

Annex No. 3

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction¹

This report was conducted as part of the periodic external evaluation of IOSUD Cluj-Napoca, **in the period 2.11.2021- 5.11.2021**. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Romanian legislation on the organisation of higher education (third cycle/doctoral studies), as stipulated in the National Education Law no. 1/2011 (art. 158, 159, 160, 170), in GD 681 / 2011 (Code of Doctoral Studies) and in subsequent legislation.

The evaluation aimed at establishing the quality level achieved by the doctoral study field "theology", organized within IOSUD-UBB, as provided for in the basic legislation establishing minimum quality standards in higher education in Romania, in particular the Romanian Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 on quality assurance in education, approved with amendments and additions by Law no. 87/2006, with subsequent amendments and additions, the Order of the Minister of Education and Research no. 3.200 of 7 February 2020 and OM 3.651 of 12 April 2021 on the approval of the Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral studies and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation.

In order to ensure a unified evaluation, ARACIS has provided an expert evaluator for the fundamental field of Humanities and Arts, and for the particularization of each field of doctoral studies, teams of 3 evaluators with recognized activity and expertise in the fields evaluated: 1 teaching staff, PhD supervisor team coordinator, expert from Romania; 1 teaching staff PhD coordinator, international expert and 1 PhD student from Romania).

The members of the evaluation committee for the field of theology, appointed by the ARACIS Executive Board, were:

- Pr. prof. univ. dr. habil. Dumitru Adrian VANCA (University "1 Decembrie 1918", Alba Iulia, Romania), coordinator;
- Prof. univ. dr. habil. Pablo ARGÁRATE (University of Graz, Austria), international expert;
- Drd. Emanuel BUTA (University "Alexandru Ioan CUZA" of Iasi, Romania)

The institution organising doctoral studies is part of the structure of the University "Babeş-Bolyai" of Cluj-Napoca, an accredited public university, part of the national

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



higher education system, and uses the material, financial and human resources of this university. Among the fields of doctoral studies that are organised at UBB, is the field of "theology", which constitutes the subject of evaluation of this report.

The Babeş-Bolyai University organises doctoral studies for 32 doctoral fields (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/domeniile-de-doctorat/>), including the field of theology. The doctoral field "Theology" at Babeş-Bolyai University is organised in three doctoral schools. The doctoral field of study "Theology" at Babeş-Bolyai University has 24 doctoral supervisors (full and associate) and 220 doctoral students, distributed in the three doctoral schools::

1. The "Isidor Todoran" Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology (1994) was organised and accredited within the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, where the first doctoral programmes started with coordinators who had transferred from other university centres.

At the moment, the doctoral school has 14 doctoral coordinators, 9 of whom are members of the UBB, and has 129 PhD students (11 female and 118 male) at different stages of their doctoral thesis preparation (RAE p. 54-55).

2. The Doctoral School of Theology "Ecumene" (since 2006). As a result of the partnership between the Faculty of Reformed Theology and the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology, since 1999, doctoral studies have been organised in a multi-denominational and ecumenical environment and the first admission was organised in 2001/2002.

At the moment, the doctoral school has 7 doctoral coordinators, 4 of whom are UBB holders, and has 64 doctoral students (26 female and 38 male) at different stages of their doctoral theses (RAE p. 55-57).

3. The Doctoral School of Theology "Religion, Culture, Society" (since 2018). It operates within the Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology and currently has 3 PhD coordinators, 3 of whom are UBB members, having 27 PhD students (7 female and 20 male) at various stages of the preparation of their doctoral theses (RAE p. 58).

The technical support is provided by a secretary in each of the three doctoral schools.

(Doctoral coordinators:
https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/alte_fisiere/Conducatori_Doctorat_Dupa_Facultati.pdf)

II. Methods used

The quality assessment methodology was established by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3.651/2021 and took into account the criteria, standards and performance indicators specified by GEO 75/2005 on quality assurance in education, Law 87/2006, in accordance with the methodologies and guidelines on quality assessment processes in higher education applied by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Romania (= hereinafter ARACIS).

In particular, the expert committees analysed the IOSUD Internal Evaluation Report (= hereafter IER) and its annexes, summarised the information provided during the online meetings and the on-site visit. For the documentation and assessment, the experts also made use of other information on the institution's website(s) or other



official public documents identified, information received during meetings with tenured and associated teaching staff, students, graduates, employers or other stakeholders.

Taking into account the current epidemiological situation, but in order to assess as accurately as possible the research-learning capacities and the facilities offered to doctoral students, teaching staff and researchers, the evaluation teams sent a representative on site to visit the lecture and seminar rooms, the institution's dormitories and canteens, libraries and laboratories and the IOSUD secretariat.

In this report, for ease of writing and reading, we have used the following abbreviations:

CD = doctoral coordinator(s)/teaching staff

DD = doctoral field

IOSUD-UBB = Organizing Institution of Doctoral Studies of "Babeş-Bolyai" University

PC = research programme

PP = advanced degree programme

RPS = scientific progress report

SD = doctoral student(s)

SDD = Doctoral Schools

SDT-E = Ecumenical Doctoral School of Theology

SDT-O = Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology

SDT-RCS = Doctoral School of Theology 'Religion, Culture and Society

UBB = "Babeş-Bolyai" University

For the multi-criteria evaluation and to know the opinion of the stakeholders in the teaching process, several online meetings were conducted, scheduled by the ARACIS team and recorded and stored by the UBB (with the management of the 3 SDTs, with members of the SDT councils, with PhD coordinators, with PhD students, with employers and with representatives of research laboratories). The expert evaluators were also present at the meetings organised institutionally with the Board of Directors, the members of the CSUD, the Ethics Committee of the UBB Senate, and the UBB Quality Committee, according to the calendar presented as an annex to this report (Annex 0.2-Meeting calendar).

During the visit, the doctoral student of the commission composed and used a questionnaire in order to assess the degree of satisfaction and problems encountered by doctoral students during the doctoral internship, suggestions and proposals for improvement of academic work, etc.

In order to verify the material base, to check (by survey) some admission and habilitation files, as well as to clarify some issues related to the administrative and secretarial process, the coordinator of the expert team made an onsite visit on 4 November 2021. On this occasion, meetings were held with the contact person and the persons who contributed to the compilation of the report, the SDT directors, and the deans of the three faculties. The learning spaces, library, dormitories, canteen, laboratories, technical secretariate and the institution's service/personal office were also visited.

The report was compiled by the Romanian evaluator, coordinator of the expert team (D. VANCA) together with the PhD student (Emanuel BUTA), and the final version of the report included the assessments or recommendations made by the foreign expert Pablo ARGÁRATE in his (separate and independent) report, especially those aspects that differed significantly from the opinion of the national expert.



After the final drafting, the report was sent to the evaluated institution on xxxxx, in order to make any comments or suggestions for corrections or re-evaluations in the light of documents that were unknown, ignored or wrongly assessed by the evaluators. After receiving the list of comments from the evaluated institution (Annex xxxxx), the panel proceeded to assess them

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

It is assured by the number of doctoral supervisors and of doctoral students, its infrastructure regarding administration, management, buildings and finances.

Cf. the list of PhD supervisors by field: https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/alte_fisiere/Conducatori_Doctorat_Dupa_Domenii.pdf)

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.

The UBB has functional administrative structures for all three doctoral schools, regulations, methodologies and necessary procedures. The theology doctoral programme has financial resources from government sources (grants and budget allocations), from research grants and through the support of denominational ecclesiastical forums.

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;

The doctoral schools and doctoral fields of the UBB are organized and operated according to the Regulations of the University. UBB Regulations for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies: <https://lett.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/RegulamentDoctorat-final-2020.pdf>

The three doctoral schools have each their own regulations according to which they operate:

1. SDT-O Regulation:

https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/scoli_doctorale/regulament_Teologie%20Orodoxa.pdf

2. SDT-E Regulation:

https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/scoli_doctorale/regulament_Ecumene.pdf

3. SDT-RCS Regulation:

https://dr.rocateo.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Regulamentul_Scolii_Doctorale_Religie_cultura_societate-1.pdf

Anexa_A.1.1.1._1_Regulament_functionare_ScDoct_RCS_Anexa_A.1.1.1._1Regulamentul_Scolii_Doctorale_Religie_cultura_societate



(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;

Elections for UBB leadership and representative positions shall be conducted in accordance with the Regulation on elections to UBB leadership structures and positions:

https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/infoubb/alegeri/files/alegeri2020/Regulament_alegeri_Senat.pdf

The Director of the CSUD is elected in accordance with the "Methodology for conducting the competition for the position of Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies": <https://senat.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Metodologia-de-desf%C4%83%C8%99urare-a-concursului-pentru-func%C8%9Bia-de-director-al-CSUD.pdf>

The Doctoral School Directors are appointed by the CSUD. Elections are held for the other seats on the Council of each Doctoral School. The last elections held were in 2017. The SDT-RCS Director is appointed on an interim basis (2.11.2020), after this position was also filled on an interim basis (24.10.2018).

Annexes: A.1.1.1_3._PV_alegeri_director_SDT_TO_2020.pdf; Anexa 1.1.1.-4 Validare_director_2020, Anexa 1.1.28-3-Hotarare Senat de validare directori scoli, anexa_1_1_28_4_anexa_hotarare_senat_22_991_validare_directori_scoli_doctorale , Anexa 1.1.1_RS Decizie numire director Școala doctorală Religie, cultură, societate

Remarks:

- The SDT-O and SDT-E boards have an even number of members (4), in contradiction with the UBB General Regulations.
- The SDT-O and SDT-E Councils have an even number of members (4). No information about SDT-RCS was identified.

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

All SDs in UBB use the methodology for the admission to doctoral studies in Babes-Bolyai University:

Anexes: Anexa_1_3_43_hot_5938_metodologie_admitere_2020; Anexa_1_3_30-metodologie_admitere_doctorat2019.

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

All SDs apply the methodology for automatic recognition in UBB of the quality of doctoral supervisor obtained in accredited university education institutions abroad: <https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/recunoasterea-automata-in-ubb-a-calitatii-de-conducator-de-doctorat-obtinue-in-institutii-de-invataman-universitar-acreditate-din-strainatate/>

For the field of theology, only one file was processed and approved during the evaluated period. (Annex_A.1.1.1._d_Accreditation_certificate_.Appendix_A.1.1.1._d_CSISZAR_recognition_certificate_decision)

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



Each of the three DS have functioning councils. During the on-site visit, several minutes of them were checked by sampling. The frequency of meetings is more than 3 times a year. (A 1.1.2. Procese verbale_Convocatoare_Orare)

From the documents submitted and from the findings during the on-site visit, it appears that not all SD directors are employed as department directors.

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

The UBB signs with each PhD student a different study contract for fee-paying and subsidised forms of education. (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/formulare/>)

Comments:

The contract does not include an obligation for the PhD student to publish a number of papers according to the OMed. 5.110/7.09.2018 (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/formulare/Contract.pdf>). During the visit a few PhD students' files were checked by survey. At the SDT-O they sign an addendum to the study contract in which further obligations are mentioned, including the obligation to publish a number of papers.

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

The admissions examination topics are stipulated in the Admissions Methodology and are annually approved in the Council of each Doctoral School.

<https://lett.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/RegulamentDoctorat-final-2020.pdf>

Recommendations:

- The Election Regulations regarding the odd number of members in each SSC should be respected;
- Begin procedures regarding elections at SDT-RCS where the position has been occupied on an interim basis for a long time;
- Include in the study contract at all SDs, or in its annex, the obligation of the PhD student to publish a number of 5 papers (3 studies and 2 communications), according to the OMed. 5.110/7.09.2018.
- It is recommended to employ the heads of doctoral schools to the position of "department director", according to the legislation in force.

Remarks: The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The regulations do not include all criteria, procedures and standards on the specified issues, but most of them are stipulated in the IOSUD Regulation

Recommendations:

The regulations should be supplemented with the information required by the legislation (co-optation of new members, Advanced Training Programme, procedure for change of coordinator, procedure and reasons for change of supervisor, procedure and reasons for discontinuation of the programme, research ethics and similarity



check, scientific research-publication obligations of PhD students, obligations regarding attendance)

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As part of IOSUD-UBB, the doctoral schools in the field of theology use the internal AcademicInfo platform, which allows the management of school situations, data collection for statistics and queries on various reports, etc. For the verification of doctoral theses or partial scientific achievements (RPS, articles, etc.) SDT uses Turnitin software for similarity 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.

The UBB manages statistical data on students and PhD students through the AcademicInfo platform (Annex 1.3.47). The objectives of this platform are: efficient management of the school records information in the secretariats; access of students and teachers to the necessary information; obtain relevant summary information on the teaching process.

In addition to the AcademicInfo platform, UBB offers doctoral students the Integrated Educational Register (REI), which gives them access to their own educational pathway by interconnecting the management systems of the educational sector. The REI is the access to the Single Matriculation Register, a platform that ensures the integrated management of data on students of state and private universities in Romania (Annex 1.3.48).

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.

Plagiarism avoidance is achieved by submitting the PhD thesis to analysis by Turnitin and iThenticate software, followed by analysis and endorsement of the similarity report by the PhD coordinator. (Annex_1_2_16_1_program_of_the_ithenticate_similarity_analysis, Annex_1_2_16_2_program_of_turnitin_similarity_analysis). Details of how this process is carried out are detailed in the "Procedure for generating and analysing the Similarity Report" https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/reglementari_ubb/HotarareCSUD12327-29iun.2016_GenerareAnalizaRaportSimilitudine.pdf .

Recommendations:

In some situations a step-by-step analysis of the similarity report is required, not just a simple endorsement.

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.

The sources of funding for doctoral schools in the field are budgetary grants (doctoral grants), research grants and tuition fees. Not being a priority area in the National



Research Strategy, the field of 'theology' rarely attracts research funding grants. This is also the reason why in UBB there is evidence of research grants with relevance to theology

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.*

During the period evaluated in SDT-O, 9 projects were carried out, 5 of which were research projects funded by UEFSCDI, 1 POCU grant (technology transfer - action 1.2.3) and 3 other projects funded from other sources. One POCU project (DMI 1.3 - human resources development) is not in the evaluation time window (completed in 2015). According to Annex A_1.3.1._T TO grants, SDT-O PhD students are directly involved in three of the five grants noted in the attached report.

In the case of SDT-E there is no mention of student involvement in grants.

(Annex A 1.3.1.a - TO Research Grants, Annex A 1.3.1.List TO Grants), SDT-E lists two collective volume grants as research projects (Annex A 1_3_1.List EC Grants).

SDT-RCS did not submit any research grants/funding.

Recommendations:

Application to grants is a very important task within a doctoral school. In this sense, also the other schools need to apply for grants and research projects.

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%.*

SDD have been involved in research projects in collaboration with the Centre for Biblical Studies of UBB (Religion, Human Rights and Politics) and have received private grants within the framework of this project (Anexa A.1.3.2 - Alte Finantari_DRD).

Doctoral students were awarded scholarships by Collegium Talentum, AS DIATHEKE, ICCMER, Diakonische Werk (LMU-Munich), The Church in Central and Eastern Europe

(Anexa_1_3_56_situatia_studentilor_doctoranzi_beneficiari_de_burse_oferite_de_statul_maghiar_collegium_talentum_ungaria)

and the Hungarian University Federation of Cluj-Napoca

(Anexa_1_3_55_situatia_studentilor_doctoranzi_beneficiari_de_alte_finantari_decat_granturile_men_bursieri_federatia_univ_maghiara).

A total of 14 PhD students received additional funding outside government funding, through scholarships of at least 6 months from private entities or from the Erasmus programme (Anexa A.1.3.2_Alte Finantari_DRD)

Recommendations:



As referred above, it is very important for the SD to find funds and grants, to inform the doctoral students and to encourage them to apply to them.
We recommend to reach the required level in the next years

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- REI (p.50) describes how these amounts will be allocated in the future and the deans' decision to allocate percentage amounts. In the submitted documents there are few definite settlements for PhD students (Ivanovici - 2020).

- At present, the referred percentage is not fulfilled
(Annex_Access_funds;

Annex_Research_fund_doctoral_grant_disbursements)

Recommendations:

The SDS needs to fulfill this regulation, clearly developing methodologies for it and in the meantime, students have to be thoroughly informed about those allocations and encouraged to use them.

A special section in the website could provide this information for doctoral students about conferences, exchange opportunities, programs. In addition to this, it should be clear about how much money is available and which are the conditions and procedures to apply for this funding.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

Standard A.2.1. IOSUD/doctoral schools have a research infrastructure that supports the conduct of activities specific to doctoral studies.

This is clearly fulfilled in the area of theology in its three SDD.

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

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.*

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.



Prof. Vanca carried out the visit on-site, sent photos of the premises and referred to the rest of the committee. From all this, it is clear that the research infrastructure is adequate.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

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

This is the case. With a number of 23 full and associate professors in the three SDs, meeting these standards of scientific visibility and expertise.

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.

Also this stipulation is met (Cf. Annexes A.3.2.1; A.3.1.1.1-3, A.3.1.1.-4)

Recommendations:

Professors should increase their visibility even more especially in regard to international publications, especially publishing in other languages other than Romanian.

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.

- The SDT-O has 14 CDs. Of these, 2 DCs were affiliated to SDT in 2021. Of the 12 DCs included in the period evaluated of these 7 are UBB members, i.e. 58%. (<http://scdoct.orth.ro/indrumatori-doctorat/>)

- In the evaluated period in SDT-E the number of tenured staff was 5 out of a total of 5, i.e. 100% (<http://ecumene.rt.ubbcluj.ro/ro/#tanarok>). While one professor passed away, two other were included. This makes that the SDT-E has currently 7 DCs, of which 4 are UBB tenured, i.e. 57%

According to additional documents submitted, Prof. Gustav KOVACS is qualified in the field of philosophy but supervises PhD students in the field of theology. (AS_5_DecisionRecognitionAbilitationKovacsG)

- SDT-RCS has 3 DCs, of which 3 are UBB tenured, i.e. 100%. (<https://dr.rocateo.ubbcluj.ro/ro/scoala-doctorala/doktoratus-vezetok-iskola/>). It needs to be pointed out that in order to properly work SDT-RCS needs more DCs.

Recommendations:

OSUD needs to submit a progress report on the clarification of the situation of Prof. G. Kovacs (qualified in philosophy) and the PhD students supervised by him.

Increase the number of PhD coordinators at SDT-RCS.

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.*

Each SDT has at least three subjects appropriate to the training process in the PYP, and these are taught by people who meet the set standards.
(A 3.1.1-2_Planuri de învățământ).

Recommendations:

Increased attention should be given to the discipline of Ethics and Academic Integrity, so that it is allocated a minimum of 14 physical hours, cf. OM 3.131/2018: <https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/ordin%203131-2018docx.pdf>

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%.*

Of the 23 DCs supervising PhDs in the field, 10 are supervising between 9 and 17 PhD students (43%). This situation is due on the one hand to the large number of students in the “grace period”, and on the other hand to the death of Professor Ioan Molnar (SDT-E), who had 23 PhD students under his supervision and who were taken over by professors, who already had a large number of PhD students under their supervision.

Recommendations:

It should be made clear to all DCs that they cannot exceed the stipulated number of supervised students and in the case that they do it, a number of students need to be assigned to other DC.

Decrease the number of PhD students supervised by each DC

IOSUD needs to send ARACIS a progress report on bringing this indicator within the parameters set by the legislation.

The indicator is not fulfilled.

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

Doctoral supervisors have significant publication activity both nationally and some of them internationally.

As already recommended, publishing in indexed-journals must be increased as well as publishing in other languages than Romanian (and Hungarian)

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.



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.*

Recommendations:

Prepare the CNATDCU standards compliance sheets more accurately in order to frame publishers and journals as correctly as possible.

All doctoral thesis advisors have national scientific visibility, while some of them show international scientific visibility and publish in English, German and French, as it appears in the Annexes A.3.2.1 - relevant publications; A.3.1.1.1-3, A.3.1.1.-4).

That international visibility needs to be strongly encouraged through ERIH-indexed publications.

Incentives could be introduced for professors publishing in those indexed-journals. The same applies for those publishing in the major European languages.

Financial support should be given to those who attend and present in major international conferences outside Romania.

More leading scholars should be brought to lecture or teach at the DSs.

The indicator is 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.*

More than 50% of the teachers in the evaluated field continue to be scientifically active and publish articles or other scientific papers frequently. (see Annexes A.3.2.1 - relevant publications; A.3.1.1.1-3, A.3.1.1.-4).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

While the DDs offer an unusual broad perspective with the three SDD that portray a unique ecumenical approach to research, problematic is in some cases the high number of theses supervised by some supervisors. It has also been noticed the relatively small number of PhD students not coming from the UBB.



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

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

The field of theology at IOSUD - UBB attracts a significant number of doctoral students from other university centres in the country, but does not reach the threshold set for this indicator. The trend could be improved by promoting policies to attract non-UBB students.

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

According to the documents on file, the proportion of non-UBB candidates is between 0.41 and 1.14. (Anexa_1_3_45_master_nonubb_per_locuri_bugetare_sd_domenii). Although met, the indicator is affected by the fact that the selection area for Hungarian-speaking candidates is limited to their own graduates

Recommendations:

Develop policies to attract candidates also from outside UBB

The programs of the DSs should be better promoted.

The employability and success of the graduates should be also made known

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This is proved by the high requirements of the admission process.

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.*

Admission to all three doctoral schools is based on 1-2 written exams and an interview/presentation of the research proposal.

In the case of the SDT-O, there is the particular requirement of an average of 8.51 (bachelor+master) in order to apply to the doctoral program, mandated by the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Recommendations:

Averages and academic work of the candidates needs to be taken into deeper account, enhancing in this way the quality and level of the candidates.



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%.*

According to the statistics provided by IOSUD-UBB, the drop-out rate of doctoral students 3 years after admission to the Doctoral Schools of Theology (Anexa_1_3_46_rata_de_abandon_domenii_sd.pdf) varies between 0-8.33%, and the average for the period covered is 3.25%.

Recommendations:

Develop dropout prevention policies and strategies.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

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.

Doctoral training is provided through the Advanced Graduate Programme (=PPS) and the Research Programme (=PC). The PPS contains formative disciplines designed to specialise doctoral students, and sometimes the SD may opt for certain disciplines useful for training specific skills.

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

In all the PPs of the 3 SDs there are more than 3 disciplines relevant to the assessed field of study (Anexa A.3.1.1.-2 *Planuri_de_invatamant*) and the disciplines are designed for the development of additional and research skills useful in the process of writing and defending PhD theses (Anexa B. 2.1.1.-1 *Fișele disciplinelor*). Some PP also contain optional subjects.

Recommendations:

Further qualification of the candidates could be provided by extra practical courses regarding research. In this domain, key is to learn how to identify research funding and how to apply for it. The DDS need to concretely inform about all this and doctoral students need to learn it.

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.*

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.



All training plans contain the discipline "Ethics and Academic Integrity and Research Methodology".

Recommendations:

The subject of Ethics and Academic Integrity should be given special attention so that it is allocated a minimum of 14 physical hours, cf. OM 3.131/2018.

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.*

Mechanisms to ensure advanced training are found both in the PP and in the subject sheets which specify targeted competences and skills, learning outcomes, etc. CD are concerned with developing critical and reflective thinking beyond SD. Mentoring committees, check research reports and provide feedback to PhD students. In addition to the examinations to assess the skills acquired through the PPS subjects, each PhD student submits an annual research report to the mentoring committees and the report is submitted to the IOSUD secretariat.

(Anexa B.2.1.1_-1 Fisele disciplinelor).

Recommendations:

Diversify disciplines that provide general and/or complementary research skills (e.g. Project Writing; Project Management, etc.).

The indicator is 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.*

The mentoring process is essential in doctoral studies and students seem to be satisfied to the dedication of their supervisors and guidance in the entire and complex process of doctoral studies

(Anexe A 3.1.1.1-1 State_de_functii și Anexe_A 3.1.1.1-2 Comisii de îndrumare, A 3.1.1.1.-3 Dovezi feedback)

Recommendations:

Diversify the mentoring committees according to the research topic and according to the evolution/progress of the research.

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.2.1.5. *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.*

According to their own assessment, for the whole field of Theology, during the period under evaluation the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching/research staff providing mentoring exceeds the ratio in the indicator, being around 7:1 (cf. REI p. 62).

The Doctoral Schools aim to involve other teaching staff in mentoring doctoral students in the coming period. (Anexa A.3.1.1.1-2 Comisiile_de_indrumare)

Recommendations:

Diversify the mentoring committees and approve them on an annual basis and, if necessary, modify them according to research developments.

The indicator is not fulfilled.

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

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

The quality and relevance of the doctoral students' scientific materials submitted in the evaluation file is good; doctoral students are required to produce at least one publication before the thesis defence. Sometimes, however, the quality of the articles may also betray the lack of a review and improvement process.

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.*

The five randomly selected papers were with one exception general papers with some level of grounded research and based mostly on Romanian scholarship. Clearly structured, I did not find much originality in them though.

On the contrary, the exceptional paper (Nr. 4) showed very good knowledge and awareness of the field, its topics and current bibliography, providing a real contribution to scholarship. In this sense, the level -at least in the papers I reviewed- was uneven.

1. Petru Buta, „Dimensiunea pascală a Praznicului Epifaniei în tradiția bizantină actuală” – Articol publicat în Revista Studia UBB Theologica Orthodoxa, Vol. 60 (LX), 2015, No. 1, pp. 255-265. *Grade: 4*

2. Gheorghe Ciupe, Taina Pocăinței în vremuri de prigoană, în: „Slujire –mărturisire –pătimire în Biserica lui Hristos”, Coord.: Pr. Florin Dobrei, Felicitas Publishing House, Stockholm, Editura Episcopiei Devei și Hunedoarei, 2017, ISBN 978-606-509-356-0, ISBN 978-606-8692-43-2, pp. 300-310. *Grade 3*



3. Ciprian Joița, „Cateheza Sf. Simeon Noul Teolog – apogeu al tradiției catehetice duhovnicești ortodoxe”, în: Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai” Cluj-Napoca, Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxă, Anuar XVII (2013-2014), Ed. Renașterea, Cluj-Napoca, 2015, pp. 359-378. *Grade 4*
4. Cezar Login and Simeon Ștefan Pinteș, „La place de l’homélie dans la pratique contemporaine de l’église orthodoxe roumaine”, în Andre Lossky, Goran Sekulovski (ed.), 61 Semaines liturgiques à Saint-Serge: Nos pratiques homilétiques, enjeux liturgiques et théologiques, Aschendorff Verlag, Münster, 2016. *Grade: 5*
5. Florian Simionca, „Facere 1,27 și leșire 33,18-23 – abordare exegetică comparată: chip și față, ” în Anuarul Facultății de Teologie Ortodoxă din Cluj-Napoca (2015-2016), ed Vasile Stanciu (Cluj-Napoca: Renașterea, 2017), 27-46. *Grade: 3*

Recommendations:

Doctoral students should be more exposed to international scholarship (not reduced to Orthodox theology), to deal with it in an objective way, and offer an innovative approach in international research.

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.*

SD research is enhanced through presentations at scientific events, so the ratio is more than 2:1. In the last 2 years - due to the pandemic situation - their participation in such scientific events has been much reduced.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that students admitted to PhD after 2018 publish a minimum of 5 scientific achievements, according to OM 5.110/2018.

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.*

Due to the internal regulations of the “Universitaria” Consortium, the possibilities of co-opting more than one specialist referee are limited. In competition with these provisions, the large number of doctoral theses defended in the last 5 years (282) has made it almost impossible to comply with these indicators.

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.*

From the appendices presented, there were more than 20 cases during the period evaluated, where an external evaluator was present more than twice a year for theses coordinated by the same teacher. This situation is a consequence on the one hand of



the large number of theses defended during this period (282), and on the other hand of the restrictions imposed by the “Universitaria” Consortium which imposes certain restrictions on the invitation of experts from universities outside the consortium.

Additional annexes for the period evaluated were submitted in the file (AS_11 - Referenți externi în comisiile de susținere a tezelor; Anexa 1.3.19.1 - Indicator B3.2.1 privind referenții externi, Anexa 1.3.19.3 - Indicator B3.2.1 privind referenții externi).

Recommendations:

Broaden the range of referees.

International referees should be taken into account

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.*

There are no situations exceeding this indicator.

(AS_11 - Referenți externi în comisiile de susținere a tezelor; Anexa 1.3.19.1 - Indicator B3.2.1 privind referenții externi, Anexa 1.3.19.3 - Indicator B3.2.1 privind referenții externi).

Recommendations:

This indicator has to be continuously kept in mind.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

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

The UBB has developed and regularly applies a procedure for internal evaluation and monitoring of the development of doctoral schools, based on several criteria and indicators for measuring quality. (REI p.65-66)

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

(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;

(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;



(c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;

d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;

e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;

f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

The Doctoral schools are periodically evaluated on the basis of internal procedures and criteria in accordance with a policy assumed by the institution (Anexa 1.3.1 - Politica calitatii in UBB) and established quality principles and indicators (Anexa1_3_8_principii_criterii_si_indicatori_de_calitate) as well as performance standards and indicators (Anexa 1_3_9 - Standarde si indicatori de performanta). The Qualitas Centre (<http://qa.ubbcluj.ro/>) has been set up at UBB to carry out regular analyses and statistics on student and teacher satisfaction.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to include the evaluation of doctoral programmes in all evaluation processes (teaching, teaching staff, peer reviews, etc.).

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.

The Qualitas Centre conducts annual research and produces statistics on student satisfaction in all three cycles of education (<http://qa.ubbcluj.ro/>) which regularly carries out analyses and statistics on student and teacher satisfaction. Annually this department publishes a report on the UBB website (http://qa.ubbcluj.ro/satisfactia_studentilor.php). The latest report produced by this centre is for 2019.

Recommendations:

Continue and improve the processes of evaluation and monitoring of the quality of doctoral programmes.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

UBB has a clear policy of transparency of information, visible on the websites and web pages it manages, but also through the regular publication of information brochures or periodic reports.

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



The information provided is also available on separate pages of the faculties managing the doctoral programmes.

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.*

All useful information for potential candidates or interested parties is published on the UBB website, the IOSUD page in Romanian, English and Hungarian (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/>) and on the 3 websites of the faculties managing the doctoral programmes. Some information is harder to find.

Recommendations:

Continue the policies of transparency of information and improve the web pages. The website should be more user-friendly.

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.*

All SDTs have a good and functional research/documentation infrastructure; the spaces used are modern and adequate and the Central University Library "Lucian Blaga" has a continuous development of documentary information resources.

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.*

Doctoral students have access through the Central University Library "Lucian Blaga" to scientific research databases specific to the field: JSTOR, EBSCO - Academic Search Complete, EBSCO - Business Source Complete, EBSCO - Art Full Text, SpringerLink Journals, Emerald Management Journals, ProQuest Central, Cambridge Journals, etc. Also within the Central University Library "Lucian Blaga", a digital library and several documentary databases have been created (<http://documente.bcuccluj.ro/>; <http://transilvania100plus.ro/index>).

Recommendations:



Continue the process of database development and library digitisation. The pandemic has shown how important are the digital sources.

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.

Since 2016, IOSUD - UBB has been using iThenticate textual similarity detection software provided by Turnitin, and since 2019 Turnitin similarity analysis software is also used (Annex 1.2.16.1 and Annex 1.2.16.2 - - Indicator A.1.2.2). Through the PhD advisor PhD students have access to check their personal scientific output.

Recommendations:

Continuous verification of scientific achievements, not only those strictly related to the documentation and writing of the PhD thesis.

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.

All PhD students have access to research-documentation spaces appropriate to the field; For SD research they benefit from the Biblical Research Centre (<http://cbs.ot.ubbcluj.ro/membri.html>) and the Ioan Lupaş Research Centre (<http://ioanlupas.orth.ro/index.php/2020/12/04/anuarul-facultatii-de-teologie-ortodoxa-din-cluj-napoca/>).

In the field of theology research is performed in libraries, archives, pastoral centres, etc.

(Anexa 2_1_6-1 : Spațiile didactice și de cercetare; Anexa 2_1_6-3 : Situația asigurării spațiilor; Anexe_ISD_anexa_1_2_1_centralizator_spatii_pe_cladiri_ubb_2021.pdf)

Recommendations:

Organisation of research centres and platforms at the other Doctoral Schools as well.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

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

The theology field at the UBB is concerned with the increasing internationalisation of teaching and research activities within the 3 SDTs. Especially in recent years, more leading scholars have been invited to give lectures or to coordinate the work of doctoral students. In particular this is the case of the SDT-Ecumene, which has joint activities with the Hungarian and German CDs.

However, internationalization means much more than sharing activities with Hungarian colleagues. Being most of the advisors in the SDT-Ecumene native speakers and having their main connection with Hungary, these activities cannot be regarded as



international in its deepest sense. Internationality and visibility means being known in the own field throughout the world and supposes publishing in languages that make that research accessible to the majority of colleagues. This means in the practice publishing in English and to a lesser extent in other major European languages such as German, French and Italian.

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

The UBB offers advice to teachers and students wishing to undertake Erasmus mobility placements (<https://cci.ubbcluj.ro/erasmus/erasmus.php>) and has several mobility agreements in place for doctoral level studies (Teolog_Anexe_Domeniu_Teologie_C.3.1.1_Internationalizare_Anexa_Acorduri_Erasmus_BA_MA_PHD)

A number of 9 doctoral students from SDT-O Anexa C.3.1.1. - Internaționalizare) and 36 students from "Reformed Theology" study programmes benefited from Erasmus and non-Erasmus study and practice placement mobilities. (Anexa C.3.1.1_Studenti doctoranzi Erasmus si SEE_min 3 luni), i.e. 16% of the total of 282 DS enrolled in doctoral programmes during the period evaluated. (see also Anexa B.3.1.1. - Lista prezentări absolvenți)

Recommendations:

It is recommended to extend Erasmus agreements also for doctoral programmes and to increase the number of mobilities.

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.*

During the period under evaluation, one international co-tutelle doctorate was carried out (REI p.88), for which no supporting documents were submitted and several teachers and researchers were invited to give lectures in the field of theology. (Anexa C.3.1.3 Comisii internaționale; Anexa C 3.1.2. Lista experți invitați)

Recommendations:

Cotutelle PhDs are recommended to enable a more robust connection of Romanian research to the international scientific flow.

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.).

International students have also been enrolled in the doctoral programmes of the three SDTs; some foreign experts in the field have also been co-opted in the committees for the supervision and defence of doctoral theses. (AS 10 - Experți străini în comisiile de îndrumare; AS 11 - Experți străini în comisiile de susținere a tezelor de doctorat; AS 12 - Studenți străini înmatriculați la programele doctorale).

Recommendations:

It is recommended to involve much more foreign experts in the teaching and research process. This will broaden the doctoral programs, enrich the views of the doctoral students, guiding them into international research.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good material base, financial resources and very good logistical resources; 2. Highly qualified teaching staff; 3. Quality assessment at UBB is a constant and well-organised process; 4. Good collaboration with the main employer - the Metropolitanate of Vad, Feleac and Cluj, with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Alba Iulia and with the Reformed Bishops of Transylvania who constantly support the scientific and academic activities carried out in the 3 SDT. 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large number of doctoral students supervised by a significant proportion of PhD coordinators; 2. Low diversity of reviewers in the thesis defense committees and in the mentoring committees; 3. Small number of doctoral students coming from other university centres than UBB.
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presence in the teaching offer of one of the most important universities in the country in terms of internationalization can be an opportunity to increase the international visibility of the theology field; 2. Multi-denominational environment at UBB and in the area can provide opportunities for important academic exchanges, both locally and internationally. 3. Libraries in Cluj-Napoca provide a good documentation base for all doctoral students; 4. Large offer of doctoral supervisors covers all important research niches in the field of theology. 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large number of doctoral students currently supervised by a professor may affect the number of places available in future years; 2. Low interest of PhD students in Erasmus-type mobility may lead to isolation of young researchers in the field from new research directions in the Western world; 3. Poor information of PhD students on the possibility of accessing research and training funds may lead to a weak competitiveness of PhD students and the dissemination process.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1	IP	A.1.1.1.	Fulfilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Election Regulations regarding the odd number of members in each SSC should be respected; • Begin procedures regarding elections at SDT-RCS where the position has been occupied on an interim basis for a long time; • Include in the study contract at all SDs, or in its annex, the obligation of the PhD student to publish a number of 5 papers (3 studies and 2 communications), according to the OMed. 5.110/7.09.2018. • It is recommended to employ the heads of doctoral schools to the position of "department director", according to the legislation in force.
2	IP	A.1.1.2	Fulfilled	The regulations should be supplemented with the information required by the legislation (co-optation of new members, Advanced Training Programme, procedure for change of coordinator, procedure and reasons for change of supervisor, procedure and reasons for discontinuation of the programme, research ethics and similarity check, scientific research-publication obligations of PhD students, obligations regarding attendance)
3	IP	A.1.2.1.	Fulfilled	
4	IP	A.1.2.2	Fulfilled	In some situations a step-by-step analysis of the similarity report is required, not just a simple endorsement.
5	IP	A.1.3.1.	Fulfilled	Application to grants is a very important task within a doctoral school. In this sense, also the other schools need to apply for grants and research projects.
6	IP*	A.1.3.2.	Fulfilled	As referred above, it is very important for the SD to find funds and grants, to inform the doctoral students and to encourage them to apply to them. We recommend to reach the required level in the next years
7	IP*	A.1.3.3.	Partially fulfilled	The SDS needs to fulfil this regulation, clearly developing methodologies for it and in the meantime, students have to be thoroughly informed about those allocations and encouraged to use them. A special section in the website could provide this information for doctoral students about conferences, exchange opportunities, programs. In addition to this, it should be clear about how much money is available and which are the conditions and procedures to apply for this funding.
8	IPC	A.2.1.1	Fulfilled	
9	IPC	A.3.1.1	Fulfilled	Professors should increase their visibility even more especially in regard to international publications, especially publishing in other languages other than Romanian.
10	IP*	A.3.1.2	Fulfilled	OSUD needs to submit a progress report on the clarification of the situation of Prof. G. Kovacs (qualified in philosophy) and the PhD students supervised by him. Increase the number of PhD coordinators at SDT-RCS.
11	IP	A.3.1.3	Fulfilled	Increased attention should be given to the discipline of Ethics and Academic Integrity, so that it is allocated a minimum of 14 physical hours, cf. OM 3.131/2018:

				https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/ordin%203131-2018docx.pdf
12	IP*	A.3.1.4	Not Fulfilled	It should be made clear to all DCs that they cannot exceed the stipulated number of supervised students and in the case that they do it, a number of students need to be assigned to other DC. Decrease the number of PhD students supervised by each DC. IOSUD needs to send ARACIS a progress report on bringing this indicator within the parameters set by the legislation.
13	IPC	A.3.2.1	Not Fulfilled	Prepare the CNATDCU standards compliance sheets more accurately in order to frame publishers and journals as correctly as possible. All doctoral thesis advisors have national scientific visibility, while some of them show international scientific visibility and publish in English, German and French, as it appears in the Annexes A.3.2.1 - relevant publications; A.3.1.1.1-3, A.3.1.1.-4). That international visibility needs to be strongly encouraged through ERIH-indexed publications. Incentives could be introduced for professors publishing in those indexed-journals. The same applies for those publishing in the major European languages. Financial support should be given to those who attend and present in major international conferences outside Romania. More leading scholars should be brought to lecture or teach at the DSs.
14	IP*	A.3.2.2	Fulfilled	
15	IP*	B.1.1.1	Fulfilled	Develop policies to attract candidates also from outside UBB The programs of the DSs should be better promoted. The employability and success of the graduates should be also made known
16	IP*	B.1.2.1	Fulfilled	Averages and academic work of the candidates needs to be taken into deeper account, enhancing in this way the quality and level of the candidates.
17	IP	B. 1.2.2	Fulfilled	Develop dropout prevention policies and strategies.
18	IP	B.2.1.1	Fulfilled	Further qualification of the candidates could be provided by extra practical courses regarding research. In this domain, key is to learn how to identify research funding and how to apply for it. The DDS need to concretely inform about all this and doctoral students need to learn it.
19	IP	B.2.1.2	Fulfilled	The subject of Ethics and Academic Integrity should be given special attention so that it is allocated a minimum of 14 physical hours, cf. OM 3.131/2018.
20	IP	B.2.1.3	Fulfilled	Diversify disciplines that provide general and/or complementary research skills (e.g. Project Writing; Project Management, etc.).
21	IP	B.2.1.4	Fulfilled	Diversify the mentoring committees according to the research topic and according to the evolution/progress of the research.
22	IPC	B.2.1.5	Fulfilled	Diversify the mentoring committees and approve them on an annual basis and, if necessary, modify them according to research developments.
23	IPC	B.3.1.1	Fulfilled	Doctoral students should be more exposed to international scholarship (not reduced to Orthodox theology), to deal with it in an objective way, and offer an innovative approach in international research.
24	IP*	B.3.1.2	Fulfilled	It is recommended that students admitted to PhD after 2018 publish a minimum of 5 scientific achievements, according to OM 5.110/2018.
25	IP*	B. 3.2.1	Partially	Broaden the range of referees.

			Fulfilled	International referees should be taken into account
26	IP*	B.3.2.2	Fulfilled	This indicator has to be continuously kept in mind.
27	IP	C.1.1.1	Fulfilled	It is recommended to include the evaluation of doctoral programmes in all evaluation processes (teaching, teaching staff, peer reviews, etc.).
28	IP*	C.1.1.2	Fulfilled	Continue and improve the processes of evaluation and monitoring of the quality of doctoral programmes.
29	IPC	C.2.1.1	Fulfilled	Continue the policies of transparency of information and improve the web pages. The website should be more user-friendly.
30	IP	C.2.2.1	Fulfilled	Continue the process of database development and library digitization. The pandemic has shown how important are the digital sources.
31	IP	C.2.2.2	Fulfilled	Continuous verification of scientific achievements, not only those strictly related to the documentation and writing of the PhD thesis.
32	IP	C.2.2.3	Fulfilled	Organization of research centres and platforms at the other Doctoral Schools as well.
33	IP*	C.3.1.1	Fulfilled	It is recommended to extend Erasmus agreements also for doctoral programmes and to increase the number of mobilities.
34	IP	C.3.1.2	Fulfilled	Cotutelle PhDs are recommended to enable a more robust connection of Romanian research to the international scientific flow.
35	IP	C.3.1.3	Fulfilled	It is recommended to involve much more foreign experts in the teaching and research process. This will broaden the doctoral programs, enrich the views of the doctoral students, guiding them into international research.

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The three Doctoral Schools of the UBB here evaluated have proved to cover the required standards for the domains of Institutional Capacity (A), Educational Effectiveness (B) and Quality Management (C). Those Doctoral Schools provide the UBB with unique broad perspectives of three different approaches to the field of theology in doctoral studies. Different by their origins, date when they came into existence, and number of doctoral advisors and students, they certainly enrich the university with theology carried out from different confessional, cultural and linguistic insights.

From the prior table it is clear where the standards were only *partially fulfilled* (for instance regarding the regulation that 10% of grants and fees should be provided for training expenses of the doctoral students, attracting students from outside the UBB (B.1.1.1), the number of thesis allocated to external specialists (B.3.2.1).

Not fulfilled standard concerns the number of PhD students supervised by each DC (A.3.1.4) and the percentage of indexed-publications (A.3.2.1). In the last case, it is regrettably an IPC.

The three Doctoral schools offer students a systematic and organized program of doctoral studies. For this they dispose of adequate physical, material, administrative and staff capacities. One of the main challenges of the current evaluation resides in the fact that three different schools are evaluated together although, as stated, they show different situations regarding staff and student numbers, capacities and programs.



The "Isidor Todoran" Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology has the largest number of doctoral advisors and students. It is in the meantime the oldest of all doctoral schools. The Doctoral School of Theology "Ecumene", created 15 years ago as a result of the partnership between the Faculty of Reformed Theology and the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology offers different perspective. Here there is a preponderance of the Hungarian language and its culture not only among the doctoral advisors but also among the students to be highlighted. It is clear that the cultural horizons are different from the "Isidor Todoran" Doctoral School.

Again different is the recent DS "Religion, Culture, Society", which is still at its beginning and addresses current and contemporary issues.

Although it is difficult to evaluate all of them together, I would like to point out some aspects from my international perspective, where I could provide my insights. While there is an awareness of the relevance of internationalization in carrying out the programs, this is still at its beginning and needs to be further deepened. More courses need to be offered in English in order to be able to attract international students. Professors need to publish in indexed-journals and in other languages than Romanian and Hungarian in order that they, the DSs and the university attain real international visibility, which at the moment is, being honest, very limited. Also in the same vein, international scholars have to take more actively part in those programs, being invited as lecturers, as members of doctoral commissions and theses commissions. I strongly encourage the DSs to take steps in this direction.

As a result of the evaluation conducted, I have found that two indicators are UNFULFILLED (A.3.1.4, A 3.2.1) and two are PARTIALLY FULLFILLED (A.1.3.3, B.3.2.1).

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VII. Annexes

Supplementary Documents

- AS 1 – Alegerile studenților în CSD-uri;
- AS 2 – Foto spații;
- AS 3 – Teze_indrumatori-referent_extern (indicator B.3.2.1).xlsx;
- AS 4 – Experți străini în comisiile de susținere a tezelor de doctorat;
- AS 5 – Studenți străini înmatriculați la programele doctorale;
- AS 6 – Teze în limbă străină;
- AS 7 – Contract cotutelă;
- AS 8 – Exemple pv Raport progres științific;
- AS 9 – Adresa modificare comisii îndr.;
- AS 10 – Decontări doctoranzi
- AS 11 – RecunoastereAbilitareKovacsG
- AS 12 – Grant_dezvoltare_RCS
- AS 13 – UBB-Clarificări_perioada_gratie
- AS 14 – Comisii îndrumare 2020/2021 și 2021/2022
- AS 15 – Informații sintetice domeniu teologie UBB