# The External Evaluation Report of the Doctoral Study Domain: Medicine

IOSUD – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Raevschi Elena, international evaluator 8/3/2021

# Contents

[. Introduction	2
II. Methods used	4
III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators	5
Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY	5
Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resource	es 5
Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure	10
Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources	11
Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS	14
Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission cont	
Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs	15
Criterion B.3. The results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation	18
Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT	20
Criterion C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system.	20
Criterion C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources	21
Criterion C.3. Internationalization	23
IV. SWOT Analysis	26
V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations	
VI. Conclusions and general recommendations	30
VII. *Annexes' list of additionally required information	31

# I. Introduction

The present report was performed as the result of the external evaluation of IOSUD-LBUS in the period of 19-23 July 2021 based on terms of reference and methodology of ARACIS.

The total list of the Experts 'Panel in the Medicine Domain was, as follows:

- 1. Brînzaniuc Klara, coordinator, Universitatea de Medicină, Farmacie, Ştiinţe şi Tehnologie "George Emil Palade" din Târgu Mureş;
- 2. Raevschi Elena, international expert, Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy from the Republic of Moldova;
- 3. Zamfir Simona, PhD student, Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Grigore T. Popa", Iasi.

The doctoral program in Medicine is the part of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, IOSUD ULBS, currently comprising the following 15 doctoral programs (http://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/domenii.php).

The doctoral activity is overseen by CSUD, consisting of 8 members, namely: CSUD's Director, the doctoral advisors' spokesperson in the CSUD, 5 doctoral advisors 6 designated through the Rector's Decree, and a spokesperson for the doctoral students <a href="http://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/csud/">http://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/csud/</a>. CSUD usually assembles once a month according to a schedule which is predetermined at the beginning of the academic year, and its decisions are made public on its website: <a href="http://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/csud/">http://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/csud/</a>.

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School is under the coordination of the Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, consisting of the following 4 members: the SDI's director, one doctoral advisor from within IOSUD-ULBS, one prominent external scientific advisor and a representative of the doctoral students.

The University's doctoral studies, including Medicine Domain, are conducted according to the following regulating decrees:

- The National Education Law no. 1/2011, updated through OUG no. 4/2016;
- Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 regarding the assurance of education quality;
- Law no. 87/2006;
- Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2011 for the change and update of Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 regarding assurance of education quality;
- Government Decision no. 681/2011 regarding the approval of conduct codes for university doctoral studies, updated through Government Decision no. 134/2016;
- The guide for the evaluation of the quality of university studies programs and higher education institutions ARACIS;
- The Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth, and Sport no. 3850/02.05.2012 regarding the approval of the Methodology for external evaluation for the temporary authorization, the accreditation, and for the periodical assessment of doctoral schools for different fields;
- The Order of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research no. 3482/24.03.2016 regarding the approval of the regulations for the organization and functioning of the National Council for the Certification of University Titles, Diplomas and Degrees;

- The Order of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research no. 6129/20.12.2016 regarding the approval of minimal necessary and mandatory standards for the conferment of teaching ranks within higher education, of 5 professional research and development degrees, of the doctoral advisor and habilitation degrees;
- The order of the Ministry for National Education no. 5110/24.09.2018 regarding the approval of minimal national standards for the conferment of doctoral degree;
- The order of the Ministry for National Education no. 5229/17.08.2020 regarding he approval of the methodologies for awarding the habilitation certificate, the doctoral degree, as well as the settlement of the notifications regarding the nonobservance of the quality or professional ethics standards, including regarding the existence of plagiarism, within a doctoral thesis;
- "Lucian Blaga" University's Charter <a href="http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/despre\_ulbs/transparenta.php">http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/despre\_ulbs/transparenta.php</a>
- The University's Code of Ethics <a href="http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/despre-ulbs/transparenta.php">http://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/despre-ulbs/transparenta.php</a>
- The regulations for the organization and implementation of doctoral studies at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, according to the methodologies and procedures specific to the activities of doctoral studies. http://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/legislatie.php

Consequently, between 2015 and 2020, the number distribution of registered doctoral students for the doctoral program in Medicine was, as follows: 73 (2015-2016), 85 (2016-2017), 89 (2017-2018), 93 (2018-2019), and 99 (2019-2020), along with total (all doctoral programs) evolution of doctoral students in IOSUD-LBUS, respectively: 356, 380, 416, 449 and 479.

Currently, SDI-ULBS has 105 active doctoral advisors, 16 from them are in the Medicine domain, all of which are full members of IOSUD. Doctoral advisors are tenure-track teaching staff with enduring experience in the field of scientific research, coordinating the doctoral students' activity, having obtained this right according to the provisions stated by Article 166 of The National Education Law no. 1/2011

During the assessed period, 220 PhD students have completed their doctoral studies and have obtained the doctoral degree; inclusively 32 of them are from program in Medicine domain.

At the level of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, there are 2 accredited centers dedicated exclusively to the medical field: The Centre for the Research of the Ocular Surface, <a href="http://www.ccso.ro/">http://www.ccso.ro/</a>, to which the doctoral students in Medicine are also affiliated, and the Centre for the Research, Application and Use of Elements of Open Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery. For the support of interdisciplinary research, the Faculty of Medicine, together with the Faculty of Sciences, has established an interdisciplinary research center under the initial name of The Centre for the Research in the Physics of Complex Systems, later reorganized and renamed The Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Research Center <a href="http://centre.ulbsibiu.ro/ccmrp/html/main.htm">http://centre.ulbsibiu.ro/ccmrp/html/main.htm</a>

The Faculty of Medicine hosts the Acta Medica Transilvanica journal, indexed in the following international databases: SCIENDO, INDEX COPERNICUS, EBSCOhost™, ULRICH'S, OPEN J-GATE, DIRECTORY OF RESEARCH JOURNAL INDEXING (DRJI), DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS (DOAJ), GENAMICS, and officially recognized by the Romanian College of Physicians. Those who have been awarded the doctoral degree as a total Programs during the past 5 years have published over 3000 papers indexed in international databases or in the proceedings of national and international conferences.

# II. Methods used

The evaluation activities were preformed according the timetable of the institutional evaluation visit – IOSUD / doctoral study Medicine domain at the LBUS for the period of 19-23 July 2021. On the preparation period was analyzed The Internal Evaluation Report for the Doctoral Program in Medicine within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (SDI) IOSUD – Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (67 pages) and its annexes (n<sup>0</sup>21).

Along with that were analyzed documents, data and information available on the IOSUD / Doctoral School website (Medicine Program), and required from the responsible person for the Medicine domain (dr. Carmen Domanriu) additionally (Annexes 1-10)

To obtain objective information about the quality of educational programs and the entire infrastructure of the university, to clarify the content of self-assessment Internal Evaluation Report, meetings were held with:

- Representatives of the CSUD and the Doctoral School
- Doctoral study medical field coordinator
- Academic staff members who are Doctoral advisors
- Members of Ethics Commission
- Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance
- Doctoral students
- Graduates of Doctoral program in Medicine
- Directors of the research centers/laboratories
- Doctoral schools' Council in Medicine doctoral study domain
- Employers of Doctoral graduates.

# III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

# Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

\*general description of domain analysis.

The institutional capacity of the ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain was found as a compliant field

Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the implementation of the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

**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:

"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu organizes university-level doctoral studies through the Institution for Organizing Doctoral Studies within LBUS, based on existing specific regulations, as follows:

- (a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School (Senate Decision nr.2542, June 26, 2020);
- (b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD) (Senate Decision , October 27, 2016), the evidences of their conduct were provided;
- c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students) (Senate Decision nr.1185, March 25, 2021, inclusively on-line admission operational procedure (Senate Decision nr.2542, June 26, 2020) and for the completion of doctoral studies (Operational procedure, Senate Decision nr.2542, June 26, 2020);
- d) the mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad are stipulated by three procedures;
- 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 mentioned above specific regulations (a-g) are formulated in accordance with the National and International Regulations and are applied accordingly.

As proof for p. (e) has been required additionally the evidences (Annexes 1-3), as follows:

- Meetings Calendar of Council of the doctoral school for 3 years (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020).

- As well as, on the university website are published all CSUD decisions, with the related archive. It can be accessed at the following link: https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/csud/

# **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The regulating document consists of 16 chapters stipulating different principles and fields of application, IOSUD, the interdisciplinary doctoral school, the admission and registration of doctoral students, the doctoral thesis agreement, doctoral advisors, doctoral students, finances, the completion of doctoral studies, quality assurance of the Program.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

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, as follows:

- a) acceptance of new thesis supervisors and the manner whereby a thesis supervisor may excluded from the doctoral school;
- b) mechanisms for deciding on the adequacy, make-up and contents of the advanced university studies programme;
- c) procedures for replacing a doctoral student's thesis supervisor and conflict mediation procedures;
- d) conditions for interrupting a doctoral programme;
- e) means for preventing research fraud, including plagiarism;
- f) providing access to research resources;
- g) doctoral students' attendance requirements, based on a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the presence of the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.

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

- <u>description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The office for doctoral studies has implemented an information system, independent from LBUS University-wide digital system, in order to keep track of the doctoral students.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The flowchart of the IT system for the Doctoral School and especially for a certain field, is not distinct. But, at the secretarial level, there is a database in the ACCESS program, where all ULBS PhD students are managed.

Also, at ULBS level, the University management System (UMS) program (Annex 4) is used for the record of all university study programs (bachelor, master, doctorate). As a proof is included the print screen according to the doctoral file of the doctoral student Solomon Adelaida, as it appears in the program (Annex 5), which confirm that that both the school and the financial situation are monitored through the UMS system. *Recommendations:* 

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

LBUS are applying the following software for verifying the similarity percentage of doctoral theses: sistemeantiplagiat.ro (https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/clienti/educatie) and Check for plagiarism (https://www.checkforplagiarism.net/).

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

LBUS are verifying all doctoral theses the similarity percentage. The theses whose percentages fall outside of the allowed limits are not approved for public defense.

The verification of the similarity is performed according to the provisions of OMEC 5229/2020 ("The doctoral school performs the analysis of similarities using a program recognized by CNATDCU) and according to the provisions of the Operational Procedure for the evaluation and defense of doctoral theses within ULBS.

The ULBS doctoral school uses the sistemantiplagiat.ro program, recognized by CNATDCU, for the verification of doctoral theses. Attached is a model similarity report required additionally (Annex 6). As well as, PhD students and PhD supervisors have at their disposal

another anti-plagiarism check program within they can check the articles, when they are going to publish, research papers or doctoral theses, before they are submitted for pre-examination (Annex 7).

#### **Recommendations:**

<u>The indicator is fulfilled</u>. In order to improve the transparency and quality of plagiarism detection, it is recommended to detail all steps of the similarity verification procedure in the updated 'Operational Procedure for the evaluation and defense of doctoral theses within ULBS' or to elaborate it as a separate procedure.

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.

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.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

There are institutional development grants coordinated by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years, as follows:

- Institutional development funds: Field 6: Excellent research ULBS, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, through which a series of courses and workshops with the participation of doctoral students and doctoral advisors were held;
- Institutional development funds: Field 5: Excellent research ULBS, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 through which a series of courses and workshops with the participation of doctoral students and doctoral advisors were held;
- Institutional development funds 2018, 2019, 2020: Field 4: the support of the activities conducted by the student entrepreneurial societies (SAS) from the universities; and Field 5: the improvement in the quality of teaching, including the adherence to the academic deontology and ethical code of conduct;
- <u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain exist research institutional human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation and all institutional developments grants, as a rule, involve doctoral students.

# **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

During each academic year, LBUS offer a total of 10 full-tuition scholarships (allotted for the entire period of the doctoral studies) to the candidates enrolled on paid positions who obtain very good results during the admission trial, but who do not succeed in occupying a tuition-free position.

<u>- analysis of the facts,</u> the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The proportion (21.65%) of doctoral students who receive financial support through research or institutional development grants surpasses 20%, as it appears in the additionally offered document (Annex 8).

# **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is 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.).

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The revenue from the doctoral scholarships granted to the university through an institutional contract and the revenue from the doctoral students' tuition fees are centralized university-wide.

<u>- analysis of the facts,</u> the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

ULBS allocate in the field of Medicine only 5.65% vs. required 10% for the doctoral students' professional training expenses reimbursement from the total amount obtained, as it appears in the additionally offered document (Annex 9).

<u>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</u> It is recommended to rise the percent from 5.65% to at least 10% of using the reimbursement of professional training expenses of doctoral students from 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.

#### 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.

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the presence of a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities for the field of Medicine.

**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.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The research infrastructure of Interdisciplinary Doctoral School based on research infrastructure of the faculties, the libraries, and the research centers acknowledged within the university is presented public by the EERIS platform (Engage in the European Research Infrastructures System (<a href="https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000X-0039">https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000X-0039</a>). During the past 12 months, LBUS has invested considerably in its research infrastructure (approximately 1 million Euros) and has received external donation from Hasso Platther Institute (4.2 million Euros) - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The research infrastructure development is in line with the assumed mission and objectives. The dynamics of infrastructure investments were presented in the report for the last year. In previous years, investments have been made in research infrastructure through research projects carried out without being highlighted separately. That's why the research infrastructure development within the past 5 years wasn't provided.

#### Recommendations:

<u>The indicator is fulfilled.</u> In order to assure the evaluation of infrastructure investments dynamics for a period of 5 years, it is recommended to perform the monitoring of research infrastructure investment separately.

#### 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.

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the existence of sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.

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.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The doctoral study program is conducted by 16 doctoral advisors (inclusively 2 of them are aged over 70). From other 14 doctoral advisors, seven advisors fully correspond to the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU): conf. dr. Birlitiu Victoria, prof. dr. Costache Victor, prof. dr. Carmen Domanriu, prof. dr. Gligor Felicia, prof. dr. Grosu Florin, prof. dr. Mihaila Romeo, prof. dr. Roman Filip Corina.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

There is 50% (7 persons) of doctoral thesis advisors in Medicine meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force. Conf. dr. Birlitiu Victoria has got her Hirsh (6) after submission of Internal Evaluation Repot to the ARACIS.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.2.** At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All 16 doctoral advisors in Medicine are full-time employees.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The total of 100% from doctoral thesis advisors in Medicine are full-time employees. *Recommendations:* 

# The indicator is fulfilled.

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.** The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching

staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law. - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by doctoral advisors from within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The totals of 100% from subjects in the doctoral education program based on advanced higher education studies in Medicine are taught by certified doctoral thesis advisors.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Within the Medicine programme, a number of 5 doctoral advisors oversee more than 8 doctoral students as a total. Two retired doctoral advisors coordinate more than 12 doctoral students during their extension period, but not more than 15, as a total.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The share of doctoral supervisors who coordinate at the same time more than 8 doctoral students, but not more than 12, during their doctoral studies (3 or 4 years, depending on the field, to which can be added the legally granted extension periods) represents 31.25% and exceed the standard (5 supervisors - prof.dr. Costache Victor, prof.dr. Domnariu Carmen, prof.dr. Mihăilă Romeo, prof.dr. Sabău Dan, prof.dr. Stănilă Adriana – from 16 doctoral supervisors as a total). The doctoral students in the grace period were also integrated in the calculation, in the 4 years after a previous extension of 2 years.

# Recommendations:

<u>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</u> To strength the HR strategy for Research motivating and involving young researchers in Doctoral School activities.

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the visibility of scientific activity at the international level.

Performance Indicator A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

On the IOSUD website, under the Programs and Doctoral advisors' section (<a href="https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/domenii-si-conducatori/">https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/domenii-si-conducatori/</a> ), information is provided regarding the doctoral advisors from each program, including their CV and their publication list.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All of the doctoral advisors in Medicine, members of IOSUD, have conducted relevant research activity in the field of Medicine during the past 5 years, therefore fulfilling the requirements of the A 3.2.1 indicator, as evidence are provided their CV and publication lists.

# **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.2.2.** At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The doctoral advisors in Medicine continue to be scientifically active through publishing articles, books, through attending conferences.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Each of the doctoral advisors in Medicine has over then 25% of the score required by the current minimal standards formulated by CNATDCU for the past 5 years

# The indicator is fulfilled.

#### Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

\*general description of domain analysis.

The educational effectiveness of the ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain was found as a compliant field.

Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest Standard B.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies has the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution or a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available.

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution and having a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available, as well.

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.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The number of graduates of other higher education institutions than IOSUD LBUS who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years is registered as 39 from a total of 111 candidates participated in the admission competition for the Medicine program. For same period, the number of seats funded by the state budget was 41.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The ratio between the number of graduates of other higher education institutions than IOSUD LBUS who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years (39) and the number of seats funded by the state budget (41) is -0.95 (higher than min. of 0.2)

The ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years (111) and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain (41) is 2.71 (higher than min. of 1.2)

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm the academic, research and professional performance of admitted candidates.

**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.

<u>- description of the facts,</u> the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Admission to doctoral study programs is based on the competition and includes: Foreign Language proficiency examination and an examination on the basis of the specialty/domain topic consisting of an interview of the admission commission with the candidate on the basis of the doctoral research project elaborated in accordance with the requirements - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Admission to doctoral study programs is organized according to the Code of doctoral university studies, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions and the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the ULBS.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

**Performance Indicator B.1.2.2.** The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

During the period under evaluation, the number of admitted doctoral students was 103 and the number of renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3 years after admission was 12.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The mean of expelling rate is 11.65%, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3 years after admission and does not exceed 30%.

# **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

# Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to confirm 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.

- <u>description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The training program based on advanced university studies in Medicine contains 6 relevant mandatory disciplines for the scientific training of doctoral students: Academic ethics and integrity, The Methodology of scientific research, Evidence-based medicine, The Methodology of research in medicine, The use and dissemination of scientific research, The management of research projects.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The training program based on advanced academic studies includes 6 disciplines (more than 3) relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; three of these disciplines is dedicated to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing (The Methodology of scientific research, Evidence-based medicine, The Methodology of research in medicine).

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the training program based on advanced university studies in Medicine, the discipline of Academic ethics and integrity is mandatory.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

One discipline from 6 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.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses "the learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All 6 mandatory disciplines for the scientific training of doctoral students are provided according to their Curriculums.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The Curriculums are specifying the knowledge and skills that doctoral students must acquire after completing each discipline.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All doctoral students have access to the counseling of a Doctoral Advisory Committee consisting of his doctoral advisor and 3 other members with expertise in the scientific field of the doctoral thesis.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The doctoral students stay in touch with the members of his Advisory Committee for coordination and feedback, through electronic means of communication (phone, e-mail, the Google Classroom e-learning platform, Google Meet, etc.) or face to face meetings.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the period from 2016 to 2019, a number of 86 doctoral students have taken part in the training program and a number of 36 teaching staff were providing doctoral guidance.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff providing doctoral guidance is 2.38:1 and does not exceed 3:1

# 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.

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to demonstrate that the doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, patents, products and service orders.

**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.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

There was selected 5 papers randomly from total list of doctoral students' contribution.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The 5 selected articles (Olteanu Ariela, AnaMaria Nicoleta Crenguta Petrisor, Radu Popa-Nedelcu, Vlad Rusu, Adrian laurentiu Stupariu) are significant original contributions in the field of Medicine.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All doctoral students (32) who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) have been presented at least one scientific report.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The ratio between the number of presentations and number of doctoral students are more than one.

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to proof the engagement of significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the activities of Doctoral School medical domain.

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.1.** The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The facts were evaluated according the information from Annex B.3.2.1. of the Internal Evaluation Report.

<u>analysis of the facts,</u> the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the LBUS doesn't exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.

#### **Recommendations:**

#### The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

During the past 5 years, a number of 32 doctoral theses have been defended. The maximum number of doctoral theses defended in Medicine allocated to an external scientific consultant is 4.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The ratio of the number of doctoral theses in Medicine defended during the past 5 years allocated to a scientific consultant from a higher education institution other than LBUS to the number of doctoral theses defended in the same doctoral program is 0.125, that doesn't exceed 0.3.

# The indicator is fulfilled.

#### Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

\*general description of domain analysis.

The quality management of the ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain was found as a compliant field.

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

Standard C.1.1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance. \*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to demonstrate the exitance of 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 counseling made available to doctoral students.
- <u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In order to cover the requirements of points (a-f) of Performance indicator C.1.1.1., the Doctoral school in Medicine domain of LBUS has provided:

- two Regulations: (1) Regulation for the Organization of the Admission Exam to Doctoral Studies for the academic year 2021-2022; (2) LBUS Regulation regarding the Organization of Doctoral Studies, approved by the University Senate on June 16th 2020;
- Eight Procedures of the process, as follows: admission, final students' assessment, doctoral thesis defense, the scientific activities of Doctoral advisors, Rewarding Research Results
- One Methodology of the approval of external mobility grants;
- <u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The Doctoral school in Medicine domain demonstrates the continuous development of the

evaluation process and its internal quality assurance by applying approved Regulations, Procedures and Methodology at the level LBUS. University implemented the Quality Management System Standard (ISO 9001-2015). The Certificate was provided by the Head of the Commission for the Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) during the online meeting according the timetable of the institutional evaluation visit.

#### **Recommendations:**

**The indicator is fulfilled**. Could be improved by strengthening of all program beneficiary systematic feedback providing the separately evaluation of them according to the mandatory criteria from performance indicator in question.

**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.

<u>description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the academic year 2019-2020 a questionnaire designed by LBUS was disseminated via Google Forms to 278 students enrolled in the doctoral training program. About 80% of the respondents were content or very satisfied (on a scale from 1 to 5) with the overall doctoral program.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students. There was presented the survey analysis of 180 doctoral students with satisfaction of 80%.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences covering the requirements of interest information to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information being 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.
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The Doctoral school in Medicine domain are publishing on the website of the LBUS the documents specified in points (a-i)

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documents published on the website of the LBUS are considered the proof for points (a-i).

#### Recommendations:

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to demonstrate the presence of the access for doctoral students 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.

<u>description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All doctoral students are enabled, via their institutional email accounts, with access to online platforms of relevant academic databases for each doctoral field. As well as, The LBUS Library provides free access to books, articles, international libraries

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis

# **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Each doctoral student, subsequent to the approval of the doctoral advisor, has access to the two electronic systems of plagiarism checking: sistemeantiplagiat.ro and checkforplafiarisma.net.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Each doctoral student have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works according the Regulation (Regulamentul de organizare și desfățurare a studiilor universitare de doctorat în ULBS – Anexa A.1.1.1.01. of Internal Evaluation Report for Doctoral Programme in Medicine).

#### Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All doctoral students of Medicine Domaine have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities within the interdisciplinary Doctoral School

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The access of doctoral students to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending in the domain of Medicine within the Doctoral School are provided according to the internal Regulation (Regulamentul de organizare și desfățurare a studiilor universitare de doctorat în ULBS – Anexa A.1.1.1.01. of Internal Evaluation Report for Doctoral Programme in Medicine).

**Recommendations:** 

#### The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

The ULBS doctoral school Medicine domain provided all necessary evidences in order to proof the application of strategy 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.

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

ULBS aims to internationalize and train doctoral students abroad. Training scholarships are made available to doctoral students, <a href="https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/stiri/">https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/stiri/</a>.

ULBS also provides external mobility grants to HASSO PLATTNER students and PhD students based on a methodology approved by the ULBS Senate.

(https://cercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/proceduri-si-regulamente/activitati-proiecte-finantate-prin-parteneriatul-ulbs-hasso-plattner-2020/).

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

According the provided information in the field of Medicine (Annex 10):

- There is 55.68% *vs.* required 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences;
- There is 5.68% vs. required 20% of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad.

#### **Recommendations:**

<u>The indicator is fulfilled</u>. It is recommended to increase the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad

**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 cotutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Interdisciplinary doctoral school domain of Medicine invited several top-ranking experts and scholars.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Invited top-ranking experts and experts deliver lectures and speeches addressed primarily to doctoral candidates.

#### **Recommendations:**

# The indicator is fulfilled.

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

<u>- description of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The internationalization of activities is supported by many approaches, as affiliations to many international networks, participation to international educational fairs, Eugen Ionesco doctoral scholarships, etc.

<u>- analysis of the facts</u>, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All mentioned specific measures are implemented in order to assure the internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies.

**Recommendations:** 

The indicator is fulfilled.

# **IV. SWOT Analysis**

# **Strengths:**

- The existence of institutional capacity based on research infrastructure and quality of human resources;
- The program based on advanced university studies;
- Implementation of Quality management System Standard (ISO 9001).

# Weaknesses:

- The transparency of plagiarism detection operational procedure is not sufficiently ensured;
- The distinct monitoring of the research infrastructure investment not on an ongoing basis;
- The aging trend of doctoral theses supervisors;
- The systematic feedback evaluation is not provided separately for all categories of beneficiaries of the doctoral school.

# **Opportunities:**

- Development of vizibility and internationalization of Doctoral school activities;
- Local and national decision makers comunication;
- Implementation of Open Sciences approches.

# **Threats:**

- Resistance to change;
- Migration of young researchers due to country economic situation.

# V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
	indicator			
	(*, C)			
1.	A.1.1.1.		Fulfilled	-
2.	A.1.1.2.		Fulfilled	-
3.	A.1.2.1.		Fulfilled	-
4.	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	In order to improve the transparency and quality of plagiarism detection, it is recommended to detail all steps of the similarity verification procedure in the updated 'Operational Procedure for the evaluation and defense of doctoral theses within ULBS' or to elaborate it as a separate procedure.
5.	A.1.3.1.		Fulfilled	-
6.	*A.1.3.2.		Fulfilled	-
7.	*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	It is recommended to rise the percent from 5.65% to at least 10% of using the reimbursement of professional training expenses of doctoral students from 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.
8.	A.2.1.1. <b>c</b>	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	Fulfilled	In order to assure the evaluation of infrastructure investments dynamics for a period of 5 years, it is recommended to perform the monitoring of research infrastructure investment separately.

		research infrastructure described above,		
		which was purchased and developed within		
		the past <u>5 years</u> will be presented distinctly.		
9.	A.3.1.1. c		Fulfilled	-
10.	*A.3.1.2.		Fulfilled	-
11.	A.3.1.3.		Fulfilled	-
12.	*A.3.1.4.	The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors	Partially	To strength the HR
		who concomitantly coordinate more than 8	Fulfilled	strategy for Research
		doctoral students, but no more than 12, who		motivating and involving young researchers in
		are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.		Doctoral School
		programs does not exceed 20%.		activities.
13.	A.3.2.1. c		Fulfilled	-
14.	*A.3.2.2.		Fulfilled	-
15.	*B.1.1.1.		Fulfilled	-
16.	*B.1.2.1.		Fulfilled	-
17.	B.1.2.2.		Fulfilled	-
18.	B.2.1.1.		Fulfilled	-
19.	B.2.1.2.		Fulfilled	-
20.	B.2.1.3.		Fulfilled	-
21.	B.2.1.4.		Fulfilled	-
22.	B.2.1.5. c		Fulfilled	-
23.	B.3.1.1. c		Fulfilled	-
24.	*B.3.1.2.		Fulfilled	-
26.	*B.3.2.1.		Fulfilled	-
27.	*B.3.2.2.		Fulfilled	-
28.	C.1.1.1.	The Doctoral school in the respective	Fulfilled	Could be improved by
		university study domain shall demonstrate		strengthening of all
		the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality		program beneficiary
		assurance following a procedure developed		systematic feedback
		and applied at the level of the IOSUD, the		providing the separately
		following assessed criteria being mandatory:		evaluation of them
		(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;		according the mandatory
		(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary		criteria from
		to carry out the research activity;		performance indicator in
		(c) the procedures and subsequent rules		question.
		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 counseling made available		
		to doctoral students.		

29.	*C.1.1.2	Fulfilled	-
30.	C.2.1.1. c	Fulfilled	-
31.	C.2.2.1.	Fulfilled	-
32.	C.2.2.2.	Fulfilled	-
33.	C.2.2.3.	Fulfilled	-
34.	*C.3.1.1.	Fulfilled	It is recommended to increase the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad.
35.	C.3.1.2.	Fulfilled	-
36.	C.3.1.3.	Fulfilled	-

# VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

# Raevschi Elena,

ARACIS International evaluator ,
MD, PhD habilitate,MPH, Associate professor,
Head of the Research Department,
Head of the Department of Social Medicine and Health Management,
State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova

# VII. \*Annexes' list of additionally required information

Annex's code	Description
Annex 1.	A.1.1.1.Meetings' calendar of CSUD (2017-2018)
Annex 2.	A.1.1.1.Meetings' calendar of CSUD (2018-2019)
Annex 3.	A.1.1.1.Meetings' calendar of CSUD (2019-2020)
Annex 4.	A.1.2.1.University Management System program screenshot
Annex 5.	A.1.2.1.Doctoral students' data base screenshot
Annex 6.	A.1.2.2.Report of similarity verification generated by system antiplagiat.ro
Annex 7.	Report of Plagiarism percentage generated by Check for Plagiarism program
Annex 8.	A.1.3.2. IOSUD and fields
Annex 9.	A.1.3.3. Doctoral training expenses
Annex 10.	C.3.1.1. IOSUD and fields

<sup>\*</sup>Annexes are available in ARACIS cloud <a href="http://cloud.aracis.ro/">http://cloud.aracis.ro/</a>