

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction¹

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The evaluation visit for this program was during 19-23 July, 2021 and the Experts Committee was comprised by Coordinator Prof. univ. dr. Dobrin Cosmin Tudor from Academia de Studii Economice din București, International expert Prof. univ. Eglatina Hysa from Epoka University, Albania, and PhD student Iureș Nugur Victor Constantin from Universitatea din Craiova.

Comprising 15 Doctoral programmes, the **LBUS Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (IOSUD)**, is organised by the IOSUD-ULBS according to the MENC Degree No. 5382/2016 from September 29, 2016 regarding the activity of doctoral schools in the academic year 2016-2017. The University's doctoral studies are conducted according to the respective national regulating such as: 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 doctoral activity is overseen by Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), consisting of 8 members: the Director of CSUD, the doctoral advisors' spokesperson in the CSUD, 5 doctoral advisors, and one representative from PhD students. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School is under the coordination of the Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (CSDI), consisting of 4 members: the SOI's director, one doctoral advisor from within IOSUD-ULBS, one prominent external scientific advisor and a representative of the doctoral students.

Table 1: The evolution of doctoral students 2015-2020 and the degrees awarded

Academic Year	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Doctoral students through years	356	380	416	449	479

¹ Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.

Doctoral degrees awarded at IOSUD-ULBS	50	60	33	38	39
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During the assessed period, the General Council of CNATCDU awarded a total of 220 doctoral degrees <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/ordine/>.

The **mission of the doctoral programme in Economics** is to train specialists (Doctors) in Economics, foster excellence in research and professional contexts, and ensure the integration of highly trained and vastly experienced doctoral graduates in the labour market.

Curriculum for the doctoral field of Economics is divided into two components: **(1) an advanced academic study programme within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School**, and **(2) an individual research**.

The advanced studies are carried out during the first half of the first year of studies, having a 30 ECTS credits as workload. There are four courses taught during this term, specifically, one of the courses is related to research methodologies, another one is related to academic ethics and integrity, the third course is related to advanced economics, the four course is an elective course. Specifically, based on the information provided in the Annex B.2.1.1., the training programme for this field of study is:

Course 1: Academic Ethics and Integrity, 7 ECTS credits.

Course 2: Research Methodologies, 3 ECTS credits.

Course 3: Advanced Economics, 10 ECTS credits.

Course 4 (Elective): Contemporary Approaches in Management, 10 ECTS credits;
or, Financial Policies and Practices, 10 ECTS credits.

Regarding the **individual programme of scientific research**, doctoral candidates are counselled by a Doctoral Advisory Committee, which consists of their doctoral advisor and three other members of the academia who possess proven expertise in the research area of the prospective theses. To ensure that the end result of the doctoral programme are qualitative theses, the members of the Committee are selected in accordance with their experience in related research areas.

In the doctoral field of Economics at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu are affiliated a total of seven doctoral advisors that are certified to supervise theses. Four of them are tenured at IOSUD, one is tenured at Pitesti University, one at Transylvania University of Brasov, and one of the professors is retired. Five doctoral advisors are currently supervising theses in Economics, of whom three are tenured at IOSUD.

LBUS has implemented a new Regulation on admission to the doctoral programmes in 2012, carried out by IOSUD via the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, whereby Master's graduates are required to submit a proposal for doctoral thesis and defend it in front of a Senate-approved admission committee. During the period submitted for evaluation, 13 Doctor's degrees in Economics were awarded. The trend of the registered PhD students in the doctorate program of Economics, and the degrees awarded in this program through years are as below:

Table 2: The evolution of doctoral students 2015-2020 in the doctorate program of Economics

Academic Year	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Doctoral students through	17	15	18	17	18

years in Economics					
Doctoral degrees awarded at Doctorate field of Economics	2	4	2	2	3

Another support of the doctoral students is the accredited Economic Research Centre, with which doctoral candidates in Economic Sciences and Economics are affiliated. This center helps students with their research by offering an appropriate infrastructure by using databases and platforms such as EERIS platform <https://eeris.eu/ERIF-2000-000N-1416>, Refinitiv Eikon Thomson Reuters database (<https://eikon.thomsonreuters.com/index.html>), Anelis Plus Archives. The Faculty of Economic Sciences has three journals in which PhD candidates are welcomed to publish.

II. Methods used

This external evaluation report is drafted based on the evaluation visit for this doctoral program in Economics was during 19-23 July, 2021. All the Experts Committee members had the opportunity to join the meetings online and the group Coordinator Prof. univ. dr. Dobrin Cosmin Tudor, could join the institution by consulting during a site-visit at the premises of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.

Specifically, the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, include the following activities:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its respective annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, spaces and capacities (by Coordinator of the External Evaluation Experts);
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
 - The Council of the Doctoral School, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures).

Additionally, the Experts Committee members asked to the university some additional documents that helped to clarify and ensured a correct evaluation of each criteria.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

The doctoral programme in the field of Economics at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu is an accredited programme. This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The last accreditation was in 2016, according to the Order of MENCS no. 5382/29 September 2016. Each evaluation criteria stipulated by ARACIS have been analysed from the self-evaluation group preparing the Self-Evaluation Report, and in this external report the External



Experts Committee will evaluate the respective criteria. The three main Domains to be evaluated are A. Institutional Capacity; B. Education Effectiveness; and, C. Quality Management.

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

In this Domain, the External Experts Committee will investigate (1) The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources; (2) Research infrastructure; (3) Quality and human resources. Each of these criteria is based on some specific standards to be fulfilled by the institution.

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

This criterion is to analyse the existing of the administrative and managerial structures in the institutional level that are in support of the doctoral studies in the field of Economics. Additionally, this criterion considers the financial resources available to maintain the above mentioned programme.

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.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUO body and the doctoral school, respectively, considering the past five years as period of reference*

- *The internal regulations of the administrative structures (The Institutional Regulations regarding the organization and implementation of doctoral studies, the regulations of each doctoral school);*
- *The Methodology regarding the voting process at the level of CSUO, of each doctoral school, and proof of its occurrence;*
- *The methodology regarding the competition for occupying the position as director of CSUO and proof of the competition process;*
- *Methodologies regarding organizing and conducting doctoral studies (the admission of students into doctoral programmes, the completion of the programmes);*
- *The existence of mechanisms for acknowledging the title of doctoral advisor and the validation of doctoral titles obtained abroad;*
- *Functional management structures [IOSUO/CSUO/The Council of the Doctoral School (the regularity with which the meetings are held)];*
- *The doctoral thesis agreement;*
- *Internal procedures regarding the analysis and approval of proposals for topics and themes to be included in the doctoral programmes;*

"Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu organises university-level doctoral studies through the Institution for Organising Doctoral Studies within LBUS. The doctoral studies are organised and conducted in accordance with the Regulations for organising and conducting doctoral studies within LBUS (Annex A.1.1.1.01). The regulations were formulated in accordance with the following:

- 1. the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent changes and additions;*
- 2. the doctoral studies Code published in Government Decision/HG no. 681/2011, together with its subsequent changes and additions;*



3. the MEN Order no. 514012019 regarding the approval of the students' academic mobility;
4. and, the Charter of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu.

IOSUD-ULBS is led by the Council for Doctoral Studies, appointed for a 4-year term, from 2020 to 2024, and consists of 8 members: the CSUD director, 1 (one) member chosen through the universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of the doctoral advisors belonging to the interdisciplinary doctoral school of IOSUD, 1 (one) member chosen through the universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of doctoral students belonging to the interdisciplinary doctoral school, and 5 members appointed by the University's Rector.

The existing doctoral programmes are organised and conducted within IOSUD through the doctoral schools exclusively. The Director of SDI-ULBS is appointed by CSUD-ULBS from among the doctoral advisors of SDI-ULBS and is a full- righted member within the SDI-ULBS council (CSDI-ULBS).

The Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School consists of 4 members (Director of SDI; doctoral advisors' representative within CSUD; prominent scientific advisor from outside ULBS' doctoral school; doctoral student).

The regulations regarding the admission into a doctoral studies program is part of the University's Admission Regulation and is devised annually, for each admission session (Annex A.1.1.1.04). For the 2020 admission session, an additional operational Procedure was devised in order to allow for the on-line admission to doctoral programmes (Annex A.1.1.1.05).

The regulations regarding the admission for the doctoral studies program is part of the University's Admission Regulation and all the information is found online as well (Annex A.1.1.1.04). The university could adopt the online admission procedure during Covid-19 (Annex A.1.1.1.05).

The completion of a doctoral program within IOSUD-ULBS is regulated through the Regulations regarding the organization and conducting of doctoral studies at LBUS and through the Operational Procedure regarding the evaluation and defense of doctoral theses (Annex A.1.1.1.06) available also online.

IOSUD-ULBS has developed, according to legal regulations in effect, means of acknowledging the title of doctoral advisor, of validating doctoral titles obtained abroad, as well as of obtaining the habilitation degree. Consequently, three distinct procedures have been devised, in accordance to which the title of doctoral advisor is acknowledged and the doctoral title obtained abroad is validated, available at <https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/legislatie>.

The doctoral thesis agreement/ contract (Annex A.1.1.1.10) stipulates the rights and obligations assigned to IOSUD- ULBS, to the doctoral students, and to the doctoral advisors. The agreement is signed individually for each doctoral student, regardless of the type of position he is admitted on, for the entire period of the doctoral student's training, and includes the clauses regulated by the Doctoral Studies Code. For the extension of the enrolment period or for the granting of a period of grace, which are among the regulations currently in force, additional documentation is signed and added to the doctoral thesis agreement.



IOSUD- ULBS possesses internal analysis and approval procedures regarding proposals on the topics and themes of the doctoral programmes. At the level of each doctoral field, the field coordinators discuss with the doctoral advisors affiliated to the corresponding field about the training programme founded on advanced university studies and about the different themes pertaining to each particular training programme, in order to ensure the novelty, the clarity, and the impact of the themes which are therewith put forward for research.

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.*

The aspects specified in Art. 17 (5) of Government Decision no.681/2011 are also specified in the Regulations of the Doctoral School of (Annex A.1.1.1.01):

- a) the admission of new doctoral advisors, as well as regulations regarding the manner in which the membership of a doctoral advisor can be revoked if needed;*
- b) the decision-making process in regard to the opportunity, the structure, and the content of the training program of the doctoral studies;*
- c) the procedures in place regarding changing a doctoral advisor with another and guidelines regarding conflict mediation;*
- d) the circumstances in which the doctoral program can be discontinued;*
- e) the prevention of fraud in scientific research, including instances of plagiarism;*
- f) ensuring the access to research resources;*
- g) the doctoral students' attendance obligations, according to a Methodology authored by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth, and Sport;*

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard ensures the existence of a good system which maintains all the necessary data and details of the doctoral student academic background.

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



The LBUS's University Management System is found to be adequate and effective to keep the full track of doctoral students and their academic progress. The office for doctoral studies has implemented an independent information system in order to keep track of the doctoral students, considering the clear distinctions between the BA, the MA, and the doctoral programmes. Since the number of individual studies programmes is equal to the number of enrolled doctoral students, a bespoke system was required.

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.*

The institution has ensured the usage of a sophisticated software to check the percentage of similarity of doctoral theses. Sistemantiplagiat.ro (<https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/clienti/educatie/>) and Check for plagiarism (<https://www.checkforplagiarism.net/>). offer detailed similarity report that consist of different coefficients that have been decided as threshold from the scientific bodies of the program. These programs have to be applied for all the doctoral theses and the students work in accordance with the supervisor. The theses whose percentages fall outside of the allowed limits are not approved for public defense. A list of all the detailed information on the similarity reports for the theses during 2015-2020 period for the domain of Economics are asked to be provided from the institution (Annex A.1.2.2). According to the program, CS1 must be lower than 50% and CS2 lower than 5%.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard ensures the availability of financial resources and other internal and external opportunities arising for the doctoral students. This is important to enhance capacities of research and to extend the outcome in a larger target group.

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

The institutional development grants in force coordinated by the doctoral advisors within the past 5 years are the following:

- *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;

Some detailed information on the above mentioned courses and workshops for Scientific Research Methodology:

- Disruptions in shared-economy & artificial intelligence era: opportunities & challenges, Facilitator: Ronny Adhikarya, USA
- Seeking international partners for network establishing and future collaborating for R&D funding and innovation projects, Facilitators: Audun Amundsen and Hong Wu, Østfold University College
- Creating Values – Impact & Exploitation in Horizon 2020 project proposals, Facilitator: Jörg Scherer, Head of Training & Awareness Raising Activities European IPR Helpdesk / CEO Eurice GmbH
- Mindset – the way you think about yourself in the world influences your ability to achieve your potential. Understand yours, and learn to optimize it!, Facilitator: Nina Mapili, MD Mapili GmbH
- https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/Orar_ISUD_Metode_de_cercetare_sem_1_2017.pdf

Institution provided with additional information on the involvement of PhD students in the following projects as well:

- Grant UEFISCDI PNIII Human Resources – Proiecte de mobilitate pentru cercetători, PN-III-P1-1.1-MC2019-0369, câștigat în cadrul competiției Proiecte de mobilitate pentru cercetători - Competiția 2019, valoare: 8954 RON, Stagiul de cercetare, acces baze de date și infrastructură, ESSEC, Cergy-Pontoise, Franța, Director Belașcu Lucian, PhD Student Pastiu Cosmin.

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%.

In the field of Economics, 6 doctoral students benefited from grants from ULBS (financing of doctoral university studies), for the entire normal duration of doctoral studies, respectively for 3 years. During the evaluation period, 27 doctoral students were admitted, in the field of Economics. At the time of the evaluation, 21 more doctoral students were enrolled, of which 5 benefited for a minimum of six months from other sources of funding than government funding, respectively 23.81% (Annex A.1.3.2)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled



Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.2 *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

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. ULBS allocate 15% percentage on average for the doctoral students' professional training (conference attendance, mobilities abroad, publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals and other forms of scientific dissemination, and so on).

In order to identify the percentage on average for the doctoral students' professional training, ULBS provided the Doctoral School Budget and an additional Annex (Annex A.1.3.3 Professional training expenses of doctoral students) from which results the percentage of approximately 14.46% for Economics (Total revenues 263.130 RON; Expenses 38061 RON).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

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.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.1. *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.*

The research infrastructure in service within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School consists of the research infrastructure of the faculties, the libraries, and the research centres acknowledged within the university: <https://cercetare.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/infrastructura-de-cercetare/centre-de-cercetare/lista-centre-de-cercetare/>. The research infrastructure associated with the centres for economic research is publicly accessible on the EERIS platform: Engage in the European Research Infrastructures System (<https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000X-0039>).

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



During the past 12 months, LBUS has invested approximately 1.000.000 Eur in its research infrastructure. The University has also received a 4.200.000 Eur donation from the Hasso Plattner Institute for the support of research and the development of research infrastructure.

Some related photos on the available software specific to the program and related to infrastructure and library are found in Annex A.2.1.1.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

This criterion is devoted to the doctoral thesis advisors and the teaching staff for the doctoral school. It mainly deals with their expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, their expertise on the thesis topics, and their capacities to support this programme.

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

According to this standard, the institution has to ensure sufficient qualified staff supporting the program in teaching and research activities. Their specialization has to be in line with the domain of the programme.

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 the last data provided, there were 7 PhD supervisors in the field of Economics (4 full professors tenured at IOSUD, 1 retired professor and 1 full professor from the University of Pitesti, and one from Transylvania University of Brasov). The details are shown in table A.3.1.1. From the seven above-mentioned professors, four of them meet the minimum CNATDCU standards necessary and mandatory for being awarded the habilitation certificate, representing 57.14% of doctoral supervisors (4/7).

Table A.3.1.1 Current status of doctoral advisors in the doctoral field: Economics

Name and first name		Minimum score CNATDCU	Accomplished score
Bela9cu Lucian	Tenured at IOSUD	4	17,448
Caraganciu Anatolie	Tenured at IOSUD	4	0,5
Radulescu Magdalena	Tenured at Pitesti University	4	27,68
Rotariu Ilie	Retired	4	1,5
Tache Ileana	Tenured at Transylvania University of Brasov	4	1
Tanasescu Cristina Roxana	Tenured at IOSUD	4	19,58



\$erbu Razvan Rare Sorin	Tenured at IOSUD	4	11,31
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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.

Four PhD supervisors out of 7 affiliated scientific supervisors at the time of the self- evaluation report in the field of Economics are being full-time employed within IOSUD-UCV (maintaining the required percentage of 50%, exactly 57.14%). The details are found in table A.3.1.1.

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.

The supervisors of PhD students are experts in the field, and they show a good track of their academic performance. This is verified from their CVs provided as attachments in the self-evaluation report. The subjects of the Economics programme are taught by PhD professors with proven expertise in the field of the subjects taught. This is verified from their CVs provided as attachments in the self-evaluation report as well (Annex B.2.1.3.).

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 programs³ does not exceed 20%.

None of the PhD supervisors has more than 8 PhD students at the same time. Respectively, one supervisor has a total of 6 PhD students, another one 4 students, two supervisors have each 3 students, one of them is supervision 2 students, and the other two supervisors do not have PhD students for the moment. The details are found in Table A.3.1.4.

³3 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.

Table A. 3.1.4 Current status of doctoral advisors in the doctoral field: Economics and the doctoral students for the academic year 2019-2020

Name and first name	Number of doctoral students enrolled in the doctoral training programme	Number of doctoral students benefiting from the extended period of doctoral study	Total
Bela9cu Lucian	3	0	3
Caraganciu Anatolie	2	2	4
Radulescu Magdalena	2	0	2
Rotariu Ilie	1	2	3
Tache Ileana	4	2	6
Tanasescu Cristina Roxana	0	0	0
9erbu Razvan Rare9 Sorin	0	0	0
Total	12	6	18

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Besides the proper academic profile of the doctoral students' supervisors, they have to ensure an international integrity with networking and scientific research output.

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

From 7 PhD supervisors in Economics, five of them have more than 5 papers indexed in Web of Science impact factor journals. In the meantime, all PhD supervisors have other relevant achievements - books or book chapters published in international publishing houses, Web of Science indexed papers, papers presented at international scientific conferences. Additionally, all these professors are having international recognition, such as inclusion in the editorial board members or reviewers in the indexed journals and conferences. All the detailed information is found in their CVs provided as attached in the self-evaluation



report and in the official website of the university (<https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/domenii-si-conducatori/>).

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.*

From seven PhD supervisors in the field of Economics, four of them have achieved the scores required by the CNATDCU, which means that more than 25% (in this case 57.14%) of the score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of evaluation, necessary and mandatory for being awarded the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific achievements. This is verified from the Annex A3.2.2. provided on the self-evaluation report.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

This domain is composed of three main pillars, (1) The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest; (2) The content of doctoral programs; and (3) The results of doctoral Studies and procedures for their evaluation. Each of these pillars is supported by standards and criteria to be fulfilled.

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

This criterion is related to the program capacities and attractiveness to enroll a considerable number of students, that present a good quality and demonstrate a good academic, research and professional performance.

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.

Through this standard we look at the institutional/program capacities to attract students in order to increase the competitiveness and ensure a good quality by selecting the applicants.

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.

During the period submitted for evaluation, 23 Master's graduates applied for admission to the doctoral programme in Economics, of whom 16 were alumni/alumnae of higher education institutions other than LBUS. A total of 11 seats were financed from the national budget. The ratio of Master's graduates of other higher education institutions who applied for admission to the doctoral programme in Economics in the past five years to the number of seats financed from the national budget is 1.45 (16:11).

Table B. 1.1.1. Origin of doctoral candidates who sat for the admission exam to doctoral studies

Field	2015 -2016		20 16- 2017		2017 -2018		2018- 2019		2019-2020			
	Total	AU*	Total	AU*	Total	AU*	Total	AU*	Total	AU*	Total	AU
Economics	6	5	3	1	3	3	5	2	6	5	23	16
Economics (national budget)	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	11	16

AU* - doctoral candidates who sat for the admission exam to doctoral studies who graduated from master degree programmes affiliated to other universities

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard is related to the quality of the enrolled doctoral students and their capacities to follow up with the research thesis.

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.

According to the Regulation in force, the doctoral applicants must have a GPA higher than 8 out of 10, and they have to present a doctoral research project within one of the research directions proposed by the PhD supervisor. All the process is made public through the official website of the university.

For the cycle of doctoral university studies, the admission is made based on competition, in the fields of doctoral university studies approved within them, in accordance with the provisions of 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 University "Lucian Blaga" in Sibiu.



The admission contest for doctoral studies is organized in a unitary manner and includes:

- A. an examination of language proficiency, in one of the languages of international circulation (English, French, German), assessed with the grade Admitted / Rejected.
- B. 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 of Annex 1.1.1.04.
- C. The minimum grade point average that a candidate must obtain in order to be declared admitted to doctoral studies is 7.00. The average grade is calculated to two decimal digits, without rounding.

The examination based on the specialty/domain topic are to be carried out by competition on fields, the commission being represented by the doctoral supervisors in the respective field.

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 admission⁴ does not exceed 30%.

The average ratio of doctoral students who were expelled 3 years after admission for the period 2015-2020 is 0% (it does not exceed 30%). Specifically, this indicator per each academic year is as follows: 0% (0/5) for the 2015-2016; 0% (0/2) for the 2016-2017; 0% (0/3) for the 2017-2018; 0% (0/5) for the 2018-2019, and 0% (0/5) for the 2019-2020.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

This criterion is devoted to the academic program offered to the students, including scientific research training, in-depth research, scientific methodology applied that supports the doctoral thesis, etc.

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

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

During the first year of doctoral studies in the field of Economics there are 3 subjects relevant to scientific research. From the subjects included in the curriculum of the first year, at least one subject is devoted to

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



the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing. This course is “Research methodologies”, another course is “Academic ethics and integrity”, and one other compulsory course is “Advanced Economics”.

Doctoral candidates are required to opt for an elective course in accordance with their doctoral subfield. The two optional courses are Contemporary Approches in Management, and Financial Policies and Practices.

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.*

The same courses mentioned above are dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, specifically the course “Research methodologies” and the course “Academic ethics and integrity”.

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 activities⁵.*

The institution has mechanisms in place to ensure that the training programme are based on advanced university studies, related to the field of Economics. This is evident from each syllabus provided as in the self-evaluation report which specifically refer to knowledge, skills, competences acquired by doctoral students after completing the training programme.

The advanced academic study programme consists of courses in:

- Fundamental disciplines: Academic Ethics and Integrity and Research Methodologies, which are compulsory for all doctoral candidates enrolled in the doctoral programmes;
- A fundamental Economic Sciences discipline: Advanced Economics, which is mandatory for all doctoral candidates in Economic Sciences, irrespective of doctoral subfield;
- An elective specialised discipline: Contemporary Approches in Management or Financial Policies and Practices, in accordance with the doctoral candidates' subfield of research in Economic Sciences.

Course syllabuses feature the structure of the courses/seminars and the competences doctoral candidates will acquire upon completion (Annex B.2.1.3.).

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



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 counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.

The doctoral training is organized in a way that the students receive regular consulting and guidance through one-to-one meeting with the supervisors and also during the meetings with mentoring committees. Doctoral candidates are counselled by a Doctoral Advisory Committee, which consists of their doctoral advisor and three other members 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 meetings, when the public health context allows it. Please find enclosed Annex B.2.1.4. There are some Minutes from the meeting.

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.

For the doctoral field of study Economics, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching/research staff providing mentoring is **1.44 (13:9)**. Between 2017 and 2020, 13 doctoral candidates were enrolled in the three-year doctoral programme in Economic Sciences. A total of 9 teaching staff members supervised their degree progress.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion analysis the procedures to measure the output of the research activities of the PhD students. This is at the same time quantitative and qualitative measure of the output of the scientific work for this domain.

Standard B.3.1. 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.



A minimum of one article or other relevant contribution for each of the 13 PhD students who obtained their PhD degree in the period 2015-2020 is made available to the evaluation committee for the evaluated field. Annex B.3.1.1. provides a clear picture of the quality of the papers and the topics, which contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.

In addition to WoS and SCOPUS, the articles can be published in other databases. Among the international databases acknowledged, there are: Repec, EBSCO, CEEOL, EconLit, DOAJ, ProQuest etc. The articles published by the doctoral graduates in the Economics field have been published in journals indexed in at least 3 international databases, journals with a good scientific level, which assure the review with the help of individual reviewers.

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.*

During 2015 – 2020 timeline, 13 PhD theses were defended in the doctoral field of Economics. During their doctoral studies these students participated in at least one international conference, abroad Romania. Annex B.3.1.2. shows that Doctors present, on average, a minimum of 5 conference papers each.

Recommendations:

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.

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.*

None of the cases does not exceed two (2) for theses coordinated by the same doctoral supervisor in one year. A total of two doctoral theses in Economics are supervised by the same doctoral advisor and allotted to the same external referent, from a different higher education institution per year (Annex B.3.2.1). Two doctoral theses supervised by the same doctoral advisor are defended per year.

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.*

The ratio between the number of PhD theses assigned to a specific scientific reviewer from a higher education institution other than IOSUD and the number of PhD theses defended in the doctoral field of Economics is more than 0.3. The ratio of doctoral theses in Economics allotted to an external referent from a different higher education institution to doctoral theses defended in the past five years is 0.53 (7:13). (Annex B.3.2.1.).

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The third domain of this report is devoted to quality management that is related with the institutional procedures and mechanisms to ensure a good quality of the program. This is composed by three main criterions, (1) Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system; (2) Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources; and (3) Internationalization aspect of the institution and programme.

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

This criterion looks for procedures of timely and periodically implementations of the internal quality assurance and how these internal audits impact to the programme enhancement.

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

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

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



The IOSUD relies on and observes a number of regulations and procedures enabling the internal quality assurance and assessment, such as:

1. Regulation for the Organization of the Admission Exam to Doctoral Studies for the academic year 2021-2022;
2. Operational Procedure for Online Admission to Doctoral Studies;
3. LBUS Regulation regarding the Organization of Doctoral Studies, was approved by the University Senate on 2020;
4. Operational Procedure for the Online Organization of Examination Activities in the Context of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School affiliated to the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu;
5. Operational Procedure for the Assessment and Defense of Doctoral Thesis;
6. Operational Procedure for the Organization of the Process of Awarding the Habilitation Title;
7. Procedure of Automatic Recognition by LBUS of the title of doctoral advisor awarded by other accredited higher education institutions abroad;
8. Procedure of automatic recognition of the title of doctorate holder;
9. Procedure of automatic recognition of academic titles obtained in accredited higher education institutions abroad;
10. Procedure for Rewarding Research Results;
11. Methodology for the approval of external mobility grants awarded from LBUS and Hasso Plattner funds.

Recommendations:

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.

LBUS has designed a questionnaire to collect feedback from all students, including doctoral students regarding the overall doctoral programme. As regards the academic year 2019-2020 such a questionnaire was disseminated via Google Forms to 278 students enrolled in the doctoral training programme; in the end, 183 responses from doctoral students were validated. About 80% of the respondents were content or very satisfied (on a scale from 1 to 5) with the overall doctoral programme. In terms of the identified needs, mention should be made of the limited access to the research infrastructure (triggered by the pandemic context) as one of the major problems (especially to such fields as medicine or engineering) encountered in abiding by the timeframe and requirements of the individual research programme. On the other hand, the pandemic context provided access to a series of open access sources - available free of charge from an institutional account - to other fields of doctoral studies, such as: economics, philology or law. The survey was made at IOSUD level and the results are found at Annex C.1.1.2. Survey on doctoral satisfaction.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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



This criterion involves the transparency of the information and accessibility of learning resources that the institution and the specific program has to follow.

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

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

- (a) the Doctoral School regulation;*
- (b) the admission regulation;*
- (c) the doctoral studies contract;*
- (d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;*
- (e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;*
- (f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;*
- (g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);*
- (h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;*
- (i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, all the below mentioned information such as:(a) the Doctoral School regulation;(b) the admission regulation;(c) the study completion; (d) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;(e) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data; (f) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;(g) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented. All the links are available in the self-evaluation report.

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.

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.*

As mentioned in the institutional capacities regarding the infrastructure, the doctoral students have access, not only from the university campus, but also through mobile access, to full-text multidisciplinary scientific, bibliographic and bibliometric databases. The LBUS Library access facilitates access to books,



articles, international libraries, etc: <http://bcu.ulbsibiu.ro/bazededate.html>. LBUS is a member of ANELIS PLUS Associatio.

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.*

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. This plagiarism software are recognized by the CNATDCU, used to analyze the degree of similarity of the doctoral students' works in relation to other existing scientific creations. Additionally, each doctoral student has access, upon request and with the agreement of the supervisor, to the electronic system for checking the degree of similarity with other existing scientific works.

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.*

All doctoral students have access to the laboratories for undertaking research activities, other academic facilities, the research centres or the third-party research infrastructure, according to the specificity of the field(s) included in the doctoral school, subsequent to a request, approved by the doctoral advisor and in keeping with the availability of the research infrastructure.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

This criterion analysis includes the strategies toward the internationalization, the available agreements for mobility, projects, networks and so on.

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

Performance Indicator *C.3.1.1. *IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other*



mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

Based on the prerequisite that all doctoral students are required to attend international conferences prior to the defence of their doctoral thesis, this criterion is 100% accomplished. LBUS has concluded partnerships and mobility agreements with universities abroad, research institutes, companies operating in the specific field of study, aimed at the academic mobility of doctoral students and scholars (Annex C.3.1.1). The average number of PhD student enrolled in the analyzed period was 17. From them, 12 doctoral students participating at a international conference (70.59%) and 7 at mobility periods abroad (41.18%).

Recommendations:

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.*

There are no international joint PhD programmes during 2015-2020. In the meantime, there are no co-tutelage with foreign professors.

As requested from the institution, they have provided some evidence as below and also as in Annex C.3.1.2.

- *Disruptions in shared-economy & artificial intelligence era: opportunities & challenges, Facilitator: Ronny Adhikarya, USA*
- *Seeking international partners for network establishing and future collaborating for R&D funding and innovation projects, Facilitators: Audun Amundsen and Hong Wu, Østfold University College*
- *Creating Values – Impact & Exploitation in Horizon 2020 project proposals, Facilitator: Jörg Scherer, Head of Training & Awareness Raising Activities European IPR Helpdesk / CEO Eurice GmbH*
- *Mindset – the way you think about yourself in the world influences your ability to achieve your potential. Understand yours, and learn to optimize it!, Facilitator: Nina Mapili, MD Mapili GmbH*
- *Access to online courses and webinars:*
- *Giving a voice to professionals in doctoral education – how do we communicate and position ourselves?, <https://pride-network.eu/annual-conference/>*
- *OEduverse: Advancing sustainable research careers, <https://pride-network.eu/oediverse-advancing-sustainable-research-careers/>*
- *KaWuM – Career Paths and Qualification Requirements in Science and Higher Education Management, <https://pride-network.eu/kawum/>*
- *International Doctoral Education Research Network (IDERN), <https://pride-network.eu/idern/>*
- *PRIDE Webinar – Research Careers, well-being and mental health, <https://pride-network.eu/pride-webinar-research-careers-well-being-and-mental-health/>*
- *Reports and publications of EUA-CDE, <https://eua-cde.org/reports-publications.html>*
- *Comparing apples with oranges: the career paths of doctorate holders, <https://eua-cde.org/the-doctoral-debate/209:comparing-apples-with-oranges-the-career-paths-of-doctorate-holders.html>*
- *Strategic Design Thinking, <https://hpi-academy.de/en/e-learning/online-course-strategic-design->*



thinking-for-every-day.html

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

The internationalization of activities in the framework of doctoral studies is further supported by means of:

1. LBUS affiliation to the EUA Council for Doctoral Education
2. LBUS affiliation to Pride Network - the Association for Professionals in Doctoral Education
3. Participation to international educational fairs: NAFSA 2019 Washington (<https://www.ulbsibiu.ro/news/universitatea-lucian-bлага-din-sibiu-prezenta-la-targul-educational-nafsa-2019-washington/>);
 - Cooption of international experts to thesis defence committees:
 - Prof. PhD Luis Vellasco - Valladolid University, Spain
 - Prof. PhD Ioana Mara9escu-Galleron – „Sorbonne Nouvelle" University, Paris, France
 - Prof. PhD Tiphane Samoyault -, " Sorbonne Nouvelle " University, Paris, France
 - Prof. PhD Vincenzo Toreta - Isubria University, Varese, Italy

Eugen Ionesco doctoral scholarships: in the framework of the Programme coordinated by the University Agency of Francophony, a number of international doctoral students (France, Algeria and The Republic of Moldova) have been supervised.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of PhD students enrolled in the field of Economics is satisfactory. - The curriculum applied to this programme is appropriate and ensures a good foundation of necessary information and skills for the students. - There is a transparency and clear information available on the websites as well as clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of reviewers who participate in the evaluation process of PhD defense in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3. - The inclusion and the support of international professionals in activities such as co-advisership, is limited in this programme.

<p>procedures for the ongoing process on this programme.</p> <p>- The PhD supervisors are showing good track of their expertise and they have a considerable visibility even internationally.</p>	
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>- Due to a satisfactory number of students enrolled in the doctoral programme for Economics, the university can implement a new strategy of internationalization that will help the PhD students with external funding for their research and results dissemination</p> <p>- Additionally, the program has all the infrastructure capacities to extend collaborations with other universities abroad Romania, that will help in inclusion of international co-advisership, jury members, and common academic activities.</p> <p>- LBUS has all the opportunities to find our more funding opportunities for the research activities and support of PhD student to extend the professional network and being exposed internationally.</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>- The lack of a clear strategy for internationalization and acquiring external funds.</p> <p>- There are many challenges that staff and students may face while applying for different projects.</p> <p>- The challenges due to high competition among universities to attract more foreign and experienced staff to join this programme.</p>

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1		A.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
2		A.1.1.2	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
3		A.1.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
4		A.1.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
5		A.1.3.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
6	*	A.1.3.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
7	*	A.1.3.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
8	C	A.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
9	C	A.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
10	*	A.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
11		A.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A

12	*	A.3.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
13	C	A.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
14	*	A.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
15	*	B.1.1.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
16	*	B.1.2.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
17		B.1.2.2	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
18		B.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
19		B.2.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
20		B.2.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
21		B.2.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
22	C	B.2.1.5.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
23	C	B.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
24	*	B.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
25	*	B.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
26	*	B.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The number of reviewers who participate in the evaluation process of PhD defense in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3. The institution/programme has to ensure enough available staff to manage the full process.</i>
27		C.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
28	*	C.1.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
29	C	C.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
30		C.2.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
31		C.2.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
32		C.2.2.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
33	*	C.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
34		C.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The institution/programme has to ensure a better inclusion of the leading professors and international co-tutelage to this programme.</i>
35		C.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, this external evaluation report is a periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The **Doctoral School in the domain of Economics** has the full legal bases and it is conferred by the Ministry of Education and by the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates since 2016.

The Doctoral field of Economics is one of the accredited fields in the Doctoral School of Economics in LBUS. The total number of PhD students in this field of study in 2015-2016 – 17 students; 2016-2017 – 15 students; 2017-2018 – 18 students; 2018-2019 – 17 students; 2019-2020 – 18 students. This is a good number of students for a PhD programme. The institution together with the programme administration bodies are using the proper procedures to support the ongoing process of the doctorate field of study in Economics.



In the framework of the periodical accreditation, the institution provided us with a detailed Self-evaluation report which included respective information and attached documentation in support each criteria requested by the accreditation agency. Additionally, during this evaluation process, the *Experts' Panel* had the opportunity to have online meetings with stakeholders and different supportive bodies of the programme. The details of the meeting are attached as in **Annex EE.1.** Furthermore, the external experts asked for some additional document, timely provided by the programme representatives, which clarified some issues related to the management of the program (**Annex EE.2.; Anexa 1.3.2.; Anexa 1.3.3.; Anexa B. 2.1.4.; Anexa C. 3.1.1.; Anexa C.3.1.2.; Annex A.1.2.2.; Annex A.2.1.1.; Annex C.1.1.2.**). Out of 35 indicators to be fulfilled, there are only 2 indicators that have been identified as partially fulfilled, out of which 1 of them are classified in the category with “*”. Specifically:

- 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”, indicator *B.3.2.2.
- Standard C.3.1. “There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies”, indicator C.3.1.2.

As **general recommendations**, we recommend the following:

1. The programme has to ensure a better distribution of the workload with regard to supervision, jury evaluations, and reviewers. This can be done by inviting affirmed professors from universities abroad that can assist in ad-hoc basis, and at the same time, help in internationalization.
2. The institution and/or the doctorate programme in the field of Economics has to establish a Strategy related to Internationalization. This will help in attracting foreign professors, foreign students, finding more networking opportunities, enhancing the publication opportunities, increasing the mobility and students' exchange cases, finding more opportunities for co-tutelage of PhD dissertations, etc.
3. The institution and/or the doctorate programme in the field of Economics has to establish a Strategy related to Acquisition of External Funding. As such, the respective staff of the programme can have clear targets to apply for project and they can increase the applications. They need to find out the national and international opportunities for funding. The projects should be target to the focus of the research topics the PhD students will deal/are dealing with.

VII. Annexes

The following types of documents are attached:

- The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – **Annex EE.1.**
- Scanned documents –documents requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before and after the visit and referred to in



the report – Annex EE.2.; Anexa 1.3.2.; Anexa 1.3.3.; Anexa B. 2.1.4.; Anexa C. 3.1.1.; Anexa C.3.1.2.; Annex A.1.2.2.; Annex A.2.1.1.; Annex C.1.1.2.