

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Methods used
- III. Analysis of performance indicators
- IV. SWOT Analysis
- V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations
- VI. Conclusions and general recommendations
- VII. Annexes

I. Introduction¹

In this chapter, the following shall be summarized:

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

Evaluation carried out “**online**” focused on the maintenance of accreditation on the “*Doctoral Field of Sociology*” at the University of Craiova. The period of evaluation: 2nd July 2020 – 9th July, 2021. Composition of the Expert Committee: 1) Coordinator: Prof. Batar, Dumitru ULB, Sibiu, 2) International expert: Prof. Makó, Csaba, Ex. Hungarian Academy of Sciences and National University of Public Service, Budapest, 3) Olah, Roland, Phd student, Universitatea din Oradea.

II. Methods used

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

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit (if such documents have been requested);
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, comprising (indicative and non-exhaustive list, which shall be changed according to the context):

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



- classrooms;
- laboratories;
- the institution's library;
- research centers;
- the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
- lecture halls for students;
- the student residences;
- the student cafeteria;
- sports ground etc.;
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
 - The Council of the Doctoral School, the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures);
 - the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;
 - student organizations;
 - secretariats;
 - various departments/administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.);
- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review.

Methodology and data source for the external evaluation:

Evaluation of the quality assurance process of the “*Doctoral Field of Sociology*” (DFS in abbreviation) at the University of Craiova (UVV) based on the following data sources and analysis:

1: Online kick-off meeting on 2nd July, 2021. General presentation of the accreditation process by Prof. Ioan Ianos, followed by the detailed – ARACIS prepared PPT – road-map of the various steps of accreditation process.

2: Online meeting on the preparation and harmonization of the evaluation steps and meeting with the CEOs of UCV and the members of CSUD, online meeting with the contact persons of the doctoral studies, IOSUD academic staff, research centres staff and directors (5th July, 2021).



3: Online meeting with the members of Ethic Commission, Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC), representative of PhD students, IOSUD graduates, CSUD members, etc. (6th July, 2021).

4: Online meeting with employers (stakeholders) of doctoral graduates (8th July, 2021).

5: Online meeting with the representative of the institutions reviewed in order to discuss the results and the possible key recommendations of the evaluation/reviewing process. This last day meeting gave a final chance for external reviewer to acquire complementary information – beside the self-evaluation report and related documents of the Sociology doctoral school – from the coordinator, Prof. Batar Dumitru ULB Sibiu, and from the representative of PhD students, Mr. Oláh Roland. (In this occasion, I would like to thank the help of both Prof. Ela Vilceanu and Mr. Oláh Roland for their openness.)

Beside the documents of ARACIS (e.g., Order 3651 of 12.04. 2021., Ministry of Education, Guide of Conducting Periodic External Evaluation, Ministry of Education Quality Assurance System Romania, etc.), I paid special attention to the core report prepared for the accreditation “Periodic Self-Evaluation Report for Maintenance of Accreditation of the Doctoral Field of Sociology”, April 2021.

The following technical-methodological difficulties I had to confront during “data-mining”: web-link referred in the various texts generally worked well, but it was difficult to find the English version in some cases. On the other side, in the case of the Annex-es used as empirical evidence in the self-evaluation report of the DFS, I could not open them.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

(a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;

(b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;



c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);

d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;

e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

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

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

“The Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities” at the Faculty of Social Sciences - UCV operating within the IOSUD-UCV was established in the academic year 2015/2016, comprising the following three doctoral programs: History, Sociology, Sport and Physical Education Science. In the present institutional evaluation process, “The Doctoral Field of Sociology” (DFS) is in the focus of the accreditation procedure. DFS has 62 PhD students in the year 2020/2021.

All six doctoral supervisors are affiliated with the doctoral school of DFS. The curriculum of the doctoral programs covers the following subjects: a) a training program base on advanced university studies, b) an individual program of scientific research. The training and research curriculum was approved by the Doctoral School Council (BDS) or Doctoral School of Board under the supervision of the Board of Doctoral Studies of IOSUD – UCV, its structure has been established and amended by the Rector's decision 3532A of 31.01.2019. (Annexa 5B_IOSUD_Componenta CSUD_modificata_Decizie Rector 3532A din 31_01_2019)

It is worth to mention that operation of the DFS is supported administratively by Secretary of Doctoral Studies.

The student voice is systematically measure by an annual attitudinal (satisfaction) survey. (See in detail in the section C-Quality Management, C.1.1., feedback mechanisms)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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



Beside regulation of the ECTS credit points, DFS not only applies the Code of Ethics of the UVC and on this basis informs doctoral students on scientific, professional and university ethics, but verify its application. Special course entitled for this purpose: “Ethics for Scientific Research and Academic Integrity” respecting the guidance of the Ministry of Education.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator A.1.2.1. *The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.*

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

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

The “Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities” – including the DFS, ha a multimedia laboratory with two dozen of computers available for the doctoral students. Unfortunately, it is not clear from the documents whether the PhD students have their own portable PC and neither on the availability of software However, doctorate students have excellent access to the internationally well-known journals, books etc. (See in detail in the next performance indicator: A.1.2.2.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

Doctorate students have their disposal excellent opportunities “data-mining” through the access of the well-known international scientific data-sources:

Science Direct Freedom Collection, Springerlink Journals, Cambridge Journals, Ebsco Business Source Complete, American Institute of Physics - Journals, IEEE/IET Electronic Library, MathSciNet, Clarivate Analytics - Web of Science Core Collection, InCites Journal Citation Reports, Scopus, Derwent Innovations Index, Proquest - Ebrary, Springerlink,



Emerald, Elsevier, Wiley etc. (See in detail: Anexa 12C_IOSUD_Biblioteca...)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Full professors and assistant professors having doctoral supervisory role in the are involved numerous universities, national and internationally funded research (the sponsors: "PA17/RO13 framework", "Ministry for Romanians Abroad", "ERASMUS | Key Action 3 Policy experimentation program", "European Association of Schools of Social Work", etc.). (See in detail in the Section "Q3 Quality of Human Resources).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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%.*

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

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

In this relation, it is worth to mention the following two post-doctoral research projects:

- "The protection of environmental migrants in West Africa: the case of Côte d'Ivoire", project duration: May-July 2017, postdoctoral fellow: GAILION Kemonthe Marius-Jonas (Africa, within the Eugen Ionesco programme), coordinator: Professor Dumitru Otovescu, PhD;



- "Migration, training, and socio-professional integration of African students in Eastern Europe: The case of Cameroonians in Romania (1970-2010)", project duration: May-July 2018, postdoctoral fellow: TAMEKAMTA Zozime Alphonse (Africa, within the Eugen Ionesco programme), coordinator: Professor Dumitru Otovescu, PhD

No. of doctorate students having research support (i.e., doctoral or post-doctoral) is less than 5 % of the total no. of the doctoral students at the "DFS.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/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 (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

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

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

According to the IOSUD, the UCV devotes its own financial resources and those provided by government to reimburse such advanced training expenses of PhD students as attending summer school, national and/or international conference participation, publication in international journals, etc.) The financial resources supporting these activities:

1: "University grants in Romania through European support for Doctoral and post-doctoral candidates" (30 doctoral students, duration: 04.04.2014 – 18 months, Annexa 9A_IOSUD).,

2: "Operational Programme Human Capital" (POCU/380/6/13, OS 6.13) aimed to develop entrepreneurial university, Duration: 2019-2022. Target group: 60 doctoral and 30 post-doctoral students. (Anexa 9A_IOSUD).

3: % of the total amount of doctoral grants received by university base institutional contracts and tuition fees collected from students aimed to reimburse the – above mentioned – training course of doctoral students (e.g., conferences, summer course, publication's fees etc.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

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



**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities – including DFS – has multimedia laboratory (24 PCs), a library with a reading room, own book fund, virtual library and availability of international scientific databases (see in detail “A.1.2.2.”). (Unfortunately, I could not open the Anexa 26_IOSUD: Baza materiala si situatia juridica).

“Library of the UCV” provides latest publications in all four major doctoral programs, including Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities (DFS)”. (web-link readable, but it was not possible to open the Anexa 12A_IOSUD). IOSUC – UCV permanently provides the necessary financial resources for the operation of the University Library (Anexa 12B IOSUD and Anexa 12A_IOSUD, it was not possible to open them!).

IOSUD – UCV has a state-of-the-art research infrastructure, INCESA (<http://www.incesa.ro#>) which is available for all doctoral students.

(Note: In the evaluation of the DFS, it is not relevant to inform the external reviewer on the research facility of students on “horticulture and agronomy”, similarly, the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports on the 156 Brestei Street and comprises 11 sport facilities, 18 laboratories etc. may help indirectly – through better physical shapes of the doctorate students of DFS – but directly may not improve the quality of their research work in the field of sociology.

The IOSUD-UCV bilateral agreements with other higher educational institutions, research centres to commonly exploit both physical and intellectual infrastructures through networking (Remark: ERRIs platform web-link, does not work, it indicates: undefined error).

The Thesis supervisors are conducting active research activities, which may represent a decisive input developing research competences and habitus of the doctorate students in the DFS:



Professor Dumitru Otovescu, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the "Revitalization and promotion of the cultural heritage of minorities in Oltenia in the context of cultural diversity" project, funded under the PA17 / RO13 framework - "Promoting diversity in culture and art in the European cultural heritage", project duration: 2014 -2016, coordinator: University of Craiova in partnership with the Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo;

- Professor Dumitru Otovescu, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the "Maximizing Comparative Advantages of Border Regions" project, project duration: 2013-2015, within the partnership between the University of Craiova and "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria (the project was co-funded by the two universities);

- Associate Professor Habil. Adrian Otovescu, PhD, doctoral supervisor, and Vlad Ovidiu Cioaca - doctoral student participated in "The community of Romanians from Chernivtsi. Historical coordinates and identity reconstruction" project, project duration: September-December 2019, funding: Ministry for Romanians Abroad, Romania, field research conducted in the Chernivtsi region, Ukraine;

- Professor Habil. Maria Constantinescu, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the "Building School-Wide Inclusive, Positive and Equitable Learning Environments Through a Systems-Change Approach" (SWPBS), ERASMUS+ Key Action 3 Policy Experimentation program, project duration: 2018-2021;

- Professor Habil. Maria Constantinescu, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the "Empowering Practitioners in Social Work from Rural Communities", project duration: 2018-2021, ERASMUS+ program;

- Professor Habil. Felicia Andrioni, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the "Cross-European Blended Learning of Part-Time Students" funded by EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work), project duration: 2014-2015;

- Professor Habil. Felicia Andrioni, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the Adult Life-Long Learning in Social Work project - A European Network for Social Work as Adult Education and Blended Learning, funded by EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work), project duration: 2017-2018;

- Professor Habil. Felicia Andrioni, PhD, doctoral supervisor participated in the EURECA-PRO, The European University for Responsible Consumption and Production project, project duration: 2020-2023, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, funded by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), EACEA.A – Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps A.1 – European Higher Education;

In addition, I would like to stress the importance of the following "post-doc" research projects:



- Postdoctoral research, "The protection of environmental migrants in West Africa: the case of Côte d'Ivoire", project duration: May-July 2017, postdoctoral fellow: GALLON Kemonthe Marius-Jonas (Africa, within the Eugen Ionesco programme), coordinator: Professor Dumitru Otovescu, PhD;

- Postdoctoral research, "Migration, training and socio-professional integration of African students in Eastern Europe: The case of Cameroonians in Romania (1970-2010)", project duration: May-July 2018, postdoctoral fellow: TAMEKAMTA Zozime Alphonse (Africa, within the Eugen Ionesco programme), coordinator: Professor Dumitru Otovescu, PhD.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

All six doctoral supervisors of the DFS are meeting the CNATDCU minimum standards, respecting the order of the Minister of National Education, no. 6129/20 December 2016. (Remark: it not possible to open the Anexa 3. Standarde Sociologie).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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



Among the six thesis supervisors in the field of “Sociology” all are affiliated with the DFS. (Remark: Anexa 3A_IOSU_Lista conducatori, does not open).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

Evaluation the high quality of research and publication performance of the doctoral supervisors, the advance studies at the field of ‘Sociology’ are supported by appropriately qualified staff. See in detail the Table no. 1 and Table No. 2. (pp. 12-13).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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%.*

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

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

From six Doctoral supervisors five coordinate more than 8 but no one more than 12 doctoral students, only one has 6 PhD students. This rate exceeds the limit of 20 % of the thesis supervisors.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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



*general description of the standard analysis.

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

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

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

In the field of *sociology and political sciences*, the the UCV has the best international publication performance among the Romanian universities in the last five years. See the Table no. 1!

Table no. 1. Ranking by Publications of Political Science and Sociology – Leading Romanian Universities (2011 – 2020)

Ranking	Universities	Scholarly output	Outputs	Field-weighted citation index	Citation Count	Citation per publication	h-5 index
1.	Univ. of Craiova (UCV)	23	27	2.09	135	5.9	4
2.	The Bucharest Univ. of Economic Studies	130	139	1.45	860	6.6	12
3.	Tech. Univ. of Cluj-Napoca	4	6	1.29	20	5.0	1
4.	Transilvanian Univ. of Brasov	22	29	0.85	129	5.9	4
5.	Univ. of Timisoara	66	59	0.68	295	4.5	4
6.	Alexandra Ioan Cuza University	124	118	0.58	367	3.0	4
7.	Univ. of Bucharest	275	235	0.52	764	2.8	6
8.	Babes-Bolyai Univ.	309	260	0.5	1143	3.7	6
9.	Politehnica Univ. Timisoara Politehnica	15	18	0.44	30	2.0	2
10.	Univ. Politehnica of Bucarest	12	11	0.43	47.0	3.9	3



11.	Grigore T. Popa Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy	120	239	0.38	326	2.7	6
12.	George Emil Palade Univ. of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Targu Mures	6	11	0.3	12	2.0	1
13.	Dunarea de Jos Univ. of Galati	20	20	0.28	52	2.6	3
14.	Iuliu Hatieganu Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy	12	14	0.26	54	4.5	1

Legend:

1. Scholarly Output in SciVal indicates the prolificacy of an entity: how many publications does this entity have indexed in Scopus?

2. SciVal Metric: Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)

Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) in SciVal indicates how the number of citations received by an entity's publications compares with the average number of citations received by all other similar publications in the data universe: how do the citations received by this entity's publications compare with the world average?

Be careful using this metric when the entity (e.g. a Researcher) has a small number of publications. A few highly cited publications can skew the FWCI value.

A FWCI of 1.00 indicates that the entity's publications have been cited exactly as would be expected based on the global average for similar publications; the FWCI of "World", or the entire Scopus database, is 1.00.

A FWCI of more than 1.00 indicates above the global average for similar publications; for example, 2.11 means 111% more than the world average.

A FWCI of less than 1.00 indicates below the global average for similar publications; for example, 0.87 means 13% less than the world average.

Similar publications are those publications in the Scopus database that have the same publication year, publication type, and discipline, as represented by the Scopus journal classification system. The discipline is defined by the Scopus ASJCs given to an article via the journal in which it is published.

SciVal often displays FWCI in a chart or table with years. These years are always the years in which items were published, and do not refer to the years.

3. SciVal Metric: Citation Count

Citation Count in SciVal indicates the total citation impact of an entity: how many citations have this entity's publications received?

SciVal often displays Citation Count in a chart or table with years. These years are always the years in which items were published, and do not refer to the years in which citations were received.

4. SciVal Metric: Citations per Publication

Citations per Publication in SciVal indicates the average citation impact of each of an entity's publications: how many citations have this entity's publications received on average?

SciVal often displays Citations per Publication in a chart or table with years. These years are always the years in which items were published, and do not refer to the years in which citations were received.

5. What is the h5-index?

The h5-index uses a 5-year publication and citation window on the standard h-index calculation and can be used to fairly track the metric over time in the Benchmarking module. The h5-index for an entity in 2019 takes the outputs published by that entity from 2015-2019 and the citations received by those outputs in the same time window to form a data set. It then uses the h-index calculation on the data set to compute the h5-index.

h-index gives information about the performance of Researchers and Research Areas. The h-index of an entity is 9 if the top 9 most-cited publications for that entity have each received at least 9 citations; it is 13 if an entity's top 13 most-cited publications have each received at least 13 citations; and so on.

The h5-index in Overview for an entity is always using publication and citation information from the last 5 complete years. For example in January 2020 the h5-index uses the date range 2014 – 2018, as 2019 is not yet considered a complete year until around June 2020. Learn more about incomplete years. As a result in Overview, the h5-index will always be the same value for the entity, no matter the selected date range.

In Benchmarking, unlike other h-indices, the h5-indices are calculated using a 5 year time window and the chart plots the latest year from the range. For instance, the data point for 2017 is the h5-index range of 2013-2017.



If you have selected an incomplete year in your year range, or a year before 5 complete years of data are available (1996 – 1999), no metrics will be displayed for those years.

Source: Prepared by Prof. assist. habil., Péter Sasvári, Unniversity of Public Service, Budapest, 9th July, 2021.

The international visibility of the doctoral supervisors in the DFS presented in the Table no. 2!

Table no. 2. International Recognized Profile of the Thesis Supervisors in the Sociology Doctorate School – IOSUD - UVC (Google Scholar)

Name of supervisor	Total no. of citation	Citation since 2016	h-index total	h-index since 2016	i10-index total	i10 index since 2016
Prof. Otovescu, D.	130	60	6	4	3	3
Prof. Gorun, A.	256	125	8	6	6	3
Prof. Contantinescu, M.	4	20	4	2	1	0
Prof.ass.Otovescu, A.	177	102	8	6	5	4
Prof. Coman, C.	213	173	9	7	9	5
Prof. Andrioni, F.	70	61	5	5	1	0

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.

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

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

In the doctoral field of sociology, the thesis (doctoral) supervisors fulfill the 84.4 % of the scores of the CNATDCU minimum standards required and mandatory of the award of the Habilitation certificate.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*



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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Candidates admitted by DFS have to own an average grade of 8.0 from their previous cycle study (BsC, Master's). Between 2015-2020, 44 Master' graduates (from the country or abroad) have participated in the admission to doctoral programs and 5.5 state subsidized places were available in the doctoral school (Remark: Anexa 7 Doctroanzi inmatriculati does not open).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

The selection criteria for admission into the program of the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities (DFS) are the following: a) quality of academic, b) motivation and interest in research, c) publication performance. (Remark: the relevant text in English on the web link is not available, see: https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/educatie/programe-doctorat/admitere/2020/conditi_de_admitere-2020.pdf).



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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%.

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

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

The dropping out rate at the DFSI is extremely low: 2.85 % (3 years after admission).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

In relation with the advanced academic studies related training program in the field of sociology, three subjects were mentioned, however only one, the scientific research training, devoted to in-depth study of the research methodology were indicated in the self-evaluation report of the DFS. The other two subject presentations are missing (Anexa 8 Plan invatamant in Sociologie, does not work!).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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



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

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

The curriculum of the doctoral school of DFS includes as a core topic of “Ethics of Scientific Research and Academic Integrity” (Remark: Anexa 8 Plan invatamant Sociologie and Anexa9. (Annex does not open).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

The IOSUD UCV did create regulation mechanism to guarantee that the training programs are reflecting the “learning outcomes” approach, including the types of knowledge/skills developments, responsibility and autonomous thinking of the PhD students. (Remark: Anexa 9. Anex does not open.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

Doctoral students during their training have counselling/guidance services of the following three committees composed by senior lecturer, assistant professor and full professors:

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



Committee I. (Senior lecturers: Andreea Nitá, PhD, Gabriela Motoi, PhD, Florin Pasatoiu, PhD, Gabriel Pricina, Phd.)

Committee II. (Professors: Dumitru Otovescu, Maria Constantinescu, Adrian Gorun)

Committee III. (Professors: Claudiu Coman, Felicia Andrioni and Assoc. prof. Adrian Otovescu)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

The ratio of number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance is 5.9:1, largely passed by the ARACIS recommended 3:1

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. *For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.*

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

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

Information is not available!

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

Information is not available!

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

Between 2015 and 2020, in 2015, 2018 and 2019, specialist coming from other than IOSUD took part more than two Thesis defense committees.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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

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

Evaluating the ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from higher education institution, other than the IOSUD UCV, when the defense on the



doctoral thesis is organized, the required ration of 0.3 was in the 2 cases higher (0.35 and 0.39) from the 19 scientific reviewers coming from another higher education institutions.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral thesis

Performance indicator B.4.1.1. At the level of IOSUD, missing!

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

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

The core document on the internal quality assurance developed by the IOSUD – UCV is the following. “Quality Assurance Code” of UCV. In addition, in order to identify, solve and monitor the problems of the various doctoral schools’ activities, there a permanent consultation takes place between the Council of Doctoral Studies of IOSUD – UCV and the management of the doctoral school. The procedure for the annual evaluation of the doctoral schools was approved on 5th December 2018, taking account the following criteria:

1: Scientific activity of the Thesis supervisors during the academic year (e.g., no. publication, no of doctoral candidates who completed the 3 years programs, etc.)



2: Monitoring the use of the infrastructure and logistics devoted to help the research activities within the academic year (e.g., supporting conference participation, publication, attending summer school, etc. by the doctorate students)

3: Monitoring and assessing the procedure and rules supervising the organization of the doctoral studies (e.g., degree of fulfillment of the doctoral training plan coordinated by Thesis supervisors, identifying the factors resulted non-terminated the doctoral program withing three years following the enrollment.

It is worth to mention the arrangement by IOSUD – UCV the “First Conference of Institutions Organizing University Doctoral Studies”, on 21-22 September 2017.

(See in detail: <https://www.cvlpress.ro/22.09.2017/organizata-in-premiera-at-craiova-national-conference-of-institutions-organizing-doctoral-university-studies/>)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

In order to get feedback from the doctoral students, yearly satisfaction survey is carried out – the latest one student survey was carried out in February 2021 – according to the student representative participating in the evaluation procedure of the DFS. The complementary information supplied by Prof. Ela Vilceanu:

Q2: “Subjects in the curriculum of the advanced university training program provide the doctoral students with additional training to enhance the development of his/her research skills”: more than 99 % of responses covered by “excellent +very good + good” assessment on the five-point scale: 5: Excellent, 4: Very good, 3: Good, 2: Satisfactory and 1: Poor.

Q3: “Advance university training program ensures the assimilation of advanced knowledge in the field of research methodology”: more than 99 % of responses covered by excellent + very good + good assessment of the PhD students.

Among the ten questions these had key importance, – unfortunately Anexa 23/IOSUD _Resultate Chestionar evaluare – martie 2021 on the latest student survey did not function, I could not open it.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.



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

**general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

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

The information listed under the Performance Indicator C.2.1.1. published by IOSUD – UCV on the website: <https://stiintesociale.ucv.ro/doctorat.html>; https://www.ucv.ro/education/education/doctoral_programmes/presentation_doctoral-programmes.php)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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



The PhD students at the DFS have free access to the international data-base:

Science Direct Freedom Collection, Springer-link Journals, Cambridge Journals, Ebsco Business Source Complete, American Institute of Physics - Journals, IEEE/IET Electronic Library, MathSciNet, Clarivate Analytics - Web of Science Core Collection, InCites Journal Citation Reports, Scopus, Derwent Innovations Index, Proquest - Ebrary, Springerlink, Emerald, Elsevier, Wiley etc. (See Anexa 12C_IOSUD_Biblioteca...)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

Upon request and with the consent of the Thesis supervisors students have access to an e-system in order to verify originality or similarity with other existing scientific outputs. (www.sistemantiplagiat.ro)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

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

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

As I indicated in the A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY part of the evaluation procedure, doctoral students of DFS have access of the research facilities (e.g., library, rooms equipped with PC, access to the state-of-the-art research facility INCESSA etc.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

**general description of the criterion analysis.*



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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

In this relation the situation is rather contradictory. According to the “Periodic Self-evaluation Report for Maintenance of Accreditation of Doctoral Field of Sociology” (DFS) ERASMUS mobility agreements with foreign universities have been concluded and potentially may benefit both teachers and doctoral students. According to the web-link in the field of Social Science and Humanities 38 universities covered by the bilateral agreements. (http://stiintesociale.ucv.ro/images/Acorduri_interinstitutionale_tp_studenti.pdf)

The student representative of the accreditation procedure indicated that the doctorate students do not use them. Between 2015-2020, no one PhD students were abroad within the Erasmus + agreements. (Anexa 25B_IOSUD-Bursieri ...)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/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.*

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

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

“In the field of History and Sociology, there have been no international joint doctoral programs so far”. (Extract from the self-evaluation report of the Doctorate Field of Sociology, p. 27.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/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.).*

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

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

Due to lack of international joint doctoral program, English language courses and the non-existence of Romanian and foreign “co-tutelage” practice, etc. the internationalization is in an infancy. In 2015-2020, only two post-doctoral theses were written in French using the Eugen Ionesco program. The doctoral students participating at the international conferences, their presentation were published in conference proceedings selected for coverage in Conference Proceedings Citation Index – Web of Science. Doctoral students without exception have published at least one paper in foreign language, in journals indexed in international databases.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed research infrastructures designed for doctorate students (e.g. multimedia studio, state-of-the-art research facility INCESSA, etc.) - Existence of the intellectual infrastructure: network agreements with other higher-education and research institutions in order to increase the knowledge-sources of UCV - Free access to the international database - Adequate financial support for internationalization (i.e., access to conference fees, publication fees, etc.) 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unequal and high workload of the thesis supervisors workload: none of the supervisors has less than 6 PhD students (min: 6 - max: 12) - Underdeveloped internationalization of the DFS (e. g. no Romanian and foreign “co-tutelage” in thesis supervision, lack of invited guest lecturer abroad etc. - In spite of the large number of the bilateral agreements with foreign universities, ERASMUS+ agreements, the mobility of the students and staff almost extremely low. (2015-2020).
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would be necessary to exploit the outstanding international publication performance of the scholars in sociology and political sciences at the UCV, - In order to exploit the supposedly 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The present high workload and asymmetry in the field of thesis supervision may unfavorable effects the sustainability of the scientific excellence in the DFS. - The weak internationalization of the DFS may result in counter-productive impacts on



<p>excellent foreign language skills both of Thesis supervisors/senior researchers and doctorate students it would be advisable to renew the human research strategy to improve motivation for more intensive participation in the internationalization of the DFS.</p>	<p>the “international visibility and transparency” of DFS. Final outcome: in longer-term perspective: weakening international attractiveness of the UCV</p>
---	---

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY				
A.1	A.1.	A.1.1.1.	fulfilled	
	A.1.	A.1.1.2.	fulfilled	
	A.1.	A.1.2.1.	fulfilled	
	A.1.	A.1.2.2.	fulfilled	
	A.1.	A.1.3.1.	fulfilled	
	A.1.	A.1.3.2.	fulfilled	
	A.1.	A.1.3.3.	fulfilled	
A.2	A.2.	A.2.1.1.	fulfilled	
A.3	A.3.	A.3.1.1.	fulfilled	
	A.3.	A.3.1.2.	fulfilled	
	A.3.	A.3.1.3.	fulfilled	
	A.3.	A.3.1.4.	fulfilled	
	A.3.	A.3.2.1.	fulfilled	
B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS				
B.1.	B.1.	B.1.1.1.	fulfilled	
	B.1.	B.1.2.1	fulfilled	
	B.1.	B.1.2.2.	fulfilled	
B.2	B.2.	B.2.1.1.	partially fulfilled	It is necessary to complete the training program of advanced studies: beside “methodology” it would be necessary to indicate the two other subjects – presently they are missing from the self-evaluation report of the DFS.

	B.2.	B.2.1.3.	fulfilled	
	B.2.	B.2.1.4.	fulfilled	
	B.2.	B.2.1.5.	not-fulfilled	It is necessary to respect the ratio 3:1 of the limit set by ARACIS related with the no. of doctoral students and no. of teaching/researchers staff. This ratio presently: 5.9 :1.
B.3.	B.3.	B.3.1.1.	lack of informaton	
	B.3.	B.3.1.2.	lack of information	
	B.3.	B.3.2.1.	partially fulfilled	There is a need to better balance of the involvement of external experts taking part at the Thesis defense committees.
	B3.	B.3.2.2.	partially fulfilled	Pay more attention to the ratio of doctoral Thesis allocated to external experts. The required ration is 0.3, but in two cases the ratio was higher: 0.35 and 0.39.
C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT				
C.1.	C.1.	C.1.1.1.	fulfilled	
	C.1.	C.1.1.2.	fulfilled	
C.2.	C.2.	C.2.1.1.	fulfilled	
	C.2.	C.2..2.1.	fulfilled	
	C.2.	C.2.2.2.	fulfilled	
	C.2.	C.2.2.3.	fulfilled	
C.3.	C.3.	C.3.1.1.	partially fulfilled	The Social Science and Humanities have 38 bilateral international university agreements, which are not exploited. E.g., in the assessment of the student

				representative, between 2015-2020 no PhD students used the Erasmus + program.
	C.3.	C.3.1.2.	not - fulfilled	<p>“In the field of History and Sociology, there has been no international joint doctoral programs so far”. (Extract from the self-evaluation report of the Doctorate Field of Sociology, p. 27.)</p> <p>Strongly recommended to devote more efforts on the internationalization of the doctoral programs at the DFS PhD school.</p>
	C.3.	C.3.1.3.	partially - fulfilled	<p>The international joint doctoral program, English language courses and the Romanian and foreign “co-tutelage” practice, etc. are missing, indicating that DFS is in the infancy cycle of the internationalization.</p> <p>Strongly advise to speed up internationalization which may improve the visibility of both DFS and UVC and could contribute positively of the quality assurance system of DFS, too.</p>

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

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



VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

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

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

The external review is based on the data source:

- a) "Periodic self-evaluation report for Maintenance of Accreditation of the Doctoral Field of Sociology" (Abbreviation: DFS),
- b) The accreditation procedure related documents prepared by the IOSUD – University of Craiova for the external evaluators.
- c) Online preliminary meeting (2nd July 2021) and series of meetings of the evaluation period (5th – 9th July 2021,
- d) Supplementary information, documents delivered by Prof. Ela Vilceanu and Mr. Roland Oláh, PhD student representative at the accreditation process of the DFS. (I wish to express for both of them my special thanks and appreciation).

Reviewing the activities of the DFS, the following three groups of the performance indicators were surveyed:

- A. *Institutional capacity* (i.e., A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources, A.2. Research infrastructure, A.3. Quality of Human Resources).
- B. *Educational effectiveness* (i.e., B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest, B.2. The content of doctoral programs, B.3. The results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluations).
- C. *Quality management* (i.e., C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system, C. 2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources, C.3. Internationalization).

Review of the performance indicators (total: 33) of ARACIS indicates that globally the DFS activities fulfilled the overwhelming majority of them: 78.8 % of indicators (n=26) are fulfilled, 15.2 % of indicators (n=5) partly fulfilled are not assessed due to missing information. Only 6 % of indicators (n=2) not fulfilled.

Assessing each clusters' of performance indicators separately (i.e., A. Institutional capacity, B. Educational effectiveness, C. Quality management) the results are as follows: in the case of the A. Institutional capacity all factors fully met the requirements of the accreditation procedure. In the other two fields not all performance indicators were fulfilled. In the case of the "B. Educational effectiveness" three performance indicators were partially fulfilled (B.3.2.1.1. and B. 3.2.1. and B. 3.2.2.) and in the case of two indicators, information was missing (B.3.1.1. and B.3.1.2.). In the case of the B.2.1.5., the performance indicator was not fulfilled: the ratio between doctorate students and teaching/research staff 5.9:1 largely



exceeds the required 3:1 required by ARACIS (See in detail: “V. Overview of judgments awarded and the recommendations” Table, p. 27).

“Quality Management” represents the third cluster of the performance indicators. In this case – from the total 9 indicators – two were partially fulfilled (C.3.1.1. and C.3.1.3.) and one not fulfilled (C.3.1.2.) and the majority of them fulfilled (6). In the case of partially fulfilled C.3.1.1., it was unfortunate that in spite of the larger number of bilateral agreements signed between Social Science and Humanities field of UCV and foreign universities, during 2015-2020 no PhD student did use e.g., the Erasmus + program. There is no foreign language course, no Romanian and foreign “co-tutelage” in the Thesis supervision etc. in the DFS – (C.3.1.3). Finally, in the field of History and Sociology, there have been no international joint doctoral programs so far”. (Extract from the self-evaluation report of the Doctorate Field of Sociology, p. 27. (C.3.1.2.)

Recommendations, policy pointers:

1: In order to sustain the high record of the DFS simultaneously in the three areas surveyed (i.e., A. Institutional capacity, B. Educational effectiveness and C. Quality management) it would be necessary to carry out a *self-assessment and re-design the work-load distribution* among the Thesis supervisors and among internal and external reviewers. Creating more balanced workload among the key players may result sustainability of the present high-quality performance of the DFS.

2: In order to exploit the high international visibility of international publications in sociology and political sciences, it would be necessary to *use more extensively the existing great number of bilateral agreements with foreign universities*.

3: In the last decade, the competition among the higher educational institutions of the post-socialist countries requires to *strengthen the teaching and research cooperation with national and foreign universities*. Looking for benchmark, the PhD schools in the Nordic countries are in a “leading edge” position. These countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway) have exclusively English both in teaching and writing research papers, dissertation. Native and international experts participate in Thesis supervision, review etc. (e.g., in leading Finnish universities, during final review of the dissertation, one reviewer is an internationally well-known expert).

4: The *SWOT analysis* in the self-evaluation report of the DFS (p. 28), presented only the “Strengths” and “Weakness” dimensions of the Doctorate School. However, the preconditions of the future strategy development need to identify both “Opportunities” and “Threats” too. In mobilizing the resources of opportunities, it would be beneficial to exploit the internationally outstanding publication performance of the academic staff of sociology and political sciences of UCV. Exploitation of these creative resources presuppose both at UVC and DFS levels need *a renewal a human resource strategy* to motivate academic staff to produce international recognized quality of publications and research excellence. Under the



heading of the “Threats” I try to call attention to some factors inhibiting the use of the future opportunities outlined above. Among them, it is necessary to stress the need to implement of more balanced division of supervisory workload among the Thesis supervisors and reviewer experts. Durable substance of this unbalance workload inhibits the mobilization of the full potential of the DFS. The present relatively weak internationalization (with the exception of the publications performance) may further limit to fully use the “Opportunities” for sustainable quality performance of the doctorate school evaluated.

VII. Annexes

The following types of documents shall be attached:

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

Prof. em.Dr. Csaba Mako
National University of Public Service,

Budapest, 23rd July 2021.

