also have some promotions in these conferences.

Recommendations:

1. My recommendation is about the increasing of seminars and other kinds of participation, not only in International Conferences but also for Science outreaching in order to increase the popularisation of the research they do in all of the Society. The University can have a unit related to Science Outreaching and the PhD students shold do some collaboration in this field, for example in primary or secondary schools, bars, companies, and so on.

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

The indicator is partially fulfilled. From the information presented it results that in the mentioned period there were external references that evaluated in a year more than two doctoral theses elaborated under the guidance of the same doctoral supervisor.

Recommendations:

- 1. Try to reinforce the English language of the personnel of the University and the documents related to the doctoral theses.
- 2. Try to increase the training programs related to writing papers and proposals for all teachers at the University in order to increase the quantity of teachers as supervisors of doctoral thesis.
- 3. In addition, the institution can increase the budget for funding small research groups in order to promote these kinds of groups.

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

The indicator is fulfilled.

Recommendations:

1. Try to reinforce the English language of the personnel of the University and the documents related to the doctoral theses.

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
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The indicator is fulfilled. The doctoral school demonstrate all of the criteria during the process and there are enough rules and personnel to fulfill all of the quality assurance of the program.

Recommendations:

- 1. Try to increase the social activities among all PhD students from the University.
- 2. Try to add a unit or a department related to the psicological help of the students.
- 3. Try to add more publicity (using different media options) in all of the possibilities the PhD students have during the doctorate. The students are more focused on the doctoral thesis and they do not know the possibilities they have apart from the doctoral thesis.

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.

- 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 indicator is fulfilled. The students need to do 2 reports per year in order to demonstrate the continuos training and scientific research during the doctoral degree.

Recommendations:

- 1. Try to increase the items in the reports for giving all options apart from the research and training.
- 2. Try to increase the presentaions of the students in seminars within all program to other PhD students.

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

The indicator is fulfilled. The information is in Romanian language.



Recommendations:

- 1. Try to use also English language in the information data.
- 2. Try to increase some items related to science outreaching activities of the PhD students in order to give more publicity and importance to this kind of activities.
- 3. Try to give more publicity of this information to all PhD students in different media.

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

The indicator is fulfilled. The doctoral students have free access to different academic databases; however, somitemes they have problems to access at home.

Recommendations:

- 1. Try to increase the possibilities to have access at home.
- 2. Try to add a repository of papers from all of the Institution.
- 3. Try to give more publicity of the platforms about academic database to all PhD students in different media.

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

The indicator is fulfilled.

I do not have any recommendation in this indicator.

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

The indicator is totally fulfilled. The students have not only access to all infrastructure of the chemical engineering PhD domain, but also some infraestructure of other institutions and other central laboratories in Bucharest based on internal procedures.

Recommenda tions:

- 1. Try to increase the possibilities of collaboration with other faculties and programs for a better use of the infrastructure.
- 2. Try to increase at institutional level, the funding for the mantenance of all of the infrastructure.

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
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The indicator is partially fulfilled. The students have several ERASMUS agreements and also they can have more possibilities for very-short stays with internal funding. However, there are less than 35% of the doctoral students using this possibility.



Recommendations:

- 1. Try to increase the number of students doing short-research stays in other institutions abroad.
- 2. Try to increase the possibilities with not only European institutions but also other international institutions.
- 3. Try to increase the number of projects related to mobilityy of personnel (for example under all of the possibilities of the MSCA program).
- 4. Try to increase the education with other institutions and the mmobility exchange in the research projects.

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

The indicator is fulfilled.

Recommendations:

1. More programs among international institutions can be done.

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.).

- 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 indicator is fulfilled.

Recommendations:

1. Increase the number of international PhD students.



Strengths:

- 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.
- Personnel of the program: number and expertise of the coordinators, technician, administration personnel -Scientific quality of the research,
- -Scientific quality of the research, covering all main topics in chemical engineering, novel topics
- Facilities and infrastructure.

Weaknesses:

- 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.
- Industrial collaborations. They are open in cooperation but they need to increase the importance of doing other kinds of results (patents and other knowledge transfer activities). This can be converted in opportunities.
- Science outreaching activities. Increase the activities related to the popularisation of the research to all of the Society.

Opportunities:

- possible lines of action for the development of the institution under review shall be identified;
- -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.
- Good opportunities in collaborations with other institutions at national and international levels.
- Increase the bilateral programs for mobility.
- Financial support of the PhD students with research projects

Threats:

- -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;
- -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.
- Publication in open access fees. The program can study the possibilityy to generate some funding related to this topic.

On the other hand, the program can study the

possibilityto prepare a repository of publications

- Training courses. Increase the possibilities for future competences of the PhD students and also the possibilities for coordinators.



V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

In the following table I have only added the critical indicators.

No	Type of	Performance	Judgment	
•	indicator	indicator		Recommendations
	(*, C)			
1	A.2.1.1 - Critical		Totally fulfilled	 Try to increase the use of all of the infrastructure in order to do some external analysis aprt from the research and teaching activities. This can be useful to increase the possibilities of collaboration with the industry in the main areas of the program. Try to increase the possibilities of collaboration with other faculties and programs for a better use of the infrastructure. Try to increase at institutional level, the funding for the mantenance of all of the infrastructure.
2	A.3.1.1 – Critical		Totally fulfilled	- Try to use more different criteria apart from the scientific research related to patents and other knowledge transfer for the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in order to reinforce the collaborations with different institutions in the research and to increase the innovation.
3	A.3.2.1- Critical		Totally fulfilled	 Try to use more different criteria apart from the scientific research related to patents and other knowledge in order to reinforce the collaborations with different institutions in the research and to increase the innovation. Try to increase the training programs related to writing papers and proposals for all teachers at the University in order to increase the quantity of teachers as supervisors of doctoral thesis. Increase the funding and possibilities to publish in open access.
4	B.2.1.5 - Critical		Fulfilled	I have no recommendations in this indicator.
5	B.3.1.1 – Critical		Totally fulfilled	- My recommendation is again aboout the increasing of patents and other transfer knowledge options instead of publication in order to finish the doctoral thesis in order to increase the possibilities of collaborations with the industry and other related sectors. - Increase the possibilities to publish in open access.
6	C.2.1.1 - Critical		Fulfilled	 Try to use also English language in the information data. Try to increase some items related to science outreaching activities of the PhD students in order to give more publicity and importance to this kind of activities. Try to give more publicity of this information to all PhD students in different media.

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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).

In conclusion, under my opinion, the Doctoral field - Chemical Engineering, at the Polytechnic University of Bucharest, fully complies with the assessment. All critical indicators are fulfilled and from the rest of indicator, only the following onces are partially fulfilled:

- B.2.1.1. The PhD students have some mandatory courses during the PhD degree; however, because of the different possibilities and futures of the PhD students, the courses shold be increased, especially in subjects related to research, innovation, outreaching and enterperneuship.
- B.3.2.1. From the information presented it results that in the mentioned period there were external references that evaluated in a year more than two doctoral theses elaborated under the guidance of the same doctoral supervisor.
- C.3.1.1. The students have several ERASMUS agreements and also they can have more possibilities for very-short stays with internal funding. However, there are less than 35% of the doctoral students using this possibility.

In order to fulfill these three indicators, the following recommendations are given:

- 1. Try to increase the number of courses (they can be optional) in the PhD program, especially in subjects related to research, innovation, outreaching and entrepreneurship.
- 2. Try to increase the practical part of the courses in the program. For example, the PhD students can prepare a project and a scientific paper



at the end of some courses.

- 3. Try to reinforce the English language of the personnel of the University and the documents related to the doctoral theses.
- 4. Try to increase the training programs related to writing papers and proposals for all teachers at the University in order to increase the quantity of teachers as supervisors of doctoral thesis.
- 5. The institution can increase the budget for funding small research groups in order to promote all research groups.
- 6. Try to increase the number of students doing short-research stays in other institutions abroad. Try to increase the possibilities with not only European institutions but also other international institutions.
- 7. Try to increase the number of projects related to mobility of personnel (for example under all of the possibilities of the MSCA program).
- 8. Try to increase the education with other institutions and the mobility exchange in the research projects.

In addition to these recommendations, the following weaknesses and threats are identified:

- 1. Industrial collaborations. They are open in cooperation but they need to increase the importance of doing other kinds of results (patents and other knowledge transfer activities). This can be converted in opportunities.
- 2. Science outreaching activities. Increase the activities related to the popularisation of the research to all of the Society.
- 3. Publication in open access fees. The program can study the possibilityy to generate some funding related to this topic. On the other hand, the program can study the possibility to prepare a repository of publications
- 4. Training courses. Increase the possibilities for future competences of the PhD students and also the possibilities for coordinators.

VII. Annexes

The following types of documents shall be attached:

- The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit MANDATORY.
- The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review, the results optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation if applicable.
- Scanned documents any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.
- Pictures if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc.
- Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved.
- Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report.