

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction¹

The Doctoral program of the study domain of Physical Education and Sport was launched on 2018. The doctoral program for Physical Education and Sport is integrated in the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities of the the Faculty of Social Sciences. At the moment, 30 students have been enrolled to conduct doctoral studies. The program is run by six staff members specialized on Physical education and Sport. The duration of the studies is three years. For succesful completion of the doctoral studies, PhD candidates should acquire 180 ECTS, 60 ECTS per year.

II. Methods used

The evaluation process included a number of different and diverse methods in order to produce a thorough evaluation report. More specifically:

- a) Evaluation of the documents provided by the IOSUD during the evaluation process;
- b) Evaluation of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes;
- c) On-site visit, of the domain coordinator, and on-line presentation of the University of Craiova infrastructures to the international evaluator;
- d) Meeting/discussions with the IOSUD members and members of The Council of the Doctoral School;
- e) Meeting/discussions with the doctoral program advisors;

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



- f) Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- g) Meetings/discussions with the domain coordinator.

It was not possible to have meetings and discussions with graduates and employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review due to the fact that there are no graduates yet and, thus, no employers of the program's graduates.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The evaluation was based on the fulfillment of the specific criteria described in Annex 4 with respect to the Institutional Capacity of the University of Craiova to effectively run the Doctoral Program.

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

This criterion involves the administrative, managerial, institutional structures and the financial resources of the University of Craiova to undertake doctoral studies in the field of Physical Education and Sport.

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.

This standard involves the existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the University of Craiova doctoral study in the field of Physical Education and Sport.

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 University of Craiova has approved (24/11/2016) the Regulation of the Institution Authorized to Organize Doctoral Programmes. This regulation has been modified three times (7/12/2017, 12/07/2019, and 28/01/2021). In the regulation there are articles discussing 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), c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (e.g., for the admission of doctoral students); d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), f) the contract for doctoral studies; and g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

The Regulation is in Romanian and thus difficult for the international expert to thoroughly evaluate the content of the regulation. However, it seems that the regulation exists and addresses the most important aspects of this criterion.

Recommendations: None

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.*

Annex 37 describes the procedures and standards of the Doctoral program.



The Regulation is in Romanian and thus difficult for the international expert to thoroughly evaluate the content of the regulation. However, it seems that the regulation exists and addresses the most important aspects of this criterion.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the infrastructures of the University of Craiova that need exist in order to effectively support the Doctoral Program.

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 University of Craiova maintains an online system for the monitoring of the doctoral students progress (<http://cis01.central.ucv.ro/evstud/>). Access to the information on the system is allowed to the student and authorised personnel.

The online system seems adequate in recording the activities of the student.

Recommendations: The system records the activities that the student has performed. It would be beneficial for the student to also include the activities that he/she has to perform in the future/next academic season. In this case, the platform would serve as a personal diary/agenda/portfolio of the student helping him/her to better monitor the progress of the work and better plan his/her future actions.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use.



The University of Craiova maintains a software program to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses (www.sistemantiplagiat.ro). Students have access to the software and can test their thesis. The result of the test defines whether a student is allowed to defend his/her thesis.

The software program seems adequate in verifying the percentage of similarity in doctoral theses.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the financial support provided to doctoral students through the resources of the University of Craiova.

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

The University of Craiova currently runs an Operation Programme Human Capital entitled 'Entrepreneurial University – system of higher education and formation for the labour market in Romania through scholarships for Doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers and the implementation of innovative entrepreneurial training programmes' that targets to involve 67 doctoral students.

It was not evident whether doctoral students from the Physical Education and Sport domain will participate in this Operation Programme. Furthermore, although the doctoral thesis seem to have received external funding it was not evident that doctoral students were involved in these projects.



Recommendations: The Doctoral thesis advisors should search for funding opportunities, national or international, to support their students financially and academically.

The indicator is partially 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%.*

At the moment one student receives funding from an independent organization and four students receive financial support from the state.

According to the Performance Indicator A1.3.2 the percentage of students receiving financial support through scholarships and grants should be higher than 20%. In the Physical Education and Sport domain one student fulfills this criterion (out of 30).

Recommendations: The Doctoral thesis advisors should search for funding opportunities, national or international, to support their students financially and meet this indicator. In addition, they should teach doctoral students how to apply for scholarships and grants.

The indicator is not 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.*

There is no clear evidence on the percentage of doctoral grants is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students. The provided information describes the total amount of budget allocated to each Doctoral School.

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



The budget allocated to the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities is low compared to the budget allocated to the other Doctoral schools. However, the budget for the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities has been considerably increased the past two years (2020-2021). Considering the number of the doctoral students in the domain of Physical Education and Sport (30) it is likely that this indicator may be achieved.

Recommendations: The University of Craiova should have established a policy of how the doctoral student fees are used during their studies and how the 10% is used to re-imburse students' academic activities. Furthermore, It would be useful to anticipate academic activities that can be supported by the University of Craiova in order to help students develop an personal plan of how they will benefit from these activities.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

This criterion involves the evaluation of the infrastructures of the University of Craiova and their capacity to effectively support the Doctoral Program.

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the research infrastructures (e.g., labs, computers, software, library etc) that can effectively support the Doctoral Program.

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 Doctoral School posits a) a multimedia laboratory, b) laboratories, c) a library and provides access to scientific resources databases. The Faculty of Physical Education and Sport more specifically includes 11 sports grounds, 6 lecture halls, 18 laboratories, 7 sport halls, library, and a book depository.



With respect to the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport the laboratories seem to be well-equipped and provide students with the necessary tools to run their research. However, a notable shortcoming is that the University does not provide access to students in important for their research, and personal development as researchers, software, such as software for statistical analyses. From the evidence during the evaluation it became apparent that students were using these software through their advisors' accounts.

Recommendations: Students should have access to softwares that are necessary for their research and personal development as researchers. The University should provide access to students to such softwares.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

This criterion involves the qualifications of the staff involved in the Doctoral Program.

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

This standard involves the qualifications of the advisors of the doctoral students.

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.

The domain of Physical Education and Sport is supported by six advisors. At least five of the advisors meet the standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU).

The minimum criterion of 3 advisors (50%) achieving the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) is met.



Recommendations: The advisors' expertise lies mostly on biological sciences. On the other hand, there is a lack of supervisors from the social sciences. Taking into consideration that the Doctoral Program is integrated into the Doctoral Study Program of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities the representation of social sciences in the Doctoral Program is necessary. Furthermore, this would allow for more interdisciplinary research that it is expected to produce higher level of doctoral theses.

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

Five out of six advisors are full-time teaching staff member of the University of Craiova.

The indicator of at least 50% of all doctoral advisors having a full-time employment contract is met.

Recommendations: None

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 study subjects 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 evaluation process revealed that the study subjects are taught by teaching staff or researchers fulfilling the criteria of the law.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

At the moment, one advisor coordinates 11 theses, one advisor coordinates 8 theses, one advisor coordinates 5 theses, two advisors coordinate 3 theses each and one advisor does not coordinate any theses at all.

The number of advisors that concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, does not exceed 20%.

Recommendations: A more equal distribution of the students to advisors with similar expertise would resolve this issue. Alternatively, as the indicators A3.1.1.1 and A3.1.2. are fulfilled more teaching staff could be involved in the doctoral program to enrich the program with expertise in different disciplines, provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research and provide a more reasonable ratio of advisors/students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This standard involves the research profile of the advisors and their international recognition by the academic community

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



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

All advisors have at least five publications in Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed journals. Three advisors have international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations.

At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors fulfill the criterion of having at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications or other achievements of relevant significance within the past five years.

Recommendations: The vast majority of the publications have been made with Romanian colleagues and only a small number of publications includes international colleagues. The advancement of the international profile of the advisors is expected to create opportunities for doctoral students to develop an international profile too.

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.*



All Doctoral supervisors remain scientifically active and fulfill at least **25%** of the CNATDCU score.

The indicator of having at least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors being active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards is achieved.

Recommendations: The University of Craiova would benefit from specific activities that will enhance the international profile of the doctoral study advisors. Strengthening the international profile of the advisors will also enable doctoral students develop an international profile.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The evaluation was based on the fulfillment of the specific criteria described in Annex 4 with respect to the Educational Effectiveness of the University of Craiova with respect to the enrolled candidates, quality of staff, and the doctoral program's procedures.

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

This criterion involves the evaluation of the quality of the enrolled students, the content and the procedures of the doctoral program.

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 involves the capacity of the University of Craiova to attract high level candidates.

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.*



Out of the 30 Doctoral students who are enrolled in the domain of Physical Education and Sport in the academic year 2020-2021, four (4) are financially supported by the state and the remaining are self-funded.

The ratio of the total number of candidates and the number of candidates funded by the state is 1.15 (30:26 = 1.15). In the internal evaluation report it is stated that the ratio is 1.5 but it is not clearly defined how this figure is calculated.

Recommendations: The University of Craiova should adhere to the national regulations and enroll the appropriate number of candidates.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

This standard evaluates whether the candidates admitted to the doctoral program demonstrate adequate academic, research and professional performance.

Performance Indicator *B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.

In the Doctoral program the admission criteria include: a) minimum average grade of 7 in their previous cycle (Bachelor/Master), b) interview including the defence of a research project, and c) professional achievements (as athletes or coaches) in the field of sport.

The criteria used for the admission of candidates do not include evidence of previous academic and research performance. The admission criteria largely rely on candidates' grade in previous education cycles and also include arbitrary criteria involving professional performance. In the latter case, the criteria of high professional performance were not accurately defined.

Recommendations: The Doctoral Program would benefit from the admission of students who at least hold a Master degree and are familiar with research procedures. Unless the national regulations



allows it, the Doctoral Program should avoid the admission of candidates directly from the Bachelor program.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

There is no evidence, in the official documents, of candidates dropping out.

Due to the fact that the Doctoral Program is new (launched in 2018) it is reasonable not to have drop out yet.

Recommendations: Dropping out from doctoral studies largely relies on financial constraints and poor organization of the program (including the lack of mechanism to check and control for the support provided by the advisor to the candidate). To limit drop out of the doctoral students in the future, the University of Craiova should establish mechanisms to financially support students (as also discussed above) and monitor the candidates' progress during their studies. In regard to the former participation in research grants and re-imburement of doctoral tuition fees to the students as scholarships or internships (e.g., paid teaching of a course under the supervision of the advisor) could assist. With regard the latter, annually evaluations of the candidates satisfaction with the Doctoral Program, establishment of Training Needs Assessment and their monitoring, and annual progress reports could assist.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

This criterion involves the evaluation of the content of the Doctoral Program.

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

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



This standard involves the evaluation of the content of the Doctoral program and whether it provides candidates with opportunities to improve their research skills.

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

The Doctoral Program includes the mandatory attendance of 6 courses that are relevant to the scientific domain of the doctoral candidate. One of these courses involves research methodology. This course is mandatory to all candidates. In this course, statistics is included as a part.

The Doctoral program combined the course of research methodology with that of statistics. However, this does not allow the in-depth study of either research methods and statistics. In this sense, although this indicator is typically fulfilled (i.e., having a course on research methodology and/or the statistical data processing) it seems that the study of statistics, which is essential for a doctoral candidate and a potential academic (as a result of obtaining a doctoral degree) is underrepresented.

Recommendations: The doctoral candidates of the program would benefit from a separate course on statistics.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.2.

The Doctoral Program includes the mandatory attendance of 6 courses that are relevant to the scientific domain of the doctoral candidate. One of these courses involves ethics on research. This course is mandatory to all candidates.

The Doctoral Program involves a course on Ethics as required.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.



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

The Doctoral Program provides 10 courses to the candidates (2 mandatory courses on Research Methods and Ethics, and selection of 4 out of 8 courses on the research topic). The performance of the candidates on these courses is evaluated through exams.

The Doctoral Program provides to some extent autonomy to the candidates; in selecting some courses. However, it is not apparent the existence of a mechanism that would ensure that the candidates will develop their research and academic competencies. In addition, there is no mechanism assisting students develop a portfolio of competencies that they would like to improve and accordingly monitor their improvement. For instance, there was no evidence that doctoral candidates have the opportunity to teach and thus develop an essential to an academic skill.

Recommendations: The doctoral candidates would benefit by the development of a Training Needs Assessment where they would declare the skills that they would like to improve during their doctoral studies (e.g., proficiency in English language, writing research publications, learning statistics, teaching skills etc) and thus develop a personal portfolio of skills they need to acquire. Furthermore, opportunities for participation in interdisciplinary research projects and teaching would assist doctoral candidates to develop the research and academic skills that a PhD holder should possess.

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.*

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



Doctoral candidates have weekly 30-min meetings with their advisors. This process is recorded and monitored by a guidance commission. There was no evidence about the whether written guidance and feedback was provided to the candidates.

Both advisors and candidates suggested that regular meetings were performed and were useful in the development of the doctoral research. Still, students in Year 1 suggested that they would prefer more time with their advisor.

Recommendations: Candidates requested for more frequent meetings (and of longer duration) in the beginning of their studies (Year 1) as there were several importance issues to be discussed and clarified. The once a week frequency was found adequate for candidates in Year 2.

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 Doctoral Program includes 30 candidates. These candidates are supervised by 5 members of the staff.

The ratio of students and teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance does not exceed the suggested 3:1 ratio.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion involves the evaluation of the outcomes of the doctoral studies.

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the end-products of the doctoral studies.



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.*

At the moment there are no graduates of the Doctoral Program. Nevertheless, doctoral candidates have presented research in conferences and published in research journals.

The indicator can't be fully evaluated due to the fact that there are no graduates from the Doctoral program in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Nevertheless, there is evidence that the doctoral candidates are in the process of presenting and publishing their work.

Recommendations: All presentations and research publications have been made in international conferences held in Romania or national journals. This will assist the doctoral candidates to develop an international profile which is currently missing.

The indicator is partially 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.*

As discussed in the previous indicator, at the moment there are no graduates of the Doctoral Program. Nevertheless, doctoral candidates have presented research in conferences and published in research journals.

The indicator can't be fully evaluated due to the fact that there are no graduates from the Doctoral program in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Nevertheless, as stated in the previous indicator, there is evidence that the doctoral candidates are in the process of presenting and publishing their work.



Recommendations: The same recommendation applies in this indicator too. The Doctoral Program should encourage and provide opportunities for the doctoral candidates to present and publish their work in international conferences outside Romania and international journals. This will assist the doctoral candidates to develop an international profile which is currently missing.

The indicator is for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

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

This standard involves the evaluation of the international profile of the Doctoral Program and the participation of international experts in the Program's procedures.

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.*

At the moment there no theses' defences in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Thus, there is are no specialists coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD participating in the Doctoral Program procedures.

This indicator can't be evaluated as there no theses' defences in the domain under review.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is not applicable for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.2. *The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.*



At the moment there are no theses' defences in the domain of Physical Education and Sport. Thus, there are no specialists coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD participating in the Doctoral Program procedures.

This indicator can't be evaluated as there are no theses' defences in the domain under review.

Recommendations: None

The indicator is not applicable for the domain of Physical Education and Sport.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

This criterion involves the evaluation of the internal quality assurance procedures, the transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources as well as the international profile of the Doctoral Program.

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

This criterion involves the evaluation of the internal quality assurance procedures.

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.

This standard involves the existence of an internal quality assurance framework.

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

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



The university of Craiova has developed a process of internal evaluation. Regular board meetings of relevant committees regarding the doctoral studies are planned and performed in order to identify and resolve problems. Students complete a survey evaluating the Doctoral Program.

The internal evaluation of the Doctoral program largely relies on the responses of the students. The meetings of the relevant committees seem to focus on the every day problems that may occur. Limited focus seems to be on the objective criteria and performance indicators that can be used for the internal evaluation of the Doctoral Program.

Recommendations: The Doctoral program would benefit from the establishment of a strategic plan setting and describing the goals of the doctoral program, and thus, the key performance indicators and the objective criteria to be used for the evaluation of the performance of the Doctoral Program. These criteria should reflect, to some extent, the national standards for doctoral studies (e.g., number of international publications, number of presentations in national and international-within and outside Romania- conferences, etc) as well as the objectives and plan of the Faculty (e.g., interdisciplinary research etc).

The indicator is partially 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.

During the doctoral programme, candidates provide feedback through a survey about their general level of satisfaction with the doctoral program. The Doctoral school prepared a report with the responses of the candidates and a report on the evaluation of the candidates' responses.

The evaluation of the doctoral program by the the candidates was high. However, the number of candidates participating in the evaluation was rather small (approx. 30%). Furthermore, in the report on the evaluation of the candidates' responses it was not clear the measures taken to resolve the problems identified by the students.



Recommendations: A larger number of the candidates should participate in the evaluation of the doctoral program, if not all. Furthermore, short interviews or open-ended questions in the survey could provide useful information about the problems candidates are facing and their proposed ways to address them.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion involves the transparency of information and the accessibility to learning resources.

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

This standard involves the easily accessible provision of information about the doctoral program to all interested parties.

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

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

The website of the Faculty has a dedicated place to the doctoral studies.



The website seems to include information about 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); and (h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis. It was not clear whether the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor) and links to the doctoral theses' summaries was offered.

Recommendations: Include on the website all information required by ARACIS.

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.

This criterion involves the evaluation of the resources provided to the candidates to effectively complete their studies.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.

The University of Craiova provides access to databases related to Physical Education and Sport for searching and obtaining research articles.

The provided databases seem to be sufficient to candidates for obtaining research articles.

Recommendations: None

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.



The University of Craiova provides access to databases for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

The provided databases seem to be sufficient to candidates for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

Recommendations: None

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.*

The Faculty of Physical Education and Sport Science runs seven laboratories.

Advisors and candidates confirmed that all have access to the laboratories that are relevant to their studies and they can use the equipment to run their research.

Recommendations: Opportunities should be provided to doctoral candidates to be part of and participate in research projects other than their thesis research and collaborate with other relevant laboratories.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

This criterion involves the international profile of the doctoral program and of its candidates.

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

This standard involves the existence of a plan to promote the internationalization of the doctoral studies.



Performance Indicator *C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

The Doctoral Program has enrolled two foreign students. Also, there is a collaboration with a foundation/entity of the USA. Furthermore, the faculty participates in several Erasmus+ mobility agreements.

There is no evidence that doctoral candidates have attended and completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences (outside Romania). Furthermore, there was no evidence that the Doctoral Program has drafted and applied policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, as required by the law.

Recommendations: The Doctoral Program should establish collaboration with institutions outside Romania and promote the mobility of the doctoral candidates. Furthermore, the Doctoral Program should encourage, financially support and organise the participation of the doctoral students to international events (e.g., conferences, workshops etc).

The indicator is not 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.*

Several candidates from the University of Craiova have participated in Erasmus+ mobility.



There is no evidence whether candidates from the domain of Physical Education and Sport have participated in such mobility schemes. Also, there is no evidence about international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.

Recommendations: The doctoral candidates would benefit from the organization of lectures/workshops delivered by international experts. Furthermore, collaboration with international experts as co-advisors would also help doctoral candidates develop more in-depth research protocols.

The indicator is not fulfilled.

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

IOSUD has published the IOSUD Presentation Guidebook providing information on the advisors of the Doctoral Program.

The IOSUD Presentation Guidebook contains information on the doctoral studies. However, there was no evidence that the IOSUD has developed a concrete plan to support the international profile of the Doctoral Program (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).

Recommendations: The University of Craiova should be more active in advertising the Doctoral Program and enhancing the international profile of the Doctoral Program. In this respect, collaborations with institutions abroad, joint supervision of theses with international experts, invitations of international experts to teach in the doctoral program would increase the visibility of the program.

The indicator is not fulfilled.



IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - structure of the program - monitoring of students, good collaboration with advisors - well-equipped laboratories - access to laboratories, libraries, databases - the strengths identified throughout the report - candidates with working experience - course on Ethics 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of access to softwares for statistical analysis - lack of a course on statistics - unequal distribution of candidates to supervisors - lack of academic criteria for admission - lack of financial support to candidates - lack of opportunities for the development of an international profile - lack of interdisciplinary research - lack of candidates' training needs assessment/personal portfolio - lack of a Committee of Ethics in Research
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - willingness from candidates already working to take part in the program - relevance of the program studies with the local market - attractive program in the local region 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - financial support of the candidates - overload of advisors - program somehow isolated from the international research community

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1	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	Fulfilled	None
2	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	Fulfilled	None
3	A.1.2.1	The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background	Fulfilled	It would be beneficial for the student to also include the activities that he/she has to perform in the future/next academic season.
4	A.1.2.2	The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use	Fulfilled	None
5	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	Partially fulfilled	The Doctoral thesis advisors should search for funding opportunities, national or international, to support their students financially and academically
6	*A.1.3.2	The percentage of doctoral	Not	The Doctoral thesis

		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%.	fulfilled	advisors should search for funding opportunities, national or international, to support their students financially and meet this indicator. In addition, they should teach doctoral students how to apply for scholarships and grants
7	*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.)	Partially fulfilled	The University of Craiova should have established a policy of how the doctoral student fees are used during their studies and how the 10% is used to re-imburse students' academic activities. Furthermore, It would be useful to anticipate academic activities that can be supported by the University of Craiova in order to help students develop an personal plan of how they will benefit from these activities.
8	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	Partially fulfilled	Students should have access to softwares that are necessary for their research and personal development as researchers. The University should provide access to students to such softwares.

		years will be presented distinctly		
9	A.3.1.1	Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	Fulfilled	More interdisciplinary research with the inclusion advisors/candidates from social sciences
10	*A.3.1.2	At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD	Fulfilled	None
11	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	Fulfilled	None
12	*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 ⁶ does not exceed 20%.	Fulfilled	All advisors involved in the Doctoral program should coordinate theses in order to maintain their interest and commitment to the Doctoral Program. The coordination of too

⁶3 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,

				many theses, even if allowed by the national law, makes difficult to effectively coordinate all the theses and provide adequate attention to all students.
13	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 international competitions	Fulfilled	The international profile of the doctoral thesis advisors should be strengthened.
14	*A.3.2.2	At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.	Fulfilled	The University of Craiova would benefit from specific activities that will enhance the international profile of the doctoral study advisors. Strengthening the international profile of the advisors will also enable doctoral students develop an international profile.
15	*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.	Partially fulfilled	The University of Craiova should adhere to the national regulations and enroll the appropriate number of candidates.
16	*B.1.2.1	Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection	Partially fulfilled	The Doctoral Program would benefit from the

paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

		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.		admission of students who at least hold a Master degree and are familiar with research procedures. The admission criteria should also include academic- and research-related criteria such as publication and presentations in conferences.
17	B.1.2.2	The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission ⁷ does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	The University of Craiova should establish mechanisms to financially support students (as also discussed above) and monitor the candidates' progress during their studies.
18	B.2.1.1	The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing	Fulfilled	The doctoral candidates of the program would benefit from a separate course on statistics.
19	B.2.1.2	At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	None
20	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	Partially fulfilled	The doctoral candidates would benefit by the development of a Training Needs Assessment where they would declare the skills that they would like to improve during their doctoral studies

⁷³ 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.

		completing each discipline or through the research activities		
21	B.2.1.4	All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting	Fulfilled	Candidates requested for more frequent meetings (and of longer duration) in the beginning of their studies (Year 1) as there were several importance issues to be discussed and clarified. The once a week frequency was found adequate for candidates in Year 2
22	B.2.1.5	For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1	Fulfilled	None
23	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.	Partially Fulfilled	The Doctoral Program should encourage and provide opportunities for the doctoral candidates to present and publish their work in international conferences outside Romania and international journals.
24	*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	Not applicable	None

		evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.		
25	*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	Not applicable	None
26	*B.3.2.2	The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	Not applicable	None
27	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	Partially fulfilled	The Doctoral program would benefit from the establishment of a strategic plan setting and describing the goals of the doctoral program, and thus, the key performance indicators and the objective criteria to be used for the evaluation of the performance of the Doctoral Program
28	*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	Fulfilled	A larger number of the candidates should participate in the evaluation of the doctoral program, if not all. Furthermore, short interviews or open-ended questions in the survey could provide useful information about

		administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.		the problems candidates are facing and their proposed ways to address them.
29	C.2.1.1	The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection	Fulfilled	Include on the website all information required by ARACIS
30	C.2.2.1	All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.	Fulfilled	None
31	C.2.2.2	Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works	Fulfilled	None
32	C.2.2.3	All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	Fulfilled	Opportunities should be provided to doctoral candidates to be part of and participate in research projects other than their thesis research and collaborate with other relevant laboratories.
33	*C.3.1.1	IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes... European Higher Education Area.	Not fulfilled	The Doctoral Program should establish collaboration with institutions outside Romania and promote the mobility of the doctoral candidates. Furthermore, the Doctoral Program should encourage, financially support and organise the participation of the doctoral students to international events (e.g., conferences, workshops etc).
34	C.3.1.2	In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to	Not fulfilled	The doctoral candidates would benefit from the organization of

		the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.		lectures/workshops delivered by international experts. Furthermore, collaboration with international experts as co-advisors would also help doctoral candidates develop more in-depth research protocols.
35	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.).	Not fulfilled	The University of Craiova should be more active in advertising the Doctoral Program and enhancing the international profile of the Doctoral Program. In this respect, collaborations with institutions abroad, joint supervision of theses with international experts, invitations of international experts to teach in the doctoral program would increase the visibility of the program.

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The Doctoral Program seems to adhere (fully or partially) to the most of the performance indicators set by ARACIS. The program seems to have a solid structure and efforts are made to provide a good level of collaboration and support of the candidates. The major problems encountered involve the financial support of the candidates that may jeopardise the continuation (or the timely completion) of their studies and the international profile of the doctoral candidates that doesn't adhere to the profile of a modern university. Furthermore, from the evaluation process it was evident that doctoral candidates were working solely (or to a vast extent) on their own research project/thesis. Taking into consideration that a PhD provides the qualification to enter the Academia, the Doctoral Program should involve activities that would enable the doctoral candidates with the necessary skills (e.g., teaching, interdisciplinary research, English language proficiency etc). Lastly, there was no evidence of the existence of a Committee of Ethics in Research that would approve the doctoral theses.

VII. Annexes

