

External Evaluation Report of Doctoral Domain in Geography

I. Introduction

This report concerns to periodically External Evaluation of the Institution Organising Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD), in the doctoral study domain of Geography at West University of Timișoara (WUT). The evaluation period occurred between 11-15.10.2021.

The assessment will determine the accreditation of the doctoral area in geography, taking into account the following levels:

- the activity of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students;
- the research outcomes in relation to the defended doctoral theses in public meetings and respective CNATDCU validation;
- evaluation of doctoral field in Geography, with reference to the criteria and performance indicators (A., B, C.);
- the activity of Doctoral School of Geography (DSG);
- the activity of DSG as the Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs in domain Geography.

The Evaluation Panel for doctoral studies in fundamental domain of Geography is constituted by:

- Coordinator Prof. Dr. Igor Sîrodoev, Universitatea din Craiova, Romania.
- International expert Prof. Francisco da Silva Costa, University of Minho, Portugal;
- PhD student Alina-Mihaela Simion, Universitatea din București, Romania.

WUT is the main higher education institution and research center in Western Romania. Its community comprises roughly 16000 students and over 700 academic staff. It is a comprehensive university including 11 faculties with their respective departments.

Within the WUT, geographical doctoral research has Established in September 2010 in accordance with the provisions of the Education Law no. 84/1995.

The doctoral field of Geography is operating within the DSG and have a body of 5 Doctoral supervisors and 17 students. Fourteen doctoral candidate ware awarded a doctoral degree in the field of Geography in the interval 2015-2020.

II. Methods used

At first, the consultation and analysis of the documentation in electronic format sent by IOSUD was carried out, namely:

- the periodic self-evaluation report for maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of geography;
- the attached documents;
- the list of the domains, criteria, standards, performance indicators;
- the list of critical performance indicators.



We also carry out the consultation collection of information in:

- the website of WUT: <https://www.uvt.ro/ro/>;
- the webpage of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography: <https://www.cbg.uvt.ro/en/>;
- the webpage of Department of Geography: <https://geografie.uvt.ro/>;
- the webpage of the DSG: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=33>;
- the webpage of the Doctorate: https://geografie.uvt.ro/?page_id=6190;
- the website Doctoral Studies Council (DSC) <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=43>
- the website of the "EugenTodoran" Central University Library: <http://www.bcut.ro/>.

In a second moment, occurred, in hybrid mode, the evaluation period between 11-15.10.2021. A preliminary meeting was held on October 4, aims to present all the members of the panel and discuss the main methodological aspects related to the evaluation of doctoral studies. After this, online meeting/discussions were held with (annex 1):

1. The IOSUD and domains evaluation panel. October 11th, 2021.
2. Representatives of the WUT institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD). October 11th, 2021.
3. The contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation. October 11th, 2021. Main topics analyzed: Structure and organization of the report; SWOT analysis; Human Resources; Evolution of PhD students; Research centers.
4. The Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members/Quality Assurance Department. October 11th, 2021.
5. The academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain. October 11th, 2021. Main topics analyzed: Human Resources; Curricula; Finances and budget; Internationalization.
6. PhD students. October 12th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Administrative processes; Grants; Curricula; Teaching activities.
7. The Doctoral School Council of Geography (CSD members). October 12th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Structure, functioning and representativeness.
8. The members of the Ethics Commission. October 12th, 2021.
9. Graduates. October 12th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Current status at the professional level. Difficulties in the PhD; Grants and research projects;. Relations with the university after the end of the PhD.
10. The IOSUD and domains evaluation panel. October 13th, 2021.
11. The Directors/persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within the doctoral study domain. October 13th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Financial resources; Laboratories; collaboration with foreign universities; software licenses.
12. Employers. October 13th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Status of collaboration; Relations with the university; Research and teaching.
13. The IOSUD evaluation panel. October 15th, 2021.
14. The representatives of the WUT. October 15th, 2021.

During the evaluation period, emails was exchanged to prepare meetings, clarify doubts and gather additional information with the team who drafted the internal evaluation and the members of evaluation panel. A meeting was also held on October 15th with the members of evaluation panel in order to made a short SWOT analysis and present preliminary conclusions.



III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The WUT was founded through Royal Decree-Law no. 660 of December 30, 1944. and it is a landmark higher education and research institution for the western region of Romania.

The WUT is an Institution that organises Doctoral Studies and functions as such on the basis of the National Education Law (1/2011) and HG 681/2011 – The Code of Doctoral Studies.

Within the WUT, geographical doctoral research has Established in 2010 in accordance with the provisions of the Education Law no. 84/1995, republished, with subsequent completions and modifications.

A various functional documents - regulations, procedures, methodologies and frameworks - about the organization and functioning of doctoral studies was published in the last years. Procedures for PhD students, criteria for the evaluation and standards required from applicants for admission are specified. The recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor is made according to the legislation in force. PhD activities are carried out under the supervision of IOSUD-WUT. The organisation of doctoral degree program is specified in the Institutional Regulation and according the acquisition of a level 8 qualification of the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

The regulations are in place and they are applied at the level of IOSUD and of the DSG , namely: specific regulations, the methodology for the position of director of the Council of Doctoral Studies, methodologies for organising and conducting doctoral program, the existence of mechanisms for the recognition of the position of doctoral supervisor, functional management structures, internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals on the topic of doctoral study program.

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 reference framework for the organization of doctoral schools within the WUT have the aim to promote the principles that guarantee the adequate development of doctoral university study programs. The mission of the Doctoral School of Geography is in accordance with the strategic mission of the WUT namely to carry out research activities of excellence preview in the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Geography.

At the level of the DSG there are specific regulations concerning: doctoral school regulations; methodology/rules for the conduct of doctoral school elections and evidence of their development; methodology for the admission of PhD students; methodologies for the completion of doctoral studies; internal procedures for reviewing and approving proposals for the subject matter of doctoral degree programmes; the existence of mechanisms for recognising the status of doctoral supervisor; the system procedure for the recognition and equivalence of the PhD obtained with other countries. The methodology for organizing doctoral studies is clearly presented in every academic years.

Several documents were analyzed, highlighting the institutional regulation for the organization and functioning of the IOSUD-WUT doctoral studies programs, the internal regulations of the DSG and the Council of the Doctoral School. Also, the specific measures of quality management and promotion of ethics and deontology are present in the Regulations of the DSG.

The verification of the documents presented on this indicator demonstrates the conditions of the IOSUD and DSG for the regular functioning of the Doctorate in Geography.

However, we identify some problems in the organization and functioning of the Council of the Doctoral School of Geography (CSDG), for which the doctoral school should pay special attention.

We advise WUT to created the conditions in order to enable bilingual (English/Romanian) edition of main content of DSG.

Recommendations:

The CSDG must operate in accordance with the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral studies at the WUT and the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Geography, namely regarding the representation of its members, the holding of regular meetings and the execution of competences assigned.

The indicator is partially 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 regulations of the DSG includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for the aspects specified in art. 17 para. (5) of the Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of doctoral studies, with subsequent amendments and completions The articles of the Regulations of the DSG guarantee compliance with the Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.

The indicator is fulfilled.



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

To assess the logistical resources needed to carry out the mission of the doctoral studies in Geography, we analyzed the student registration information system based in IT platforms adapted to WUT requirements and the software to check the similarity index of doctoral theses.

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.

Within the WUT there is the University Management System UMS, a specialized software for the management of students and doctoral students but also for the management of schooling.

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.

Starting with the 2014-2015 academic year, the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin and iThenticate were introduced within the WUT. According to the Institutional Regulation, the Office of Doctoral Studies performs the analysis of similarities using the a program iThenticate, recognized by CNATDCU.

All Geography doctoral theses are compulsorily verified with the help of the iThenticate software before publicity. It can be accessed through the institutional account @ e-uvt.ro. similarity report.

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.

We identify financial resources and funding and their application by the IOSUD/DSG in the last 5 years.

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.

In the last 5 years, within the Doctoral School of Geography, a series of research or institutional development/human resources projects per field have been carried out or are being carried out, obtained by doctoral supervisors in the field evaluated following national and/or international competitions. A significant number of PhD and postdoctoral students were included in all these projects.

During the period evaluated, the field of Geography have benefited from T PNIII type projects, POSDRU projects,, a project with European Space Agency, Bilateral type/Multilateral AUF-RO and a



number of cross-border projects or with local town halls, about human capital and resources in scientific research, which at least one PhD student as received a grant.

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%.*

Within the DSG, only one PhD student benefited from ERASMUS mobility scholarship, whereby the percentage of doctoral students active, who for at least six months received additional funding sources besides government funding, less than 20%.

Recommendations: It is recommendable for the DSG to study news strategies to increase the number of external scholarships and thus attract more students to PhD program. The supervisors should promoting more students involvement in international research projects in order to increase the participation in mobility programs and diversify financial sources in obtention of PhD grants.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *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.).*

In the Economic-Financial Department there is no analytical breakdown of the amounts allocated for the mobility of PhD students by funding sources, because the legislative provisions do not require such a measure.

Recommendations: Is very important the Economic-Financial Department provide the used to finance the training expenses of PhD students in order to calculate the percentage in relation to the total amounts related to doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contract and tuition fees collected from PhD students.

The indicator is not applicable.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

The IOSUD / DSG have a research infrastructure that supports the development of the related activities. Within the Geography field, the university study programme benefits from the facilities of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography and research centers "CGACI" (Applied Geomorphology and Interdisciplinary Research):and "CDR – START" (Center for Regional Development, Cross-border



Studies, and Rational Land Use Planning):- lecture hall; teaching laboratories; research laboratories and office rooms; equipments.

The situation of the research spaces, infrastructure and equipment is presented in detail. These show that the equipment available to geographic researchers can support a complex and diversified activity.

Students have access to all the Libraries and the benefits from online access of the WUT.

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.*

Supervisors, professors and PhD students within the DSG have their own material base represented by the section Geography in the library of the WUT and of profile laboratories, equipped with the necessary equipment, instruments and teaching materials. The PhD students of the DSG have access to a vast collection of periodicals in the Geography Library and online databases containing thousands of journals with articles in various fields (<http://www.anelisplus.ro/>). All PhD students have access to the "Eugen Todoran" Geography Library - Central University Library.

The PhD students also develop their research and dissemination of results in the two research centers: CGACI (Applied Geomorphology and Interdisciplinary Research), and CDR - START (Center for Regional Development, Cross-Border Studies and Rational Planning).

Apart from these research centers, the DSG has several research spaces which we highlight the six laboratories. All of them have an important research infrastructure consisting of equipment, high performance tools and specialized software, compliant with international requirements.

The research infrastructure and the offer of research services provision are complex, diversified and proper. However, it will be important to continue to obtain funding from research projects, in order to acquire high-performance equipment and have the capacity to update software, thus enabling the maintenance and renovation of the laboratories.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

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

The DSG emerged at the WUT in accordance with the provisions of the National Education Law regarding the of Doctoral Studies,. Five doctoral supervisors currently work in the PhD of Geography.. The subjects of the advanced training program included in the study plan of the PhD in Geography are taught by professors who supervise doctoral theses. The doctoral supervisors have publications indexed by the Web of Science or ERIH in impact journals and other achievements of relevant significance to the domain of Geography. The doctoral supervisors are still active in their scientific field and qualified according to the minimum standards required by the CNATDCU



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 DSG has qualified staff with the necessary experience to carry out the doctoral study program. Here, 5 doctoral supervisors work who are holders within IOSUD, the percentage value being 100%. The degree of fulfilment of the CNATDCU minimum standards in force, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the certificate of qualification in Geography, is presented and the minimum of three doctoral thesis advisors and 60% of them meet the necessary and obligatory standards and conditions for conferring didactic degrees in higher education.

Two of the PhD supervisors is close to meeting the minimum criteria and standards according to the CNATDCU what it will be important to to fulfill the minimum standards under the CNATDCU, in the short term. Taking into account the aging of the body of supervisors, the University must guarantee conditions for the renewal and qualification of the academic staff.

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.*

Within the Doctoral School of Geography there are qualified personnel and the necessary experience for the conduct of the Doctoral Studies Program. All 4 active doctoral supervisors and the retired supervisor are holders at IOSUD accomplishing totally this performance criterion.

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 subjects in the education program of the Geography PhD curriculum are supported by academic staff who have the position of doctoral supervisor/ habilitation/professor within IOSUD-DSG.

Also, academic and scientific academic and self-employment disciplines and research projects are supported by a external Professor who fulfills the conditions as a doctoral supervisors.

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 programs does not exceed 20%.*



None of doctoral supervisors have more than 8 PhD students. All doctoral supervisors falling within the limits imposed.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

We analyse the publications in indexed journals and international level contributions of the PhD supervisors in order to understand the progress in scientific research-development-innovation and international visibility. We also consulted the list of research projects that supervisors were involved in as coordinator/investigator and awards received. Hereby we try to infer if the supervisors are scientifically active by the CNATDCU minimum standards, required and mandatory to obtain the habilitation certificate

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.*

From various attachments, namely the curriculars, a list with the research activity of the PhD supervisors, reflected by publications in journals listed in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar databases or ERIM in journals with impact factor or other achievements relevant to the field of Geography, it was possible to assess the scientific and research portfolios. A serie of articles and other achievements relevant to the geography field of doctoral supervisors was consulted. The publications indexed Web of Science in journals with impact factor as well as other achievements such as articles ISI Conference Proceedings prove that three supervisors (60%) have at least 5 indexed publications or other relevant achievements in the field.

We found that supervisors perform the tasks of editors and reviewers of journals specialized in the field of Geography and are affiliated to international scientific bodies and organizations and have international visibility in the last 5 years.

All PhD supervisors carry out activities that meet the requirements regarding the contributions made at national and international level regarding the development-innovation in the field of Geography.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.2.2. *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by*



the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.

The consulting of the curricula, research contracts and other documents available in the annexes allows us to prove that PhD supervisors continue to be scientifically active by the minimum CNATDCU standards. Three supervisors have at least 25% of the score required by the minimum standards CNATDCU, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the certificate of qualification, based on scientific results of the last 5 years, accomplishing this indicator.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

We analyze the entire admission process, namely the organization of the different phases. We assess the quality of this process in terms of the ability to attract candidates, We tried to infer from the consequences of the doctoral student dropout rate on the course functioning. We examine the specialization curriculum in the area of doctoral geography, the content of the doctoral programs and the training program based on advanced academic studies. We have identified the different counseling/guidance strategies for students used by functional advisory committees. We consulted the lists of scientific research activities and participation in international events carried out by doctoral students. We tried to understand if the involvement of evaluators in the defense committees of doctoral theses is significant.

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

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

Based on the statistical elements presented in the report, we analyzed the capacity to attract students, with regard to their institutional origin and the profile of candidates in their academic research and professional performance components. We also interpreted the data presented on doctoral students' resignation / dropout.

Performance Indicator *B.1.1.1. *The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.*

The ratio between the number of master's degree graduates of other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who have entered the competition for admission to geography doctoral studies



and the number of places funded by to the state budget put up for competition, in the period 2015/2016 - 2019/2020, was 0.23 being higher than 0.2. The ratio between the number of candidates in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition within the field of doctoral studies, Geography, is 1.57 accomplished the indicator.

It will be prudent for the DSG and to determine strategies for attracting students from the Master's Degree in Geography from another national and foreign universities.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

The admission to doctoral studies is based on the " Methodology regarding the organization of the competition for admission to doctoral studies" to IOSUD-WUT a. In accord to the regulations contained in the institutional regulation for the organization and operation of doctoral studies, the "Methodology for admission to the doctorate in the Doctoral School of Geography," is approved annually and establishes a pre-established program with the assessment and grading in the admission procedures, evaluation criteria and standards. Prior to admission, each candidate proposes a research topic in the field of interest since the master's program. On the other hand, each candidate will carry out an interview in front of the admission committee. The interview is 50% of the final note of each candidate and the remaining 50% is the average of the study years of the bachelor and master programs.

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 admission does not exceed 30%.

According to the number of enrolled students (30) and expelled students (5) , the expulsion rate is 16.6%, at 2 years after admission, below 30% and accomplishing the performance indicator.

From the stage of the admission procedure, the DSG continue should to identify scientific risk factors and possibly present some alternative solutions.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

The training program is based on advanced academic studies includes topics relevant to geography and standards of scientific research ethics and intellectual property. IOSUD-WUT is responsible for creating mechanisms to ensure that the training program based on advanced academic studies achieves student learning outcomes. The DSG provides doctoral students with training programs based on advanced university studies, consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study formations, through courses, seminars and others.



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

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

The curriculum of the training program based on advanced academic studies in Geography include three disciplines study in-depth research methodology and/or statistical data processing. which one fundamental and 2 optional, a scientific authoring discipline of research projects, a discipline of Research Practice and a discipline of Ethics and academic integrity:

The PhD student can choose the optional disciplines to reinforce the research methodology and statistical processing of experimental data.

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.*

A compulsory discipline has been introduced for PhD in Geography called Ethics and Academic Integrity. This subject is dedicated to ethics in scientific research and to intellectual property.

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 activities.*

The curricular description of the academic training program based on advanced university studies demonstrates that each discipline is centered on and aims at learning outcomes, specifying the competencies, skills and attitudes that students should acquire. Within the Curriculum 50% of the disciplines are dedicated to specialized courses whose purpose is to form advanced research skills specific to the field of geography.

A feedback on the content and competences offered by the discipline sheets is obtained using the PhD students' satisfaction survey.

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.*

Throughout the doctoral training period, each student benefit from the counseling / guidance of a functional advising committee, aspect reflected by written guidance and feedback or regular meetings. The PhD supervisors in the field of Geography and the advising committee coordinate the activity of doctoral students. During the elaboration of the doctoral thesis, the PhD students are in permanent contact



with the advising committee, through regular meetings, live or online. At the time of the presentation of the progress reports, the members of the advising committee are also present, in which sign and can present their own observations and recommendations.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The number of doctoral students in geography during the five years of study is 20. A total members of the steering committee of 26 worked in the guidance commissions of the geography students during the reference period. Based on the data provided we calculate the ratio between the number of Doctoral students and the number of teachers providing guidance is 0,8: 1.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Each doctoral advisor is involved in the supervision of their own doctoral students, involving them in scientific research activities, conferences, publication of relevant papers in journals and proceedings, participation in workshops, scientific sessions, etc.

One important performance indicator is the ratio between the number of presentations delivered by the doctoral students and the number of the doctoral students who successfully completed the doctoral programme during the evaluated period.

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.

Based in the list of published articles or other relevant contributions of the doctoral students who have defended their doctoral thesis in the last five years, we select 5 relevant papers which we analysed and rated in a scale from 1 to 5, according to the original contribution to the development of the studies in Geography. All papers contain significant original contributions in the field of Geography.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.



During their last 5 years, the PhD students had a scientific activity for disseminating the results of their research. They participated in a series of scientific events in the country and abroad.

Based on the analyse of the student activity lists, we conclude that the ratio between the number of presentations including posters, exhibitions, made at international events and the number of students who completed their doctoral studies is 1,2. To achieve this value we used the number of manifestations of PhD students who have defended their theses in the last five years..

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard B.3.2. The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.

This performance indicator lets you know if significant number of external reviewers in the doctoral theses defence committees.

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.

In the last five years in the field of Geography there not have been cases in which two appointments from a higher education institution, other than IOSUD evaluated, are exceeded, for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral supervisor, in the same year.

No doctoral thesis defended in the field of Geography was invalidated at CNATDCU..

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.

In the last five years in the field of Geography, 33 Members of the thesis jury come from a higher education institution other than the evaluated IOSUD. The number of doctoral theses assigned to a lecturer from an institution other than the organizing one is not more than 0.3,

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

In this domain, we analyse the internal quality assurance system based on the institutional framework and internal quality assurance policies. We attend to the description of the process of



evaluation and internal quality assurance in accordance with a procedure developed and applied at the IOSUD level and we identify the evaluated criteria mandatory and if the student feedback mechanisms are implemented.

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

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. *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.*

In the WUT there are objective and transparent procedures for evaluating and internal monitoring of the evolution of doctoral schools. In this sense, WUT has the Internal Auditor's Charter, the Internal Audit Procedures Manual and the Internal Audit Regulations. The operational procedure regarding the evaluation and internal monitoring of the doctoral schools within the WUT establishes the procedure of internal evaluation of the doctoral schools and of the domains of doctoral studies in order to accredit and periodically evaluate in accordance with the legislation in force. The institutional regulation for the organization and functioning of Doctoral University Studies establishes internal quality assurance policies. The procedures and norms on the basis of which the doctoral studies are organized can be found both in the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of the doctoral university studies as well as within the Regulations of the DSG.

At the level of the DSG, the permanent evaluation of the activity is under the regulation of operation of the doctoral school and represents one of the objectives of Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography.

Annually a "Anonymous sociological questionnaire" is applied giving the opportunity to the doctoral students presented some suggestions for the continuous improvement of the academic and administrative activity.

An internal evaluation report is prepared by the commission for evaluating the activity of the doctoral school to contains recommendations that are transposed in the action plan proposed within the strategies and procedures implemented at the level of the DSG.

Each doctoral school is subject to periodic external evaluation at 5-year intervals. The external evaluation of doctoral schools is based on the performance of each doctoral school and the institutional capacity of IOSUD-WUT, according to the legal provisions. The evaluation and internal monitoring of the evolution of DSG is based regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral study programs taking into account evaluation methodology, reference standards and the list of performance indicators of ARACIS.



We verified this condition with regard to the scientific work of Doctoral advisors in the field of Geography, the infrastructure and logistics the procedures, the scientific activity of doctoral students, the training program and the social and academic services. PhD students have the necessary infrastructure and logistics to carry out the documentation and learning process.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.

The DSG provides methodologies to assess student satisfaction with the functioning of the doctorate and identify their scientific needs. During the doctoral training internship, feedback mechanisms are implemented by doctoral students by completing the evaluation forms. A tool for monitoring student satisfaction is the questionnaire “Anonymous sociological questionnaire” applied at IOSUD level and launched annually to assess students' perception. This questionnaire on student satisfaction favors the exchange of ideas, allowing the implementation of student feedback mechanisms aimed at the continuous improvement of academic services.

The measures to be taken following the annual evaluation are reflected in the strategies and policies adopted by the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography into account the wishes, desires, aspirations, vision of PhD students regarding the entire socio-professional activity in which they are involved.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

In this criterion, we analyze the information transparency policy and the regulations for accessibility to learning resources and scientific research laboratories.

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

Performance Indicator C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:

- (a) the Doctoral School regulation;*
- (b) the admission regulation;*
- (c) the doctoral studies contract;*
- (d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;*
- (e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;*
- (f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;*



(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);

(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;

(i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.

Information of interest to doctoral students and information of public interest is available for consultation on the WUT website (<https://www.uvt.ro/ro>). The IOSUD publishes (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=33>), in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as: internal regulations and standards about the doctoral programme; the doctoral studies contract; the academic and scientific profile of the doctoral advisors; the informations of doctoral students activities and doctoral theses summaries.

There website of the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography (<https://www.cbg.uvt.ro/en/>) providing all the information for doctoral supervisors and doctoral students and the admission conditions for the doctorate of Geography (https://geografie.uvt.ro/?page_id=6190). The DSG has an address dedicated to all information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates, respectively information of public interest (https://geografie.uvt.ro/?page_id=6109) regarding the regulations, the list of PhD students and of the progress reports.

It should be an effort to allow all information to be published in bilingual format. Also the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography should to promote the PhD activities (national and international projects participation and internationalization) in bilingue format.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard C.2.2. The IOSUD/The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies.

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

The WUT has provide through the Anelis Plus Project access to international scientific databases, from different fields of knowledge. The databases and other bibliographic sources can be accessed on the WUT library websites. Based on the access to international databases, each PhD supervisor and PhD students have their own documentation in electronic format in their field of specialisation. The databases to which the users have access, within BCUT, from the university campus or based on the password of a personal account created in Anelis are important sources of information and documentation during the doctoral internship.

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 IOSUD has shown a continuous concern for ensuring the necessary resources to verify the percentage of similarity for the works developed by PhD students. To avoid intellectual fraud, the WUT has acquired the identification services wich PhD students can have access. or verifying the degree of



similarity with the consent of the scientific coordinator. Within the WUT were implemented starting with 2015 two software, Turnitin and iThenticate.

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 doctoral students have access to research laboratories, the libraries of WUT and the databases specialized in scientific literature, an essential support in the drafting and development of theses, without discrimination, prohibitions, restrictions on material resources or of any other nature. A operational internal procedure ensures the unrestricted access of the Geography doctoral students to all the infrastructure provided by the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography, two research centers and six excellence laboratories

All PhD students of the DSG have unlimited access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specifics of the field/fields within the doctoral school.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization.

In this criterion we evaluate the strategies to increase the degree of internationalisation of doctoral programmes, the involvement of doctoral student, the participating in international conferences and workshops. We consult the joint doctoral programmes and the mobility agreements. The degree of internationalization of the activities is also considered within the doctoral program

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

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

Based on the activities of doctoral students, it was proven that they completed training courses abroad or other forms of mobility, such as participation in scientific conferences and international workshops. The DSG, through IOSUD, has concluded mobility agreements with foreign universities which have targeted the mobility of PhD students and professors in the last 5 years, as is the case of Erasmus agreements for the doctoral studies cycle. Thus, at least 20% of PhD students have completed a training internship abroad through this type of mobility scholarship (19).



As it is a doctoral course currently aimed at national students, it is important to motivate and support supervisors and doctoral students to take improvement courses in English. It is also important to continue to motivate doctoral students to develop national / international mobility programs and to participate in doctoral workshops with other courses that have affinities.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

The WUT allocates necessary funds for the organization of co-supervised doctorates. Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography established partnerships with institutions abroad for the exchange of doctoral students and teachers contributing to the internationalization of the didactic and scientific activities. The DSG supports financially, the organization of doctorates in international co-supervision. During the evaluation period two doctoral theses were presented in an international language which represents 14, 2% and 2 co-doctoral supervisor theses, which also represents 14.2% of the total of 14 theses defended so far.

Doctoral School of Geograpy has invited in the last 5 years 5 recognized international experts in the field to give courses/lectures for doctoral students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures manifested by:

- mobility of doctoral students through projects, ERASMUS programs, research contracts, own funds, etc...;
- the number of international mobilities;
- the number of internships offered a scholarship holders;
- the number of PhD students studying entirely in an international language;
- the number of trips of doctoral supervisors for lectures or other scientific activities related to doctorates abroad.
- the inclusion of none international experts in the commissions for guiding and defending doctoral theses. during the evaluation period.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The international relations that outline a potential for collaboration in the field of education and research 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The absence of a strong economic environment in the area to provide solutions for the insertion on the labour market
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The academic qualities of the internal supervisors. - The Interdisciplinary view of research centers - Good dynamics between faculty members and PhD students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The lack of information in English about PhD - Difficulties in obtaining own financial resources.
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The relationship with institutions and employing companies - The excellent relationship with municipal/regional/national institutions. - The EU funds that can be used for mobility, ERASMUS+ programs and other emerging programmes. 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The decrease of the school population - The social and economic factors that limit mobility. - The low external financing

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Partially fulfilled	<p><i>The CSDG must operate in accordance with the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral studies at the WUT and the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Geography, namely regarding the representation of its members, the holding of regular meetings and the execution of competences assigned.</i></p>
2.	PI	<p>A.1.1.2. The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.</p>	Fulfilled	
3.	PI	<p>A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
4.	PI	A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.	Fulfilled	
5.	IP	A.1.3.1. Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
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	<i>It is recommendable for the DSG to study news strategies to increase the number of external scholarships and thus attract more students to PhD program. The supervisors should promoting more students involvement in international research projects in order to increase the participation in mobility programs and diversify financial sources in obtention of PhD grants.</i>
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.).	Not applicable	<i>Is very important the Economic-Financial Department provide the used to finance the training expenses of PhD students in order to calculate the percentage in relation to the total amounts related to doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contract and tuition fees collected from PhD students.</i>
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	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly		
9.	CPI	A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	Fulfilled	
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	
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	
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	
13.	CPI	A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
14.	PI *	A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU 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	Fulfilled	
15.	PI *	B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.	Fulfilled	
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled	
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	
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	
19.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	
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	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.		
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	
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	
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1. For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain	Fulfilled	
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.	Fulfilled	
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	Fulfilled	
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	Fulfilled	

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

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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	
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	
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	
33.	PI *	C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	Fulfilled	
34.	PI	C.3.1.2. In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
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.).	Fulfilled	

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Justification

- The leaders of the WUT, Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography and the DSG consider that the study programme in Geography is well framed in the development strategy of the IOSUD.
- The PhD programme in Geography is valued by employers, local and regional public institutions.



- The supervisors staff consists of scientifically active PhDs, with a stable conditions to the WUT and integrated in research centers.
- The DSG has a good system of quality assurance.
- The students expressed satisfaction with the PhD programme and high appreciation for the academic staff and thesis supervisors.
- The students have access to laboratories, computer rooms and software suitable for their needs.
- The "EugenTodoran" Central University Library has good working conditions for the students.

Guidelines:

We summarize some guidelines we established from the analysis of performance indicators:

- reduce the entropy caused by the organic and structure of the university with regard to regulations and procedures;
- review the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School Council of Geography;
- define strategies for feedback from graduates and employers;
- increase the participation of supervisors in research international projects, with competitive funding;
- encourage PhD students to publish their research outcomes in peer-reviewed scientific journals;
- promote the marketing of the PhD in english in order to increase visibility and attract more foreing students;
- institutionalize the practice of organizing a doctoral workshop for the students presenting their work and getting feedback from academic staff and their pairs.

Fiinal recommendation:

All performance indicators was fulfilled, with exception of A.1.1.1. and A.1.3.2. partially fulfilled and for which recommendations were made.

October 21, 2021.

VII. Annexes

Annex 1 - The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit.