

External Evaluation Report of Doctoral Domain in Geography

I. Introduction

This report concerns to periodically External Evaluation of the Institution Organising Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD), in the doctoral study domain of Geography at Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU) Cluj-Napoca. The evaluation period occurred between 02-05.11.2021.

The assessment will determine the accreditation of the doctoral area in geography, taking into account the following levels:

- the activity of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students;
- the research outcomes in relation to the defended doctoral theses in public meetings and respective CNATDCU validation;
- the evaluation of doctoral field in Geography, with reference to the criteria and performance indicators (A., B, C.);
- the activity of Doctoral School of Geography (DSG);
- the activity of DSG as the Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs in domain Geography.

The Evaluation Panel for doctoral studies in fundamental domain of Geography is constituted by:

- Coordinator Prof. Dr. Mihăilă Dumitru, Universitatea „Ștefan cel Mare” Suceava, Romania.
- International expert Prof. Francisco da Silva Costa, University of Minho, Portugal;
- PhD student Alina-Mihaela Simion, Universitatea din București, Romania.

Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB) operates under the academic autonomy concept, which is defined as specific means of self-management in accordance with the legal framework provided by the Romanian Constitution and by National Education Law No. 1/2011. BBU was recently classified by the line Ministry as a “university of advanced research and education. The institution is situated on prestigious positions internationally; specialized rankings place Babeş-Bolyai University among the world’s academic elite in the field. On a domestic level the University has been ranked in the past years on leading place among the approximately one hundred universities according to the majority of such rankings.is the main higher education institution and research center in Western Romania.

It is a comprehensive university, including 22 faculties with their respective departments, which includes the Faculty of Geography and its 4 departments.

Doctoral studies are the third cycle of university studies, according to the Bologna Process, and seek to expand knowledge through original scientific research. Within the BBU, geographical doctoral research has Established in accordance with the provisions of the Education Law no. 84/1995.

The doctoral field of Geography is operating within the DSG and have a body of 8 Doctoral supervisors and 38 students. Fourty nine doctoral candidate ware awarded a doctoral degree in the field of Geography in the interval 2015-2020.



II. Methods used

At first, the consultation and analysis of the documentation in electronic format sent by IOSUD was carried out, namely:

- the periodic self-evaluation report for maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of geography;
- the attached documents;
- the list of the domains, criteria, standards, performance indicators;
- the list of critical performance indicators.

On October 27th we received a "Update of indicators for the assessment for Geography domain at the moment of the ARACIS commission visit" and its attachments.

We also carry out the consultation collection of information in:

- the website of BBU: <https://www.ubbcluj.ro/en/>;
- the webpage of the Faculty of Geography: <https://www.ubbcluj.ro/en/facultati/geografie/>;
- the webpage of the Department of Regional Geography and Territorial Planning: https://geografie.ubbcluj.ro/?page_id=104
- the webpage of the Department of Human Geography and Tourism: https://geografie.ubbcluj.ro/?page_id=106
- the webpage of the Department of Physical and Technical Geography: https://geografie.ubbcluj.ro/?page_id=108
- the webpage of the Department of Geography of the Hungarian Line: https://geografie.ubbcluj.ro/?page_id=110
- the webpage of the Doctoral Schools: <https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/eng/doctoral-schools/>;
- the link to the regulation of the Doctorate in Geography: https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/documente/scoli_doctorale/Regulament_Geografie.pdf;
- the website of the Institute for Doctoral Studies: <https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/eng/about-the-institute-for-doctoral-studies/>;
- the website of the „Lucian Blaga” Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca: <https://www.bcuccluj.ro/en>.

In a second moment, occurred, in hybrid mode, the evaluation period between 02-05.11.2021. A preliminary meeting was held on October 12, aims to present all the members of the panel and discuss the main methodological aspects related to the evaluation of doctoral studies. After this, online meeting/discussions were held with (annex 1):

1. The IOSUD and domains evaluation panel. November 2th, 2021.
2. Representatives of the BBU institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD). November 2th, 2021.
3. The contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation. November 2th, 2021. Main topics analyzed: Critical performance indicators; Human Resources; Evolution of PhD students.
4. The academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain. November 2th, 2021. Main topics analyzed: Human Resources; Curricula; Internationalization.
5. Employers representatives. November 2th, 2021.. Main topics analysed: Status of collaboration; Relations with the university; Research and teaching.
6. The IOSUD evaluation panel. November 2th, 2021.
7. PhD students. November 3th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Administrative processes; Grants; Curricula; Teaching activities.



8. Graduates. November 3th, 2021. Main topics analysed: Current status at the professional level. Difficulties in the PhD; Grants and research projects;. Relations with the university after the end of the PhD.

9. The IOSUD evaluation panel. November 3th, 2021.

10. The IOSUD evaluation panel. November 5th, 2021.

11. All members of the evaluation team. November 5th, 2021.

12. Representatives of BBU. November 5th, 2021.

During the evaluation period, emails was exchanged to prepare meetings, clarify doubts and gather additional information with the team who drafted the internal evaluation and the members of evaluation panel. A meeting was also held on November 3th with the members of evaluation panel in order to discuss the “Update of indicators for the assessment for Geography domain at the moment of the ARACIS comission visit” and and its attachments.

III. Analysis of ARACIS’s performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

A various functional documents - regulations, procedures, methodologies and frameworks - about the organization and functioning of doctoral studies was published in the last years. Procedures for PhD students, criteria for the evaluation and standards required from applicants for admission are specified. The recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor is made according to the legislation in force. PhD activities are carried out under the supervision of IOSUD-BBU. The organisation of doctoral degree program is specified in the Institutional Regulation and according the acquisition of a level 8 qualification of the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework.

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 regulations are in place and they are applied at the level of IOSUD and of the DSG , namely: specific regulations, the methodology for the position of director of the Board of the Doctoral School of Geography (BDSG), methodologies for organising and conducting doctoral program, the existence of mechanisms for the recognition of the position of doctoral supervisor, functional management structures, internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals on the topic of doctoral study program.

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

(a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;

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



- c) *the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);*
- d) *the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;*
- e) *functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;*
- f) *the contract for doctoral studies;*
- g) *internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.*

The reference framework for the organization of doctoral schools within the BBU have the aim to promote the principles that guarantee the adequate development of doctoral university study programs. The mission of the Doctoral School of Geography is in accordance with the strategic mission of the BBU, namely to carry out research activities of excellence preview in the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Geography.

At the level of the DSG there are specific regulations concerning: doctoral school regulations; methodology/rules for the conduct of doctoral school elections and evidence of their development; methodology for the admission of PhD students; methodologies for the completion of doctoral studies; internal procedures for reviewing and approving proposals for the subject matter of doctoral degree programmes; the existence of mechanisms for recognising the status of doctoral supervisor; the system procedure for the recognition and equivalence of the PhD obtained with other countries. The methodology for organizing doctoral studies is clearly presented in every academic years.

Several documents were analyzed, highlighting the institutional regulation for the organization and functioning of the IOSUD-BBU doctoral studies programs, the internal regulations of the DSG and the Board of the Doctoral School. Also, the specific measures of quality management and promotion of ethics and deontology are present in the Regulations of the DSG.

The verification of the documents presented on this indicator demonstrates the conditions of the IOSUD and DSG for the regular functioning of the Doctorate in Geography.

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 Regulation of the Doctoral School of Geography includes criteria, procedures and compulsory standards regarding the aspects specified in article 17, paragraph 5 of the Government Decree 681/2011, concerning the acceptance of new PhD supervisors as members; the enrollment and revocation of the quality of member of the Doctoral School for teaching and research staff who are PhD supervisors; the mechanisms of decision-making in structure and contents of the preparation programme based on advanced university studies; the procedures of changing the PhD supervisor; the conditions to interruption of the doctoral programme; the modalities to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism, are stipulated in the preparation programme based on advanced studies; the provision of



access to research resources and the obligations of the full-time PhD students. The articles of the Regulations of the DSG guarantee compliance with the Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

To assess the logistical resources needed to carry out the mission of the doctoral studies in Geography, we analyzed the student registration information system based in IT platforms adapted to BBU requirements and the software to check the similarity index of doctoral theses.

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.

Within the BBU there is a specialized software for the management of students and doctoral students but also for the management of schooling. The record of the PhD students and of their entire activity within the university doctoral studies programme is maintained by means of personal files and in electronic form. The storage of data regarding the course of the doctoral programme of PhD students is performed by the staff at the Institute of Doctoral Studies (IDS). BBU has its own application, used at its level, AcademicINFO, which records all the students within the university. The Integrated Educational Registry and the Unique Matriculation Registry, managed from the level of the competent ministry, are also used.

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.

At the level of IOSUD there are two software programmes purchased institutionally to detect similitudes in all doctoral theses. Therefore, for checking the doctoral theses before the start of procedures for their public defence, the programmes iThenticate or Turnitin are used. All Geography doctoral theses are compulsorily verified through these programmes before publicity.

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.

We identify financial resources and funding and their application by the IOSUD/DSG in the last 5 years.

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.

There is a project for the development of human resources / entrepreneurial training, Entrepreneurship for innovation by doctoral and postdoctoral research with the involvement of Five PhD students from the Doctoral School of Geography.

Also, there are two research projects in progress, gained by PhD supervisors and the grants approach relevant subjects in the field and are usually developed with the involvement of the PhD students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

There are 28 PhD students who benefit from governmental financing by means of doctoral grants at the moment of evaluation. Among them, 6 PhD students, representing 21.4%, are involved institutionally in development or research projects and receive financing in the form of scholarships or salaries.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3. *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

Out of the total amounts associated with doctoral grants gained by the university by means of institutional contracts and by tuition fees received from tax-paying students, 3.91% have been spent in the last five years to cover for the PhD students' professional training expenses. In 2020, the amounts were influenced due to the global pandemic situation.

Recommendations: With the improvement of the pandemic situation, BBU, through your annual budget, institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected to the students, should reimburse, at least, the 10 percentage to the participation of PhD students in national/international scientific events and another research activities.

The indicator partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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



The IOSUD / DSG have a research infrastructure that supports the development of the related activities. Within the Geography field, the university study programme benefits from the facilities of the Faculty of Geography and research centers: lecture hall; teaching laboratories; research laboratories and office rooms; equipments.

The situation of the research spaces, infrastructure and equipment is presented in detail. These show that the equipment available to geographic researchers can support a complex and diversified activity.

Students have access to all the Libraries and the benefits from online access of the BBU.

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.*

Supervisors, professors and PhD students within the DSG have their own material base represented by the faculty library (branch of “Lucian Blaga” University Central Library of Cluj-Napoca) and of profile laboratories, equipped with the necessary equipment, instruments and teaching materials. The PhD students of the DSG have access to a vast collection of periodicals in the Geography Library and online databases containing thousands of journals with articles in various fields. All PhD students have access to the “Lucian Blaga” University Central Library.

The PhD students also develop their research and dissemination of results in the four research centers: - the Centre for Regional Geography, the Research Centre of Settlements and Urban Planning and the Research Centre of Geographical Hazards and Risks.

Apart from these research centers, the DSG has several research spaces which we highlight the laboratories of Geoinformatic, Remote Sensing and Photo Interpretation, GIS and Digital Cartography, Meteorology and Hydrometry. All of them have an important research infrastructure consisting of equipment, high performance tools and specialized software, compliant with international requirements. The geoinformational software are specific for the doctoral programme in the field of Geography. The laboratories are equipped with specialized software purchased from its own financial resources of the Faculty of Geography or from different contracts of service provision or research grants which involved teaching staff and PhD students.

The research infrastructure and the offer of research services provision are complex, diversified and proper. However, it will be important to continue to obtain funding from research projects, in order to acquire high-performance equipment and have the capacity to update software, thus enabling the maintenance and renovation of the laboratories.

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.



The DSG emerged at the BBU in accordance with the provisions of the National Education Law regarding the of Doctoral Studies,. Eight doctoral supervisors currently work in the PhD of Geography.. The subjects of the advanced training program included in the study plan of the PhD in Geography are taught by professors who supervise doctoral theses. The doctoral supervisors have publications indexed by the Web of Science or ERIH in impact journals and other achievements of relevant significance to the domain of Geography. The doctoral supervisors are still active in their scientific field and qualified according to the minimum standards required by the CNATDCU.

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

The DSG has qualified staff with the necessary experience to carry out the doctoral study program. In the DSG there were 8 active PhD supervisors. The compulsory minimal CNATDCU standards in force at national level are met totally or partially by the PhD supervisors within the DSG. Thus, four of the PhD supervisors, representing 50% of the total, meet all three criteria established. The others PhD supervisors are close to meeting the minimum criteria and standards according to the CNATDCU what it will be important to to fulfill the minimum standards under the CNATDCU, in the short term. Taking into account the aging of the body of supervisors, the BBU must guarantee conditions for the renewal and qualification of the academic staff.

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.

Within the DSG there are qualified personnel and the necessary experience for the conduct of the Doctoral Studies Program. Six of the 8 PhD supervisors within the DSG, representing 75% of the total, are tenured in the BBU and accomplishing totally this performance criterion.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The subjects in the education program of the Geography PhD curriculum are supported by academic staff who have the position of doctoral supervisor/ habilitation/professor within IOSUD-DSG. The subjects in the preparation programme based on advanced university studies associated to the field of Geography are taught by teaching staff who are also PhD supervisors – 4 university professors, of



which one is habilitated, and one associated professor whose expertise is proved in the field of the subjects taught by scientific publications and research projects.

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 programs does not exceed 20%.*

The percentage of the teaching staff who coordinate more than 8 PhD students is 12.5%. None of doctoral supervisors coordinate more than 12 PhD students simultaneously. All doctoral supervisors falling within the limits imposed.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

We analyse the publications in indexed journals and international level contributions of the PhD supervisors in order to understand the progress in scientific research-development-innovation and international visibility. We also consulted the list of research projects that supervisors were involved in as coordinator/investigator and awards received. Hereby we try to infer if the supervisors are scientifically active by the CNATDCU minimum standards, required and mandatory to obtain the habilitation certificate

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.*

From various attachments, namely the curricula, a list with the research activity of the PhD supervisors, reflected by publications in journals listed in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar databases or ERIM in journals with impact factor or other achievements relevant to the field of Geography, it was possible to assess the scientific and research portfolios. A serie of articles and other achievements relevant to the geography field of doctoral supervisors was consulted. The publications indexed Web of Science in journals with impact factor as well as other achievements such as articles ISI Conference Proceedings prove that all supervisors have at least 5 indexed publications or other relevant achievements in the field.



We found that supervisors perform the tasks of editors and reviewers of journals specialized in the field of Geography and are affiliated to international scientific bodies and organizations and have international visibility in the last 5 years.

All PhD supervisors carry out activities that meet the requirements regarding the contributions made at national and international level regarding the development-innovation in the field of Geography.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The consulting of the curriculars, research contracts and other documents available in the annexes allows us to prove that PhD supervisors continue to be scientifically active by the minimum CNATDCU standards. Out of the total number of PhD supervisors in the field of Geography, 37.5% met the threshold imposed by the indicator. In terms of criteria, one notices that 62.5% of the PhD supervisors accomplished the level of points required for criterion 1 and all PhD supervisors met criterion 2. Criterion 3 has been met by 37.5% of the PhD supervisors.. The indicator is partially fulfilled in 75 %.

Recommendations: Four years ago the criteria were consistently modified compared to the previous ones by changing the considered scientometric indicators. However, the fact that the current criteria are met, even if sometimes only partially, by the PhD supervisors, denotes their mobilization to fulfill the new criteria.

The indicator partially fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

We analyze the entire admission process, namely the organization of the different phases. We assess the quality of this process in terms of the ability to attract candidates, We tried to infer from the consequences of the doctoral student dropout rate on the course functioning. We examine the specialization curriculum in the area of doctoral geography, the content of the doctoral programs and the training program based on advanced academic studies. We have identified the different counseling/guidance strategies for students used by functional advisory committees. We consulted the lists of scientific research activities and participation in international events carried out by doctoral students. We tried to understand if the involvement of evaluators in the defense committees of doctoral theses is significant.

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.



Based on the statistical elements presented in the report, we analyzed the capacity to attract students, with regard to their institutional origin and the profile of candidates in their academic research and professional performance components. We also interpreted the data presented on doctoral students' resignation / dropout.

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.*

The ratio between the number of master's degree graduates of other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who have entered the competition for admission to geography doctoral studies and the number of places funded by to the state budget put up for competition, in the period 2016/2017 - 2020/2021, was 0.20.

It will be prudent for the DSG and to determine strategies for attracting students from the Master's Degree in Geography from another national and foreign universities.

The indicator is fulfilled/.

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

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

The admission to doctoral studies is based on the " BBU Regulation regarding the organization and development of university doctoral studies " to IOSUD-BBU. The methodology for the entry exam at doctoral studies is in accordance with the Code of university doctoral studies and is approved annually and establishes a pre-established program with the assessment and grading in the admission procedures, evaluation criteria and standards. Regardless of the field, the entry exam at doctoral studies consists of a specific written test, on the basis of a list of topics announced by the PhD supervisor and an interview within which one analyzes the scientific/artistic interest of the candidate, the research / artistic creation abilities, and the subject proposed for the PhD thesis.

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 admission does not exceed 30%.*

Except for the year 2016, when 9.09% of the PhD students were deregistered, the value of the indicator was 0.00%. As a consequence, the average of the 5-year interval is 1.82% compared to the upper threshold of 30%.

The indicator is fulfilled.



Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

The training program is based on advanced academic studies includes topics relevant to geography and standards of scientific research ethics and intellectual property. IOSUD-BBU is responsible for creating mechanisms to ensure that the training program based on advanced academic studies achieves student learning outcomes. The DSG provides doctoral students with training programs based on advanced university studies, consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study formations, through courses, seminars and others.

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.

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

The curriculum of the training program based on advanced academic studies in Geography include four disciplines in-depth research methodology and/or statistical data processing and to reinforce the research methodology and statistical processing of experimental data. Each subject is meant to support the scientific and didactic mission of the field of Geography and of the Doctoral School of Geography, that is to train specialized geographers who are experts.

The indicator is fulfilled/.

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

The subject "General Methods of Research in Geography and the Methodology of Writing Scientific Works" approaches scientometric elements and problems of ethics and integrity in scientific research. This subject is also dedicated to ethics and to intellectual property.

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 activities.*

The DSG within the BBU evaluates the results of teaching, specifying the competences, abilities and attitudes which the PhD students must achieve after the completion of each subject. The curricular description of the academic training program based on advanced university studies demonstrates that each discipline is centered on and aims at learning outcomes, specifying the competencies, skills and attitudes that students should acquire.



A feedback on the content and competences offered by the discipline sheets is obtained using the PhD students' satisfaction survey. The achievement of abilities related to the research activity is assessed by means of reports completed at the end of each academic year

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.

Throughout the doctoral training period, each student benefit from the counseling / guidance of a functional advising committee, aspect reflected by written guidance and feedback or regular meetings. The PhD supervisors in the field of Geography and the advising committee coordinate the activity of doctoral students. During the elaboration of the doctoral thesis, the PhD students are in permanent contact with the advising committee, through regular meetings. At the time of the presentation of the progress reports, the members of the advising committee are also present, in which sign and can present their own observations and recommendations. The high number of scientific papers written by the PhD students together with the members of the guiding commissions is proof of the efficient collaboration between the members of the guiding commissions and the PhD students

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The calculated ratio between the number of PhD students and the number of teaching and research staff which ensure their guidance varies between 1.38 and 0.97 and not exceed 3:1. The low values of the indicator suggest an active involvement of many members of the teaching staff at the Faculty of Geography in the preparation and training of the PhD students.

The indicator is 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.

Each doctoral advisor is involved in the supervision of their own doctoral students, involving them in scientific research activities, conferences, publication of relevant papers in journals and proceedings, participation in workshops, scientific sessions, etc.

One important performance indicator is the ratio between the number of presentations delivered by the doctoral students and the number of the doctoral students who successfully completed the doctoral programme during the evaluated period.

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.

Out of the total 49 graduates of PhD studies in the last 5 years, more than 85% published at least 3 scientific papers. The most important achievement is that more than 57% of the PhD students published scientific papers in journals or in volumes of scientific conferences indexed in Web of Science, with an average of WOS indexed publications of 1.7 papers / PhD student. Based in the list of published articles of the doctoral students who have defended their doctoral thesis in the last five years, we select 5 relevant papers which we analysed and rated in a scale from 1 to 5, according to the original contribution to the development of the studies in Geography. All papers contain significant original contributions in the field of Geography.

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.*

During their last 5 years, the PhD students had a scientific activity for disseminating the results of their research. They participated in a series of scientific events in the country and abroad.

Based on the analyse of the student activity lists, we conclude that the ratio between the number of presentations including posters, exhibitions, made at international events and the number of students who completed their doctoral studies is 2,1. 41% of the participations were to international conferences outside. To achieve this value we used the number of manifestations of PhD students who have defended their theses in the last five years..

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.*

This performance indicator lets you know if significant number of external reviewers in the doctoral theses defence committees.

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.*

In the 49 boards for the public defence of the PhD theses, there were 48 scientific reviewers involved from higher education or research institutions other than BBU In the last five years in the field of Geography only had been one case in which two appointments from a higher education institution, other than IOSUD evaluated, are exceeded, for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral supervisor, in the same year. The indicator is partially fulfilled in a proportion of 98%.



No doctoral thesis defended in the field of Geography was invalidated at CNATDCU.

Recommendations: monitor the doctoral number theses allocated to each specialist coming from other higher education institutions.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

The average ratio between the number of PhD theses assigned to a certain scientific reviewer from another higher education institution than the one which organizes the public defence of the PhD thesis and the number of PhD theses defended in the same doctoral field within the doctoral school was 0.04.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

In this domain, we analyse the internal quality assurance system based on the institutional framework and internal quality assurance policies. We attend to the description of the process of evaluation and internal quality assurance in accordance with a procedure developed and applied at the IOSUD level and we identify the evaluated criteria mandatory and if the student feedback mechanisms are implemented.

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.

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 constant development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance is made according to a procedure developed and applied at the level of IOSUD by means of internal regulations, the 2020 Quality Manual, which is applied by the Board of Evaluation and Quality. In the BBU there are objective and transparent procedures for evaluating and internal monitoring of the evolution of doctoral schools. The operational procedure regarding the evaluation and internal monitoring of the doctoral schools within the BBU establishes the procedure of internal evaluation of the doctoral schools and of the domains of doctoral studies in order to accredit and periodically evaluate in accordance with the legislation in force. The institutional regulation for the organization and functioning of Doctoral University Studies establishes internal quality assurance policies. The procedures and norms on the basis of which the doctoral studies are organized can be found both in the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of the doctoral university studies as well as within the Regulations of the DSG.

At the level of the DSG, the permanent evaluation of the activity is under the regulation of operation of the doctoral school and represents one of the objectives of Faculty of Geography. All members of the teaching staff at BBU are annually evaluated on several scales. Starting with 2016, BBU adopted a system of flexible teaching career trajectories.

Annually a survey is applied giving the opportunity to the doctoral students presented some suggestions for the continuous improvement of the academic and administrative activity.

An internal evaluation report is prepared by the commission for evaluating the activity of the doctoral school to contains recommendations that are transposed in the action plan proposed within the strategies and procedures implemented at the level of the DSG.

Each doctoral school is subject to periodic external evaluation at 5-year intervals. The external evaluation of doctoral schools is based on the performance of each doctoral school and the institutional capacity of IOSUD-BBU, according to the legal provisions. The evaluation and internal monitoring of the evolution of DSG is based regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral study programs taking into account evaluation methodology, reference standards and the list of performance indicators of ARACIS.

We verified this condition with regard to the scientific work of Doctoral advisors in the field of Geography, the infrastructure and logistics the procedures, the scientific activity of doctoral students, the training program and the social and academic services. PhD students have the necessary infrastructure and logistics to carry out the documentation and learning process. The teaching staff and the PhD students have the obligation to register their scientific publications in the research database: <http://infocercetare.ubbcluj.ro>.

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.

Throughout the doctoral preparation stage, evaluation mechanisms are implemented to identify the needs and the general level of satisfaction of the PhD students regarding the university doctoral studies programme, in order to improve continuously the academic and administrative processes



according to the document Manual for Quality Assurance in BBU. It presents in detail the Operational Procedure for the Organization and Development of the Satisfaction Evaluation Process for students. The procedure comprises the evaluation of 35 items of BBU PhD students' satisfaction. The report regarding the students' satisfaction are written at the BBU level every two years and contains the conclusions and recommendations for the continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. This questionnaire on student satisfaction favors the exchange of ideas, allowing the implementation of student feedback mechanisms aimed at the continuous improvement of academic services. The measures to be taken are reflected in the strategies and policies adopted by the Faculty of Geography into account the wishes, desires, aspirations, vision of PhD students regarding the entire socio-professional activity in which they are involved.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

In this criterion, we analyze the information transparency policy and the regulations for accessibility to learning resources and scientific research laboratories.

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

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

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

The information of interest for PhD students, future candidates, as well as the information of public interest, are available electronically and permanently updated on the IOSUD website (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/>) or the Doctoral School of Geography website (<https://geografie.ubbcluj.ro/scoala-doctorala>). On the Faculty of Geography website, in the section dedicated to DSG, the following documents are available: the Regulation of the DSG; the contents of the training programme based on advanced university studies for the field of Geography; the scientific profile, the list of topics and fields of research of the PhD supervisors in the field of Geography; the list of PhD students in the field and Information regarding the PhD thesis.



On the website of the Institute of Doctoral Studies, we find the information and rules regarding the entry exam at doctoral studies, the form regarding the contract of doctoral studies and the Regulation regarding the completion of studies.

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.

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

The BBU has provide through the Anelis Plus Project access to international scientific databases, from different fields of knowledge. The databases and other bibliographic sources can be accessed on the BBU library websites. Based on the access to international databases, each PhD supervisor and PhD students have their own documentation in electronic format in their field of specialisation. The databases to which the users have access from the Faculty of Geography or based on the password of a personal account created in Anelis are important sources of information and documentation during the doctoral internship.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The IOSUD has shown a continuous concern for ensuring the necessary resources to verify the percentage of similarity for the works developed by PhD students. To avoid intellectual fraud, the BBU has acquired the identification services wich PhD students can have access. or verifying the degree of similarity with the consent of the scientific coordinator. Within the BBU were implemented the specialized software, Turnitin.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

According to the Organization and Functioning Regulations in the Faculty of Geography the PhD students have the right to use the lecture halls, course and seminar rooms, labs, reading rooms, libraries, Internet access, sporting facilities, cultural centre, clubs and all other facilities that are made available by the University. All PhD students have unlimited access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specifics of the field/fields within the DSG. Also, access of the PhD students to the entire research infrastructure within the BBU is ensured according to the Regulation regarding the organization and development of university doctoral studies.

The indicator is fulfilled.



Criterion C.3. Internationalization

In this criterion we evaluate the strategies to increase the degree of internationalisation of doctoral programmes, the involvement of doctoral student, the participating in international conferences and workshops. We consult the joint doctoral programmes and the mobility agreements. The degree of internationalization of the activities is also considered within the doctoral program. At the level of IOSUD and the field of Geography, there is an applied strategy for the increase of the degree of internationalization of doctoral studies. Thus, within the DSG, the internationalization process is performed according to the 2021-2024 BBU Internationalization Strategy.

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

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

Based on the activities of doctoral students, it was proven that they completed training courses abroad or other forms of mobility, such as participation in scientific conferences and international workshops. In the last 5 years, the DSG, through IOSUD, has concluded mobility agreements with foreign universities which have targeted the mobility of PhD students and professors, as is the case of Erasmus agreements for the doctoral studies cycle. Eleven PhD students, representing 22.4% of those who defended their PhD theses between 2015 and 2021 participated to international scientific conferences. Apart from the students who already defended their PhD theses, the PhD students who have not yet completed their thesis also carried out research traineeships abroad or participated to international scientific conferences. As a result, 20 international mobilities have been registered between 2016 and 2020.

Recommendations: At the level of the Faculty of Geography, there is a strategy in agreement with the one of the BBU concerning the increase of the degree of internationalization of studies at all higher education cycles, therefore including PhD studies. But, It is important to continue to motivate doctoral students to develop national / international mobility programs and to participate in doctoral workshops with other courses that have affinities.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

The BBU allocates necessary funds for the organization of co-supervised doctorates. Faculty of Geography established partnerships with institutions abroad for the exchange of doctoral students and



teachers contributing to the internationalization of the didactic and scientific activities. The DSG supports the organization of doctorates in international co-supervision. At the level of the field of Geography, within the DSG there were jointly coordinated PhD theses. At the Faculty of Geography, meetings have been organized between students from all cycles, including PhD students, and internationally high-ranked professors and researchers.

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.).*

Within the field of Geography, the DSG together with the IDS take steps for the increase of the degree of internationalization of the doctoral studies, by means of attracting foreign students, concluding agreements for international joint degrees, implementing the European Doctorate, courses in and PhD theses in international languages, inviting international experts and participating at promotional activities concerning the PhD programmes provided by the IOSUD – BBU.

For the last 5 academic years, there was one foreign PhD student who defended his PhD thesis in the field of Geography jointly coordinated. Also, 6 PhD theses written in foreign languages were defended and 5 of them had reviewers from abroad .

At the level of the DSG, two out of four subjects proposed in the curriculum are taught in English.

Also, there was support for the participation to promotional activities concerning the doctoral programmes provided by IOSUD – BBU, within the ERASMUS+ mobilities.

At the educational fairs, leaflets and brochures have been presented, containing information regarding doctoral programmes.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The academic qualities of the internal supervisors. - The good dynamics between faculty members and PhD students. 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Difficulties in fully meeting the CNATDCU criteria - The low participation of students in international mobility programs - Difficulties in obtaining own financial resources.
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National and international recognition by BBU - The relationship with institutions and employing companies - The EU funds that can be used for mobility, ERASMUS+ programs and other emerging programmes. 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The social and economic factors that limit mobility. - The low external financing

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>	Fulfilled	
2.	PI	<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 subsequent amendments and additions.</p>	Fulfilled	
3.	PI	<p>A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	Fulfilled	
4.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
5.	IP	<p>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</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.		
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.	Fulfilled	
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).	Partially fulfilled	<i>With the improvement of the pandemic situation, BBU, through your annual budget, institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected to the students, should reimburse, at least, the 10 percentage to the participation of PhD students in national/international scientific events and another research activities.</i>
8.	CPI	A.2.1.1. The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly	Fulfilled	
9.	CPI	A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	Fulfilled	
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	
11.	PI	A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
12.	PI *	A.3.1.4. The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.	Fulfilled	
13.	CPI	A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.	Fulfilled	
14.	PI *	A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years	Partially fulfilled	<i>Four years ago the criteria were consistently modified compared to the previous ones by changing the considered scientometric indicators. However, the fact that the current criteria are met, even if sometimes only partially, by the PhD supervisors, denotes their mobilization to fulfill the new criteria.</i>
15.	PI *	B.1.1.1. The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled	
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	
18.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	Fulfilled	
19.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	
20.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	Fulfilled	
21.	PI	B.2.1.4. All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.	Fulfilled	
22.	CPI	B.2.1.5. For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.	Fulfilled	
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1. For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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		
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2. The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.	Fulfilled	
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1. The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	Partially fulfilled	<i>Monitor the doctoral number theses allocated to each specialist coming from other higher education institutions.</i>
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2. The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.	Fulfilled	
27.	PI	C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory: a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors; b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity; c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized; d) the scientific activity of doctoral students; e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students; f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
28.	PI *	C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their 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.	Fulfilled	
29.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	
30.	PI	C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.	Fulfilled	
31.	PI	C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	Fulfilled	
32.	PI	C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	Fulfilled	
33.	PI *	C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff	Partially fulfilled	<i>At the level of the Faculty of Geography, there is a strategy in agreement with the one of the BBU concerning the increase of</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		(e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.		<i>the degree of internationalization of studies at all higher education cycles, therefore including PhD studies. But, It is important to continue to motivate doctoral students to develop national / international mobility programs and to participate in doctoral workshops with other courses that have affinities.</i>
34.	PI	C.3.1.2. In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
35.	PI	C.3.1.3. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).	Fulfilled	

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Justification

- The leaders of the BBU, Faculty of Geography and the DSG consider that the study programme in Geography is well framed in the development strategy of the IOSUD.
- The PhD programme in Geography is valued by employers, local and regional public institutions.
- The supervisors staff consists of scientifically active PhDs, with a stable conditions to the BBU.
- The IOSUD / DSG has a good system of quality assurance.
- The students expressed satisfaction with the PhD programme and high appreciation for the academic staff and thesis supervisors.
- The students have access to laboratories, computer rooms and software suitable for their needs.
- The „Lucian Blaga” Central University Library of Cluj-Napoca has good working conditions for the students.

Guidelines:

We summarize some guidelines we established from the analysis of performance indicators:

- reduce the entropy caused by the organic and structure of the BBU with regard to regulations and procedures;



- define strategies for feedback from graduates and employers;
- increase the participation of supervisors in research international projects, with competitive funding;
- encourage the PhD students to participate in international mobility programs;
- institutionalize the practice of organizing a doctoral workshop for the students presenting their work and getting feedback from academic staff and their pairs.

Final recommendation:

All performance indicators was fulfilled, with exception of A.1.3.3., A.3.2.2., B.3.2.1 and C.3.1.1, partially fulfilled and for which recommendations were made.

November 9, 2021.

(Francisco da Silva Costa, International Expert)

VII. Annexes

Annex 1 - The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit.