



## External Evaluation Report (REE) for the procedure for obtaining a maintaining accreditation (MAC) of Doctoral Study Domain

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	„Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati
Doctoral School:	<b>Fundamental and Engineering Sciences</b>
Doctoral Domain:	<b>Biotechnologies</b>
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)

### Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	<i>Prof.univ.dr. Livia VIDU</i>	Expert evaluator	
2.	<i>Prof. dr. Alba KRUJA</i>	International Expert	
3.	<i>Petru - Liviu BOURUC</i>	PhD Student Evaluator	

## I. Introduction

The external evaluation report was drafted as a result of the periodic evaluation of the doctoral study field *Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development*, which operates within the **Doctoral School of Fundamental Sciences and Engineering, of IOSUD - "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați**.

The periodic evaluation of the doctoral field *Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development* took place between March 25-27, 2026;

The evaluation is carried out according to the methodology developed by ARACIS - the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, with the objective of verifying the fulfillment of the standards and performance indicators regarding the organization and functioning of the doctoral field.

The expert committee is composed of the following members:

- Prof.univ.dr. Livia VIDU
- Prof. univ.dr. Alba Kruja
- Ph. D. student Petru Liviu BOURUC

The "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați (UDJG) is a public higher education institution with a longstanding tradition in education and scientific research in the south-eastern region of Romania. The academic structures that formed the foundation of the present university were established beginning in 1948, when the first higher education institutes were created in the city of Galați. Subsequently, through the reorganization of the higher education system, these institutions evolved and consolidated within specialized institutes. [www.ugal.ro](http://www.ugal.ro).

The "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați was established in its current form in 1974, by Decree no. 147/1974 of the State Council, through the merger of the Polytechnic Institute of Galați and the Pedagogical Institute of Galați. As a result of this reorganization, a comprehensive higher education institution emerged, capable of offering study programs and conducting research activities across diverse fields of science and technology.

At present, the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați has a complex academic structure, including 15 faculties, academic departments, research centers and laboratories, as well as doctoral schools. The institution offers higher education programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels, covering a wide range of fields, including engineering, economics, social sciences, humanities, medical sciences, and the arts.

The university's activity is focused on training highly qualified specialists and on the development of scientific research and innovation, thereby contributing to the economic and social development of the region. The university has adequate human, material, and financial resources to fulfill its academic and research mission and implements institutional policies aimed at ensuring financial sustainability and medium- and long-term development.

Within the university operates the Doctoral Studies Organizing Institution – IOSUD UDJG, which coordinates the activity of doctoral schools and ensures the institutional framework for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in accordance with ARACIS requirements and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). [Sistemul de management al calității](#)

Within IOSUD – "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, five multidisciplinary doctoral schools operate, namely: the Doctoral School of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences, the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Doctoral School of Economic Sciences, and the Doctoral School of Biomedical Sciences. [Școala Doctorală de Inginerie Mecanică și Industrială](#), [Școala Doctorală de Științe Fundamentale și Ingineresti](#), [Școala Doctorală de Științe Socio-Umane](#), [Școala Doctorală de Științe Economice](#) și [Școala Doctorală de Științe Biomedicale](#). These structures ensure the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in various scientific fields, contributing to the development of research activities and the advanced training of doctoral candidates.

Compared to 2018, when 98 doctoral supervisors were active within IOSUD – UDJG across 16 doctoral fields, the university has currently recorded significant growth in its institutional research capacity, with 171 doctoral supervisors active within IOSUD across 19 doctoral fields. <https://www.ugal.ro/studii/>.

The **DSUD-Biotechnologies** program is part of SDSFI. **The mission of DSUD Biotechnologies** is to train highly qualified human resources in the field of Biotechnologies, capable of developing

innovative solutions that contribute to the development of the agri-food sector and the food industry, in accordance with current health and sustainability policies. Its assumed mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge at the level of the requirements of the national and European socio-economic environment, both through modern academic programs that contribute to the advanced training of specialists in developed fundamental fields, and through the results of research-development-innovation activities and technology transfer. These goals are achieved through the efficient and ethical use of all resources (human, financial, infrastructure), promoting modern values of student-centered education and excellence in scientific research. This mission is accomplished through: *A. Domain Expertise* – Acquiring specific knowledge in the field through intensive study of the specialized subjects in the training program and of valuable scientific articles in the domain; *B. Original Research* – Developing new, innovative, and original ideas and solutions, computer modeling of the studied phenomena and processes, and validating theoretical ideas through experimental research; *C. Presentation of Research Results* – Developing the ability to clearly and convincingly present new ideas and concepts as well as research results, followed by the preparation of valuable scientific articles published in internationally recognized journals, and ultimately through the elaboration of the doctoral thesis. **The objectives of DSUD-Biotechnologies** are: a) Acquiring and expanding knowledge in the field of Biotechnologies; b) Increasing internal and international visibility through intensified academic collaborations, engagement with the socioeconomic environment, and adapting the educational offer to market demands in the field of Biotechnologies; c) Developing innovation strategies and entrepreneurial spirit in the field of Biotechnologies. Since the last external evaluation procedure, the following changes have occurred within the Biotechnologies doctoral field:

- In December 2020, Prof. Dr. Eng. Lorena Dediu obtained the habilitation certificate in DSUD Biotechnologies, confirmed by OM 6315/22.12.2020. Prof. Dr. Eng. Lorena Dediu has been affiliated with the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences (SDSFI) since 2021, **DSUD-Biotechnologies** <https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/abilitate/persoane-abilitate-laiosud-udjg>
- In September 2021, Prof. Dr. Eng. Petronela Nechita took over the role of coordinator of the IPA-Biotechnologies field based on CSUD Decision No. 27/28.09.2021.

## II. Methods used

For the purpose of drafting the external evaluation report of the doctoral study field *Biotechnologies* within IOSUD – “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați, the evaluation committee analyzed the internal evaluation report prepared by the institution, together with its annexes, which include supporting documents regarding the teaching, research, and administrative activities of the doctoral field.

Based on the documentation submitted prior to the evaluation visit, the committee verified the extent to which the standards and performance indicators established for doctoral study fields were met. During the preparatory stage preceding the evaluation visit, no additional documents were requested beyond those included in the self-evaluation report.

According to the evaluation schedule, established by mutual agreement with IOSUD – “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați, site visits were carried out to the facilities designated for teaching and research activities used within the doctoral field *Biotechnologies*, including research laboratories, experimental infrastructure, and facilities used by doctoral candidates in their research activities.

During the visit, meetings and discussions were held with representatives of the university’s leadership and of the academic structures involved in the organization of doctoral studies, namely the Vice-Rectors responsible for quality and teaching activities, the Director of IOSUD, the Director of the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences, as well as the coordinators of the doctoral fields within the doctoral school, in accordance with the attached schedule.

Additionally, the evaluation committee held meetings with doctoral supervisors in the *Biotechnologies* field (4 academic staff members), members of the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC), as well as representatives of the University Ethics Committee.

Separate discussions were also organized with doctoral students (7 participants), graduates of the doctoral field (7 graduates), and representatives of the socio-economic environment (4 employers), with the aim of assessing the relevance of the doctoral program for the labor market, the quality of the educational process, and the professional development opportunities offered to doctoral candidates.

These meetings enabled the collection of relevant information regarding the conduct of research activities, the integration of doctoral candidates into scientific projects, and the institutional collaborations developed within the *Biotechnologies* doctoral field.

### 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.

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, supported by documents and data:** For the development of the field of doctoral studies DSUD-Biotechnologies, UDJG has an adequate management system. It was found that the organizational components, departments and administrative services of the university are clearly structured in the organizational chart, highlighting the hierarchy and functional relationships between departments, faculties and management structures, to ensure efficient and coherent administration. [https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS\\_222\\_2024\\_Anexa\\_2-Organigrama\\_UDJG\\_2024.pdf](https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_222_2024_Anexa_2-Organigrama_UDJG_2024.pdf). Also, the university has an efficient management system, fundamentally based on clear and applicable procedures, which ensure the organization, coordination and optimal monitoring of the university's activities. All these structures operate on the basis of competences, attributions, processes and procedures established by the University Charter, ([https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS\\_107\\_2024\\_Anexa-Carta\\_UDJG.pdf](https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_107_2024_Anexa-Carta_UDJG.pdf)) The Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the University and other regulations and procedures annexed to the Charter, periodically revised, under the terms of the law ([https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS\\_107\\_2024\\_Anexa-Carta\\_UDJG.pdf](https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_107_2024_Anexa-Carta_UDJG.pdf)) ([https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2025/HS\\_285\\_2025\\_Anexa\\_1-ROF\\_UDJG-2025\\_final.pdf](https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2025/HS_285_2025_Anexa_1-ROF_UDJG-2025_final.pdf)), [https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2021/regulamente/4/hotarare\\_senat\\_65\\_2019\\_anexa\\_RegulamenInternUDJG\\_2.pdf](https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2021/regulamente/4/hotarare_senat_65_2019_anexa_RegulamenInternUDJG_2.pdf)), (REI page 15).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** For the operation of DSUD-Biotechnologies, the university has a clearly defined organizational structure and an adequate management system, both supported by internal regulations in accordance with national legislation in force.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.

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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\* The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter "organisational components"

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within DSUD-Biotechnologies, the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and procedures is carried out in a participatory and transparent manner, with the direct involvement of stakeholders (including doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates and socio-economic partners). Stakeholder consultation is carried out through the following institutionalized mechanisms: (a) Periodic meetings of the SDSFI Council and CSUD, in which proposals for amending or updating the regulations specific to the field are discussed, <https://ugal.ro/informatii/informatii-publice/hotarari/hotarari-csud>; (b) Thematic meetings organized with doctoral supervisors and research groups (workshops, conferences, round tables); <https://ugal.ro/anunturi/evenimentele-saptamanii> (c) Questionnaires applied to doctoral students to obtain feedback on organizational, administrative and academic aspects, <https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/evaluarea-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi/chestionar-de-evaluare-a-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi-sd-sfi>; (d) Consultations with industrial and socio-economic partners involved in research activities through organizing technology transfer fairs, thematic workshops [workshop-uri tematice](https://cercetare.ugal.ro/category/targuri-de-transfer-tehnologic/) (<https://cercetare.ugal.ro/category/targuri-de-transfer-tehnologic/>), internships ([stagii de practică](https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/model-de-acord-de-cotutela)) or co-tutorship, <https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/model-de-acord-de-cotutela>. The results of these consultations are centralized and analyzed, and the relevant recommendations are integrated into official documents (curriculums, content of subject sheets, procedures for periodic evaluation of doctoral students' activity, etc.), (REI page 18)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** UDJG actively involves stakeholders in the process of developing, adopting and reviewing regulations, methodologies and implementation procedures, thus ensuring a participatory approach in the decision-making process.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.

##### 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.

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** UDJG provides educational and research spaces appropriate to its activity, through classrooms and seminar rooms, teaching laboratories and research centers, dormitories and spaces for social activities. DSUD-Biotechnologies has spaces for teaching/applicative activities, its own laboratories and research centers, with appropriate equipment for all subjects in the curriculum and for research activities included in individual doctoral university study programs (<https://cercetare.ugal.ro/infrastructura>). Doctoral students have access to international databases through the UDJG library. <https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/>. The doctoral supervisors affiliated with DSUD-Biotechnologies are full professors at the Faculty of Food Science and Engineering (FSIA) and the Faculty of Engineering and Agronomy of Brăila (FIAB) and carry out research activities within the following research centers: [Centrul integrat de cercetare, expertiză și transfer tehnologic în industria alimentară \(Bioaliment - TehnIA\)](http://www.bioaliment.ugal.ro/); <http://www.bioaliment.ugal.ro/> [Centrul roman pentru modelarea sistemelor recirculante de acvacultură](#) [Centrul de cercetare mecanica masinilor si echipamentelor tehnologice MECMET](#) și [Centrul de cercetare și consultanță pentru agricultură și mediu-Lunca...](#) Also, for research activity, PhD students from DSUD-Biotechnologies have access to the collection of microorganisms with the acronym MIUG, affiliated with the pan-European infrastructure "The Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI)" (<https://www.mirri.org/>, <https://www.mirri.org/about/member-countries/>) In addition, PhD students from DSUD-Biotechnologies have at their disposal 2 rooms properly

equipped with a computer, video projector, specific furniture, for work meetings and individual study within the two faculties, Room 207 - within FSIA and, respectively, room P45 - within FIAB. To ensure access to scientific literature, over 420 volumes of publications worth over 800,866.13 lei were purchased, with funding from the university's research projects. For DSUD-Biotechnologies, UDJG, SIA and FIAB provide free, through libraries, in classic format but also in electronic format, learning resources (textbooks, treatises, bibliographic references, scientific papers, periodicals and other publications).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:**

According to the REI, UDJG has adequate spaces for the educational process on its property, its own laboratories and research centers with the appropriate equipment that ensure the development of the educational process in accordance with the provisions of the subject sheets and the curriculum. The institution is constantly concerned with ensuring a favorable environment for life and study, including for people with disabilities. (REI page 20)

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.	
<b>Indicator</b> 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.

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** UDJG pays special attention to the maintenance of its premises and movable and immovable assets, in order to ensure optimal conditions for study, research, work and university life. Through the General Administrative Directorate and specialized structures, the university periodically carries out repair and maintenance works, on its own account, as well as works to modernize buildings, installations and equipment. Movable assets are inventoried, maintained and replaced according to needs, in order to efficiently support teaching and research activities. There are operational procedures regarding repair and maintenance works carried out on its own account, as well as for the elimination and prevention of work accidents by training and empowering employees, ensuring optimal working conditions and monitoring the health status of all UDJG employees. Within the two faculties (SIA and FIAB) where the study and research activities of DSUD-Biotechnologies are carried out, optimal study, research and work conditions are ensured, both for doctoral students, as well as for teaching staff and collaborators (REI pages 20-21).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** All immovable and movable assets that UDJG through the 2 faculties (FSIA and FIAB) uses for the evaluated doctoral university studies field are adequately maintained, through the specialized structures of the General Administrative Directorate of UDJG: daily cleaning, building maintenance, repairs (furniture, equipment, sanitary installations, etc.)

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.	
<b>Indicator</b> 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.

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within DSUD-Biotechnologies, 4 doctoral supervisors, holders of IOSUD-UDJG and with a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period at the Lower Danube University of Galati, carry out their activity. All doctoral supervisors meet the minimum CNATDCU standards according to Order no. 6129/2016 of 20/12/2016 (Commission 14) and have an internationally visible scientific activity (the average per field of the Hirsch index in WOS is 16.25). All doctoral supervisors in DSUD-Biotechnologies have at least 5 Web of Science indexed publications in journals with an impact factor located mostly in the Q1 and Q2 areas. The disciplines in the training program based on advanced university studies are supported by teaching staff who have the quality of doctoral supervisor/qualification or professor with proven expertise in the field of the disciplines taught. ([Anexa IPA 3.1.1.3 CV Conducatori de doctorat](#))

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The higher education institution ensures the coverage with teaching staff, adequate both numerically and in terms of training/education, of the activities provided for in the individual doctoral study programs and in the disciplines in the curriculum.

**Recommendations:** Increasing the number of affiliated PhD supervisors to support program sustainability and diversity of expertise, ensuring continuity of the domain.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** UDJG actively supports the professional and personal development of teaching, research and administrative staff, in accordance with the strategic plan, ([https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/SCIM/PLAN\\_STRATEGIC\\_INSTITUTIONAL\\_UDJG\\_2025-2029.pdf](https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/SCIM/PLAN_STRATEGIC_INSTITUTIONAL_UDJG_2025-2029.pdf)). UDJG encourages the participation of teaching staff in continuing education courses, scientific conferences, international mobilities. The university also supports the obtaining of habilitation, promotions in academic careers and involvement in research and innovation projects. At UDJG level, there is an operational procedure for staff mobility within the ERASMUS+ program, regarding the organization and implementation of outgoing mobilities of UDJG staff for teaching purposes (STA) and/or training (STT). During the evaluated period, doctoral supervisors affiliated with DSUD-Biotechnologies participated in training courses, scientific conferences and international mobilities. (REI p.23) ([Departamentul de Formare Continuă, Anexa IPA 3.1.2.1 Participari conferinte CD, Anexa IPA 3.1.2.2 Stagii de formare CD Erasmus](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The professional and personal development of the staff is considered a strategic objective within UDJG. In the Strategic Development Plan of UDJG for the period 2025-2029 we identify this direction at point B4 – Human resources management. Directions of action regarding human resources (strategic objective no. 10 of the strategic institutional development plan 2025-2029).

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures	
Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** In UDJG, the recruitment of teaching staff is carried out in compliance with the legislation, through a competition organized for vacant positions, based on the competition methodology for an indefinite period or for a fixed period approved by the Senate. The faculties propose specific criteria that must be met by those participating in the competitions. UDJG strictly complies with the legal provisions regarding the recruitment of teaching and research staff, ensuring that all procedures are transparent and in compliance with national and international regulations. Recruitment procedures are regulated for and for the other categories of staff and respect the principles of transparency, competitiveness and non-discrimination. [Carta UDJG](#); [Regulamentul privind ocuparea posturilor didactice și de cercetare](#)), .(REI pag. 23).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The teaching staff of DSUD Biotechnologies is employed according to the recruitment criteria established at the institutional level, in accordance with the legal provisions. In UDJG, teaching positions are filled through a competition, organized according to the legislation in force, the university charter and the internal methodologies in force. In the policy of filling teaching and research positions, the principle of sovereignty, competence and professional prestige is applied, without discrimination related to sex, religion or belief, citizenship, social or ethnic origin, economic status or disabilities.

**Aspects that constitute best practice examples:** In the human resource selection process, HEI applies criteria higher than the minimum ones established in the CNATDCU committees.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.

<b>Indicator</b> 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, supported by documents and data:** To manage teaching activities, UDJG uses educational platforms such as Moodle and Microsoft Teams, facilitating access to educational materials and promoting interaction between teachers and students, in accordance with the 2022-2027 digitalization strategy ([https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2022/HS\\_187\\_din\\_16\\_06\\_2022\\_Anexa\\_Strategie\\_digitalizare\\_UDJG.pdf](https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2022/HS_187_din_16_06_2022_Anexa_Strategie_digitalizare_UDJG.pdf)) For the evaluation of teachers by students and for the evaluation of the learning environment, the platform [www.evaluate.ugal.ro](http://www.evaluate.ugal.ro) is used. The university library provides access to electronic resources through the ARTHRA digital repository (<https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/resurse/depozitul-digital-institutional-arthra>), facilitating the consultation of doctoral theses and other academic documents (<https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/>). In addition, UDJG has implemented an integrated digital ecosystem, which provides access to international databases through the AnelisPlus consortium, such as Web of Science, Scopus and ScienceDirect, supporting research and lifelong learning (<https://opac.ugal.ro/>). These resources facilitate simplified access to information and improve the quality of services offered to students, teachers and researchers. The <https://student.ugal.ro/> system facilitates communication between students and teachers, access to WiFi networks and other IT resources. UDJG was selected for funding under the "Grants for the digitalization of universities" call, demonstrating its strong commitment to the modernization of digital infrastructure. ([Platforme informatice si servicii digitale utilizate în cadrul UDJG](#)). ([Procedură operatională pentru accesul la sistemele informatice centralizate ale UDJG \(E-MAIL, PLATFORMĂ HR, ETC., REI, page 24\)](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The University collects, processes and analyzes data and information regarding the processes carried out and their quality. All decisions of general interest are made public to the entire community, either by using the intranet or by posting on the University website ([www.ugal.ro](http://www.ugal.ro)) and the doctoral study program (<https://ugal.ro/studii/doctordat>). The premises for the further development and expansion of the university's information system are included in the UDJG Digitalization Strategy, developed in accordance with the Institutional Strategic Plan.

**Aspects that constitute best practice examples:** UDJG's projects were selected for funding under the "Grants for University Digitalization" call, demonstrating the institution's strong commitment to modernizing its digital infrastructure.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.

<b>Indicator</b> 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, supported by documents and data:** The DSUD-Biotechnologies program ensures the correlation between the requirements of biotechnology in correlation with the related fields of training, food science and engineering, aquaculture, agriculture, environmental protection, etc., through the structure of the curriculum and the content of the subject sheets. The doctoral university study program in DSUD-Biotechnologies was designed and structured to achieve the expected learning outcomes and operates on the basis of transferable credits, ensuring flexibility and international comparison, according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The focus of the subject sheets on expected learning outcomes and the transferable credit system is appropriate to improve the research skills of doctoral students and to strengthen ethical behavior in science. The subject sheets specify the competencies, responsibility and autonomy acquired by doctoral students after completing the related training program. The evaluation system is built on the principle of continuous and formative evaluation, including practical work, presentations, homework, portfolios and individualized feedback, so as to support the personal and professional progress of each student. The subject sheets are updated annually, according to a format established at the institutional level and published in the "Quality Assurance" section on the university website. They are completed by the tenured teaching staff, analyzed and approved at the SD-SFI Council level, in accordance with the internal quality assurance procedures. ([Planul de învățământ](#), ([fise disciplină](#)))

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The doctoral field of Biotechnology is organized according to the principles of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), ensuring a coherent and balanced path to achieve the expected learning outcomes. The content of the subjects and the structure of the curriculum are aligned with the targeted competencies and expected learning outcomes, ensuring curricular coherence and professional relevance. The assessment of knowledge and skills is carried out according to clear and transparent internal procedures.

**Recommendations: Introducing learning outcomes into the curriculum in a standardized format that integrates knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy.**

The indicator is: fulfilled.

### 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.

<b>Indicator</b> 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, supported by documents and data:** The expected learning outcomes are formulated in terms of knowledge, skills and competences, in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). These outcomes are directly correlated with the requirements of the corresponding occupations, as defined in the relevant national occupational standards and the European Classification of Occupations (ESCO), which specifies the key competences required for the professions concerned. The expected learning outcomes are formulated in such a way as to correspond to the competences acquired following the

\* 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.

promotion of doctoral university studies in correlation with the level 8 qualification of the EQF/CEC and the CNC. These outcomes are developed and concretized in the curriculum as well as in the subject sheets that detail the competences, objectives, contents and assessment methods for each subject.

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The expected learning outcomes are formulated so as to correspond to the competencies acquired following the promotion of doctoral studies in correlation with the level 8 qualification of the EQF/CEC and the CNC.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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.

<b>Indicator</b> 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, supported by documents and data:** The structure and content of DSUD-Biotechnologies, the organization of teaching, learning, and evaluation processes as well as those of research supervision are focused on the development of professional and transversal skills and contribute, through their adequacy, to achieving the expected objectives and results. The promoted teaching methods include interactive approaches, such as project-based learning, case studies and applied activities, and the assessment combines formative and summative elements, facilitating the monitoring of progress and supporting active learning. The teaching strategies used aim to increase student involvement through activities such as team work, collaborative learning, problem-based learning, individual applied projects and structured debates, applied activities that facilitate the transfer of knowledge in real contexts. After admission, the Individual Doctoral University Study Program is completed for each doctoral student. Doctoral students enrolled in the first year are required to complete the advanced university preparation and documentation program, a program carried out based on the curriculum. Students enrolled in the budget form of education with scholarship can also carry out teaching activities (4-6 hours/week). The activity of each doctoral student is monitored through the Annual Activity Report of the doctoral student. Doctoral students within DSUD-BIOTECHNOLOGY benefit from the counseling and guidance of academic integrity and guidance committees throughout the duration of the doctoral training period. The members of the guidance committees provide consultations to doctoral students according to a schedule available on the university and doctoral school websites. ([Fișele de disciplină](#), [planului de învățământ](#), [Programul individual de studii universitare de doctorat](#), [Orarului disponibil](#), [Anexa IPB 3.1.1.2 Dovezi îndrumare](#), REI page 28)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The learning process focuses on the development of professional and transversal skills and contributes to the achievement of the expected objectives and results. The learning process focuses on the development of critical thinking, creativity and social and professional skills, all of which are supported by a collaborative learning environment. The flexible curriculum includes optional subjects and internships, and the assessment is formative, supporting the continuous progress of doctoral students. The implementation of the principles of student-centered learning is regulated at the University level through the provisions of the University Charter and other university regulations, such as the regulations for doctoral studies, the Doctoral Student Guide

**Recommendations:** Introducing into the curriculum specialized disciplines in the agricultural and food industry fields to support PhD students in the advanced training program.

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** IOSUD-UDJG has developed and implemented a strategic internationalization plan and an operational procedure that describes the way to encourage the performance in the research activity of doctoral students, including by participating in internships for documentation/research abroad in order to prepare the doctoral thesis. ([www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/SCIM/Plan\\_Strategic\\_Internationalizare\\_2025-2029.pdf](http://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/SCIM/Plan_Strategic_Internationalizare_2025-2029.pdf))

Through this approach, mobilities contribute significantly to the development of students' professional and intercultural skills, strengthening the international dimension of advanced training in the field of biotechnology. Through this approach, mobilities contribute significantly to the development of students' professional and intercultural skills, strengthening the international dimension of advanced training in the field of biotechnology. During the analyzed period, the 6 PhD students from DSUD-Biotechnologies who completed their doctoral studies during the period had at least one participation in an international scientific conference, the PhD students in internship published 19 papers in ISI-rated journals, participated with 38 communications at national and international conferences and with an average of approx. 6 papers per PhD student and benefited from 4 Erasmus mobilities. UDJG has concluded agreements for internships and training within the Erasmus program.

(Anexa IPB3.1.2.3 Stagii doctoranzi mobilitati Biotehn, <https://ugal.ro/relatii-internationale/biroul-erasmus/programul-erasmus-2/erasmus-ue-si-turcia-ka103/mobilitati-studenti-studii-si-plasament>)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** Within UDJG, the mobility of doctoral students of DSUD-Biotechnologies is facilitated, students can benefit from opportunities to travel to universities abroad or to participate in international conferences to present research results. The selection process is managed through the university portal, where students are informed about the available opportunities.

**Recommendations: Increasing the number of Erasmus mobility opportunities for doctoral students to enhance international visibility and support the development of research careers.**

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness	
The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** UDJG ensures equity, by ensuring educational opportunities, in a fair manner for young people, regardless of their background or other risk factors. In this regard, all doctoral students have access to quality educational resources and opportunities developed within the SDSFI ([Plan de învățământ](#), [Fise discipline](#)), regardless of their social, economic or geographical context, to overcome obstacles and reach their maximum potential. The curriculum contains disciplines of ethics and academic integrity, including research ethics. Teaching, research and training activities are adapted to the individual potential and interests of doctoral students, offering them the opportunity to build their research path in accordance with their own aspirations. (REI, p.29)([Carta, Codul drepturilor și obligațiilor studentului; Contractul de studii universitare, Program consultatii ptr studenti, https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti/11-site/14834-tabere-studentesti-doctorat](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The principles of inclusion and non-discrimination are respected in UDJG, according to national legislation and institutional regulations. Thus, support facilities are available, including for students with disabilities, doctoral students at DSUD Biotechnologies benefiting from: flexibility in choosing research topics and doctoral supervisors; access to various educational resources (digital libraries, databases, online platforms, research laboratories); participation in scientific activities (workshops, conferences, summer schools) adapted to the field of interest of each student; individualized support mechanisms (tutoring, mentoring, academic and career counseling, guidance and academic integrity committees, international mobilities, student camps.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

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.

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, supported by documents and data:** UDJG ensures access to all students to resources and support services adapted to the learning process and professional training. The educational infrastructure includes classrooms and seminars equipped with modern equipment, specialized laboratories for research, physical and electronic libraries, as well as online learning management platforms, which allow for the development of activities in a hybrid or distance format. Doctoral students benefit from multiple support services, including: accommodation in student dormitories, access to the cafeteria, recreational spaces and sports facilities, basic medical services, a chapel, psychological counseling centers and career guidance, through the Career Counseling and Guidance Center (CCOC). All doctoral students within DSUD-Biotechnologies have access to training courses according to the curriculum of the SD FI Doctoral School, have access to information resources (library, international databases or other educational platforms <https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro>), international mobilities, international conferences and events where they can present their research results according to the specifics of the doctoral topic (<https://cssd-udjg.ugal.ro/index.php/about/sections>) and to adequate spaces for research activities (research centers within FSIA and FIAB). (<https://unicer.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/prezentare-tehnia>, <https://unicer.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/prezentare-moras>, <https://unicer.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/prezentare-cccama>). Doctoral students benefit from personalized support, adapted to specific needs, through the academic guidance and integrity committees and can participate as members in research, development, and innovation projects of doctoral supervisors. (REI, page 30)([Methodology on Academic Mobility of Students; Regulations on the organisation and functioning, permanent mobility](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** All spaces dedicated to educational, research and administrative processes, as well as services for doctoral students, available at UDJG are easily accessible, including for people with disabilities, through elevators, access ramps, etc. The UDJG library offers students unlimited and free access, based on their student ID and library pass, to the learning resources specific to the doctoral field it has (textbooks, treatises, bibliographical references, chrestomathies, anthologies, etc.). Doctoral students benefit from permanent counseling and consultations through the academic integrity and guidance committees of the Center for Career Counseling and Guidance. Information on the fields of doctoral studies, doctoral schools, professional guidance and support services offered to doctoral students are public on the UDJG website and the faculties of FSIA and FIAB.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

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, supported by documents and data:** The learning outcomes for DSUD-Biotechnologies are described in a clear, coherent and accessible way, being detailed in the subject sheets related to the curriculum. The learning outcomes are directly correlated with the general objectives and mission of the DSUD-Biotechnologies field and contribute to the development of competences as defined in the Subject Sheets as well as in the National Qualifications Framework and in the ARACIS standards. Their formulation in operational terms facilitates a clear understanding of the level of performance expected by students and teachers, supporting the efficient planning of teaching, learning and assessment activities. ([fisele disciplinelor](#), REI, p.31)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The learning outcomes are clearly and concisely formulated for each discipline, providing both doctoral students and teaching staff with a transparent understanding of expectations and objectives. They are correlated with the general objectives and mission of DSUD-Biotechnologies, being described in measurable terms and adapted to the topic of each discipline. In this way, doctoral students can track their progress, and teaching staff benefit from clear criteria for assessing academic performance.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

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, supported by documents and data:** At the IOSUD-UDJG level, each doctoral student follows an Individual Doctoral University Studies Program, in which the promotion criteria are defined, while the completion of studies is carried out according to the Regulation on the organization and conduct of the completion of doctoral studies within the Doctoral Schools of IOSUD-UDJG. The completion of the doctoral program involves the public defense of the doctoral thesis, which is evaluated first by the academic guidance and integrity committee and then by the external specialty committee, and subsequently validated by committee 14 Natural and Plant Resources Engineering within CNADTCU according to the legislation in force by granting the doctorate. Verification of the achievement of learning outcomes within the doctoral program is carried out through a continuous and final evaluation system. The entire educational and administrative activity related to the course of doctoral students is organized and coordinated in accordance with institutional regulations, the doctoral student guide ensuring a transparent and coherent framework for the learning and evaluation process. ([https://ugal.ro/files/doctorat/2025/Ghid\\_studenti\\_doctoranzi\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ugal.ro/files/doctorat/2025/Ghid_studenti_doctoranzi_FINAL.pdf))(REI, p.32)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** During their studies, doctoral students are evaluated (i) by developing homework assignments and supporting projects in accordance with the Discipline Sheet, in advanced training disciplines, after completing advanced training courses; (ii) presenting and defending documentation reports and scientific research reports before the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee, in accordance with the individual program for doctoral studies; (iii) by presenting the annual activity report, which is verified and supervised by the doctoral supervisor and the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee; (iv) by engaging in scientific activities of developing and publishing papers in specialized journals and presenting at conferences or workshops, which are verified by the doctoral supervisor and/or members of the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee and then evaluated through the peer-review publication system.

**Aspects that constitute best practice examples:** The evaluation of doctoral theses follows a well-defined procedure that details each step doctoral students and their supervisors must undertake to successfully complete the program.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**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
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The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.

Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1	The organisational component applies the admission procedures.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** DJUG ensures the implementation of a transparent and legislatively compliant policy regarding the recruitment, admission, transfers and mobility of students to the master's degree cycle. The institution organising doctoral studies applies specific procedures for admission, in accordance with the norms and [methodology](#) approved at institutional level. This methodology establishes the criteria, procedures and conditions of admission, ensuring transparency and compliance with national legislation in force. Candidates for admission to the doctoral program are assessed based on their level of training and information in the field, their ability to address specific research problems, to formulate innovative solutions and solutions, and the quantifiable results of previous scientific research. Equally, candidates are assessed based on their ability to argue the innovative nature of the proposed research topic, in relation to the current state of research in the chosen thematic field and the specialized bibliography, highlighting the personal contribution in approaching the doctoral topic selected in agreement with the doctoral coordinator (art. 20 (2) of the [Admission Methodology](#)). The admission procedure also includes an oral test (art. 20 (1) of the Admission Methodology).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** Information about the required [documents](#), [locations and registration schedule](#), [competition schedule](#), [topics and required bibliography](#) are available on the institution's website (<https://admitere.ugal.ro/doctorat>). DJUG ensures the conclusion of a [study contract](#) with all admitted students, which establishes the rights and obligations of the parties, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force. This practice is an integral part of the organizational process of admission and enrolment, guaranteeing compliance with the legal framework and transparency of contractual relations between the institution and students.

**Recommendations: Increasing the number of foreign PhD students through an appropriate recruitment procedure**

[The indicator is: fulfilled.](#)

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, supported by documents and data:** AIOSUD-UDJG ensures the admission of students to doctoral studies according to the Methodology for organizing and conducting admission to the third cycle of doctoral studies, taking into account the principles of equity and equal opportunities, as well as the establishment of support measures to ensure access for vulnerable groups, in situations of social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Only graduates (from the country and abroad) with a master's degree or its equivalent are entitled to participate in the admission competition for doctoral studies, and the cumulative number of transferable study credits acquired, for the bachelor's and master's degree cycles, must be at least 300. These criteria ensure a transparent, fair and non-discriminatory admission process, according to the regulations in force. UDJG has implemented a Gender Equality Plan, which includes measures to prevent discrimination and promote a non-discriminatory educational environment. (REI, page 33) ([Metodologia de admitere](#); , [Planul de egalitate de gen](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The admission process at DSUD Biotechnologies is fair, non-discriminatory and adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups. Special places are allocated and concrete support measures are implemented (counseling, accessibility, logistical adaptations).

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

[The indicator is: fulfilled.](#)

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.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The academic career of doctoral students is monitored through the periodic evaluation of their activity, which is carried out according to the regulations of the doctoral school, through: (i) individual study and research programs that are an integral part of the study contract analyzed and approved by the doctoral supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee; (ii) annual activity reports approved annually by the doctoral supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee, which include both the disciplines in the advanced training program and research activities. The evaluation of the scientific activity of doctoral students is based on a self-evaluation procedure: according to which doctoral students annually complete a Self-evaluation Form verified by the doctoral supervisor. Also, the organizational component ensures compliance with the norms of ethics and academic integrity, the CNATDCU standards and the requirements for the publication of research results. Doctoral students actively participate in decision-making processes regarding the organization and improvement of the academic path, through: (i) representation in decision-making structures and quality assurance committees, where they contribute to the updating of regulations and curricula; (ii) providing systematic feedback, by completing annual evaluation questionnaires, capitalized on in institutional improvement processes; (iii) formulating proposals and initiatives to optimize the educational framework and increase the quality of the educational process. ([Regulamentul școlilor doctorale din IOSUD-UDJG](#); [Regulamentul de inițiere privind aprobarea, monitorizarea și evaluarea periodică a programelor de studii](#); [Metodologia de autoevaluare a activității IOSUD-UDJG și a activității școlilor doctorale din cadrul IOSUD](#); [Regulamentul instituțional privind organizarea și funcționarea studiilor universitare de doctorat în școlile doctorale din UDJG](#); [Metodologia privind organizarea și desfășurarea admiterii la ciclul III de studii universitare de doctorat](#); [Ghidul studentului doctorand](#); REI, page 34-35).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** From admission to doctoral studies to the completion of doctoral studies and the public defense of the doctoral thesis at IOSUD-UDJG, institutional regulations are well established and visible on the IOSUD-UDJG website and clearly define the general framework and particularities of the academic path of doctoral students.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case  
**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

### Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.

Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** At the institutional level, the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați has developed and implemented the Strategic Internationalization Plan 2025-2029, approved by Senate Decision no. 120 of March 20, 2025, which defines the directions of action, operational objectives and specific measures to increase the international dimension of the educational and research process. Subchapter 4.2.5. provides for international mobilities for researchers and doctoral students and subchapter 4.2.7 provides for support measures for the internationalization of activities within the Doctoral School and postdoctoral studies. UDJG has agreements with EU and non-EU countries, which aim at the exchange of experience and teaching and administrative staff in the field of education, research and culture, in fields similar to the future partner university, the development of international research projects, the organization of courses, seminars,

conferences and other joint events, the exchange and dissemination of publications and reference materials. PhD students from DSUD-Biotechnologies have the opportunity to participate in numerous mobility internships within the Erasmus+ Program, a European Union program in the fields of education, training, youth and sport, both within the European Union and outside it, through the Erasmus+ KA103 and Erasmus+ KA107 actions (international mobilities - non-EU). Within DSUD-Biotechnologies, the organization of international co-supervision doctorates is supported, including financially, and the invitation of top-ranking experts to hold courses/lectures for PhD students, on the occasion of the scientific conference of the doctoral schools from UDJG. <https://www.ugal.ro/relatii-internationale/biroul-de-relatii-internationale/retele-universitare> , <https://www.ugal.ro/anunturi/stiri-si-evenimente/15355-udjg-a-participat-la-conferinta-si-expozitia-anuala-eaie-desfasurata-la-goeteborg-suedia>, [Planul Strategic de Internationalizare 2025-2029, experti de prim rang care să susțină cursuri/prelegeri](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** IOSUD-UDJG carries out a sustained internationalization activity, which supports academic mobility and international cooperation in education and research and continues the steps to intensify the internationalization actions of doctoral schools in order to improve the quality of the doctoral program and integration into the European research space. During the period 2021-2025, 2 foreign students were enrolled, one student from Ethiopia and the Republic of Moldova who are following the DSUD-Biotechnologies doctoral training internships, and 1 international co-tutorship agreement was signed.

**Recommendations: Strengthen international partnerships and expand mobility opportunities for both students and staff (e.g., cotutelle agreements, exchanges).**

The indicator is: fulfilled.

### Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process

Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.

Indicator  
I.P.B.9.1.1

Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Scientific research activities represent the central element of the educational process within the doctoral program, supporting the acquisition of the learning outcomes provided for the qualification level. PhD students at DSUD Biotechnologies are involved in internal research projects or grants coordinated by doctoral supervisors or members of the academic supervision and integrity committees. Within DSUD-Biotechnologies, research results are capitalized by doctoral students both in the preparation of the doctoral thesis and by publishing (together with doctoral supervisors and members of the academic supervision and integrity team) articles in indexed journals, presenting papers at scientific conferences, participating in workshops and summer schools. ([Anexa IPB 9.1.1.1 Lucrari publicate de studentii doctoranzi stagiu finalizat](#), [Anexa IPB9.1.1.2 Doctoranzi in proiecte de cercetar](#), REI, p.37)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** During the period 2021-2025, 4 out of the 10 students enrolled at DSUD-Biotechnologies benefited from research internships (longer than 6 months) funded by research or institutional development/human resources grants. During the evaluated period, doctoral students in internship at DSUD-Biotechnologies published 19 papers in WOS indexed journals, and participated with 38 papers (oral and poster presentations) at international conferences.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study programme

The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The research activities carried out within the doctoral school are directly correlated with the objectives and research themes established at the DSUD-Biotechnologies level. Doctoral students and doctoral supervisors are involved in research projects <https://susthc-coatpack.ugal.ro/>, <https://www.biotics.ugal.ro/index.php/en/>, which support the development of advanced skills and contribute to scientific progress in the field. The national and international visibility of doctoral supervisors within DSUD-Biotechnologies is highlighted by the activity they carry out in the scientific committees of recognized international publications and conferences in the field in which they work, membership in the boards of international professional associations; guest status at conferences or expert groups held abroad, etc. The international visibility of the doctoral supervisors from DSUD-Biotechnologies is also confirmed by the values of their Hirsch indices (the average per field of the Hirsch index and the number of citations in the Web of Science being 16.25 and 726, respectively), but also by their membership in the scientific committees of international publications and conferences. ([Anexa I.3.2 Premii vizibilitate CD](#), [Anexa IPA 3.1.1.2 Lucrari ISI Brevete conducatori de doctorat](#))

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The research activity within the doctoral program aligns with the assumed objectives, has visibility and recognition at national and international level and is adequately capitalized through works in WOS and BDI indexed publications, scientific presentations at prestigious international events and practical applicability.

**Recommendations: Strengthen the valorization and commercialization of research results through closer collaboration with economic agents and the Technology Transfer Office.**

The indicator is: fulfilled.

## DOMAIN C. Quality management

Criterion C.1. Quality assurance strategies and procedures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, which involve students, employers and other stakeholders and are applied in a consistent, transparent manner

Standard S.C.1.1. Application	
Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures	
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati has an internal quality assurance system, organized in accordance with the provisions of national legislation and the institutional regulations established by the University Charter and by the internal regulations on quality management. At the university level, there are structures dedicated to ensuring and monitoring the quality of educational and research processes, such as the Department for Quality Assurance, the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC) and the University Ethics Commission, which monitor the implementation of procedures and periodically evaluate academic and administrative activities. Within IOSUD – UDJG and the IMADR doctoral field, specific procedures are applied regarding the monitoring of the doctoral course, the evaluation of the activity of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, as well as the analysis of research results. These processes are supported by the management structures of the doctoral school, including the Doctoral School Council (CSSD), which contributes to the analysis and improvement of academic and research activities. The university also periodically develops internal quality assessment reports and strategic documents that establish development directions and measures to improve doctoral study programs, including in the field of Biotechnologies (<https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti>; [Proceduri operationale pentru evaluarea conducătorilor de doctorat de către studenții doctoranzi.](#))

[HS 93 din 24 3 2021 anexa 1 Procedura evaluare conducatori doctorat-doctoranzi.pdf](#), [Activitatea conducătorilor de doctorat este apreciată anual de către conducerea SDSFI](#).REI, pp. 39-40).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The analysis of the documentation highlights the fact that the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați consistently applies internal quality assurance procedures and mechanisms, which are integrated into the institutional management of educational and research activities.

The institutional structures responsible for quality assurance, including the Department for Quality Assurance, the CEAC and the Ethics Commission, as well as the structures specific to doctoral studies, including the Doctoral School Council (CSSD), monitor the implementation of the strategies and procedures established at the university level and contribute to the periodic evaluation of academic and research activities carried out within the Biotechnologies doctoral field. The results of these evaluations are reflected in internal quality assurance reports and are used for the continuous improvement of the doctoral program, including by updating the program content, optimizing research activities and improving the conditions for conducting doctoral studies. In this context, it is found that the quality assurance mechanisms have a real impact on the development and continuous improvement of the educational and research process carried out within the analyzed doctoral field.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.

<b>Indicator</b>	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.
<b>I.P.C.1.2.1</b>	

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** UDJG cultivates and encourages consultation and active involvement of members of the academic community and other stakeholders (students, graduates, employers, institutional partners) in the process of developing, reviewing and implementing internal procedures. At the institutional level, the opinions of teaching staff, students and administrative staff are collected through: public consultations organized on the occasion of the approval of regulations and methodologies; faculty councils, specialized committees in faculties and in the Senate, the Board of Directors, the Ethics Committee, etc.; satisfaction and internal evaluation questionnaires periodically applied among students ([www.evaluare.ugal.ro](http://www.evaluare.ugal.ro)). Within DSUD-Biotechnologies, the process of adopting and reviewing methodologies, regulations and procedures is carried out in a participatory and transparent manner, with the direct involvement of stakeholders (including doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates and socio-economic partners). Stakeholder consultation is carried out through the following institutionalized mechanisms: Regular meetings of the SDSFI Council and the Council; Thematic meetings organized with doctoral supervisors and research groups (workshops, conferences, round tables); Questionnaires applied to doctoral students to obtain feedback on organizational, administrative and academic aspects; consultations with industrial and socio-economic partners involved in research activities, organization of fairs, internships or co-tutoring. ([Operational procedure for student evaluation of academics](#), [Operational procedure for evaluation of the learning environment](#), [www.evaluare.ugal.ro](http://www.evaluare.ugal.ro), [Sedinte periodice ale Consiliului SDSFI și ale Consiliului; Întâlniri tematice organizate cu conducătorii de doctorat](#)).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The results of these consultations are centralized and analyzed, and the relevant recommendations are integrated into official documents (curriculum, content of subject sheets, procedures for periodic evaluation of the activity of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, etc.), and remedial measures are established.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

Criterion C.2. Functionality of education quality assurance structures, including in the field of

academic ethics and conduct, according to the law

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation

Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organisational structures adequately perform their specific role and functions.

<b>Indicator</b> I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati (UDJG), the University Ethics Commission (CEU) is organized and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as well as the internal regulations approved by the University Senate. The CEU activity is carried out based on the Regulation of the University Ethics Commission and the Code of University Ethics and Deontology, documents that establish the principles, attributions and procedures for analyzing complaints regarding deviations from the norms of academic ethics ([CEU Regulation](#); [Code of University Ethics and Deontology](#); [UDJG Charter](#)) The University Ethics Commission carries out its activity independently of any other structure or person within the university, in accordance with legal and regulatory provisions. The members of the commission are persons with professional prestige and academic integrity, selected in compliance with the legal norms regarding incompatibilities and decision-making independence. Within CEU, specific mechanisms are implemented to prevent and combat deviations from academic ethics, including in the field of scientific research ethics, analyzing situations regarding plagiarism, conflicts of interest, discrimination or other forms of violation of academic conduct norms (Regulations on academic ethics and integrity; Institutional policies on the prevention of discrimination). CEU's activity is reflected in annual reports on compliance with the norms of academic ethics and deontology, which are presented for analysis and approval to the university's management structures and are made public on the institutional website ([CEU Annual Report](#); REI, page 42). In the context of doctoral studies, the University Ethics Committee has an essential role in monitoring compliance with the norms of ethics of scientific research, including with regard to the originality of doctoral works, the prevention of plagiarism and compliance with the principles of academic integrity in the development of doctoral theses. <https://ugal.ro/informatii/organizare/comisia-de-etica-universitara/componenta-ceu>.

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The analysis of the documentation highlights the fact that the University Ethics Commission within UDJG operates on the basis of a clear regulatory framework, approved by the University Senate, and exercises its powers independently, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force. The decision-making independence of the commission, the transparency of the procedures and the publication of annual reports contribute to strengthening trust in the institutional mechanisms for ensuring academic integrity. The institutional mechanisms regarding ethics and academic integrity are implemented effectively, including in the field of doctoral research, and the activity of CEU contributes to the prevention and management of situations of deviation from ethical norms, ensuring compliance with the principles of good conduct in teaching and research activities. Therefore, it is found that CEU operates adequately, under conditions of independence and legality, contributing to maintaining an academic climate based on integrity and responsibility.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

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.

<b>Indicator</b> 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, supported by documents and data:** The monitoring of DSUD-Biotechnologies is based on the information and data from the self-evaluation files proposed for analysis by the teaching committee and the Quality Council. The DSUD-Biotechnologies monitoring procedures are applied consistently, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation approved by the UDJG Senate. Depending on the specific evolution of the field and the problems that arise in its development, the monitoring is carried out by: (a) analyzing the content of the curriculum; (b) analyzing the subject sheets and approving them at the beginning of the academic year or when the situation requires it; (c) establishing teaching positions and distributing subjects according to the competencies, function and professional achievements of the teaching staff at the beginning of each academic year; (d) analyzing the learning outcomes, expressed through the performances obtained by students in current and final assessments, as well as through the success/failure indicators in departmental meetings; (e) analysis of teaching staff performance, carried out through self-evaluation, evaluation by students and annual evaluation carried out by academic management. ([IOSUD Regulations; https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/structuri/consiliul-de-calitate](https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/structuri/consiliul-de-calitate) REI, pp. 43).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The doctoral field subject to evaluation is regulated by solid monitoring and periodic evaluation procedures, activities that allow for an operational response to identified needs and directly contribute to maintaining and improving the quality of the doctoral field of studies.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

<b>Indicator</b> 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, supported by documents and data:** Within IOSUD – “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galati, the process of initiating, monitoring and periodic review of study programs involves the active participation of members of the academic community and the systematic consultation of other relevant stakeholders. For the doctoral study field Biotechnologies, these processes include the involvement of doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, as well as academic management structures, namely the Doctoral School Council (CSSD) and the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD). Also, representatives of the socio-economic environment and the agri-food sector are consulted in the process of reviewing the doctoral program, in order to correlate the research topics and the skills developed with the requirements of the labor market and with developments in the field of agriculture and rural development. The opinions of doctoral students are collected through institutional feedback mechanisms and through their participation in advisory structures, and the results of internal analyses are used to update the doctoral training program and optimize research activities (<https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/mediul-de-invatare>, <https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/evaluarea-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi/chestionar-de-evaluare-a-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi-sd-sfi>. (REI, pag.43).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The field of doctoral studies in Biotechnology within IOSUD-UDJG is regulated by clear procedures for establishment, monitoring and periodic evaluation, and its quality is monitored by CEAC and CSUD.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

Criterion C.4. Procedures for the periodic evaluation of the quality of the activities of teaching staff, auxiliary teaching staff, and administrative staff

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures

Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.

Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati, institutional procedures are implemented regarding the periodic evaluation of the activity of teaching staff, which also include the evaluation of their performance by students. For the doctoral study field of Biotechnologies, the evaluation of teaching staff is also carried out through the feedback provided by doctoral students, within the framework of doctoral training activities and the academic relationship with doctoral supervisors. The evaluation process is periodic and is carried out according to the institutional procedures approved at the university level, with the opinions of doctoral students being collected regarding the quality of teaching activities, academic guidance and support offered within the doctoral program. The evaluation results are analyzed at the level of academic structures (IOSUD, CSSD), being used to identify aspects that require improvement and to optimize the teaching and research activities carried out within the doctoral field (<https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/evaluarea-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi/chestionar-de-evaluare-a-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi-sd-sfi>; REI, page 44)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The analysis of the documentation highlights the fact that the process of evaluating teaching staff by students is systematically implemented within the Biotechnologies doctoral field, being an integral part of the internal quality assurance system. The results of the evaluations are analyzed at the institutional level and at the level of IOSUD structures, contributing to the improvement of the quality of teaching activities and the relationship between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students. By capitalizing on the feedback provided by doctoral students, the university ensures the continuous adaptation of the educational process to the needs of the beneficiaries and the increase in the quality of doctoral training.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

Criterion C.5. Systematically updated databases on internal quality assurance

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases

The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.

Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** UDJG has an institutionalized, secure and integrated IT system, which directly supports the functioning of internal quality assurance mechanisms by collecting, organizing and systematically analyzing relevant data. The dedicated platform, accessible at <https://hr.ugal.ro/secure/>, has been operational since the 2012–2013 academic year and ensures the unitary administration of academic information and human resources: curricula, composition of study groups, teaching resource allocation flows, norms and function lists, as well as the time sheets of teaching staff and staff involved in projects. UDJG provides students and doctoral students with the online platform for the evaluation of teaching staff/doctoral supervisors and the learning environment, accessible at: <https://www.evaluare.ugal.ro/>. These evaluation activities are regulated by specific procedures regarding the evaluation of teaching staff by students, as well as the evaluation of the learning environment, which are available on the dedicated website <https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/>, <https://www.ugal.ro/informatii/documente-publice/rapoarte-anuale-universitate>, <https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/raportul-de-evaluare-interna-al-scolilor-doctorale> (REI, page 44)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** UDJG provides students and doctoral students with an online platform for evaluating teaching staff/doctoral supervisors and the learning environment. The information collected through this platform is analyzed by the CEAC, established at the UDJG level.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including those regarding the study programmes and domains offered, and transparency regarding the related certificates, diplomas and qualifications

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency

The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Information regarding the doctoral school and the doctoral field, the program objectives, the curricular structure, admission procedures, the doctoral school regulations, the rights and obligations of doctoral students, as well as data regarding certificates, diplomas and qualifications obtained are published on the institution's website in both Romanian and English and updated periodically. Also available are annual activity reports <https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/raportul-de-evaluare-interna-al-scolilor-doctorale>, announcements regarding admission competitions, research topics proposed by doctoral supervisors, the list of accredited teaching staff and coordinators (<https://en.ugal.ro/education/study-programmes/doctoral-studies>, <https://en.ugal.ro/education/how-to-apply>) as well as information regarding research infrastructure and opportunities for international mobility and collaboration (<https://ugal.ro/relatii-internationale/biroul-erasmus/programul-erasmus-2>, <https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat>, <https://www.admitere.ugal.ro/doctorat/sesiunea-iulie-doctorat>; REI, page 46).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:** The analysis highlights the fact that the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați ensures an adequate level of transparency of information of public interest, by systematically publishing and permanently updating it on institutional platforms. Access to relevant information regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in the field of Biotechnologies contributes to the correct information of candidates, doctoral students and other stakeholders, thus facilitating their participation in educational and academic processes. By using multiple communication channels and by publishing relevant institutional documents, the university respects the principles of transparency and free access to information of public interest.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within the "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati (UDJG), the transparency of decision-making processes is ensured in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force and the university Charter, which enshrines the principles of transparency, accountability and access to information of public interest.

Decisions adopted at the level of the university's management structures, such as the University Senate and the Board of Directors, as well as those of the academic structures (faculties, departments, IOSUD, the Council for Doctoral University Studies - CSUD and the Doctoral School Council - CSD), are publicly communicated through institutional platforms, in particular through the university's official website. Relevant information regarding the decisions of the management structures, internal regulations, institutional strategies and administrative documents is published within the sections dedicated to institutional transparency. At the same time, decision-making processes involve consulting members of the academic community, including doctoral students, through their participation in management structures and academic representation mechanisms. The communication of decisions and relevant information is also carried out through internal institutional channels, such as IT platforms and official electronic communication, ensuring rapid access of members of the academic community to information of interest (<https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/regulamentul-privind-organizarea-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat>; <https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat>, <https://www.admitere.ugal.ro/doctorat/sesiunea-iulie-doctorat>, REI, page 45).

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:**  
 IOSUD-UDJG ensures transparent communication both at the institutional level and at the DSUD Biotechnologies level, through the official website and other internal channels such as: online platforms, institutional display and institutional email.

**Recommendations:** it is not the case  
**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.	
<b>Indicator</b> 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.

**Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** DSUD-Biotechnologies was subject to periodic external evaluation, according to the ARACIS report from 2021, following which the maintenance of accreditation was confirmed. External quality assessment procedures are carried out based on the regulations of the "Lower Dunarea" University of Galati, and the initiation of the evaluation process is carried out following approval, in CSUD, according to the methodological requirements in force. In 2024, the progress report was submitted for the periodic evaluation of DSUD-Biotechnologies. (REI, page 46)

**Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents:**  
 UDJG complies with the deadlines and standards for external quality assessment, as required by law. The assessment process is rigorously planned and transparent.


**Recommendations:** it is not the case  
**The indicator is:** fulfilled.

## IV. SWOT Analysis

<b>Strengths:</b>	<b>INTERNAL FACTORS</b> 	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the strengths/best practice examples identified along the entire report within the analysis per indicators will be included here. Other, general strengths that do not fall under a specific indicator may be included as well.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the weaknesses identified throughout the entire report within the analysis per indicators will be included here. Other, general weaknesses that do not fall under a specific indicator may be included as well.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DJUG has appropriate organizational components and a management system, whose functioning is based on methodologies, regulations, and procedures that are periodically revised, in accordance with the law.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A small number of guidance and academic integrity committees, as well as public defense committees for doctoral theses, with members from foreign academic communities.;</li> <li>✓ A low number of co-tutelle (joint supervision) PhDs and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The existence of a modern and adequate material base through laboratories and research centers, which ensures the possibility of appropriate theoretical and practical training for PhD students in DSD-Biotechnologies.;</li> <li>✓ A continuous focus on equipping teaching and scientific research spaces with high-performance apparatus and equipment, both at the institutional level and within DSD Biotechnologies.</li> <li>✓ The involvement of PhD students from DSD Biotechnologies in the research projects of their doctoral supervisors or of faculty members from the guidance and academic integrity committees.</li> <li>✓ Providing funds for publishing research results, participating in scientific events, and/or traveling within the Erasmus+ program.</li> </ul>		<p>the absence of international co-tutelle PhDs.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A low number of PhD students from abroad;</li> <li>✓ A low level of engagement with economic agents for the development of topics of economic interest, to their benefit.</li> </ul>
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**SWOT analysis**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify external factors that could create opportunities to improve the quality of education in the study domain.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>EXTERNAL FACTORS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identify external factors that could constitute threats to the quality of education in the study domain.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A significant proportion of students are actively involved in laboratory work, ensuring hands-on research experience and skill development.</li> <li>✓ Participation in European-funded projects, contributing to research development and international exposure.</li> <li>✓ Development of partnerships with the economic and institutional environment in the agri-food sector, in order to carry out applied research and technology transfer.</li> <li>✓ Access to funds through national and international projects, which contribute to</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease in the number of candidates for university studies, including doctoral studies, due to demographic decline.</li> <li>✓ The low number of doctoral supervisors affiliated with the doctoral field of Biotechnology and the risk of retirement of two members induces the risk of unsustainability for the doctoral field.</li> <li>✓ The reduced collaboration with the Technology Transfer Center leads to a lack of valorization and</li> </ul>

<p>the development of research infrastructure and the increase of institutional capacity.</p> <p>✓ Academic and scientific mobility opportunities (Erasmus+, international programs), which support the professional development of doctoral students and teaching staff.</p>		<p>commercialization of research results to economic agents.</p>
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## 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
<b>DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity</b>			
1.	<b>I.P.A.1.1.1</b> 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.	<b>I.P.A.1.2.1</b> 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.	<b>I.P.A.2.1.1</b> 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.	<b>I.P.A.2.2.1</b> The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	<b>I.P.A.3.1.1</b> 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	<b>Increasing the number of affiliated PhD supervisors to support program sustainability and diversity of expertise, ensuring continuity of the domain.</b>
6.	<b>I.P.A.3.1.2</b> The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	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	
<b>DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy</b>			
9.	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	<b>Introducing learning outcomes into the curriculum in a standardized format that integrates knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy.</b>
10.	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	
11.	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	<b>Introducing into the curriculum specialized disciplines in the agricultural and food industry fields to support doctoral students in the advanced training program.</b>
12.	I.P.B.3.1.2 The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	<b>Increasing the number of Erasmus mobility opportunities for PhD students to enhance international visibility and support the development of research careers.</b>
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	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	
15.	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	
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	<b>Increasing the number of foreign PhD students through an appropriate recruitment procedure</b>
18.	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	
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	<b>Strengthen international partnerships and expand mobility opportunities for both students and staff (e.g., cotutelle agreements, exchanges).</b>
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	<b>Strengthen the valorization and commercialization of research results through closer collaboration with economic agents and the Technology Transfer Office.</b>
<b>DOMAIN C. Quality management</b>			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	required for the internal quality assurance process.		
30.	<b>I.P.C.6.1.1</b> The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	<b>I.P.C.6.1.2</b> The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	<b>I.P.C.8.1.1</b> 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	8	-	-
Domain B. Educational efficacy	14	-	-
Domain C. Quality management	10	-	-
Total	32	-	-

## VI. Conclusions

Following the evaluation visit and based on the analysis of performance standards and indicators, internal and external evaluations, as well as the continuous monitoring carried out by the competent institutional structures, a series of general conclusions can be drawn regarding the quality of education offered within the Doctoral Study Area in Biotechnologies:

- PhD candidates demonstrate strong enthusiasm, commitment, and passion for research.
- A positive and collaborative culture among PhD students, fostering mutual support and knowledge exchange.
- Presence of budget-funded places and scholarships, supporting student access to doctoral studies.
- Availability of well-equipped and modern laboratories that effectively support advanced research activities.
- A significant proportion of students are actively involved in laboratory work, ensuring hands-on research experience and skill development.
- Participation in European-funded projects, contributing to research development and international exposure.

In conclusion, the Doctoral Study Area in Biotechnologies provides high-quality academic training, backed by a strong institutional framework, sufficient teaching resources, and a clear commitment to ongoing improvement, fully aligning with the standards of the European Higher Education Area and the demands of the labor market.

*Propose and substantiate a decision.*

*Following the completion of the accreditation\*/maintaining accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following:*

- a) **/maintaining accreditation (MAC);**

## **VII. Annexes**

*Enclose the schedule of the on-site visit, the list of the documents reviewed, as well as any other documents that are relevant for the evaluation procedure, which are referred to in the EER and cannot be accessed through links.*

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\* When the external quality evaluation for accreditation is performed with undergoing the procedure for obtaining a provisional authorisation to operate.