

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction¹

In this chapter, the following shall be summarized:

- the context in which this external evaluation report was drafted (**the type of evaluation, the period of the evaluation visit, the composition of the Experts Committee** etc.);
- details about the doctoral school(s) of which the doctoral domain under review is part (number of doctoral advisors, number of students, institutional context, short history etc.);
- details about the doctoral study domain under review (number of students, institutional context, short history etc.).

This report corresponds to a request from ARACIS for the periodic external evaluation of the Doctoral School of Geosciences of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. The activities, stages and methodology for the accreditation procedures of doctoral studies are as described in the article 158 para (4) of the Law of National Education n^o 1/2011; the Government's Emergency Ordinance n^o 75/2005 on quality assurance in education, approved by Law n^o 87/2006; the Ministerial Order n^o 3200/2020 on the Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral university studies and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation and the Guides on conducting the periodic external evaluation process of doctoral schools and doctoral study domains, developed by ARACIS. This evaluation report describes how the standards are met and provides additional suggestions for improving the program.

In order to carry out the external evaluation, ARACIS appointed a committee consisting of the following members:

External evaluation committee. Domain: GEOLOGY

Coordinator: Prof. Univ. Dr. Victor MOCANU

Universitatea din București

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



International expert: Prof. Univ. Dr. Manuel TOSCANO University of Huelva, Spain

PhD student: Alina-Mihaela SIMION

Universitatea din București

Members of the External Evaluation Committee (EEC) reviewed and examined the accreditation reports provided by the Doctoral School of Geosciences of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. The reports were evaluated individually before the remote site visit on 9-17 September 2021.

The Doctoral School of Geosciences appeared in 2017, as an independent organisational and administrative structure, within the IOSUD of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași in the context of the reorganisation of the Doctoral School of Chemistry, Life and Earth Sciences. The Doctoral School of Geosciences (DSG) has merged the existing PhD programmes in Geography, Geology and Environmental Science in the Doctoral School of Chemistry and Life and Earth Sciences. Geography and Geology are traditional doctoral fields in the University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" of Iași, since it started operating in 1938. In the evaluation period from 2016 to 2020, the school had 5 PhD supervisors and 11 students, with a maximum of 4 students per year.

II. Methods used

This chapter will contain the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, including at least:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit (if such documents have been requested);
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, comprising (indicative and non-exhaustive list, which shall be changed according to the context):
 - classrooms;
 - laboratories;
 - the institution's library;
 - research centers;
 - the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
 - lecture halls for students;
 - the student residences;
 - the student cafeteria;
 - sports ground etc.;
- 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);
 - the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
 - student organizations;
 - secretariats;
 - various departments/administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.);
- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review.

The EEC had access to all documentation corresponding to the evaluation process through a restricted access authorisation to the ARACIS cloud, including reports and documentation to prepare for the remote site visit.

The coordinator performed a tour of the university facilities, who considered the questions requested by the other members of the committee. During the site visit, the coordinator of the EEC was presented with the detailed organisation, structure, and curricula of the Doctoral School of Geosciences. The EEC had meetings with the university, program leadership, professors, staff and current and past students of the DSG. The EEC received answers to open questions based on reading the accreditation reports. The EEC received answers to identified open questions during the remote site visit as well as substantial additional insights about the operation, structure and plans of the Doctoral School.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

The documentation analysis indicates that the DSG has the appropriate legal mechanisms for it to function correctly and respond to the university community. According to the documents, the Council of the Doctoral School (CDS) manages the DSG, and meetings are held regularly. In addition, during the pandemic period, decisions such as expulsions or agreements for public support committees were voted in the CDS through agreements given by email.



Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:*

- (a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;*
- (b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;*
- (c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);*
- (d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;*
- (e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;*
- (f) the contract for doctoral studies;*
- (g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The DSG provide adequate evidence. They have established regulations and protocols that ensure a high level of management.

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The institution includes all criteria, procedures and standards in its regulations, and they are available for consultation.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*



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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Within IOSUD-UAIC, an appropriate information system is implemented for the registration of doctoral students and their academic career, called eSims.

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. IOSUD - UAIC Iasi uses a special module dedicated to this functionality within the Blackboard e-learning platform - SafeAssign. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi being among the first higher education institutions in Romania to invest in this direction and the only public university to have purchased this e-learning platform. The similarity report is carried out for all doctoral theses.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. During the period evaluated, 2016-2020 PhD students in the field of GEOLOGY have benefited from five projects whose references are included in the dossier submitted by the DSG.

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%.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. DSG includes a table showing that at the level of 2020, 12 students benefit from supplementary funding, representing 92% of the 13 PhD students active in the field of Geology.

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. DSG includes detailed budget allocation tables for doctoral grants received during the evaluated period (2016-2020).

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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



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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The research infrastructure and the material equipment endowment of IOSUD as well as of the Faculty of Geography and Geology allow the development of the research activity within the DSG. This matter has been inspected on site by the committee coordinator.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The DSG's team of five supervisors is highly scientifically trained and meets the minimum standards required.



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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. All the doctoral supervisors are full-time at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi or other universities.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.3. *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. All disciplines in the training program based on advanced university studies related to the field are supported by doctoral supervisors from the DSG.

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.4. *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs³ does not exceed 20%.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. None of the doctoral supervisors reaches the number of 8 doctoral students.

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



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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The doctoral supervisors develop an intensive research activity. Their production includes enough publications in journals listed in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar databases, etc.

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The scientific production and research activity of doctoral supervisors exceeds 25% of the minimum criteria established by the CNATDCU.



Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

Standard B.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies has the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution or a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **not fulfilled**. Only during the academic year 2018-2019, the minimum level concerning the origin of candidates registered by budget is reached, while the ratio between report candidates/Budget places has been one during the whole period evaluated.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Admission to the doctoral studies in Geology is carried out in accordance with the methodology of admission to IOSUD, approved annually. In the evaluated period, the doctoral admission consisted of two tests: written test and oral test.

Performance Indicator B.1.2.2. *The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission⁴ does not exceed 30%.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. According to the number of enrolled students and expelled students, the expelling rate is 16,67%.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Within the training program of the DSG, the doctoral student participates in the activities from three compulsory disciplines:

- Current trends in fundamental and applied research,
- Experimental techniques, processing and presentation of results in the field of specialization,

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



- Ethics and academic integrity.

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The curriculum contains a discipline devoted to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property denominated "Ethics and academic integrity".

Performance Indicator B.2.1.3. *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities⁵.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The course description for each course in the training program curriculum based on advanced university studies details the competencies, skills, and attitudes that PhD students will acquire after completing each course.

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

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



The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The DSG has a commission for advising/guiding doctoral students in the doctoral field of Geology. The guidance commission is composed of 19 members.

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The DSG has a lower ratio than required by the regulations.

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Annexe 29 presents at least one article for each PhD student in the field of Geology who obtained the title of doctor in the evaluated period. All the papers presented are of a high scientific level and originality and have been published in leading scientific journals in the field of Geology.

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



of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. During the evaluated period, the 13 doctoral students obtained the title of doctor presented 15 communications at international scientific events. The rate is 1,15.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. This item is checked on the table included in the report (pg. 51).

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.



The indicator is **partially fulfilled**. There is only a case that surpasses the ratio with a value of 0.31. It is the case of Prof. Univ. Dr. Laurențiu Călin Baciuc, Babeș Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca exceeds the ratio of 0.3 between the number of doctoral theses allocated to a certain scientific referent from another higher education institution than the one in which the doctoral thesis is organized and the number of theses doctoral dissertations in the same doctoral field within the doctoral school by reference to the situation registered in the last five years.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The DSG has an adequate Operational Procedure regarding the evaluation and internal monitoring of the doctoral Geoscience Doctoral School of schools within the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași. It establishes the procedure of internal evaluation of the doctoral schools and of the domains of doctoral studies in order to accredit and periodically evaluate them according to the Methodology of Evaluation of Doctoral University Studies elaborated in accordance with the legislation in force. The application of the procedure is materialized in the form of periodic reports made at the level of the Doctoral School.



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.

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **partially fulfilled**. A tool for monitoring student satisfaction is the questionnaire applied at IOSUD Level: How satisfied are you with the University services? It is launched annually to assess students' perceptions in a systematic way and to better understand what they want from university. Nevertheless, the EEC was informed at one of its meetings that the feedback was not sufficient.

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

(a) the Doctoral School regulation;

(b) the admission regulation;

(c) the doctoral studies contract;

(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;

(e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;

(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;

(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);

(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;

(i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.

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

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



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Information of interest to doctoral students and public interest is available for consultation on the University's website and on the Doctoral School website, although it requires general improvement.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Students have free access to the essential online scientific documentation resources worldwide, including Clarivate Analytics (Web of Science + Derwent Innovation + Journal Citation Report), Science Direct, SCOPUS, MathSciNet, Geoscience Doctoral School of SciFinder, ScienceDirect National Archives, ScienceDirect. Free access is allowed due to UAIC's participation as a contributing member in the project "Electronic National Access to Scientific Literature to Support the Research and Education System in ROMANIA - ANELIS PLUS 2020".

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

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. IOSUD guarantees the necessary resources to verify the percentage of similarity of doctoral theses.

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.



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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The doctoral students have access to the research infrastructure based on operational procedures for access to research infrastructure. As evidence of this statement are the mentions of infrastructure users at the end of the published articles.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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.*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The Geology field, through the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași and the Faculty of Geography and Geology, has concluded bilateral inter-institutional agreements and agreements within the ERASMUS program for practice and study mobility for doctoral students and teachers. During 2016-2020, 8 external delegations were made. Considering that there were 38 active students in the internship during this period, it results in the mobilities representing 21%.

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.*

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



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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. Within the Doctoral Field Geology, a series of recognized researchers in the field were invited in the evaluated period (2016-2020) who gave lectures that benefited the doctoral students.

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.).*

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

The indicator is **fulfilled**. The "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași (UAIC), to increase the visibility and promotion of UAIC and strengthen existing cooperation relations and develop new partnerships, carried out several activities to achieve the objectives of increasing the number of international students.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
<p>- the strengths identified throughout the report will be resumed as part of the indicators' analysis. Other general strengths that do not fall within a particular indicator may be formulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ They have high-quality, qualified and well-trained teaching staff with a high scientific capacity. ✓ The doctoral supervisors have trained students who acquire a high level of scientific competence. ✓ The graduates have a high rate of employability, both in academia and industry. ✓ There is excellent communication between supervisors and students. ✓ The university offers adequate facilities to accommodate a more significant number of PhD students. 	<p>- the weaknesses identified throughout the report will be resumed as part of the indicators' analysis. Other general weaknesses that do not fall within a particular indicator may be formulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Limited funding. ✓ The university has no specialised teaching staff in each of the areas of knowledge of geosciences. ✓ The generational renewal of doctoral supervisors is inadequate. ✓ There is excessive pressure to publish in high impact journals in a short time. ✓ A low number of students. ✓ The international mobility of students should be enhanced in order to improve their communication and scientific skills. This mobility will also help to strengthen

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The studies evaluated have an important tradition in the context of Romanian doctoral studies. ✓ The studies have a low drop-out rate. 	<p>international scientific links, not only for the student, but also for the DSG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The DSG website needs to be improved, including content in English.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - possible lines of action for the development of the institution under review shall be identified; - examples of opportunities: a favorable economic environment in the proximity of the assessed institution, the uniqueness of the study programs and their relevance to the local/national market, the overall attractiveness of the study programs etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are few PhD schools in Geology in Romania. ✓ Strengthen the PhD offer in only a few areas of knowledge, allowing it to stand out from other universities with doctoral studies in Geology. ✓ Establish agreements with nearby universities for joint doctoral studies. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the possible causes of the deficient aspects (the causes of the identified weaknesses), which are practically the threats to the proper functioning of the institution, shall be identified; - besides, there may be external threats, such as: the inopportune economic environment in the proximity of the assessed institution, the conduct of low attractiveness study programs for both candidates and the labor market etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The low number of students may cause the government authorities to reconsider the profitability of doctoral studies in Geology in the medium term.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School; b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct; c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies); 	<i>Fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>		
2.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
3.	PI	<p>A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	Fulfilled	
4.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
5.	IP	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	<p>Students and scientific staff could be trained to be more successful in applying for national and international funding.</p>
6.	PI *	<p>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</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.		
7.	PI *	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.).	Fulfilled	Support for PhD students' research should be increased, as they are required to publish in top journals. Obtaining data to publish in some first quartile journals in the field of Geology involves a minimum investment of approximately 20,000 to 30,000 euros. This amount is far from the contribution made by the institutions to the students.
8.	CPI	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	Fulfilled	The maintenance of laboratory research equipment and the renewal of research equipment needs to be planned globally since publishing in top-level journals involves submitting data that require increasing precision. In addition, it is essential to have a technical staff to support laboratory work, which has a positive impact on optimising the investment.
9.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	It is recommended that an effort be made to carry out a generational renewal of doctoral supervisors. The number of supervisors is very limited, and the relocation of one of them to another university or their retirement may significantly affect some of the factors assessed in this report.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
11.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
12.	PI *	<p>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%.</p>	Fulfilled	
13.	CPI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
14.	PI *	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	Fulfilled	
15.	PI *	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.	Not fulfilled	Efforts should be increased to attract students from other national and international universities, perhaps through specialisation to differentiate from other universities. In addition, the achievement of more projects can attract students from other universities through contracts.
16.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	
18.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
19.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
20.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
21.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
22.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	
23.	CPI	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	Fulfilled	Not all scientific evaluations should be measured based on publications in high-level scientific journals, especially when an exceptional paper can take almost a year or more to be published. Many top 200 universities accept that their doctoral students submit a compendium of papers submitted to journals but not yet published. Unfortunately, the editorial process of some journals is very protracted, which can impact the success rate of the PhD students.
24.	PI *	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	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.		
25.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
26.	PI *	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.	Partially fulfilled	In the future, the DSG must consider this ratio in order to comply with the required values.
27.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
28.	PI *	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	Partially fulfilled	Although it is not a problem exclusive to this university, student participation should be encouraged. Perhaps through participation in a prize draw, or by making it compulsory before completing the final administrative

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		procedures for obtaining a doctoral certificate.
29.	CPI	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Fulfilled	It is recommended that the contents of the website be improved. Although all doctoral schools start from a similar attractive design, the accessibility to the content and the browsing needs to be improved. For example, there is a significant difference between the web of the Doctoral School in Geology and the one for Computer Science.
30.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
31.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
32.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
33.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
34.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
35.	PI	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.).	Fulfilled	A more significant effort must be made to achieve the internationalisation objectives. In particular, the DSG's most important content must be available in English on its website. In addition, at least the fundamental courses should be taught in English.

The recommendations contained in the report shall be resumed in the indicators' analysis. Other general recommendations may be made that do not fit within a particular indicator.

VERY IMPORTANT!!! – *Each identified weakness must be correlated with at least one recommendation to improve the situation!*

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Several important issues raised during the evaluation are resumed and some general conclusions are drawn on the quality of the education provided within the doctoral study domain under review; the Experts' Panel also presents general assessments about the institution. Other general recommendation may also be presented, which cannot be related to a specific indicator and have not been presented at point V.



A decision is proposed, together with the reasons for granting it (if the Experts' Panel members do not reach a consensus, each of them can propose and argue his/her own decision).

The EEC evaluated the Doctoral School of Geosciences of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași based on the provided accreditation reports and the remote site visit. On the basis of the provided information, the International Expert concludes that the doctoral school of Geosciences being evaluated has high standards and meets quality expectations. Overall, the DSG has an excellent scientific working environment conducive to the training of highly scientifically qualified PhDs. However, several areas for improvement have been identified.

Given the current trend towards the internationalisation of education and research, it is highly desirable to attract international students by expanding the offer of courses taught in English. This offer will support incoming international students and also provide opportunities for visiting professors.

The DSG is facing upcoming retirements in the near future, which may affect the fulfilment of some critical parameters jeopardising the continuity of doctoral geology studies at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University. Therefore, it is recommended that the DSG make a recruitment plan considering the university's strategy. Within the recruitment plan, it would be necessary to consider whether to expand the offer of fields of knowledge within the Geology or to focus on specialisation in specific fields, which would allow for differentiation from other universities in the country.

In addition, to constitute a desirable offer for doctoral students from other universities and in an increasingly competitive international environment, it would be necessary to improve investment in research both at the level of the institution and at the level of the doctoral schools.

VII. Annexes

The following types of documents shall be attached:

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review, the results - optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation - if applicable.*
- *Scanned documents – any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.*
- *Pictures – if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc.*
- *Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved.*
- *Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report.*