



**Report of external Evaluation**  
**Of**  
**Philology doctoral Domain**  
**IOSUD Lucian Blaga University**

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## **I. Introduction**

1. This report is produced in the context of a periodic evaluation of the doctoral school of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. This interdisciplinary doctoral school, the only one in the university, comprises 15 doctoral domains. The school was founded in 2012. There are currently 105 doctoral advisors and 498 doctoral students.

2. Period of the evaluation visit: 19.07.2021-23.07.2021

3. Composition of the Experts Committee: a) Prof. univ .dr. Iulian Boldea - coordinator; b) Prof. univ. dr. Enrique Nogueras - international expert; c) Paula Andreea Toderașcu - student doctorand

4. The Philology doctoral domain dates from 1990. It is one of the oldest in the university. It has 9 doctoral advisors (for women and five men) and 51 doctoral students<sup>1</sup>.

5. The doctoral advisors are: Prof. univ. Dr. Gheorghe Manolache (Romanian literature), Prof. univ. dr. Maria Sass (German literature), Prof. univ. Dr. Andrei Terian-Dan

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<sup>1</sup> Of the 51 doctoral students in coordination on 1, July, 2021, 15 are in places without fee (of which 7 with scholarship), and the remaining 36 in places with fee. At the same time, out of the 51 doctoral students, 32 are in internships, 11 in extensions, and 9 in the grace period. It is also important to mention that among the 51 doctoral students there are 4 foreign citizens (2 from China, 1 from the USA and 1 from Iran).



(Romanian and comparative literature), Prof. univ. Dr. Silvia Florea (linguistics and English), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Doris-Andrea SAVA (German language and phraseology), Assoc. dr. Maria-Elena Milcu (French language and translation studies), Assoc. Dr. h Radu Drăgulescu (Romanian language and linguistics), Prof. univ. dr. Eric Gilder (rhetoric and English literature) and Assoc. Dr. Radu Vancu (Romanian and comparative literature).

5. The areas of competence of doctoral advisors supervisors in the Philology domain cover all master's programs offered in the field by the university and almost all undergraduate programs (with the exception of Chinese language and literature). At the same time, at the level of the field there is a visible balance between the leaders on language / linguistics (4 in number) and those on literature / cultural studies (also 4), in the conditions in which Prof. univ. Dr. Eric Gilder has expertise in both subfields. The coordinator of the domain of study is Prof. Dr. Andrei Terian-Dan.

## **II. Methods used**

This report is based on:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes;
- The analysis of the documents requested from Lucian Blaga University during the evaluation process (and provided by Lucian Blaga University via the Aracis cloud);
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format (<https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/>);
- An in-person visit to the university's facilities. This visit was made by the coordinator of the experts committee, Professor Iulian Bodea, who communicated his impressions to me. The visit took place on Thursday, June 22.
- A series of meetings or discussions with various members of the university community related to doctoral studies. A list of these meetings is given in Annex I

## **III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators**

### ***Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY***

The Philology domain has demonstrated its institutional capacity over more than thirty years. The number of doctoral students, theses doctoral produced or participation in scientific research projects proves it. At the same time, during these years it has developed a tradition of excellence and efficiency. Finally, it has implemented the procedures and regulations required by current legislation.

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



At the level of IOSUD-ULBS, the Philology field shows that the institution has implemented the efficient functioning mechanisms provided by the specific legislation regarding the organization of doctoral studies. It has also provided the specific bureaucratic and material instruments for its operation as well as adequate or at least foreseen funding.

*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*

In addition to rigorously applying the legislation in force, the institution has developed regulations aimed at resolving possible ambiguities or unforeseen situations.

**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.*

At the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of IOSUD-ULBS, of which the doctoral field of Philology is a part, the following specific regulations and normative acts exist and are operational (most of them can be consulted on the website <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/>):

- a) Regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu: [https://senat.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/250620/6\\_Regulament%20de%20org%20si%20desf%20a%20studiilor%20univ%20de%20doctorat\\_iunie2020\\_Senat.pdf](https://senat.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/250620/6_Regulament%20de%20org%20si%20desf%20a%20studiilor%20univ%20de%20doctorat_iunie2020_Senat.pdf)
- b) The procedure for appointing the Director of the Doctoral School Council and the student representatives in the SSC is also regulated in the aforementioned Regulation (Art. 13, para. (1)-(7)). The last elections at the SSC level were held on 9-10 March 2021, as shown in Annex A.1.1.1.02, submitted to the file, which contains the Decision of the Board of Directors No. 08/03.03.2021 ([https://www.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/documents/ca/2021/HCA\\_08\\_03.03.2021.pdf](https://www.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/documents/ca/2021/HCA_08_03.03.2021.pdf));



- c) c) Methodologies/procedures for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies (admission to doctoral studies, completion of doctoral studies. The IOSUD-ULBS PhD admission methodology is an integral part of the general admission methodology (Annex 12 - Admission criteria and special conditions - IOSUD) and was approved by the Senate Decision no. 1185/25.03.2021: [https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/Regulament\\_Admitere-IOSUD\\_2021.pdf](https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/Regulament_Admitere-IOSUD_2021.pdf). At the same time, on <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/admitere/> you can find information on the admission calendar, the nominal list of doctoral supervisors who can still enrol doctoral students in the current academic year, the distribution of places by domains, the documents required for enrolment, fees, etc. As regards the procedure for the completion of doctoral studies, this is regulated by the Operational Procedure for the Evaluation and Defence of Doctoral Theses, approved by Senate Resolution no. 2542 of 26.06.2020, which describes the entire circuit that the doctoral student will have to follow in order to defend his/her thesis: [https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/4\\_PO\\_Evaluarea-si-sustinerea-tezelor-de-doctorat\\_iunie2020\\_Senat.pdf](https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/4_PO_Evaluarea-si-sustinerea-tezelor-de-doctorat_iunie2020_Senat.pdf). The procedure has been completed by the introduction of provisions concerning the possibility to defend the doctoral thesis online, under specific conditions.
- d) d) Mechanisms for the recognition of the status of doctoral supervisor and for the equivalence of doctorates obtained in other countries are regulated at IOSUD-ULBS level through several specific procedures. Thus, the recognition of the status of doctoral supervisor is carried out on the basis of the Operational Procedure Automatic recognition by ULBS of the status of doctoral supervisor obtained in foreign accredited academic institutions (<http://calitate.ulbsibiu.ro/pag/PCUe/Abilitare/Abilitare.php>), while the recognition of the doctoral title is carried out on the basis of the Operational Procedure Recognition of doctoral degree and doctoral title obtained abroad (<http://calitate.ulbsibiu.ro/pag/PCUe/Doctor/Doctor.php>). However, it should be mentioned that the institution encourages the habilitation of PhD supervisors from abroad in the Romanian education system - e.g. Prof. univ. dr. Eric GILDER (<https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/an-gilder.pdf>).
- e) e) Functional management structures, including the regularity of meetings: the operational management of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of IOSUD-ULBS is currently provided by the Doctoral School Council, composed of Prof. univ. dr. habil. Radu BREAZ (CSD Director), Prof. univ. dr. habil. Ana Maria ACU, Prof. univ. dr. habil. Romulus IAGĂRU and Drd. Aida Lavinia IOANA (PhD students' representative): <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/csud/>
- f) f) The doctoral studies contract is attached in Annex A.1.1.1.10 of the accreditation file; the contract stipulates the form and the tuition regime of the doctoral student (IF/IFR; scholarship/budget/fee), the duration of the studies (including the conditions and modalities of their extension), the components of the doctoral studies programme (training programme based on advanced university studies, individual scientific research programme), the modality of



completion of the studies (public defence of the doctoral thesis), the rights and obligations of the parties, etc.

- g) g) The internal procedures for reviewing and approving proposals for the subject matter of the training programme based on advanced university studies are regulated in the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of ULBS (Art. 54-58, pp. 41-43). In general, the programme aims at a balance between the core domain competences (Humanities), domain competences (Philology), specific competences (language/literature) and transversal competences (ethics and academic integrity) to be acquired by the doctoral candidate.
- h) The regulations, methodologies and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organised at the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of IOSUD-ULBS are in accordance with the national legislation in force, updated with the new legislative provisions and harmonised with the interests of doctoral students. They are also applied consistently, constituting a functional framework for the conduct of doctoral studies.

Recommendations: It is recommended to pay more attention to the meetings of the SSC and the CSUD (which were not formally and regularly convened and held) and to publish the minutes of the meetings on the IOSUD website.

Conclusion: ***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 IOSUD-ULBS Doctoral Studies Regulations include criteria, procedures and standards governing the following aspects specified in Art. 17, para. (5) of the Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, as amended:

(a) the acceptance of new doctoral supervisor members, as well as regulations on how a doctoral supervisor can be withdrawn from the doctoral school. The conditions under which a professor who is entitled to conduct doctoral studies, in Romania or abroad, can become a member of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of IOSUD-ULBS are stipulated in Art. 28, paragraphs (3)-(7) of the Doctoral Studies Regulations of ULBS. It is worth mentioning here that, in addition to the analysis of the opportunity of affiliation to the Doctoral School and the fulfilment of the minimum CNATDCU standards, a doctoral advisor wishing to affiliate to ULBS must also fulfil a number of specific conditions, specified in Annex 1 of the Regulation (in particular the coordination of research grants and the publication of WoS articles). Regarding the termination/withdrawal of the status of affiliated PhD supervisor of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of IOSUD-ULBS, the conditions under which this occurs are specified in Art. 28, paragraph (13) of the Regulation;

b) the mechanisms by which decisions are taken regarding the appropriateness, structure and content of the training programme based on advanced university studies; the mechanisms mentioned are described in detail in Art. 54-58 of the Regulation: the subjects of the training programme "are proposed by the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, and then this proposal is submitted to the approval of the doctoral school council".



c) the procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor of a particular doctoral student and the procedures for mediating conflicts; the procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor of a particular doctoral student and the cases in which they apply are described in detail in Art. 80 of the Regulation: the change of supervisor may be made, as the case may be, at the unequivocal request of the supervisor, the director of the CSD or the doctoral student, or by amicable agreement, by agreement of the factors involved (in either case, the change is decided by the CSD); Art. 26 of the Regulation contains a number of provisions on the mediation of conflicts: depending on their nature, they are mediated by the CSD and/or the CSUD.

d) the conditions under which the doctoral programme may be interrupted; these conditions are specified in Art. 43, paragraphs (4)-(10) of the Regulation, which also stipulates the consequences that interruptions may have on the doctoral candidate's study programme;

e) ways to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism; through its own Code of Ethics and University Deontology (Art. 40-51), "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu condemns any form of violation of professional correctness (including plagiarism) and proposes a series of sanctions and ways of awarding them ([https://senat.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/CARTA-ULBS\\_2015.pdf](https://senat.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/CARTA-ULBS_2015.pdf)); beyond this aspect, ULBS is primarily concerned with preventing rather than sanctioning academic fraud, and, in this regard, the institution provides doctoral students, in addition to the official anti-plagiarism software accepted by the Ministry of Education (Sistemantiplagiat.ro), with a second software (Checkforplagiarism.net), which doctoral students can use without any prior approval to check the similarity of their work with other texts.

f) ensuring access to research resources; this is an inalienable right of doctoral students, which is unequivocally stipulated in the ULBS Regulations in Art. 59, para. (3). Specifically, access to documentary resources is provided, depending on the field and the nature of the research activity, as access to the use of the infrastructure of the ULBS research centres and the printed resources of the ULBS Library, as well as in the form of access to online resources. In this respect, PhD students have access, based on their institutional e-mail address (following the model prenume.nume@ulbsibiu.ro), to numerous databases described on the library website: Web of Science, Scopus, Elsevier, Cambridge Journals, Oxford Journals, Springer, EBSCO and so on

g) the attendance obligations of doctoral students, according to a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport; the attendance obligations of doctoral students at the IOSUD-ULBS Interdisciplinary Doctoral School are detailed in Art. 45 of the Institution's Regulations, depending on the form of study in which doctoral students are enrolled. Significantly, according to para. (2) of the mentioned Art., regardless of the form of study, "The doctoral student must devote a significant amount of time to the doctoral programme, which requires his/her actual presence at IOSUD or at research and development units that have concluded agreements or institutional partnerships with IOSUD, outside the periods of mobility".

The IOSUD-ULBS Doctoral Studies Regulations include criteria, procedures and standards in line with the requirements of the national Doctoral Studies Code.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

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

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu has the necessary resources for the proper development of doctoral studies



**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.*

From the information received from the coordinator of the evaluation team, it appears the existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background. This system was implemented by a contract with Red Point in May 2020, extended in 2021.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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*

Luian Blaga University in Sibiu mainly uses two anti-plagiarism programmes. One is open to all doctoral students and doctoral advisors. The other, approved by the Ministry of Education, is used to examine all theses before their defence. The programmes are Chex for plagiarim and Sistem antiplagiat. The similarity report is sent to the doctoral supervisor, who then provides the resolution on the similarity report

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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.*

IOSUD-ULBS has succeeded in attracting funds from research projects and donations, and a substantial part of these sums has been allocated to the development of doctoral studies within the institution.

**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 Philology domain, at the University of Sibiu, in the last five years five national or international research projects have been or are active for a total of 200.000 Euros. For more details see annex A.1.3.1 in the Aracis cloud (Clarifications)

1. *A Transnational History of Romanian Literature – TRANSHIROL*
2. *De la arhivă la canon: o lectură de la distanță a romanului românesc 1845-1947*  
ARCAN
3. *Interactive Narrative Design for Complexity Representations*
4. *China in Europe Research Network*



5. *Prezervarea și valorificarea patrimoniului literar românesc folosind soluții digitale inteligente pentru extragerea și sistematizarea de cunoștințe – INTELLIT*

There are thus a sufficient number of research projects in which doctoral students are also involved.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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%.*

According to Annex A.1.3.2 (Clarifications), the proportion of doctoral students existing at the time of the evaluation in the Philology domain who receive funding for a minimum of six months from sources other than government funding, through scholarships awarded by individuals or legal entities or who are financially supported by research or institutional development/human resources grants is 25%. That is, it exceeds the minimum standards. The rate for the university as a whole is 22.89%.

Recommendations: Increase the amount and variety of financial aid to doctoral students.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.<sup>2</sup>** *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.).*

According to Annex A.1.3.3. (Clarifications) 14.72% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and tuition fees from doctoral students in the Philology domain is allocated to cover the costs of doctoral students' training (participation in conferences, summer schools, courses, internships abroad, publication of scholarly articles or other specific forms of dissemination, etc.). Meetings with doctoral students confirmed that the figures provided by IOSUD-ULBS for the Philology domain are real. The rate for the university as a whole is 10.28%

The amount allocated by the institution for the specified purpose is within the threshold set by ARACIS.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the IOSUD-ULBS approach should be permanent/regular and also more transparent. To this end, it would be useful to draw up a

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





procedure specifying the conditions for the settlement of training costs and the amount of such costs.

Recommendations: not applicable

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

## **Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure**

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu has sufficient infrastructure for the proper development of doctoral studies in the field of philology, both from the point of view of material and human resource

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

The University of Sibiu has sufficient resources to offer doctoral studies.

**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*

- 1) The main research infrastructures are concentrated in the Center for Linguistic and Literary Studies. About its structure and main activities: <https://litere.ulbsibiu.ro/csllc/>; About its facilities and services: <https://eeris.eu/CLLCS>.
- 2) 2) The Faculty of Arts and Letters offers two classrooms for activities related to doctoral studies and research projects (22 and 29).
- 3) 3) Finally, the University Library offers an important collection of books, databases and journals. (<https://www.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/studenti/biblioteca/>) . It also offers interlibrary loan service.

It seems evident that the University of Sibiu is able to guarantee the means for the development of a research according to the needs of the interdisciplinary doctoral school in the philological field.

Recommendations: It would be advisable to expand bibliographic acquisitions and adapt them to theses in progress, increase the number of databases and subscriptions to international scientific journals, and facilitate, implement and simplify interlibrary loans.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

## **Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources**

All active doctoral advisors in the Philology domain meet the standards of up-to-date habilitation, have an important and continuous scientific activity and cooperate in numerous current activities and projects for the benefit of doctoral students.



*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*

The nine doctoral advisors meet all the requirements of the law and have a high degree of scientific and research competence.

**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.*

According to annex A.3.1.1.1.1. (Ul'b Sib Domeniu Filologie) all thesis advisors in the Phylology domain exceed the minimum required standards by far.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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.*

Of the nine active doctoral advisors in the domain, only two are not full professors at the University of Sibiu. They are Professor George Manolache (pensioner) and Professor Gilder (Full Professor at a university outside of Romania)

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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 law*

According to the internal evaluation report (p. ) all disciplines of the Doctoral Program in Philology are taught by professors of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of ULBS, who meet the requirements (qualification and expertise) demanded by the national legislation in force. In 2020 these professors were Drs.Florea Silva, Radu Dragulescu, Andrei Terian-Dan, Doris Sava, Maria-Elena and Maria Sass.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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<sup>3</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

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



There are currently three cases of doctoral advisors who simultaneously coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but not more than 12. However, no advisor currently supervises more than 8 PhD students in their three-year study period. In addition, it is expected that from the academic year 2021/2022 onwards there will be a greater dispersion of doctoral students per coordinator, due to the increase in the number of doctoral in the domain (Prof. Dr. Eric Gilder and Dr. Radu Vncu).

Recommendations: it would be preferable to reduce when possible the number of students per doctoral advisor.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

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

The documents provided, in particular Annexes 1.3.1, 1.3.3 (clarifications) and A.3.1.1. (ULBS Domeniu Filologie), as well as the internal evaluation report (p. 46 ff.) show a remarkable scientific activity of the doctoral advisors.

**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*

As shown in Annex A.3.2. Articole conducători de doctorat Filologie (Clarifications) , 66% of the doctoral advisors in Philology domain of IOSUD-ULBS (namely: Doctors Maria Sass, Andrei Terian-Dan, Silvia Florea, Doris-Andrea Sava, Maria-Elena Milcu and Radu Drăgulescu) presented 5 publications each indexed by Web of Science or ERIH in journals with an impact factor or other achievements, with relevant significance for the field, in which there are contributions of international level revealing a progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated field. More specifically, doctoral advisors in the Philology domain have published articles in prestigious WoS-AHCI journals such as *Textual Practice*, *Lexikos*, *World Literature Studies*, *Life Writing*, *Sustainability*, *Jezikoslovlje* and others, as well as chapters in volumes published by international publishers such as Peter Lang.

In addition, some of them are members of scientific committees in international journals, international scientific societies, expert committees, and have been members of doctoral thesis tribunals abroad.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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.*

According to table A3.2.2, included in the Internal Evaluation Report (p. 47) all doctoral advisors exceed the minimum required standards by far

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

In general, the Philology domain is characterized, at IOSUD-ULBS, by an efficient educational activity, quantifiable by the interest of doctoral students in the domain, by the diversity of services offered, as well as by the results obtained

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

*Standard B1. 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*

According to the self-assessment report, 75 candidates have participated in the last five years in the admission competition for doctoral studies, of which 32 graduates of a master's programme came from other centres. As a result, the institution organising doctoral studies is able to attract candidates from different university centres in the country

**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*

According to Table B.1.1.1 of the Self-Assessment Report (p. 48) , the ratio between the number of master's graduates from other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who have applied for admission to doctoral studies in the last five years and the number of places funded by the state budget offered in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of IOSUD-ULBS is, in the Philology domain, 2.13 (32 candidates / 15 places)

.Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

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



The candidate selection mechanisms established by IOSUD-ULBS include a comprehensive set of criteria, covering academic, research and professional performance. Candidates admitted to PhD studies demonstrate a thorough background in the field of Philology, they demonstrate academic, research and professional performance by successfully completing all assignments and by achieving particularly good scores in the admission competition

**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 procedure, as described in appendix 12 ([https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/Regulament\\_Admitere-IOSUD\\_2021.pdf](https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/Regulament_Admitere-IOSUD_2021.pdf)), involves a test of competence in a foreign language: English, French or German (p. 14 and 15), the submission of a research project (guidelines for its preparation: p. 16) and a "speciality test" (see p. 17), consisting of a defence of the project and an assessment of the candidate's scientific qualities and track record.

In my opinion, the procedure for admission to doctoral studies is optimal and guarantees the viability, quality and interest of future doctoral theses.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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<sup>4</sup> does not exceed 30%.*

According to the data presented in the Internal Evaluation Report, the expelling rate rate of doctoral students at the end of the doctoral internship is 6.25% for the last 5 years (2015-2020) in the field of Philology (Table B. 1.2.1, p.48)

Recommendations: However, the number of students extending the 3 or 4-year period is very high. Possible measures to reduce this should be considered.

**Conclusion: 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*

The subjects that make up the doctoral study programme in the Domain are suitable for developing the scientific competence and ethical conduct of doctoral students.

**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*

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



*least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing*

The programme is described in Annex B2.1.1.1 (ULSB Dominiu Filologie). It consists of four disciplines relevant to the scientific preparation of doctoral students, of which one discipline is intended for the in-depth study of research methodology. It is about Scientific Research Methodology: Humanities. The most disciplines deal with ethics and specific aspects of philology or its various fields (linguistics or literature).

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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*

As already mentioned, there is a discipline dedicated to ethics: *Etică și integritate academică*. Its description can be found in the annex B.2.1.3. (ULB Sib Domenniu Filologie)

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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<sup>5</sup>.*

The doctoral programme in Philology has put in place mechanisms to ensure the learning outcomes of doctoral students. Course syllabuses feature the structure of the courses/seminars and the competences doctoral candidates will acquire upon completion. See Annex B.2.1.3. *Filologie Fișele disciplinelor* (ULB Sib Domeniu Filologie). these competences are both professional and transversal and are detailed in the learning plan. See Annex B.2.1.1. *Filologie Program de pregătire bazat pe studii universitare avansate Filologie Program de pregătire bazat pe studii universitare avansate* (ULB Sib Domeniu Filologie).

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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*

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



In addition to the permanent guidance of the the Doctoral thesis advisor candidates are counselled by a Doctoral Advisory Committee (“Comisie de îndrumare”), which consists of their doctoral advisor and three othermembers of the academia who possess proven expertise in the research area of the prospective theses. Supervision and feedback are provided via electronic means (by telephone, e-mail, Google Meet, etc.) or face-to-face. Doctoral students thus benefit from the guidance of a committee that makes recommendations, of which those made during the presentation of their reports are recorded in writing.

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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.*

According to Annex B.2 .1.2. *Filologie comisii de îndrumare*, (ULB Sib Domeniu Filologie) during 2017-2019, 32 doctoral students in benefited from the mentoring of committees composed of 17 members, namely: Radu Drăgulescu, Radu Vancu, Dragoş Varga, Alina Bako, Andrei Terian, Eva-Nicoleta Burduşel, Silvia Florea, Maria-Elena Milcu, Dorin Comşa, Sunhild Galter, Carmen Popa, Lăcrămioara Popa, Simina Terian-Dan, Clementina Mihăilescu, Dumitra Baron, Gheorghe Manolache, Eric Gilder. Therefore, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching/research staff providing supervision was 1,94

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

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

In my opinion the results of the PhD programme in Philology are very positive and the evaluation procedures are correct.

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

The research of doctoral students in the field of Philology at IOSUD-ULBS is constantly valorized through articles published in BDI-indexed journals and papers presented at international conferences.

The research work of the doctoral. students in Philology is clearly reflected in their publications in indexed journals and frequent participation in national and international conferences

**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*

From the 25 papers contained in Annex B.3.1.1 (ULB Sib Domeniu Filologie) we have randomly analysed five, whose authors are Radu Nechit, Ştefan Baghiu, Laura Ritaa Covaciu, Ovidiu-Marian



Ionescu and Oana Franduş . The papers have been selected "five by five", i.e. papers 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21. The analysis showed that all 5 randomly selected articles met the 3 point threshold and averaged over 4 points. There are also articles that would have needed further elaboration before being published, but there are also articles that deserve a maximum score (such as that of Ştefan Baghiu, published in the international journal *Comparative Literature Studies*)

Recommendations: not applicable.

**Conclusion: 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.*

According to the data included in Annex B.3.1.2. Philology Doctoral Conference Presentations, the 25 PhDs in Philology who obtained this title at IOSUD-ULBS in the last 5 years participated with 125 papers in international scientific events organized in Romania or abroad. Two situations are worth mentioning here: doctoral students who participated in a large number of conferences (more than 7: Ciprian Iulian Toroczka, Ştefan Baghiu, Anca Simina Martin, Miruna Ciocoi-Pop, Cristina Mihail) and doctoral students who participated in events abroad (in addition to the names mentioned, Sokhoun Hov, Melinda Samson, Sînziana Şipoş, Andrei C. Şerban).

The ratio between the number of presentations by PhD students who completed their PhD studies during the period evaluated (last 5 years) and the number of PhD students who completed their PhD studies during the period evaluated (last 5 years) is 5

Recommendations However, the number of students extending the 3 or 4-year period is very high. Possible measures to reduce this should be considered.

**Conclusion: 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*

From the documents provided, it can be deduced that professors from most of the universities in Romania have participated in the doctoral thesis evaluation commissions. (ULB Sib Domeniu Filologie Annex B.3.2.1 and clarifications: Annex C.3.1.3). The presence of foreign professors or researchers is symbolic.

Recommendations: It would be desirable that more foreign professors or researchers participate in the evaluation commissions.

**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*

Of the above-mentioned documents it appears that the maximum number of doctoral theses in the Philology domain coordinated by the same supervisor in one year and assigned to a particular referee from another higher education institution is 2 (two).

The way theses are assigned falls within the parameters accepted by ARACIS

Recommendations: not applicable





**Conclusion: 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.*

According to the above-mentioned documents and the internal evaluation report, the ratio between the number of PhD theses in the Philology domain defended in the last 5 years, assigned to a scientific referee from a higher education institution other than ULBS, and the number of doctoral theses defended in the same field is a maximum of 0.28 (7 out of 25 theses).

The maximum ratio of external referees to defended theses is within the parameters accepted by ARACIS.

Recommendations: It would be advisable to increase the number and variety of external collaborators because the ratio is very close to the accepted limit.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

The concern for quality and improvement of all processes, services and results is a characteristic of the Doctoral Programme in Philology at the University of Sibiu.

*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*

The mechanisms, institutional framework and procedures for internal quality assurance are described in the documents provided and have been verified during the evaluation visit.

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

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

The interdisciplinary doctoral school IOSUB-ULBS has established a series of mechanisms and procedures that guarantee all aspects required by the indicator.



- a) The scientific activity of the thesis doctoral advisors is periodically evaluated according to the methodology set out in Annex 4 of the regulation of doctoral studies elaborated by the Senate of the University of Sibiu. A negative result temporarily suspends the status of thesis supervisor<sup>6</sup>
- b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity are also monitored by means of procedures regulating the establishment and funding of research centres<sup>7</sup>
- c) All regulations and procedures related to the organisation of studies, as well as a number of necessary forms, can be found at <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/>.
- d) the scientific activity of doctoral students is constantly supervised by the thesis doctoral advisor or the doctoral advisor committee...In cases of excellence this activity is also rewarded.<sup>8</sup>
- e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students, which has already been described, is established in accordance with the provisions of Art. 54-58 of the Regulations for Doctoral Studies of ULBS: the subjects of the training programme "are proposed by the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, and then this proposal is submitted to the approval of the council of the doctoral school.
- f) social and academic support (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counselling services are available to all doctoral students.<sup>9</sup>
- g) It should also be noted that there is a Quality Assurance Service (QAS) at the University of Sibiu: <http://calitate.ulbsibiu.ro/>.

Recommendations: not applicable

**Conclusion: 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.*

According to the Internal Evaluation Report (p. 56 in Romanian, p. 59 in English), a questionnaire is launched annually at ULBS level to collect feedback from all students (including doctoral students) on the study programmes. In the academic year 2019-2020, such a questionnaire was distributed using Google Forms to 278 doctoral students in internship. Data from 183 doctoral students were validated. Approximately 80% of them are satisfied or very satisfied (on a scale from 1 to 5) with the doctoral programme. On the basis of the questionnaire responses, an action plan was developed and implemented. The institution, therefore, implements evaluation mechanisms to identify the needs and satisfaction of doctoral students

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<sup>6</sup> See: [https://senat.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/250620/6\\_Regulament%20de%20org%20si%20desf%20a%20studiilor%20univ%20de%20doctorat\\_iunie2020\\_Senat.pdf](https://senat.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/250620/6_Regulament%20de%20org%20si%20desf%20a%20studiilor%20univ%20de%20doctorat_iunie2020_Senat.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> See: [http://calitate.ulbsibiu.ro/doc\\_SMI/Anexe/Anexa%2038-00-00-B31\\_04.pdf](http://calitate.ulbsibiu.ro/doc_SMI/Anexe/Anexa%2038-00-00-B31_04.pdf);  
<https://hostcercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/docs/noutati/Procedura%20operationala%20finantare%20HPI%20centre%20de%20cercetare.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> See: [https://hostcercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/doc\\_DCS/proceduri/PO\\_recunoastere/PO\\_RRC.pdf](https://hostcercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/doc_DCS/proceduri/PO_recunoastere/PO_RRC.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> See also: [https://hostcercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/doc\\_DCS/proceduri/HassoPlattner/2020/Metodologie\\_mobilitati\\_HP\\_2020.pdf](https://hostcercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/doc_DCS/proceduri/HassoPlattner/2020/Metodologie_mobilitati_HP_2020.pdf)



Recommendations: Improve the distribution of the questionnaire in order to obtain a higher number of responses. Disseminate the resulting measures so that students are aware of their usefulness.

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

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

In general, in the interdisciplinary doctoral school, information is transparent and resources are easily accessible.

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

The IOSUD website of the University of Sibiu publishes all relevant information for candidates, doctoral students and the general public

**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.*

All documents and information required by ARACIS are available at <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/>.

Recommendations: not applicable

**Conclusion: 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*

It is a constant concern of the Institution to provide doctoral students with access to the greatest possible number of research resources (databases, journals, software, computer equipment, etc.).

**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*

Through the University Library, students have access to a large number of international databases as well as to electronic or digitised journal collections in the field of humanities and social sciences. Moreover, as the main partner of the INTELLIT project, the University of Sibiu has privileged access to important Romanian databases.

Recommendations: Where possible, increasing the bibliographic resources is always advisable.



**Conclusion: 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*

Each doctoral student has the opportunity to access to the anti-plagiarism software (described above) provided by the university. Access to checkforplagiarism.net is free. Access to sistemantiplagiat.ro must be requested with the agreement of the doctoral thesis advisor.

Recommendations: not applicable

**Conclusion: 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 meeting with doctoral students and the analysis of the documents provided show that all doctoral students, upon request and with the agreement of the thesis supervisor, have access to university facilities, especially the Centre for Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.

Recommendations: not applicable

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

Despite the undeniable efforts made by the institution, the results obtained are insufficient. The will to internationalise is clear, but so far it has not had the desired results.

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

the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu has a clear internalization strategy (signing agreements, inviting and exchanging professors, attracting foreign students). This strategy is also applied by the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and, of course and very especially, in the Philology domain.

**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.*

According to Annex C.3.1.1. ERASMUS Agreements concluded for the doctoral study cycle, IOSUD-ULBS has 14 Erasmus+ agreements concluded with foreign universities for the doctoral study cycle in the field of Philology. On the other hand, taking into account the data provided by Annex C3.1.1 and the Internal Evaluation report (Romanian, p. 59; English p.62) the data improves



considerably. It includes the compulsory participation of each doctoral student in at least one international conference. The domain of philology strives to improve this ratio.

Recommendations: It would be advisable to increase the number of long and medium-term stays

**Conclusion: 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 regulations for doctoral studies establish the procedure for international co-supervision of theses (Article 30) and the financial support for their realisation (Article 22). However, so far, no thesis under international co-supervision has been defended within the Doctoral Programme in Philology. Instead, several leading experts - from institutions such as Stanford University, University of Amsterdam, Université de Bourgogne, etc. - have been invited to the field to give lectures/courses to doctoral students (see Annex C.3.1.2. Clarifications).

Recommendations: It is necessary to start a process of real international co-supervision of thesis

**Conclusion: The indicator is partial 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 data collected in Annexes C-3.1.3 and C3.1.2 (clarifications) clearly show the internationalisation measures implemented by the University: attracting foreign doctoral students, participation in fairs and associations, inviting foreign professors, etc.

Recommendations: not applicable

**Conclusion: The indicator is fulfilled**

## IV. SWOT Analysis

<b>Strengths:</b>	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience in organizing doctoral studies (over 30 years);</li> <li>• Large number of completed doctoral theses (67 / year in the last 25 years);</li> <li>• Rewarding the results of research published by doctoral students;</li> <li>• Support for the occupation by doctoral students of the positions of university or research assistant;</li> <li>• Doctoral supervisors with national and international visibility;</li> <li>• Highly qualified thesis supervisors</li> <li>• Importance and quality of research projects</li> <li>• the doctoral supervisors cover all European languages taught at the Faculty of Letters and Arts of ULBS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient concern for attracting additional financial resources from research grants;</li> <li>• Insufficiently developed material base;</li> <li>• Low number of doctoral students from abroad;</li> <li>• Reduced retention rate of doctors ;</li> <li>• Reduced retention rate of doctors;</li> <li>• Excessive number of doctoral students monitored by some thesis supervisors</li> <li>• Excessive number of doctoral students who exceed the period of three or four years</li> <li>• Lack of international co-supervision of theses.</li> </ul>

(Romanian, English, German, French);• The quality and importance of the publications generated.	
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations that need specialists (PhD students or doctors) to carry out research projects and / or to increase competitiveness - by attracting highly qualified human resources "up to date";</li> <li>• Existence of national and international research programs to finance doctoral and post-doctoral research;</li> <li>• The existence of platforms that provide access to international databases for conducting research undertaken by doctoral students;</li> <li>• The digitalization of education and its relocation mainly in the online environment facilitates the participation of doctoral. prestigious international conferences or offers access to various "networks", for the exchange of good practices, the formation of research clusters, etc</li> <li>• The German-speaking tradition of the region</li> <li>• The Sibiu brand as a city of culture</li> <li>• The economic development of the area</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased interest in doctoral studies by master's graduates accentuated by competition between the public and private sectors in certain areas of activity (especially in potentially competitive sectors);</li> <li>• Impairing the access of doctoral students to the research infrastructure, due to the current epidemiological context, which endangers the timely completion of doctoral theses;</li> <li>• The general demographic decline of the country;</li> <li>• Strong regional competition (in 4 of the 5 neighboring provinces there are universities with a doctorate in philology)</li> </ul>

## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1	C	A1.1.1.	Partially fulfilled	It is recommended to pay more attention to the meetings of the SSC and the CSUD (which were not formally and regularly convened and held) and to publish the minutes of the meetings on the IOSUD website
2	C	A1.3.2.	Fulfilled	Increase the amount and variety of financial aid to doctoral students.
3	*	A1.3.3.	Fulfilled	It is recommended that the IOSUD-ULBS approach should be permanent/regular and

				also more transparent. To this end, it would be useful to draw up a procedure specifying the conditions for the settlement of training costs and the amount of such costs.
4	C	A2.1.1.	Fulfilled	It would be advisable to expand bibliographic acquisitions and adapt them to theses in progress, increase the number of databases and subscriptions to international scientific journals, and facilitate, implement and simplify interlibrary loans.
5	*	A3.1.4.	Fulfilled	it would be preferable to reduce when possible the number of students per doctoral advisor.
6	C	B1.2.2.	Fulfilled	However, the number of students extending the 3 or 4-year period is very high. Possible measures to reduce this should be considered
7	*	B1.3.2.	Fulfilled	However, the number of students extending the 3 or 4-year period is very high. Possible measures to reduce this should be considered
8	*	B.2.2.2.	Fulfilled	It would be advisable to increase the number and variety of external collaborators because the ratio is very close to the accepted limit.

9		C1.3.2.	Fulfilled	It would be advisable to Improve the distribution of the questionnaire in order to obtain a higher number of responses and to disseminate the resulting measures so that students are aware of their usefulness
10	c	C2.2.1.	Fulfilled	Where possible, increasing the bibliographic resources is always advisable
11	*	C3.1.1.	Fulfilled	It would be advisable to increase the number of long and medium-term stays
12	c	C312	Fulfilled	It is necessary to start a process of real international co-supervision of thesis
13				It would be desirable that more foreign professors or researchers participate in the evaluation commissions

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

I will briefly give you some idea of the evaluation we are participating in.

In principle my opinion is very positive and favorable.

Both about the doctoral school and the philology field

In my opinion it is not difficult if there is only one doctoral school, especially when it is a not too big university, but considering the number of programs offered I think it would be convenient to divide





it into at least two one for the domains dealing with humanities and social sciences, etc and another one for those dealing with sciences "senso strictu" and technologies. On the other hand the doctoral council obviously needs to be larger and more efficient...

More concretely the colleagues in philology have managed to offer a very good, well-organized and efficient program, especially in Romanian Language and Literature and Germanistics. I already assumed from the first meetings that all or a large majority of the criteria would become fulfilled in the report how has it actually happened.

Meetings with supervisors, doctoral students, graduates and employers show the high success that the programme managers have achieved, the results of which are sometimes even brilliant.

I would encourage our colleagues to continue with ongoing projects and would only make a few brief recommendations:

- 1) Simplify bureaucratic procedures as much as possible
- 2) Keep in touch with alumni, which would be convenient to have information about scholarships and job offers in collaboration with the University's career guidance service (if it doesn't exist I would advise that it be set up).
- 3) Keep in touch with employers
- 4) In collaboration with the university library, try to provide doctoral students with all the materials they need.
- 5) To try to widely disseminate the doctoral programmes and the possibilities offered by them among master students.
- 6) An implementation of the international dimension, which could be oriented in three ways 1) Strengthening agreements with other universities in the European Union (and not only) or even entering into an alliance with other universities 2) Promoting research internships in other countries for doctoral students and professors; also promoting the participation of foreign professors in courses and in the supporting or supervising committees 3) Establishing the possibility of obtaining the mention of "European doctorate", as is done in many other universities in the Union.

Granada, August 2021

Enrique J. Noguera Valdivieso

Universidad de Granada / Filología Románica

Annexl

The schedule of the on-line visit coincided exactly with those sent by ARACIS, which are reproduced below



**AGENȚIA ROMÂNĂ DE ASIGURARE A CALITĂȚII ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNTUL SUPERIOR**

Membră în Asociația Europeană pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - **ENQA**

Înscrisă în Registrul European pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - **EQAR**

Programul<sup>1</sup> vizitei de evaluare instituțională - IOSUD / domenii de studii universitare de doctorat a **Universității de**

*The timetable of the institutional evaluation visit - IOSUD / doctoral study domains at the* **UNIVERSITATEA „LUCIAN BLAGA” DIN SIBIU - „LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU**

**Perioada de derulare a vizitei: 19-23.07.2021**

*The evaluation period: 19-23.07.2021*

**Evaluarea Externă Periodică domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat FILOLOGIE**

*Periodical External Evaluation of the doctoral study domain Philology*

<b>Intervalul orar / Hour (Romanian Time)</b>	<b>Activitate / Activity</b>	<b>Participanți / Participants</b>	<b>Observații/ Responsabil Comments/ Responsible</b>
<b>Luni / Monday, 19.07.2021</b>			
<b>09:00-09:45</b>	Întâlnire preliminară online pentru pregătirea și armonizarea etapelor de evaluare, în modul mixt, la nivel de domenii de doctorat și IOSUD <i>Online preliminary meeting for the preparation and harmonization of evaluation steps, in hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD</i>	<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domeniilor</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i> <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>	Înregistrare audio-video <b>ARACIS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) <i>Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>
<b>10:00-10:45</b>	Întâlnirea online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții <b>conducerii universității și ai CSUD</b> <i>Online meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)</i>	<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domeniilor</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i> <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>	Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) <i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform</i>

<sup>1</sup> În perioada vizitei, pot fi solicitate și alte întâlniri, pentru eventuale clarificări.

*During the visit, other meetings may be requested for possible clarifications.*

Intervalul orar / Hour (Romanian Time)	Activitate / Activity	Participanți / Participants	Observații/ Responsabil Comments/ Responsible
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reprezentanți ai conducerii <i>representatives of the University's management</i></li> <li>- reprezentanți ai CSUD și ai școlii/școlilor doctorale <i>representatives of the CSUD and of the Doctoral School/Schools</i></li> <li>- persoana de contact IOSUD/domenii <i>the contact person for IOSUD / doctoral domains</i></li> </ul>	<i>(click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>
11:00-12:00	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i>  <b>Domeniul de doctorat Filologie:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu <b>responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat</b> și cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă <i>Doctoral study domain Philology: Online meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report</i>	<b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b> <i>Domain evaluation panel</i>  -membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i>  - responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat și echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă <i>The doctoral studies domain contact person and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report</i>	Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / <b>platforma</b> (apăsați <b><a href="#">aici</a></b> pentru a vă conecta)  <i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>
13:30-14:30	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i>	<b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b> <i>Domain evaluation panel</i>  -membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i>	Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / <b>platforma</b> (apăsați <b><a href="#">aici</a></b> pentru a vă conecta)



Intervalul orar / Hour (Romanian Time)	Activitate / Activity	Participanți / Participants	Observații/ Responsabil Comments/ Responsible
	<p><b>Domeniul de doctorat Filologie:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu personalul <b>didactic aferent domeniului evaluat</b></p> <p><i>Doctoral study domain Philology: Online meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain</i></p>	<p>-cadre didactice cu titlul de conducător de doctorat</p> <p><i>Doctoral coordinators</i></p>	<p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<b>Marți / Tuesday, 20.07.2021</b>			
<p><b>09:00 - 10:00</b></p>	<p>Întâlnire online cu membrii <b>Comisiei de Etică</b> a universității</p> <p><i>Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domeniilor</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- <b>toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i></p> <p>-membrii Comisiei de Etică <i>Ethics Commission members</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</p> <p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<p><b>10:15 - 11:15</b></p>	<p>Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i></p> <p>Întâlnire online cu membrii <b>Comisiei pentru Evaluarea și Asigurarea Calității (CEAC)</b> / Departamentul de asigurare a calității</p> <p><i>Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members / Quality Assurance Department</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domeniilor</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- <b>toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i></p> <p>- reprezentanți ai CEAC/Departament AC <i>representatives of Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) / Quality Assurance Department</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</p> <p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<p><b>11:30– 12:30</b></p>	<p>Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b> <i>Domain evaluation panel</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ARACIS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</p>



Intervalul orar / Hour (Romanian Time)	Activitate / Activity	Participanți / Participants	Observații/ Responsabil Comments/ Responsible
	<p><b>Domeniul fundamental</b> <b>umaniste si Arte:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu <b>studentii doctoranzi</b></p> <p><i>fundamental domain HUMANITAS AND ARTS: Online meeting with PhD students</i></p>	<p>- membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- studenții doctoranzi <i>PhD students</i></p>	<p><i>Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
14:00-15:00	<p>Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i></p> <p><b>Domeniul de doctorat Filologie:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți ai <b>absolvenților domeniului</b></p> <p><i>Doctoral study domain Philology: Online meeting with graduates for the respective doctoral study domain</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b> <i>Domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- reprezentanți ai absolvenților <i>representatives of doctoral graduates</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / <b>platforma (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</b></p> <p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<b>Miercuri / Wednesday, 21.07.2021</b>			
09:00-10:00	<p>Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i></p> <p><b>Domeniul de doctorat Filologie:</b> Întâlnire online cu <b>directorii/responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare</b> aferente domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat</p> <p><i>Doctoral study domain Philology: Online meeting with the Directors/ persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within the doctoral study domain</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b> <i>Domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>-directorii centrelor / laboratoarelor de cercetare <i>directors of research centers/laboratories</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / <b>platforma (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</b></p> <p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i></p> <p><b>Domeniul de doctorat Filologie:</b></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b> <i>Domain evaluation panel</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / <b>platforma ZOOM (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</b></p>



Intervalul orar / Hour (Romanian Time)	Activitate / Activity	Participanți / Participants	Observații/ Responsabil Comments/ Responsible
	<p><b>Întâlnire online cu membrii Consiliului școlii /școlilor doctorale (CSD) în cadrul cărora funcționează domeniul evaluat</b>  <i>Doctoral study domain Philology: Online meeting with Doctoral Schools Council (CSD members)</i></p>	<p>- membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu  <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>-membrii CSD  <i>CSD's members</i></p>	<p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<p><b>14:00 - 15:00</b></p>	<p>Activități de evaluare  <i>Evaluation activities</i></p> <p><b>Domeniul de doctorat Filologie:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți ai angajatorilor absolvenților domeniului  <i>Doctoral study domain Philology: Online meeting with employers of Doctoral graduates in the domain</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare domeniu</b>  <i>Domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu  <i>members of domain evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- reprezentanți ai angajatorilor  <i>employers' representatives</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / <b>platforma (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</b></p> <p><i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<p><b>16:30 -17:30</b></p>	<p>Întâlnire tehnică online, pentru identificarea aspectelor specifice care trebuie clarificate, dacă este cazul, pe parcursul vizitei la fața locului  <i>Online technical meeting to identify specific issues that need to be clarified, if necessary, during the on-site visit</i></p>	<p><b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domeniilor</b>  <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i></p> <p>- <b>toți membrii echipei de vizită</b>  <i>all evaluation panel members</i></p>	<p>Înregistrare audio-video <b>ARACIS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)</b></p> <p><i>Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>
<p><b>Joi / Thursday, 22.07.2021</b></p>			
<p><b>09:00-18:00</b></p>	<p>Reuniuni de lucru față în față<sup>2</sup>, vizitarea bazei materiale didactice și de cercetare</p>	<p>- <b>directorul de misiune și coordonatorul, un student doctorand evaluator</b></p>	<p>Vizită UNIVERSITATE  <i>Site visit to the university</i></p>

<sup>2</sup> Experții evaluatori la nivelul domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat pot stabili independent programul vizitei la fața locului, de comun acord cu persoana de contact de la domeniul evaluat și respectând programul întâlnirilor comune cu restul membrilor echipei de evaluare. *The evaluators at doctoral study domain level can independently establish*



Intervalul orar / Hour (Romanian Time)	Activitate / Activity	Participanți / Participants	Observații/ Responsabil Comments/ Responsible
	<i>Face-to-face working meetings, visiting the educational and research infrastructure</i>	<i>the Evaluation Director and the coordinator of the IOSUD evaluation panel, one student</i>  <i>- reprezentanți ai universității university's representatives</i>	
<b>Vineri / Friday, 23.07.2021</b>			
<b>11:45-12:45</b>	Întâlnire online pentru concluzii <i>Online meeting for conclusions</i>	<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i>  <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>	Înregistrare audio-video <b>ARACIS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)  <i>Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform(click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	Întâlnire finală online în vederea prezentării principalelor constatări rezultate în urma evaluării la nivel de domenii de doctorat și IOSUD și a recomandărilor de îmbunătățire a calității <i>Meeting with representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main recommendations</i>	<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i>  <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>  <i>- reprezentanții universității</i> <i>university's representatives</i>	Înregistrare audio-video <b>ULBS</b> / platforma <b>ZOOM</b> (apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta)  <i>Audio-video recording ULBS / ZOOM platform (click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>

*the program of the on-site visit, in agreement with the contact person for the evaluated domain and respecting the schedule of joint meetings with the rest of the evaluation panel members.*