

## **The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain Doctoral Field: Economics – University of Craiova**

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### **I. Introduction<sup>1</sup>**

The process of Periodic External Evaluation of Doctoral Study Domain in the field of **Economics** was a part of the Periodic Evaluation of Doctoral Studies at University of Craiova. In the evaluation process the following expert panel members participated: Coordinator of the Expert Panel, who is also an expert evaluator (member of academic staff listed in the National Register of Evaluators and has the status of doctoral advisor in the same doctoral study domain), an international expert (member of ARACIS International Evaluators' Register, operating outside Romania) and one doctoral student (member of the National Register of Student Evaluators). The evaluation was organised and coordinated by ARACIS.

The Periodic External Evaluation of Doctoral Study Domain in the field of Economics took place from 5th - 9th of July, 2021. During the week of evaluation activities in cooperation with University of Craiova and their representatives and other stakeholders there were online zoom meetings performed. The meetings were held together with IOSUD members. After the week of meetings there was additional week for additional requests for additional documents, individual evaluation activities, assessing the standards per Panel Team and drafting the External Evaluation Report. The meetings where the doctoral domain in the field of Economics participated were held together with all doctoral domains of the Doctoral Schools of Economic Sciences.

The Doctoral School of Economic Sciences (SDSE) is one of the ten doctoral schools of IOSUD University of Craiova whose legal status is conferred by the certification received from the Ministry of National Education (hereinafter referred to as MEN) and by the National Council for Attestation of Qualifications, Diplomas and University Certificates (hereinafter referred to as CNATDCU) in 2015, by Government Decision 778 / 23.09.2015, published in the Official Journal of Romania no. 723 bis / 25.09.2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



The management of the doctoral school is ensured by a director of the doctoral school elected by members of the doctoral school and validated by CSUD-UCV of all PhD supervisors affiliated to the doctoral school and by a Council of the doctoral school (CSD), for a term of 5 years. The doctoral school council includes PhD supervisors from the doctoral school in a maximum proportion of 50%, PhD students in a proportion of 20%, over-approximated if necessary, the rest being completed with members from outside the doctoral school chosen from scientific personalities of whose scientific activity has significant international recognition and personalities from the relevant industrial and socio-economic sectors.

The members of the doctoral school council formed established under Government Decision no. 681/2011 are university teachers who meet the minimum conditions for doctoral management. The doctorate at the University of Craiova in the fundamental field of social sciences, the branch of science - economic sciences, has over 45 years.

The Doctoral School of Economic Sciences started its activity in the academic year 2005-2006. On October 1, 2012, at the University of Craiova, the doctoral education was reorganized by establishing the Doctoral School of Social and Human Sciences for five branches of science and eleven doctoral fields. On October 1, 2015, the Doctoral School of IOSUD - University of Craiova - Doctoral School of Economics 5 Economic Sciences was re-established and it still has five accredited fields: Accounting, Management, Finance, **Economics**, Cybernetics, and Statistics. The Doctoral School of Economic Sciences is an academic community that brings together, within the five doctoral fields, 17 PhD supervisors, 45 research supervisors, and 95 PhD students enrolled in various stages of the doctoral training internship.

Currently (2019/2020), the SDSE is an academic community bringing together, within the 5 doctoral fields, 20 PhD supervisors, 49 research supervisors and 95 doctoral students enrolled in various stages of doctoral training (of which: Cybernetics and Statistics – 7 PhD students; Economics – 14 PhD students; Accounting – 24 PhD students, Management - 29 PhD students and Finance – 21 PhD students). The doctoral programme memes are supported by teachers from the four departments of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration: Economics, Accounting and International Affairs; Management, Marketing and Business Administration; Finance, Banking and Economic Analysis; Statistics and Economic Informatics.

In 2004, Prof. Pîrvu Gheorghe was awarded the title of doctoral supervisor, and in 2015 Prof. PhD. Cristea Simona-Mirela became affiliated by being awarded the habilitation certificate, following, in 2017, by Prof. PhD. Țîrcă (former Pociovălișteanu) Diana Mihaela (until October 29, 2020, after which she joined the Doctoral School of Economics within the Bucharest University of Economic Studies) (Annex A. 3.1.2.4. Affiliation\_SDSE\_Tirca POCIOVALISTEANU Diana Mihaela\_Senate 17 July 2017 and Annex A. 3.1.2.5. Withdrawal\_SDSE\_Tirca POCIOVALISTEANU Diana\_Senate 29.10.2020), and in February 2019, Assoc. PhD. Pîrvu Ramona Costina affiliated after being awarded the habilitation certificate in January 2019. As such, starting with the academic year 2017/2018, **the doctoral field of Economics operated with 3 doctoral supervisors, and from 2018/2019, with 4 doctoral supervisors**, affiliated with SDSE in the field of Economics, being maintained in the academic year 2019/2020 (Table 1). In the academic year 2020/2021, the doctoral field of Economics operates with 3 doctoral supervisors, being in the process of habilitation associate professor. PhD. Avram Costin Daniel

## II. Methods used

Methods used in this External evaluation process are as follows:

- Analysis of the periodic SER provided by IOSUD University of Craiova, Doctoral field **Economics**



- Analysis of the Annexes listed in the periodic SER and available on the cloud of ARACIS with online access to the cloud
- Analysis of additional documents provided and explained during the meetings in the week of evaluation
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD's/SDSE's website, in electronic format;
- The analysis of documents made available by what's up and gather during the on-site evaluation visit (research infrastructure, institutional infrastructure, classrooms, research centre, laboratory, library, available equipment, etc.)
- The analysis of the notes taken by external expert evaluator and information gathered during online zoom meetings with various stakeholders (with doctoral domain contact person/person who drafted SER, PhD supervisors and academic staff, director of SDSE's research centre and with the leader of the research laboratory, PhD students, PhD graduates, employers of the PhD graduates; Doctoral School Council members, IOSUD's representatives and Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD), members of the IOSUD's Ethics Committee and members of IOSUD's Quality Assurance Department, on-line preparatory, organizational and technical meetings of all Expert Panels, and its members, included in Periodic External Evaluation of Doctoral Study Domains of IOSUD)

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

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

The institutional capacity, including administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources as well as research infrastructure and quality of human resources are positively perceived and the doctoral domain Economics is seen as mostly fulfilled in this capacity. Majority of the performance indicators are fulfilled thanks to the specific regulation that is in place and applied on the level of IOSUD and doctoral domain Economics. The criteria and standards are applied, procedures implemented according to legislation, there is adequate software for the record of PhD students and there is also antiplagiarism software called Ssitemantiplagiat.ro. Research grants are also in place although there is always need for more financial resources. The only issues are noticed in the area of reaching 10% of the spending for students development but there is a positive response from the DSES to support PhD students in financing training expenses, conference fees, etc. The facilities are shared with other doctoral domains within the DSES and they are sufficient, well equipped. The academic staff and supervisors on the level of doctoral domain Economics are competent, with fulfilled national criteria and committed in terms of students support. They are scientifically active and motivated to grow, publish and participate in international programs, conferences and publications of high standards.

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

The mechanisms of efficient functioning related to the relevant law and legislation are fully implemented in the institution and on the doctoral domain in the field of Economics. There is a sufficient logistics too including software for monitoring PhD students, and antiplagiarism software to check the level of similarity of the research projects and dissertations. The financial sources are used optimally but in most sense



except some missing resources for funding students needs in terms of training, publishing fees, etc. Therefore there is a room for improvements in that area.

*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:*

- (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.*

*The Doctoral School has implemented efficient operation mechanisms and this can be seen from the SER as well as from the meetings with held with management, quality assurance and other stakeholders. The following information is provided in SER:*

*a) Regulations of the Doctoral School of Economic Sciences (SDSE) ([http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/scoala\\_doctorala/Regulament\\_SDSE\\_02\\_02\\_2019\\_1.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/scoala_doctorala/Regulament_SDSE_02_02_2019_1.pdf) ) The institutional regulation for the organization and development of the doctoral study programmes ([http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulamente/Regulamente%20studii/Regulamentul\\_de\\_organizare\\_si\\_functionare\\_programmee\\_studii\\_doctorat\\_al\\_IOSU D.pdf](http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulamente/Regulamente%20studii/Regulamentul_de_organizare_si_functionare_programmee_studii_doctorat_al_IOSU D.pdf) )*

*b) The methodology for appointing the CSUD-UCV members and for organizing the public competition for the appointment of the CSUD-UCV director ([http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulamente/Regulamente%20structuri%20UCv/2016\\_nov/Methodologie\\_Alegeri\\_IOSUD\\_UCv.pdf](http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulamente/Regulamente%20structuri%20UCv/2016_nov/Methodologie_Alegeri_IOSUD_UCv.pdf)) and their evidence, but also at the level of SDSE, for the position of CSD director, as well as of the student representative in CSD. Annex A.1.1.1.1. IOSUD Results for the director competition CSUD\_UCV\_2016*

*Annex A.1.1.1.2. IOSUD Election results CSUD\_UCV\_2016 Annex A.1.1.1.3. IOSUD Partial election results CSUD\_UCV\_2019 Annex A.1.1.1.4. IOSUD CSUD structure by Rector's Decision 8969A/01.09.2016 Annex A.1.1.1.5. IOSUD CSUD modified structure by Rector's Decision 3532A / 31.01.2019 Annex A. 1.1.1.7. SDSE\_Elections\_Director\_CSD\_students\_CSD\_2020*

*c) Regulation regarding the organization and IOSUD – University of Craiova - Doctoral School of Economic Sciences 24 development of the admission contest for undergraduate, master's and doctoral studies, for the academic year 2018-2019 ([http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/admitere/2018/UCv\\_Regulament\\_ADMITERE\\_2018\\_2019.pdf](http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/admitere/2018/UCv_Regulament_ADMITERE_2018_2019.pdf));*



[http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2897:admiterea-la-scoala-doctorala-destiinte-economice-2020&catid=156:studenti\\_doctorat&lang=en](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2897:admiterea-la-scoala-doctorala-destiinte-economice-2020&catid=156:studenti_doctorat&lang=en)

d) Methodology regarding the recognition of the doctoral degree in sciences, obtained abroad ([http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/metodol\\_oqii/2018/met\\_doctorat.pdf](http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/metodol_oqii/2018/met_doctorat.pdf))

e) the management structures are located in chapter II of the Institutional Regulation for the organization and development of doctoral university study programmes ([http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulam\\_ente/Regulamente%20studii/Regulamentul\\_de\\_organizare\\_si\\_functionare\\_programmee\\_studii\\_doctorat\\_al\\_IOSU\\_D.pdf](http://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulam_ente/Regulamente%20studii/Regulamentul_de_organizare_si_functionare_programmee_studii_doctorat_al_IOSU_D.pdf)), Chapter III from the Statute of the Doctoral School of Economic Sciences (SDSE), ([http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/scoala\\_doctorala/Regulament\\_SDSE\\_02\\_02\\_2019\\_1.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/scoala_doctorala/Regulament_SDSE_02_02_2019_1.pdf)).

SDSE Council meetings are held periodically to discuss current issues at the Doctoral School level. According to the SDSE Statutes, the Doctoral School Council meets at least three times a year, when convened by the SDSE Director or at least one third of its members. The schedule of SDSE meetings during 2017-2020 is presented in Annex A. 1.1.1.6. Schedule of SDSE Board meetings

f) The contract for doctoral studies (Annex C.2.2.3. Contract for Doctoral Studies) g) In accordance with art. 28 of the SDSE Regulation, it provides doctoral students with a training programme based on advanced university studies, consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study groups, IOSUD – University of Craiova - Doctoral School of Economic Sciences 25 through courses, seminars, laboratories, etc. The doctoral school ensures free and unrestricted access to the advanced training programme for all doctoral students within SDSE or from other doctoral schools. Art. 31 completes "The participation of a certain doctoral student in the training programme based on advanced university studies and the choice of study elements within this programme to be followed by the doctoral student are established exclusively and independently by the doctoral supervisor. The doctoral student can independently choose for the courses within the advanced university studies provided by his/her own doctoral school or by other doctoral schools. The restriction of this right is prohibited". The proposed curriculum in each doctoral field, which contains the research topics of the training programme based on advanced university studies, is developed by the CSD in consultation with the doctoral supervisors, and it is subsequently approved by the CSUD and the UCV Senate. Annex A. 3.1.3.1. Curriculum in the field of Economics 2019-2020 A.1.1.2. The regulation of the doctoral school includes criteria, procedures and mandatory standards for the items specified in Art. 17(5) of the Code of doctoral programs, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with the subsequent amendments and completions. The provisions laid down in art. 1

*Recommendations: It is recommended to continue with good practices, implementation of the laws, rules and procedures.*

**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 regulations of the doctoral schools includes criteria, procedures and mandatory standards for the items specified in Art 17 (5) of the Code of doctoral programmes, approved by *Government Decision* No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.





*Recommendations: Continue with good practices and always include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards in the Doctoral school's Regulations and keep them public.*

**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 effective and adequate software for keeping track of PhD students and their academic background is in place. The EvStud platform of the UCV processes the data of students. All data and information about students academic achievements is recorded and kept in electronic format. It is operated by the appointed secretary and includes data such as: exams, research reports, interruptions, extensions, transfers from one supervisor to another, payment of fees, public defence of the thesis and other relevant data. For any change in the processing of information in data base should be done only by authorized persons using password. Additionally, each student has a password generated by the Information System.

*Recommendations: Continue with a good practice in implementing effective and appropriate IT system and update it to new versions and new technological possibilities.*

**The indicator is fulfilled**

**Performance Indicator A.1.2.2.** *The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.*

The software program which aims to identify and verify the similarity index of all doctoral thesis is in use at the level of the IOSUD. The software named Sistemantiplagiat.ro is recognized by CNATDCU and it indicates the percentage of fragments identified and the exact length and source. The PhD student and PhD supervisor analyse and interpret the similarity report. As per Annex A.1.2.2. shows the Sisemantiplagiat.ro User Manual. During the meetings with academic staff, students and supervisors it is confirmed their awareness and use of the software. There is also the evidence of the statistical situation regarding the resolution obtained for the PhD field of Economics from the year 2015 - 2016 when they started using the software (Annex B.3.2.1.). As per the SER and responses from the supervisors and Ethics Committee there was no record of any violations of the scientific ethics and professional ethics in the doctoral field of Economics.

*Recommendations: Continue with using the antiplagiarism software and search for updates and improved versions of it, in order to increase the data base of sources to be checked by the software and to increase the level of originality of doctoral thesis and research papers.*

**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.*

As per the Annex A.1.3.1.1. there is a list of doctoral grants in the field of Economics in the period of 2016-2020. There are 16 research or institutional development/human resources grants obtained by PhD supervisors in the field of Economics in the period 2016- 2020. Of the 16 grants, UCV is the beneficiary/responsible for 4 grants/projects. The 2 relevant grants in which PhD supervisors from the field of Economics in the period 2016-2020 were involved, are: (1) Competitive human resources in fields of intelligent specialization in the South-West Oltenia and South Muntenia regions, project code POCU/116943 (member assoc. prof. PhD. Ramona Pîrvu) and (2) COS-WP2014-2-1 Ro-Boost SMEs – “Boosting Smart and Innovation-Driven Growth for Romanian SMEs”, partner UCV (member assoc. prof. PhD. Ramona Pîrvu).

*Recommendations: Continue to search, attract and participate in research and development grants by acquiring projects and beside supervisors involve also PhD students.*

**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%.*

Within the field of doctoral studies in Economics, during the academic year 2019/2020, there was a number of 14 PhD students enrolled, of which, 3 state budgeted students. Annex A.1.3.2.1. PhD students in Economics, by forms of financing, 2019\_2020 Of these, a number of 2 PhD students also benefited from other sources of funding. Currently, the proportion of 20% is not reached for the period 2015-2020 (2 students/14 students actively enrolled = 14.29%), but there is the possibility of achieving it in the following years, in the academic year 2020/2021, a no. of 3 additional PhD students in the field of Economics benefiting from doctoral scholarships.

*Recommendations: To ensure that the minimum of 20% additional grants beside governmental funds are ensured in the period of 3 years.*

**The indicator is fulfilled**



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

According to the data provided in SER the total income obtained in the doctoral field Economics for the period 2015-2020 is of 768,904 lei, of which 456,904 lei represent amounts related to doctoral grants obtained by the university based on institutional contracts, and 312,000 tuition fees collected from doctoral students (calculation based on the total number of students on the 2 forms of financing for the period 2015-2020). Annex A.1.3.3.1. Income of IOSUD-UCV in the field of Economics based on institutional contracts and tuition fees according to the number of PhD students, 2015- 2020 The total amount in relation to professional training expenses for doctoral students was of 800 euros in the period 2015-2020, for 4 PhD students actively enrolled (3,728.45 lei), which represents only 0.48% of the total income collected for the Economics Domain (3,728.45 lei / 768,904 lei). Annex A.1.3.3.2. Situation of PhD students who received financial support from IOSUD-UCV for training expenses, 2015-2020 Annex A. 1.3.3.3. Expenditure SDSE 2015\_2020 Although the 10% requirement is not met, there is interest in supporting the doctoral students' training costs and therefore it is important to work on additional funding opportunities to meet the requirements.

*Recommendations:*

*In order to comply fully with the requirement of standard A.1 it is important that the IOSUD takes all necessary measures to allocate sufficient budget for support of PhD students in the at least minimum of 10% from the paid tuition system.*

*The possible solution could be in increased volume of participation in domestic and international projects, organisation of summer schools, conferences etc, in order to increase the revenues, cover other domain costs, so the budget of tuitions and other contracts will be available for students in the required percentage.*

*There is a need to increase also other self funding activities by cooperation with local, national and international institutions, public and private sectors, and create entrepreneurial environment within the Domain of Economics.*

*The solution is to introduce and develop the university entrepreneurship, formation of spin off and start ups at University and Domain level which can contribute to the revenue increase. In this way, the tuition fees will be sufficient to cover even more than 10% of the training and other research expenses of PhD students.*

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

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

*The research infrastructure and facilities of doctoral domain in the field of*

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





*Economics are sufficient for the realisation of doctoral studies, including research laboratories, computers, software, books and international database. As evidenced from the SER and pictures and videos taken from the site visit the research infrastructure ensures students to conduct quality research and projects.*

*Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD has a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities. The infrastructure and facilities of IOSUD-UCV / SDSE allow for the development of the research activities in the field of Economics, in accordance with the mission and objectives assumed as stated in the SER - PCs, specific software, laboratory equipment (video projection system, internet connection) available to doctoral students (room 233B, room 404, room 349 and room 222, INCESA research hub) Annex A.2.1.1.1. Teaching facilities and Annex A. 2.1.1.7. Teaching facilities Room 222, Annex A. 2.1.1.8. EViews Foundation software invoice and Annex A. 2.1.1.10. IOSUD\_INCESA.*

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

The facilities of the IOSUD and Doctoral School are adequate for the realization of research activities and they follow the mission and objectives of the doctoral field of Economics. - a number of 10,087 titles of books and periodicals at the IOSUD – University of Craiova - Doctoral School of Economic Sciences 32 and developed in the last 5 years. library, of which: 10,087 in economics, finance, cybernetics, statistics; 7,705 in economics, finance, banking, management and accounting; 279 periodicals Annex A.2.1.1.2. Library - Books and periodicals, to which are added a number of 1,160 titles in English in room 403, books donated to SDSE by prof. PhD. Constantin Fota (Annex A.2.1.1.3. Library - Book titles, SDSE, Room 403); - access to international databases within the UCV campus, but also through mobile access to the Anelis Plus database and other databases to which the university has access via the IT Centre (11 scientific databases and 6 e-books) Annex A.2.1.1.4.1. Multidisciplinary/ specialized full text, bibliographic, bibliometric scientific databases accessible within UCV and Annex A. 2.1.1.4.2. Library Scientific databases 2015-2020. The research infrastructure and the offer of research services are presented publicly for the access to the Anelis Plus platform Biblioteca Universitatii din Craiova (ucv.ro) Annex A. 2.1.1.5. Presentation of the University of Craiova Library The research infrastructure purchased and developed in the last 5 years includes PCs and software through the projects: "Entrepreneur student in Economics, Business Administration and Horticulture", Code 125093, implemented between June 2019 - July 2021; Establishment and development of the Centre of Competences in the Field of University Management of the University of Craiova in order to increase the institutional capacity - CCDM-UCV; Mechanisms to ensure the improvement of the quality of education at UCv in correlation with academic ethics and deontology - MAC.ED-UCv; Centre for innovation and training in the field of tertiary education at the University of Craiova (CIFET UCV); Quality, Ethics, Performance in Education at the University of Craiova - CEPE\_UCV (Annex A. 2.1.1.6. Research infrastructure developed in the last 5 years). There is also the EViews software for econometric processing, purchased before 2015, but developed in the period after 2015 (Annex A. 2.1.1.8. EViews Foundation software invoice) and the purchase made by the UCV



Library in 2015-2020 (Annex A. 2.1.1.9. IOSUD Library budget 2015-2020). The information is provided in SER and during the on-site visit by the pictures and files received.

*Recommendations: Continue keeping and updating research and facility infrastructure.*

**The indicator is fulfilled**

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

Quality of human resources at the doctoral domain in the field of Economics is high and it is one of the strengths of the domain listed in SWOT analysis too. There are 4 PhD supervisors and 3 of them meet the CNATDCU minimum standards, mandatory to obtain the certificate. All are employed fully and they have expertise in the field they are teaching. The number of students they supervise is in line with standards and their publishing activity is indexed in Web of Science with significance in the field of Economics.

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

*All performance indicators under the A.3.1. at the level of the domain are fulfilled and there are sufficient number of qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.*

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.1.** *Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.*

According to SER, during the drafting of the Self-evaluation report (2015- 2020), in the Economics Field there were 4 doctoral supervisors: 2 full-time professors of IOSUD-UCV, 1 associate professor (retired - UCV) and 1 full-time professor of UCB of Târgu- Jiu. From 30.10.2020, the tenured professors of UCB terminated his activity at IOSUD-UCV by transferring to another Doctoral School - within ASE Bucharest. At the same time, at the moment (April 2021), another teacher from the UCV, associate professor PhD. Avram Costin Daniel, is in the process of habilitation in the field of Economics. At least 50% of the doctoral supervisors (3 supervisors/4 supervisors = 75%) meet the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the qualification certificate. During the meeting with supervisors there was a high commitment level expressed and it can be concluded that they are very professional and hard working, quality staff with high experience and effort in supervising activities and relationship with students. Annexes from A.3.1.1. to A.3.1.1.5. show the fulfilment of required indicators related to quality of the supervisors and their qualifications in accordance with the *standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU)*.

*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.*



According to the data provided in SER, 2 doctoral supervisors out of the 4 affiliated during the period Oct. 2015 - Sept. 2020 are employed full time within IOSUD-UCV (a percentage of 50%), based on an employment contract. At this moment (April 2021), another teacher employed full time within UCV, namely associate professor PhD. Avram Costin Daniel, is in the process of habilitation in the field of Economics. The indicators show that this is fulfilled.

*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 subjects of training in the education program at the doctoral domain Economics are taught by teaching staff who have the quality of doctoral supervisor with proven expertise in the field of the subjects they teach. The evidence is presented in the SER in the annexes from A.3.1.3.1. to A.3.1.3.6. The annexes show the Curriculum, teaching load, timetable as well as the teachers CVs. The same is also confirmed during the meeting with academic staff and supervisors.

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

In the academic year 2019/2020, there are no doctoral supervisors with more than 8 PhD students enrolled. The distribution of the number of PhD students enrolled by supervisors is: prof. PhD. Pîrvu Gheorghe - 1 student; prof. PhD. Cristea Mirela - 6 students; prof. PhD. Țîrcă Diana - 4 students; and assoc. prof. PhD. Pîrvu Ramona Costina - 3 students. Annex A.3.1.4. List of enrolled doctoral students per doctoral supervisor, academic year 2019/2020.

*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.*

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



*The Doctoral advisors witing the domain in the field of Economics have reached significant scientific activity visible at international level. As mentioned earlier the academic staff and supervisors are of high quality and they do work hard in order to support students as well as to maintain their personal growth and achieve international visibility. The effort and commitment of the PhD supervisors are high and they tend to continue and further improve their international scientific activity too.*

**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 defence 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.*

According to information provided in SER and Annex 3.2.1.1. List of 5 representative publications per doctoral supervisor in the period of 2016-2020 and Annex 3.2.1.2. International scientific activity of doctoral supervisors in the period 2016-2020 there is available evidence 75% of the PhD supervisors present at least five indexed WOS or other achievements relevant for the field of Economics. This is also the proof of their relevant international contributions to the scientific research and development as well as innovation in the field of Economics. The number is 3 out of 4 supervisors, which is the 75% of the needed minimum of 50% as per this standard.

*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.*

As per data provided in SER all 4 PhD supervisors in the field of Economics obtained at least 25% of the score required by the minimum standards CNATDCU in force at the date of evaluation, necessary and mandatory to obtain the certificate of habilitation (minimum 1 point out of 4 points), based on scientific results from period 2016-2020. Out of the 4 doctoral supervisors, 3 supervisors obtained 100% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the date of evaluation (2016-2020), necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate. Annex A.3.2.2. Fulfillment of the minimum standards Pîrvu Gh, 2016\_2020 Annex A. 3.1.1.3. Fulfillment of the minimum qualification standards of PhD supervisor in the field of Economics\_prof. Cristea M Annex A. 3.1.1.4. Fulfillment of the minimum qualification standards of PhD supervisor in the field of Economics\_prof. Tirca D Annex A.



3.1.1.5. Fulfillment of the minimum qualification standards of PhD supervisor in the field of Economics\_conf. Pirvu R.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

*From the perspective of the educational effectiveness the doctoral domain in the field of Economics is well assessed in the majority of the standards and performance indicators. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest is fulfilled and the institution attracts candidates successfully and sufficiently, while the content of the doctoral program fulfilled all the criteria but partially the one related to „the learning outcomes”, not specifying adequately the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities, especially in relations to specific learning outcomes, students workload and assessment of learning outcomes.*

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

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

*This standard is fulfilled and the institution organizing doctoral studies in the field of Economics has the capacity to attract candidates which is larger than the number of available places.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.1.1.** *The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.*

*According to data provided in SER, the indicator is met because the ratio between the total number of candidates who entered the admission competition in the period 2015-2020, who are graduates of Master's programmes conducted outside IOSUD-UCV, and the total number of state subsidised places for the period 2015-2020 (Sept.) is 1.71 (at least 0.2), as follows: number of doctoral students graduating from Master's in other university centres than IOSUD-UCV/number of the state subsidised places = 12, other university Master's graduates/7 state subsidised places in the period 2015- 2020 = 1.71.*

*The ratio between the number of candidates in the last five years, of 26 candidates, and the number of the state subsidised places for competition within the field of doctoral studies, of 7 places, is 3.57 (26/7) > 1.2. The data is also presented in Annex B.1.1.1. Master's graduates who registered for the competition/were enrolled in the period 2015-2020, and the institution conferring the Master's degree*

*Recommendations:*





**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*The candidates admitted to doctoral program in the doctoral domain in the field of Economics are of sufficient quality and the selection is based on the selection criteria as described in the following performance indicator. The dropout rate of PhD students mostly does not exceed 30% especially in the recent years.*

**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 information collected in the SER consists of the following: IOSUD-UCV annually drafts a Regulation regarding the organization and development of the competition for admission to Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral studies. For the academic year 2020-2021, it establishes the registration conditions, the content of the registration file, the organization of admission, the development, examination and grading of the doctoral admission exams, establishing and communicating the results of the admission contest, appeals solution, all of these aspects being posted on the IOSUD-UCV website, as well as of each doctoral school. ([https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/educatie/programmee\\_doctorat/admitere/informatii/2020/Regulament\\_orga\\_niz\\_si\\_desf\\_concurs\\_de\\_admitere\\_2020\\_2021\\_v1.pdf](https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/educatie/programmee_doctorat/admitere/informatii/2020/Regulament_orga_niz_si_desf_concurs_de_admitere_2020_2021_v1.pdf)) The eligibility condition for taking part in the admission contest is represented by the graduation average grade of the Bachelor's or Master's. The graduation average grade must be at least 8.00. The doctoral admission contest within SDSE consists of one test, i.e., in the presentation of the doctoral research project within one of the research directions proposed by the doctoral supervisor. The doctoral research directions for the choice of the doctoral research project are made public by each doctoral school within IOSUD –UCV on the website [www.ucv.ro](http://www.ucv.ro), Doctoral Studies, at the Admission Section. Admission to doctoral studies is made in the decreasing order of the admission grades obtained by the candidates, within the number of places for which the competition is organized, established for each doctoral field. When establishing the admission grade, only the presentations marked with a minimum of 7 (seven) will be considered. This is a proof that the indicator is fulfilled.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*According to data provided in SER in the period 2015-2020, 5 doctoral students were expelled (including by waiver), within 3 years after admission. The average dropout rate of doctoral students for each of the admission sessions was: 16.67% ≤30%, for 2015/2016; 42.86% for the 2016/2017 session; 33.33%, for*

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



2017/2018; 0% in 2018/2019 and 0% in 2019/2020. The average ratio of doctoral students expelled within total enrolled students, within the entire period 2015- 2020, was of 20%  $\leq$ 30%: 5 students expelled for the entire period \* 100/25 students enrolled = 20%. Annex B.1.2.1. List of withdrawn/expelled students in the period 2015-2020. There is also information collected during the meeting with supervisors and head of the domain in regards to this indicator.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs**

The training program, the curriculum and disciplines included in the doctoral domain in the field of Economics as well as guidelines, consultancy and publishing of PhD students with their committees is fulfilled. Students receive sufficient number of meetings and consultancy with the committees and they benefit from those meetings. There are also the disciplines dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property where students can gain competencies in terms of being able to apply it in their research projects and thesis writing. The major observation when it comes to performance indicator concerning the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities, is that it is only partially fulfilled due to lack of specific learning outcomes, distribution of ECTS and students workload including also the lack of clear assessment methods of each specific learning outcome.

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

The training programs on the doctoral domain in the field of Economics is based on the advanced academic studies and they do include at least 3 subjects relevant for the development of the scientific advancements of PhD students and they do aim to improve the students research skills. There is a room for improvements in the syllabuses and the creation of learning outcomes of the courses as well as the ECTS understanding from the perspective of students and the relationship between ECTS and the students workload. Students do receive the guidelines and consultancy from the advisory committees and number of PhD students and the number of teachers/researchers who provide guidance in the year 2015/2016 is not larger than 3:1. It has been 1.44.

**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.

As explained in the SER and during the meeting with academic staff, supervisors and students, in the training programme of the first year of doctoral studies in Economics there are at least 3 relevant subjects for the development of the students' scientific research skills.. Among the subjects in the first-year curriculum, at least one subject is intended for the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing, namely: Methods of Interdisciplinary Research in Economics, Ethics and Academic Integrity. Annex A.3.1.3.1. Curriculum in the field of Economics 2019-2020 Annex B.2.1.1.1.



MCIEEIA Syllabus Annex B.2.1.1.2. Quality and Management Quality Syllabus Annex B.2.1.1.3. Management of Research Projects Syllabus.

*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 are topics dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property integrated to the subject "Methods of Interdisciplinary Research in Economics, Ethics and Academic Integrity" (a number of 14 hours out of 42 hours per semester, consisting of 8 hours of course and 6 hours of seminar) Annex A.3.1.3.1. Curriculum in the field of Economics 2019-2020. The data is found in SER and it was discussed during the meeting with academic staff, supervisors and students.

*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<sup>5</sup>.*

IOSUD-UCV has created mechanisms to ensure that the training programme based on advanced university studies, related to Economics through the existence of subject sheets that make specific references to knowledge, skills/competencies acquired by PhD students after completing the training programme. These subject sheets are reviewed based on an existing internal mechanism at the faculty level, quality assurance/feedback for these sheets. Annex B.2.1.1.1. MCIEEIA Syllabus Annex B.2.1.1.2. Quality and Management Quality Syllabus Annex B.2.1.1.3. Management of Research Projects Syllabus. The concept of learning outcomes at the level of the doctoral studies must be specific and according to EU guidance. Both groups of representatives on the meetings (the academic staff/supervisors and students) are not familiar with the full concept and meaning of learning outcomes, their relationship with the ECTS allocation and the students workload. During the meetings conducted with them, there is no evidence of understanding the concept of Bloom's taxonomy of knowledge. It is necessary to improve syllabuses accordingly and adjust the workload as well as the methods how to check/examine each learning outcome. Specific learning outcomes can be checked in one of more exams, research papers and students activity. It should be clearly explained in syllabuses. The syllabuses must also include the correlation between each learning outcome on the level of the course and the level of study program. There is usually 5-6 specific learning outcomes per each syllabus. Each one determines the competencies and skills that students will gain once they accomplish each learning outcome. The concept provided in

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



the syllabuses in the doctoral domain in the field of Economics do not reach that standard and should be revised.

*Recommendations: To revise the concept of syllabus development including the EU standards when it comes to following: development of specific learning outcomes on the level of the doctoral study for each syllabus, creation of 5-6 specific learning outcomes with the specific methods how they will be measured and fulfilled by the students, as well as allocation of appropriate and relevant number of ECTS per each learning outcome. The workload must be clear and explained in the syllabuses but also communicated to students. The Bloom's taxonomy of knowledge can be helpful here and the level of learning outcomes should be appropriate with the doctoral level of study. There is a need to explain the methods of accomplishing each learning outcome and to measure its quality. There is also the need to implement the correlation between each specific learning outcome on the level of the course with the learning outcomes of the doctoral program in the field of Economics. It is a strong and necessary recommendation for this performance indicator which will ensure compliance with EU standards.*

**The indicator is partially 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.*

*There are functional Advisory Committees, which provide doctoral students with counselling/guidance during the doctoral programme, provided in the study contracts concluded with the doctoral students. Annex B.2.1.4.1. Table of Advisory Committees for doctoral students enrolled in the field of Economics, 2015-2020 The functionality of these committees was based on a timetable (regular meetings) of advising/guiding each doctoral student. Annex B.2.1.4.2. Counselling/guidance timetable of Advisory Committees 2015-2020, Economics The results of the meetings of the members of the Advisory committees with the doctoral students consisted in publications and joint papers of the doctoral student with at least one of the members of the Advisory committee, etc. As such, there is evidence of the functionality of the Advisory committees for a selected number of 8 PhD students. This is the information provided in the SER and gathered during the meetings with students and supervisors. Annex B.2.1.4.3. Functionality of the Advisory committees - feedback of doctoral students - members of the Advisory committees, 2015-2020.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*The ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of professors/researchers who provide guidance, for each academic year - period 2015-2020, is not higher than 3:1, as follows: in the academic year 2015/2016, the ratio was 13 students/9 professors = 1.44; 2016/2017 - 18 students/12 professors = 1.5; 2017/2018 - 17 students/13 professors = 1.31; 2018/2019 - 12 students/11 professors = 1.09; 2019/2020 - 14 students/13 professors = 1.08. Annex B.2.1.5. Members of Advisory committees*



and PhD students number during 2015-2020. This is the information and data provided in SER and confirmed during the meetings with teaching staff and supervisors.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*The results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation are fulfilled. The students present research papers in scientific conferences and their papers do represent the contribution in the field of Economics as well as their participation in international events is higher than 1 which also complies with the required performance indicator.*

*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.*

*In the field of Economics, an article or another relevant contribution per doctoral student who completed the programme in the period 2015-2020 is made available to the evaluation commission: 12 doctoral students who were awarded the PhD title/12 articles. Annex B.3.1.1. Table of relevant article/publication per doctoral student who completed the programme in the period 2015- 2020*

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.*

According to the Annex B.3.2.1. Members of the Thesis defence committees in the period 2015-2020 and the similarity index report, the ratio between the number of presentations made at prestigious international events and the number of PhD students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period of 5 years is 4.45 which complies with the standard as being higher than 1. In the period 2015-2020, in the doctoral field of Economics, the number of doctoral students who completed the programme was 11, of which 10 defended the doctoral thesis, and 1 doctoral student defended it in Dec. 2020. Out of the total





of the 12 theses defended in the period 2015-2020, 2 doctoral students completed the programme before 01.10.2015

*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 defence of doctoral theses in the analysed domain.*

*The evidence is presented that the doctoral domain in the field of Economics does involve a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commission for public defence while the numbers do not exceed the proposed/standard values per year and the criteria related to the ratio is also fulfilled.*

**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.*

*As per the Annex B.3.2.1. the number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD does not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor. It has been evident that this criteria is fulfilled.*

*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 defence 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 analysed.*

*The ratio between the number of doctoral theses assigned to a reviewer from a higher education institution other than IOSUD-UCV and the number of doctoral theses defended in the doctoral field of Economics is not higher than 0.3 for 3 reviewers out of the 5 reviewers from outside UCV between 2015-2020 (2 theses/12 doctoral theses defended = 0.17). For 2 reviewers outside IOSUD UCV, the ratio exceeds 0.3: 9 allocated theses/12 defended theses = 0.75. Annex B.3.2.1. Members of the Thesis defence committees in the period 2015-2020 and the similarity index reports. This should be monitored and adjusted according to the standard requirements.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

*The quality assurance system of the doctoral domain in the field of Economics is in place from the perspective of the existence of the procedures and norms and also from the implementation of the internal*



quality assurance system. The various evidence is presented in the SER, Annexes and also explained during the meeting with all stakeholders. The evaluation system by using questionnaires to get the valuable feedback from the students is also in place and the feedback is taken into account in order to improve further quality of the domain, study programs, students support and other important issues students address and require. The transparency of information and availability of resources online and on the website (to all future students, current students and public) is ensured on the level of IOSUD and doctoral domain. There is also free access to scientific and academic research and publications, databases and e-books, and there is a software available to students upon request to check similarity with other existing scientific sources with the assistance of supervisors who have access to such software, Sistemantiplagiat.ro approved by CNTDCU.

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

On the level of the IOSUD and doctoral domain in the field of Economics there is a proof of existence of periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance as well as the implementation of the system in terms of different standards being evaluated and monitored and collecting feedback from the PhD students, important for further improvement of the domain and study program.

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

*The institutional framework is present on the level of the IOUSUD and the doctoral domain in the field of Economics and there are evidences for that. There is evaluation and monitoring process in place in regards to major activities starting with scientific work of advisors and students, the infrastructure, procedures and rules for students, training programs and other social and economic activities.*

**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.*

*According to SER there is a complete procedure explained in regards to internal monitoring of doctoral school in the field of Economics and during the interviews with academic staff, supervisors, students and Council members, the same is confirmed. The evaluation has aims to increase the quality of the program, educational and managerial effectiveness too. The evaluation is done annually from October to September. The evaluation should be approved by the Council on the level of doctoral school for the domain and it will be analysed by Council. The criteria taken into account are the scientific activity of supervisors, the number of publications in relevant journals and the points accumulated in order to meet*



*the minimum standard for obtaining the qualification for the academic year when the evaluation is carried on, the number of students who completed the study within 3 years, who have publicly defended the thesis too, infrastructure and logistics quality, other obligations as per curriculum, analysis why the program would not be completed in three years time and analysis of the online questionnaire results. Considering the SER data available and the meetings with various stakeholders it is identified that most of the procedures and rules are implemented and known to all.*

*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.*

There is an on-line questionnaire implemented and conducted in order to identify the needs and general level of satisfactions of PhD students within the domain in the field of Economics. The aim is to evaluate the study programs and research programs. Each student has an access to the questionnaire which is confirmed during the meetings with staff and students but also written in the SER.

Annex C.1.1.2.1. Online questionnaire and fill-in procedure Annex C.1.1.2.2.1. Evaluation report for results Questionnaire\_SDSE\_2019 Annex C.1.1.2.2.2. Questionnaire Results\_SDSE\_2021 Annex C.1.1.2.2.3. Collected questionnaires results\_IOSUD\_2021

The results of the presented questionnaire show that and the majority of the assessment is assessed with excellent. There is a proof of high level of students satisfaction with the criteria analysed.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*There is a transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources at the level of the doctoral domain in the field of Economics and it is achieved through IOSUD's and FEAA's official website which provides all (PhD candidates and PhD students) with all important information related to all aspects of the study programs but also of the learning resources. All other stakeholder can also access the information important for the study program and specific requirements, regulations, learning resources, anti-plagiarism software and other needed facilities.*

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

*The information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest is available for electronic format consultation as described in the performance indicator C.2.1.1.*

***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.

SDSE, through IOSUD-UCV, publishes on the UCV and FEAA website the information from points a) to i), in compliance with the general regulations on data protection:

[http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&v](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&v)

a) doctoral school regulations: [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/scoala\\_doctorala/Regulament\\_SDSE\\_02\\_02\\_2019\\_1.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/scoala_doctorala/Regulament_SDSE_02_02_2019_1.pdf)

b) admission regulations [https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulamente/2020/Regulament\\_organiz\\_si\\_desf\\_concurs\\_de\\_admitere\\_2020\\_2021\\_v1.pdf](https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/regulamente/2020/Regulament_organiz_si_desf_concurs_de_admitere_2020_2021_v1.pdf)  
[http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2897:admiterea-la-scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-economice-2020&catid=156:studenti-doctorat&lang=en](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2897:admiterea-la-scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-economice-2020&catid=156:studenti-doctorat&lang=en)

c) doctoral studies contract [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2370&Itemid=553&lang=en](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2370&Itemid=553&lang=en)

d) the programme completion regulation which should include the procedure for thesis defence: - Chapter VII from the doctoral school regulations "Doctoral thesis and completion of doctoral studies programme" [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/Regulament\\_SDSE\\_09\\_05\\_2017.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/Regulament_SDSE_09_05_2017.pdf);

- Guide on the writing of the doctoral theses, Part II "Supporting and evaluating the doctoral thesis" [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/Ghid\\_Teza\\_Doctorat\\_09\\_05\\_2017.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/Ghid_Teza_Doctorat_09_05_2017.pdf)

e) the content of study programmes [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2372:continutul-programmeelor-de-studii&catid=156:studenti-doctorat&lang=en](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2372:continutul-programmeelor-de-studii&catid=156:studenti-doctorat&lang=en)

[http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/planul\\_invatamant/plan\\_de\\_inv\\_2020-2021\\_ECONOMIE.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/planul_invatamant/plan_de_inv_2020-2021_ECONOMIE.pdf)

f) the scientific profile and research interests/topics of the doctoral supervisor, as well as their institutional contact details [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2370&Itemid=553&lang=ro](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2370&Itemid=553&lang=ro)

<http://mecanica.ucv.ro/ScoalaDoctorala/Organizare/ConducatoriDoctorat.php> [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2019-2020/doctorat/Centr\\_SD\\_Stiinte\\_Economice\\_propuneri\\_teme\\_doctorale\\_2020-2021.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2019-2020/doctorat/Centr_SD_Stiinte_Economice_propuneri_teme_doctorale_2020-2021.pdf)

g) list of doctoral students, with basic information (year of enrollment; supervisor) h) information about the elaboration standards of the doctoral thesis: [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/Ghid\\_Teza\\_Doctorat\\_09\\_05\\_2017.pdf](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/images/docs/2017-2018/admitere/doctorat/Ghid_Teza_Doctorat_09_05_2017.pdf)

i) links to abstracts of doctoral theses to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time, place where they will be defended at least 20 days before the defence [http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2370&Itemid=553&lang=en](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2370&Itemid=553&lang=en)

Links to abstracts of doctoral theses to be defended publicly



The meetings with various stakeholders during the assessment week proves the existence of the information in the electronic format and the awareness of it.

*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.*

*The IOSUD and Doctoral Domain of Economics provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies which consists of the access to academic databases (scientific and e-books) in the field of Economics, to antiplagiarism software Sistemantiplagiat.ro and access to research laboratories and other needed facilities.*

**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.*

According to the data provided in SER all PhD students have free access to a platform with academic databases relevant to the doctoral field of Economics through access to international databases within IOSUD-UCV, but also through mobile access to the Anelis Plus database and other databases that the university has access to. Access is granted through an account opened to each doctoral student from the IT Centre of UCV. There are 11 scientific databases and 5 e-books. Access to the resources needed to conduct doctoral studies are presented publicly at <http://biblio.central.ucv.ro/>. During the meetings with students there is a data collected that this is in function and there was no complains in this subject.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*Each student has access to the electronic software for checking similarity with other existing sources and it is based on the request of the student in coordination with the supervisor. The software is called Sistemantiplagiat.ro. Within the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, the Director of the Doctoral School, as well as each doctoral supervisor have licenses to this software recognized by CNATDCU. Until now there was no report on any violation of the scientific ethics and professional ethics in the field of the Economics doctoral domain. This was discussed with supervisors and Ethics Committee members during the meeting, and the same is confirmed. The antiplagiarism reports show very low percentage of similarity per each doctoral thesis.*

*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.*





*In accordance with the provisions of the Doctoral Studies Contract, art. 9, points 9.1-9.4 (p. 3), “the doctoral student has the right to use the laboratories, classrooms and seminars, reading rooms, libraries and other facilities provided by IOSUD for professional training, as well as for cultural activities and sports, in compliance with IOSUD internal regulations; to use protective equipment during the execution of practical works that take place in a toxic environment, according to the safety norms in force; to use e-mail and the Internet only in connection with the training activity and other educational or research activities; to use the scientific research and documentation facilities of the university and of the faculties”. Annex C.2.2.3. Contract of Doctoral Studies\_2019. During the meetings with students the same was confirmed and also seen from the photos and videos sent by coordinator during the on-site visit.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*Internationalisation of the IOSUD and doctoral domain in the field of Economics is mostly accomplished but there is a room for improvement especially in the performance indicators C.3.1.1. and C.3.1.3. There is a need to implement the curriculum in English language and other languages, and to increase the level of promotion of Erasmus+, cooperation with other institutions, international doctoral schools, supervisors, guest lecturers, etc.*

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

*The strategy of internationalisation exists at the level of IOSUD and it concerns also the doctoral domain in the field of Economics but there is a room for improvement of the implementation and realisation of the international mobility. The level of participation in Erasmus+ should be increased by the students participating in exchange program.*

**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 Economy field, through SDSE and through IOSUD-UCV has concluded Mobility Agreements with foreign universities, research institutes, companies that carry out activities in the field, which aim at the mobility of doctoral students and professors (a number of 14 partnerships with entities from Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway and Turkey). Annex C.3.1.1.1. Situation of ERASMUS partner universities, 2020 The doctoral students in the field of Economics **did not** benefit from mobilities abroad in the period 2015-2020, however, a number of 10 doctoral students, out of the 27 doctoral students enrolled in the period 2015-2020 (32 students, less the 5 expelled students), participated in*



*international conferences abroad, representing 37% of their total (10/27). Annex C.3.1.1.2. PhD students participating in international conferences abroad, 2015-2020. This is the information provided in SER and also discussed with students, academic staff and supervisors.*

*Recommendations: To create and implement action plan in order to motivate and stimulate PhD students to participate in the Erasmus+ mobility and to sign more contracts on the level of doctoral study programs with international universities, institutions and scientific research centres. To promote Erasmus+ on different platforms, to convince employers in benefits students will have after competing the program, and research opportunities within the international environment. Students and teachers could gain more competencies, broaden experiences and develop long term cooperation with some institution and representatives of foreign institutions. There is an opportunity to develop hybrid schemes of Erasmus+ which can be partially done online and partially by traveling abroad. The aim should also be to attract more foreign students and prepare curriculum, syllabuses and other documents in English language, publish them on the website and inform regularly agreement partners and new partners about the potential of international mobility.*

***The indicator is partially 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.*

*As per the information provided in SER within the field of Economics, the involvement of PhD supervisors in the coordination of doctoral research of international students is supported. The doctoral supervisors established professional connections with teachers from foreign universities in order to organize common events, presentations for doctoral students, etc. **There were no joint programmes for the period 2015-2020**, but two doctoral supervisors, prof. PhD. Diana Mihaela Țîrcă and prof. PhD. Mirela Cristea, coordinated the doctoral research internship (as a mentor) through the Erasmus + programme for the doctoral student Georgieva Boryana from Bulgaria, D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, Erasmus Code BG SVISHTO02, between 01 Oct - 30 Nov. 2018 (2 months) (mentor prof. PhD. Diana Mihaela Țîrcă), 01.03.2019-30.04.2019 (mentor, prof. PhD. Mirela Cristea) and 01.06.2019-30.07.2019 (mentor, prof. Mirela Cristea, PhD), the title of the doctoral thesis “Opportunities and Challenges of Small Business in Rural Area”. Annex C.3.1.3. List of international doctoral students enrolled and incoming Erasmus + students, Economics, 2015-2020 Also, the doctoral supervisor prof. PhD. Diana Mihaela Țîrcă was a member of the committee defending the doctoral thesis “Economic environment and groups at social exclusion risk”, candidate: Maria Barreiro-Gen, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of A Coruna, Spain, March 17, 2016 Annex A.3.2.1.2. International scientific activity of doctoral supervisors in the period 2016-2020 Prof. PhD. Eleftherios Thalassinos, expert in International Economics and Quantitative Methods with the University of Piraeus, Greece, enjoying high international visibility (European Chair Jean Monnet in European Integration since 1997), based on extensive collaboration with FEAA (courses taught, <http://vivatstudentia.ro/2014/04/economia-pe-englezeste/>, was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa on March 19, 2015, and participated in the international conference held in Craiova, iConEc, as Keynote Speaker and Doctoral Students section chair on 27.10.2017. He was invited to give advice/lectures on conducting research during the doctoral training period, focusing on each research topic of the doctoral students participating in the ICONEC 2017 conference (5 students attended*



the event). Another meeting organized with SDSE PhD students was on 07.05.2019, the "How to prepare a PHD thesis: Tips and techniques" workshop - all doctoral fields of SDSE were involved, through the participation of doctoral students ([http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2710:workshop-how-to-prepare-a-phd-thesis-tips-and-techniques&catid=118&lang=en](http://feaa.ucv.ro/one/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2710:workshop-how-to-prepare-a-phd-thesis-tips-and-techniques&catid=118&lang=en)) (Annex C.3.1.2.1. Lectures delivered by international experts for doctoral students, at the invitation of SDSE\_May 2019; Annex C.3.1.2.2. Presentation of experts who delivered lectures for doctoral students\_Oct 2017).

All these evidence justify the effort of the IOSUD and doctoral domain in terms of expanding internationally but it is also important to develop and establish international co-mentorships as well as joint doctoral programs with international universities and doctoral schools in the field of Economics.

*Recommendations: There is a strong recommendation to motivate students, supervisors and academic staff additionally for international co-mentorship and to develop action plan how to implement it to the curriculum. The establishment of joint doctoral programs and co-mentorship should be put in practice with action plan and realisation in the near future.*

**The indicator is fulfilled. (with recommendations)**

**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.).*

There is a certain level of activities related to promotion of internationalization and doctoral program of Economics. The internationalization of activities within doctoral studies is proven by attracting foreign students (Albania and Iraq), enrolled in Economics in 2015 and 2019, and those who applied for mentoring at IOSUD-UCV, SDSE, Economics, within the Erasmus + programme, 3 mobilities of 2 months each in the academic year 2018/2019 (Bulgaria). This attraction of foreign students is the result of international activities in which the PhD supervisors from IOSUD-UCV, SDSE, particularly in the field of Economics, have participated and are participating, see A.3.2.1. Annex C.3.1.3. List of international doctoral students enrolled and incoming Erasmus + students, Economics, 2015-2020. The promotion is based on the agreements signed with other universities and institutions abroad and during the Erasmus+ weeks by the professors and partners. There is no doubt that there is a certain level of activity towards internationalization but this is not sufficient. During the meetings with management and other stakeholders there is a clear explanation about the need to improve international level of activity in the future. This was seen as one of the weaknesses of the doctoral domain but also at the IOSUD level.

*Recommendations: To promote internationalization in both ways (incoming and outgoing, co-mentorships, attract more international guest lecturers and offer more guest lectures abroad as well as trainings and WS within and beside Erasmus+ program) it is very important to create action plan with specific goals and measures. The curriculum must be offered in English language, the syllabuses should be available in English language with correlation and improved learning outcomes corresponding to EU standards of higher education and doctoral level. There should be list of courses available completely in English language with academic staff that can perform in English language. There should be more*



*promotion of the doctoral domain to foreign universities and institutions. The models of cooperation must be adjusted to Covid-19 pandemic too, and some courses can be delivered in English online. The full set of documents, rules and regulations related to study program should be in English. The whole set of documents and procedures should be created and the whole infrastructure (including administrative issues and other supportive documents important for students on the international level) should be adopted to meet requirements of international students' need, including quality assurance, etc. Promotion should be done through different media from word of mouth, academic staff, supervisors, students, Alumni association, social networks and media such as LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, websites, workshops, round tables, exhibitions, online events and presentation of the IOSUD and doctoral domain, etc.*

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

#### **IV. SWOT Analysis**

<b><u>Strengths:</u></b>	<b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rules and regulations applied and existence of procedures in accordance to the national law of education</li> <li>- quality assurance system</li> <li>- development strategy</li> <li>- reputation and experience of the IOUSD</li> <li>- long history of the IOSUD</li> <li>- quality of academic staff and supervisors</li> <li>- motivated academic staff</li> <li>- motivated and committed PhD supervisors</li> <li>- motivated and satisfied students</li> <li>- research facilities and infrastructure</li> <li>- research and scientific activity of supervisors and students</li> <li>- willingness of management of UCV to improve Doctoral Domain</li> <li>- committed management of UCV</li> <li>- good cooperation with employers of students</li> <li>- regional reputation of University of Craiova and doctoral domains</li> <li>- good ration of students/supervisors</li> <li>- high satisfaction of students with supervisors and doctoral domain program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- insufficient support to PhD students in terms of the percentage of grants and tuitions allocated for their research, training, summers schools, conference attendance, publishing etc.</li> <li>- lack of internationalisation</li> <li>- lack of promotion in order to attract more international students</li> <li>- lack of participation in projects and self funding activities</li> <li>- lack of implementation of certain formal procedures such as communication between students and employers of students</li> <li>- Alumni club and their activity</li> <li>- lack of data base and initiative to actively involve Alumni to the development of IOSUD</li> <li>- lack of employers survey and formal feedback on the satisfaction with PhD students</li> <li>- lack of inclusion of employers in the revision and improvements of study programme</li> <li>- lack of assistant teachers (can be selected from PhD students)</li> <li>- lack of budget and financial funds for further growth, travel, internationalization and staff advancements</li> <li>- workload of academic staff and PhD supervisors</li> <li>- lack of English courses and syllabi</li> <li>- lack of examination methods related to learning outcomes according to Bloom's taxonomy of knowledge</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the level of literature and sources in syllabuses</li> <li>- lack of research activities in the benchmarking aspect – comparisons with competitors on the national and international level</li> <li>- orientation to the local regional market only</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase the self funding activities by increased participation in projects</li> <li>- funding from projects and contracts with public and private sector</li> <li>- promote doctoral domains and schools on the national level and attract students from other Universities and regions</li> <li>- cooperation and development of joint doctoral study programs with international universities and doctoral schools</li> <li>- internationalization – more Erasmus and contract based cooperation with international and EU institutions of higher education</li> <li>- improve the quality of online studies and promote it abroad</li> <li>- improve courses in English and promote them abroad</li> <li>- create learning incubators or entrepreneurial incubators</li> <li>- establish university entrepreneurship and include doctoral domain to the research and implementation</li> <li>- employ more assistants for academic staff and supervisors</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general economic situation and crisis influenced by Covid-19 pandemic</li> <li>- competition of other institutions on the national level</li> <li>- competition in the private university sector if private institutions will provide doctoral study programmes</li> <li>- international universities who can attract local students to work, live and study abroad</li> <li>- insufficient research budget can lead to decrease of the quality of the research and lower number of students</li> </ul>

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

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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	<b>fulfilled</b>	



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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
A.1.2.1.		The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
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%.	<b>fulfilled</b>	<i>To ensure that the minimum of 20% additional grants beside governmental funds are ensured in the period of 3 years.</i>
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.).	<b>partially fulfilled</b>	In order to comply fully with the requirement of standard A.1 it is important that the IOSUD takes all necessary measures to allocate sufficient budget for support of PhD students in the at least minimum of 10% from the paid tuition system. The possible solution could be in increased volume of participation in domestic and international projects, organisation of summer schools, conferences etc, in order to increase the revenues, cover other domain

				<p>costs, so the budget of tuitions and other contracts will be available for students in the required percentage.</p> <p>There is a need to increase also other self funding activities by cooperation with local, national and international institutions, public and private sectors, and create entrepreneurial environment within the Domain of Economics.</p> <p>The solution is to introduce and develop the university entrepreneurship, formation of spin off and start ups at University and Domain level which can contribute to the revenue increase. In this way, the tuition fees will be sufficient to cover even more than 10% of the training and other research expenses of PhD students.</p>
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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
A.3.1.1.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
A.3.1.2.		<i>At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
A.3.1.3.		<i>The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	

		<i>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.</i>		
A.3.1.4.		<i>The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs<sup>6</sup> does not exceed 20%.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
A.3.2.1.		<i>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 defence 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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
A.3.2.2.		<i>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</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	

<sup>6</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

		<i>for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.</i>		
B.1.1.1.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.1.2.1.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.1.2.2.		<i>The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission<sup>7</sup> does not exceed 30%.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.2.1.1.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.2.1.2.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.2.1.3.		<i>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</i>	<b>partially fulfilled</b>	<i>To revise the concept of syllabus development including the EU standards when it comes to following: development of specific learning outcomes on the level of the doctoral study for each syllabus, creation of 5-6 specific learning outcomes with the specific methods how they will be measured and fulfilled by the students, as well as allocation of</i>

<sup>7</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

				<p><i>appropriate and relevant number of ECTS per each learning outcome. The workload must be clear and explained in the syllabuses but also communicated to students. The Bloom's taxonomy of knowledge can be helpful here and the level of learning outcomes should be appropriate with the doctoral level of study. There is a need to explain the methods of accomplishing each learning outcome and to measure its quality. There is also the need to implement the correlation between each specific learning outcome on the level of the course with the learning outcomes of the doctoral program in the field of Economics. It is a strong and necessary recommendation for this performance indicator which will ensure compliance with EU standards.</i></p>
B.2.1.4.		<p><i>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.</i></p>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.2.1.5.		<p><i>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.</i></p>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.3.1.1.		<p><i>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.</i></p>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.3.1.2.		<p><i>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</i></p>	<b>fulfilled</b>	



		<i>(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.</i>		
B.3.2.1.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
B.3.2.2.		<i>The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defence 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 analysed.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
C.1.1.1.		<i>There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance. The institutional framework is present on the level of the IOUSUD and the doctoral domain in the field of Economics and there are evidences for that. There is evaluation and monitoring process in place in regards to major activities starting with scientific work of advisors and students, the infrastructure, procedures and rules for students, training programs and other social and economic activities.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
C.1.1.2.		<i>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.</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	
C.2.1.1.		<i>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;</i>	<b>fulfilled</b>	

		<p>(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</p> <p>(e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;</p> <p>(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</p> <p>(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);</p> <p>(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</p> <p>(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.</p>		
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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
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.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
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.	<b>partially fulfilled</b>	To create and implement action plan in order to motivate and stimulate PhD students to participate in the Erasmus+ mobility and to sign more contracts on the level of doctoral study programs with international universities, institutions and scientific research centres. To promote Erasmus+ on different platforms, to convince employers in benefits students will have after competing the program, and research opportunities within the international environment. Students and teachers could gain more competencies, broaden

				<p>experiences and develop long term cooperation with some institution and representatives of foreign institutions. There is an opportunity to develop hybrid schemes of Erasmus+ which can be partially done online and partially by traveling abroad. The aim should also be to attract more foreign students and prepare curriculum, syllabuses and other documents in English language, publish them on the website and inform regularly agreement partners and new partners about the potential of international mobility.</p>
C.3.1.2.		<p>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.</p>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<p>There is a strong recommendation to motivate students, supervisors and academic staff additionally for international co-mentorship and to develop action plan how to implement it to the curriculum. The establishment of joint doctoral programs and co-mentorship should be put in practice with action plan and realisation in the near future.</p>
C.3.1.3.		<p>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.).</p>	<b>partially fulfilled</b>	<p>To promote internationalization in both ways (incoming and outgoing, co-mentorships, attract more international guest lecturers and offer more guest lectures abroad as well as trainings and WS within and beside Erasmus+ program) it is very important to create action plan with specific goals and measures. The curriculum must be offered in English language, the syllabuses should be available in English language with correlation and improved learning outcomes corresponding to EU standards of higher education and doctoral level. There should be list of courses</p>

			<p>available completely in English language with academic staff that can perform in English language. There should be more promotion of the doctoral domain to foreign universities and institutions. The models of cooperation must be adjusted to Covid-19 pandemic too, and some courses can be delivered in English online. The full set of documents, rules and regulations related to study program should be in English. The whole set of documents and procedures should be created and the whole infrastructure (including administrative issues and other supportive documents important for students on the international level) should be adopted to meet requirements of international students' need, including quality assurance, etc. Promotion should be done through different media from word of mouth, academic staff, supervisors, students, Alumni association, social networks and media such as LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, websites, workshops, round tables, exhibitions, online events and presentation of the IOSUD and doctoral domain, etc.</p>
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## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

*The University of Craiova has a good reputation and well established quality assurance system and part of it is also the Doctoral Domain in the field of Economics. During the assessment week and online zoom meetings there were many information distributed and available to external and internal evaluators. The SER also offered general explanation of each assessment standard and performance indicator. The major conclusion leads to the assessment of each performance indicator and assessment standards. Out of 35 performance indicators, 31 indicator is assessed as fulfilled and only 4 as partially fulfilled.*

*The major strengths of the doctoral domain in the field of Economics are strong background of the University of Craiova as a regionally oriented institution of high education being well known for their doctoral programs in the region. There is a high level of satisfaction of students and academic staff/PhD supervisors and strong legislative support, procedures and their implementation. Research activity is good and scientific contribution of the supervisors and students are high. The infrastructure and research facilities are of high quality.*

*The program is well constructed/designed but needs improvement on the level of specific learning outcomes, assessment of learning outcomes, workload of students and understanding of relationship between learning outcomes ECTS and workload on all levels (academic staff and students).*

*There is a lack of internationalisation and promotion, activities and participation in international mobility, supervision and doctoral study program in English language should be developed as a full program in English. The online possibilities can be utilised to overcome the constraints of travel.*

*More international experts, supervisors and professors should be involved in different activities on the doctoral domain level (as explained in recommendations). There should be expansion outside of the region on the national and international level achieved. The domain should aim to attract student from the whole area of Romania, not only regional and the cooperation with private sector as well as other institutions should be increased.*

*The employers of students should be involved in the creation and improvement of the doctoral domain with their feedback and input concerning market needs and competencies of students. The formal methodology should be created and implemented in order to get feedback from employers. There should be questionnaire and research conducted on the yearly basis with the aim to find out the level of satisfaction of employers with students competencies, skills, knowledge and other related issues, together with their suggestions for improvements or changes in the study program.*

*Alumni association should be formalised, active in promoting the doctoral domain and participate in common projects, workshops and expansion of the doctoral domain. There should be more projects on the level of the domain in order to gain more funds and improve financial situation of the domain, to support students with grants and fees for the research activities, to participate in international conferences, trainings and workshops. The system of rewarding the best research papers and grants should be implemented.*

*There should be formalised rewards for supervisors and their activity while supervising student. They should be motivated financially and in forms of additional grants, trainings offered, etc, for their work as supervisors. The introduction of assistants for supervisors would be of a great help and they can be selected internally from the PhD students or graduates but also externally.*





*The cooperation with other institutions and participation in projects on national and international level could increase self-funding and so called “university entrepreneurship” could be implemented on the level of the domain to establish start-ups and spin offs collaborating with students and other partners (employers, business and public sector, etc).*

*The continuous monitoring of the quality level of the institutional capacity, study program, infrastructure and human resources is necessary. The periodical evaluation should be performed, preferably every 3 years on the doctoral domain level.*

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*ARACIS International Expert Evaluator*

## **VII. Annexes**

*The detailed schedule of The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain Economics*

*Additional documentation:*

- *Communication (email, whats up) screen shots and documents with Domain Coordinator and a Student*
- *Pictures and videos received from the on-site visit showing infrastructure and research facilities*
- *Table of assessment prior to the final report*