

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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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.);
- 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.).

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:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its

Annexes;

- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit (if such documents have been requested);

- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the

IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;

- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, comprising (indicative and non-exhaustive list, which shall be changed according to the context):

- classrooms;
- laboratories;
- the institution's library;
- research centers;
- the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
- lecture halls for students;
- the student residences;
- the student cafeteria;
- sports ground etc.;

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

- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
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¹Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.

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- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study review domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
 - Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
 - Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
 - The Council of the Doctoral School, the 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.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The evaluation was based on the fulfillment of the specific criteria described in Annex 4 with respect to the Institutional Capacity of the West University of Timisoara to effectively run the Doctoral Program.

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

This criterion involves the administrative, managerial, institutional structures and the financial resources of the West University of Timisoara to undertake doctoral studies in the field of Physical Education and Sport.

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.

The West University of Timisoara has approved the latest version of the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology in 2019. This Regulation is still in



place and provides the basis for the functioning of the doctoral school. The Regulation is provided in the Internal Evaluation Report as an Annex. In the Regulation there are articles discussing 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), c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (e.g., for the admission of doctoral students); d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), f) the contract for doctoral studies; and g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

The Regulation is in Romanian and thus difficult for the international expert to thoroughly evaluate the content of the regulation. However, the structure of the Regulation is described in English and parts of the Regulation have been translated and included in the English version of the Internal Evaluation Report and it seems that the Regulation exists and addresses the most important aspects of this criterion.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled

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

The Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology includes mandatory procedures, for instance, in the admission of students.

The Regulation is in Romanian and thus difficult for the international expert to thoroughly evaluate the content of the regulation. However, parts of the Regulation have been translated and included in the English version of the Internal Evaluation Report and it seems that the Regulation exists and addresses the most important aspects of this criterion.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the infrastructures of the West University of Timisoara that need exist in order to effectively support the Doctoral Program.

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

The West University of Timisoara maintains an online system for the monitoring of the doctoral students progress. Access to the information on the system is allowed to the student and authorised personnel.



The online system seems adequate in recording the activities of the student.



Recommendations: The system records the activities that the student has performed. It would be beneficial for the student to also include the activities that he/she has to perform in the future/next academic season. In this case, the platform would serve as a personal diary/agenda/portfolio of the student helping him/her to better monitor the progress of the work and better plan his/her future actions.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.2. *The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.*

The West University of Timisoara maintains two software programs (Turnitin and iThenticate) to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses (www.sistemantiplagiat.ro). Students have access to the software and can test their thesis. The result of the test defines whether a student is allowed to defend his/her thesis.

The software program seems adequate in verifying the percentage of similarity in doctoral theses.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.3. *The IOSUD makes sure that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.*

This standard involves the evaluation of the financial support provided to doctoral students through the resources of the West University of Timisoara.

Performance Indicator A.1.3.1. *Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.*

The Internal Evaluation Report reports two research projects obtained and implemented by the doctoral theses advisors in the past five years.

The inspection of the supervisors' cv and the discussions during the meetings, demonstrated that in the domain of Physical Education and Sport there one two 2 research grant in the past 5 years obtained by doctoral thesis advisors. Both research grants have been obtained by the same advisor

Recommendations: All advisors of the doctoral course in Physical Education and Sport could participate in international consortia and utilise the Erasmus+ mobility schemes to submit international funded projects. Furthermore, being active in national funds would assist the doctoral course advisors participate in research grants and be able to fulfill this criterion.



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%.

At the moment there are no students receiving funding from an independent organization and four students receive financial support from the state. The West University of Timisoara has approved financial support mechanisms (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Hotararea-Senatului-nr.-40-din-20.05.2021.pdf> - point 4).

According to the Performance Indicator A1.3.2 the percentage of students receiving financial support through scholarships and grants should be higher than 20%. In the Physical Education and Sport domain none of the students has received funding, other than that from governmental sources. Taking into account that funding mechanisms exist, it seems that physical education and sport students do not take advantage of these mechanisms.

Recommendations: The Doctoral thesis advisors should search for funding opportunities, national or international, to support their students financially and meet this indicator. Furthermore, they should encourage students seek for funding opportunities both within as well outside the university. In this line, they should teach doctoral students how to apply for scholarships and grants.

The indicator is partially 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.).*

There is no clear evidence on the percentage of doctoral grants is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students. The provided information describes the total amount of budget allocated to each Doctoral School.

The Doctoral School of Psychology, including Physical Education and Sport allocates budget to the professional training and development of the students. From the discussion with the advisors and the students it was apparent that the Doctoral School is willing and in a position to cover expenses for professional training and conferences. However, this budget is unlikely to reach the suggested 10%. One reason might be the students' reluctance to take advantage of these opportunities.

Recommendations: The West University of Timisoara should have established a policy of how the doctoral student fees are used during their studies and how the 10% is used to re-imburse students' academic activities. Furthermore, It would be useful to anticipate academic activities that can be supported by the West University of Timisoara in order to help students develop a personal plan of how they will benefit from these activities. Lastly, students should be encouraged to participate in professional development activities.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.



²The 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.2. Research infrastructure

This criterion involves the evaluation of the infrastructures of the West University of Timisoara and their capacity to effectively support the Doctoral Program.

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the research infrastructures (e.g., labs, computers, software, library etc) that can effectively support the Doctoral Program.

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 Doctoral School posits a) a multimedia laboratory, b) laboratories, c) a library and provides access to scientific resources databases. Students have access to all these resources.

With respect to the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport the laboratories seem to be well-equipped and provide students with the necessary tools to run their research.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

This criterion involves the qualifications of the staff involved in the Doctoral Program.

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

This standard involves the qualifications of the advisors of the doctoral students.

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 domain of Physical Education and Sport is supported by three advisors. All three of the advisors meet the standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU).

The minimum criterion of 2 advisors (50%) achieving the minimum standards



of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) is met.

Recommendations: Two of the advisors' expertise lies on biological sciences and one advisor's expertise on social science. The development of more interdisciplinary research that it is expected to produce higher level of doctoral theses is recommended.

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.*

All three advisors are full-time teaching staff member of the West University of Timisoara.

met . *The indicator of at least 50% of all doctoral advisors having a full-time employment contract is*

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.3. *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*

The study subjects are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law

The evaluation process revealed that the study subjects are taught by teaching staff or researchers fulfilling the criteria of the law.

Recommendations: None

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%.*

At the moment, one advisor coordinates 8 theses, one advisor coordinates 4 theses, one advisor coordinates 3 theses.

The number of advisors that concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, does not exceed 20%.

Recommendations: A more equal distribution of the students to advisors with similar expertise would be recommended. Alternatively, as the indicators A3.1.1.1 and A3.1.2. are fulfilled more teaching staff could be involved in the doctoral program to enrich the program with expertise in different



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.



disciplines, provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research and provide a more reasonable ratio of advisors/students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard involves the research profile of the advisors and their international recognition by the academic community.

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.*

All advisors have at least five publications in Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed journals. Three advisors have international visibility in the past years by their membership on the boards of professional associations and invited presentations.

At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors fulfill the criterion of having at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications or other achievements of relevant significance within the past five years. However, the international visibility of the advisors in the past five years is not clearly evident

Recommendations: The vast majority of the publications have been made with Romanian colleagues and only a small number of publication includes international colleagues. Advisors could make use of the Erasmus+ mobility schemes to increase their international profile and get more international visibility. The advancement of the international profile of the advisors is expected to create opportunities for doctoral students to develop an international profile too.

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.*

All doctoral thesis advisors remain scientifically active and fulfill at least 25% of the CNATDCU score.



The indicator of having at least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors being active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards is achieved.



Recommendations: The West University of Timisoara would benefit from specific activities that will enhance the international profile of the doctoral study advisors. Strengthening the international profile of the advisors will also enable doctoral students develop an international profile.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The evaluation was based on the fulfillment of the specific criteria described in Annex 4 with respect to the Educational Effectiveness of the West University of Timisoara with respect to the enrolled candidates, quality of staff, and the doctoral program's procedures.

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

This criterion involves the evaluation of the quality of the enrolled students, the content and the procedures of the doctoral program.

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.

This standard involves the capacity of the West University of Timisoara to attract high level candidates.

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 the 15 Doctoral students who are enrolled in the domain of Physical Education and Sport, four (4) are financially supported by the state and the remaining are self-funded.

The ratio of the total number of candidates and the number of candidates funded by the state is

3.75. The other options of this criterion are not adequately described. For instance, 19 out of 70 PhD students have completed their master degree in other than West University of Timisoara; however it is not clear how many of them are in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. In addition, the discussion with the advisors revealed that they largely rely on recruiting their master students for the PhD positions.

Recommendations: The West University of Timisoara should make a stronger effort to recruit students from other universities and countries and this is expected to enrich the potential of the doctoral course.

The indicator is fulfilled.



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



This standard evaluates whether the candidates admitted to the doctoral program demonstrate adequate academic, research and professional performance.

Performance Indicator *B.1.2.1. *Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.*

In the Doctoral program the admission criteria include previous research experience, participation in research grants, research publications.

The criteria posed largely reflect the academic and research profile of the candidates.

Recommendations: The Doctoral Program could consider including more criteria demonstrating the academic and research profile of the candidates, e.g. conference presentations.

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%.*

There is no evidence, in the official documents, of candidates dropping out.

Due to the fact that the Doctoral Program is relatively new it is reasonable not to have drop out yet.

Recommendations: Dropping out from doctoral studies largely relies on financial constraints and poor organization of the program (including the lack of mechanism to check and control for the support provided by the advisor to the candidate). To limit drop out of the doctoral students in the future, the West University of Timisoara should establish mechanisms to financially support students (as also discussed above) and monitor the candidates' progress during their studies. In regard to the former participation in research grants and re-imburement of doctoral tuition fees to the students as scholarships or internships (e.g., paid teaching of a course under the supervision of the advisor) could assist. With regard the latter, annually evaluations of the candidates satisfaction with the Doctoral Program, establishment of Training Needs Assessment and their monitoring, and annual progress reports could assist.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

This criterion involves the evaluation of the content of the Doctoral Program.

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.

This standard involves the evaluation of the content of the Doctoral program and whether it provides candidates with opportunities to improve their research



skills.

43 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.2.1.1. *The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.*

The Doctoral Program includes the mandatory attendance of 4 courses that are relevant to the scientific domain of the doctoral candidate. One of these courses involves research methodology and a second one statistics. These courses are mandatory to all candidates.

The Doctoral program involves separate courses for research methods and statistics. Also, two other courses that are relevant to the field of the students' study are offered.

Recommendations: None.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The Doctoral Program includes the mandatory attendance of 4 courses that are relevant to the scientific domain of the doctoral candidate. One of these courses involves ethics and integrity on research. This course is mandatory to all candidates.

The Doctoral Program involves a course on Ethics as required.

Recommendations: None

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.*

The Doctoral Program provides 4 mandatory courses to the candidates. The performance of the candidates on these courses is evaluated through exams.

The Doctoral Program does not provide autonomy to the students in selecting some courses. Furthermore, it is not apparent the existence of a mechanism that would ensure that the students will develop their research and academic competencies. In addition, there is no mechanism assisting students develop a portfolio of competencies that they would like to improve and accordingly monitor their improvement.

Recommendations: The doctoral candidates would benefit by the development of a Training Needs Assessment where they would declare the skills that they would like to improve during their doctoral studies (e.g., proficiency in English language, writing research publications, learning statistics,



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.



teaching skills etc) and thus develop a personal portfolio of skills they need to acquire. Furthermore, opportunities for participation in interdisciplinary research projects and teaching would assist doctoral candidates to develop the research and academic skills that a PhD holder should possess.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.

Doctoral candidates have frequent meetings with their advisors. This process is recorded and monitored by a guidance commission. There was no evidence about the whether written guidance and feedback was provided to the candidates.

Both advisors and candidates suggested that regular meetings were performed and were useful in the development of the doctoral research. Still, students suggested that they would prefer more time with their advisor. The COVID-19 pandemic turned all communication to online; no plan seems to exist at the moment about the development of an agenda with face-to-face meetings

Recommendations: Students requested for more frequent meetings (and of longer duration) as the online meetings do not seem to be sufficient for guidance. Also, written feedback and minutes of the meetings would assist students have a more clear understanding of the tasks they need to fulfill.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.5. For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.

The Doctoral Program includes 15 candidates. These candidates are supervised by 3 members of the staff.

The ratio of students and teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance exceeds the suggested 3:1 ratio (the ratio is 5). In the Internal Evaluation Report the number of staff participating in the overall guidance (3 advisors and 13 other members of the guidance committees) is used to estimate the ratio, and in this case the criterion is fulfilled.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion involves the evaluation of the outcomes of the doctoral studies.

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



and service orders.

This standard involves the evaluation of the end-products of the doctoral studies.

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.

At the moment there are no graduates of the Doctoral Program. Nevertheless, doctoral candidates have presented research in conferences.

The indicator can't be fully evaluated due to the fact that there are no graduates from the Doctoral program in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Nevertheless, there is evidence that the doctoral candidates are in the process of presenting and publishing their work.

Recommendations: All presentations and research publications seem to have been made in international conferences held in Romania or national journals. Pursuing international conferences outside Romania and international journals would assist the doctoral candidates to develop an international profile which is currently missing.

The indicator is not applicable for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

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.*

As discussed in the previous indicator, at the moment there are no graduates of the Doctoral Program. Nevertheless, doctoral candidates have presented research in conferences.

The indicator can't be fully evaluated due to the fact that there are no graduates from the Doctoral program in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Nevertheless, there is evidence that the doctoral candidates are in the process of presenting and publishing their work.

Recommendations: The same recommendation applies in this indicator too. The Doctoral Program should encourage and provide opportunities for the doctoral candidates to present and publish their work in international conferences outside Romania and international journals. This will assist the doctoral candidates to develop an international profile which is currently missing.

The indicator is not applicable for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

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.*

This standard involves the evaluation of the international profile of the Doctoral Program and the participation of international experts in the Program's procedures.



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.*

At the moment there no theses' defences in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Thus, there is are no specialists coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD participating in the Doctoral Program procedures.

This indicator can't be evaluated as there no theses' defences in the domain under review.



Recommendations: None

The indicator is not applicable for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

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.*

At the moment there no theses' defences in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Thus, there is are no specialists coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD participating in the Doctoral Program procedures.

This indicator can't be evaluated as there no theses' defences in the domain under review.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is not applicable for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

DomainC. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

This criterion involves the evaluation of the internal quality assurance procedures, the transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources as well as the international profile of the Doctoral Program.

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

This criterion involves the evaluation of the internal quality assurance procedures.

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.

This standard involves the existence of an internal quality assurance framework.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. *The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:*

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



publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

The West University of Timisoara has developed a process of internal evaluation. Regular board meetings of relevant committees regarding the doctoral studies are planned and performed in order to identify and resolve problems. Students complete a survey evaluating the Doctoral Program and relevant reports have been produced.



The internal evaluation of the Doctoral program largely relies on the responses of the students. The meetings of the relevant committees seem to focus on the every day problems that may occur. Limited focus seems to be on the objective criteria and performance indicators that can be used for the internal evaluation of the Doctoral Program. Social and academic services were not clearly made available to the students

Recommendations: The Doctoral program would benefit from the establishment of a strategic plan setting and describing the goals of the doctoral program, and thus, the key performance indicators and the objective criteria to be used for the evaluation of the performance of the Doctoral Program. These criteria should reflect, to some extent, the national standards for doctoral studies (e.g., number of international publications, number of presentations in national and international-within and outside Romania- conferences, etc) as well as the objectives and plan of the Faculty (e.g., interdisciplinary research etc).

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.*

During the doctoral programme, students provide feedback through a survey about their general level of satisfaction with the doctoral program. The Doctoral school prepares reports with the responses of the students and a report on the evaluation of the students' responses.

The evaluation of the doctoral program by the candidates was high. However, the number of candidates participating in the evaluation was rather small (approx. 55%). Furthermore, in the report on the evaluation of the students' responses it was not clear the measures taken to resolve the problems identified by the students.

Recommendations: A larger number of the students should participate in the evaluation of the doctoral program, if not all. Furthermore, short interviews or open-ended questions in the survey could provide useful information about the problems candidates are facing and their proposed ways to address them.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion involves the transparency of information and the accessibility to learning resources.

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

This standard involves the easily accessible provision of information about the doctoral program to all interested parties.

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.

The website of the Faculty has a dedicated place to the doctoral studies.

The website seems to include information about 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); and (h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis. It was not clear whether the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor) and links to the doctoral theses' summaries was offered. However, the website is in Romanian and can't be fully evaluated.

Recommendations: Include on the website all information required by ARACIS.

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.

This criterion involves the evaluation of the resources provided to the candidates to effectively complete their studies.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.

The West University of Timisoara provides access to databases related to Physical Education and Sport for searching and obtaining research articles.

The provided databases seem to be sufficient to candidates for obtaining research articles.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.



The West University of Timisoara provides access to databases for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.



The provided databases seem to be sufficient to candidates for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.3.*All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.*

The Faculty of Physical Education and Sport Science runs four laboratories.

Advisors and candidates confirmed that all have access to the laboratories that are relevant to their studies and they can use the equipment to run their research.

Recommendations: Opportunities should be provided to doctoral candidates to be part of and participate in research projects other than their thesis research and collaborate with other relevant laboratories.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

This criterion involves the international profile of the doctoral program and of its candidates.

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

This standard involves the existence of a plan to promote the internalization of the doctoral studies.

Performance Indicator *C.3.1.1.*IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.*

The Doctoral Program has enrolled one foreign student. Also, there is a collaboration with several European universities Erasmus+ mobility agreements.

There is no evidence that doctoral candidates have attended and completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific workshops or medium-term mobilities (outside Romania). Furthermore, there was no evidence that the Doctoral Program has drafted and applied policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, as required by the law.



Recommendations: The Doctoral Program should establish collaboration with institutions outside Romania and promote the mobility of the doctoral candidates. Furthermore, the Doctoral



Program should encourage, financially support and organise the participation of the doctoral students to international events (e.g., conferences, workshops etc).

The indicator is partially 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.*

Several candidates from the West University of Timisoara have participated in Erasmus+ mobility.

There is a procedure which encourages support, 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. However, there is no evidence whether candidates from the domain of Physical Education and Sport have participated in such mobility schemes. Also, there is no evidence about international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.

Recommendations: The doctoral candidates would benefit from the organization of lectures/workshops delivered by international experts. Furthermore, collaboration with international experts as co-advisors would also help doctoral candidates develop more in-depth research protocols.

The indicator is partially 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.).*

The West University of Timisoara is participating in several international fairs to attract foreign students. There is no evidence for international experts to participate in the guidance committees of the doctoral committees.

The West University of Timisoara makes a strong effort to join international fairs to promote the doctoral program. On the other hand, although international collaborations with other European universities exist, there is no evidence for the inclusion of international experts in the guidance committees of the doctoral theses in the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

Recommendations: The West University of Timisoara should be more active in advertising the Doctoral Program and enhancing the international profile of the Doctoral Program. In this respect, collaborations with institutions abroad, joint supervision of theses with international experts, invitations of international experts to teach in the doctoral program would increase the visibility of the program.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

IV.SWOT Analysis



<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- structure of the program- monitoring of students, good collaboration with	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- unequal distribution of candidates to supervisors
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advisors - academic criteria for admission - well-equipped laboratories - access to laboratories, libraries, databases - the strengths identified throughout the report - access to softwares for statistical analysis - courses on Ethics and statistics	- lack of financial support to candidates - lack of opportunities for the development of an international profile - lack of interdisciplinary research - lack of candidates' training needs assessment/personal portfolio - lack of a Committee of Ethics in Research
<u>Opportunities:</u> - willingness from candidates already working to take part in the program - relevance of the program studies with the local market - attractive program in the local region	<u>Threats:</u> - financial support of the candidates - overload of advisors - program somehow isolated from the international research community

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	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	Fulfilled	None

		analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.		
2.	PI	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	Fulfilled	None

No	Type of indicator or (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.		
3.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	Fulfilled	The system records the activities that the student has performed. It would be beneficial for the student to also include the activities that he/she has to perform in the future/next academic season. In this case, the platform would serve as a personal diary/agenda/portfolio of the student helping him/her to better monitor the progress of the work and better plan his/her future actions.
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	All advisors of the doctoral course in Physical Education and Sport could participate in international consortia and utilise the Erasmus+ mobility schemes to submit international funded projects. Furthermore, being active in national funds would assist the doctoral course advisors participate in research grants and be able to fulfill this criterion.
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%.	Partially fulfilled	The Doctoral thesis advisors should search for funding opportunities, national or international, to support their students financially and meet this indicator. Furthermore, they should encourage students seek for funding opportunities both within as well outside the university. In this line, they should teach doctoral students how to apply for scholarships

				and grants.
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.).	Partially fulfilled	The West University of Timisoara should have established a policy of how the doctoral student fees are used during their studies and how the 10% is used to re-imburse students' academic activities. Furthermore, It would be useful to anticipate academic activities that can be supported by the West University of Timisoara in order to help students develop an personal plan of how they will benefit from these activities. Lastly, students shuld be encouraged to

No.	Type of indicator or (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				participate in professional development activities.
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 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	Fulfilled	None
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	Two of the advisors' expertise lies on biological sciences and one advisor's expertise on social science. The development of more interdisciplinary research that it is expected to produce higher level of doctoral theses is recommended.
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	A more equal distribution of the students to advisors with similar expertise would be recommended. Alternatively, as the indicators A3.1.1.1 and A3.1.2. are fulfilled more teaching staff could be involved in the doctoral program to enrich the program with expertise in different disciplines, provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research and provide a more reasonable ratio of advisors/students.
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No.	Type of indicator or (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
13.	CPI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	<p>The vast majority of the publications have been made with Romanian colleagues and only a small number of publication includes international colleagues. Advisors could make use of the Erasmus+ mobility schemes to increase their international profile and get more international visibility. The advancement of the international profile of the advisors is expected to create opportunities for doctoral students to develop an international profile too.</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	<p>The West University of Timisoara would benefit from specific activities that will enhance the international profile of the doctoral study advisors. Strengthening the international profile of the advisors will also enable doctoral students develop an international profile.</p>

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	<p>The West University of Timisoara should make a stronger effort to recruit students from other universitites and countries and this is expected to enrich the potential of the doctoral course.</p>
16.	PI *	<p>B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including:</p>	Fulfilled	<p>The Doctoral Program could consider including more criteria demonstrating the</p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		academic and research profile of the candidates, e.g. conference presentations.
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	Dropping out from doctoral studies largely relies on financial constraints and poor organization of the program (including the lack of mechanism to check and control for the support provided by the advisor to the candidate). To limit drop out of the doctoral students in the future, the West University of Timisoara should establish mechanisms to financially support students (as also discussed above) and monitor the candidates' progress during their studies. In regard to the former participation in research grants and reimbursement of doctoral tuition fees to the students as scholarships or internships (e.g., paid teaching of a course under the supervision of the advisor) could assist. With regard the latter, annually evaluations of the candidates satisfaction with the Doctoral Program, establishment of Training Needs Assessment and their monitoring, and annual progress reports could assist.
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	Fulfilled	None



		doctoral program.		
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	The doctoral candidates would benefit by the development of a Training Needs Assessment where they would declare the skills that they would like to improve during their doctoral studies (e.g., proficiency in English language, writing research publications, learning statistics, teaching skills etc) and thus develop a personal portfolio of skills they need to acquire. Furthermore, opportunities for participation in interdisciplinary research projects and teaching would assist doctoral candidates

No.	Type of indicator or (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				to develop the research and academic skills that a PhD holder should possess.
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	Students requested for more frequent meetings (and of longer duration) as the online meetings do not seem to be sufficient for guidance. Also, written feedback and minutes of the meetings would assist students have a more clear understanding of the tasks they need to fulfill.
22.	CPI	B.2.1.5. For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.	Fulfilled	None
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	Not applicable	All presentations and research publications seem to have been made in international conferences held in Romania or national journals. Pursuing international conferences outside Romania and international journals would assist the doctoral candidates to develop an international profile which is currently missing.
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.	Not applicable	The same recommendation applies in this indicator too. The Doctoral Program should encourage and provide opportunities for the doctoral candidates to present and publish their work in international conferences outside Romania and international journals. This will assist the doctoral candidates to develop an international profile which is currently missing.



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.	Not applicable	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	Not applicable	None

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.		
27.	PI	<p>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:</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. 	Fulfilled	The Doctoral program would benefit from the establishment of a strategic plan setting and describing the goals of the doctoral program, and thus, the key performance indicators and the objective criteria to be used for the evaluation of the performance of the Doctoral Program. These criteria should reflect, to some extent, the national standards for doctoral studies (e.g., number of international publications, number of presentations in national and international-within and outside Romania- conferences, etc) as well as the objectives and plan of the Faculty (e.g., interdisciplinary research etc).
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	A larger number of the students should participate in the evaluation of the doctoral program, if not all. Furthermore, short interviews or open-ended questions in the survey could provide useful information about the problems candidates are facing and their proposed ways to address them.

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 	Fulfilled	<p>Include on the website all information required by ARACIS.</p>
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No.	Type of indicator or (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
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	Opportunities should be provided to doctoral candidates to be part of and participate in research projects other than their thesis research and collaborate with other relevant laboratories.
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.	Partially fulfilled	<i>The Doctoral Program should establish collaboration with institutions outside Romania and promote the mobility of the doctoral candidates. Furthermore, the Doctoral Program should encourage, financially support and organise the participation of the doctoral students to international events (e.g., conferences, workshops etc).</i>

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.	Partially fulfilled	The doctoral candidates would benefit from the organization of lectures/workshops delivered by international experts. Furthermore, collaboration with international experts as co-advisors would also help doctoral candidates develop more in-depth research protocols.
35.	PI	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.).	Partially fulfilled	The West University of Timisoara should be more active in advertising the Doctoral Program and enhancing the international profile of the Doctoral Program. In this respect, collaborations with institutions abroad, joint supervision of theses with international experts, invitations of international experts to teach in the doctoral program would increase the
No.	Type of indicator or (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				visibility of the program.

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The Doctoral Program seems to adhere (fully or partially) to the most of the performance indicators set by ARACIS. The program seems to have a solid structure and efforts are made to provide a good level of collaboration and support of the students. The major problems encountered involve the financial support of the students that may jeopardise the continuation (or the timely completion) of their studies and the international profile of the doctoral students that doesn't adhere to the profile of a modern university. Furthermore, from the evaluation process it was evident that doctoral students were working solely (or to a vast extent) on their own research project/thesis. Taking into consideration that a PhD provides the qualification to enter the Academia, the Doctoral Program should involve activities that would enable the doctoral students with the necessary skills (e.g., teaching, interdisciplinary research, English language proficiency etc). Lastly, there was no evidence of the existence of a Committee of Ethics in Research that would approve the doctoral theses.

Overall, the evaluation of the Doctoral Program in the domain of Physical Education and Sport revealed that it **Partially Fulfills** the performance indicators set by ARACIS.

VII. Annexes

- None