

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study

Domains: Humanities and Arts

The University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca

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I. Introduction¹

The evaluation was drafted as a periodical external evaluation of the doctoral university studies in order to comply with legal provisions of the Emergency Ordinance no 75/2005, approved with amendments and additions by Law no 87/2006 and Ministerial Order no 3651/2021 at the higher education institution. Evaluated institution was Doctoral School of Visual Arts at The University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca.

Evaluation took place between November 15 and November 18 2021.

Due to pandemic restrictions evaluation had on-line character using zoom platform.

There was no technical problems so the evaluation process wasn't interrupted.

As an external-foreign evaluator never visited evaluated institution in some areas I have to based on the opinion of the romanian panel team members.

The evaluation team members were:

- prof. **Codrina Ionita**, University of Arts "George Enescu" of Iasi, Coordonator Expert for Domains Humanities and Arts
- prof. **Piotr Jozefowicz**, Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk, Poland, international expert for Domains evaluation
- **Cornelia-Florina Fechete**, PhD student, Polytechnic University of Timisoara, PhD student expert

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



The structure of UAD Cluj-Napoca includes a single doctoral school - the Doctoral School of UAD Cluj-Napoca - which offers a single doctoral degree programme in the field of visual arts. Between 2003 and 2021, ten PhD supervisors worked in the doctoral school, and 210 PhD theses were defended in the same period. At the time of writing this report 87 PhD students were enrolled in the PhD programme. Doctoral School includes 4 active PhD supervisors and 3 qualified teachers.

The fundamental mission of UAD is to provide an education of the highest quality to those who intend to pursue a career in the visual arts (fine arts, decorative arts and design) and to contribute, through the artistic creation and research carried out by its members, to the development of society by meeting, anticipating and influencing the needs of the community.

Having the same mission Doctoral School within UAD used over 20 professional laboratories well prepared for the artistic research. As a result doctoral institution has all the tools for realising its mission. It has strong and recognised relationship with the contemporary art world. Between 2015 and 2021 Doctoral School members took part in over 100 exhibitions receiving also more than 20 awards on both national and international levels. Having strong position within artistic and academic area University of Art and Design collaborates with large number of respectable and well recognised institutions.

II. Methods used

The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and its Annexes.

The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format.

Online meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD),

Online meeting with the director of CSUD

Online meeting with Doctoral School Council (CSD members) and with Doctoral University Studies Council (CSUD) members

Online meeting with the academic staff corresponding to IOSUD and the doctoral study domain

Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members / Quality Assurance Department

Online meeting with PhD students

Online meeting with the Directors/ persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within the doctoral study domain

Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission

Online meeting with graduates for the respective doctoral study domain

Online meeting with employers of Doctoral graduates in the domain



Unfortunately, due to pandemic restrictions, I could not travel to Romania as an external evaluator and visit evaluated institution.

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

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

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

The documents available through the hyperlinks attached in the self-evaluation report, as well as the documents submitted upon request, provide sufficient written evidence that the doctoral degree programme has or is subject to:

- (a) the institutional regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies;
- (b) the regulation of organization and functioning of the Doctoral School;
- (c) methodology for admission to doctoral studies;
- (d) methodology for the appointment of the members of the Council of Doctoral Studies (CSUD) and the Council of the Doctoral School (CSD);
- (e) the methodology for the conduct of the public competition for the appointment of the Director of the CSUD;
- (f) methodology for the recognition of the status of doctoral supervisor/teaching position/diploma and doctoral degree obtained abroad;
- (g) regulations of the University of Art and Design of Cluj-Napoca on the habilitation and co-optation of PhD supervisors;
- (h) operational procedure - preparation and conduct of the public defense of the doctoral thesis;
- (i) guide for the completion of doctoral theses - doctoral candidate's handbook;
- (j) operational procedure - informing doctoral students about the rules of scientific ethics, prevention of academic fraud and plagiarism;
- (k) internal procedure for the analysis and approval of proposals for the themes of doctoral study programmes;

(l) functional governing structures (Council of the Doctoral School), while providing evidence of regular meetings;

(m) the doctoral studies contract;

(n) the internal procedures for reviewing and approving proposals for training for doctoral programmes based on advanced graduate studies;

No major shortcomings have been found. All operating mechanisms are in place.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

All regulations, structure mechanisms, specific conditions, procedures and obligations specified in the Code of Doctoral Studies are adequate.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Appropriate and effective information system has been demonstrated.

The full academic career of doctoral students is covered and managed through specific software application.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Since 2016 all PhD theses are checked by antiplagiat software.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

**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.

At the level of IOSUD-UADC, projects won through competition were carried out, through which scientific research projects were funded, for the benefit of doctoral students,

The indicator is fulfilled.

*Performance Indicator *A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.*

Following the request of the evaluation committee for additional documents to the mentions in the R. E. I. to clarify this point, the university has drafted an additional annex which mentions the current situation of funding for doctoral students from other sources, for a period longer than 6 months. This document shows that the percentage is 21.74% for 2020 and 26.32% for 2021.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The costs incurred in facilitating PhD students' research have been incurred in connection with the institutional costs of basic funding for access to specialist information (purchase of books, Liberty library software, licenses), student mobility and tax exemptions. others. In the R.E.I it is approximated that a percentage of 12, 37% of the expenses made by the university in the last 5 years in favor of the doctoral students was supported from the doctoral grants and fees.

Recommendations: Allocation of the budget related to IOSUD - UADC and respectively to the Doctoral School of Arts from the revenues of the doctoral university studies for the possibility of calculating the stipulated percentage. Informing doctoral students about the possibility of accessing these funds and granting them based on personal projects, directly to finance doctoral research.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

As indicated before due to pandemic restrictions I have been unable to visit the evaluated institution.

Although during the on-line meetings we had a possibility to see a lot of existing and working facilities available for doctoral students and academic staff. Majority of those facilities had been purchased within last couple of years. From my personal point of view modern research infrastructure is perfectly mixed with traditional artistic tools. This mixture gives the students the possibility to keep contact with both traditional basics and experimental future research.

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

UAD Cluj-Napoca has seven buildings of its own. The total usable area of all the spaces in the university's own buildings contains over 10,000 sq.m. The University has also its own exhibition hall and creative houses.

Recommendations:

The indicator is 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.

All 4 PhD supervisors meet the CNATDCU minimum standards for the Visual Arts field, according to the attached R.E.I.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

According to documents two out of four supervisors are employed full time on indefinite contracts at IOSUD-UAD Cluj-Napoca.

The indicator is fulfilled

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

The disciplines in the training program based on advanced university studies related to the visual arts field are supported by teachers who have the necessary training to support the advanced training program.

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 time of the evaluation visit, no PhD supervisor was supervising more than 12 PhD students. The procedure for co-opting 3 qualified teachers to the Doctoral School was underway, as well as the qualification of one teacher. This will reduce the number of PhD students assigned to a PhD supervisor from 12 to 7 PhD students/doctoral supervisor. Anyway it seems smaller number of students for one supervisor should give more comfort for both sides.

At the time of writing, the distribution of PhD students was as follows:

- 1) Prof. univ. dr. Ioan SBÂRCIU - 56 doctoral students;
- 2) Prof. univ. dr. Radu-Călin SOLOVĂSTRU - 21 doctoral students;
- 3) Prof. univ. dr. Ioan HORVATH-BUGNARIU - 3 doctoral students
- 4) Prof.univ.dr.habil. Vlad ȚOCA - 6 PhD students.

50% of the doctoral coordinators exceeded the number of 8 PhD students, the problem being the fact that they far exceeded the number of 12 students.

Following the notifications of the evaluation commission, the extract of the minutes of the senate session of September 2021 was added as an additional annex, through which 63 doctoral students are expelled. It was also added as an additional annex the redistribution of PhD students between the four PhD supervisors, each of the four PhD supervisors remaining, or reaching 12 PhD students.

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



The indicator is partially fulfilled

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

**general description of the standard analysis.*

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

Teachers prove their international visibility by being a member of the organizing committees of artistic events and international competitions, by being a member of the boards of professional associations, by being a member of juries or arbitration teams at artistic events or international competitions, respectively through ERIH indexed publications.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.2.2. *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.*

The R.E.I and the standard verification sheets show that all four PhD supervisors meet 100% of the standards for the last 5 years.

The indicator is 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.*

Admission to Doctoral School is based and realized on required criteria.

The indicator is 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.*

The doctoral admission competition consists of an interview in which the candidate's concerns regarding scientific research and / or artistic creation are analyzed.

The condition for participating in the admission competition is to pass an examination of language proficiency for an international language.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The dropout / dropout / expulsion rate for the assessed period is 50%. (94 students in the period 2016-2021, calculated after enrollment in the first year, at a dropout of 47 students calculated according to the additional annex)

The situation of doctoral students who dropped out of doctoral studies, at 3 and 4 years after admission, respectively, with reference to the year of enrollment, is calculated according to the additional annex attached to the file during the evaluation.

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.

Recommendations: A clearer record of the school situation of doctoral students and the annual achievement of expulsions of students who no longer meet the conditions necessary for doctoral student status

The indicator is partially 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.*

The curriculum of the training programme based on advanced university studies comprises three disciplines: Scientific Research Methodology, Ethics and Integrity and Advanced Research in Visual Arts.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.2. *At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.*

The training programme includes Ethics and Academic Integrity.

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 competences acquired through the curriculum subjects are reflected in the quality of the content, structure, quantity and quality of the bibliography of both the dissertation and the thesis. The quality of doctoral studies is analysed through the application of questionnaires and by analysing the feedback from doctoral students.

The indicator is fulfilled

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.

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.

The guidance commissions within the doctoral field of Visual Arts are active throughout the training of doctoral students. PhD students benefit from effective guidance, counseling and communication, through regular meetings, or whenever needed and there are requests in this regard. The guidance commissions are established according to the definition of the individual plan of scientific research and artistic creation, for each doctoral student in the first year of study, in order to have a quality professional activity. The doctoral research program is established at the beginning of the first year of studies and is validated by the CSD.

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.

In the field of study Visual Arts, 94 doctoral students were enrolled in the reported period, having as reference the first year of study. A total of 58 teachers / researchers, together with 3 of the doctoral supervisors ensured their guidance in the guidance commissions, resulting in a total number of 61. The ratio is 1.54: 1 (94:61).

The indicator is 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.

Activity of doctoral students of UAD Cluj-Napoca is significant. Self assessment report presented large number of books, published articles, exhibitions, participation in scientific communications, cultural activities, catalogues, awards, residences and conferences.

The indicator is fulfilled

*Performance Indicator *B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

Between 2016 and 2021, a number of 38 students completed their doctoral studies at the Doctoral School of Arts. The number of scientific research and artistic creation activities with international visibility carried out by them in the field of Visual Arts is 180 (136 international group exhibitions, 30 international personal exhibitions, 14 publications and curatorship), so that the ratio between the number of prestigious presentations / exhibitions (conducted in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies in the last five years in the Doctoral School of Arts is 4.73 [180: 38].

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

**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.*

At the time of the evaluation, the situation of the number of theses evaluated by external evaluators compared to IOSUD-UADC, as references in the commissions for public support of doctoral theses developed and completed within the Doctoral School of Arts in the last 5 years, is as follows: the 11 external references, 2 references (Prof. Aurel Codoban and Prof. Mihail Mănescu) exceeded the number of 2 evaluated theses / doctoral supervisor:

The indicator is partially 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.*

The ratio between the number of doctoral theses assigned to a scientific referent from a higher education institution than IOSUD-UADC and the doctoral theses defended in the field of doctorate in Visual Arts, in the last five years, is between 0.02 and 0.94

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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.*

IOSUD-UAD Cluj-Napoca has its own self-assessment methodology of the Doctoral School. Within the structure of the institution there is Quality Assurance Department and Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *C.1.1.2. *Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.*

Through the mentioned, provided and presented, this aspect falls within the scope of the Quality Assurance Commission of the university.

The indicator is 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.

IOSUD publishes on its website all relevant informations.

Doctoral School regulation, admission regulations, doctoral studies contract, study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis, content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies, academic and scientific profile, thematic areas, research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, institutional contact data, the list of doctoral students within the domain, information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis, information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented.

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.

**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.*

UAD Cluj-Napoca doctoral students have free access to several database platforms through the Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca.

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.*

Upon request and with the agreement of the PhD supervisor each PhD student has access to the anti-plagiarism system for checking the degree of similarity.

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.*

According to the Regulations of the Doctoral School doctoral student has the rights for privileged access to the logistics, documentation centres, laboratories, libraries and equipment of the UAD. Have the rights to participate in the activities organised by the doctoral school, to work, with the agreement of the



doctoral supervisor, in artistic (research) teams within the university or within research units that have concluded agreements or institutional partnerships with UAD. Doctoral students are able to participate in communication sessions and group exhibitions organised by the doctoral school or UAD Cluj-Napoca. They can also to receive institutional support to participate in the country or abroad, in artistic/scientific events, workshops and schools in the field of visual arts.

The indicator is 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.*

IOSUD has a strategy to increase internationalization of doctoral studies. Self-assessment report tables confirm large international activity of the evaluation institution.

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

The Doctoral School of UAD Cluj-Napoca supports the organisation of doctoral co-tutelage studies. Anyway since 2016 it was just one case of that support. Doctoral School should try to increase and stimulate that kind of activity.

The indicator is 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.).*

As indicated above internationalization of the doctoral studies is not at the advance level yet. Although internationalization is permanently supported.

Recommendations: Extending the international relations at SDA level in order to co-opt the international experts as referents in the commissions for defending the doctoral theses.

The indicator is partially fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - high level of artistic research - high level of doctoral supervisors - high level of international mobility of doctoral students - good mixture between tradition and new trends in both art and technology - study programmes strongly based on university mission - modernisation of the laboratories and equipment - active involvement of PhD students in artistic and research projects 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low number of PhD supervisors - low number of research grants obtained by the Doctoral School - policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments and for people with disabilities - organisation of doctoral co-tutelage studies - internationalization of the doctoral studies
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing number of supervisors - increasing number of international partners - great potential of students and professors connected with UAD Cluj-Napoca and their artistic activity - good relationships of UAD Cluj-Napoca with other institutions around region 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low level of internationalization could lead to increasing level of isolation - lowering budget funds - increasing level of bureaucracy within european academic system

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>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;</p>	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>		
2.	PI	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
3.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
4.	PI	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
5.	IP	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
6.	PI *	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%.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled</i>	
8.	CPI	A.2.1.1. The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
9.	CPI	A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors	<i>The</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	<i>indicator is fulfilled</i>	
11.	PI	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.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
12.	PI *	A.3.1.4. The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled</i>	
13.	CPI	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	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
14.	PI *	A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
15.	PI *	B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled</i>	
18.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		statistical data processing.		
19.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
20.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
21.	PI	B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
22.	CPI	B.2.1.5. For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1. For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.		
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled</i>	
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled</i>	
27.	PI	C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory: a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors; b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity; c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized; d) the scientific activity of doctoral students; e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students; f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
28.	PI *	C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
29.	CPI	<p>C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Doctoral School regulation; b) the admission regulation; c) the doctoral studies contract; d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis; e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies; f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data; g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor); h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis; i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation. 	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
30.	PI	C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
31.	PI	C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
32.	PI	C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
33.	PI *	C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
34.	PI	C.3.1.2. In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled</i>	
35.	PI	C.3.1.3. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled</i>	

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

Doctoral School at UAD Cluj-Napoca has a great potential in terms of both artistic and scientific research. There is a lot of very talented and active artists with international reputation. I know that artistic atmosphere and a feeling of affection for an institution are not evaluated factors but sometimes it has more significance than up-to-date equipment. I fully agree with the statement that the overall performance could be assessed as more than satisfactory.



of the DOMAINS, mentioned above for a period of five years. With the hope that our recommendations will be useful in increasing the overall quality of the program over the next five years).

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.*

Signature