

## **Annex No. 3**

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

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## **I. Introduction**

The subject of this Report is the Doctoral School (IOSUD) at the National University of Arts in Bucharest (NUAB). The evaluation has been conducted in hybrid mode, and signatory of this Report was virtually collaborated with the rest of the IOSUD evaluation team.

The Evaluation Team consisted of the following experts:

- **Prof. univ. dr. Alexandru BOUREANU**, Universitatea din Craiova, Team Coordinator
- **Dr. Marko Savic**, Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), Abu Dhabi – UAE, International Expert (*Report signatory*)
- **Prof. univ. dr. Laura Codrina IONIȚĂ**, UNAGE, National Expert Evaluator
- **Bogdan-Marius Negrea**, Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca, Student Representative

The Hybrid Evaluation Visit (Virtually attended by the signatory of this Report) to the National University of Arts in Bucharest (NUAB) has been organized by ARACIS, in period November 08-12 2021. IOSUD host was Prof. Prof.Univ.Dr. Eugen Alexandru Gustea.

As per official web site ( <https://unarte.org/prezentare/> ) NUAB is the only Bucharest higher education institution in the field of visual arts, with a national reputation. “The University provides an adequate training for future practitioners and theorists, the essential premise of the education offered being the connection to the requirements of the current Romanian society”. This training includes doctoral studies.

The NUAB Doctoral studies have been established in 1990. The doctoral – third-cycle university studies allow the attainment of a Level 8 qualification from the EQF/CEC and from the National Qualifications Framework, obtaining the doctoral title.

At NUAB, the doctoral university studies are carried out at the Doctoral School, that qualifies the institution as IOSUD (Abb. From Romanian for the “Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs”). The doctoral school is focused on scientific and artistic research and learning through research, and its’ activity is completed by doctoral theses, scientific publications, and various art production.

As per Self Evaluation, “The doctoral school assumes the size of a national artistic and cultural center, which should contribute to the training, development, transmission and dissemination of specific artistic, cultural and scientific values”. As per same document, NUAB Doctoral school aims to optimize the educational process according to the requirements of modern and efficient education, and to to promote the culture of quality. Additional priority of the doctoral school is for Ph.D. students to acquire research skills in the field of visual arts and art history and theory.

NUAB Doctoral School has only one Domain: Visual Arts. The objectives of the Domain are merged with IOSUD mission, and include:

- Training of highly advanced professionals in the field of visual arts, performing nationally and internationally;
- Training of artists and researchers adapted to requirements of contemporary art, science and society;
- Ongoing update of the content of the educational offer according to the current requirements in the field of visual studies, art history and the evolution of theories and research methods in the field;
- Encouraging the training of students from other countries and the participation in the building of European unity;
- Carrying out fundamental and applied artistic and scientific research activities.

The common duration of the doctoral program is 3 years. The cycle of doctoral studies has two compulsory components:

- a) Training program based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school;
- b) Individual Scientific Research Program.

As per Self Assessment Report, in the period 1990-2021, 382 doctoral titles were granted in NUAB, 15 until 1999, 126 between 2000-2010 and 241 between 2011-2021. During the last thirty years, NUAB records constant increase of the number of Ph.D. students and doctoral titles granted.

## **II. Methods used**

The External Evaluation that is subject of this Report (Virtual Evaluation by the International Expert) has included the following activities:

- The thorough analysis of the Self Assessment Report of the Doctoral study school (IOSUD) and appropriate Annexes provided via ARACIS Cloud;



- The analysis of documents, data and information available at the official NUAB web site <https://unarte.org/> and provided via ARACIS Cloud;
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study school representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study school representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study school representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the NUAB Doctoral School;
- Meeting/Discussions with the Head and doctoral advisors in the doctoral study school representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the NUAB Doctoral School, including the Council of the Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD), the Ethics Committee, the Quality Assessment and Assurance staff.
- Inputs from External Evaluation team collected during physical visit.

### **III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators**

#### **Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY**

The National University of Arts in Bucharest has a long tradition. Institution has been established as an "Beaux Arts" School in 1864, following the model of Parisian art schools of that time. In 1931 it has gained University status (as Academy of Fine Arts). During the Post-war communist period, university has passed through several transformations. In 1998, Art Academy gains its' formal accreditation, and finally, in 2002 it changes its' name to the National University of Arts.

The Doctoral studies at NUAB have been launched in 1990, and since then, 382 Doctoral titles have been awarded.

#### **Criterion A.1.**

##### **The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources**

NUAB is a part of the Romanian Higher Education system. It is a Public university, and as such majorly funded by the state budget. University has provided set of the regulatory documents (via ARACIS Cloud) proving its' overall institutional administrative capacity and financial viability.

##### **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):*

The structure and content of the internal regulatory framework (provided at ARACIS cloud) includes all required elements by Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.:

- The institutional regulation for the organization of administrative structures and development of Doctoral programs
  - The methodology for Doctoral School Council elections;
  - The methodology for organizing and conducting Doctoral Studies;
  - Mechanisms for recognizing status of a PhD supervisors;
  - Mechanisms for the equivalence approval of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;
  - Functional management structure of the Doctoral School Council (CSUD);
  - The Contract for Doctoral Studies
  - Internal procedures regulating approval of Doctoral programs;
- In addition, some Meeting minutes have been provided to prove the existence of practices.

##### Recommendations:

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

##### *Remark:*

*The outstanding issue that requires clarification is related with the status of Doctoral students who exceed the study duration as stipulated in Contract, specifically who covers financial dues for the resources engagement during the extended period for students financed from budget (as Contract stipulates that they, in contrary of self-financing students) do not have financial obligations.*

**Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.** *The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the` 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 internal Doctoral Study-related Regulation document (REGULAMENTUL INSTITUȚIONAL DE ORGANIZARE ȘI DESFĂȘURARE ALE PROGRAMELOR DE STUDII UNIVERSITARE DE DOCTORAT, nr. 140/15.11.2019, ammended nr.144/09.06.2021 is provided via ARACIS cloud and available at NUAB website (<https://unarte.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Regulamentul-de-organizare-si-desfasurare-a-programelor-de-studii-universitare-de-doctorat-2021.pdf> ) is aligned with the following national and institutional legislature:

- The Romanian Law of National Education no. 1/2011;
- Romanian Law 288/2004 on organization of university studies;
- The Romanian Government Decision 681/2011, The Code of doctoral studies;
- The Ministry Order no.3482/2016,
- The Ministry Order no. 5110/2018 on the approval of national minimum standards for granting the doctoral degree;
- The Ministry Order no. 3131/2018 on the inclusion of courses in ethics and academic integrity in the curricula, for all university study programs organized in higher education institutions in the national education system;
- Regulation (EU) 679/2016 ("RGPD") on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of these data; and
- The Charter of the National University of Arts Bucharest.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

*Remark:*

*Self Assessment Report emphasizes that Regulation includes tenured professors from the university who passed the habilitation exam, with the key purpose to enable them to participate in the advising and cordination of Ph.D. students. Having in mind the character of Professional programs, this is considered as very useful practice.*

**Performance Indicator A.1.1.3.** *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.*

The internal Doctoral Study-related Regulation document (REGULAMENTUL INSTITUȚIONAL DE ORGANIZARE ȘI DESFĂȘURARE ALE PROGRAMELOR DE STUDII UNIVERSITARE DE DOCTORAT, nr. 140/15.11.2019, ammended nr.144/09.06.2021 is provided via ARACIS cloud and available at NUAB website (<https://unarte.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Regulamentul-de-organizare-si-desfasurare-a-programelor-de-studii-universitare-de-doctorat-2021.pdf> ) is aligned with the Romanian Law of National Education no. 1/2011, and stipulates Doctoral studies at NUAB in domain of Visual Arts.

Recommendations:



***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

According to the provided documentation and links, NUAB and its Doctoral Studies School (IOSUD) possess necessary logistical resources to carry out Doctoral studies.

***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.***

Self Assessment Report claims that at IOSUD, there is the UNArte XE Teaching Information System that ensures the records of the academic development of Ph.D. students. External evaluator was not able to access it from any of open source addresses, however, functionality of the System has been observed by other team members during the physical visit.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is 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.***

Doctoral Studies School at NUAB utilizes Sistemantiplagiat.ro tool to inquire extent of plagiarism in student dissertations. However, as dissertations are published on Romanian, it is questionable up to what extent the system may identify similarities with other dissertations or resources that have been published in other languages (e.g. English), especially if the most references are in foreign language.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

## **Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure**

NUAB Doctoral School (IOSUD) has provided descriptive information regarding the available research resources.

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

The emphasis of Doctoral students' remarks regarding research-related infrastructure was on availability and suitability of library and e-library resources.

***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.)***

NUAB has provided, on request, detailed specifications regarding lab spaces & equipment, and the evaluation team has witnessed that lab resources during the visit.



Video material shows that the University is undertaking expansion project and it is believed that the Doctoral studies will benefit from the additional spaces.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is 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.*

NUAB has provided lists (Annexes 42 & 45 on ARACIS cloud) of national and international partnerships. However, as per evidence, focus of these agreements is on mobility and exchange. During the meeting with employers, some distinguished national cultural institution representatives have mentioned collaboration agreements with NUAB, suggesting that scope may be expanded.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

*Remark:*

*Partnerships with national and international institutions shall be analyzed from the strategic value, and better utilized for the benefit of the Doctoral school and all internal stakeholders.*

**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.*

NUAB has provided, on request, detailed specifications regarding lab spaces & equipment, and the evaluation team has witnessed that lab resources during the visit. The provided video material shows key labs and studios, but it is notifiable that some of equipment are slightly outdated (e.g. slide-library, chalk blackboards). Even the media library fundus is highly praised regarding the uniqueness and value of historical resources, it is not clear if conditions for preserving slides and other rare items are proper and suitable.

Self Assessment study annexes provide evidence regarding external grants that have been received for various projects, that include purchase of certain lab equipment.

NUAB Self Assessment Report has mentioned recent investments, but hasn't provided specification of research infrastructure that was purchased and developed during the recent period.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Remarks:*

*There is a need to ensure preservation of valuable, non-replaceable resources. In addition, following the inputs provided after the physical visit, IOSUD may consider improving lab support to ensure full utilization especially of advanced digital technology.*

### **Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources**

The structure and competence of the Doctoral School supervisors at NUAB is evaluated following the statements from the Self Assessment Report and number of Annexes addressing their research records and achievements.

**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 studies does not exceed 20%.*

Fourteen out of fifteen doctoral supervisors currently mentor doctoral students. Out of them four supervise more than 8 active mentees. The percentage of “overloaded staff” as per this standard requirement is 26.67%. Evaluators have requested batch analysis for last five years to analyze trends but NUAB hasn’t provided that evidence.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

Remarks:

*NUAB may consider overcoming objective obstacles mentioned during the evaluation (lack of national specialists in a field) by engaging international experts via co-tutelage.*

**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.*

Out of 15 faculty members at the IOSUD, 11 are tenured, and 4 are associates. Accordingly, 73% of supervisors are in a full-time employment.

Recommendations:

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



## Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

### 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.*

The list of the candidates, along with analysis provided within Self Assessment study confirm admission criteria rigor and diversity of candidates.

*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.*

UNAB Senate has recently (15.04.2021.) approved the procedure that addresses organization of admission to the Doctoral cycle at UNAB tertiary programs (METODOLOGIA DESFĂȘURĂRII CONCURSULUI DE ADMITERE ÎN CICLUL III STUDII UNIVERSITARE DE DOCTORAT) The stated document stipulates evaluation of the candidates' research interest and performance via reviewing admission documents and via interviews.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is 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 organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.*

UNAB IOSUD did not provide any evidence regarding stimulating enrollment of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, Annex 46 proves existence of the Career Counselling and guidance office that partially supports preventing drop-outs.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

Remarks:

NUAB is advised to consider implementation of mechanisms that shall enable enrollment of limited number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to IOSUD. In addition, psychological counselling shall be considered either as additional function of the existing, or as function of the newly established student support office.

### 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.*

Evidence has been provided by Self Assessment Report and on request (by IOSUD liaison), and consolidated with findings during the meetings at the IOSUD and Domain level.

**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.*

Doctoral Study program is provided for both streams (Scientific & Professional), however there are just slight differences in the theoretical part conducted during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of study. Analysis of syllabi shows insufficient emphasis on research methodology, especially in comparison between scientific research, research by design and artistic research. In addition there is a gap in area of academic writing.

Another concern is credit value of courses, where courses with 24 contact hours only have been listed under 10 ECTS value, without sufficient justification regarding overall student load during the course delivery.

Second & third year of studies are not described within study program, but rather within regulations regarding PhD dissertation and study contract.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

Remarks:

*Current 1<sup>st</sup> year study program shall be improved in order to provide students with stronger methodological foundations for their individual research. In addition, it is recommended to expand course-based program for at least one semester, and include elective courses that may be taken even at other higher education institutions in case of multidisciplinary research topics.*

**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.*

In academic 2018-19 UNAB has introduced compulsory course in Ethics for all Doctoral students.

Recommendations:

**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.*

Provided course materials briefly indicates competences that are expected to be gained at the end of each course. Program learning outcomes are not provided at all. In addition, there is certain discrepancy between descriptors in course syllabi and standard expectations at the Level 8 of the qualification framework (e.g. course “Doctoral Seminar” - in measurability: “the ability to look and to think in terms of interdisciplinarity...”, or level-wise: “- to define the categories, fundamental concepts and specific issues of current configuration in art research”).

Recommendations:



**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

Remarks:

The original submission, driven by Accreditation standards, do not stipulate mapping of Program Learning outcomes (PLO) against NQF, neither mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) against PLOs. Specifying PLOs and CLOs (including those related with the independent research , in addition to theoretical courses), their mapping to PLOs, and finally mapping PLOs to NQF descriptors is suggested to be added to the accreditation standards as a stipulative requirement.

**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.*

Analysis of research and artistic outputs of IOSUD students (Annexes) provide evidence required to assess the Standard.

*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.)*

All doctoral students at NUAB IOSUD are obliged, by the regulation related with study progress, to produce research and art results that shall be valorized based on robust regulation.

Number of Ph.D. students (30 students during the last five years) from IOSUD at NUAB actively participate in the process of scientific research and artistic creation within the projects organized under University patronage.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses.**

*Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards.*

*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*

As per Self Assessment report statement, at IOSUD/UNAB there were no doctoral theses invalidated by CNADTCU.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

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

Key resources for evaluating this Standard are Internal Evaluation Report (with Annexes at ARACIS Cloud) and meeting with Quality Committee Members.

*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.*

Neither the Self Assessment study, nor the meeting with Quality assurance (QA) team, has convinced this Evaluator that NUAB possess solid and structured quality assurance system. While document “Institutional Regulation for the organization and development of doctoral syllabuses” (Annex 4) in Article 14 stipulates periodical assessment of PhD supervisors, provided documents and meetings did not confirm existence of any other measures, manuals or guidelines related with Quality assurance.

In addition, during the meeting, NUAB QA team did not provide any substantial response regarding proper understanding of the QA processes in Academia, and have admitted very low response rate of doctoral students participating in faculty evaluation.

However, NUAB coordinator has provided on request Quality Commission the latest annual report that proves existence of some practices in this field covering the mandatory criteria.

#### Recommendations:

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

#### Remarks:

*In order to ensure robustness of the procedural and factual processes at the University, NUAB has to develop solid QA system and implement it accordingly. Key QA stakeholders’ responsibilities and processes have to be clearly defined, the full PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle implemented, and “closing the loop” ensured through proper actions documented between two accreditation cycles.*

*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.*



As per Methodology of CSUD establishment (Annex 14 at ARACIS cloud), students are enabled to delegate their representative as a member of CSUD. Process of election is justified by provided Annex 17 – CSUD election report.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is 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.*

NUAB has only one Doctoral school Domain (Visual Arts). As per Methodology of CSUD establishment (Annex 14 at ARACIS cloud), students are enabled to delegate their representative as a member of CSUD. Process of election is justified by provided Annex 17 – CSUD election report.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is 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.*

Self Assessment report lists number of strategies / priorities that have been implemented at the IOSUD to improve the quality of Doctoral school. However, justification has not been provided that these strategies have been set based on thorough internal evaluation analyses.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

Remarks:

*In order to ensure robustness of the procedural and factual processes at the University, NUAB has to develop solid QA system and implement it accordingly. Key QA stakeholders' responsibilities and processes have to be clearly defined, the full PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle implemented, and "closing the loop" ensured through proper actions documented between two accreditation cycles.*

## **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.*

Key information regarding Standard have been found at the Doctoral Studies Web site.

*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 UNAB Web site (<https://unarte.org/>) and few of its' relevant subpages (<https://unarte.org/regulamente/#metodologii> and <https://unarte.org/departamente/iosud/> ) provide necessary information regarding Study regulations, addmission process, study contract, graduation requirements and structure and outcomes of the doctoral programs.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

*Remarks:*

University may consider digital presence of IOSUD beyond the current web-page, by e.g. translating content to some of foreign languages, and better utilizing social media for additional (up-to-date) information.

**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.

Doctoral students have enabled access to the electronic library resources subscribed by NUAB (international JSTOR database: Arts & Sciences VIII, Arts & Sciences III, Artstor collections). As per student statements, resources are proper and sufficient for their research.

Recommendations:

**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.

NUAB is subscribed and providing access to anti-plagiarism platform Sistemantiplagiat.ro. The extent and regulations for use are explained in Self Assessment Study and during the meeting with the members of the NUAB Ethic Committee. Anti Plagiarism reports have been provided on request and illustrate functionality of the tool.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

*Remarks:*



Sistemantiplagiat.ro by its' model, can't recognize potential plagiarism patterns from other languages. In addition, it is unlikely to identify adequate tool that may recognize plagiarism in artistic work.

**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.

NUAB Doctoral students have access to all key NUAB research and art facilities.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

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

Standard has been assessed based on Self Assessment Report (with Annexes) and confirmed at sample level during discussions with Graduates.

**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.

NUAB has signed partnerships with 12 European Art schools under the Erasmus + program. Partnership agreements include student mobility at the tertiary level. During the last five years, 15 Doctoral students have participated in various international activities abroad.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

Remarks:

In a today's globalized world, art presents one of the key universal languages. Accordingly, it would be recommendable to enhance efforts towards internationalization through introducing pieces of study program delivered in foreign languages, engaging co-supervisors from schools abroad and improving student and faculty mobility rates.

**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.

NUAB aims to increase international engagement by organizing and participating in various international events. However, the evidence was not provided that the Domain Visual Arts has engaged any international faculty members to participate in study activities during the last five years.





Recommendations:

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

Remarks:

Current activities mentioned in Self Assessment study need additional effort to improve NUAB international footprint.

**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.

NUAB claims continuous intention to increase international engagement through co-tutelage and drafting dissertations in international foreign languages. However, current output is insufficient: only 3 out of 88 dissertations (as per additional documents provided by IOSUD liaison) during the last five years have been drafted in foreign language, and only two dissertations have been conducted in co-tutelage. This pushes percentage to 5.6%.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

Remarks:

Current activities mentioned in Self Assessment study need additional effort to improve NUAB international footprint.

**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 committees etc.).

As per Self Assessment study, NUAB has prepared and presented several projects aiming to enhance and improve internationalization. Projects have been promoted at the international scene and led to certain international agreements. However, the outcomes are not sufficiently evident.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

## **Criterion C.4. System for assurance of ethical and academic integrity**

**Standard C.4.1.** IOSUD/Doctoral school has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms.

Standard has been assessed based on Self Assessment Report (with Annexes) and meeting with Ethical Committee.

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.1.** IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:

- policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken;



- practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;
- practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;
- administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;
- mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;

IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.

NUAB has an approved Code of Ethics (Annex 9 at ARACIS cloud) and established Ethics Committee that is appointed to maintain procedures and monitor their outcomes.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.2.** All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.

As per Self Assessment report, "There were no suspicions of plagiarism related to doctoral theses within IOSUD".

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.3.** Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.

As per reference to indicator 4.1.2. above, there were no such cases.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.4.** The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.

As per Self Assessment report, there were no such cases.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.5.** The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be:

- a) Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism;
- b) Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism;
- c) Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism.

The measures in force, approved by CSUD (as per Self Assessment report), depending on severity of the particular case may be to suspend the right to coordinate new Ph.D. students for a period of 3 years, in the case of Ph.D. supervisors who coordinated a doctoral thesis, with a final decision to withdraw the doctor title for plagiarism or to exclude from IOSUD the Ph.D. supervisor who coordinated at least two doctoral theses with a final decision to withdraw the title of doctor for plagiarism reasons. However, as per Self Assessment report, there were no such cases.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*C.4.1.6.** The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.

As per Self Assessment report, there were no such cases.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.7.** IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).

The list as per requirement is provided by IOSUD liaison, and as per Self Assessment Report, full database exists at IOSUD.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High quality and diversified faculty</li> <li>- High rate of students' satisfaction</li> <li>- Diverse Art production</li> <li>- Resources</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inefficient Quality Assurance system</li> <li>- Finances (IOSUD funds distribution)</li> <li>- Internationalization</li> <li>- Study program: lack of methodology courses, PLO's &amp; CLO's</li> <li>- Lack of opportunities for students from disadvantaged background</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeking <i>mecenas</i> to financially support students' art production</li> <li>- Engaging more international supervisors/tutors</li> <li>- Enhance usage of foreign language(s) in informations and program delivery for improving international footprint</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Status of students extending study duration</li> <li>- Preserving rare, valuable non-replacable resources fundus</li> </ul>

#### V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
1.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.1.</b> The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):</p> <p>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);</p> <p>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;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p>	Fulfilled	<p><i>The outstanding issue that requires clarification is related with the status of Doctoral students who exceed the study duration as stipulated in Contract, specifically who covers financial dues for the resources engagement during the extended period for students financed from budget (as Contract stipulates that they, in contrary of self-financing students) do not have financial obligations.</i></p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		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.		
2.	PI	<b>A.1.1.2.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<i>Self Assessment Report emphasizes that Regulation includes tenured professors from the university who passed the habilitation exam, with the key purpose to enable them to participate in the advising and cordination of Ph.D. students. Having in mind the character of Professional programs, this is considered as very useful practice.</i>
3.	PI *	<b>A.1.1.3.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
4.	PI	<b>A.1.2.1.</b> The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
5.	CPI	<b>A.1.2.2.</b> The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	
6.	PI	<b>A.2.1.1.</b> The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of posessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
7.	PI	<b>A.2.1.2.</b> 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.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>Partnerships with national and international institutions shall be analyzed from the strategic value, and better utilized for the benefit of the Doctoral school and all internal stakeholders.</i>
8.	PI	<b>A.2.1.3.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<i>There is a need to ensure preservation of valuable, non-replaceable resources. In addition, following the inputs provided after the physical visit, IOSUD may consider improving lab support to ensure full utilization especially of advanced digital technology.</i>
9.	PI *	<b>A.3.1.1.</b> The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>NUAB may consider overcoming objective obstacles mentioned during the evaluation (lack of national specialists in a field) by engaging international experts via co-tutelage</i>
10.	CPI	<b>A.3.1.2.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
11.	PI *	<b>B.1.1.1.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
12.	PI	<b>B.1.1.2.</b> The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>NUAB is advised to consider implementation of mechanisms that shall enable enrollment of limited number of students from</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.		<i>disadvantaged backgrounds to IOSUD. In addition, psychological counselling shall be considered either as additional function of the existing, or as function of the newly established student support office.</i>
13.	PI	<b>B.2.1.1.</b> 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.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>Current 1<sup>st</sup> year study program shall be improved in order to provide students with stronger methodological foundations for their individual research. In addition, it is recommended to expand course-based program for at least one semester, and include elective courses that may be taken even at other higher education institutions in case of multidisciplinary research topics.</i>
14.	PI	<b>B.2.1.2.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
15.	PI	<b>B.2.1.3.</b> 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.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>The original submission, driven by Accreditation standards, do not stipulate mapping of Program Learning outcomes (PLO) against NQF, neither mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) against PLOs. Specifying PLOs and CLOs (including those related with the independent research, in addition to theoretical courses), their mapping to PLOs, and finally mapping PLOs to NQF descriptors is suggested to be added to the accreditation standards as a stipulative requirement.</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
16.	PI	<b>B.3.1.1.</b> 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.)	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
17.	CPI	<b>B.4.1.1.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
18.	PI	<b>C.1.1.1.</b> 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.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>In order to ensure robustness of the procedural and factual processes at the University, NUAB has to develop solid QA system and implement it accordingly. Key QA stakeholders' responsibilities and processes have to be clearly defined, the full PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle implemented, and "closing the loop" ensured through proper actions documented between two accreditation cycles.</i>
19.	PI	<b>C.1.1.2.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
20.	PI	<b>C.1.1.3.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
21.	PI *	<b>C.1.1.4.</b> 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.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>In order to ensure robustness of the procedural and factual processes at the University, NUAB has to develop solid QA system and implement it accordingly. Key QA stakeholders' responsibilities and processes have to be clearly defined, the full PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle implemented, and "closing the loop" ensured through proper actions documented between two accreditation cycles.</i>
22.	CPI	<b>C.2.1.1.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<i>University may consider digital presence of IOSUD beyond the current web-page, by e.g. translating content to some of foreign languages, and better utilizing social media for additional (up-to-date) information.</i>



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		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.		
23.	<b>CPI</b>	<b>C.2.2.1.</b> All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of the their thesis.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
24.	<b>PI</b>	<b>C.2.2.2.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<i>Sistemantiplagiat.ro by its' model, can't recognize potential plagiarism patterns from other langauages. Inn addition, it is unlikely to identify adequate tool that may recognize plagiarism in artistic work.</i>
25.	<b>PI</b>	<b>C.2.2.3.</b> 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.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
26.	<b>PI *</b>	<b>C.3.1.1.</b> 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%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<i>In a todays globalized world, art presents one of the key universal languages. Accordingly, it would be recommendable to enhance efforts towards internationalization through introducing pieces of study program delivered in foreign languages, engaging co-supervisors from schools abroad and improving student and faculty mobility rates.</i>
27.	<b>PI</b>	<b>C.3.1.2.</b> 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.	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>Current activities mentioned in Self Assessment study need additional effort to improve NUAB international footprint.</i>
28.	<b>PI *</b>	<b>C.3.1.3.</b> At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	<i>Current activities mentioned in Self Assessment study need additional</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.		<i>effort to improve NUAB international footprint.</i>
29.	PI	<b>C.3.1.4.</b> 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.).	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	
30.	PI	<b>C.4.1.1.</b> IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken;</li> <li>- practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;</li> <li>- practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;</li> <li>- administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;</li> <li>- mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;</li> </ul> IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
31.	PI	<b>C.4.1.2.</b> All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.		
32.	PI	<b>C.4.1.3.</b> Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
33.	CPI	<b>C.4.1.4.</b> The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
34.	PI	<b>C.4.1.5.</b> The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be: a) Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; b) Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; c) Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
35.	PI *	<b>C.4.1.6.</b> The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.		
36.	PI	<b>C.4.1.7.</b> IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

*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!*

## **VI. Conclusions and general recommendations**

*The Review of the Doctoral School (IOSUD) at the National University of Arts in Bucharest has confirmed that program, research, physical and human resources generally fulfill Accreditation Standards. Considering Accreditation not as audit but rather as quality enhancement process, reviewer has identified several areas of improvement that are recommended to be implemented by the University and by the Domain. In addition there are few recommendations to ARACIS in order to improve Standards and Review procedure.*

### **Recommendations to NUAB: IOSUD:**

- 1) Restructuring of Doctoral Studies funds distribution in order to provide much more support to Doctoral students research, internationalization and exposure.*
- 2) Stipulate defining Learning outcomes for all Doctoral study activities.*
- 3) Extend theoretical courses over Year 1 of Doctoral studies (with additional focus on methodology) and provide more opportunities for cross-disciplinary research (e.g. taking electives at other HE institutions).*
- 4) Explore additional opportunities for program internationalization (e.g. delivery & dissertation in English).*
- 5) Enhance robustness in internal processes, with specific focus on Quality Assurance and building of Quality Culture*
- 6) Consider establishment of Promotion/Marketing department to enhance IOSUD visibility and attract external funds*
- 7) Strengthen and streamline strategic partnerships through Advisory Boards*

### **Recommendations to ARACIS:**



- 1) *Emphasis on Learning Outcomes (Los) and their comprehensive mapping (Program LOs against National Qualification Framework descriptors; Course LOs against Program LOs in order to explore and confirm study program coherence.*
- 2) *Stipulate more robust requirements for internal Quality Assurance and consider risk-based assessment*
- 3) *Encourage HE institutions towards strategic partnerships through establishing obligatory program or school-oriented Advisory boards.*
- 4) *Develop and provide unified templates for quantitative data requested within external evaluation processes (or online submission system)*



## **VII. Annexes**

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit. (Shared by ARACIS via e-mail)*
- *The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review, the results - optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation (conducted by Student representative).*
- *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. (Shared via ARACIS Cloud and by e-mail)*
- *Pictures – if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc. (Video shared via e-mail)*
- *Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved. (Accessed during the Evaluation)*
- *Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report. (Shared via ARACIS Cloud)*