



External Evaluation Report (REE) for the procedure for obtaining an accreditation* (AC) of a Doctoral Study Domain

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| Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization: | "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad |
| Doctoral School: | Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies |
| Doctoral Domain: | Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development |
| The objective of the external evaluation: | Accreditation* (AC) |

Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

| No. | Last Name and First Name | Team role | Signature |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Prof. univ dr Tibeiu IANCU | Expert Evaluator | |
| 2. | Prof. univ. dr Judit OLAH | International Expert | |
| 3. | Stud. Claudia DRAGOMIR | PhD Student Evaluator | |

I. Introduction

The External Evaluation Report for the accreditation of the doctoral field *Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development* within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School – UAV Arad was drafted on the occasion of the evaluation visit conducted by the ARACIS Committee during 14–15 October 2025.

Composition of the expert evaluation panel:

- **Professor Dr. Tiberiu IANCU** – USV “Regele Mihai I” Timișoara
- **Professor Dr. Judit OLAH** – University of Debrecen, Hungary
- **PhD Student Claudia DRAGOMIR** – USAMV Bucharest

“Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad (UAV) acquired legal personality through the Decision of the Government of Romania no. 567/18 May 1990 (initially under the name Institute of Higher Education) and has been operating under its current name since 4 October 1991, based on the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science no. 4894/22 March 1991 (<https://www.uav.ro/universitate/legislatie/documente-%C3%AEnfiin%C5%A3are-uav>).

The functioning of “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad is grounded in the University Charter, alongside regulations, methodologies and procedures approved by the University Senate, assuming a dual mission: the development of competences through education and the advancement of knowledge through research. This mission is detailed in the University Charter (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/RegulamenteMetodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Carte-coduri-contracte/Carta-UAV-cu-noul-cod-fs-cuaviz.pdf>).

In 2008, “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad was accredited as an Institution Organising Doctoral Studies (IOSUD), through Order of the Minister of Education, Research and Youth no. 4969/31.07.2008, for the doctoral field of Philology, with the Rector serving as the legal representative of IOSUD–UAV.

Within IOSUD–UAV, the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (IDS) operates with five doctoral fields: Philology, Theology (Orthodox Theology and Evangelical Theology), Environmental Engineering, Management, and Social Work.

In the academic year 2024–2025, the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School comprised **24 doctoral supervisors** (17 full members and 7 associates), guiding **82 doctoral students** (24 state-funded and 58 fee-paying).

Over the past three academic years, **56 doctoral theses** have been publicly defended, followed by the issuance of ministerial orders.

In 2021, ARACIS conducted the external evaluation of the doctoral fields within IOSUD–UAV. Following the visit held between 13–18 September 2021 (<https://www.aracis.ro/wpcontent/uploads/2022/02/Hotararea-Consiliului-ARACIS-nr.-119-din-16.12.2021.pdf>), the ARACIS Council Decision no. 119/16.12.2021 granted the qualification “**maintenance of accreditation**”. In 2024, progress reports were submitted for the three fields evaluated in 2021, and all received the qualification “**maintenance of accreditation**”.

The establishment of a new doctoral field within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School—*Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development*—aims to diversify the academic offer and generate a positive impact on local and regional economic and cultural development. It also contributes directly to increasing the prestige of UAV, strengthening its integration within the national and European academic and research community, enhancing cross-border cooperation, and promoting quality education aligned with global standards, in accordance with the objectives of the **Internationalisation Strategy of “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad** (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Rapoarte-planuri-strategii/Strategii/Strategia-de-Internationalizare-UAV-2024-2029.pdf>) for the 2024–2029 mandate, developed on the basis of the Rector’s managerial plan.

The mission of this doctoral field is to ensure the scientific training of doctoral students in line with developments in the economic environment, particularly the agricultural sector, as well as the tertiary sector through tourism, agrotourism, agribusiness services, sustainable rural development and social systems. At the same time, it aims to cultivate complex interdisciplinary research skills by promoting best practices in food security policies, managerial approaches and communication within the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.

II. Methods used

For the purpose of drafting the external evaluation report of the doctoral field *Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development* within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, a series of activities were undertaken, as follows:

- **Analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report** of the assessed doctoral field and its annexes;
- **Analysis of documents, data and information** available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School website;
- **On-site visit to institutional facilities**, including:
 - Lecture halls: **M27, A1, A2**
 - **M130** – Lecture and Seminar Room for Management and Marketing
 - **Laboratories:**
 - **L12** – Chromatography Laboratory
 - **L13** – Thermal Analysis Laboratory
 - **L14** – Microscopy Laboratory
 - **L23** – Natural Products Laboratory
 - **L24** – Microbiology Laboratory
 - **L26** – Natural Sciences Laboratory
 - **L31** – Statistics and Mathematical Modelling Laboratory
 - **L103 and M104** – Computer Science Laboratories
 - **M125** – Laboratory of Physics, Colloidal Chemistry, Biocatalysis and Enzymology for the Food Industry
 - **BioEcoES** – Research Centre for Sustainable Bio-Eco-Economics
 - **Research Centre for Rural Development**
- **Meetings were held with:**
 - Academic staff involved in the doctoral field
 - Representatives of the organisational structure of the Doctoral School
 - CEAC representatives at the level of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School
 - CEAC representatives at university level
 - Representatives of the Department for Quality Assurance and Improvement
 - The University Ethics Committee
 - Directors/Coordinators of research centres and laboratories
 - Representatives of potential employers

III. Judgement on the extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

Criterion A.1. Managerial and administrative structures and processes involving students and other stakeholders

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.

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| Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1 | For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

According to the organisational Chart of “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Conducere/organigrame/ORGANIGRAMA-UAV-HS-Nr.-16-din-28-ianuarie-2025-1.pdf>), there are functional governing structures that manage the activities related to the doctoral field. The coordination of activities is ensured by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), which operates in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and the internal regulations approved by the UAV Senate. CSUD convenes on a regular basis. All relevant regulations, operational procedures, forms, and other documents related to the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School are available on the institution’s website ([Școala Doctorală Interdisciplinară - UAV](#)).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

IOSUD – “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, in order to ensure the proper functioning of the doctoral study programme in Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development (IMADR), has a clearly defined organisational structure and an adequate management system, both supported by internal regulations that comply with national legislation.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.

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| Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1 | The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

In accordance with the UAV University Charter (<https://www.uav.ro/universitate/prezentare/carta-uav>) and the Regulation on the Organisation and Functioning of the Consultative Council, the consultation process concerning all procedures, regulations and methodologies is carried out systematically and transparently during their drafting, adoption and revision, both within the academic community and at the level of the Consultative Council, which includes representatives of the socio-economic environment.

(<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Regulamente/Regulament-de-organizare-%C8%99i-func%C8%9Bionare-al-Cosiliului->

* The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter “organisational components”

[Consultativ-al-Universit%C4%83%C8%9Bii-%E2%80%9EAurel-Vlaicu%E2%80%9D-din-Arad.pdf](#)).

Furthermore, all these aspects are stipulated in the System Procedure on the drafting and codification of procedures, documents and other internal institutional records of UAV (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Proceduri-de-sistem/PS-01.pdf>), a procedure currently under revision.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

UAV Arad, through its internal mechanisms, actively involves stakeholders in the process of drafting, adopting and revising regulations, methodologies and implementation procedures, thereby ensuring a participatory approach in institutional decision-making.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion A.2. The material resources and optimisation of the use of the material resources

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study programme/domain.

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| Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1 | The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The educational activities of the study programmes within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School are carried out in teaching facilities owned by UAV, such as lecture halls, amphitheatres, seminar rooms and laboratories, all adequately equipped with computer technology and multimedia systems (video projectors, overhead projectors, projection screens, smart boards, etc.). Research activities are conducted in appropriately equipped laboratories ([Bioecoos](#)). Furthermore, at the level of UAV, there operate three research institutes, one technological incubator, and fourteen research centres within the faculties. These structures support advanced scientific research activities and the training of human resources in the field of research ([Institute și centre de cercetare - UAV](#)), including for the IMADR field, <https://fiatpm.uav.ro/academic/cercetare>.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

UAV holds a significant material patrimony consisting of buildings dedicated to education and research, additional fixed assets (including laboratory equipment, IT infrastructure, etc.), as well as inventory items, in order to ensure students' access to a high-quality educational and research process, in accordance with the objectives set out in the university training plans.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources

The organisational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study programme/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.

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| Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1 | The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The conditions under which the study programmes of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School at UAV are carried out comply with current standards, both in terms of teaching and learning activities and advanced research. The existing facilities are continuously renovated, including lecture halls, laboratories, and student-dedicated spaces such as student dormitories and the university cafeteria, reflecting a constant institutional concern for updating and modernising all available infrastructure. UAV continually adapts its material resources to the requirements of digital education and student-centred learning by investing in equipment and e-learning platforms, in accordance with university policies and existing digitalisation strategies

(<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Rapoarte-planuri-strategii/Stategii/Strategia-digitala.pdf>).

The university's research centres are equipped with the necessary facilities for their respective scientific areas (including [Bioecoos](#)), thus ensuring optimal conditions for conducting advanced research activities in the IMADR field.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The management of UAV aims to ensure optimal conditions for the development of both teaching and research activities, by providing an appropriate material base and suitable equipment. There is a constant institutional concern for expanding the existing infrastructure, as well as for its maintenance, modernisation and continuous upgrading, in accordance with the standards in force at the university.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion A.3. Adequate human resources and transparent staff recruiting procedures developed according to the law

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources

The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.

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| Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1 | The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The doctoral supervisors for the IMADR field are affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (SDI) of UAV and meet the CNATDCU standards, with their research interests and professional prestige being fully demonstrated (<https://fiatpm.uav.ro/cadre-didactice/departament>). Within the SDI of UAV, for the academic year 2025–2026, there are 28 doctoral supervisors, each coordinating a number of doctoral students not exceeding eight per supervisor. The analysis of their research interests and professional standing demonstrates that each of the three doctoral supervisors excels through publications in prestigious journals, national and international awards, and recognised academic achievements. Their reputation is further supported by participation in scientific committees of various professional associations abroad and by the involvement of some of them as expert evaluators, reviewers, and vice-chairs within the Executive Research Agency of the European Commission for the Horizon 2020 programme.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

For the newly established IMADR doctoral field, there are three doctoral supervisors affiliated with the SDI of UAV, all of whom meet the CNATDCU standards in force. Among them, two are habilitated full professors at UAV, while the third is a habilitated full professor at the University of Oradea, affiliated with the SDI of UAV.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures

Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.

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| Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1 | Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

Competitions for occupying academic positions are organized in accordance with the following principles: **transparency** – all vacancies are published on the university's official website, as well as in printed media where applicable; **open competition** – any candidate who meets the legal requirements may apply; **equal opportunities and non-discrimination** – the selection process is conducted objectively, based on professional competence and merit; **publication of results** – the scores and decisions of the

selection committees are made public and may be appealed in accordance with internal procedures.

(<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Metodologii/Metodologia-proprie-de-concurs-pentru-ocuparea-posturilor-didactice-%C5%9Fi-de-cercetare-vacante-pe-perioada%C4%83-nedeterminat%C4%83-%C3%AEn-Universitatea-%E2%80%9EAurel-Vlaicu%E2%80%9D-din-Arad.pdf>)

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

UAV, through its internal mechanisms, ensures and regulates the recruitment procedures for academic staff in full compliance with the legal provisions in force, guaranteeing a transparent environment both for the promotion of existing staff and for competitions organized to fill vacant teaching or research positions.

✓ Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation

The digital transformation process in the organisational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.

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| Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1 | The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education. |
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (SDI) of UAV has access to the entire IT infrastructure of the university, including the Integrated Academic Management Platform (Smart University Management System – SUMS) and Sistemantiplagiat.ro, used to verify the similarity index of doctoral theses in accordance with SDI internal methodologies (https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Regulamente/R-75-ed-II-rev1_0001.pdf). IOSUD–UAV benefits from all necessary IT tools to enhance access to services and to provide high-quality support to its academic community, as well as to the indirect beneficiaries of its educational activities.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

The digital transformation process at the level of the organisational component aims to streamline administrative procedures and enhance the quality of services provided to members of its own community, as well as to external stakeholders. Within UAV, licensed software applications are available, including both basic software (operating systems, antivirus programmes) and specialised software tailored to specific research fields. The SDI of UAV makes full use of the existing digital infrastructure.

✓ Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programme/s*

The study programme is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.

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| Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1 | The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The IMADR doctoral study programme has a duration of four years and consists of two components: the doctoral student's advanced academic training programme and the individual research programme carried out under the supervision of the scientific coordinator. In accordance with current legal provisions and specific regulations, the doctoral programme requires, in the first year, during the first semester, the completion of an advanced academic training module. This includes the courses Scientific Research Methodology and Ethics and Academic Integrity . <https://www.uav.ro/scoala-doctorala-interdisciplinara/planuri-de-%C3%AEenv%C4%83%C8%9B%C4%83m%C3%A2nt>

In addition, the curriculum comprises courses such as Modern Strategies and Techniques of Communication and Marketing in the IMADR Field, along with two packages of compulsory optional disciplines, from which each doctoral student must select one course. The first package includes: Sustainable Development of Rural Areas and Food Security Policies and Strategies, while the second package includes: Management of Research and Development Projects Funded through Grants and Food Insecurity.

This newly structured doctoral programme enables future graduates to acquire advanced competences in scientific research and innovation in the IMADR field, as well as enhanced entrepreneurial, managerial and communication skills tailored to the agricultural sector and agribusiness, in accordance with current professional requirements.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The new IMADR doctoral field within the SDI at UAV is based on a study programme designed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes and organised within a transferable credit system. The curriculum enables doctoral students to benefit from advanced academic training, the promotion of excellence in research, increased international visibility and recognition, as well as the development of a participatory, transparent, and efficient management culture.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

* The term "programmes" concerns the external quality evaluation for the study programmes contained in a master/doctoral domain. The term "programme" shall be used hereinafter.

Criterion B.2. Alignment of the curriculum with the qualification

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competences

In the curriculum design and development process, the organisational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.

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| Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2 | The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO). |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of UAV coherently and systematically integrates the principles of student-centred learning, both within the curriculum structure and through the teaching methodologies employed. The curriculum is designed in alignment with the expected learning outcomes, expressed as competencies in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (CNC), thereby ensuring an educational process oriented towards authentic professional development for doctoral students. The adopted teaching methods, the use of digital resources, and personalised feedback actively promote the engagement and accountability of doctoral candidates. At the same time, the organisational framework of the doctoral school provides adaptability and flexibility in addressing the individual needs of doctoral students through tutoring, counselling, and advisory activities, as well as by encouraging participation in extracurricular and research activities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The IMADR doctoral field is designed in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (CNC), the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS), the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), and the descriptors provided by the ESCO portal, as well as with the specific standards applicable to the doctoral field.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.3. Student-centred learning, teaching and evaluation

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles

The organisational component implements the principles of student-centred learning.

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| Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1 | The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The organisational component is designed to support student-centred learning through a flexible curriculum tailored to the research interests of doctoral candidates, personalised tutoring activities, active involvement in research projects and interdisciplinary partnerships, as well as continuous formative assessments and access to modern resources that facilitate their professional and academic development. <https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Regulamente/R-63-ROF-Studii-universitare-ed-III.pdf>

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The SDI of UAV actively promotes the principles of student-centred learning, in accordance with the recommendations of the European Higher Education Area and the provisions of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

✓ **Recommendations:**

1. The development of a guideline on the use of artificial intelligence tools in academic processes.
2. Implementation of an internal digital platform for collaboration among doctoral students (forums, thematic groups, resource databases, and projects), which would promote informal and peer learning.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.4. Accessibility and efficiency of the resources and support services, adequate for learning

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services

The organisational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.

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| Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1 | The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme. |
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

IOSUD–UAV guarantees access for all doctoral students, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, to educational resources and support services tailored to individual requirements specific to the field and cycle of study. Access to these resources and services is ensured through an integrated approach that combines physical, digital, and psycho-pedagogical support. By means of accessible infrastructure, technological assistance, personalised counselling, and the adaptation of teaching materials, the programme aims to create an inclusive environment for every doctoral student, regardless of individual circumstances.

<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Regulamente/Regulamentul-de-organizare-%C8%99i-func%C8%9Bionare-104-%C8%98DI.pdf>

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

The organisational component is designed to ensure equitable access to educational resources and services for all prospective doctoral students, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, in accordance with the legislation in force and the institution's commitments to inclusion and equity.

✓ Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

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| Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1 | Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum. |
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

Within the IMADR doctoral field, the learning outcomes are clearly and coherently formulated for each discipline, being aligned with the level of study, the programme profile, and the competencies required by the targeted qualification. The formulation of learning outcomes complies with the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework and is expressed in language accessible to students, enabling them to: understand the expectations of the teaching staff; plan their study in an autonomous manner; and self-assess their progress in relation to the established objectives. The teaching staff develop course syllabi according to a standardised model, approved and verified by the responsible structures within the SDI and by the quality assurance bodies. Each learning outcome is correlated with the thematic content of the course and seminar, the teaching methods used, and the evaluation methods applied. This integrated approach supports not only transparency and coherence in the educational process, but also the continuous improvement of teaching and learning, based on student feedback and the results obtained in final assessments. <https://www.uav.ro/academic/calitate>

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

Within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of UAV, the learning outcomes are clearly and coherently formulated, in accordance with national and European standards for higher-level qualifications. These outcomes are integrated into the curriculum structure, course descriptions, and curricular documents,

thereby ensuring a shared understanding of the learning objectives by both doctoral students and the academic staff involved in the training process.

- ✓ Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

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| Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2 | Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams. |
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

The evaluation process within IOSUD–UAV is regulated by the **Operational Procedure on the Evaluation of Doctoral Students** (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Proceduri-operationale/PO-54-Procedura-opera%C5%A3ional%C4%83-privind-evaluarea-studen%C8%9Bilor-doctoranzi-din-cadrul-%C8%98colii-Doctorale-Interdisciplinare-a-UAV.pdf>). The course syllabi specify the proportion of continuous assessment and final evaluation, as well as the evaluation methods applied within the doctoral student's advanced academic training programme.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

Within the IMADR doctoral field, a systematic and coherent evaluation approach is employed, with the aim of effectively verifying the extent to which doctoral students achieve the intended learning outcomes.

- ✓ Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.7. Procedures and practices regarding the admission competition, the journey, recognition and equivalence of studies, and result certification

Standard S.B.7.1. Admission

The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.

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| Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1 | The organisational component applies the admission procedures.. |
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

Owing to the high academic standards and international prestige of the doctoral supervisors within the SDI of UAV, the institution has successfully attracted highly qualified international students, graduates of prestigious master's programmes from abroad. The SDI of UAV applies a transparent and rigorous policy for the recruitment and admission of doctoral students, based on the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates. Only graduates holding a master's degree or its equivalent, obtained in Romania or abroad, are eligible to participate in the admission process for doctoral studies, in accordance with Article 61 of the Education Law no. 199/2023. Admission to doctoral studies is carried out through an annual competition held in September (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Metodologii/%C8%98DI-oct-2025/M09-%C8%99i-criteriile-specifice-pentru-admitere-la-studii-universitare-de-doctorat-septembrie-2025.pdf>). Additionally, there is an Operational Procedure regarding the admission of foreign citizens (<https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Proceduri-operationale/Procedura-opera%C8%9Bional%C4%83-privind-primirea-la-studii-a-cet%C4%83%C8%9Bilor-str%C4%83ini.pdf>).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

The organisational component has its own admission methodology for doctoral students, applied in a transparent and rigorous manner, based on the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates.

- ✓ Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

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| Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2 | Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

Only graduates holding a master's degree or an equivalent qualification, under the provisions of the law, are eligible to participate in the admission competition for doctoral studies. Moreover, the cumulative number of transferable study credits obtained at the bachelor's and master's levels must be at least 300 ECTS, with the admission process being carried out in accordance with the Methodology of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. The organisational component is designed to ensure equitable access to educational resources and services for all prospective doctoral students, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, in accordance with current legislation and the institution's commitments to inclusion and equity. Admission to doctoral studies is organised by doctoral field within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. Doctoral study programmes are offered either in a full-time or part-time format, both on state-funded places (doctoral grants) and on tuition-based places. The admission process is conducted through a competition organised by "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad. <https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Metodologii/%C8%98DI-oct-2025/M09-%C8%99i-criteriile-specifice-pentru-admitere-la-studii-universitare-de-doctorat-septembrie-2025.pdf>

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The admission procedure for doctoral studies represents the process of selecting candidates for each available doctoral student position, as proposed by the doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school at a given time. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School ensures full transparency of the selection procedures for doctoral admission, the evaluation criteria, and the standards required of candidates, as well as guaranteed access to this information, including through online publication. All such information, along with the available doctoral student positions for each doctoral supervisor, is published on the IOSUD-UAV website and displayed at the premises of each doctoral school.

✓ **Recommendations:**

The development, within the admission procedures, of a methodology for the allocation of doctoral grants across doctoral fields of study.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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| Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students | |
| The organisational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey. | |
| Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1 | The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity. |

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

At the level of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (SDI), regulations governing the academic progress of doctoral students are in place <https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Regulamente/Regulamentul-de-organizare-%C8%99i-func%C8%9Bionare-104-%C8%98DI.pdf> as well as a Code of Rights and Obligations of Students <https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Carte-coduri-contracte/Co-01-Cod-studenti.pdf> both approved by the University Senate and periodically reviewed. These documents contain clear provisions regarding: the rights and obligations of students/doctoral candidates in the learning process; the structure of the academic year (duration, semesters, examination sessions); assessment and course completion methods; the recognition of ECTS credits and conditions for re-enrolment; internal and international mobility; the management of absences; and procedures for postponement or equivalence. In addition, the Regulation on the Professional Activity of Students Based on Transferable Credits, applicable to all three study cycles, is in force and implemented at university level <https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Calitate/Regulamente-Metodologii-Proceduri-Formulare/Regulamente/Regulament-privind-activitatea-profesional%C4%83-a-studen%C8%9Bilor-pe-baza-creditelor-transferabile.pdf>.

Each student enrolled in the doctoral study programme signs a doctoral study contract, in accordance with the regulations governing the organisation and conduct of doctoral programmes and in compliance with current legislation. This ensures the correct and uniform application of the regulations. Study contracts are not amended during the academic year. <https://www.uav.ro/scoala-doctorala-interdisciplinara/modele-contracte-de-studii-acte-adi%C8%9Bionale>

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The organisational component ensures the conduct of students' academic pathway on the basis of a well-defined and consistently applied regulatory framework, which governs all aspects of their academic activity, in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023.

✓ **Recommendations:** The inclusion of clear provisions regarding the minimum mandatory requirements necessary for the advancement of doctoral students to the next year of study.

The indicator is: fulfilled

DOMAIN C. Quality management

Criterion C.3. Procedures for the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of the study programmes and domains and of the performed activities, involving students, employers and other stakeholders

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures

The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.

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| Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1 | The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The procedures are regulated by the Regulation on the Organisation and Functioning of the Doctoral School, complemented by specific methodologies concerning: the admission of doctoral students; the conduct of teaching and research activities; the annual evaluation of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors; the public defence of the thesis and the awarding of the doctoral title; as well as the prevention and sanctioning of research ethics violations. The impact of applying these procedures is demonstrated by: increased compliance of doctoral activities with legal requirements and international standards; improved quality of scientific doctoral theses; the establishment of a clear academic pathway and the support of individual progress for doctoral students; continuous monitoring of the activity of academic staff involved in research and evaluation; and the development of an institutional culture focused on performance, ethics, and continuous improvement.

https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Academic/Doctorat/Strategia_CSUD_UAV_2024-2029.pdf
Furthermore, the consistent application of these procedures demonstrates their impact on ensuring the quality of the activities carried out within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, as reflected in the annual reports published on the university's website. <https://www.uav.ro/universitate/strategii-planuri-strategie-rapoarte/rapoarte-%C8%99i-strategii-privind-activitatea-%C8%99colii-doctorale-interdisciplinare>.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

Based on the analysis of the data provided and the documents reviewed, it is evident that institutional procedures concerning quality assurance and the evaluation of the educational and scientific research process are applied consistently and rigorously, in accordance with the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, the Code of Doctoral Studies, and ARACIS standards.

✓ **Recommendations:** There are no recommendations for this indicator

The indicator is: fulfilled

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| Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2 | Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process. |
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The organisational component has the mission of ensuring the strategic and operational framework for the development and guarantee of quality in doctoral studies at UAV, by promoting excellence, integrity, interdisciplinarity, and the internationalisation of doctoral research. The vision of the Council for Doctoral University Studies is to strengthen the position of IOSUD-UAV as a regional hub of

interdisciplinary research, recognised at national and European level for the quality of doctoral training and the relevance of its scientific outputs.

https://cdn.uav.ro/documente/Universitate/Academic/Doctorat/Strategia_CSUD_UAV_2024-2029.pdf

A participatory approach is in place, ensuring the continuous alignment of the study programme with the needs and expectations of doctoral students, labour market requirements, developments in the scientific and professional fields, as well as quality and accreditation standards. Examples of stakeholder involvement include concrete proposals for curriculum updates from employers, the adaptation of certain disciplines to labour market demands, and the introduction of transversal themes or digital competencies following consultation with relevant stakeholders. Through this mechanism, the organisational component demonstrates a genuine commitment to quality assurance and a sustained openness towards collaboration and continuous improvement.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The organisational component has procedures that are implemented consistently, supported by feedback instruments and annual review mechanisms, which ensure the adaptability and continuous updating of the programme. Members of the academic community—teaching staff, doctoral students, and administrative personnel—are actively involved, together with external stakeholders such as employers, alumni, and representatives of the socio-economic environment, in the process of implementing procedures related to the initiation, monitoring, and revision of study programmes.

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.8. Participation in external evaluation processes, according to the law

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation

The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by the law.

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| Indicator | The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law. |
| I.P.C.8.1.1 | |

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

For the purpose of accrediting the IMADR doctoral field, the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School within IOSUD–UAV has undertaken all the steps required by the ARACIS methodology on external quality evaluation. The process included the drafting and submission of the **Internal Evaluation Report (REI)**, prepared in accordance with the latest ARACIS requirements and the standardised structure. The entire activity was coordinated by the CSUD, in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Department of “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, in full compliance with current legislation and national standards. All doctoral fields operating within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School have undergone external evaluation procedures. In 2021, following the periodic external evaluation of the Institution Organising Doctoral Studies (IOSUD) at “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, the ARACIS Council granted the rating “**maintenance of accreditation**”. <https://www.aracis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Hotararea-Consiliului-ARACIS-nr.-119-din-16.12.2021.pdf>.


✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**


IOSUD “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad, through the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, ensures the rigorous and transparent implementation of all external quality evaluation procedures for the doctoral study fields under its coordination, in accordance with the legislation in force and with the ARACIS standards and performance indicators..

✓ **Recommendations: There are no recommendations for this indicator**

The indicator is: fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advanced academic training: the intellectual, professional, and social development of doctoral students, enabling them to become accomplished researchers and to meet society's need for specialised human resources; ✓ Promotion of excellence in research: the generation and transfer of knowledge to society through original scientific research of international relevance, by developing new research directions, stimulating research capacity, and promoting the practical application of research results; ✓ Material resources: UAV holds significant infrastructure to ensure that students have access to high-quality educational and research processes, in accordance with the objectives set out in the university training plans; ✓ Human resource development: the consolidation and expansion of existing doctoral fields, as well as the support and promotion of new ones, by attracting qualified doctoral supervisors and creating a stimulating academic environment for doctoral students; ✓ Internationalisation and visibility: increasing the international visibility and recognition of the doctoral schools through collaborations with foreign universities, participation in international projects, joint research and study programmes with partner institutions, and active involvement in international conferences and publications; ✓ Participatory and transparent management: ensuring a management style that is participatory, transparent, and performance-oriented, involving doctoral students and supervisors in decision-making processes through the implementation of efficient | <p>INTERNAL FACTORS</p>  | <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Allocation of doctoral grants: IOSUD-UAV is allocated a limited number of state-funded doctoral grants compared to the number of doctoral fields coordinated by the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School; ✓ Limited number of specialised staff: There is a reduced number of tenured academic staff specialised in the IMADR field who could apply for habilitation and affiliation as doctoral supervisors within the IMADR doctoral field of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. |
|--|--|--|

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>institutional structures and feedback mechanisms aimed at the continuous improvement of doctoral programmes.</p> | | |
| <p>SWOT analysis</p> | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Alignment with institutional strategy: The development of the new doctoral field is in line with the UAV Strategic Plan 2024–2029; ✓ Labour market relevance: It will address the needs of the labour market by preparing specialists and professionals in a field that is highly relevant within the county and the region, which predominantly comprise rural areas; ✓ Development of leadership and coordination skills: The completion of the doctoral programme will foster the development of essential leadership and coordination skills required for managing complex agricultural and rural development projects; ✓ Enhanced professional competencies for graduates: Graduates of the IMADR doctoral field will develop the competencies and skills necessary to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead multidisciplinary teams in addressing rural development challenges; • coordinate large-scale agricultural technological and production processes; • implement innovative management strategies in agribusiness. |  <p>EXTERNAL FACTORS</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proximity to established universities: the close geographical location of other universities with a long-standing tradition in the IMADR field; ✓ Decreasing interest in advanced studies: the declining interest of bachelor's graduates in continuing their academic training through master's studies and, implicitly, doctoral studies; ✓ Volatility of public research funding: the unstable and unpredictable nature of public funding allocated for research activities. |

V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

| No. | Performance Indicator | Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF) | Recommendations |
|---|---|--|-----------------|
| DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity | | | |
| 1. | I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law. | F | |
| 2. | I.P.A.1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures. | F | |
| 3. | I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped. | F | |
| 4. | I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work. | F | |
| 5. | I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list. | F | |
| 6. | I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently. | F | |
| 7. | I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education. | F | |

| DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 8. | I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification. | F | |
| 9. | I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO). | F | |
| 10. | I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences. | F | 1. The development of a guideline on the use of artificial intelligence tools in academic processes. 2. Implementation of an internal digital platform for collaboration among doctoral students (forums, thematic groups, resource databases, and projects), which would promote informal and peer learning. |
| 11. | I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme. | F | |
| 12. | I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum. | F | |
| 13. | I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams. | F | |
| 14. | I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures. | F | |
| 15. | I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities. | F | The development, within the admission procedures, of a methodology for the allocation of doctoral grants across doctoral fields of study. |
| 16. | I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity. | F | The inclusion of clear provisions regarding the mandatory minimum requirements for doctoral students to progress to the next academic year. |

| DOMAIN C. Quality management | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 17. | I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance. | F | |
| 18. | I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process. | F | |
| 19. | I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law. | F | |

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

| Evaluation Domain | Number of Performance Indicators | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | Fulfilled | Partially fulfilled | Unfulfilled |
| Domain A. Institutional capacity | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Domain B. Educational efficacy | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Domain C. Quality management | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 19 | 0 | 0 |

VI. Conclusions

Following the analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report and its annexes, as well as all activities undertaken by the evaluation team for the field Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development during 14–15 October 2025, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The activity of IOSUD and the organisation of doctoral studies are carried out on the basis of regulations, procedures, and other specific documents, in accordance with legal provisions;
- The monitoring of doctoral students and their academic progress is ensured through the use of dedicated information systems;
- Scientific research conducted within the Doctoral School is based on topics relevant to the fields it manages and involves doctoral students; research activities specific to the IMADR field can be carried out in research centres and laboratories equipped with high-performance instruments;
- Doctoral students benefit from financial support for professional development, travel, participation fees for scientific events, publication of scientific articles, and research consumables;
- The three doctoral supervisors in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development meet the CNATDCU standards in force, are duly habilitated in this field, and have visible scientific achievements at both national and international level;
- The doctoral school ensures transparency in the procedures for selection and admission to doctoral studies and guarantees access to information through multiple accessible means;
- The advanced academic training programme is appropriate and includes relevant disciplines that support the scientific research training of doctoral students;
- The UAV Arad website includes a dedicated section for doctoral studies, where candidates and doctoral students can access essential information, including: doctoral school regulations, admission procedures, admission calendar, regulations, study programme contents, lists of doctoral supervisors for each field, and the requirements for drafting the doctoral thesis;
- Doctoral students have access, upon request, to the electronic system for checking the similarity index with existing scientific works;
- IOSUD establishes, implements, updates, and maintains its quality assurance policy. The leadership of UAV Arad is constantly concerned with the continuous improvement of organisational and operational processes;
- The internal quality assurance system at IOSUD UAV Arad ensures high standards of quality in terms of institutional and managerial capacity for the development of a high-performance higher education system.

Propose and substantiate a decision.

Following the completion of the provisional authorisation to operate/accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following:*

- a) **Accreditation*** (AC);
- b) ~~non-accreditation*~~ (NAC).

VII. Annexes

- *the schedule of the on-site visit*
- *the minutes of the meetings*

* When the external quality evaluation for accreditation is performed without undergoing the procedure for obtaining a provisional authorisation to operate.