



The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study
Domain Theatre and Performing Arts
UNIVERSITATEA NAȚIONALĂ DE ARTE "GEORGE ENESCU" DIN IAȘI

I. Introduction

The evaluation took place from July 15th to 19th 2021. It was in a hybrid surrounding, and I was able to participate in a virtual way, via zoom.

A short overview can be presented in the following way, as stated in the self-evaluation documents. In 2000, the institution initiated the necessary steps to organise PhD studies in the Theatre Department of the "George Enescu" National Art University of Iași; at the time, this Department was part of the Faculty of Composition, Musicology, Music Pedagogy and Theatre. The first admission session took place in the academic year 2002/2003 (as it is elaborated in The Establishment Appendix). Starting with the academic year 2007/2008, after the affiliation to the Bologna System, the Regulation has undergone a various amendments; the main amendment involved the inclusion of two types of doctoral degrees in the Theatre Field: research doctorate and professional doctorate, a distinction which is still maintained. The Theatre Doctoral School has had a complex evolution, both in terms of human resources (coordinating professors and doctoral students), and of research infrastructure. The evolution of the Theatre Doctoral School has been intimately linked to the that of the "George Enescu" National Art University of Iași, the oldest higher education institution in the field of arts in Romania, whose core goal has been to develop scientific research and artistic creation in the fields of Visual Arts, Music and Theatre and Performing Arts, to become a pole of excellence enjoying national and international recognition. Actually, UNAGE Iași is the only university in Romania which institutionally brings together three major art fields: Music, Theatre and Visual Arts, an exceptional situation which enabled from the very beginning the development of interdisciplinary perspectives and which, inevitably, had impact on the three Doctoral Schools included in the IOSUD.

The Mission of the Doctoral School - Theatre and Performing Arts is threefold:

- A Formative Mission, aiming at the existing specialisations and the specialisations proposed for the years, as well as the development of individual or collective research projects, integrated into research themes which require team work, specific to the art of theatrical performance;
- A Creative mission, aiming at scientific research and/or artistic creation, the development of the creative personality of doctoral students in the context of acquiring national and universal values specific to the field;
- A complementary Formative Mission, which involves the articulation of projects with socio-cultural development policies, in order to raise awareness on human issues and moral values, and to become integrated into the development of Romanian culture.

An integral part of IOSUD UAGE, this Doctoral School has prioritised scientific research and/or artistic creation as an activity which derives from the quality principles imposed by the Strategic Plan of the University, from the Operational Plan of the Faculty of Theatre and from



the quality principles imposed by the European landscape. Its vision on scientific research and/or artistic creation aims to consolidate the position of the Theatre Doctoral School in the IOSUD, in the UAGE strategy of scientific research and artistic creation, but also at national, European and international levels, and to increase its reputation and visibility.

II. Methods used

The methods and tools employed in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, including the following:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and some of the Annexes, because all of them were in Romanian;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting was not possible for me, because I was a part of the virtual surrounding evaluation, but the colleagues were there on site, and the overall context was grasped from the conversation with different participants;
- 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;
- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review.

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:

This condition is fulfilled and this was verified in the conversation and in the self-evaluation documents: internal regulations of the administrative structures (institutional regulations for the organisation and functioning of doctoral studies, doctoral schools regulations); The Theatre Doctoral School - Theatre and Performing Arts (Școala Doctorală Teatru – Domeniul



Teatru și Artele Spectacolului) operates based on the following regulations, besides other pieces of legislation: Institutional Regulation on the organisation and functioning of doctoral study programmes - PhD in Arts, adopted by Decision of the University Senate, in force at the date of the internal evaluation; Theatre Doctoral School Regulations - Regulation on the organisation and functioning of doctoral study programme - Doctorate in Theatre and Performing Arts; Theatre Doctoral School Regulation(b) methodology for conducting elections in CSUD, doctoral schools and proof of existence; Methodology for conducting the latest competition for the position of CSUD Manager of proof documenting the actual existence of the competition, etc.

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 condition is fulfilled, as it is seen from the self-evaluation documents.

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.

The condition is fulfilled, as it is seen from the self-evaluation documents. The colleagues that were on the site verified that all the institution's capacities are fulfilled.

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.

Anti-plagiarism software is available on the institution and all students and PhD supervisors are well informed about the procedures.

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.

This area is a bit underdeveloped, but one of the goals of the institution is going in this direction: to capitalise on research results, by means of specific channels: publication of studies, essays, articles in the journal Colocvii teatrale [Theatrical Colloquia] of the Research Centre Theatre Art - study and creation (Arta teatrului - studiu și creație), in specialist/cultural journals with high impact at national level; publication of specialist books at the Artes Publishing House of UAGE and at other recognised publishing houses; the members of the Doctoral School should ensure specialist expertise as scientific reviewers, authors of forewords, afterwards, introductory studies, book launches, and to capitalise on scientific research and/or artistic creation outcomes achieved by the members of the Doctoral School by participation in symposia, conferences, theatre performances, art tours in Romania and abroad, by publication of articles/studies in national or international symposia/conferences volumes, in journals with international recognition or IDB indexed journals etc.

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%.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).

Most of the students enroll the system via contract.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

Research as praise to interdisciplinarity is a constant concern of the Theatre Doctoral School, even more so as the art of theatre remains a syncretic art. Moreover, the very structure by domains of the "George Enescu" National Art University of Iași encourages such approaches. They intend to focus more on the joint supervision of PhD thesis, on the



participation of PhD students in programmes initiated by other Doctoral Schools (Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology etc.), and approach colleagues from other fields and involve them in the scientific events organised by the Theatre Doctoral School.

Their goal is to strengthen professional communication in the various fields of humanities, both nationally and internationally. Frequently, in their research projects, their doctoral students face various situations which go beyond their field of specialisation, and need transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary guidance.

A third research direction starts from taking ownership of a common European cultural background. There are many Romanian contributions to in-depth scrutiny of some great European themes (re-evaluation of dramaturgy, directing systems, performance arts and theatrical aesthetics), and the Theatre Doctoral School of Iași registers a significant number of research projects dedicated to this type of scientific inquiry.

Another area of interest focuses on research turned in upon itself or, in other words, the interest for meta-research.

One of the successful programmes of the Theatre Doctoral School of Iași is entitled “Theatre researchers: for whom do they research?” This is attempt to go beyond the somewhat abstract nature which research can acquire and to define as explicitly as possible the target audience of their research.

The programme mentioned above, carried out in the form of cultural-scientific events with an audience, has the side goal to bring research out of the “ivory tower” cliché and to engage the artistic community in the very heart of the research. It is a form of “open door” research. The research plan of a theatre doctoral school cannot turn a blind eye to the new formulas of “social theatre”, “political theatre”, “independent theatre”, “institutionalised theatre” etc. - much different from their meanings in past decades.

The dynamics of the Theatre Faculty of Iasi also lead to certain research directions. The development in recent years of the Choreography department, for example, requires the expansion of the field and of the interest given not only to the theatre show, but also to the dance show. The functions of contemporary dance, the thorny classical-modern relationship in choreography, the ambiguity of concepts such as theatre-dance open new research horizons. Five doctoral mentors (appointed pursuant to law) carry out their activity in this doctoral field; they all meet the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory to obtain their habilitation certificate.

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.



I was not able to participate in an on-site visit, but colleagues from the evaluation committee declare that venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

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

Currently, the Theatre Doctoral School has the following doctoral mentors:

1. Professor Anca-Maria Rusu, PhD
 2. Habilitated Professor PhD Aurelian Bălăiță
 3. Habilitated Professor PhD Anca-Doina Ciobotaru
 4. Professor Alexa Visarion, PhD
 5. Habilitated Lecturer (PhD) Călin Ciobotari
(calinciobotari@yahoo.com)
- Table of currently active doctoral mentors.

All doctoral mentors meet the CNATDCU criteria, therefore the share is 100%, according to Annex 17 - Minimum Standards Form.

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.

At least 50% of the doctoral mentors in the doctoral area subject to assessment are full-time mentors with IOSUD. A full-time professor of the IOSUD subject to review is a doctoral mentor who has a full-time tenure agreement with the higher education institution coordinating IOSUD or with one of the institutions included in the consortium composing IOSUD or with the partnerships concluded under the terms of Art. 6 of the Code approved by Government Decision No. 681/2011, as subsequently amended.

Of the five doctoral mentors, four (4) are tenured and one (1) is under a part-time agreement

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 disciplines of the training programme based on advanced university studies are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral/habilitated doctoral mentors, professors or lecturers II with a proven expertise in the area of the taught disciplines or by other specialists in the area who meet the standards set by the institution for the teaching and research positions mentioned above.

The share of doctoral mentors who coordinate concomitantly more than 8 doctoral students, but not more than 12, during their doctoral studies (3 or 4 years, depending on the field, plus the extension periods granted according to Art. 39, paragraph (3) of GD no. 681/2011, as subsequently amended and supplemented, does not exceed 20%.

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%.

For the period under scrutiny, the share of doctoral mentors who coordinate concomitantly more than 8 doctoral students, but not more than 12, does not exceed 20%. Out of five doctoral mentors, tenured and affiliated to the Doctoral School, only one coordinates 12 doctoral students.

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.

As for Standard A.3.2, doctoral mentors of the doctoral school carry out scientific activities that are visible at an 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.



At least 50% of the doctoral mentors in the area subject to assessment present minimum 5 publications that are indexed by “Web of Science” or ERIH in magazines with high impact, or other accomplishments of significant relevance for the respective area, which include contributions at a national level revealing progress in scientific research-development-innovation for the relevant field. The doctoral mentors mentioned above have had international visibility over the past five years as: members of scientific boards of international publications and conferences; members of boards of international professional associations; guest speakers in conferences or expert groups held abroad or as members of commissions for the presentation of doctoral dissertations of universities abroad or in co-tutelage with a foreign university. For the branches of science, Arts, and Sports and Physical Education, doctoral mentors should be capable of demonstrating their international visibility in the past five years by their quality of members in the boards of professional associations, of members in committees for the organisation of international artistic events and competitions, and by their quality of members of juries or arbitration teams in international artistic events or competitions.

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 mentors of the Theatre Doctoral School carry out creative and scientific research activities recognised at national and international levels. In addition to the list of papers published as authors, in journals quoted in international databases, for the past 5 years, and all of these activities and recognitions are monitored and evaluated for each doctoral mentor,

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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

Since the establishment, in 2003, of the UNAGE Theatre Doctoral School, all doctoral theses finalised by doctoral students were validated by CNATDCU and were appraised as Very Good and Excellent; none of the theses had to be rewritten. No thesis was rejected. For the period 2015-2020: number of doctoral theses finalised and validated by CNATDCU: 27 theses; number of theses rewritten and validated by CNATDCU: 0 theses.

All theses are checked for similarities.

The Doctoral School has 41 doctoral students.

Admissions in 2015-2020:



2015 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 4 students - seats reserved for students from the Republic of Moldova;

2016 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats and 1 student - tuition seat;

2017 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 students - seats reserved for students from the Republic of Moldova;

2018 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 , 1 student - tuition seat;

2019 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 students -tuition seats;

2020 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 6 students - tuition seats, 1 student - Romanians Abroad Programme.

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.

Applicants admitted to doctoral studies are of the highest quality. The number of Master's Degree graduates from other educational institutions who, in the past five years, have registered for the admission competition was 37. The number of seats financed by the state budget, open for competition in recent years was 39. The resulting ratio is 0.94.

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.

The drop-out/abandonment rate of doctoral students 2 years after the admission does not exceed 30%. According to the records drafted by the Theatre Doctoral School Secretariat, the dropout rate among doctoral students 2 years after admission is 0%, with no dropout cases on record. Regarding the quality of doctoral students admitted, some of them already enjoy recognition in the national theatrical field, working for or collaborating with prestigious institutions in Romania (national or county performance institutions, other cultural institutions), with renowned authors of studies or scientific works in the theatrical field, people who, generally speaking, have proven their seriousness, engagement and academic honesty.



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%.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.**

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

The Training Programme Based on Advanced University Studies is adequate for improving the research skills of doctoral students and for strengthening the ethical conduct in the science area.

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 Training Programme Based on Advanced University Studies includes at least three subject matters relevant for the training of doctoral students in scientific research, out of which at least one discipline is devoted to in-depth study of the research methodology and/or of the statistical data processing. The curriculum comprises in-depth study topics organized in a total of nine subjects (8 optional subjects and one compulsory subject, dedicated to the ethics and deontology of university research). The subject "Research Methods and Techniques" involves in-depth study of field-specific research methodologies. The attached subjects description forms include specific references to the knowledge, skills, competences, responsibility and autonomy acquired by doctoral students upon completion of the training programme.

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.

There is at least one discipline devoted to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property or well demarcated themes addressing these topics in the doctoral curriculum. The ongoing Education Plan includes the subject "Academic Ethics and Integrity", which is compulsory for all doctoral students in the field.

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.

IOSUD has put in place mechanisms whereby it makes sure that the Training Programme Based on Advanced University Studies (Programul de pregătire bazat pe studii universitare avansate) related to the field subject to assessment targets the “results of learning”, by specifying the knowledge, abilities, accountability and autonomy that should be acquired by doctoral students after they cover each discipline or through research activities. The faculty has a quality assurance committee which monitors and provides feedback on these forms. The Committee for Teaching, Assessment and Quality Assurance (Comisia de evaluare și asigurarea calității învățământului). The content of each of the subjects included in the training programme, as well as the objectives, goals, implementation opportunities are detailed in the subject and topics.

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.

Over the entire doctoral training period, doctoral students in the area benefit from counselling/guidance from functional guiding commissions, an aspect reflected through guidance and written feedback or regular meetings. Each doctoral student benefits from advice provided by a functional doctoral committee. Annex 14 - Guidance Committees Theatre.

The members of the Guidance Committee are specified in the PhD student's file. Each member of the committee shall mention and sign the appraisal for each report submitted by the applicant to the Guidance Committee. Doctoral students carry out their research and artistic creation activity under the guidance of mentors and of members of the guidance committees, publish articles, and fulfil their obligations provided in the study contract. In particular, the committee supports the publication of articles by doctoral students in the accredited journal “Colocvii teatrale” of UNAGE. Prior to the meetings to support planned research reports or the doctoral thesis, there are guidance and clarification meetings with the members of the guidance committee, upon request by the doctoral students. Such meetings take place in the educational facilities of the university or by email or over the phone. The Theatre Doctoral School organises the cycle of doctoral conferences “Aula Magna” where doctoral students deliver, together with their mentors or with members of the Guidance Committee, various presentation in the field of research topics, according to the table attached to the Annex 34 - Aula Magna conferences.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

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



For a doctoral study field, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of the teaching staff members/researchers who provide guidance must not be higher than 3:1. In addition to the five members of the doctoral school who are part of the guiding committees, the Theatre Doctoral School constantly invites other teaching staff from UNAGE or other higher education institutions, the main criterion being the expertise on the specific topic chosen by the doctoral student. Thus, some professors are co-opted into guidance committees from Universities abroad.

Therefore, there were 20 professors - members of the Guidance Committees for a number of 55 PhD students, under the 3:1 ratio ceiling. (Annex 14 - Guidance Committees Theatre).

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.

For the field subject to assessment, the appraisal commission must be presented with at least one article or another relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a PhD degree in the past 5 years. Out of this list, members of the appraisal commission select randomly for review five such articles/relevant contributions per university doctoral study field. The articles selected and reviewed in this way will receive a score for their original contribution to the field development on a scale from 1 to 5. At least 2 articles must reach the limit of 3 points. The list of selected articles (1 article/student) and the links to those articles may be accessed in the Annex 32 - Graduates' scientific articles. Doctoral students of the Theatre Doctoral School who have obtained the PhD degree in the past five years were taken into account.

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 ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies in the period subject to assessment (the past 5 years), including those



of poster type, exhibitions presented in prestige international events (organised in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their studies in the period subject to assessment (the past 5 years) is at least equal to 1. The list of doctoral students who completed their studies in the evaluated period (2015-2020) includes important names of the Romanian theatre.

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.

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.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

“George Enescu” National Arts University has the Quality Assurance and Assessment Committee (CEAC) - a structure responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and enforcement of quality assurance and assessment procedures and activities.

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.

Since the establishment, in 2003, of the UNAGE Theatre Doctoral School, all doctoral theses finalised by doctoral students were validated by CNATDCU and were appraised as Very Good and Excellent; none of the theses had to be rewritten. No thesis was rejected. For the period 2015-2020: number of doctoral theses finalised and validated by CNATDCU: 27 theses; number of theses rewritten and validated by CNATDCU: 0 theses. All theses are checked for similarities.

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.

Currently (2021), the Doctoral School has 41 doctoral students (see Annex 29 - Theatre PhD students status). Admissions in 2015-2020:

2015 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 4 students - seats reserved for students from the Republic of Moldova;

2016 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats and 1 student -tuition seat;

2017 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 students - seats reserved for students from the Republic of Moldova;

2018 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 , 1 student - tuition seat;

2019 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 students -tuition seats;

2020 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 6 students - tuition seats, 1 student - Romanians Abroad Programme.

The Theatre Doctoral School Regulation also includes a chapter on Assessment - Chapter III. Assessment of the Doctoral School and of the doctoral mentors. The infrastructure and logistics required for the performance of research activities; The infrastructure and logistics necessary to conduct research activities, at the level of the Theatre Doctoral School, have already been presented. The participants in the CSUD meetings constantly evaluate the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity at each Doctoral School indicates the evolution of investments supported by sound rationale provided by the Doctoral Schools directors. The internal quality assurance system is implemented in UNAGE pursuant to the regulations and to the UNAGE charter.

The monitoring of internal quality assurance in the Theatre Doctoral School is included in the annual reports of the CEAC Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission. The Theatre Doctoral School drafts annual self-assessment reports which drive the actions taken to support internal quality assurance.

All procedures and subsequent rules underpinning the organisation of doctoral studies by the Theatre Doctoral School are specified in the Institutional Regulation on the organisation and functioning of doctoral study programmes. Participants in the regular CSUD meetings analyse the options of re-organisation related to procedures and subsequent rules, based on any changes in the legal context and in the educational philosophies.

During the doctoral study period, mechanisms are implemented in order to obtain feedback from doctoral students, whereby their needs, as well as their general satisfaction level to the university doctoral study curriculum are identified, in order to permanently improve the academic and administrative processes. Student/PhD student satisfaction is an important



indicator of the quality of educational services provided by UNAGE. The institution develops and applies various methods to investigate this degree of satisfaction, on annual basis; students participate annually in teacher assessments and express their views on the quality of teacher performance in all activities in the curriculum, on the general speciality training they receive, on the artistic practice and other actions in which they are involved.

“George Enescu” National Art University of Iași also applies a questionnaire to study the degree of satisfaction in order to enhance the quality of education and all services provided to students. Results suggest that over 85% of the students attending courses provided by this institution are satisfied with the learning environment and the opportunities of professional and personal development offered by the university.

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.

The institution promotes a culture of quality. The quality-oriented programme of policies and strategies developed by the university is followed-up pursued by the specialist committee in order to apply and permanently improve the quality standards. Each policy has attached implementation strategies with concrete provisions and deadlines.

The Committee coordinates the implementation of the quality assessment and assurance procedures and activities. The assessment procedures and activities regarding the quality of education were developed and approved by the University Senate. The Quality Assurance and Assessment Committee (Comisia pentru Evaluarea și Asigurarea Calității) writes the annual internal evaluation report, makes it public by discussion in the University Senate and by posting it and makes proposals aimed at improving education, including provisions at the level of Doctoral Schools. The Committee cooperate with ARACIS and other universities in the country and abroad through teaching staff exchanges and internships, to identify and adopt good practices for quality improvement. Regular peer review is mandatory in the “George Enescu” National Arts University, pursuant to the Regulations on the assessment of teaching staff.

The results processed statistically at each level are discussed and analysed at faculty and institution levels and provide information to improve teaching activities and the relationship with the students. The information and evaluations at study programme level are processed every year to inform the Annual Quality Assessment Report for the entire institution, therefore also for the Theatre Doctoral School

The Regulation on the regular assessment of teaching staff quality includes forms for the multi-criteria assessment of the teaching staff, which is taken into account when teaching staff is promoted. Students participate annually in teacher assessments and express their views on the quality of teacher performance in all activities in the curriculum, on the general



speciality training they receive, the art practice and other actions in which they are involved. “George Enescu” National Art University of Iași also applies a questionnaire to study the degree of satisfaction in order to enhance the quality of education and all services provided to students.

Results suggest that over 85% of the students attending courses provided by this institution are satisfied with the learning environment and the opportunities of professional and personal development offered by the university.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

“George Enescu” National Arts University of Iași and, implicitly, the Theatre Doctoral School provides a complex information system, made available to doctoral students for quality assurance purposes and containing various online portals and facilities, managed and maintained by the IT and Printing Services Department, in collaboration with other departments.

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

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

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

The doctoral school, through IOSUD, publishes on the website of the organising institution, by observing the data protection general rules, information on: (a)the regulation of the doctoral school; Theatre Doctoral School Regulations - Regulation on the organisation and functioning of doctoral study programme.

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.



Each doctoral student has access, upon request, to an electronic system enabling him/her to check the similarity to other existing scientific or artistic creations. IOSUD contracted and implemented software services/applications enabling similarity checks for the scientific achievements of doctoral students, including the doctoral thesis, with other existing scientific or artistic works, and for doctoral students' access to this facility. The proprietary software www.sistemantiplagiat.ro may be used upon request filed with the Secretariat by doctoral students or by doctoral mentors. Pursuant to the legislation in force, the reports issued by www.sistemantiplagiat.ro are uploaded on the CNATDCU platform of the Ministry to obtain the validation of each PhD thesis.

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.

Regulated on the University level. More bases should be included.

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.

This is done with the usage of anti-plagiarism software, which is accessible to everyone, staff and the PhD students.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities, depending on the specificity of the area/areas of the doctoral school, based on internal rules.

The physical facilities for the scientific research and artistic creation activities shall consist of the UAGE infrastructure, more specifically, laboratories and other similar facilities, performance and exhibition halls, amphitheatres and study and production halls and workshops, Library, printing house, IT facilities.

Unless otherwise specified, the use of the physical facilities shall be free of charge or only the current expenses related to the use of that constituent segment of the physical facilities shall be covered.

In UAGE, scientific research and artistic creation shall benefit free of charge from the services of the entire information and documentation network of the University.

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.

The field under scrutiny here has concluded - through IOSUD - a number of mobility agreements with universities from abroad, research institutes, and companies working in the field under scrutiny, concerning the mobility of undergraduates/doctoral students and of the teaching staff (for example, ERASMUS agreements for doctoral study cycles). At least 35% of the undergraduates/doctoral students have completed a training internship abroad or another mobility form, such as the participation in international scientific conferences.

UNAGE has a number inter-university cooperation agreements.

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.

Encouraging of the co-tutelage and invitation of foreign lecturers is encouraged but is not yet fully operative.

Recommendations: **The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

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

The overall scientific research and artistic creation strategy of the “George Enescu” National Arts University is presented UNAGE Research Strategy, and the internationalisation strategy is presented in, both published on the UNAGE website. Theatre Doctoral School aims to increase the degree of internationalisation, as a specific objective of the Research Strategy of the Theatre Doctoral School 2017-2021.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**



IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <p>The configuration and sustainability of the research infrastructure; openness to other cultural paradigms which may enrich and really foster the pathway to performance in the Theatre and Performing Arts Field; dialogue with institutions working in the field of performing arts and research, and they often try and successfully convince them to open up to cooperation with doctoral students and graduates of the Theatre Doctoral School, and to integrate the latter's professional excellence in their own institutional objectives; actions to permanently ensure research excellence and indisputable originality.</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <p>Not so much foreign grants and projects; students seem to be not so eager to internationalize the activities.</p>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>To support initiatives to participate in field-specific programmes and projects, locally, nationally and internationally; to develop the doctoral study programme, so as to become a training school for young researchers and creators, an attractive environment for their work; to diversify teaching, research strategies, that involve the development of a participatory attitude of doctoral students.</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>Closing in local community issues; difficult to raise awareness on interdisciplinary work and contemporary cultural vocation in scientific research and artistic creation.</p>

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
	A	1.1.1.	fulfiled	
		1.1.2.	fulfiled	
		1.2.1.	fulfiled	
		1.2.2.	fulfiled	
		1.3.1.	fulfiled	



		1.3.3.	fulfilled	
		3.1.1.	fulfilled	
		3.1.2.	fulfilled	
		3.1.3.	fulfilled	
		3.1.4.	fulfilled	
		3.2.1.	fulfilled	
		3.2.2.	fulfilled	
	B	1.1.1.	fulfilled	
		1.1.2.	fulfilled	
		2.1.1.	fulfilled	
		2.1.2.	fulfilled	
		2.1.3.	fulfilled	
		2.1.4.	fulfilled	
		2.1.5.	fulfilled	
		3.1.1.	fulfilled	
		3.1.2.	fulfilled	
		3.2.1.	fulfilled	
		3.2.2.	fulfilled	
	C	3.1.1.	fulfilled	
		3.1.2	partially fulfilled	encourage invitation lecturers and coutoutelage
		3.1.1.	fulfilled	