

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain Theatre and Performing Arts – University of Arts Targu Miures

I. Introduction

The University of Arts became an Organising Institution of Doctoral Studies in the field of theatre in December 2005 pursuant to MECTS (Ministry of Education, Culture and Youth) Order 5660/12.12.2005, was evaluated by ARACIS (The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) as part of the institutional evaluation in 2009 and operates based on MEN (Ministry of National Education) Order 5382/29.09.2016, the Law of National Education no. 1/2011; Government Ordinance 681/29.06.2011 on the approval of the Code of university doctoral studies, with subsequent amendments and additions (Government Ordinance 134/2016); University doctoral studies constitute the tertiary cycle of university studies offered at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts. These studies, focused on learning through research, are aimed at training competent specialists in the scientific research of performing arts and in artistic creation who are capable of integration into the labour market. The course of university doctoral studies is governed by the Rules of organisation and procedure for university doctoral studies, approved by Decision 68/25.09.2012 of the Senate, with amendments approved by Decisions 17/06.07.2016 and 47/4.07.2018 of the Senate.

II. Methods used

The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes was done on-line from October 25 to 29 2021, using the following methods;

- the analysis of documents;
- 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 University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures).

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



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

Standard A. 1. 1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

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:

In compliance with the Code of university doctoral studies and with the Rules of organisation and procedure for university doctoral studies, there are two types of university doctoral study programmes: scientific doctorate and professional doctorate. Since the beginning, a scientific doctorate programme in the field of theatre and performing arts has been organised at the Doctoral School of the Târgu Mureş University of Arts, with the purpose of producing original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge based on advanced scientific methods. The primary disciplinary sub-fields pursued during 2015-2020 and in the present within scientific doctoral university studies in the field of theatre and performing arts are: History and Theory of Arts and Theatre Institutions (acting, directing, production design, choreography and so on), Aesthetics, Semiotics, Sociology, Anthropology, Theatre and Performing Arts Pedagogy. The artistic sub-fields they have in mind under the professional doctorate in the theatrical and performing arts field are: dramaturgy, acting; theatre directing; production design, choreography, music for the stage. Since 2011, the university doctoral study programmes have been organised at the University of Arts only for students enrolled full-time. University doctoral studies at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts, a multilingual and multicultural institution, are organised in Romanian and Hungarian, pursuant to the decision of the doctoral school council and the doctoral studies contract entered into between the University, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student. The mission of the doctoral studies in the fields of theatre and performing arts consists of the promotion and attainment of excellence in researching the phenomenon of theatre and the performing arts, training theatre professionals with superior academic qualifications by perfecting their theatrical culture, which, in turn, would enable their efficient integration into theatrical education, scientific and artistic research, into the process of theatrical creation and theatrical criticism. The Theatre and Performing Arts Doctoral School, organised as a distinct department within the University's structure, is led by the doctoral school council and the director of the doctoral school. The director of the doctoral school is assimilated to the department head, and the doctoral school council is assimilated to the departmental council. The Council of the Theatre and Performing Arts Doctoral School is made up of three members, two of whom are doctoral supervisors; one is a doctoral student, elected by the doctoral students. There is a methodology in force for conducting these elections which does not provide for any sort of restriction on the right of doctoral students to elect and to be elected. The doctoral student



elected has the right to vote, sign the minutes, attend meetings, and suggest proposals and amendments. The faculty members who are members of the doctoral school council are elected via the vote of the appointed doctoral supervisors at the doctoral school. The term for the doctoral school council is 5 years. The doctoral school council is led by the director of the doctoral school, who is appointed by the University Senate from among the appointed doctoral supervisors at the doctoral school and is a full member in the doctoral school council. The council and the director of the doctoral school carry out their activities subordinate to the Senate and the Rector of the University. At the Târgu Mureş University of Arts, pursuant to art. 1 (4) of Ministry of Education, Culture and Youth Order 3850/2.05.2012, no institution distinct from the Doctoral School (The Organising Institution of Doctoral Studies I.O.S.U.D)and its associated structures (CSUD –The University Doctoral Studies Council and its director), since currently there is only one doctoral school operating at the University, in a single field: Theatre and Performing Arts, with a total number of nine faculty members, eight of whom are appointed to the IOSUD, of whom three are employed full-time in the titular title list of the doctoral school and one is retired. The titles of the structures associated with the Organising Institution of Doctoral Studies I.O.S.U.D (CSD –The Doctoral Studies Council and its director) prescribed by Law no. 1/2011 and by the Code of university doctoral studies are subordinate to the University Senate as well as the Rector of the University of Arts. The Târgu Mureş University of Arts is the institution legally representing The Theatre and Performing Arts Doctoral School as a legal entity, with the Rector of the University as its legal representative. The subsequent procedures and rules based on which elections for the titles and governing structures of the Doctoral School are organised are governed by the Methodology regarding the organisation and procedure for elections for structures and titles of academic governing of the Târgu Mureş University of Arts and the Methodology for the appointment of the director of the Doctoral School (Annex A3 –Election methodology; Methodology for the appointment of the director of the doctoral school and election results).The rules for the organisation and conduct of the university doctoral study programmes regarding admission to studies, the conduct of university doctoral studies and completion of doctoral studies. The representative of doctoral students in the Doctoral School Council was elected based on the Methodology for the organisation and procedure for elections, by direct and secret universal vote, with all doctoral students having the right to elect and to be elected. The mechanisms for the recognition of doctoral supervisor status and validation of a doctorate obtained in other states through the System procedure regarding the recognition of doctoral supervisor status by the University of Arts, obtained at university learning institutions accredited abroad (Annex A5).The governing structures for the functioning of the doctoral school ensure that sessions are convened regularly, with the aim of making decisions regarding the organisation and procedure of the learning process. Convening a session is done by the director of the doctoral school at the beginning of the academic year and before the yearly conference of the doctoral candidates, or whenever called for. The attributions of the doctoral school council and the internal procedures for analysis and approval of the content of the doctoral study programme and of the administrative issues are established through the Rules of organisation



and procedure for university doctoral studies, art. 13. The rights and obligations of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors are established through the university doctoral study contract. The contract is drawn up by the doctoral school based on the rules set forth in the Code of university doctoral studies. The university doctoral study contract is concluded with each doctoral student in particular, based on admission, and is signed by the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and the Rector of the University. University doctoral study contracts embody on of the mechanisms for efficient operation prescribed in the specific legislation on organising doctoral studies.

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 rules for the organisation and procedure for the Doctoral School include obligatory criteria, procedures and standards for the points specified in art.17 (5) of the Code of university doctoral studies, approved by Government Decision 681/2011. The Rules of the Doctoral School include specific references regarding: the manner in which new members of doctoral supervisors may be accepted under art. 18, art. 19, art. 20, art. 21, art. 22, art. 23, art. 24, art. 25 , art. 13(4)(5); the manner in which their doctoral school membership status may be revoked under art. 26(2), art. 29; the mechanisms of decision-making with regard to the appropriateness, structure and content of the training programme based on advanced university studies under art. 44, art. 48, art. 49, art. 50, art. 51, art. 52; the procedures for the change of doctoral supervisor of a particular doctoral student (art. 27, art. 13(22)) and procedures for conflict resolution under art. 15, art. 28(2)(g), 28(3)(f), art. 13(21); the conditions under which the doctorate programme may be suspended under art. 46, art. 47(3), art. 76(6), art. 13(20), art. 19(6)(a); methods for the prevention of fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism under art. 14, art. 32(5)(e), 32(5)(e) and art. 62, art. 70(2)(j); ensuring access to research resources under art. 16, art. 35(2)(d)(f)(g)(h)(i).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A. 1. 2. The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.

Performance Indicator A. 1. 2. 1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.



There is an adequate informational system in place for keeping the records of doctoral students and their academic advancement. For keeping the records of doctoral students, the university uses the EMSYS –Uniform System for Studies software suite. The academic advancement and enrolment of doctoral candidates is also uploaded to RMU (Unique Academic Records), and finished doctoral theses are uploaded to the national platform built for this purpose within RMU.

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 doctoral school has two pieces of software for ascertaining the percentage of similarity in all doctorate theses: Semplag, developed by UEFISCDI (The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding) and the platform, sistemantiplagiat.ro, recognised by CNATDCU (The National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates). In the evaluation period, 15 doctoral theses of the total number of theses defended (19) were run through the anti-plagiarism software as part of the verification process. The average similarity percentage for theses drafted in Romanian (8 theses) was 1.78%, for theses drafted in Hungarian (6 theses), 0.85%, and for the thesis drafted in French (1 thesis), 0.1%. For the 15 theses checked, the average similarity percentage was 1.29%. (ANNEX A8 –Rules for similarity analysis; Similarity reports; Statistics regarding the results of anti-plagiarism checks).

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.

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 income derived from doctoral studies is supplemented by financing additional to that supplied by the Government through extra-budgetary financing projects. Research and development grants currently ongoing at the Doctoral School during 2015-2020 are shown in Annex A9.

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%.*

The proportion of doctoral students also benefiting from other sources of financing for at least six months, through scholarships granted, is not indicated. The table with doctoral students who are beneficiaries of scholarships or grants from other sources of financing is shown in Annex A10, but it is not visible how many of them received it. There are some students that received funding on the University level.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A. 1. 3. 3. *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

The percentage used for the settlement of professional development expenses: participation in conferences, workshops, practical workshops, book publication of the total of the amounts corresponding to doctoral grants obtained by the doctoral school through institutional contracts and the tuition fees collected from doctoral students enrolled in fee-based full-time education is not known. The revenues and expenditures budget as well as the yearly financial reports are attached to this report.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially 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 Theatre and Performing Arts Doctoral School maintains adequate facilities for its current needs. With regard to material resources as well as those for information and documentation, the offer made available to doctoral candidates by the Doctoral School is a considerable one. The research infrastructure has recently been equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to support the performance of specific research activities. The Doctoral School has access to all available resources of the university and collaborates with the other departments as well as with collective research institutions/centres/laboratories. Doctoral students have free access to the studios and theatre and media workshops of the university, and are supported in their activities by the entire infrastructure that the University of Arts commands. A portion of the core funding is allocated to infrastructure development and the purchasing of materials needed for research. At the same time, investments have been carried out into the rehabilitation of classrooms and laboratories in order to provide better educational and recreational conditions in research spaces. These spaces meet the appropriate standards for a quality higher education process. Laboratory rooms have been supplied with the requisite apparatus and equipment as well as computer technology (adequate hardware and software). The infrastructure and learning spaces are shown clearly. As a result of the increase in the recognition and promotion of the image and brand of the doctoral school, the number of doctoral students enrolled from certain European countries has increased. An important task for the future will be the national and international expansion of the research network for the joint utilisation of various pieces of research infrastructure. The individual scientific research/artistic creation programme begins with the enrolment of the doctoral student and the preparation of the individual university doctoral study plan, and concludes with the public defence of the doctoral thesis. However, the intense period of research centres around years two and three of the doctoral studies. Doctoral students have access to the university library, which has the resources, organisation and spaces in line with current requirements, with the possibility of consulting the database. Between 2019-2020, the doctoral school has managed to supplement the library with almost 1,000 books in PDF format as well as theatre plays, which have been already placed at the disposal of doctoral candidates. The university library boasts 17 subscriptions to Romanian journals, of which 15 are specialised magazines, and 13 subscriptions to foreign journals, all of which are magazines specialising in the arts. Doctoral



students have access to the Studium Prospero Foundation Library, endowed with valuable books. Annex A14 shows the endowment of the University Library. In 2018, the Doctoral school has gained access to a series of digital databases through a partnership agreement with the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary's National Info communications Services Company. Through this agreement, students and academic staff are granted access to many digital databases of important publishing houses. For access to the JSTOR database, a contract was concluded in 2021, and as a result, the Doctoral School has already gained access to the Arts & Sciences III collection of the international JSTOR database. We are aware that in the near future, the university's institutional policy will have to contribute radically to increased investments into the research infrastructure.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A. 3. Quality of Human Resources

Standard A. 3. 1. At the level of each domain there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.

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.

At the time of drafting the self-evaluation report, 9 doctoral supervisors were carrying out their activities within the Doctoral School, having acquired their status in accordance with the law. Of these, a number of 9 (100%) doctoral supervisors meet the minimum standards of the CNATCU (National Council of Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates) necessary and compulsory for acquiring a valid certificate of habilitation. The list of affiliate doctoral supervisors at the Doctoral School is shown in Annex A15. The consolidated report on the degree of fulfilment of the minimum standards and records of verification for the fulfilment of the minimum standards by doctoral supervisors are shown in Annex A16 – Records for the fulfilment of the minimum standards prescribed by the CNATDCU (National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates) for doctoral supervisors. Consolidated report regarding the fulfilment of minimum standards. Eight (88.88%) doctoral supervisors have become members of the doctoral school by obtaining their certificate of habilitation. With regard to the internationalisation of the academic staff, 2 (22.22%) of the faculty members for teaching and supervision are employed at universities from abroad: both Professor Dr. habil. Jákfalvi Magdolna, PhD as well as Associate Professor Dr. habil. Kékesi Kun Árpád, PhD are among the high-profile personalities of theatre sciences in Hungary. We



consider it more important, however, that the two are high-profile European researchers. When it comes to the proportion of doctoral supervisors that come from the field of performing arts, of the 9 doctoral supervisors, 3 (33.33%) can be placed in the following category: one dramaturge and two actors. In the evaluation period, two doctoral supervisors have requested the withdrawal of membership status of the doctoral school (disaffiliation), under justified –professional –reasons, and one doctoral supervisor has requested the discontinuation of their supervisory activities over doctoral candidates for personal reasons. The Theatre and Performing Arts Doctoral School began its activity in 2006 with three doctoral supervisors, tenured professors at the University of Arts, who supervised doctoral theses in Romanian and Hungarian. Currently, the doctoral school operates with nine academic staff – doctoral supervisors. In 2009, one faculty member employed full-time at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts who had successfully acquired doctoral supervisor status was added to the academic staff of the doctoral school. In 2010, the academic staff of the school gained another doctoral supervisor, a tenured faculty member at the West University of Timișoara, employed with hourly pay as a doctoral supervisor at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts, after acquiring doctoral supervisor status for this purpose. In 2012, as the founding faculty members of the doctoral studies had retired, two specialists in the research into the field of theatre and performing arts were co-opted, pursuant to Law no. 1/2011 and the Code of university doctoral studies: Professor Dr. habil. Jákfalvi Magdolna, PhD, tenured at the University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest; and Associate Professor Dr. habil. Kékesi Kun Árpád, PhD, tenured at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary, Budapest, both high-profile European researchers. In 2013, three faculty members, and in 2018, four faculty members tenured at the University of Arts obtained their certificate of habilitation in the field of theatre arts, and were co-opted into the doctoral school. The doctoral supervisors are nationally and internationally renowned researchers, fulfilling the minimum requirements prescribed through Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Order 6129 of 20 December 2016, published in Official Journal issue 123 bis of 15 February 2017. From 2022, there are prospects pointing to a possible affiliation of other colleagues with the doctoral school, and they hope to increase the number of doctoral supervisors.

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.

66.66% of the doctoral supervisors (6 faculty members) are appointed to the IOSUD, with full-time employment contracts of indefinite duration, 22.22% of the doctoral supervisors (2 faculty members) are associate faculty members, and 1 (11.11%) doctoral supervisor is an associate faculty member in retirement. Administration of the doctoral school is assisted by a



secretary with designated attributions in this field, but also by other sections of the administrative structures at the university

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 courses in the advanced university studies-based training programme corresponding to the respective fields are taught by 8 professors and 1 habilitated lecturer, faculty members with proven expertise in the field of theatre and performing arts and who meet the standards set by the university for teaching positions (Annex A16 –Records for the fulfilment of the minimum standards and report regarding the fulfilment of minimum standards for doctoral supervisors). Annex A17 shows the Register of courses taught in the advanced training programme, indicating the training of faculty members who are currently teaching.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A. 3. 1. 4. *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.*

The ratio of doctoral supervisors who simultaneously supervise more than 8, but less than 12 doctoral students currently in their university doctoral study period (3 years) is 11.11% (1 doctoral supervisor).

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.*

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.

Scientific activity by doctoral supervisors between 2015-2020The scientific activity of faculty members affiliated with the doctoral school between 2015-2020 took the form of publishing important volumes and studies for the scientific research of the performing arts, but also of their participation in scientific events (scientific conferences, dramatic writing workshops and festivals), of publishing scientific studies or dramatic texts, as well as the development and coordination of research projects. At the same time, doctoral supervisors have had several accomplishments in the field of artistic creation. they also make mention of the many participations on the part of doctoral supervisors at scientific conferences in the field of theatre organised by universities in the country, but also in London, Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Casablanca, Lisbon, Shanghai, Kent, Chişinău, Ljubljana, Krakow and Valletta. All scientific and artistic activities by doctoral supervisors are shown in the records for the fulfilment of the minimum standards (Annex A16).The configuration and proportion of the academic staff at the Doctoral School are correlated with requirements of quality, benefiting from a highly qualified teaching staff made up of professionals who carry out their mission of imparting upon doctoral students their knowledge and experience gained throughout the practice of their profession in a coherently directed educational programme, created through the interweaving of teaching activity through instruction with scientific research both on an artistic level as well as in relation to research topics undertaken at an international level. The continual comparison of the curricula and scientific performance in the framework of international partnerships comprises an additional guarantee of the success of efforts aimed at ensuring the international competitiveness of the quality demonstrated by doctoral supervisors and doctoral students. A large majority of doctoral students also take part in scientific conferences with well-received studies and have a good publishing frequency for studies featured in professional journals.

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.*

The doctoral supervisors assigned to the Doctoral School in the field of Theatre and Performing Arts continue to be active in the area of science and artistic creation, as evidenced by Annex A20, which shows the percentage of scores obtained from the records for the fulfilment of the minimum standards in the past five years.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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

Standard B. 1. 1. The institution organizing doctoral studies has the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution or a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available.

Performance Indicator *B. 1. 1. 1. *The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0,2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.*

The university has the capacity to attract a greater number of candidates than there are places available. Between 2015-2020, the Doctoral School at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts was allocated four state-funded places each for the entry examination organised in September. The doctoral school has also published yearly entry examinations for 4-8 fee-based places. Between 2015-2020, 73 passing candidates were enrolled following the entry examination, 23 doctoral students in state-funded places and 50 doctoral students in fee-based places. Between 2015-2020, the ratio of the total number of candidates for entry who had graduated from a university study programme taking place outside of the IOSUD (23 candidates out of a total of 77) and the total number of places subsidised from the state budget open to the public (22) is 1.04. In the 2020/2021 academic year, there are 88 doctoral students enrolled in doctoral studies at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts, of whom 46 (52.27%) are undertaking their studies according to schedule, enrolled in years I-III.; 37 (42.04%) are within their period



of grace/deferment for the defence of their doctoral thesis, while 5 (5.68%) have requested to interrupt their studies for a legal period. The number of students with citizenships other than Romanian, EU and EEA (language of instruction: Romanian, enrolled in years I-III) is 2 (2.27%). The number of students with EU citizenship – (Hungary) (language of instruction: Hungarian) is 16 (18.18%), of whom 4 (4.54%) are enrolled in years I-III, 11 (12.5%) are within their period of grace/deferment for the defence of their doctoral thesis, and 1 (1.13%) has requested to interrupt their studies. We are aware that the number of doctoral candidates in their period of grace is relatively high, 42.04%, but they have high hopes that these situations will decrease in number over the course of the current year.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard B. 1. 2 Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.

Performance Indicator *B. 1. 2. 1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.

Fully fulfilled.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B. 1. 2. 2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.

In the past five years, the 2-year drop-out/abandonment rate among doctoral students is 2.73% compared to the total number of candidates gaining entry (73).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B. 2. The content of doctoral programs

Standard B. 2. 1. The training program based on advanced university studies is appropriate to improve doctoral students' research skills and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.



Performance Indicator B. 2. 1. 1. *The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.*

The course, Ethics and Integrity in Academia, with a total weekly number of 2 classes (a 1-hour course and a 1-hour seminar, with 4 credits assigned) over 12 weeks is taught in Romanian by Professor Dr. habil. Sorin-Ion Crișan, PhD, and in Hungarian by Professor Emeritus Dr. Béres András, PhD. The course, Research Methodology in Theatre Sciences, with a total weekly number of 3 classes (a 1-hour course and a 2-hour seminar, with 10 credits assigned) over 12 weeks is taught in Romanian by Professor Emeritus Dr. Béres András, PhD., recipient of Hon. Causa from the University of Pécs (Hungary), and in Hungarian by Professor Dr. habil. Jákfalvi Magdolna, PhD and Associate Professor Dr. habil. Kékesi Kun Árpád, PhD. There are two more courses offered in Romanian with a number of 3 classes per week each, of which a 2-hour course and a 1-hour seminar, with 8 credits assigned, over 12 weeks: Directorial Doctrines in 20th Century Theatre, taught by Professor Dr. habil. Sorin-Ion Crișan, PhD, recipient of Hon. Causa from the West University of Timișoara, and Techniques of Stage Composition in Contemporary Performance Art, taught by Professor Alina Nelega, PhD. Similarly, there are two more courses offered in Hungarian with a number of 3 classes per week each over 12 weeks, of which a 2-hour course and a 1-hour seminar, with 8 credits assigned: The Memory of the Theatre. The Reconstruction of the Theatre Performance, taught by Professor Dr. habil. Jákfalvi Magdolna, PhD, and the course, 20th Century Theatre, taught by Associate Professor Dr. habil. Kékesi Kun Árpád, PhD.

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.*

Beginning with the 2018/2019. academic year, the curriculum prescribes the course, Ethics and Integrity in Academia, pursuant to Ministry of National Education Order 3131/30.01.2018. The syllabus has been drawn up so as to ensure the preparation of doctoral candidates in all aspects regarding the ethics and legislation of scientific research, intellectual property and copyright.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Performance Indicator B. 2. 1. 3. *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.*

OSUD has created mechanisms which ensure that the advanced university studies-based training programme is aimed at “the results of learning”. The knowledge, abilities and skills gained by doctoral students after completing each course are described in the course syllabi. The courses on offer are designed based on the personal research efforts of the course coordinators, making them “authored courses”. The course syllabi focus in their entirety on the correlated training and development of aptitudes, knowledge and skills of the scholars to collect, select, combine and make use of information, abilities, values and attitudes with the aim of producing an original work in the field of theatre and performing arts, respecting the professional code of conduct, ensuring the management of their own research and establishing relationships with the professional community. This integrated and complementary approach to skills within the courses is pursued not only through the correlated development of content, literature, and teaching-learning methods within all subjects, but also through the practice of collective consultation, through the public analysis of research reports and through conferences organised for doctoral students, ensured through instruction in the framework of a study programme. The schedule for these activities is established by the director of the doctoral school at the beginning of the academic year through consultations with the doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and the course coordinators. The procedures for carrying out university doctoral studies between 2015-2020. were designed and developed in accordance with the generic skills of the previously mentioned university doctoral study programme. In each doctoral student’s case, the doctoral programme took place within the doctoral school under the coordination of a doctoral supervisor as well as a supervisory committee made up of three members, and comprised: (i) a training programme based on advanced university studies; and (ii) an individual scientific research programme. The advanced university studies-based training programme is an instrument for improving the knowledge of the doctoral student, assisting them in completing their scientific research programme under good conditions and in gaining advanced skills specific to the cycle of university doctoral studies. The courses and seminars organised within the advanced university studies-based training programme take place over a cumulative duration of 12 weeks, in the first two semesters of doctoral studies. The coordinators of the courses taught at the doctoral school are doctoral supervisors with relevant teaching and scientific experience; the seminars are always led by the course coordinators. The participation of a doctoral student in the advanced university studies-based training programme and the selection of curricula within this programme, which must be undertaken by the doctoral student, according to art. 60(5) of the Code of university doctoral studies, are established exclusively and independently by the doctoral student and their doctoral supervisor. In accordance with art. 59(3) of the Code of university doctoral studies, the



Doctoral School of The Târgu–Mureş University of Arts ensures free and unrestricted access to the advanced training programme for all doctoral students within the respective doctoral school or other doctoral schools. The completion of the advanced university studies-based training programme may lead to the granting of a number of transferable study credits established in the curriculum. According to art. 61(2) of the Code of university doctoral studies, any potential assessments associated with the advanced university studies-based training programme serve for information purposes only, are not compulsory for doctoral students and may not form prerequisites for the financing of doctoral students or their advancement within the study programme. The credits obtained over the course of a Master's research programme or the completion of a previous doctoral internship and/or a scientific research internship undertaken in the country or abroad, at universities or at high-profile research and development units may be recognised as equivalent to a training programme based on advanced university studies. The recognition of these internships is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the doctoral school council. For each course attended within the advanced university studies-based training programme, the doctoral student shall receive, provided they have not taken the exam required for the course in question, a certificate signed by the course coordinator which certifies the attendance of the student at the advanced university study programmes. The practice of the years the report refers to was for the doctoral students to be assessed with regard to the courses in the advanced university studies-based training programme through grading and granting the corresponding credit points. The individual scientific research/artistic creation programme is primarily aimed at the development of the doctoral thesis by the doctoral student. The individual scientific research/artistic creation programme begins with the enrolment of the doctoral student and the preparation of the individual university doctoral study plan, and concludes with the public defence of the doctoral thesis. The individual research/artistic creation programme takes place under the guidance of the doctoral supervisor and the supervisory committee. An efficient procedure experienced over this period consists of organising collective consultations, which are arranged in an interactive environment of presentation, debate and assessment of the preliminary results arrived at by the doctoral students while conceiving of and researching the chosen topic. To ensure coherent scientific advancement, the doctoral student shall present, at a date proposed by them, but at least once every 12 months, the progress of their scientific research programme in the form of a research report. Throughout the doctoral programme, the doctoral student will put forward at least 3 such activity reports, usually one in every year of study. The yearly scientific activity reports may contain: the presentation of studies undertaken for purposes of documentation of the doctoral thesis; scientific reports relating to the topic of the doctoral thesis, compiled at the request and with the guidance of the doctoral supervisor; studies published in professional journals or presented at scientific communication sessions; chapters from the doctoral thesis. The presentation of yearly scientific activity reports is done within the doctoral school, in front of the doctoral supervisor, the supervisory committee, and other members of the doctoral school invited by the doctoral supervisor. The proceedings for presenting the scientific



research report contains an element of outlining the results of the research carried out by the doctoral student and an element of answering the questions asked by the committee. The committee makes an evaluation of the level of research carried out and assesses the reports presented using one of the following grades: „pass” or „fail”. In the event of a tied vote, the report passes or fails depending on the grade given by the doctoral supervisor. In case of a failing grade, the presentation of the report in question may be repeated by the doctoral student once, at a date set by the doctoral supervisor through consultation with the doctoral student.

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.

For the full duration of their studies, each doctoral student is supported by a supervisory committee made up of 3 members. The members of the supervisory committee are tenured faculty members of the university with a rank of at least senior lecturer, PhD. In the future, the Doctoral School will aim to collaborate with other specialised institutions in the country and abroad to broaden the scope of options in establishing these supervisory committees. A faculty member who meets the requirements may be part of several supervisory committees. The maximum number of supervisory committees of which a tenured faculty member of the university may be a member of is established by the Doctoral School Council. The supervisory committee is formed within 30 days of the enrolment of the doctoral student; the members of the committee generally take part in the orientation of the doctoral student’s activity until the completion of their thesis. The composition of the supervisory committee as well as the attributions of supervisory committee members are established on a proposal from the doctoral supervisor, following consultations with the doctoral student. The functionality of the supervisory committees is demonstrated through electronic communications focused on written feedback (e-mails). The members of the supervisory committee, alongside the doctoral supervisors, are present at the doctoral candidates’ yearly conferences within which the doctoral students present their yearly scientific research reports. Debates regarding the analysis and evaluation by the supervisory committee of the results of research carried out and the progress of scientific research programmes are documented via video recordings.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Performance Indicator B. 2. 1. 5. *For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.*

The ratio of the number of doctoral students in their university doctoral study period of 3 years (46 students) and the number of faculty members ensuring supervision (32 faculty members, of whom 9 are doctoral supervisors and/or members of supervisory committees and 23 are only members of supervisory committees) is 1.44:1. The report on the ratio of the number of doctoral students and the number of faculty members, researchers, ensuring supervision is shown in different Annexes. But if you calculate all the years from the table of professors, the indicator is higher, around 2,4:1.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Standard B. 3. 1. Doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, patents, products and service orders.

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.*

There are initiatives within the Doctoral School for harnessing the results of doctoral studies. The training of doctoral candidates as potential researchers remains the primary objective of the Doctoral School, involved in training specialists with genuine skills in investigating and solving innovative topics. The Doctoral School continues to pursue the promotion of scientific research and artistic creation on the part of each doctoral candidate and doctoral supervisor, without this being its sole purpose. A significant initiative of the Doctoral School is the yearly organisation of the Doctoral Candidates' Conference, with the aim of capitalising on the doctoral students' publications. The organisation of the Doctoral School's conferences was aided by the Studium Prospero Foundation of Târgu Mureş Annex B10 shows the publications of graduate doctoral candidates who have received a doctoral degree in the past five years, and Annex B11 shows the artistic works or other relevant contributions by graduates. Graduates who defended their doctoral thesis between 01. 10. 2015. and 30. 09. 2020 have



published 8 books as authors and 1 book as editor. The number of studies published in scientific or cultural journals is: 76, while 2 books and 2 studies are in the preprint stage. It should be noted that beginning with 2018, some of the current and former doctoral candidates, alongside the doctoral supervisors, were given the opportunity to continue their research within the Philther project, coordinated by the Theatron Workshop Foundation of the University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest. The joint project between yet another two universities from Serbia and Slovakia extends until 2023, and is an important factor in stimulating the performance of current and former doctoral candidates, by familiarising themselves with new research trends and by formulating academic results and propositions. High-impact publications will inarguably remain an ongoing preoccupation of doctoral candidates, and the attachment of at least one ISI-validated (Web of Science) article as main author to the doctoral thesis remains a minimum requirement, alongside meeting other standards. To this end, CSUD intends that all doctoral theses, following approval of the defence, be published in book form by the university's publishing house, UArtPress, in a minimum volume of ten copies, with costs borne by the Doctoral School. The scientific recognition of the research efforts and the results obtained, as well as the responsibilities of doctoral candidates will thus increase substantially. It is the intention that through these measures, the Doctoral School ensure each year, as scientific output, the research results of doctoral students. In 2020, the doctoral school gained access to a financing fund/outside budget through a project by the Communitas Foundation to publish doctoral theses and launched a publishing programme for a book series entitled *Studia Artis*. The programme is set to publish two books each of the graduate doctoral students. The doctorate in Theatre and Performing Arts promotes specific and relevant research implementations which associate theoretical investigations of creating an artistic performance using the artistic process, as well as advancing a relevant sample from the doctoral students' own artistic creation that encompass these studies. Artistic research also entails individual contributions to research in the field of artistic creation in theatre (directing, acting, production design, choreography, playwriting, editing, lighting, sound, workshops and practical workshops for further professional and teaching training). The doctorate aims to broaden the practice and theory towards international implementations and manifests in the massive participation of doctoral students at high-profile national and international festivals.

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.



The graduates who defended their doctoral thesis between 01. 10. 2015. and 30. 09. 2020 took part in several high-profile scientific events (taking place in the country or abroad), achieving a total of 94 participations at conferences/workshops/practical workshops. The ratio of the number of scientific presentations and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies in the past 5 years in the field of Theatre and Performing Arts is 4.95:1. Of the total number of scientific events, the number of international conferences is 54. The ratio of the number of international scientific presentations and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies in the past 5 years is 2.84:1.

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.

Between 01. 10. 2015. and 30. 09. 2020, the Doctoral School called upon a number of 19 external reviewers to assess the 19 doctoral theses. The number of doctoral theses allocated to a certain external reviewer, for theses supervised by the same doctoral supervisor over a year, does not exceed two (2), normally being limited to one (1), apart from a single case. For doctoral theses defended between 01. 10. 2015. and 30. 09. 2020, a descriptive statistical report is given, which includes the surname and forename of the doctoral supervisor, the year in which the doctoral thesis was publicly defended, the make-up of the review committee, the surname and forename of the doctoral candidate, the title of the doctoral theses and the language in which the doctoral thesis was written.

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.

Another descriptive statistical report contains the surname and forename of the external reviewer, the institution of origin, the surname and forename of the doctoral supervisor, the



year in which the doctoral thesis was publicly defended, the surname and forename of the doctoral candidate and the title of the doctoral thesis, as well as the ratio of the number of doctoral theses allocated to a certain scientific reviewer coming from a different higher education institution and the number of doctoral theses defended within the doctoral school. Between 01. 10. 2015. and 30. 09. 2020, the ratios of the number of doctoral theses allocated to a scientific reviewer coming from a higher education institution other than the IOSUD assessed and the number of doctoral theses defended in the doctoral field of Theatre and Performing Arts were between 0.05 and 0.37. Annex B15 shows the report on the employment of university doctoral studies graduates who have received a doctoral degree in the past five years. The number of graduates who are faculty members and researchers employed full-time or associates at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts: 8 (42.10%). The number of graduates who are faculty members employed full-time or associates at other universities: 4 (21.05%). The number of graduates who work at/collaborate with performance organisations, in cultural fields, or are freelance artists: 13 (68.42%).-The number of graduates who work in school education: 6 (31.57%). The number of graduates with foreign citizenship: 1 (5.26%).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

Standard C. 1. 1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.

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 process of quality assessment and assurance at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts is carried out according to a procedure applied at an institutional level. The enhancement of the



quality of educational, artistic and scientific services offered represents one of the primary objectives, pursued at present and in future by the Târgu Mureş University of Arts. The university has the coherent organisation, the specific leadership structures proportional with its size and traditions, the expanding facilities and the financial and human resources based on which it can accomplish the mission and goals it has set for itself to a high degree of quality. The university doctoral study programmes are integrated into the prospects of these quality requirements, both regarding the organisation of education as well as the artistic and scientific services. In order to enhance the culture of quality and improve quality standards, the Târgu Mureş University of Arts pursues, as its strategic and operational plan:

1. Improvement of the activity of the Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee, the optimisation of structures, policies and procedures practised at the university in the field of quality assurance, with an indication of objectives and implementation strategies, with provisions and terms;
2. Alignment with the standards and practices of European higher education institutions in the field of quality management: the cultivation and development of a culture of university quality, both with regard to staff and students;
3. Improvement in the procedures regarding the launch, monitoring and regular review of both university programmes and activities as well as the procedures for assessing the results of learning; based on these, curricula shall be regularly reviewed depending on the instructional experience gained and the demands of the university qualification market;
4. Optimisation of the regular assessment of the quality of the academic staff; to this end, they shall improve the mechanisms for the launch, collection, processing, interpretation, communication and use of peer review, self-evaluation, as well as the evaluation of the activity of faculty members by students;
5. Assessment of courses by students, accompanied by the processing, interpretation and communication of results;
6. Streamlining the incentive programmes for high-performing students and providing programmes for the recovery of lower-performing students;
7. Ensuring transparency for information of public interest with regard to curricula and, where appropriate, certificates, diplomas and qualifications offered;
8. Monitoring and rewarding quality and excellence in teaching, learning, creation and research;
9. Systematic monitoring of feedback from students, theatre audiences and theatre critics with regard to the accomplishments of the university;
10. Regular public communication of educational and cultural events and of news about the University on its own website and through social media.

Within the Târgu Mureş University of Arts, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee functions as a specific university body that carry out their activity based on Rules of procedure and a Code of quality assurance for educational services at the University of Arts. The committee compiles The Yearly Report on Quality Assessment and Assurance and publishes it



both via physically displaying it as well as electronically, proposing measures for the improvement of quality. The University management continues to be preoccupied with the implementation of the measures proposed to improve the quality of education, and collaborates with other universities in the country and abroad with the aim of identifying and adopting good practices in the fields of quality. The Senate of the Târgu Mureş University of Arts has adopted the Rules regarding the initiation, approval, monitoring and regular assessment of curricula and diplomas issued. One of the primary goals pursued currently and in future by the Târgu Mureş University of Arts is the enhancement of the quality of educational, artistic and scientific services offered. The doctoral studies programme is into the prospects of these quality requirements, both regarding the organisation of education as well as the artistic and scientific services. As a summary of its five years of activity, the priorities of the framework targets pursued by the Theatre and Performing Arts Doctoral School within the Târgu Mureş University of Arts for 2015-2020 were: the doctoral studies on offer in the field of theatre and performing arts among creators in theatre and research in fields associated with the performing arts (literary, artistic, musical, philosophical sciences and so on) and the continual improvement of the admission scheme, with the aim of ensuring the identification of candidates with genuine potential for doctoral research; ensuring the quality of curricula through the continual updating of their content and raising the scientific level of instruction throughout the cycle of doctoral studies; making the curriculum on offer in the training programme compatible with the research projects of doctoral candidates in each field; promoting excellence in research through ensuring the quality in the supervision of doctoral theses, among others, and through a systematic practice of collective consultations; careful monitoring of the progress of each doctoral candidate; promoting the results of research efforts within doctoral programmes by organising large-scale scientific and cultural events. Currently and in the near future, they propose to have among their goals: organising professional doctorates in theatre and performing arts, which would require priority expansion of the academic staff with faculty members specialised in the creative fields of performing arts; promoting excellence in research by organising mixed groups; university staff and doctoral candidates with a high potential to carry out projects financed via national and international programmes; expanding the joint doctoral scheme through collaboration with organising institutions of doctoral studies in the country or abroad.; establishing programmes and partnerships which would favour interdisciplinary training and international mobility for doctoral candidates and university staff involved in the Doctoral School. The diplomas are drafted and issued according to the norms established by the Ministry of Education and Research.

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.

Feedback mechanisms from doctoral students are implemented throughout their doctoral training internship. The assessment of faculty members is organised on a regular basis. The results of the assessment are discussed individually with the faculty members and processed in statistical reports within the Doctoral School council in order to formulate policies regarding the quality of instructional, educational and creative performance, focusing on the personal master-student relationship. The teaching staff at the Doctoral School fully complies with the requirements of the educational process, carrying out high-profile activity in research and artistic creation within the field of theatre and performing arts. The managerial measures proposed are for a two-pronged development strategy: the professional training track and the artistic research track. (a) The professional training track includes the evaluation of the yearly scientific activity by doctoral supervisors. An ongoing challenge for the university management was that the titular title list of the Doctoral School comprise the number of teaching positions required by legislation. Beginning with 2017, the Doctoral School has been able to proportion the teaching staff through habilitations and co-opting new doctoral supervisors in the field of stage creation. The correction in the configuration of the professional staff was felt in the artistic scientific activity of doctoral supervisors. Participation at artistic scientific events and various conferences shows an increasing trend from year to year. their objectives are also aimed at identifying new doctoral supervisors, supporting them in attaining habilitation, as well as investigating the possibility of establishing new doctoral schools with a view towards future accreditation. The internal quality assurance policy within the Doctoral School includes yearly assemblies of the Doctoral School Council, alongside all doctoral supervisors, in order to analyse and evaluate the compatibility of studies, research efforts and services, with internal recommendations for improving quality.(b) The management measures proposed within the Doctoral School are for a strategy focusing on the development of artistic research. The criteria for improving quality include the infrastructure and logistics required to carry out research activities. The internal managerial control system has the following attributions:-submits the development programme for the improvement of the managerial control system to the Senate for approval, and ensures its yearly update,- outlines the development programme for the improvement of the managerial control system of the Doctoral School: objectives, tasks, responsibilities, terms, as well as other measures required for the development of the managerial control system,-compiles the quarterly and yearly consolidated reports regarding the stage of implementation of the internal managerial control system,-coordinates the self-evaluation activity of the degree of implementation of the managerial control system,-compiles the summary of the self-evaluation results, presenting them to the Rector of the university, for the purpose of compiling the yearly report. Through the quality assessment and assurance process within the Doctoral School, the Specialist committee of the Senate analyses the following aspects: a. scientific activity by



doctoral supervisors; b. infrastructure and logistics required to carry out research activity; c. the subsequent procedures and norms based on which doctoral studies are organised d. scientific activity by doctoral students; e. the advanced university studies-based training programme of doctoral students. In order to continually improve academic processes, feedback mechanisms from doctoral students are implemented throughout their doctoral training internship, showing their general level of satisfaction with the university doctoral study programme. The existing structures and policies as well as the procedures followed at the university ensure that each curriculum (at the bachelor, master and doctoral level) has an efficient framework for fostering a culture of quality.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Standard C. 2. 1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information is available for electronic format consultation.

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.*

On the university website, The Doctoral School updates and manages information related to the activity of the Doctoral School and ensures access to rules, procedures and information: (a) the rules of the doctoral school (b) the rules of admission (c) the doctoral studies contract (d) rules for the completion of studies which include the procedure for the public defence of the thesis (e) the content of university doctoral studies (f) the scientific profile and research topics



of doctoral supervisors at the school, as well as their institutional contact information(g) the list of doctoral candidates at the school and their basic information(h) information about the guidelines for writing the doctoral thesis(i) links to doctoral theses that are to be publicly defended.

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.

All doctoral students have free access to several digital databases of important publishing houses through a partnership agreement with the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary's National Info communications Services Company. There is a list of electronic databases accessible to doctoral students. Through access to the international databases, Electronic Information Service National Programme (EIS) and JSTOR, the doctoral school provides doctoral students with access to a large quantity of relevant materials for organised doctoral studies.

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 has access, on request from and subject to approval by the doctoral supervisor, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic creations via the SEMPLAG application developed by UEFISCDI and/or the platform, sistemantiplagiat.ro, recognised by the CNATDCU. Each doctoral student has access to learning spaces, laboratories for artistic creation, libraries, and other facilities specific to the field of art.

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 facilities are available to the students.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C. 3. Internationalization

Standard C. 3. 1. There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.

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.*

Increasing the performance of doctoral schools is inextricably linked to the international recognition and active participation in international exchanges of doctoral candidates and doctoral supervisors. Between 2015-2020, the Doctoral School entered into mobility agreements with universities abroad, partnerships with research institutions and companies where their doctoral candidates may carry out activities in their field of study. Annex C8 – Partnership agreements, bilateral mobility contracts In the past five years, the mobility programme abroad took the form of Erasmus agreements, which offer students the opportunity to embark on mobilities for placements in order to complete practical internships at universities, theatres, dance and music workshops. The establishment of long-term relationships with other doctoral schools is being pursued for the promotion of joint or Erasmus Mundus degrees. The University of Arts has entered into 15 bilateral mobility contracts for students and faculty members with universities abroad and companies in the field of theatre and performing arts (Annex C8 –Partnership agreements, bilateral mobility contracts). The number of students participating in the Erasmus programme in the past five years is 14. A different form of mobility, as well as participation in international scientific conferences, is the research partnership agreements of the Doctoral School: The Philther project of the Theatron Workshop Foundation of the University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest, launched in 2018, has been encouraging the flow of doctoral candidates and



doctoral supervisors into laboratories abroad. The project extends until 2023. The research effort comprises three European countries (Hungary, Slovakia and Serbia). Currently, three doctoral supervisors, Professor Dr. habil. Jákfalvi Magdolna, PhD, Professor Dr. habil. Ungvári Zrínyi Ildikó, PhD and Associate Professor Dr. habil. Kékesi Kun Árpád, PhD, and 14 doctoral students are undertaking research within the Philther project (Annex A9 –Research grants at the Doctoral School). Each year, the Doctoral School proposes regular scientific gatherings to doctoral students, where scientific reports within the doctoral programme are presented publicly. they believe that this practice is beneficial in improving the teaching performance of the doctoral candidate. To this end, it would be required to identify doctoral groups and supervisors who can carry out doctoral projects in English or French. they also wish to encourage doctoral candidates to present reports in English to facilitate participation with oral papers at international events. With the aim of internationalising doctoral students and increasing doctoral candidate mobility, the Doctoral School has been organising the International Conference of Doctoral Schools since 2017. The second edition of the event was organised in November 2020. Annex C10 shows the events organised by the Doctoral School for doctoral students –conferences and other scientific or artistic events. International Conference of Doctoral Schools has had a positive effect regarding the internationalisation of activities within doctoral studies. In the past five years, the number of international doctoral candidates taking part in entry has been growing.

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.

The initiation of joint doctorates constitutes a priority for increasing the recognition of doctoral research and making artistic performance compatible, with the purpose of focusing research towards topics broached at an international level. In the past five years, they have had one international joint doctorate with the Cergy-Pontoise University in France.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C. 3. 1. 3. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e. g. , by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).



Internationalization of the Doctoral School is supported by concrete measures - such as the inclusion of international experts in the guidance committee or for the public defense of the doctoral thesis.

The increase in research performance at the Doctoral School is likewise related to the active participation of doctoral students at festivals and high-profile international events. Annex C12 shows the awards received by doctoral students at various festivals and national or international events. The managerial strategy is aimed at the initiative of inviting international experts to hold courses/seminars/workshops for doctoral students, the stimulation of mobilities, a focus on increasing research capacity and capability and participation at international fairs. The goals of the Doctoral School are aimed at attracting international experts for participation in supervisory committees or for completing doctoral theses. In this sense, this aspiration has been partially met. In 2019-2020, the Doctoral School expended great effort in inviting top-grade experts to hold courses/seminars/workshops for doctoral students. The essential purpose of organising the event, The Doctoral School after 12 Years: Between Art and Science on 8 May 2019 was the internationalisation and the raising of awareness of the research activity carried out in past years. The broadening of the educational offer commensurate with higher education constitutes the essential preoccupation of School. In 2019, the Doctoral School, partnered with the Institute for Theatre and Multimedia Research organised a workshop entitled Workshop for Research regarding New Forms of Performance – a three-day research workshop led by renowned French theatrologist Patrice Pavis. Between 30-35 researchers with doctoral titles or doctoral candidate status were selected, who engaged in dialogue with Patrice Pavis on the topics announced. Among the reputed representatives of the field attending the event were: Barberis Isabelle, Boito Sofia, Cleren Marie, Navrotskaya Ana, Sepsi Enikő, Zaggia Nicolo and other renowned theatrologists. For the visibility of the activity of the Doctoral School and to generate interest towards the research conducted at the school, in 2019 they launched a Newsletter for all faculty members of the university about the events, publications, scientific and artistic research efforts, the successes and awards obtained by doctoral candidates and their doctoral supervisors; they organised a series of conferences entitled Theatre Research: Individual Work, Collective Thought, with the aim of promoting their fledgling researchers. Each month, an open workshop class was organised, with research topics covered at the Doctoral School programme would present, with monthly frequency – until the beginning of the lock-down caused by the pandemic – the scientific results and hypotheses of a selected doctoral candidate; they launched a video series entitled About Research in Three Minutes, with profiles on their doctoral candidates and their research. The managerial programme also includes financing in collaboration with economic operators. The increase in performance and the international recognition expressed through international conferences and the professional appreciation of their doctoral students, mediated locally and nationally, has already attracted funds from the economic environment. In January 2020 they applied for a financing project for a three-day workshop featuring top-grade international guests. The international conference extended



invitations to participants from four countries: Germany, Vojvodina, Hungary and Romania. Lectures in English were given by Christopher Balme, Professor at the University of Munich and Cristina Modreanu, theatre historian, Nánay István, theatre historian from Budapest, Szász János, film director and Tompa Gábor, theatre director and manager. Between 2015-2020, The Doctoral School for Theatre and Performing Arts at the Târgu Mureş University of Arts strove to offer an integrated environment for advanced learning and research at the level of national and international requirements. The generic skills of the theatre and performing arts doctoral programme were centred on developing cognitive knowledge, aptitudes and skills which would offer doctoral candidates the capacity to select, combine and make adequate use of knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes in order to conceive and complete an original research project in the field of theatre and performing arts, and to ensure the management of the project proposed, subject to the requirements of the professional code of conduct. At the same time, the pursuit was to enhance teamwork skills and the readiness to establish relationships with the professional community and civil society through the conveying of results obtained within their field of research, to develop the sense of recognition and respect of diversity and multiculturalism, and the openness towards lifelong learning. The objectives of the Doctoral School pursue the intensifying of international cooperation in research, the preparation and publication of doctoral theses/books/publications in one of the main international languages, continually attracting national and international research grants, organising joint doctorates, and seeking out new opportunities for obtaining invitations to international conferences and festivals and entering new research partnerships with doctoral schools in the country and in Europe.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
the doctoral tradition of excellence in the fields of Theatre Performing Arts in Romania; the result quantified and proven by the seriousness and professional and teaching competence of the graduates of this doctoral school during years of doctoral activity;	too much shyness and tolerance towards the fluctuating and formal policies regarding the doctorate profession, especially in the situation when they are operated by third parties with too little experience, knowledge and real mastery of the phenomenon;

<p>the doctoral school contributed to the training, existence and development of the university teaching staff in the reference fields, in the School and in other university centers;</p> <p>the ability to concentrate the interest and trust of the candidates for doctoral studies on the current Romanian university-doctoral competitive market;</p> <p>a competent, professionally and didactic active teacher, in accordance with the ARTS BASED RESEARCH principles;</p> <p>capacities and tools for research and artistic creation of the best quality and performance in Romania;</p> <p>openness and courage of interdisciplinary and avant-garde research and artistic creation;</p> <p>the usual practice of the fundamental principle of general management: "with very little investment, very efficient result";</p>	<p>suspicion towards the collaboration with the other Romanian and international doctoral entities in perspective projects (co-supervision, partnership, etc.);</p> <p>reduced cooperation between the university fields of doctoral study within the Doctoral School;</p> <p>defining a strategy for university action and cooperation on a European and international scale;</p>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>human potential (students and teachers) marked for innovation, exploration and creation of innovation and creation systems;</p> <p>but also the base and logistical endowment of IOSUD for starting, developing and finalizing research and artistic creation projects on the principle of ARTS BASED RESEARCH;</p> <p>the orientation and capacity for creative communication in new training environments (theatre</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>the stress caused by the frequent and aggressive changes in the sphere of the legislation regarding the Romanian university education;</p> <p>more and more young individuals fail to complete their baccalaureate studies; the dropout rate and school disinterest is increasing, which jeopardizes the investment in the university and doctoral system;</p> <p>chronic underfunding of the Romanian university system;</p>

<p>pedagogy and educational training through creative methods); an interdisciplinary interest at student / doctoral level for drawing and developing new vectors of creation, research and artistic performance; in the conditions in which the interest of young individuals (high school, university) is decreasing, IOSUD manages to exercise interest and attractiveness;</p>	<p>regarding the doctorate, they signal the fact that the wave of habilitations, from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, does not replace the wave of retirements - a lack of experience and expertise of doctoral management; competition from new doctoral study centers in Romania;</p>
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V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.		A 1. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
2.		A 1. 1. 2.	fulfilled	
3.		A 1. 2. 1.	fulfilled	Integration of students coming not from the field of arts should be considered, especially in a sense that specific generic knowledges are demanded on the entry exam or interview, or there should be a correlation with different MA programs that can be a platform for this PhD enrollment (s. a. differential exams etc.).
4.		A 1. 2. 2.	fulfilled	There should be more workshops on how to process and interpret plagiarism software results.
5.		A 1. 3. 1.	fulfilled	
6.	*	A 1. 3. 2.	partially fulfilled	
7.	*	A 1. 3. 3.	partially fulfilled	

8.	C	A 2. 1. 1.	fulfilled	A network of competences should be created for students not coming from art MA studies.
9.	C	A 3. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
10.	*	A 3. 1. 2.	fulfilled	Cotoutelage can be encouraged by creating specific workshops on how to write in different languages, other than Romanian.
11.		A 3. 1. 3.	fulfilled	
12.	*	A 3. 1. 4.	fulfilled	
13.	C	A 3. 2. 1.	fulfilled	
14.	*	A 3. 2. 2.	fulfilled	
15.	*	B 1. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
16.	*	B 1. 2. 1.	fulfilled	
17.		B 1. 2. 2.	fulfilled	
18.		B 2. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
19.		B 2. 1. 2.	fulfilled	
20.		B 2. 1. 3.	fulfilled	
21.		B 2. 1. 4.	fulfilled	
22.	C	B 2. 1. 5.	fulfilled	
23.	C	B 3. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
24.	*	B 3. 1. 2.	fulfilled	
25.	*	B 3. 2. 1.	fulfilled	
26.	*	B 3. 2. 2.	fulfilled	
27.		C 1. 1. 1.	fulfilled	Journal should be considered, more research visibility is necessary.
28.	*	C 1. 1. 2.	fulfilled	
29.	C	C 2. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
30.		C 2. 2. 1.	fulfilled	
31.		C 2. 2. 2.	fulfilled	
32.		C 2. 2. 3.	fulfilled	More databases should be included in the list. Students feel they are missing important access to journals.
33.	*	C 3. 1. 1.	fulfilled	
34.		C 3. 1. 2.	fulfilled	
35.		C 3. 1. 3.	fulfilled	

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The overall recommendations:



1. Students are not aware of the benefits they can have when participating in different institutional committees, They should be acquainted with this, especially in regard to their own projects, finances, etc.
2. Most of the students are not aware of the benefits of the anti-plagiarism software.
3. There should be more attention given to training of the ethical committee and mentors in different specific issues, such as plagiarism, integrity, breaking of different academic standards and norms, etc.
4. Encouragement for international publishing activity should be set as a priority.
5. Coutoutelage should be encouraged.
6. School provides doctoral students with an advanced training program that includes disciplines likely to provide high-performance knowledge skills in their own research directions, on the principle of Arts Based Research. This is visible. Openness towards interdisciplinarity should be encouraged even more, towards STEAM, STEM, IT etc.
7. In project teams, committees etc. , there should be more younger experts included.
8. First year curricula should be cleared, with 4 disciplines that are elective. More extra-curricula workshops should be encouraged, in order to open some new and innovative topics, e. g. STEAM, new media etc.
9. Students should convey the evaluation of the teachers in a written and well documented format.
10. Professional and scientific PhD standards are not so clear, and it should be elaborated.