

The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study History Domain Romanian Academy

Contents

I. Introduction

II. Methods used

III. Analysis of performance indicators

IV. SWOT Analysis

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

I. Introduction

The information provided in the External Evaluation Report of the Doctoral Study Domain of History at Romanian Academy comes from documents and communication with the representatives of the Romanian Academy and the Institutions where the History Doctoral program take place. Among the evaluating institutions there were: „Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Bucharest (IINI); „George Barițiu” Institute of History, Cluj-Napoca (IIGB); „A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History, Iași; Institute of South-East European Studies, Bucharest (ISSEE); „Vasile Pârvan”, Institute of Archeology Bucharest (IAB); Institute of Archeology, Iași (IAI). Doctoral studies in the Romanian Academy exist in the format of the "School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy" (SCOSAAR).

Information for the evaluation was taken from three sources: (1) documents from the ARACIS cloud; (2) websites of the SCOSAAR and History domain institutions; (3) communication with representatives of the Romanian Academy and History domain institutions.

(1) The documents uploaded in the ARACIS cloud offered insightful information about History domain mission and objectives, research infrastructures, PhD candidates and their supervisors' activities, some details of the training program, equipment etc. There were also many annexes with additional information about publications of the PhD candidates and their supervisors, about participation in the international scientific life (conferences, projects, etc.). The big difficulty here is that most of the documents are in Romanian, and information in those documents was not always structured according to the indicators. That caused for the international evaluator some difficulties. However, the main information of the internal evaluation of the doctoral domain was provided in English.

(2) During the evaluating process information that sustains the official documents provided by the Institutions and the Romanian Academy were collected from their official websites. The main website of Romanian Academy has a special webpage of the SCOSAAR, and it gives the opportunity to get a general overview of the SCOSAAR organizational structures, methodologies, regulations, main field schools. On the websites of the History Institutions there were created special web pages of the Doctoral schools, which have almost the same information from the main page of SCOSAAR. It is very positive, that such special web pages exist on the websites of the Institutions, but almost all those pages do not illustrate the 'real life' of the doctoral school – information about conferences, publications, interesting lectures, round-table discussions, seminars and so on is almost absent. I hope that it can be considered as the perspective, because additional information can attract scholars and PhD students from the other countries and led to the improvement of the internationalization. Another issue which is connected with the analysis of the websites is very small amount of information in English or other languages. Of course Google-translate make it possible to understand what this or that information is about, but it is some kind of symbol of some closedness of the Institutions.

(3) ARACIS organized a number of meetings with the representatives of the Romanian Academy and History domain Institutions: the scholars and supervisors of the Doctoral domain, PhD



students, alumni and other stakeholders provided a good insight to me as an external evaluator. Online evaluation activities and visits took place from the 25th of October to the 19th of November 2021.

There were also some other difficulties for external evaluator additionally to language proficiency: probably more time is needed to get acquainted with the norms of Romanian legislature in the field of Education/evaluation process, and information about the domain (from the cloud and websites) before the online meetings if there is the evaluation of few Institutions in the domain.

II. Methods used

For the evaluation of the doctoral study domain of History in the Romanian Academy, the evaluators used three different tools. First, to collect the necessary information for the elaboration of the report, the evaluators met through mostly online visits with schools officials and professors, PhD students and graduates of the History domain institutions. The second tool used consisted in the analysis of the documents provided in the ARACIS cloud (e.g. internal report of the evaluation of the History domain). The third tool consisted in the evaluation of the information provided by the official websites of the SCOSAAR and History domain institutions.

The report mainly focuses on the quality of education in the doctoral domain in History in the Romanian Academy. The report based on the information collected through online meetings with professors, officials and students several recommendations. The recommendations' purpose is to improve the quality of some indicators, even if they are fully accomplished.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

In general, Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy show high level of the institutional capacity to provide education on the third educational level.

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

In general, Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have enough resources to provide administrative, managerial, institutional, financial and other support for the Doctoral school in History.

Standard A.1.1. The institution of the History domain has implemented the functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies, but it seems that it is not widely known among some doctoral supervisors and students.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.

On the level of the Doctoral school of the History Domain, there exist specific regulations, which meet the requirements as of the IOSUD. IOSUD in the Romanian Academy exist in the format of the "School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy" (SCOSAAR) since 2011. The organization of doctoral studies based on the SCOSAAR Regulation, approved by the Presidium and the General Assembly of the Romanian Academy.

Basic information about its functioning is opened – it is available on the official SCOSAAR's website <https://acad.ro/scosaar/scosaar.html> , and basic information is available of the websites of the institutions of the History Domain (for example well structured is information about the regulations on the websites of „Vasile Pârvan”, Institute of Archeology (Bucharest); Institutul de Istorie Nicolae Iorga Bucharest (IINI); „George Barițiu” Institute of History, Cluj-Napoca (IIGB); „A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History, Iași; Institute of South-East European Studies, Bucharest (ISSEE)

There are available texts of the internal regulations of the Doctoral School (SCOSAAR regulations), Code of Ethics and Deontology at SCOSAAR, SCOSAAR methodologies (which includes



Doctoral thesis writing guide; Doctoral thesis defense methodology; Methodology regarding the situations of extension or termination of the quality of doctoral student; Scholarship methodology; Methodology for granting and revoking the quality of doctoral supervisor within SCOSAAR; Mechanisms for recognizing the quality of doctoral supervisor; Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral supervisors; Methodology for analyzing and approving the topics of university study programs; Methodology on co-supervised doctorates; Methodology on the academic mobility of doctoral students; Methodology regarding the change of doctoral supervisors; Methodology regarding the transfer of training results between study programs. There is also available information about the functional management structures, samples of the contract of the doctoral study (with and without scholarship), etc.

However, following discussions with students, graduates and representatives of the evaluated institution, it was not possible to find that regulations and methodologies at SCOSAAR during the evaluated period were really working. It seems that some of representatives of the Doctoral school did not know the content of these regulations / methodologies, and even some of them did not even know of their existence. Probably it can be explained by the fact that most regulations, methodologies were not in force during the evaluation period, they were developed and published during the ARACIS evaluation or very shortly before the start of the external evaluation process.

Recommendations: To inform all the PhD students and doctoral supervisors about the regulations and methodologies within the Doctoral school. It is recommended for History Domain institutions to modernize information on their websites regularly, to make more consumer-friendly sections about doctoral studies with information about the regulations of the doctoral studies, to open the information about the Methodology for conducting elections for the position and structures of the doctoral school; to put information about internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the thematic training program within the topics of the scientific research of the certain institution, etc.

The indicator A.1.1.1. is partially fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.2.

In the Romanian Academy, doctoral studies organized in accordance with the provisions of the Law on national education and the Law on the organization and functioning of the Romanian Academy, with subsequent completions and modifications. The basic documents “Regulations for the organization of doctoral university studies within the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy” (2013) and “SCOSAAR code of professional ethics and deontology” include 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. This includes rights and duties of both students and supervisors, selection of the supervisor, co-tutorship, means for preventing research fraud, including plagiarism etc. It was not possible to identify clear provisions regarding the conditions under which the doctoral program may be interrupted and, at the same time, the ways to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism.

The indicator A.1.1.2. is partially fulfilled.

Standard A.1.2. In general, Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies’ mission. The majority of History Domain institutions have a long history and fantastic experience in doctoral training of PhD Students.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.1.

As it pointed in the Annex 4 from the cloud.aracis.ro from the internal evaluation report within the Doctoral School, the record of doctoral students organized at the level of each Institute through its own computer system, which consists of a database containing all the data regarding doctoral students and their academic career.



List of Doctoral studies students is available on the website of the SCOSAAR (<https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/doctorateAdmitere2021-2022/listaDoctoranzi/09Domeniul-ISTORIE.pdf>), and it is also published on websites of some History Domain institutes (for example „George Barițiu” Institute of History, Cluj-Napoca (IIGB) https://institutuldeistoriegeorgebaritiu.ro/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Lista_doctoranzi.pdf; Institutul de Istorie Nicolae Iorga Bucharest (IINI) <https://www.iini.ro/Doctoranzi.htm>)

The indicator A.1.2.1. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator A.1.2.2.

History Domain institutions used the computer platform sistemantiplagiat.ro which is adequate to verify the percentage of similarity for the doctoral thesis.

This platform matches the requirements of the CNATDCU and Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral theses. History Domain institutions gave examples of the results of the testing dissertation thesis as a proof. Confirmation of the cooperation with Romanian academy can be found also on the website of the Plagiat-Sistem Antiplagiat prin Internet SRL <https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/en/clients/education/>

The indicator A.1.2.2. is fulfilled

Standard A.1.3. The online visits and the presented documents mostly in Romanian have given little chance for an external evaluator to analyze properly the criteria on using financial resources efficiently. But in general it seems that the Institutions of the History Domain try to use optimally the financial resources, and are ready to search for additional funding besides governmental funding.

Performance Indicator A.1.3.1.

Information from the assessed documents from the History Domain indicates that institutions have a number of research grants, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors. According to internal report and the Annex 4.1. cloud.aracis.ro total grants 2016-2020 HISTORY field of doctoral supervisors: 25, of which 10 in progress at the time of submission of the self-assessment file. Titles of the projects, amount of the grants, number of the contract, names of the representatives of the Doctoral school pointed in the Annex 4.1.

Recommendations: to put the information about grants where doctoral thesis advisors are involved and where doctoral students are engaged on the website of institutions of the History Domain, or create a special web page of the SCOSAAR website.

The indicator A.1.3.1. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.2.

Indicator A.1.3.2. does not apply to SCOSAAR because according to information from the History Domain SCOSAAR does not charge tuition fees for PhD students for the field HISTORY. The Romanian Academy grants scholarships (internal scholarships) for study to doctoral students with very good results. There are students who have sources of funding from individuals or legal entities or who are supported by research or institutional development grants, but not too much.

Indicator A.1.3.2. is fulfilled / SCOSAAR does not apply

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.

Indicator A.1.3.3. does not apply to SCOSAAR because according to information from the History Domain Romanian Academy – SCOSAAR has not concluded an institutional contract for doctoral grants and does not collect tuition fees for the HISTORY field.

Indicator A.1.3.3. is fulfilled / SCOSAAR does not apply



Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

In general, Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have optimal research infrastructure for scholar activities in the field of history and archeology.

Standard A.2.1. Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have different level of the research infrastructure, but all of them support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities..

Performance Indicator A.2.1.1.

In general, History Doctoral Domain institutions have research infrastructure and provide research services, which enable the research activities. According to information from the internal evaluation report, Annex 4.3 from the cloud.aracis.ro, and open resources (official websites of History Domain institutions, EERIS system) is clear that the History Domain institutions have enough venues and the material equipment such as computers, specific software, equipment, libraries with specialized literature, access to subscribed international databases etc. which are available to the doctoral school. 5 of 6 institutes of the History domain have spaces for research activities (in the field of history or archeology). On the websites of the institutions of the History Domain, we can find information about the access to the databases – on the mutual platform of the Romanian academy library <https://biblacad.ro/databases.html>. There was unavailable information about Institute of Archeology, Iași (IAI) (both in the report and on the website of this institution <https://www.arheo.ro/> (probably it is under construction).

Recommendations: Recommendations – to use more the advantages of the EERIS system – for presentation of information about all History domain institutions.

To put more information on the official websites of the institutions – to let know to potential doctoral student about possibilities for the successful research activities.

To finish the reconstruction of the website of the Institute of Archeology, Iași (IAI)

Indicator A.2.1.1. is fulfilled

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have high quality of human resourced, and it provides high level of support to the doctoral studies.

Standard A.3.1. At the level of each Institution of the History Domain there is sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.1.

In History domain there are 32 supervisors, 29 of them meet the requirements of the CNATDCU (it is more than minimum (three doctoral advisors), and more than 50%). According to information from the internal evaluation report (English variant), Annex 4.4 and CVs from the cloud.aracis.ro Doctoral supervisors affiliated to the field corresponds to the standards of the National Education Law (2011), Art.166.

The indicator A.3.1.1. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.2.

In History domain there are 32 supervisors, and among them 22 supervisors (as it can be interpreted from the Annex 4.5) have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD, it is around 70% – much more than needed minimum of 50% of all doctoral advisors. This matches the requirements for the doctoral supervisors according to the CNATDCU standards

The indicator A.3.1.2. is fulfilled



Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.

All the disciplines in the doctoral study program of the History Domain are taught by the teaching staff, which completely matches to the requirements of this indicator. According to Annex 4.6 researchers who teach in the doctoral training program have the minimum title of CS II (3 researchers), and there are 13 teachers of the CS I level, and 4 university professors. All doctoral students are supported by the steering committee, whose members are mostly the researchers specialized in the field (this was confirmed during online meeting with doctoral students).

The indicator A.3.1.3. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *A.3.1.4.

According to the Annex 4.7. we can see a certain disproportion of the number of doctoral students per one supervisor. Some have no more than 8 (in general – 23 supervisors of 32 who are named in the table of the Annex 4.7), others have more than 8. It seems that in the Annex 4.7. information is combining data about doctoral students since 2008, so it includes numbers of students about the whole period (for example, Eugen Nicolae according to Annex 4.7. has 13 students, but one of them started Doctoral study in 2010, finished in 2017, 2 other students started in 2013, finished in 2018; and in 2017 and 2018, 2 new students came).

According to the information from the Doctoral Domain SCOSAAR web-page we can see other data: Eugen Nicolae has only 6 students (data is valid on 2021) <https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/doctorateAdmitere2021-2022/listaDoctoranzi/09Domeniul-ISTORIE.pdf>. The same number of students pointed on the web site of the „Vasile Pârvan”, Institute of Archeology (Bucharest) <https://iabvp.ro/documente/>

So if we will take into account the latest data about concomitant coordination of the Doctoral students (from the SCOSAAR web page) – we can find out that all supervisors have no more than 8 students, and it is completely meets the indicator A.3.1.4.

The indicator A.3.1.4. is fulfilled

Standard A.3.2. In the Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy the Doctoral advisors are carrying out a scientific activity visible at international level.

Performance Indicator A.3.2.1.

The scholars of the History Domain have a good record of publications and other achievements of the relevant significance for the Domain. 5 representatives of the doctoral thesis advisors have membership in the boards of international professional associations (Cristian Schuster, Valeriu Sîrbu, Alexander Rubel, Acad. Victor Spinei, Remus Cîmpreanu). 6 representatives of the doctoral thesis advisors (Victor Spinei, Aurel Rustoiu, Lia Chisacof, Valeriu Sîrbu, Adrian Ioniță, Eugen Nicolae) are the members of the the scientific committees of international publications and conferences.

9 representatives of the History Domain doctoral school are present on the international level contributions that reveal a progress in scientific research-development-innovation for the field (Eugen Nicolae, Cristian Schuster, Victor Spinei, Constantin Petolescu, Lia Chisacof, Alexander Rubel, Ioan Chiper, Mioara Anton, Ștefan Andreescu).

20 doctoral supervisors made their international contributions that reveal a progress in scientific research-development-innovation for the field of History.

16 doctoral thesis supervisors have At least 5 representative publications indexed Web of Science or ERIH in journals with impact factor, for each doctoral supervisor (50% of the whole number of supervisors). This completely matches the indicator **A.3.2.1.**

In general – all the achievements show the high level of the scientific activity of the History Domain doctoral school representatives visible at international level.

The indicator A.3.2.1. is fulfilled



Performance Indicator *A.3.2.2.

The scholars of the History Domain are active on both national and international level, and they continue to be active in their scientific field. According to the internal evaluation report 80.64% of the doctoral supervisors assigned to the HISTORY field continue to be scientifically active, obtaining, for the period 2016-2020, at least 25% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the date of evaluation. Details that proposed in Annex 4.9. and in CVs illustrate that parameters of the indicator A.3.2.2. is executed.

Recommendations: please, try to present data according to the requirements – only for the 5 year period (5 last years), as it required by the indicator.

The indicator A.3.2.2. is fulfilled

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have enough resources and experience to provide educational effectiveness.

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

Doctoral studies in the Romanian Academy provide enough quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest, because all then are enrolled out of the academy.

Standard B.1.1. The Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education.

Performance Indicator *B.1.1.1.

According to the regulations and in accordance with the specifics of the main object of activity of the Institutes of the Romanian Academy (fundamental and advanced research), there are no Master studies. That is why all candidates for the competition for admission to doctoral studies within SCOSAAR, come from other higher education institutions in the country and abroad.

The indicator B.1.1.1. is fulfilled.

Standard B.1.2 Candidates admitted to doctoral studies in the History domain of the Romanian Academy demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.

Performance Indicator *B.1.2.1.

The doctoral admission contest takes place within the research institutes of the Romanian Academy, distributed by fields, in the presence of an examination commission. Admission to doctoral university studies is an extensive process of selecting candidates for each vacancy, approved by the Presidium of the Romanian Academy for each doctoral supervisor. The admission commission, within the approved vacancies, makes the selection of candidates for access to doctoral studies.

The admission contest for all doctoral fields within each institute/center of the Romanian Academy, takes place according to the legislation in force

Methodology of organizing and conducting the competition for admission to university doctoral studies is the same for the whole Doctoral schools of the Romanian Academy. <https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/doctorateAdmitere2021-2022/MetodologieAdmitere-Doctorat.pdf> It is published on the majority websites of the History Domain institutions. This Methodology is based on National Education Law (2011), with subsequent amendments and completions; Government Decision № 681/2011 regarding the approval of the Code of doctoral university studies; Law № 288/2004 on the



organization of university studies, with subsequent amendments and completions; Order of the Minister of Education № 6102/15.12.2016, with subsequent amendments and completions, for the approval of the Framework Methodology regarding the organization of admission in the cycles of undergraduate, master's and doctoral studies; Order of the Minister of Education № 3199/2021; Law № 288/2004 on the organization of university studies, with subsequent amendments and completions.

Some of the History Domain institutions adopted their own regulations. For example „Procedure regarding the development of the admission contest for doctoral studies and the evaluation criteria of the candidates, within SCOSAAR, “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archeology” (<https://iabvp.ro/admitere-doctorat-pentru-sesiunea-2021/>). The competition there consists of two tests: a) a specialized oral test; b) an interview in which the scientific concerns and skills of the candidates are analyzed. The evaluation and selection criteria for candidates will not promote any form of direct or indirect discrimination between candidates for doctoral studies. Candidates are assessed in relation to: 1) the level and quality of knowledge in the field; 2) the capacity to highlight the major orientations of the research in the proposed research direction and 3) the capacity to formulate solutions and ways of solving (theoretical and experimental) the identified problems.

Each school is proposing certain topics and bibliographies for the introductory colloquium.

Recommendations: to publish online certain specific selection criteria (not only topics and bibliographies for the introductory colloquium) to make it clear what the candidates for the entrance to the Doctoral studies supposed to demonstrate.

The indicator B.1.2.1. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.1.2.2.

The expelling rate can be calculated from the following data: in the period 2016-2020 there were 198 doctoral students, of whom 13 were expelled and 13 withdrew after 3 years from admission. The expulsion / withdrawal rate is 6.56%, which is less than 30% (as it given in Annex 4.7).

The indicator B.1.2.2. is fulfilled

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

The content of the doctoral programs reflects the specific research field of the Institutions of the History Domain.

Standard B.2.1. The training program in the Institutions of the History Domain 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.

As the majority of the materials of the evaluation procedures are in Romanian language – it is hardly possible to evaluate all the details of the training program. According to the internal evaluation report, where were presented training programs based on the advanced doctoral studies of 5 institutions of the History Domain, 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.

„George Barițiu” Institute of History, Cluj-Napoca: (1) Historical sources. Methods of approach; (2) Interdisciplinarity in history research; (3) Ethics and Academic Integrity.

„Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Bucharest: (1) Historical research methodology; (2) Ethics and Academic Integrity; (3) Interdisciplinary research directions, cultural history, global history and historiography.

„A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History, Iași: (1) Themes, present and historiographical trends in the history of international relations (XIXth century); (2) Bibliographic orientations and fundamental



sources of the modern history of Romania; (3) Methodology of elaborating a doctoral thesis and the ethics of scientific research.

„Vasile Pârvan”, Institute of Archeology Bucharest: (1) Ethics and academic integrity; (2) Interdisciplinary approaches to archaeological / historical research; (3) Recent interdisciplinary techniques and methods in archaeological research.

Institute of South-East European Studies (Bucharest) proposes disciplines specific to the field History, and doctoral courses at the Institute of Archeology (Iași) are not held at all.

The indicator B.2.1.1. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.2.

Within the Doctoral school in History this indicator is fulfilled. 4 of 6 institutions of the History Domain have at least one discipline is directly dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research.

The indicator B.2.1.2. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.

As the focus of the Institutions of the Romanian academy is research, this influences on the specific feature of the indicator of the B.2.1.3.

SCOSAAR proposes for the all Doctoral Domains ‘Methodology for the analysis and approval of the topics doctoral study programs’ (<https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/MetodologiiScosaar/8Metodologie-AnalizaAprobareTematici.pdf>),

The training program based on doctoral university studies is a tool for enriching the knowledge of the doctoral student and that serves him for the development in good conditions of the scientific research program and for the acquisition of specific advanced skills. SCOSAAR offers to doctoral students a training program based on advanced university studies consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study formations, through courses, seminars, laboratories and other such activities. The advanced university training program (60 credits of the ECTS within 2 semesters) ends with the support of the scientific research project, developed by the doctoral student at the beginning of the following year of studies, in order to complete the doctoral thesis. The package of optional subjects is also proposed.

Among the mechanisms provided by the IOSUD is the procedure when the doctoral supervisors and the members of the guidance commission analyze the files of the disciplines proposed in the curricula in order to ensure professional and transversal competences. They can formulate proposals aimed at improving / updating the content of doctoral university study programs.

That is why we can say that the IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure the academic training program.

The indicator B.2.1.3. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.4.

Above mentioned ‘Methodology for the analysis and approval of the topics doctoral study programs’ (<https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/MetodologiiScosaar/8Metodologie-AnalizaAprobareTematici.pdf>) provide that functional guidance commissions have to propose written feedback or regular meetings. Throughout the doctoral training period, doctoral students in the field benefit from the counseling/guidance of such functional guidance commissions, which are very helpful in the scientific activity aimed at acquiring and applying the learning outcomes, as well as the preparation of the Scientific Research Project and the two Research Reports. In the Annex 4.10 there is proposed a list of Guiding commissions of doctoral students in the field of HISTORY (since 2008 till 2020 for 126 students). Students in the conversation on the online meeting confirmed that they receive consultations and feedback regularly, and that have an opportunity to communicate freely with the management of the Doctoral Domain, doctoral thesis supervisor, etc.



Recommendations: probably it is worth to put information for the doctoral students on the website of each Institution – about such a mechanism and to whom they can address if they will need such assistance.

The indicator B.2.1.4. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator B.2.1.5.

According to the data which is indicated on the website of the SCOSAAR (<https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/doctorateAdmitere2021-2022/listaDoctoranzi/09Domeniul-ISTORIE.pdf>) the number of students of the History Domain is 103, and the number of staff providing doctoral guidance is 31 (32) (<https://acad.ro/scosaar/doc2021/doctorateAdmitere2021-2022/conducatoriDoctorat/09Domeniul-ISTORIE.pdf>)

So the ratio is $103:32(31)=3,2(3,3):1$ which is almost within the requirement ‘*must not exceed 3:1*’

Recommendations: try to avoid discrepancy of data about the Doctoral Domain staff and students, because it can cause mistakes in the calculations of the ratio which is required in the evaluation process

The indicator B.2.1.5. is fulfilled

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

In general, Institutions of the History Domain provide conditions for the succesfull resulta of doctoral studies and have transparent procedures for their evaluation.

Standard B.3.1. Doctoral students rise their scholar experience and research skills through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, etc.

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.

The indicator B.3.1.1. can not be truly evaluated by the external evaluator because the majority of publications are on Romanian language.

According to the information from the Annex 4.11 each of the named 74 Doctoral students has an experience of participation in the international conferences and seminars, has scientific publications, examples are given in the mentioned Annex. Mentioned students had obtained the doctoral title which might be a proof that they made a relevant contribution to the filed of History.

Recommendations: to guide the PhD students to more active participation not only in the national, but also in the international forums, round-tables, conferences, so their results of scientific research can be validated on the larger scale. It is also important to initiate mutual publications of the supervisor and the doctoral students in the editions, which are indexed in the international databases.

The indicator B.3.1.1. is fulfilled

Performance Indicator *B.3.1.2.

In the proposed by the Domain institutions Annex 4.12. there is information about 71 Doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (last five years). Totally they performed 151 oral/poster communication presentations, made at prestigious international events (held in the country or abroad in such countries as Austria, Germany, Spain, Italy, the USA, Serbia, Moldova, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Lithuania, Finland, and Great Britain).

These numbers completely fit the requirement of the indicator B.3.1.2. (proportion is about 2:1)

The indicator B.3.1.2. is fulfilled.



Standard B.3.2. The Doctoral School of the History Domain in the Romanian academy engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses.

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.1.

In the Annex 4.13. there was proposed information about the number of doctoral theses assigned to a number of referents coming from a higher education institution, other than the History Domain of the Romanian Academy evaluated. In general all the specialists-evaluator from the other institutions met the requirements. The only exception were 3 thesis supervised by dr. Eugen Nicolae, when Prof. dr. Antal Lukács (Universitatea din București) and dr. Aurel-Daniel Stănică (Institutul de Cercetari Eco-Muzeale Tulcea) were the referents the same year 2019. So only once 2 of 47 external referents had exceed the condition of two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.

The indicator B.3.2.1. is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *B.3.2.2.

The ratio between the number of doctoral theses assigned to a certain scientific referent from a higher education institution than the one in which the doctoral thesis is organized and the number of doctoral theses defended in the same field of doctoral studies within the doctoral school is calculated as average 0,154, and it is according to the requirement not be greater than 0.3

In the Annex 4.14 there are information about the lists of references from another institutions and the number of theses allocated in the period 2016-2020 related to the total number of theses defended in the institutes of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy.

The indicator B.3.2.2. is fulfilled

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

**general description of domain analysis.*

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

In the SCOSAAR there is implemented methodology of the internal quality assurance.

Standard C.1.1. In the Institutes of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy there is an institutional framework and procedures oriented on the development of the relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1.

The procedures of the evaluation and internal quality assurance of its internal quality are carried out in accordance with the procedure developed and applied at IOSUD level in the documents mentioned above: Doctoral thesis writing guide; Doctoral thesis defense methodology; Methodology regarding the situations of extension or termination of the quality of doctoral student; Scholarship methodology; Methodology for granting and revoking the quality of doctoral supervisor within SCOSAAR; Mechanisms for recognizing the quality of doctoral supervisor; Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral supervisors; Methodology for analyzing and approving the topics of university study programs; Methodology on co-supervised doctorates; Methodology on the academic mobility of doctoral students; Methodology regarding the change of doctoral supervisors; Methodology regarding the transfer of training results between study programs.



Additionally to the adopted methodologies the History Domain institutions presented a high level of the scientific work of Doctoral advisors both on national and international levels. The infrastructure and logistics which are proposed by the institutions for their PhD students enable to carry out the research and scientific activity; the procedures and subsequent rules on which doctoral studies are organized are available in the open resources – both on the website of the SCOSAAR, and on the web-sites of the majority of History Domain. During the online meeting with students and graduates from the doctoral studies the audience evaluate social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counseling available, fruitful, comfortable for the doctoral students. However, at SCOSAAR level, the regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized could not be identified.

Recommendations: the procedures of the accreditation of the Doctoral Domain need other approaches: it should be focused on the achievements of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy in the field of research and Doctoral study program, not only research, in accordance with the requirements and indicators of the evaluation.

The indicator C.1.1.1. is partially fulfilled

Performance Indicator *C.1.1.2.

In the List of domains, criteria, standards and performance indicators of the doctoral school there was pointed that the level of satisfaction with the doctoral program of doctoral students was constantly monitored, through the tutorial activity carried out by the doctoral supervisors and through the guidance commissions.

Students as well as graduates from the doctoral school expressed the same point of view by giving examples about positive experience of communication with their thesis supervisors, Institute's staff, and doctoral school management. As the number of students as usual is not very great – such person-to-person communication played its positive role and this form enable feedback from doctoral students allowing identifying 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.

However, it might be developed evaluation methodology to make formalized questionnaires aimed on evaluation of the level of satisfaction with the program by doctoral students. It is positive that representatives of the History Domain expressed in their report the willingness to create an action plan in this field and to make the mechanisms which can more formally and more objectively and independently to receive feed-back.

Recommendations: It is highly recommended to formalize the feed-back procedures about the needs of the Doctoral students. It can be done with the help of the anonymous polls for example via Google-forms

The indicator C.1.1.2. is partially fulfilled

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

The Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy provide transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources.

Standard C.2.1. The Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have websites with the special web-pages of the Doctoral studies with information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest.

Performance Indicator C.2.1.1.

The analysis of the websites of the 6 evaluated institutions of the Romanian Academy History shows that the SCOSAAR website and of the institutes affiliated to the HISTORY field publish on the



necessary information on their web-sites, in compliance with the regulations in force regarding the data protection. There are available such issues as: the Doctoral School regulation; the admission regulation; the sample of doctoral studies contract; the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis, etc. There is also available the content of training program based on advanced academic studies; some elements of the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data. The list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor), information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis; links to the doctoral theses' summaries can be found on the SCOSAAR website. All Institutes have their own web-site:

„Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History (Bucharest) <https://www.iini.ro/SCOSAAR.htm>

„George Barițiu” Institute of History (Cluj-Napoca) <https://institutuldeistoriegeorgebaritiu.ro/>

„Vasile Pârvan”, Institute of Archeology (Bucharest) has a new web-site which is difficult to find <https://iabvp.ro/> (the site <http://www.instarhparvan.ro/> is not working)

„A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History (Iași) <http://adxenopol.academiaromana-is.ro/>

Institute of South-East European Studies (Bucharest) <https://en.acadsudest.ro/>

Institute of Archeology (Iași) <https://www.arheo.ro/> It seems that web-site is under construction – because the majority of links are empty.

Most of the methodologies and regulations were published on the website in October 2021. It can be stated that these methodologies and regulations were not transposed at the level of students and doctoral coordinators during the entire evaluated period. It is unknown when the methodologies and regulations themselves were adopted and how long they operate.

Recommendations: to improve the web-sites and to make them more friendly for the consumers; to find opportunity to publish basic information about PhD program and about the Institute in English: probably to use more actively social media

The indicator C.2.1.1. is partially fulfilled

Standard C.2.2. The Doctoral School of the History Domain in the Institutions of the Romanian Academy with cooperation with other establishments provide 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. It is ANELIS PLUS (the Association of Universities, Research and Development Institutes and Central University Libraries of Romania), which supports the scientific community in Romania through the project "National Electronic Access to the Scientific Literature for Supporting the Research and Education System in Romania – ANELIS PLUS 2020"

Access to databases through the ANELIS PLUS project, as well as through the University Libraries to the research platforms relevant for the historical sciences: JSTOR, EBSCO, Scopus, Wiley Online Library, Cambridge Journals, etc.

But, during the discussions it was mentioned that students have access to this base only in the library, they do not have remote access. Moreover, students do not have institutional e-mail addresses, with the help of which they can log in to access the databases.

Recommendations: to generate institutional addresses for doctoral students and doctoral coordinators. To consider the possibility to create a common platform to ensure students an exchange of information and materials

The indicator C.2.2.1. is partially fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.2.2.2.

The Romanian Academy has a contract with Plagiat-Sistem Antiplagiat prin Internet SRL



(Confirmation of the cooperation with Romanian academy – on the website of the Plagiat-Sistem Antiplagiat prin Internet SRL <https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/en/clients/education>)

Based on a request made by the doctoral student and approved by the doctoral supervisor, the doctoral student has access, through SCOSAAR-Romanian Academy to an appropriate computer program to verify the percentage of similarity for the doctoral thesis. To meet this condition, based on a request of doctoral student and approved by the doctoral supervisor, the doctoral student has access, through SCOSAAR-Romanian Academy to the computer platform sistemantiplagiat.ro, adequate for verifying the similarity percentage for the doctoral thesis. The evaluation commission received approval that this practice is on the common base for every PhD student.

But, it was observed that the similarity verification system was contracted in 2020. Thus, its applicability cannot be stated for the entire evaluated period. And during the communication with students they say that they have access for a fee to the SCOSAAR similarity verification system for verifying the thesis.

The indicator C.2.2.2. is partially 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. This was proved by students during online meeting with the members of the evaluating committee

The indicator C.2.2.3. is fulfilled

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

The Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy provides internationalization in the field of research and doctoral study.

Standard C.3.1. The Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have fruitful cooperation with international colleagues and is developing a strategy to enhance the further internationalization of doctoral studies.

Performance Indicator *C.3.1.1.

All Institutes have international contacts with colleagues from Europe and other regions of the world. Scholars from the Institutes are involved to the international projects. But PhD students' participation is not at the level which is required by the evaluation. There are mobility agreements with research institutes abroad, which facilitate the access of doctoral students to archives, libraries, archaeological laboratories, databases, etc. Doctoral students are recommended by doctoral supervisors, prestigious professors and researchers from institutes and research centers abroad on who visits them, to receive specialized guidance, guidance in archival funds, etc. This is the dimension for the further prospective development for the Doctoral domain.

Recommendations: to look for the possibilities of involving Doctoral students to the international project especially if they are scheduling academic mobility

The indicator C.3.1.1. is partially fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2.

Within the field of the evaluated study it is supported, including financially, the invitation of a first-rate expert to hold courses / lectures for doctoral students. There were invited: Prof. Clive Bonsall, University of Edinburgh (June-July 2016-2019); Prof. Svend Hansen, Institutul de Arheologie German (July-August 2016-2019); Dr. Laurent Carrozza, CNRS, UMR5140, Lattes-Montpellier (2018); Dr. Adam Rabinowitz, University of Texas (August 2017, August 2018); Dr. Stefan Alexandrov, Institutul de Arheologie cu Muzeu, Sofia (March 2018). So, within the field of the evaluated study the



organization of guest lecturers to teach within the doctorate take place. And it is one of the perspectives for the further development. However, it is not enough for 6 Institutions during the evaluated period 2016-2020.

Recommendations: try to improve this dimension of the Doctoral study programs. In pandemic times good option is invitation lecturers in the format of online lectures.

The indicator C.3.1.2. is partially fulfilled

Performance Indicator C.3.1.3.

In pandemic times all these forms of activities slowed down, but according to the information with the representatives of the Domain Institutes and centers within a HISTORY profile systematically take steps in this direction. The Institutions now are searching for the financial resources necessary for the implementation of such activities, in doctoral studies

The indicator C.3.1.3. is partially fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - traditions of the academia and long research experience of the institutions; - existing academic and international contacts which can be the basis for the development of fruitful cooperation on the level of the Doctoral school; - perfect infrastructure for the research needs of both young and experienced researchers; - intensive communication on the level School – Students, Students – Supervisor; - developed methodology which serves for the Doctoral school 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developed methodology is not clear for the majority of the academic staff who are involved to the Doctoral school - small amount of the involvement of the Doctoral students to the international cooperation; - some institutions have to modernize their web-sites; - no balance between study-research, less attention to the Doctoral school issues.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to use EU proposals in the education sphere for multinational projects in teaching and research; - to apply for foreign grants with the team of doctoral students (USA, Canada, Australia, certain European countries etc.); - to increase usage of English or other languages in the web-space of the Domain – to make it more attractable for the international environment; - to increase usage of English or other languages in teaching to make it more opened for the potential of international cooperation (at first- it can be some small tasks, later on – discussion in the group, after – writing an application for the grant or research article); - to initiate mutual research and study projects with universities (they have more developed teaching activities, Institutions of the Romanian Academy – more developed research experience) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - low financing for the active strategic development of the Doctoral Domain; - inopportune economic environment for the humanitarian studies (as a world negative trend); - limitation of usage on the websites mostly Romanian language (it can led to avoid to be opened for the international students and scientists)

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	A.1.1.1.	The indicator A.1.1.1. is partially fulfilled.	To inform all the PhD students and doctoral supervisors about the regulations and methodologies within the Doctoral school. It is recommended for History Domain institutions to modernize information on their websites regularly, to make more consumer-friendly sections about doctoral studies with information about the regulations of the doctoral studies, to open the information about the Methodology for conducting elections for the position and structures of the doctoral school; to put information about internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the thematic training program within the topics of the scientific research of the certain institution, etc.
2.	PI	A.1.1.2.	The indicator A.1.1.2. is partially fulfilled.	
3.	PI	A.1.2.1..	The indicator A.1.2.1. is fulfilled	
4.	PI	A.1.2.2.	The indicator A.1.2.2. is fulfilled	
5.	IP	A.1.3.1.	The indicator A.1.3.1. is fulfilled	To put the information about grants where doctoral thesis advisors are involved and where doctoral students are engaged on the website of institutions of the History Domain, or create a special web-page of the SCOSAAR website.
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2.	Indicator A.1.3.2. is fulfilled / SCOSAAR does not apply	
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3.	Indicator A.1.3.3. is fulfilled / SCOSAAR does not apply	
8.	CPI	A.2.1.1.	Indicator A.2.1.1. is fulfilled	To use more advantages of the EERIS system – for presentation of information about all History domain institutions. To put more information on the official websites of the institutions – to let know to potential doctoral student about possibilities for the successful research activities. To finish the reconstruction of the website of the Institute of Archeology, Iași (IAI)

No.	Type of indicator	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
9.	CPI	A.3.1.1..	The indicator A.3.1.1. is fulfilled	
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2..	The indicator A.3.1.2. is fulfilled	
11.	PI	A.3.1.3.	The indicator A.3.1.3. is fulfilled	
12.	PI *	A.3.1.4.	The indicator A.3.1.4. is fulfilled	
13.	CPI	A.3.2.1..	The indicator A.3.2.1. is fulfilled	
14.	PI *	A.3.2.2.	The indicator A.3.2.2. is fulfilled	Please try to present data about the achievements of the doctoral supervisors and about students according to the requirements – only for the 5 year period (5 last years), as it required by the indicator.
15.	PI *	B.1.1.1.	The indicator B.1.1.1. is fulfilled	
16.	PI *	B.1.2.1..	The indicator B.1.2.1. is fulfilled	To publish online certain specific selection criteria (not only topics and bibliographies for the introductory colloquium) to make it clear what features/knowledge/skills the candidates for the entrance to the Doctoral studies supposed to demonstrate.
17.	PI	B.1.2.2.	The indicator B.1.2.2. is fulfilled	
18.	PI	B.2.1.1.	The indicator B.2.1.1. is fulfilled	
19.	PI	B.2.1.2.	The indicator B.2.1.2. is fulfilled	
20.	PI	B.2.1.3.	The indicator B.2.1.3. is fulfilled	
21.	PI	B.2.1.4.	The indicator B.2.1.4. is fulfilled	Probably it is worth to put information for the doctoral students on the website of each Institution – about such a mechanism and to whom they can address if they will need such assistance.
22.	CPI	B.2.1.5.	The indicator B.2.1.5. is fulfilled	Try to avoid discrepancy of data about the Doctoral Domain staff and students, because it can cause mistakes in the calculations of the ratio which is required in the evaluation process
23.	CPI	B.3.1.1.	The indicator B.3.1.1. is fulfilled	To guide the PhD students to more active participation not only in the national, but also in the international forums, round-tables, conferences, so their results of scientific research can be validated on the larger scale. It is also important to initiate mutual publications of the supervisor and the doctoral students in the editions, which are indexed in

No.	Type of indicator	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				the international databases.
24.	PI *	B.3.1.2.	The indicator B.3.1.2. is fulfilled.	.
25.	PI *	B.3.2.1.	The indicator B.3.2.1. is fulfilled.	
26.	PI *	B.3.2.2.	The indicator B.3.2.2. is fulfilled	.
27.	PI	C.1.1.1.	The indicator C.1.1.1. is partially fulfilled	The procedures of the accreditation of the Doctoral Domain need other approaches: it should be focused on the achievements of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy in the field of research and Doctoral study program, not only research, in accordance with the requirements and indicators of the evaluation
28.	PI *	C.1.1.2.	The indicator C.1.1.2. is partially fulfilled	It is highly recommended to formalize the feed-back procedures about the needs of the Doctoral students. It can be done with the help of the anonymous polls for example via Google-forms
29.	CPI	C.2.1.1.	The indicator C.2.1.1. is partially fulfilled	To improve the web-sites and to make them more friendly for the consumers; to find opportunity to publish basic information about PhD program and about the Institute in English: probably to use more actively social media
30.	PI	C.2.2.1..	The indicator C.2.2.1. is partially fulfilled	To generate institutional addresses for doctoral students and doctoral coordinators. To consider the possibility to create a common platform to ensure students an exchange of information and materials
31.	PI	C.2.2.2.	The indicator C.2.2.2. is partially fulfilled	
32.	PI	C.2.2.3.	The indicator C.2.2.3. is fulfilled	
33.	PI *	C.3.1.1.	The indicator C.3.1.1. is partially fulfilled	To look for the possibilities of involving Doctoral students to the international project especially if they are scheduling academic mobility
34.	PI	C.3.1.2.	The indicator C.3.1.2. is partially fulfilled	Try to improve this dimension of the Doctoral study programs. In pandemic times good option is invitation lecturers in the format of online lectures.
35.	PI	C.3.1.3.	The indicator C.3.1.3. is partially fulfilled	



VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Institutions of the History Domain of the Romanian Academy have well-established academic structures, which provide conditions for the functioning of the Doctoral studies. Academic staff, institutional capacity, methodology for the different phases of the doctoral study makes it possible to do a research, to participate in scholar life and to defend thesis. Traditions of the academia and long research experience of the institutions form a good basis for the young scholars.

But there are some issues which supposed to be revised.

- Significant progress should be made in the involvement of PhD students to the different forms of activity (participation in international grants and/or mutual research with doctoral supervisors; participation in the election processes to the structures which are providing the Doctoral Studies on the level of Romanian Academy, on the level of the History Domain and on the level of the own Institute).

- In the epoch of globalization and informatization presence in the internet became a necessary condition. Thus more user-friendly structure of information about Doctoral schools on the web-pages of the Institutions of the History Domain is needed.

- The SCOSAAR developed all needed methodology for the Doctoral schools, and it might be helpful in quality assurance in the field. For further progress of the Doctoral schools and adequate evaluations of their activity it is worth to made regular self-analysis of the activities of both students and supervisors, staff and management according of the indicators and criteria of the evaluation procedures – to find out own weak places and to work on them.

Almost all indicators are considered to be fulfilled. Quality assurance on the level of the Doctoral schools in the History Domain of the Romanian Academy can be improved by the elimination of problematic issues.

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