

The External Evaluation Report of an Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD)

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I. Introduction¹

In this chapter, the following shall be summarized:

- *the context in which this external evaluation report was drafted (**the type of evaluation, the period of the evaluation visit, the composition of the Experts Committee etc.**);*
- *details about the institution organizing the doctoral studies (number of Doctoral Schools, number of students, institutional context, short history etc.);*

The doctoral field of ‘Sociology’ of the University Babes Bolyai (UBB) was in the focus of the evaluation.

The period of the evaluation visit: the 12th October 2021: introductory online-meeting, followed by the online visit between 2nd and 5th November 2021.

Members of the evaluation committee:

- 1: Prof. Horatiu Mihai Rusu, coordinator (University of Sibiu)
- 2: Prof. Csaba Makó, expert international (Centre for Social Sciences – University of Public Service, Budapest)
- 3: Mrs. Maria Cristina Bularca, student (University Craiova)

The dynamic development of the UBB is illustrated well by this short historical overview: in 1938, the University of Cluj enrolled 3,094 students in four faculties and nine specializations. Presently, UBB has 53,039 students and trainees (33,664 undergraduate students, 9,837 master's students, 2,260 doctoral students) and 1,509 teachers, making it one of the largest in the country and in this region of Europe. Its multi-cultural character is well illustrated by its Romanian, Hungarian and German programs.

¹ Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



The UBB adopted the following seven strategic priorities:

- I. Education: training citizens who are committed and diligent, inspiring a mindset and vision at the level of society in general
- II. CDI I Culture - artistic creation: placing scientific research of excellence as the basis for modern education and social development
- III. Relationship with society: emphasizing the role of the university as the main educator for the well-being of society
- IV. Quality-competitiveness-excellence-ethics: implementation of high quality standards in all activities
- V. Human resource: development of human resource in the paradigm of competence, trust, diversity, and integration
- VI. Administration and services: implementation of effective and efficient management of support services to sustain activities excellence

Source: “Self-Assessment Report (internal evaluation) Doctoral Field: Sociology, p. 16

The successful fulfillment these strategic priorities are reflected in the high-scores of scientific excellence. For example, the UBB has ‘leading edge’ position within the Romanian higher-education institutions. The Table 1 illustrates the leading position of the UBB among universities of the country. Using the results of four well-known global university ranking method (i.e. QS 2022 ranking, THE 2022 ranking, 2021 Web of Sciences based Academic Ranking and US news ranking), UBB has no. 1. position by three ranking and 3rd position by one: ‘THE 2022 Ranking (Scopus based). See the Table no. 1 and in details the attached ANNEX !)

Table No.1 UBB Position among Romanian Universities by Various Global Ranking Methods

Methods of Ranking	Position of UBB
1: QS 2022 Ranking (Scopus-based)	„1”
2: THE 2022 Ranking (Scopus-based)	„3”
3: 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities (Based on Web of Science)	„1”
4: US news (Based on Web of Sciences)	„1”

Source: Dr. Péter Sasvári, Science-metric expert, University of Public Service, Budapest, 29th October, 2021.

Another important indicator of the internationally recognised excellence in the field of research is that almost every second (44 %) papers published by the staff of the UBB were in the category of Q1 and Q2, measured by scientometric indicators. The most published disciplines are the followings: mathematics, chemistry, environmental science, material science and physics.



Unfortunately, the performance of social sciences is lagging behind. In relation with the ‘marketization of knowledge’ it is worth to mention that the UBB’s patent portfolio has 61 patents and nine of which were produced in 2020.

Doctoral field: UBB has 31 doctoral schools in 32 disciplines, covering 2 260 PhD students. The PhD schools are organised within 20 faculties and have the position of department within the university organisational hierarchy. Their activities are regulated by Institute of Doctorate Studies (in the following: IDS.)

The Doctoral Field of ‘Sociology’ (in the following: SDS) operates within the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work (in the following: FSAS) with the logistical help of ISD. The SDS, has 10 full-time (active) supervisors, out of them 7 are employed by the FSA and others by other faculties (i.e. Faculty of European Studies, Faculty of History and Philosophy and Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Science). From 2012 public defence related information are available on ISD website. (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/sustinerile-publice-ale-tezeilor-de-doctora!>)

II. Methods used

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

- *The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and its Annexes;*
- *The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit (if such documents have been requested);*
- *The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;*
- *Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, comprising (indicative and non-exhaustive list, which shall be changed according to the context):*
 - *classrooms;*
 - *laboratories;*
 - *the institution’s library;*
 - *research centers;*
 - *the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;*
 - *lecture halls for students;*
 - *the student residences;*
 - *the student cafeteria;*
 - *sports ground etc.;*
- *Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the IOSUD;*
- *Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the IOSUD;*
- *Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates of the IOSUD;*
- *Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the IOSUD;*
- *Meeting/Discussions with the Doctoral advisors affiliated to the IOSUD;*



• *Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School/Doctoral Schools in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:*

- *The Council of the University Doctoral Studies (CSUD) The Council of the Doctoral School(s) (CSD) , the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures);*
- *the Career Counselling and Guidance Center;*
- *student organizations;*
- *secretariats;*
- *various departments/administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.);*
- *Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff affiliated to the IOSUD.*

❖ 12th October, 2021: 15:00 - 17:00: Preliminary meeting informing on ‘The Institutional evaluation visit – IOSUD/Doctoral Domains of the Babes-Bolyai University (UBB) of Cluj-Napoca (online meeting with PPT presentation)

❖ Reviewing report of UBB covering the following thematic areas:

- 1) The development dynamics of UBB from its foundation to the present, 2) Institutional capacity, legal regulation, missions and strategic objective, 3) Institutional/organizational and legal basis of quality assurance development. Core aims are as follows: a) developing a reflexive approach and a culture of quality in order to reach the world standard both in research and teaching, b) initiating strategic or high-value added partnership with the local, national and international stakeholders, c) improving inclusive character of the doctorate student composition (i.e. increasing priority given to integrate students with physically and socially handicapped character).
- 2) Reviewing reports available in the ARACIS data-base (cloud) and special review of the ‘Self-assessment report (internal evaluation) of the Doctoral School in Sociology, UBB, Cluj-Napoca, May 2021. Plus, the additional information supplied by Associate Prof. Mihai-Bogdan Iovu, Director of the SDS – see in the Annex.

❖ Participating in the meetings’ discussion with the representatives of doctoral students, doctoral graduates, employers of graduates, school official of IOSUD, students of SDS, supervisors of SDS and student representatives.

❖ In order to clarify some issues which were difficult to understand due to their complexity and due to lack of availability of Appendix on English web-site, the team of evaluators held several additional zoom-meetings. In this relation I wish to express my gratitude to the extremely open and helpful attitude of the Romanian coordinator, Prof. dr. Rusu Horatiu.

❖ Using additional analysis and data source in order to better understand the UBB position within Romanian higher education institutions. (e.g. results of the global ranking of the Romanian universities, Scopus-indexed publications of the thesis supervisors in the SDS.)



III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators²

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- *general description of the 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.

- *general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):*

(a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);

(b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct;

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

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

(e) functional management structures CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings;

(f) the contract for doctoral studies;

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

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

The SDS school regulation includes 43 articles, structured in ten distinct chapters (Chapter I - General provisions; Chapter II - Doctoral School of Sociology; Chapter III - Doctoral School Council; Chapter IV - Admission to doctoral studies; Chapter V - Curriculum training based on advanced university studies; Chapter VI. Doctoral supervisors; Chapter VII - Doctoral student; Chapter VIII - Public elaboration and defense

² Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



of the doctoral thesis; Chapter IX - Empowerment; Chapter X - Final and transitional provisions), with details on:

- the methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Doctoral School Council (CSD), as well as the election by students of the representative in the CSD and evidence of their conduct (art. 17)
- methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies) (art. 3, art. 21-27)
- the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the quality of doctoral supervisor and for equivalence of the doctorate obtained in other states (art. 28-29)
- functional management structures (Doctoral School Council), proving also the regularity of convening meetings (art. 17-19)
- the doctoral university contract (art. 24, 34, 35)

internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals on the subject of the training program based on advanced university studies (art. 24, 25) (*Source: Self-assessment report, 2021:59*)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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

A new Regulation was approved by SDS on 17.04.2018. which now is on debate at CSUD. This one makes clearer statements regarding:

- accepting of new doctoral supervisors (art. 43)
- the mechanisms through which decisions are taken regarding the opportunity, structure and content of the training program based on advanced university studies (art. 12)
- the procedures for changing the doctoral of a certain doctoral student and the procedures for mediating conflicts (art. 16)
- the conditions in which the doctoral program can be interrupted (art. 19, 24)
- ways to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism (art. 36);
- ensuring access to research resources (art. 22-23)
- attendance obligations of doctoral students (art. 20)

and also introduces a chapter on quality assurance (arts. 44-45). (*Self-assessment report, 2021:60*)



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance IndicatorA.1.1.3***³. Doctoral schools included in IOSUD are organized as disciplinary or interdisciplinary disciplines/thematic, according to Article 158, paragraph (7) of the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

- general description of the standard analysis.

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

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

Using the logistical resources of the Institute for Doctoral Studies (in the following: ISD), the PhD school program related data are available both internally and nationally on the ISD website from 2012.

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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

³ The indicators marked with an asterisk (*) hold a special status, referring exclusively to the evaluation of doctoral schools, 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 fulfilled, the Agency extends a period of maximum 3 years to IOSUD to correct the respective deficiencies.



Via ISD the SDS has the access to the logistical resources to guarantee the ethical research standards in the PhD School. In this relation it is worth to stress that the UBB uses one of the highest quality software to check plagiarism. (Note: from 2016, IOSUD – UBB purchased and renewed the licence for iThenticate and from 2019, additionally the TurnitIn is used. too.)

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD/doctoral schools have 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 IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)*

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

FSAS has sufficient quality of physical infrastructure necessary to continue doctoral studies at the SDS (see Self-assessment report (internal evaluation, p. 63)

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.2. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.*

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

The halls and seminar rooms equipped with the required audio and video devices and with appropriate software needed for the research activity of the PhD student. (see Self-assessment report (internal evaluation), p. 63

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.3. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent renewal of the research infrastructure to provide doctoral students access to up-dated research resources, by applying to various funding competitions and using own university resources for acquiring new research infrastructure.*



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

NOTE: physical visit did not take place due to the COVID-19

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resource

Standard A.3.1. At the level of each Doctoral School there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure a quality educational process.

- general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.1. *The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies⁴ does not exceed 20%.*

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

Among the 10 doctoral/thesis supervisors in SDS, 7 are employed by the FSAS and the remaining 3 are working in other faculties at the UBB (e.g. Faculty of European Studies, Faculty of History and Philosophy and Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences)

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.2. *At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

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

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Out of 10 doctoral supervisors at the SDS, 8 have full time contract and 2 are associated members of the FSAS. 7 supervisors are participating in internationally funded research projects, too.

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, 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 international visibility of scientific performance of the thesis supervisors illustrated by the publications in the high quality scholarly journals (no. of documents, citations and h-index) illustrated by the Table no. 2! (Annex no. 1!)

Table no. 2. Scopus indexed high quality publications by thesis supervisors of the SDS

No.	Doctoral Supervisors	Scopus ID	Documents	Citations	h-index
1	Enikő Albert-Lőrincz (retired)	25654525700	4	7	1
2	Dan Florentin Chiribucă	16635246600	7	13	2
3	Mircea Ioan Comșa	36695937400	8	78	3
4	Irina Culic	23396264900	5	42	3
5	Cornelia Mureșan (retired)	23482266400	13	200	8
6	Valér Veres	55791103200	4	8	2
7	Livia Popescu (retired)	15825450000	4	81	2
8	Maria Roth (retired)	25625453900	15	72	5
9	László Csaba Dégi	14824488300	23	105	6
10	Mihai-Bogdan Iovu	36448843800	14	62	4
11	Maria Carmen Pantea	53164471600	21	124	6
Full-time Doctoral Supervisors					
1	Dan Florentin Chiribucă	16635246600		13	2
2	Mircea Ioan Comșa	36695937400	8	78	3

3	Irina Culic	23396264900	5	42	3
4	Valér Veres	55791103200	4	8	2
5	László Csaba Dégi	14824488300	23	105	6
6	Mihai-Bogdan Iovu	36448843800	14	62	4
7	Maria Carmen Pantea	53164471600	21	124	6

Source: Dr. Péter Sasvári, Science Metric Expert, University of Public Service, 31st October, 2021. Budapest

Link for All Supervisors – Including retired ones

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=25654525700>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=16635246600>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=36695937400>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=23396264900>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=23482266400>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=55791103200>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=15825450000>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=25625453900>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=14824488300>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=36448843800>

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=53164471600>

The Table 2 informs about the following: firstly, all supervisors are publishing in Scopus-index high quality journals indicating internationally recognised scientific performance of the SDS thesis supervisors. Secondly, there are visible inequalities in the publications' performance of the thesis supervisors. For example, Cornelia Mureşan (retired), Maria Carmen Pantea and László Csaba Dégi have the highest international impact (citation) h-index, followed by the moderate performers: Mircea Ioan Comşa, Livia Popescu (retired), Maria Roth (retired), Mihai-Bogdan Iovu and the 'trailing edge' group composed by Enikő Albert-Lőrincz (retired), Dan Florentin Chiribucă, Valér Veres. In order to improve the future international visibility of the SDS, I would like to stress the need to diminish the inequalities in high-quality publications.

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- general description of the domain analysis.



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

Standard B.1.1. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender.

- *general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator *B.1.1.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.

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

Admission in at the SDS is regulated by the 'Methodology and the calender of admission' issued by UBB and by SDS. Admission based on written exam (its content based on the reading list announced by the coordinator at least two months in advance on the SDS website (<https://socasis.ubbclus.ro/category/scoala-doctorala/>) and on the presentation of the research plans of candidates in the form of an interview.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.1.1.2. The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organsing support programs to prevent drop-outs.

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

NOTE: physical visit did not take place due to the COVID-19

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.



- general description of the standard analysis.

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

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

The SDS learning-training program covering 2020 – 2021 includes the following three compulsory classes consistent with the educational needs and expectation of the doctoral students:

1: Methodological and Ethical Foundations in Social Sciences, 2: Quantitative Methods in Analysing Social Structures, 3: Social Impact Assessment (12 weeks in second semester)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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

Ethical dimensions of the research at SDS learning program are presented in the course on 'Methodological and Ethical Foundations in Social Sciences'. The content of course (i.e. introduction to ethic, research ethic in Romania, legal provision, significance of original research in doctoral dissertation etc.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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.



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

All courses' syllabus developed and offered by SDS covers competences, evaluation and references. After finishing courses, doctorate students receive a proof of course termination by the head teachers and by his/her thesis supervisor.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.

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

During the whole period of the doctorate studies PhD students are supported or guided by the 3 members' advisory committee. The advisory committee members document in the form of a Minute each presentation.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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

Until 2019, altogether, more than 3 PhD students were assigned to a specific advisor, however in 2020 only 8 teachers had more than 3 students assigned. Comparing the total no. of advisory committee to the total no. of teachers, the commulative rate for the evaluation period 2016-2020 was 2.53, in average, fewer than 3 assigned students.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/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.

- *general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. *For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)*

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

Between 2016-2020, 46 PhD students graduated at the SDS and published 63 papers – however it is rather difficult to identify whether the paper selected “present significant contributions in the field concerned.” Globally, the rate of publication is above 1.36 of the required standard. It is necessary to call attention that this aggregated publication performance indicator hides the existing inequalities: some students published more papers than others. In the future it would be necessary to increase more equal distribution in the students' publication activity.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards

- *general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator B.4.1.1. *At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non-validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.*

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



NOTE: physical visit did not take place due to the COVID-19

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- *general description of domain analysis.*

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.

- *general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. *The IOSUD 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 doctoral school(s), 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 academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

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

UBB issued and approved 'Operational procedure regarding the internal evaluation of doctoral fields and schools', and FSAS level, there is a Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance with specific tasks.

The UBB criteria for allocating state funded places for doctoral supervision for admission contest are the following: 1: the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors, 2: the infrastructure and logistics facilitating research activity, 3: rules and procedures to organise doctoral studies, 4: scientific activity of doctoral students, 5: advanced training programs of doctoral students. (Last internal report of SDS revising the main dimensions of the doctoral program dated 2018.)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.2. *Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.*

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



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

Missing information and NOTE: physical visit did not take place due to the COVID-19

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.3. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.

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

NOTE: physical visit did not take place due to the COVID-19

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.1.1.4. Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.

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

Recommendations:

NOTE: physical visit did not take place due to the COVID-19

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

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 IOSUD/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 the training study 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) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.*
- (j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*
 - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.*
 - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.*

Information regarding the doctoral program posted on the website of UBB and on the ISD address too. Additional information on doctoral students (i.e. name, coordinator name, research topic) is posted too respecting the data protection regulation.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

- general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

PhD students with institutional (UBB) e-mail address have access to several databases using ANELIS + digital platform. In addition, owning library permit doctoral students have free access to all facilities and service of the 'Lucian Blaga' Central University Library in Clus-Napoca (BCU). During 2020 the availability of the international database guaranteed covering 13 resources on the ANELIS + platform.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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



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

In preparing to the Public Defence of his/her dissertation each PhD student has access to the 'plagiarism' check software. However, the verification process is carried out by the staff of the ISD from UBB. Using the upgraded procedure regarding generation and analysis of the Similarity Report of March 8, 2017, approved by the CSUD decision no. 12327/19.06. 2016.

It would be advisable to give a possibility for the doctoral students to be involved into the 'plagiarism checking' process – in order to fulfill the “high transparency “ value of the IOSUD and UBB.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.3. *All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.*

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

Doctoral students as members of the academic community of the UBB have the rights and obligations to use the research infrastructure regulated by the FSAS. However, for the doctorate students in Sociology, intangible (i.e. international literature date-set, softwares) are more important in comparison with the physical infrastructure.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

Standard C.3.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has 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 doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and*



measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

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

SDS has signed Erasmus mobility program with more than 10 universities. 27.9 % PhD students successfully defended their dissertations did participate in the mobility projects, often one student participated more than one occasions during 2016-2020. This indicates imbalance in doctorate students' participation in the mobility programs and the need to improve inclusivity of the participation

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.

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

During the analysed period the SDS invited 10 invited leading foreign experts for lectures. However co-tutelage took place only one case. (This information based on additional information of the Director of SDS – See the Annex no.1!)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.3.1.3. At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.

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

During 2016-2020, 12 doctoral thesis were completed in foreign languages, however only one case co-tutelage did happen. Although the required standard(10 %) was met.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.



Performance Indicator C.3.1.4. *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 committees⁶ etc.).*

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

-

Composition by country of the foreign students (which are mainly students from Israel) participated in mobility program: 7 international students during 2016-2020, 5 from Israel and 1 from Rwanda. (Based on additional information of the Director of SDS – See the Annex no.1!)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

⁶ Doctoral studies are completed by presenting the doctoral thesis in public session in front of a committee whose members hear and judge the final public presentation of the thesis

IV. SWOT Analysis⁷

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <p>1: Both the <i>tangible</i> (libraries, teaching halls/rooms etc.) and <i>intangible infrastructures</i> (i.e. availability of the international literature) of both UBB and SDS are well-developped, transparent and available for all doctorate students,</p> <p>2: The <i>International visibility</i> of the thesis supervisors in Google Scholar is <i>outstanding</i>, more than three quarters of them have higher than h-index but much more modest in Scopus indexed journals.</p> <p>3: The thesis supervisors are deeply <i>involved into the international academic community</i> through European research projects: two thirds of them involved in research projects.</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <p>1: <i>Lack of the necessary financial incentives</i> to motivate thesis supervisors publishing in high-quality (i.e. Scopus indexed) professional journals</p> <p>2: <i>Decreasing interest toward the doctorate program</i> both nationally and internationally</p> <p>3: Beside good international presence measured by the Google publication/citation/h-index of the thesis supervisors (See the ‘Strength’ dimension of SWOT analysis!) their <i>performance in the journal highly rated internationally</i> (i.e. <i>Scopus-indexed journals</i>), is rather <i>modest</i>. Only, Cornelia Mureşan (retired) reached the h-index 8 – no active thesis supervisors have similar publication performance.</p>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>1: In order to sustain the international high-quality publication performance of the thesis supervisors, it would be advisable <i>to support the continuous activity of the ‘senior’ (retired) professors</i> having the best (Scopus indexed) publications. This may help to sustain even increase the international attractiveness of the SDS in the context of the declining national interest. (In leading European and USA universities the world standard professors are employed after retirement, in using various emmployment schemes.)</p> <p>2: It would be advisable to pay special attention to the thesis supervisors who are capable to prepare <i>successful international research project tenders</i>. Through this</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>1: <i>Growing salary inequalities between private and public (especially education segment) labour market</i> in the long-term intensify the <i>counter-selection</i> of staff in the higher education. (In some post-socialist countries the supermarket employees (e.g. Lidle, Aldi etc.) have better salaries than assistant professors having PhD degree.) Of course, drivers of the necessary changes are not under the authority of the FSAS and UBB.</p> <p>2: <i>Weak of attractivity of the internatioinal mobility</i> among PhD students may <i>harm</i> - in long-run – the further <i>internationalization</i> of the SDS due to its spill-over effects.</p>

⁷ In evaluating the all four dimensions of SWOT, I do not make distinction between „active” and „retired” thesis supervisors. The rational behind this approach: globally leading universities keep the high-performing professor sin order to sustain their international visibility. Retired professors with high international reputation have key role in the „knowledge transfer” between generation..

strategy the SDS may deepen its presence in the international academic community attracting both additional financial resources and producing high quality international publications.

3: In order to counterbalance the decreasing application into the Sociology Doctorate School in the country, the *internationalization could be a possible “new road” of development*. Via co-supervisorship and through more intensive mutual exchanges of internationally highly-rated experts involvement in the teaching and research may further improve international positions of the SDS.

4: *Strategic (i.e. high-value added) cooperation with other doctorate schools in the UBB*. May help to develop curriculum reflecting the global academic trend in research and teaching. For example: digitisation of the economy and society require more complex knowledge in order to fulfill the demands of academic, business community and the society. Without strategic cooperation of SDS with such PhD School as Computer science, Phsychology, Environmental sciences, Economy etc.) would be difficult to answer to global and local technological, social-ecomic and environmental challenges.

5: The implementation a new doctoral program in the field of *Social Work*, could be a lever attracting new audience for the program-offer of the SDS. The new program is the necessary research resources manifested in the impressing publication performance SDS members.

3: *High teaching load* of the PhD students may harm their involvement in both national and international research project unfavourable influencing the quality of their dissertation.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	ÍP	<p>Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. <i>The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct;</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students,</i></p>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

		<p>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 CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence 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 about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself. - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself. 		
2.	IP	<p>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</p>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

		<i>subsequent amendments and additions.</i>		
3.	IP	A.1.2.1. <i>The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
4.	ip	A.1.2.2. <i>The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
5.	IP	<p>A.2.1.1. <i>The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.</i> - <i>analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.</i> 	<u>fulfilled</u>	
6.	IPC	A.2.1.2. <i>The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures;</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

		<p>the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself. - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself. 		
7.	IP	<p>Performance Indicator A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.</p>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
8.	IP	<p>B.1.1.1. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - description of the facts, the findings 	<u>fulfilled</u>	

		<p>from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.</p> <p>- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.</p>		
9.	IP	B.1.1.2. <i>The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
10.	IP	B.2.1.1. <i>The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
11.	IP	B.2.1.2. <i>At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

12.	IP	B.2.1.3. <i>The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities⁸.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
13.	IP	B.2.1.4. <i>All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
14.	IPC	B.2.1.5. <i>For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
15.	IPC	B.3.1.1. <i>For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests,</i>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

⁸ 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.

		<p>recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)</p>		
16.	IP	<p>Indicator C.1.1.1. The IOSUD 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 doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory:</p> <p>(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;</p> <p>(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;</p> <p>(c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;</p> <p>d) the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.</p>	<u>fulfilled</u>	
17.	IP	<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> <p>(a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation;</p>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

		<p>(b) the admission regulation;</p> <p>(c) the doctoral studies contract;</p> <p>(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</p> <p>(e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;</p> <p>(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</p> <p>(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);</p> <p>(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</p> <p>(i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.</p> <p>(j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.</p>		
18	IP	<p>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.</p>	<u>fulfilled</u>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself. - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself. 		
19	IP	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.	<u>fulfilled</u>	
20	IP	C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every doctoral school, 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%,	<u>Partially fulfilled</u>	Need to establish more balanced participation of the doctorate students in the mobilisation programs in orders to improve knowledge exploration offered by ERASMUS + and by other programs.

		<i>wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.</i>		
21	IP	C.3.1.2. <i>IOSUD supports, including providing 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>	<u>Partially fulfilled</u>	
22	IP	*C.3.1.3. <i>At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.</i>	<u>Fulfilled</u>	
23	IP	C.3.1.4. <i>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 committees⁹ etc.).</i>	<u>Partially fulfilled</u>	High imbalance characterizes the composition of the foreign students: 7 international students did participat in the SDS program. Overwhelming majority (5) from Isreal and 1 form Rwanda (who graduated Ms cycle at the UBB)

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! No weakness can be identified without formulating at least one recommendation regarding the way it could be corrected!*

⁹ Doctoral studies are completed by presenting the doctoral thesis in public session in front of a committee whose members hear and judge the final public presentation of the thesis



VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

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

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

In spite of the abundance of the information learned from the “Self-assessment report (internal evaluation) – Doctoral Field: Sociology” and from the consultation with various stakeholders - during online meetings - of the Sociology Doctorate School, the external evaluator could succeed only in the “surface mining” of information. In addition, on the suggestion of the Prof. dr. Rusu Horatiu, the SDS evaluators did organise additional zoom meetings in order to overcome the risks of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the available information of various sources. However, the advantage of the external position is the “distant and holistic” view on the activity of the SDS.

In my concluding remarks I intend to stress the factors impacting the world quality standards in both teaching and research at SDS level:

1: The UBB's core strategy is to develop transparent and agile ‘quality insurance’ governance (i.e. institutions, regulation) system in order to develop and sustain the *quality culture* both in teaching and research.

2: *SDS present position* in relations with the quality of *teaching and research* of the thesis supervisors is *outstanding*. However their *sustainability could be threatened* by the growing tension between the requirements of the internationally outstanding teaching and research performance and the inadequate financial and other HRM resources (i.e. development a working practices rewarding - both financially and non-financially - professors who are active in international projects and internationally outstanding publications etc.) of the SDS.

3: In order to improve the “*research excellence*” of the SDS, it would be advisable to involve more intensively of the doctorate students into the ongoing research projects. It seems to me that it would be possible via *substantial decrease of their teaching load*. This could substantially increase the intellectual resources of the SDS.

4: The discussion with present and graduated students (having working experiences) delivered extremely rich experiences concerning how to search the “*new roads of development*” for the SDS. Majority of them called attention to the necessity of the *multi-disciplinary approach or for the need of the joint programs with other doctorate schools* within UBB and with other universities. The teaching and research resources of one PhD school are not satisfactory to develop appropriate answer to new global and local technological, socia-economic and environmental challenges. (It is not by chance that the highest ranked journals have several



authors representing various disciplines – this new trend does not fit the “mono” or “single” author’s intellectual tradition of Central and Southern Eastern European, which represents a strong “cognitive path-dependency” syndrome)

5: Finally, I have hardly found any reflections both at UBB and SDS level on *the “great reset” after COVID-19*. In both the global academic and grey literature there are intensified international discussions on the “new” model of work (e.g. remote work), employment (e.g. precariat) facilitated by the digital revolution. (E.g. in the field of social work and caring activities – which is one possible future program according to the SWOT analysis of the SDS – role of digital platforms increasing fast – but our systematic knowledge about this new trend almost zero). In answering these global and national challenges, SDS in cooperation with other PhD Schools at UBB (e.g. computer science, psychology etc.) may develop new and creative roads of his development.

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 affiliated to the IOSUD 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(s)/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.*

ANNEX no.2 Complementary information delivered by the Director of the SDS.

Dear colleagues,

Here it is a more structured response to your questions (after the meetings and classes today I had time to put the answers in a more coherent manner). I hope this helps in your conclusions

Q1: No. of doctorate students in the period surveyed (2016-2020) in the SDS?



This is the number of students enrolled in the doctoral program (first 3 years)

Academic year	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	Total
2016-2017	17	12	9	38
2017-2018	13	16	12	41
2018-2019	17	13	14	44
2019-2020	12	17	14	43
2020-2021	12	10	16	38

Q2: How many PhD Dissertation syllabus was co-developed with the representatives of the business community, public and civil institutions?

Not sure I understand the question. If you mean the syllabus for the classes offered in our program, the teachers develop them. There is no formal requirement to include the representatives of the bussiness community...in setting up the learning content. But I am sure they include the up-to-date developments and requirements in the field. See attached two course syllabi in English for the 2021-2022 accademic year.

If you refer to PhD topics for the doctoral supervisors, Mr. Chiribuca ansewered this today. Research topics are proposed according to the candidate's interests, expertise, but also coordinator's expertise, research projects he/she is involved in

Q3: List of internationally funded (e.g. EU) multi-country consortium research projects, including the topic, participant countries and duration by doctora supervisors?

I have attached a list of international funded projects/coordinator. In total there are 18 such projects, out of which 7 are research projects (bold). The rest are COST actions, ERASMUS+, DG Justice which are not research projects per se, but include a research component, even if the focus is more on capacity building, rather than research.

Q4: How many recognised foreign experts (i.e. professors, researchers) or experts from other Romanian uiversities were invited during 2016-2020 as guest lecturers and co-tutors of disserations. (In the self-evaluation report, only in the case of the 11 foreign language dissertations was mentioned 1 case of co-tutorship (C.3.1.3. p. 54)

During the analysed period we had 10 invited foreign experts for lectures (Annex C3.1.2). 12 thesis were written and defended in a foreign language out of which just 1 was in co-tutorship (Prof. univ. dr. ILUȚ Petru and Associate Professor Ph.D. STAIGER Annegret)(annex C3.1.3). This list of thesis in a foreign language was send by the Institute so these are the offcial ones. But as Mr. Valer also mentioned today, for dfense committees we, sometimes, invite foreign teachers (10 such persons during the period - annex C3.1.3-2 with their names and affiliation).

Q5: How many foreign doctorate students did participate in 'mobility program" at the SDS?

No international student (which are students from Israel) participated in mobility program: 7 international students during 2016-2020, 5 from Israel and 1 from Rwanda (this last one also gradated MA in or school)



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