ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
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Annex No. 3

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

Contents

I. Introduction[1]

I was invited by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) to join the evaluation team for institutional evaluation of the doctoral studies at the University of Oradea (UO), namely of its IOSUD level.

UO is accredited to organize doctoral studies in 18 doctoral fields, organized in 7 doctoral schools, both in the form of full-time education and in the part-time form. They represent a rich and diverse portfolio of disciplines/domains, some of them being realised for quite a long time already, some others still being relatively new.

I would like to express my gratitude to Ms Bianca-Mariana Mitea and Ms Carmen Mirian, ARACIS officers, for their very helpful support throughout the evaluation process. I also benefited from a highly collegial approach of the whole group of evaluators led by Prof. Radu Oprean, the Evaluation Director, and Prof. Alexandru Tugui, the Coordinator of the IOSUD Committee, for their very helpful and supportive approach. I would also like to thank the colleagues who organized meetings and to those who interpreted during these meetings. All these activities were very helpful.

On the basis of the sources of information mentioned above, I herewith submit my report on the IOSUD's institutional performance at the UO as I have perceived it. I am aware that this is a limited view by an external evaluator, and a much deeper insight would be needed to really catch the essence of some of the evaluated issues. My evaluation, as well as my recommendations for possible consideration, should be understood as a collegial attempt to provide the IOSUD at the UO and ARACIS

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[1] Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise

with opinions with the aim to contribute to possible improvements at the UO as well as the quality assurance of the higher education of Romania as such.

II. Methods used

Prior to the site visit I had studied the English version of the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) of the UO and some other relevant documents. During the visit, which was carried out online due to pandemic restrictions from 15 to 22 November 2021, I had a good opportunity to enhance the information I had received about doctoral studies at the UO.

The site visit started with a preliminary online meeting of experts, who are members of the evaluation team. At this meeting, preparation and harmonization of evaluation stages in the blended format was discussed. Then the online meeting with the UO's leading representatives followed. During the whole period of evaluation, I had a chance to participate at a number of plenary/group meetings with representatives of the UO and IOSUD UO, directors of doctoral schools, academic staff, members of the Ethics Commission, QA representatives, PhD students, alumni, members of the Doctoral University Studies Council, employers and other persons. All this helped me to complete the image.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators[2]

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Administrative and managerial structures are logically built and they have potential to support realisation of doctoral studies across the domains at the UO. Financial resources seem to be sufficient to cover main needs related to the doctoral studies´ conduction, too.

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 activity within the IOSUD is coordinated by the Council of Doctoral Studies at the UO. Doctoral schools are structured similarly to the departments being set up within the faculties that manage doctoral fields.

From the information available, it appears, the activity within IOSUD UO is conducted in line with provisions of national legislation and internal regulations.

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[2] Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise

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

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

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

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

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

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

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

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

There are specific regulations for the organisation and realisation of doctoral studies at the UO. These regulations seem to be in line with national legislation and they relate to all main aspects of doctoral studies.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The regulations related to doctoral schools seem to include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards, as requested. They mainly concern acceptance/withdrawal of supervisors, appropriateness of the training programs, changes of supervisors, interruption of study programs, prevention of academic fraud, access to study and research resources, attendance obligations.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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[3] The indicators marked with an asterisk (*) hold a special status, referring exclusively to the evaluation of doctoral schools, as per Article 12 from the annex No.1 of the Order of the minster of education No. 3651/12.04.2021 approving the Methodology for evaluating university doctoral studies and the system of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation In case they are not fulfilled, the Agency extends a period of maximum 3 years to IOSUD to correct the respective deficiencies.

The UO currently realises 7 doctoral schools within the structure of the faculties that manage 18 doctoral fields, organized on disciplines or disciplinary topics. Such a solution is logical and supports quality of doctoral studies.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

From the information available it seems the IOSUD UO has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies´ mission.

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

The UNIWEB Platform seems to be the main IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background at the IOSUD UO.The UNIWEB Platform is integrated application for managing the activity carried out within the doctoral studies, and it provides all the information through the web interface independent of the operating system. This plaform provides module management, monitoring and computerisation of doctoral students´ study paths.

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.

The IOSUD UO uses the anti-plagiarism system provided by SC SISTEM ANTIPLAGIAT PRIN INTERNET SRL, on the contract basis. The system for detecting similarities is available to doctoral schools within IOSUD. On the level of IOSUD, a system administrator is designated to monitor access to the platform, resp. allocation of user accounts for each doctoral school.

The thesis are checked before presentation in the guiding commission. Each doctoral thesis to be defended publicly is supposed to have the Anti-Plagiarism Report generated by the above mentioned system, the Resolution of the doctoral supervisor on the similarity report, the Opinion of the doctoral school on the anti-plagiarism verification, and the Declaration of authenticity of the doctoral thesis provided by the doctoral student and the scientific coordinator.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

From the information available it apears the IOSUD/doctoral schools at the UO have a solid research infrastructure to support conduction of doctoral studies´ specific activities.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.1. 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.)

The information about existing research laboratories at the IOSUD UO has been provided in sufficient details. Also, the information about 26 certified research centers has been provided in sufficient details, incl. the links of these infrastructures to doctoral studies. The same can be said about the rooms available for realisation of supervision and other activities within the doctoral studies at the UO. It can be concluded the IOSUD/doctoral schools have adequate spaces for rsearch activities specific to the domains..

> *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.

Collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, and research networks for the exploitation in partnership of various research infrastructures have also been provided by the UO – they contain a number of useful interlinks relevant for doctoral studies.

> *The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

The evidence was given that within the doctoral schools there is a permanent concern to renew the research infrastructure, and to ensure doctoral students´ access to current research resources. This is done both by competition for external funding, and by internal investments of the UO.

> *The indicator is fulfilled.*

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resource

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

Overal, this can be said the doctoral studies are realised by sufficiently qualified staff at the UO.

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[4] does not exceed 20%.*

The situation varies across the doctoral schools at the UO. While some fulfill this indicator persuasively, some doctoral schools seem to have supervisors who have more than 12 doctoral students assigned. This is especially the case of Medicine and also of Biomedical Sciences where there is a high proportion of supervsiors having more than 12 students to supervise. Some measures to change this situation have been indicated in the SAR (p. 143): "…in order to correct this indicator, IOSUD UO decided that this year in the field of doctorate Medicine to approve a tuition number four times lower than in previous years and these places only for new doctoral supervisors. Also, at the time of preparing the file, a number of 5 teachers from the field of Medicine supported the habilitation and are in various stages of the process of confirming the habilitation. At the same time, in the last year of extension (year VI) are enrolled a number of 17 PhD students, who will either be approved for a grace period or will be expelled.Following these measures, it is estimated that in two years at the level of the doctoral field of Medicine there will be no more than 4 doctoral supervisors with more than 8 doctoral students in internship or extension."

Recommendation:

- *Make sure the share of doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies[5] does not exceed 20% at each domain.*

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

According to the data available, this indicator is fulfilled in vast majoriy of domains, Philology is the exception (25%).

Recommendation:

- *Make sure at least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities in the domain Philology have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

[5] 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

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.

Overal, candidates admitted to doctoral studies at the UO seem to demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and they are diversified as social representation and by gender.

*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.*

Admission to doctoral study programs is done on the basis of selection criteria that include previous professional performance of the candidates (articles, studies mentioned in the CV), quality of the proposed doctoral research project, the way project is presented by the applicant. In all doctoral fields, admission also requires an interview with the candidate

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 organsing support programs to prevent drop-outs.

The IOSUD UO has developed and uses methodologies and procedures to support social integration or support of doctoral students from disadvantaged social backgrounds, incl. exemption or reduction the fees. As for the drop out, the IOSUD UO has elaborated and implemeted a set of measures to prevent/reduce the drop out rate of the doctoral students. This includes monitoring and support of students during their studies, organizing good practice workshops, tutoring, involvement of students into social activities, and more.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

Standard B.2.1. The training program based on advanced university studies is appropriate to improve doctoral students' research skills and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.

Overal, from the data available this can be said the doctoral programs based on advanced university studies at the IOSUD UO are appropriate to develop/improve students´ research skills and to strengthen their 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 part of the advanced university training programs are disciplines of research methodology, ethics and academic integrity wihin the doctoral programs at the UO, besides to disciplines relevant for each specific doctoral field. This way, the curriculum of doctoral programs is fulfilling this performance indicator.

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.

According to the data available, at each doctoral school within the IOSUD UO, the curriculum contains the discipline Ethics and academic integrity.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses "the learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities[6].

It appears, the IOSUD UO has elaborated ways to address the learning outcomes by specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibilities and autonomy that each doctoral student should have after completion of his/her studies. These are specified in terms of professional as well as transversal competences. Monitoring and evaluation procedures related to the implementation results are going in hand with this.

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.

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[6] Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.

The data available indicate that doctoral students capitalize on the research by means of presenations at conferences, scientific publications, and more.

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. technologial 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 ar national and international conerences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)*

There is the evidence that results of doctoral studies at the UO get meaningfully valorized, with respect to specifics of the domain(s).

> ***The indicator is fulfilled.***

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards

Overal, doctoral thesis seem to be of a good 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.*

According to the data available, during the period October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2020, there are no invalidated doctoral thesis, without the right to remake and resume the public support process. This concerns a total of 139 thesis.

> ***The indicator is fulfilled.***

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Quality management processes seem to contribute positively to the doctoral studies at the UO. They are well thought over and effectively realised across the institution/domains.

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.

It appears, the quality assurance policies are based on the institutional framework and procedures, and they are implemented adequately to monitor and evaluate quality of doctoral studies at the UO.

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.

The IOSUD UO seems to pay sufficient attention to the evaluation processes and internal quality assurance related to scientific work of doctoral advisors, infrastructure and logistics necessary for realisation of research activity, procedures and rules of organizing doctoral studies, and academic and social services as well as counselling available to doctoral students. In general, these areas seem to be covered well.

At the same time, it needs to be mentioned that supervisors´skills to supervise seem to be "taken for granted", there is no systematic training for them organized and expected in this area at the UO. Also, some respondents during the interviews voiced out the opinion that more research grants for doctoral research would be beneficial.

Recommendations:
- *Consider a possibility to provide supervisors with training to have a chance to get quality supervision skills.*
- *Consider possibilities to provide doctoral students with sufficient granting support to help them realise their research.*

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Student representatives are elected for the positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, with all doctoral students having the right to elect and/or being elected at the UO.

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.

The elections of doctoral students at the UO are organized by student representatives, with the logistical support of teachers. At the level of all doctoral schools in the IOSUD UO, doctoral students are represented in proportion of at least 20%.

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.*

The IOSUD and doctoral schools realise internal evaluation of doctoral study programs, and involve students in it (student questionnaires). The data from these evaluations serve as a source for improvement plans/actions.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

The IOSUD website seems to be providing all the information about the doctoral program, starting from admission and completion.

***Performance Indicator C.2.1.1.** The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:*
(a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation;
(b) the admission regulation;
(c) the doctoral studies contract;
(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;
(e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;
(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;
(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);
(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;
(i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences,to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.
(j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.

The information about the above mentioned aspects of the doctoral programs seems to be provided at the IOSUD website.

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.

The data available confirm that the IOSUD/doctoral schools provide doctoral students with access to the resources they need for conducting their 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 the their thesis.

The IOSUD UO povides all doctoral students with access to the IOSUD UO all doctoral students have access to the platform with relevant databases, free of charge, with flexibly arranged access. According to the SAR (p. 177), the following databases are this way available to doctoral students for their study and research: PROQUEST Central, ScienceDirect Freedom Collection, Scopus, Elsevier, SpringerLink Journals, Springer, Web of Science – Core Collection, InCites Journal Citation Reports, Derwent Innovations Index, Clarivate Analytics. This can be viewed as rich and relevant resource.

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.

As already mentioned in earlier part of this report, the IOSUD UO is using anti-plagiarism software which is recognized by CNATDCU and used at the level of higher education institutions organizing university doctoral studies in Romania. All doctoral students have access to this, upon request and with the consent of the doctoral supervisor, to verify the degree of similarity with other existing scientific works.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

All doctoral students seem to have access to laboratories and/or other relevant facilities on the specific domains within doctoral schools. This access is often a subject of specific internal regulations and procedures.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

Standard C.3.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.

Internationalisation is the issue at the IOSUD UO and some of its aspects are dealt wih successfully at some doctoral schools. There is still a room for improvement, though, regarding mobilities (of outcoming as well as incoming students, academic and also non-academic staff), co-tutelles, and other forms of international co-operation.

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

The IOSUD UO has framework agreements with foreign partners on mobilities and international co-operation. These were in reality used in a different extent across the doctoral schools/domains during the evaluated period. While at some doctoral schools/domains there can be seen a lively traffic as for outgoing students, at some others the indicator is not met.

Recommendation:

- *Make sure mobilities are an integral part of doctoral studies in all domains/doctoral schools.*

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    The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

There is the evidence abou some international experts delivering courses/lectures or participating at scientific events at the UO across the doctoral schools/faculties. There is a little evidence about international co-tutelage and its sufficient support, incl. financial support.

Recommendation:

- *Make sure international co-tutelage is supported by the UO and becomes a realistic and relatively frequent opportunity for doctoral students at the UO.*

    The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

According to the data available, three out of seven doctoral schools meet this indicator (thesis written in international foreign language).

Recommendation:

- *Make sure there is a higher proportion of thesis written in international foreign language across the doctoral schools.*

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.4. *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees[7] etc.).*

The data available show the UO is participating at some international educational fairs. Also, some commissions related to doctoral students had foreign representation in their composition; some UO´s staff also participated at some doctoral studies-related commissions abroad.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

The data available show that IOSUD/doctoral schools pay sufficient attention to ensure ethical and academic integrity of the students and the staff.

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 postioinings, 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.

As for ethics, deonology and academic integrity, the Code of University Ethics and Deontology of the University of Oradea, is the key document. And the Ethics Commission has been established and operates at the university level as a key platform to deal with these issues. Procedures to prevent academic fraud are in place, too, and regular monitoring, evaluation and also prevention measures are paid sufficent attention at the UO. This all relates to doctoral studies, too.

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.

There was no such case to deal with in the evaluated period.

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-intiative 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.

There was no such case to deal with in the evaluated period.

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.*

There was no such case to deal with in the evaluated period.

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.

There was no such case to deal with in the evaluated period.

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 withrawal 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.*

There was no such case to deal with in the evaluated period.

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 IOSUD has such a database and maintains it.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: Well-established doctoral studies in most domains Very solid infrastructure supporting doctoral study and research Well qualified staff Solid quality assurance system	**Weaknesses:** Some doctoral domains are not meeting all the criteria fully (too many students per supervisor, for instance) Low performance in some aspects of internationalisation (mobilities, co-tutelles)
Opportunities: Further growth Development of quality doctoral studies nationally and internationally	**Threats:** Decrease of quality Marginalisation Limited reach of doctoral studies

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	**A.1.1.1.** The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s): a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s); b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct; c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies); d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
3.	PI *	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
4.	PI	**A.1.2.1.** The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	**Fulfilled**	
5.	CPI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
6.	PI	**A.2.1.1.** 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.)	**Fulfilled**	
7.	PI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
8.	PI	**A.2.1.3.** The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
9.	PI *	**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%.	**Partially fulfilled**	Make sure the share of doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies[8] does not exceed 20% at each domain
10.	CPI	**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.	**Patially fulfilled**	Make sure at least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities in the domain Philology have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.
11.	PI *	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
12.	PI	**B.1.1.2.** The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organsing support programs to prevent drop-outs.	**Fulfilled**	
13.	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	**Fulfilled**	

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[8] 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.		
14.	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**	
15.	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**	
16.	PI	**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. technologial 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 ar national and international conerences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctroal students in writing research-development projects etc.)	**Fulfilled**	
17.	CPI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
18.	PI	**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;	**Fulfilled**	Consider a possibility to provide supervisors with training to have a chance to get quality supervision skills. Consider possibilities to provide doctoral students with sufficient granting support to help them realise their research.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
19.	PI	**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 studnets having the right of electing or being elected.	**Fulfilled**	
20.	PI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
21.	PI *	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
22.	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 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;	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor); h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis; i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences,to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc. j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.		
23.	CPI	**C.2.2.1.** All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of the their thesis.	**Fulfilled**	
24.	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**	
25.	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**	
26.	PI *	**C.3.1.1.** IOSUD, for every doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	**Partially fulfilled**	Make sure mobilities are an integral part of doctoral studies in all domains/doctoral schools.
27.	PI	**C.3.1.2.** IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation	**Partially fulfilled**	Make sure international co-tutelage is supported by the UO and becomes a

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.		realistic and relatively frequent opportunity for doctoral students at the UO.
28.	PI *	**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.	**Partially fulfilled**	Make sure there is a higher proportion of thesis written in international foreign language across the doctoral schools.
29.	PI	**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.).		
30.	PI	**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 postioinings, 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	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
31.	PI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
32.	PI	**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-intiative 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.	**Fulfilled**	
33.	CPI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
34.	PI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
35.	PI *	**C.4.1.6.** The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withrawal 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.	**Fulfilled**	
36.	PI	**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).	**Fulfilled**	

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Overal, doctoral studies at the IOSUD UO are well organized, they have a very solid infrastructure, as for the expertise of the staff and also material basis, and they seem to provide quality results. The potential for impovement is especially seen in internationalisation, and in some aspects related to the supervisors and their work.

VII. Annexes

The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit is provided as a separate document to this report.

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