

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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I. Introduction

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the The Romanian Academy, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The evaluation visit for this program was during 25 October - 05 November, 2021 and the Experts Committee was comprised by Coordinator Prof. dr. Mihaela LUTAS from Universitatea Babeș Bolyai din Cluj Napoca, International expert Prof. univ. dr. Eglantina Hysa from Epoka University, Albania, and PhD student Constantin-Marius ARADAN from West University of Timișoara.

Known as the highest national forum for the recognition of scientific and cultural values, the Romanian Academy is the descendant of the Romanian Literary Society established in 1866, to be then reorganised in 1867 as the Romanian Academic Society, and lastly, in 1879 as the Romanian Academy. The Romanian Academy is a national institution, which presents public interest, conducting research in the fundamental areas of science, and functions as an autonomous and legally incorporated entity under public law.

Comprised of many departments, the **Romanian Academy** is comprised of several, dedicated, departments, and has branches in Cluj-Napoca, Iași and Timișoara. The Romanian Academy develops its fundamental research through 71 research institutes and centres that cover the main important fields of science and culture. Although fundamental research is its main area of interest, the Romanian Academy does not exclude applied research. The Romanian Academy is structured into the following scientific sections: - Philology and Literature; - Historical Sciences and Archaeology; - Mathematical Sciences; - Physical Sciences; - Chemical Sciences; - Biological Sciences; - Geographical, Geological, and Geodynamics sciences; - Technical Sciences; - Agricultural and Forestry Sciences; - Medical Sciences; - Economics, Law, and Sociology; - Philosophy, Theology, Psychology, and Pedagogy; - Arts, Architecture, and Audio-visual; - Information Technology and Science.

The Romanian Academy has a long-standing tradition in the doctorate studies, which are governed by the National Education Act, and Act 752/2001, regarding the organization and functioning of the Romanian Academy, as subsequently amended.

The Romanian Academy is empowered to organize doctoral studies providing doctoral degree (IOSUD), through its doctoral school known as **The Romanian Academy's School of Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR)**. Doctoral studies are subject to the SCOSAAR Regulation, as approved by the Presidium and the General Assembly of the Romanian Academy. SCOSAAR's president is appointed by the President of the Romanian Academy from among the vice-presidents of the Academy. SCOSAAR's activities are coordinated by a Scientific Council.

The National Economic Research Institute Costin C. Kirițescu (Institutul Național de Cercetări Economice "Costin C. Kirițescu" – INCE), established under the Decree No. 10/1990, reintegrated to the Romanian Academy by virtue of Government Resolution 505/1990, is a scientific organisation of national interest, incorporated under public law, empowered to conduct fundamental research, and funded from the state budget. INCE's institutional structure duly incorporates 10 entities, five of which are research institutes: Institute of National Economy, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Institute of Research for the Quality of Life, Institute for Economic Forecasting, and the Institute of World Economy. The other **five are research centres**: *Centre for the Economics of Industry and Services, Centre for Financial and Monetary Research Victor Slăvescu, Centre for Studies and Research on Agroforestry Diversity Acad. David Davidescu, Centre for Mountain Economics, and the Centre for Economic Information and Documentation.*

INCE also brings under its umbrella five unincorporated structures: a Consultancy and Partnership Unit for Policies and Strategies, and five units, authorised to deal as: The Romanian Centre for Comparative Economics and Consensus, Centre for Macroeconomic Modelling, Centre for Complex Research, Centre for Demographic Research, and the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

INCE hosts the Romania – OECD Centre for Information and Documentation, an entity established by government resolution. Under INCE's roof also operate the Pierre Werner Romania – Luxembourg Centre for Studies and Documentation, and Expert Publishing House.

INCE, the National Institute for Economic Research Costin C. Kirițescu, has a four-decade tradition as organiser of doctoral studies. After having served, at the beginning of its existence, as an established research institute, INCE assumed the guidance of candidates to a doctor's degree in economics, and has now over 450 doctoral students on its record.

This institute is equipped with the necessary equipment, electronic devices, and software (Appendix 4.3.A). **The curriculum of the doctorate in Economics domain** is comprised of minimum five objects of study, three of which are compulsory. Doctoral students must cover a one-year term of advanced

training in specialised courses, on topics from the state-of-the-art subdivisions of economic sciences. During semesters I and II of Year I, doctoral students must attend compulsory and optional courses, at the end of which they must take exams and submit scientific research papers focused on the scientific theme elected by each doctoral student.

The **three compulsory courses** are:

1 - Economic Modelling, on a six-month term, coordinated by: Emilian Dobrescu and Lucian Liviu Albu, both of them Members of the Romanian Academy, and Professor Dorin Jula, Doctor in Economics (DEc.);

2 - Contemporary Economic Theories. Models and policies for sustainable economic development, on a three-month term, coordinated by: Professor Gheorghe Zaman, DEc. and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, and Professor Valentina Vasile, DEc.;

3 - Academic Ethics and Integrity, on a three-month term, coordinated by Professor Valeriu Ioan Franc, DEc., and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy.

The courses and the exams for the **two optional subjects** must be adequate to the doctoral student's theme of research, and are organised according to a pattern similar to that of the compulsory courses, with an end-of-course exam and/or research paper (Appendix 4.6).

Each course requires attendance of an adequate number of lectures and debates (in compliance with the description of each subject of study), submission of a final paper, and the presentation of the research work at national/international scientific events, and/or publication of articles in dedicated journals included in international data bases.

The academics and the researchers who hold the head position for the doctoral students' compulsory and optional objects of study are certified as PhD supervisors / habilitation degree, Professor / Senior Researcher grade I, Senior Lecturer / Senior Researcher grade II. Their expertise in the subject matters lectured to the doctoral students is proven by their CVs and the scientific publications lists.

The Department for Economic and Social Sciences, and Law - INCE, for the Economics Section, counts, at the moment of the evaluation visit 18 doctoral supervisors, as one of the members of the doctoral domain of Economics passed away a week before the evaluation visit. 15, of whom are currently supervising on-going doctoral research students. Of all these, 9 PhD supervisors (50%) fulfil the minimal standards of the National Council for the Certification of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) currently in force, and which are necessary and mandatory to obtain validation. 17 out of 18 (94.4%) doctoral supervisors on Economics are permanent employees of INCE and its research institutes and centres. Out of 18, 13 PhD supervisors (73.7%) have their base employment contract with INCE and the INCE-affiliated institutes and centres. During 2015-2020, in total, 50 doctoral students defended their doctoral theses, and 71 students obtained their certificates of completion of doctoral studies.

Number of doctoral supervisors, number of doctors, number of graduates in the past five academic years (2015-2020)

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Doctoral supervisors	24	26	22	23	21
Current doctoral students	88	101	103	74	62
Graduates	18	11	10	10	1

INCE is organised and operates in accordance with the Decree No. 10/2 January 1990, which is the constitutional document of INCE, and also in compliance with: Act 752/2001, regarding the organisation and operation of the Romanian Academy, as republished on 07.05.2009; Romanian Government Decision No. 107 bis/1990; Romanian Government Decision No. 505/1990; No. 503/1998; Romanian Government Decision No. 1.366/2001, regarding the reorganisation and renaming of some of the research units in the subordination of the Romanian Academy; Romanian Government Decision No. 99/2009, regarding the change of name of the National Institute for Economic Research; the Romanian Academy Statute, published in Monitorul Oficial No. 617/14.09.2009, together with the related implementing regulations.

In accordance with INCE's By-laws, The Scientific Council decides on all scientific matters, proposes for debate and approves all the documents regarding the doctoral activities, according with the Romanian Academy Regulation thereon. INCE commands Internal Control Management System adequate to address all these requirements, with specific procedures designed to ensure the quality of doctoral studies: the Operational Procedure for the Management of the Research Process, the INCE Staff Code of Ethics, the Procedure regarding the Professional Ethics and Integrity, etc.

II. Methods used

This external evaluation report is drafted based on the evaluation visit for this doctoral program in Economics I and Economics II was during 25 October - 05 November, 2021. All the Experts Committee members had the opportunity to join the meetings online and the group Coordinator Prof. dr. Mihaela LUTAS from Universitatea Babes Bolyai din Cluj Napoca, and student Constantin Marius Aradan could join the institution by consulting during a site-visit at the premises of at the Romanian Academy Premises, hosting the research institutes and departments, including INCE.

Specifically, the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, include the following activities:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its respective annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, spaces and capacities (by Coordinator of the External Evaluation Experts);
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
 - The Council of the Doctoral School, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures).

In support of additional evidence, the PhD student Constantin-Marius ARADAN from West University of Timișoara, had prepared a survey for PhD student. Additionally, the Experts Committee members asked to the university some additional documents that helped to clarify and ensured a correct evaluation of each criteria.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at Romanian Academy, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The doctoral programme in the field of Economics at Romanian Academy is an accredited programme. Each evaluation criteria stipulated by ARACIS have been analysed from the self-evaluation group preparing the Self-Evaluation Report, and in this external report the External Experts Committee will evaluate the respective criteria. The three main Domains to be evaluated are A. Institutional Capacity; B. Education Effectiveness; and, C. Quality Management.

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

In this Domain, the External Experts Committee will investigate (1) The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources; (2) Research infrastructure; (3) Quality and human resources. Each of these criterions is based on some specific standards to be fulfilled by the institution.

Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources

This criterion is to analyse the existing of the administrative and managerial structures in the institutional level that are in support of the doctoral studies in the field of Economics. Additionally, this criterion considers the financial resources available to maintain the above mentioned programme.

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.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD body and the doctoral school, respectively, considering the past five years as period of reference.*

The School for Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy – SCOSAAR carries out its duties based on the current legal background, and the July 2013 Regulation for post-academic doctoral studies at the School for Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy.

Based on the Regulation, and in compliance with the applicable legislation, a number of methodologies and procedures have been developed, laying down the operation framework, ~~the tasks, deadlines and frequency of the meetings of the Doctoral School's Council~~, the rules for the election of the doctoral students' representative to the Doctoral School's Council, empowerment procedures, the contents of the contract for post-academic doctoral studies, procedures for internal auditing and for the approval of the themes of the training programme of advanced post-academic studies. (<https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2013/doc2013-0910Regulament.pdf>)

Currently, there are and are applied a series of methodologies and procedures that comply with the provisions of the applicable legislation in the field (for example, the academic mobility of students is regulated by: <https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/MetodologiiScosaar/10Metodologie-Mobilitati.pdf>).

During the evaluation period, representative of the institute presented the methodologies regarding the appointment of management structures and occupation of management positions in the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) within IOSUD - ROMANIAN ACADEMY and regarding the appointment of management structures and occupation of management positions in the Doctoral School Council (CSD) within IOSUD - ROMANIAN ACADEMY, methodologies in the process of approval and approval.

Within IOSUD there is only one Doctoral School in which 16 doctoral fields operate. "The regulation regarding the election of doctoral students representing in the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) and in the Doctoral School Council (CSD) within IOSUD - ROMANIAN ACADEMY" is being endorsed and approved.

The Romanian Academy has developed a policy for the recruitment and admission of doctoral students, which it applies in a transparent and rigorous manner, respecting the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates, without any discrimination. The information regarding the conduct of the admission contest is made public: <https://acad.ro/scosaar/admitere.html>

There is "Methodology for organizing and defending the doctoral thesis": <https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/MetodologiiScosaar/2MetodologiSustinereTezaDoctorat/2METODOLOGIE.pdf>

The recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor and the equivalence of the doctoral title obtained in other states is made on the basis of some methodologies: <https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/MetodologiiScosaar/6MecanismeRecunoastereCalitatieConducatorDoctorat.pdf>

The Scientific Council, composed of the president of SCOSAAR (a Vice President of the Romanian Academy) and the 8 Directors of Departments, represented the management structure that ensured the management of the activity at doctoral level. By operationalizing the methodologies being approved, the management structures will be ensured in correlation with the regulations in force.

All doctoral students sign the Contract for doctoral studies, which has as object the development of activities during doctoral studies, specifying the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force. This study contract is accompanied by additional documents regulating certain contractual clauses, if required. The Doctoral Studies Contract has variants in Romanian and English: <https://acad.ro/scosaar/formulareDoctorat.html>

The theme of the doctoral study programs is established by each doctoral supervisor. Each institute or research center from the Romanian Academy (where the doctoral supervisors work) has the topics displayed on its own website.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially 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 criteria, procedures and mandatory standards for the aspects specified in art. 17 para. (5) of the Code of doctoral studies are regulated, but not entirely within the SCOSAAR Regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies.

The new regulation, which is being approved, will explicitly include issues related to the acceptance of new doctoral supervisor members, as well as regulations on how a doctoral supervisor can be revoked as a member of the doctoral school; the decision-making mechanisms regarding the appropriateness, structure and content of the training program based on advanced university studies; the procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor of a certain doctoral student and the procedures for mediating conflicts; the conditions under which the doctoral program may be interrupted; ways to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism; ensuring access to research resources.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

This standard ensures the existence of a good system which maintains all the necessary data and details of the doctoral student academic background.

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 INCE's IT System is found to be adequate and effective to keep the full track of doctoral students and their academic progress. This system enables collection, processing and analysing of data and information relevant to quality institutional assessment and assurance. Most of the processes in INCE are computerized: student admission, allocation in on-site campus accommodation, scientific research management, student records, academic records, grade transcripts, scholarships, and intra-community mobility.

Data protection is provided by anti-virus devices for the database, and by weekly back-up procedures. INCE and its affiliated institutes and centres are endowed with the adequate logistic means they need for the accomplishment of their mission to create conditions for doctoral studies.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The IT platform used by SCOSAAR to check on the similitude of doctoral theses was recognised by CNATDCU through Order 5.229 of 17 August 2020, regarding the approval of methodologies for certification of authority, granting a doctoral title, and settling disputes on quality standards or professional ethics, including detection of plagiarism in a doctoral thesis. See Appendix 2, Doctoral theses evaluation methodology, Chapter II, Art. 6 (c), item 5.

The institution has ensured the usage of a sophisticated software to check the percentage of similarity of doctoral theses. Sistemantiplagiat.ro (<https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/clienti/educatie/>) offers detailed similarity report that consists of different coefficients that have been decided as threshold from the scientific bodies of the program. These programs have to be applied for all the doctoral theses and the students work in accordance with the supervisor. The theses whose percentages fall outside of the allowed limits are not approved for public defense. Under the procedure regarding the public defense of doctoral theses, the preliminary defense of the thesis is subject to submission, as one of the documents on the thesis file, of a report on the degree of similitude, signed by the PhD supervisor. The report is forwarded to the public Doctoral Examination Board concomitantly with the doctoral thesis.

To fulfil this condition, the candidate to a doctor's degree must submit an application, endorsed by the PhD supervisor, to request access, through SCOSAAR of the Romanian Academy, to the IT platform sistemantiplagiat.ro, which is designed to verify the degree of similitude of the applicant's thesis with other scientific papers.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.3. *The IOSUD makes sure that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.*

This standard ensures the availability of financial resources and other internal and external opportunities arising for the doctoral students. This is important to enhance capacities of research and to extend the outcome in a larger target group.

Performance Indicator A.1.3.1. *Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in*

the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.

Currently at INCE and the institutes and centres subordinated to it, 33 projects are in progress, of which:

- 6 under Horizon 2020,
- 3 under the National Research & Development Plan 2015 – 2020 - PN III (UEFISDCI),
- 2 of them as part of the scientific inter-academic research programmes under the aegis of the Romanian Academy,
- 8 are grants from the Romanian Academy,
- 3 are HRDOP projects,
- 5 are ADER projects, and so on. (please find the details in Appendix 4.1.B)

INCE is showing a very impressive involvement of academic staff in the research projects. During the 2016-2020, doctoral supervisors were involved in the preparation of over 60 research projects. The distribution of the research and institutional/human resources development grants/projects by doctoral supervisor is presented in Appendix 4.1.A.

Topics of the projects are in line with the field of Economics, and some doctoral students are integrated in the research teams. With the help of projects sustained from non-refundable financial sources, like the HRDOP, the doctoral students benefited from scholarships and/or financial support to attend international conference or mobility stages abroad. With the assistance of INCE and its institutes/centres, the doctoral students were supported to apply to and obtain UEFISDCI finance for international mobility stages and/or conferences.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

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

Doctoral studies at SCOSAAR – in the field of Economics, do not receive Government funding. For the field of Economics, the Romanian Academy, through its National Institute for Economic Research Costin C. Kirițescu, and from its own budget, grants monthly scholarships for a period of 3 years, to the doctoral students who gained admission in the echelon of those who qualified for PhD Scholarships. As of April 2021,

- a number of 13 (16.7%) of the total of 78 doctoral students pursuing their studies, were recipients of a monthly scholarship of lei 1,236 (equivalent of euro 250);
- currently, other 4 doctoral students receive financial support under HRDOP or PN III projects.

To sum up, 17 doctoral students enjoy financial aid, which represents a share of **21.8% of the total number of 78 candidates** to a PhD title (for details see Appendix 4.2).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.¹ *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

Different to other higher education institutions, the Romanian Academy's SCOSAAR has not initiated an institutional contract for doctoral grants and does not charge school fees for the field of studies in Economics. INCE and its component institutes and centres do not charge fees from the doctoral students that take part in national and international conferences organised or co-organised by them, and offers support to students who seek to apply for mobility scholarships and attendance of scientific events.

Since SCOSAAR operates different from other universities, this criteria will not be considered for evaluation.

Recommendations:

The indicator does not apply

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

Performance Indicator A.2.1.1. *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are*

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

presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.

The scientific research activity conducted in INCE is supported by sufficient financial, logistical and human resources to achieve the aimed objectives. Teaching/training rooms have technical equipment, appropriate to the current state of development of scientific knowledge including learning, teaching and communication, which facilitates teaching and the receptiveness of each student (video projector, computer, projection screen, video conferencing equipment, TV studio, flipchart. INCE has facilities for Internet wireless access, including suitable furniture. The equipment, electronic devices, and software purchased in the past 5 years make it possible for researchers to carry out high scientific standards research (Appendix 4.3.A).

Doctoral students have access to both the information resources and databases managed by the institutes and centres for economic researches under the umbrella of INCE and the Romanian Academy, and to the international databases, via the E-information accounts of the PhD supervisors, with the aid of the Romanian Academy Library (Appendix A.4.3.C)

Starting from March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic that brought along social distancing rules, INCE provided the doctoral school with Zoom subscriptions with unlimited access to 50 stations, so that the students could attend their compulsory and optional courses, the regular meetings with their doctoral supervisory boards, various scientific events, etc. The research infrastructure and the supply of research services are available to the public on the site of the National Institute for Economic Research Costin C. Kirişescu, at link: http://www.ince.ro/Activitati/Studii_doctorale/studii_doctorale.html.

All the evidence related to the above-mentioned infrastructure is attached as information in the annexes of the self-evaluation report as well as on the evidences provided to the coordinator of the external committee members during the site-visit.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

This criterion is devoted to the doctoral thesis advisors and the teaching staff for the doctoral school. It mainly deals with their expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, their expertise on the thesis topics, and their capacities to support this programme.

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

According to this standard, the institution has to ensure sufficient qualified staff supporting the program in teaching and research activities. Their specialization has to be in line with the domain of the programme.

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

According to the last data provided, SCOSAAR, the Department for Economic and Social Sciences, and Law - INCE, for the Economics Section, has on its staff 18 doctoral supervisors, 15 of whom are currently supervising on-going doctoral research.

Out of 18, 9 PhD supervisors (50%) fulfil the minimal standards of the National Council for the Certification of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) currently in force, and which are necessary and mandatory to obtain validation.

The list of doctoral supervisors who fulfil the applicable minimal standards is displayed in Appendix 4.4, with details on each doctoral supervisor as supplied by themselves in their CNATDCU minimal necessary and mandatory standard records, valid at the date hereof, and submitted for evaluation purposes. This indicator is evaluated as a fulfilled one.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.

Out of the total of 18 doctoral supervisors on Economics domain, 17 of them (94.4%) are permanent employees of INCE and its research institutes and centres. A number of 13 PhD supervisors (73.7%) have their base employment contract with INCE and the INCE-affiliated institutes and centres (for more details refer to Appendix 4.5). Accordingly, this indicator as well maintains the required percentage of 50%.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

A doctoral student's individual training programme must consist of minimum 5 subjects, of which 3 are compulsory. The three compulsory courses are:

- Economic Modelling, on a six-month term, coordinated by: Emilian Dobrescu and Lucian Liviu Albu, both of them Members of the Romanian Academy, and Professor Dorin Jula, Doctor in Economics (DEc.);
- Contemporary Economic Theories. Models and policies for sustainable economic development, on a three-month term, coordinated by: Professor Gheorghe Zaman, Dec., and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, and Professor Valentina Vasile, DEc.;
- Academic Ethics and Integrity, on a three-month term, coordinated by Professor Valeriu Ioan Franc, DEc., and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy.

The courses and the exams for the two optional subjects must be adequate to the doctoral student's theme of research, and are organised according to a pattern similar to that of the compulsory courses, with an end-of-course exam and/or research paper (Appendix 4.6).

The supervisors of PhD students are experts in the field, and they show a good track of their academic performance. This is verified from their CVs provided as attachments in the self-evaluation report. The subjects of the Economics programme are taught by PhD professors with proven expertise in the field of the subjects taught. This is verified from their CVs provided as attachments in the self-evaluation report as well.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.4. *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs² does not exceed 20%.*

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

The share of PhD supervisors within the doctoral field of ECONOMICS who simultaneously coordinate more than 8 PhD students, but not more than 12, during their doctoral studies (3 years to which add the extensions granted according to Art. 39 Paragraph (3) of the Code approved by Government Decision No. 681/2011 as subsequently amended and supplemented), does not exceed 20%, being 0% in the academic years 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, and 5% in the academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. One doctoral supervisor has given guidance to 10 doctoral students in the past three academic years, which is under the limit provided by the indicator. The details are found in Appendix 4.7.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Besides the proper academic profile of the doctoral students' supervisors, they have to ensure an international integrity with networking and scientific research output.

Performance Indicator A.3.2.1. *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.*

From the doctoral supervisors of SCOSAAR for Economics, 14 out of 18 (77,7 %) have more than 5 papers indexed in Web of Science impact factor journals (see Appendix 4.8). In the meantime, all PhD supervisors have other relevant achievements - books or book chapters published in international publishing houses, Web of Science indexed papers, papers presented at international scientific conferences. Additionally, all these professors are having international recognition, such as inclusion in the editorial board members or reviewers in the indexed journals and conferences. All the detailed information is found in their CVs provided as attached in the self-evaluation report and in the official website of the academy.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As mentioned above, most of the PhD supervisors are active in the field of scientific research (more than 50%). Regarding the minimal CNATDCU scores, 9 out of 18 (50%) obtained at least 25% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the date of evaluation, necessary and mandatory for the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific results in the past five years. This is verified from the Appendix 4.9 provided on the self-evaluation report.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

This domain is composed of three main pillars, (1) The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest; (2) The content of doctoral programs; and (3) The results of doctoral Studies and procedures for their evaluation. Each of these pillars is supported by standards and criteria to be fulfilled.

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

This criterion is related to the program capacities and attractiveness to enroll a considerable number of students, that present a good quality and demonstrate a good academic, research and professional performance.

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

Through this standard we look at the institutional/program capacities to attract students in order to increase the competitiveness and ensure a good quality by selecting the applicants.

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

According to current regulations, and in compliance with the specifics of their object of activity (fundamental and advanced research), INCE and its affiliated institutes and centres do not organise courses for a master's degree. As such, all candidates for the admission to doctoral studies at SCOSAAR, Department for Economic, Social and Juridical Sciences, Economics Section, are graduates of other, Romanian and/or foreign, higher education institutions. Similarly, the places for admission to doctoral studies at SCOSAAR, Economics Section, are not subsidised from the state budget.

As such, the indicators calculated for this criterion in evaluating SCOSAAR, Economics Section, are only partly relevant with regard to SCOSAAR's capacity to admit candidates from outside the institution or as a share of the places subsidised from the state budget, as long no such subsidies are received.

This criterion is decided to be not relevant for the case of SCOSAAR, and this it will be consider as it does not apply.

Recommendations:

The indicator does not apply

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

This standard is related to the quality of the enrolled doctoral students and their capacities to follow up with the research thesis.

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

The SCOSAAR procedure for admission to doctoral studies, the oral examination consists of two tests:

- a) an interview to assess the level of knowledge of the chosen field of in-depth research, based on the recommended bibliography;
- b) a presentation of the propounded research project and future topic of the doctoral thesis.

The evaluation consists in rating points given by each member of the doctoral examination board,

which are then calculated as the average for each test, and as a whole. Candidates holding a degree in other fields of science than Economics, and candidates who got less than 8.00 (as recorded in their school transcripts) during their academic studies for the subjects they choose to pursue in their doctoral studies, must take an exam in Economics, before the same Doctoral Admission Board, prior to the oral examination for admission to doctoral studies. Such preliminary exam may be written or oral, as decided by the Doctoral Admission Board, and the final rating is passed/failed.

The candidate's file must include a document regarding the topic of the doctoral thesis, illustrating the candidate's abilities to plead for the importance of the theme of choice, in general and for Romania in particular; indicating the main purpose of the project; research methods to be used; limits and the working hypotheses of the research project; anticipated results; innovative elements, practicality of the final results, and potential beneficiaries.

The bibliography for the admission to doctoral studies at SCOSAAR, Economics Section, is more than comprehensive, and permanently updated by the doctoral supervisors of the Department for Economic, Sociological, and Juridical Studies. The list of reference readings for each candidate must include all the relevant titles covering the student's theme of research.

The final rating also takes into consideration the doctoral students' written contributions and/or experience in their research projects. All is made clear and transparent on the website of the doctoral school.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission³ does not exceed 30%.

The dropout rate of PhD students are:

- in the academic year 2015/2016, 4.5% of the doctoral students doing their training dropped out, in 2016/2017 only 2% of the doctoral students abandoned their studies.
- in the academic year 2017/2018, the expulsion rate was 24.3%, and the rate of abandonment was 2.9% of the doctoral students enrolled (a total of 27.2%),
- in the academic year 2018/2019, 17.6% were expelled, and 4.1% abandoned (a total of 21.6%),
- while in 2019/2020, only 6.5% gave up their doctoral studies.

In none of the academic years the dropping out rates do not exceed 30%. This indicator is fully accomplished as well.

³3 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.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

This criterion is devoted to the academic program offered to the students, including scientific research training, in-depth research, scientific methodology applied that supports the doctoral thesis, etc.

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

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

Curriculum for the doctoral field of Economics is composed of three compulsory courses:

Course 1- Economic Modelling, on a six-month term, coordinated by: Emilian Dobrescu and Lucian Liviu Albu, both of them Members of the Romanian Academy, and Professor Dorin Jula, Doctor in Economics (DEc.);

Course 2- Contemporary Economic Theories. Models and policies for sustainable economic development, on a three-month term, coordinated by: Professor Gheorghe Zaman, DEc. and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, and Professor Valentina Vasile, DEc.;

Course 3- Academic Ethics and Integrity, on a three-month term, coordinated by Professor Valeriu Ioan Franc, DEc., and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy.

Doctoral students must cover a one-year term of advanced training in specialised courses, on topics from the state-of-the-art subdivisions of economic sciences. During semesters I and II of Year I, doctoral students must attend compulsory and optional courses, at the end of which they must take exams and submit scientific research papers focused on the scientific theme chosen by each doctoral student.

The courses and the exams for the two optional subjects must be adequate to the doctoral student's theme of research, and are organised according to a pattern similar to that of the compulsory courses, with an end-of-course exam and/or research paper (Appendix 4.6).

Each course requires attendance of an adequate number of lectures and debates (in compliance with the description of each subject of study), submission of a final paper, and the presentation of the research work at national/international scientific events, and/or publication of articles in dedicated journals included in international databases.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The same courses mentioned above are dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, specifically the course “Academic Ethics and Integrity”, on a three-month term, coordinated by Professor Valeriu Ioan Franc, DEc., and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy. Thus, the curricula is in line with the requirements.

This course was first introduced in the academic year 2018/2019, in line with the applicable legislation, a new compulsory subject was included in the doctoral students’ training programme. The course dwells on ethical matters related to and specific for the field of economic research.

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 activities⁴.*

The institution has mechanisms in place to ensure that the training programme are based on advanced studies, related to the field of Economics. This is evident from each syllabus provided as in the self-evaluation report which specifically refer to knowledge, skills, competences acquired by doctoral students after completing the training programme.

⁴Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology of 17 March 2017 regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.

Course syllabuses feature the structure of the courses/seminars and the competences doctoral candidates will acquire upon completion. The chart of each subject describes the elements that create the conditions for the transfer of knowledge and assessment of the level of learning, with details on the knowledge, abilities, responsibility and autonomy doctoral students are supposed to gain after completion of each subject or of the research activities crowned with final papers at the end of studies.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The doctoral training is organized in a way that the students receive regular consulting and guidance through one-to-one meeting with the supervisors and also during the meetings with functional guiding boards. These boards are established together with the PhD supervisor at the moment of the student's enrollment. The involvement of the guiding board in advising PhD students is materialized in feedback, regular meetings, activities complementary to those offered by the PhD supervisor. (see Appendix 4.10.A).

These regular meeting provide support in articles written jointly by PhD students with at least one of the guiding board members, clarifying on the subject of the doctoral thesis between PhD students and members of the guiding boards, feedback provided during scientific seminars, which may be attended by members of the guiding boards.

The doctoral students whose studies are in progress have published 16 articles, together with the members of the advisory board, since the beginning of their doctoral studies (Appendix 4.10.B).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

For the doctoral students pursuing their studies at SCOSAAR, Economics Section, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching/research staff providing mentoring is 1.4:1. Hence, this indicator is fully addressed.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion analysis the procedures to measure the output of the research activities of the PhD students. This is at the same time quantitative and qualitative measure of the output of the scientific work for this domain.

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

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. *For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.*

A minimum of one article or other relevant contribution for each PhD student who obtained their PhD degree in the period 2015-2020 is made available to the evaluation committee for the evaluated field. Appendix 4.11 provides a clear picture of the quality of the papers and the topics, which contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.

In addition to WoS and SCOPUS, the articles can be published in other databases. Among the international databases acknowledged, there are: Repec, EBSCO, CEEOL, EconLit, DOAJ, ProQuest etc. The articles published by the doctoral graduates in the Economics field have been published in journals indexed in at least 3 international databases, journals with a good scientific level, which assure the review with the help of individual reviewers.

Specifically, the 71 doctoral students who graduated from SCOSAAR, Economics Section, in the academic years 2015/2016 – 2019/2020, published over 530 papers in journals indexed in acknowledged international databases, or in other journals, which comes down to an average of 7 published contributions / doctoral graduate, paralleled by an increasing level of quality, reflected in a higher share of articles published in ISI Proceedings, and of contributions published in ISI-indexed journals.

A number of 3 articles were selected for evaluation, as follows, and proved to contain original contributions to the domain of economics:

1. Drăgoi, Andreea-Emanuela, Bâlgăr, Ana-Cristina, „Socio-Economic Drivers of Japan's Development in Post-War Era”, in *Romanian Economic and Business Review (REBE)*, 2015, Vol. 10, No. 4 (Winter 2015), pp. 147-158

2. Bucur Sorinel Ionel "Local Sustainability From the Public Finances' Perspective. Measuring The Effects at Regional Level", în Journal of Financial and Monetary Economics, 2017, vol.4, nr. 1, pag. 51-55
3. Davidescu Nicolae Cătălin, "Preventing and combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Possible improvement solutions", in Review of general management, vol. 28, Issue 2, 2018, pag.102-110

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.3.1.2. *The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

Participation in debates, national and international scientific events during their doctoral training is viewed as an important component in the process of dissemination of the partial or final results of their doctoral research, and for the testing and validating the quality of their work among academics. For the 50 doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the period under evaluation (academic years 2015/2016 – 2019/2020), at SCOSAAR, Economics Section, a number of 228 participations in national and international scientific events has registered, of which 21 were international events held abroad, and over 150 events were international scientific events held in Romania.

The doctoral graduates in the time span 2015 – 2020 had, on the average, 5 participations each in national and international scientific events (Appendix 4.12). Thus, this criterion has been fully fulfilled.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard B.3.2. *The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.*

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.1. *The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.*

As a general rule, the number of doctoral theses assigned to an external reviewer coming from a higher education institution outside SCOSAAR, for the doctoral theses coordinated by the same doctoral

supervisor, in one academic year, is, in 99% of the cases, below 2. Only 2 exceptions are on record, in the academic year 2015/2016, when two doctoral supervisors were assigned more than two doctoral theses each (Appendix 4.13).

Since the regulation changed only 1-2 years ago, we consider this criterion as an exception and thus, considering it as fully met.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The ratio between the number of PhD theses assigned to a specific scientific reviewer from a higher education institution other than IOSUD and the number of PhD theses defended in the doctoral field of Economics is less than 0.3. (refer to Appendix 4.14)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The third domain of this report is devoted to quality management that is related with the institutional procedures and mechanisms to ensure a good quality of the program. This is composed by three main criterions, (1) Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system; (2) Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources; and (3) Internationalization aspect of the institution and programme.

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

This criterion looks for procedures of timely and periodically implementations of the internal quality assurance and how these internal audits impact to the programme enhancement.

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

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

- (a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;*
- (b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;*
- (c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;*
- d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;*
- e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;*
- f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*

The Romanian Academy, through its School of Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR), has an adequate and complex system of internal management of quality. Quality assessment is subject to a pyramid mechanism which involves the Scientific Councils of the institutes and centres that work under INCE's aegis, the specialized Sections of the Romanian Academy, the Presidium of the Romanian Academy (which brings together the members of the Presidium Bureau of the Romanian Academy and all the Sections' chairmen), and the Presidium Bureau of the Romanian Academy (formed of the Romanian Academy President, the four Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General).

Each time the Romanian Academy's annual research programmes are debated for approval, and whenever the researchers' and their institutes' activities are subject to the annual evaluation, a thorough analysis is performed of: the scientific activity of PhD supervisors; infrastructure and logistics required to conduct research work; basic rules and regulations governing doctoral studies; doctoral students' scientific activities; doctoral students' training schedule based on advanced academic studies.

Within SCOSAAR, in the context of the annual self-evaluation of doctoral studies, for each field a self-evaluation report is prepared, which is submitted to the Scientific Council of the Department and subsequently to the SCOSAAR Scientific Council, composed of SCOSAAR President (Vice President of the Romanian Academy), a the directors of the Departments, a scientific secretary and 3 doctoral students representing different fundamental fields.

The conclusions of these debates are materialized in measures proposed to increase the quality of the activity carried out within SCOSAAR as a whole or in part for certain areas.

The results of these evaluations are presented publicly on the website of the Romanian Academy.
https://acad.ro/dari-de-seama/pag_raportari.htm

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.1.1.2. *Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.*

On the Scientific Council of the Department for Economic, Social and Juridical Sciences of SCOSAAR, Economics Section, doctoral students have their representatives. They keep doctoral supervisors, and the members of the Department informed of the doctoral students' proposals for a further improvement of the academic and/or administrative procedures.

Similarly, the quasi-permanent connection between doctoral supervisors, members of the advisory boards, and the research teams in which doctoral researchers conduct their research work makes it possible for them to stay tuned to the student's needs, and to their general level of satisfaction regarding post-academic doctoral studies.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

This criterion involves the transparency of the information and accessibility of learning resources that the institution and the specific program has to follow.

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

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

- (a) the Doctoral School regulation;*
- (b) the admission regulation;*
- (c) the doctoral studies contract;*
- (d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;*
- (e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;*
- (f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;*
- (g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);*
- (h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;*

(i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.

There is a clear transparency of all methodologies and regulations regarding the admission organisation and process. All related information of public interest are available to those interested on http://www.ince.ro/Activitati/Studii_doctorale/studii_doctorale.html, complying with general provisions about data protection. INCE's site referred to above displays, in the section for doctoral studies, information regarding:

- a) Regulation of the doctoral school;
- b) Admission Rules;
- c) Doctoral studies contract;
- d) Regulation regarding completion of studies, including the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis;
- e) Contents of the training schedules based on advanced academic studies;
- f) Academic and scientific profile, thematic domains/ research topics of the doctoral supervisors in the students' area of interest, description of the institutions concerned, and their contact particulars;
- g) List of the doctoral students in the domain, and basic information (year of enrolment, doctoral supervisor);
- h) Information about the standards of a doctoral thesis;
- i) Links to summaries of the doctoral theses to be defended in public session, as well the date, hour, and place where they will be presented, at least 20 days before the event.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Since 2018, when the Romanian Academy initiated the contract with E-nformation with funding under the Anelis Plus 2020 (UEFISCDI) project, regarding the electronic access to science literature required to sustain the research and education system in Romania, the researchers of INCE and its affiliated institutes and centres, and, implicitly, doctoral supervisors, have had access to the international data bases PROQUEST Central, ScienceDirect-Elsevier, Springerlink Journals and Web of Science. Doctoral students have access to topical scientific literatures, relevant for the topics studied with the help of these accounts.

In addition to the above, doctoral students have free access to publications, databases, libraries, etc., made available to them through INCE and its affiliated institutes and centres. As an example, they have free access to the on-line and printed resources of the Romania – OECD Centre for Information and Documentation, Collection INCE Thesaurus, Vol. I – LXXIV, Collection of Expert Publishing House, the Virtual Library, and the periodicals and non-periodicals of the Centre for Economic Information and Documentation, etc. (see Appendix 4.3).

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.*

Subject to a written request submitted by the doctoral student and endorsed by the PhD supervisor, the doctoral student has access, through the agency of SCOSAAR, the doctoral school of the Romanian Academy, to a software designed to assess the degree of similitude of his/her doctoral thesis with other existing scientific creations. When the above conditions are fulfilled, the doctoral student gains access to the software sistemantiplagiat.ro, which measures the degree of similitude of the student's doctoral thesis.

The platform used by SCOSAAR to measure the degree of similitude of doctoral theses was certified under CNATDCU Order 5.229/17 August 2020, regarding the approval of methodologies for certification of authority, granting a doctoral title, and settling disputes on quality standards or professional ethics, including detection of plagiarism in a doctoral thesis. See Appendix 2, Doctoral theses evaluation methodology, Chapter II, Art. 6 (c), item 5.

Recommendations:

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 have access to the laboratories for undertaking research activities, other academic facilities, the research centres or the third-party research infrastructure, according to the specificity of the field(s) included in the doctoral school, and in keeping with the availability of the research infrastructure.

Each doctoral student prepares his/her research papers while integrated in a research team conducting the research theme of his/her choice (Appendix 4.3.D) from INCE's Annual Scientific Research Programme, as approved by the Scientific Council of INCE, the Section for Economic, Juridical and Social Sciences, and the General Assembly of the Romanian Academy.

Participation of doctoral students in the research work conducted as part of the annual research plan of INCE and its affiliated institutes and centres is one of the students' obligations. Each doctoral student must include in his own doctoral file a certificate demonstrating such participation, issued by the institute/centre where the student carries out doctoral research work. This opens doctoral student the access to the research infrastructure with which the economic institutes and centres in INCE's network, and the Romanian Academy are endowed (Appendix 4.3.A).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

This criterion analysis includes the strategies toward the internationalization, the available agreements for mobility, projects, networks and so on.

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

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

Both INCE and the institutes and centres in its subordination have signed agreements/memoranda of cooperation with universities /research institutes and other institutions abroad (Appendix 4.15.B), providing for the parties' joint contributions to the training and development of human resources, calling of international scientific events, coordination in co-tutorship of doctoral students.

Our The institutes have also been involved in Sectoral Operational Programmes on Human Resources Development (POSDRU) and Sectoral Operational Programmes on Human Capital (POCU), which offered support to doctoral students to take part in mobility periods and/or international scientific events. Based on such agreements, or as an effect of the implemented projects, out of the 78 doctoral students with work in progress, 30 of them, i.e. 38.5% of all, have participated in one form or another of international mobility, more exactly: 5 doctoral students were recipients of mobility grants, 2 of them received research grants, and 23 attended international scientific events (Appendix 4.15.A).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

SCOSAAR, Economics Section, with INCE and the institutes and centres under its umbrella, have made considerable effort to compensate the scarcity of financial means and offer doctoral students, each academic year, the opportunity to attend courses/lectures delivered by outstanding scientific personalities. The doctoral students enjoyed free access to international scientific events organised by INCE, and to the courses/lectures delivered by guest scientists invited to Romania (see Appendix 4.16).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.3. *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).*

Currently, both INCE and its institutes and centres have signed cooperation agreements/memoranda of understanding under the ERASMUS+ cooperation projects, for the purpose of making the best of the opportunities afforded by the funding so received, in order to enhance the degree of internationalisation of doctoral studies.

To sum up, the doctoral domain of Economics is showing a good collaboration and having an extend networking with the foreign institutions.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
- Academic staff in this programme has a wide visibility in the international sphere and their track	- The curriculum applied to this programme is appropriate however, it is suggested to add as a compulsory course the course of "Qualitative and

<p>of academic and professional achievements are highly evaluated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of enrolled PhD students, as well as the PhD supervisors in the field of Economics is satisfactory. - The number of enrolled PhD students, as well as the PhD supervisors in the field of Economics is satisfactory. - There is a transparency and clear information available on the websites as well as clear procedures for the ongoing process on this programme. - This program is offering the English version of the official website , that helps in the visibility of this program even beyond Romania. 	<p>Quantitative Research”, which ensures a foundation of research skills and abilities for the students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Doctoral School of Economics at the Romanian Academy’s School of Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR) has to offer the opportunity to PhD students to write their thesis in English language. Additionally, this would serve for a better involvement of co-tutelage as PhD supervision. - There are divergences in funding attraction rate among different research centers, as well as funding distribution among them. Research centers have to draw some concrete strategies in order to find our more opportunities for the research activities and support of PhD student to extend the professional network and being exposed internationally. - The doctoral study program must ensure clear strategies on collecting feedback from doctoral students on their needs and satisfaction with regard to quality of the program. In addition, the institute must draft concrete action plans for the improvement of the program. - The doctoral study program must ensure that the similarity program to be free for checking doctoral thesis and also research papers prepared under the supervision of the professors. - The doctoral study program must be open to innovative topics to be approved as thesis research topic, such as, Artificial Intelligence in related to issues of economy, etc.
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<u>Opportunities:</u>	<u>Threats:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each of Doctoral Schools are supported by respective research centers, which can reinforce further involvement in projects and assist the PhD students with external funding for their research and results dissemination. - Additionally, the program has all the infrastructure capacities to extend collaborations with other universities abroad Romania, that will help in inclusion of international co-tutelage, co-advisership, jury members, and common academic activities. - Due to a good position of Doctoral School of Economics at the Romanian Academy's School of Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR), in the national market of HEIs, and being a university in the European Union, this program can attract more international students and foreign qualified staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The challenges due to high competition among universities, especially with those offering the possibility to prepare thesis in English language. - There are many challenges that staff and students may face while applying for different projects.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1		A.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The doctoral domain in Economics has to ensure specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUO body and the doctoral school, based on the criteria requested from ARACIS.</i>
2		A.1.1.2	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The doctoral school' Regulation has to ensure the inclusion of mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5)</i>

				<i>of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.</i>
3		A.1.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
4		A.1.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
5		A.1.3.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
6	*	A.1.3.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
7	*	A.1.3.3.	<i>The indicator does not apply.</i>	N/A
8	C	A.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
9	C	A.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
10	*	A.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
11		A.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
12	*	A.3.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
13	C	A.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
14	*	A.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
15	*	B.1.1.1	<i>The indicator does not apply.</i>	N/A
16	*	B.1.2.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
17		B.1.2.2	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
18		B.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
19		B.2.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
20		B.2.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
21		B.2.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
22	C	B.2.1.5.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
23	C	B.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
24	*	B.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
25	*	B.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
26	*	B.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
27		C.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
28	*	C.1.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
29	C	C.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
30		C.2.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
31		C.2.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
32		C.2.2.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
33	*	C.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
34		C.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
35		C.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at the Romanian Academy's School of Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR), this external evaluation report is a periodic evaluation for the

maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The **Doctoral School of Economic** has the full legal bases and it is conferred by the Ministry of Education and by the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates.

The Doctoral field of Economics operates under the National Economic Research Institute Costin C. Kirişescu (Institutul Național de Cercetări Economice "Costin C. Kirişescu" – INCE). INCE, the National Institute for Economic Research Costin C. Kirişescu, has a four-decade tradition as organiser of doctoral studies. After having served, at the beginning of its existence, as an established research institute, INCE assumed the guidance of candidates to a doctor's degree in economics, and has now over 450 doctoral students on its record.

The Department for Economic and Social Sciences, and Law - INCE, for the Economics Section, counts 18 doctoral supervisors, 15 of whom are currently supervising on-going doctoral research students. Of all these, 9 PhD supervisors (50%) fulfil the minimal standards of the National Council for the Certification of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) currently in force, and which are necessary and mandatory to obtain validation. 17 out of 18 (94.4%) doctoral supervisors on Economics are permanent employees of INCE and its research institutes and centres. Out of 18, 13 PhD supervisors (77.7%) have their base employment contract with INCE and the INCE-affiliated institutes and centres. During 2015-2020, in total, 50 doctoral students defended their doctoral theses, and 71 students obtained their certificates of completion of doctoral studies.

In the framework of the periodical accreditation, the institution provided us with a detailed Self-evaluation report which included respective information and attached documentation in support each criteria requested by the accreditation agency. Additionally, during this evaluation process, the Experts' Panel had the opportunity to have online meetings with stakeholders and different supportive bodies of the programme. The details of the meeting are attached as in Annex EE.1. Furthermore, the external experts asked for some additional document, timely provided by the programme representatives, which clarified some issues related to the management of the programme.

Out of 35 indicators to be fulfilled, there are 2 indicators that have been identified as partially fulfilled. These indicators are:

- *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, indicating:*
 - **A.1.1.1.** *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUO body and the doctoral school, respectively, considering the past five years as period of reference.*
 - **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.

*As **general recommendations**, we recommend the following:*

- 1. The institution and/or the doctorate programme in the field of Economics has to ensure specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUO body and the doctoral school, based on the criteria requested from ARACIS. The doctoral school' Regulation has to ensure also the inclusion of 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.*
- 2. The curriculum applied to this programme is appropriate however, it is suggested to add as a compulsory course the course of "Qualitative and Quantitative Research", which ensures a foundation of research skills and abilities for the students.*
- 3. The Doctoral School of Economics at the Romanian Academy's School of Advanced Studies (SCOSAAR) is strongly advised to offer the opportunity to PhD students to write their thesis in English language. Additionally, this would serve for a better involvement of co-tutelage as PhD supervision.*
- 4. Research centers have to draw some concrete strategies in order to find our more opportunities for the research activities and support of PhD student to extend the professional network and being exposed internationally.*
- 5. The doctoral study program must ensure clear strategies on collecting feedback from doctoral students on their needs and satisfaction with regard to quality of the program. In addition, the institute must draft concrete action plans for the improvement of the program.*
- 6. The doctoral study program must ensure that the similarity program to be free for checking doctoral thesis and also research papers prepared under the supervision of the professors.*
- 7. The doctoral study program must be open to innovative topics to be approved as thesis research topic, such as, Artificial Intelligence in related to issues of economy, etc.*

Based on the ARACIS guideline, and base on the results and evaluation of the required criteria and standards, the Experts' Panel members are proposing the following decision:



VII. Annexes

The following types of documents are attached:

- The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – **Annex EE.1.**