



***Annex No. 3***

**The External Evaluation Report of an  
Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD)  
Ovidius University Constanta Romania**

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10th of December 2021



## I. Introduction<sup>1</sup>

This report summarizes my impressions as ARACIS International Expert Evaluator of Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD) Ovidius University Constanta (UOC) Romania. The evaluation of IOSUD at the Ovidius University Constanta was carried out by ARACIS in view of maintaining accreditation, procedure of quality assurance aimed to certify fulfillment of operating standards by the institutions organizing university doctoral studies, based on the provisions of art. 4 para. (2) of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 on Quality Assurance of Education, approved with amendments by the Law No. 87/2006, with subsequent amendments and additions.

The evaluation process was performed by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), who recruited the following Experts Committee, in charge of Evaluation of the IOSUD at the Ovidius University Constanta (UOC) Romania:

**Director:**

Prof. PhD Adrian Opre  
Babes Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca

**Coordinator:**

Prof. PhD. Dumitru Miron  
Academia de Studii Economice din Bucuresti

**International expert:**

Prof.dr. Razvan Ionut Ghinea  
University of Granada, Spain

**PhD student:**

Alexandra-Maria Chiper  
University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Iasi

The evaluation period extended from 22/11/2021 to 26/11/2021, and it was developed in a hybrid mode, meaning that the evaluation benefited from both online meetings and on-site visits.

After my appointment as an International Expert Evaluator, I was informed by the Director (Prof Dr. Adrian Opre, Babes Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca), the Coordinator (Prof. PhD. Dumitru Miron - Academia de Studii Economice din Bucuresti) as well as the Technical Assistant (Marilena Dobre - ARACIS) of the evaluation team on important aspects of the evaluation process, such as:

- Working methodology and the structure of the evaluation panels, for IOSUD and doctoral study domains, including contact data;
- All important working documents, such as The Guidelines for Periodical External Evaluation of the Institution Organising Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD), respectively of the Doctoral study domains; The Doctoral Studies Code of June 29th, 2011 and the Order no. 3651/12.04.2021 for the approval of the Methodology on conducting the evaluation of university doctoral studies and of the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation; General presentation of the HE and QA systems in Romania.
- Detailed on-line meetings and visit schedule;
- Credentials and how to access the Internal evaluation reports and their annexes uploaded by the evaluated institution.

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<sup>1</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



## **Background**

"Ovidius" University of Constanta is an educational institution which organizes doctoral studies since 1990. UOC is committed to strengthening high-performance curricula and aligning its educational offer with the societal needs and standards of contemporary scientific, artistic and cultural knowledge and promoting quality, student-centered education. The university aims to maintain its priority research areas aligned with regional priorities and the latest trends in the development of knowledge at European level. UOC also supports excellence in research and innovation by strengthening competitive research teams, rewarding performance, stimulating innovation, involving students in RDI activities, actively supporting artistic creation and sports performance.

Starting with the 2012/2013 academic year, doctoral studies are organized in the doctoral schools subordinated to the Doctoral Studies Institute (hereinafter referred to as IOSUD) of the UOC (<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctordat>), with the role of coordinating from the administrative point of view of doctoral studies. By Senate Decision no. 1291 / 5.12.2012 the names of the doctoral schools under the CSUD in which doctoral studies in 8 doctoral fields are carried out were approved. The doctoral fields, regulated by GD 778/2015 and organized within the UOC IOSUD are: Philology, History, Theology, Biology, Mathematics, Civil Engineering and Facilities, Medicine and Dental Medicine. In 2018, by Senate Decision no. 502 of 28 June 2018 the Doctoral School of Mathematics is set up by detaching this field from the Applied Sciences Doctoral School.

As an institution of accredited scientific doctoral studies, "Ovidius" University of Constanța (IOSUD UOC) currently comprises 5 doctoral schools that organize 8 doctoral domains, as follows: the Doctoral School of Humanities, for Philology and History; the Doctoral School of Sciences, with Biology and Civil Engineering and Installations; the Doctoral School of Medicine with Medicine and Dental Medicine; the Doctoral School of Theology with Theology; and the Doctoral School of Mathematics with Mathematics (<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/scoli-doctorale>).

The activity of IOSUD UOC is coordinated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), subordinated to the Board of Directors. The doctoral school is run by a doctoral school board.

In accordance with the legislation in force, the doctoral university studies have the general mission to ensure the preparation in the third cycle of university studies which is completed by defending the doctoral thesis and granting the doctoral degree. The IOSUD UOC mission is to form and prepare high-level academic specialists to become autonomous, creative and critical researchers, capable of conceiving and conducting original research based on advanced methods that lead to the development of scientific knowledge both in specific areas and in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary fields.

The main financial sources for carrying out IOSUD-UOC activities are the annual doctoral grants (financed by the Ministry of Education) and the fees associated with doctoral studies. To these main financial sources are added the non-reimbursable funds obtained through national and european competitions which include activities of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

According to the documents provided by the evaluated institution, at IOSUD level, a total of 68 PhD Advisors are affiliated to the different DS and currently a total of 487 Doctoral Students are enrolled at the different DS. During the evaluated period (2016-2020), a total of 218 Doctoral Students obtained their doctoral degree.

Ethical values of academic integrity are the basis of all activities carried out within UOC. The fundamental norms of ethical and academic conduct, including education, scientific research, community involvement, are included in the UOC's Code of University Ethics and Professional Ethics, which specifies



the principles that govern the conduct of UOC community, defends the academic freedom, and promotes integrity and fairness, equal opportunities and nondiscrimination, respect and tolerance, decision-making transparency, etc. The UOC's Code of University Ethics and Professional Ethics, in force, was adopted by the University's Senate in 2014 and it is accompanied by the Regulation for the organization and functioning of the UOC's Commission on Ethics and Professional Deontology, updated in 2016. The commission prepares annually, an activity report, which is analyzed by the governance bodies of the university and posted on the dedicated website. In order to prevent unethical behaviours and practices, UOC focuses on adequately informing teachers and researchers as well as students on these topics. Starting with the 2018-2019 academic year, the discipline of Ethics and academic integrity was introduced in the curricula of undergraduate and master's degree programs. In parallel, special importance was given to the prevention of plagiarism by both providing proper information to the community and using consistently computer software that identify the degree of similarity.

As an Institution Organizing University Doctoral Studies (IOSUD), UOC assumes as a fundamental element of its mission the assurance of high quality in educational, research and management activities to increase national and international competitiveness. In the coordinates of the mission undertaken by Ovidius University of Constanța - to create, maintain and distribute knowledge to society in a competitive and collaborative environment through education, scientific research and artistic creation at European standards -, promoting an internal culture of ensuring quality is a constant concern of university management, at all hierarchical levels.

In the Ovidius University of Constanta there is, according to the legislative regulations in force, an integrated quality assurance system that has the following structures: The Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission (CEAC); The Department of Academic Strategies and Quality Management (DSAMC) and The Integrated Quality Management Center - PilotQ. At IOSUD level, the operational procedure for the periodic evaluation of PhD Supervisors is aimed at determining the way in which the period evaluation of doctoral supervisors is carried out in the light of the results obtained in didactic activity and scientific research. At UOC, the procedure for evaluating teaching staff by students is mandatory. Student evaluation is an important component in the evaluation of each instructor. This type of assessment is carried out on the basis of an evaluation form (questionnaire) for all teaching staff, approved at institutional level which is completed after each semester and the results are confidential.

The doctoral schools offers doctoral students a training program based on advanced university studies consisting of courses, seminars, laboratories, and various specific activities. Another important aspect is that each PhD student benefits from the existence of an individual Guidance Commission, that will help and assess each PhD Student throughout the development of the thesis.

Ovidius University of Constanța offers undergraduates, master's and doctoral students from all types of studies (full-time, part-time and distance learning) a performant material basis, with modern spaces, equipped with study facilities and technological devices necessary for the didactic process, grouped in eight university buildings. All PhD students have access to several research facilities. A great part of the research facilities and/or research equipment was either built or acquired in the last 5 years, which proves the continuous effort of the evaluated institution to provide its students with the best resources for the proper development of their PhD Thesis. UOC has teaching spaces, offices and conference rooms that can be used by both PhD supervisors and PhD students.



Finally, PhD Students have access to electronic documentation resources provided through the information platform (ANELIS+project) and physical documentation resources through the Central University Library “Ioan Popișteanu”, which has intensified its efforts to digitize its own documentary resources and catalog to increase the visibility of the documentary fund and make it compatible with other institutions in the network of university libraries.

## II. Methods used

### *Self-Assessment Report*

The institution has taken the evaluation process very seriously and carefully prepared a *Self-Assessment Report* of IOSUD. This document was available as 57 pages .pdf document in the ARACIS cloud, and I was able to access it easily, on-time and as often as necessary. To support information included in the *Self-Assessment Report*, the evaluated institution provided many annexes and links to documents and information publicly available online in digital format. These documents were later completed with other additional documents, upon request from the evaluation panel. All these documents were uploaded to the ARACIS cloud or sent directly by e-mail to the evaluation panel. No physical documents were requested during the evaluation visit.

### *Additional Information available on-line*

To complete this evaluation report, documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format was also frequently consulted (I will list just a part of them):

<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro>

<https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat>

<http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/scoli-doctorale>

Similarly, webpages corresponding to each Doctoral Domain and research facilities mentioned in the Self-Assessment Report were consulted in order to verify the provided information.

### *Meeting/discussions with doctoral students enrolled at IOSUD*

The meeting/discussions with doctoral students at IOSUD UOC was on-line and took place on 23/11/2021. At the meeting participated more than 20 students at different years (stages) of the PhD program enrolled at the different DS belonging to the evaluated IOSUD. Students were generally positive and stated that PhD Supervisor were always supportive and accessible, that they generally have their own allocated space and easy access to all available research resources. However, students showed some concerns regarding the allocated spaces (some offices are small and individual spots are not always available as well as the available area within research laboratories for carrying out some experiments). Also, another concern shown by the PhD Students was related with the short period (3 years) for PhD Thesis development. Also, some of the PhD Students expressed their wish to be able to receive lectures from international experts more often during the development of their doctoral theses.



### *Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of IOSUD*

Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review was on-line and took place on 23/11/2021. At the meeting participated more than 25 former students from IOSUD UOC. Overall, they all seem satisfied with the quality of their development throughout the PhD, and they easily found a job. The doctoral graduates valued positively the learning/development/research environment offered by IOSUD UOC. They mentioned the professionalism of the supervisor, the support given to PhD students to participate in scientific events, the access to literature, transparency, creation of heterogeneous opportunities for doctoral students to get involved in various research actions/projects, optimal collaboration between supervisor/student/doctoral student based on trust and mutual respect. Also, the possibility of doing co-tutelle studies or research internships, involvement in collaborations and the permanent search to bring together specialists interested in a particular field was also positively valued.

However, IOSUD UOC graduates were not fully satisfied by the excessive bureaucracy, the insufficient funding to support research/publication of the PhD thesis, research infrastructure for some Doctoral Domains or the insufficient space dedicated to research or as a workspace for PhD Supervisors, Students and Postdocs.

Graduates also suggested that IOSUD should allocate adequate workspace (offices) dedicated to mentoring and PhD students/postdocs as well as adequate dedicated space for experimental research. They also suggested organization of postdoctoral internships or facilitating informal meetings between PhD students, alumni, potential PhD students and PhD supervisors. Also, feedback from IOSUD graduates regarding the entire doctoral pathway, in terms of the administrative process, collaboration with the coordinating professor, teaching, research resources, etc. should be more widely implemented.

### *Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates of IOSUD*

The meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review was on-line and took place on 23/1a/2021. At the meeting participated more than 20 representatives of employers of graduate students from IOSUD UOC. Overall, they were all satisfied with the level of training of the graduates as well as their considerably high level of multidisciplinary approach. They all agreed that both employers and doctoral schools can benefit from constant cooperation that should start as soon as possible.

Some of the employers' representatives suggested that IOSUD UOC should focus more on inter- and transdisciplinary research and increase national and international mobility; poromoting of joint scientific research programmes at inter-university level or involvement of doctoral students in research projects carried out within research institutes from outside UOC, facilitating possible future employment.

Overall, IOSUD UOC should better communicate with potential employers of their graduates, consult them on the main areas on which doctoral study programmes are organized and further promote their educational offer, as employer's representative considered that there is a high potential to attract many potential PhD students from among the staff employed in the undergraduate educational system, for example.



### *Meeting/Discussions with IOSUD officials*

Meeting/Discussions with the director of CSUD, directors of doctoral schools and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report of IOSUD UOC was on-line and took place on 22/11/2021. At the meeting participated the Director of IOSUD Prof. Monica Vlad and several Directors of different DS. Meeting/Discussions with CSUD members was on-line and took place on 24/11/2021.

During the meetings, participants were informed on the results of the review of the Self-Assessment Report and several complementary documents were requested. All requested documents were either uploaded or sent by the evaluated institution within few days from request.

It was discussed the access methodology for Doctoral studies and the procedure of election of CSUD members. The current CSUD was elected in September 2021 and it is formed by 14 PhD Supervisors and 2 PhD Students representatives.

One of the concerns expressed by the evaluation team was related with the low number of PhD Supervisors for a specific DD (History) as well as the relatively high number of PhD thesis rejected by CNADTCU for another DD (Theology). Further details and explanations were provided by IOSUD representatives regarding both situations.

Overall, it was concluded that IOSUD benefits from a high academic and research level; efficient administrative organization; high transparency; good coordination of the activities at the different doctoral schools as well as firmness and fairness in applying the in-force regulations.

Also, it has to be highlighted that IOSUD makes considerable effort towards continued correlation of internal regulations with those existing at national level and that there is a concern for promoting PhD Supervisor habilitation by academic staff.

It was concluded that IOSUD UOC benefits of a dynamic management team, support from the University Senate and the Rectorate as well as from support from other administrative entities within UOC. Also, there is transparency in decision-making and efforts to improve quality of the activities carried out within IOSUD UOC based on internal monitoring and evaluation of the services and processes carried out for all doctoral activities.

On the other hand, several aspects that can be improved within IOSUD there were also identified, such as the lack of PhD Supervisors at some DD; the relatively small number of PhDs carried out in international co-tutelle; the relatively small number of international internships for PhD students or the relatively small number of PhD thesis developed in collaboration with industry/socio-economic environment (industrial doctorates). Also, the decreasing number of PhD applicants in last year is also concerning. Lastly, it seems that IOSUD UOC should expand the dedicated space for doctoral research/interaction and make efforts to simplify the sometimes complicated bureaucratic procedures required.

### *Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in IOSUD*

The meeting/discussions with the doctoral advisors in IOSUD UOC was on-line and took place on 22/11/2021. At the meeting participated more than 30 PhD Advisors as well as the Director of IOSUD UOC, Prof. Monica Vlad.

Generally, it was discussed the specific research field of the participants, the number of PhD students that they supervise currently, their actual position within the DSs and their strategy to attract



possible PhD candidates. Overall, IOSUD UOC benefits of a large diversity of DDs with PhD Supervisors covering a wide range of research fields.

Phd Advisors valued positively the very good communication and collaboration with IOSUD management, the constant concern for quality improvement, transparency of decision-making, the research performance awards established at IOSUD level and the research partnerships with other universities in the country. It seems that there is a very good collegial relation and communication within PhD Supervisors at IOSUD UOC.

Some shortcomings of IOSUD and DDs were also identified, such as the need to promote multi(inter)disciplinary PhDs Thesis, the insufficient internationalization or the relatively low number of articles published in top journals with IF. Some other issues also arise, such as low number of doctoral scholarships and budgeted places; requirement that doctoral students complete their thesis strictly in 3 years, any extension (other than medical, postnatal leave, etc.) involving the payment of the annual tuition fee as well as a constant financial support for PhD Students through the development of their PhD Thesis.

PhD Supervisors suggested that IOSUD UOC should further intensify collaboration with research institutes and/or Universities in the country and abroad, constantly support the development of research infrastructure, increase the number of co-tutelle with EU-based Universities and stimulate the participation of PhD students in research projects. Another issue mentioned by the PhD Advisors was the need of a stronger stimulation of applicants belonging to diverse groups (rural students, Roma, LGBTQI+ community, single-parent families, etc.)

All questions were adequately answered, and although there are some differences among the different doctoral domains, it seems that IOSUD UOC has taken all measures to have in place all the effective operating mechanisms provided in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies. PhD supervisors are supportive with their students, and this is clearly reflected on the quality and quantity of the research output of the evaluated institution.

#### *Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD UOC*

The Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) under review were on-line and took place on 22/11/2021 (Representatives of UOC, IOSUD and DD management), 23/11/2021 (Ethics Committee) and 23/11/2021 (Quality Assurance Department). All were joint meetings for IOSUD and different DD panel evaluators. General aspects of IOSUD organization within UOC, funding sources, achievements of the last years and projects for the future were discussed.

Gabriel Grigore (President of the Ethics Committee) explained the mission and purpose of the ethics committee and its composition. HE explained that the Ethics Committee is involved in resolving ethics disputes and in terms of prevention, UOC applied the normative acts by including university ethics courses. According to the current commission regulation, anonymous complaints are not accepted, but it was explained that if such anonymous complaints result in concrete data, the Ethics Committee may take action. The evaluation panel pointed out that there were delays in setting up a committee to analyze specific situations related to ethics (plagiarism) at some DD and IOSUD UOC was encouraged to change the regulation in order to be able to set up more efficiently the ethics-related (plagiarism) analysis committees at each Doctoral School level.

Also, IOSUD UOC was asked regarding specific regulation for ethical aspects of scientific research on human subjects. There is Bioethics Committee established at UOC and its mission is to ensure that biomedical research proposals are ethical and to monitor and ethically evaluate approved research





projects in order to protect the life, health, dignity, safety and comfort of subjects participating in biomedical studies.

Adina Ciugureanu, President of CEAC is in charge of supervising quality assurance within IOSUD UOC. She briefly explained the architecture of quality management at UOC and IOSUD level. There is a University interest in quality assurance. Annually (usually between October and November) the performance of the PhD Supervisors is evaluated. Also annually (usually in Spetember) the peer review and PhD Supervisor evaluation by students is also requested. The information is sent to CEAC IOSUD through a report and tables with degree of fulfilment. CEAC committee also analyzes and makes recommendations to overcome some of the identified vulnerabilities. CEAC members explained that there is an IT platform at university level where quality assurance - related documents are uploaded (internal evaluation reports, transcripts, etc.).It was also explained that CEAC made recommendations regarding the inclusion within SD and IOSUD regulations of provisions regarding the gradual sanctioning of PhD Supervisors who do not respond to SD requests and those with partial or definitive invalidations of doctoral theses. Both sanctions and rewards for these cases are included in the new institutional regulations.

### *The Evaluation Visit*

The evaluation visit took place on 25/11/2021. At the visit participated the Director (Prof. PhD Adrian Opre) the Coordinator (Prof. PhD. Dumitru Miron) and the PhD Student (Alexandra-Maria Chiper). The International expert did not participate.

The main highlights of the visit include a meeting with several members of the university management and doctoral schools; a visit to the CEDMOG research centre where the existing research facilities were presented to the evaluation team (modern and very well equipped, functional, with many young employees (most of them doctors or PhD students of the UOC), with numerous research contracts, connected to several national and international research networks and with great potential for development); meeting with the President of the Ethics Commission and examination of several working documents (files of various cases, minutes book, Commission reports, etc) and a meeting with the President of the Quality Assurance Committee and corresponding examination of several working documents.

Research facilities available at IOSUD-UOC are in good standing and they fulfill all recent requirements in terms of space distribution, allocated spaces, available complementary services, etc. In terms of research infrastructure, facilities are well equipped with state-of-the art equipment that can clearly help and motivate students to properly engage in their research activities.



### III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators<sup>2</sup>

#### **Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY**

Following the analysis of the Self-Assessment Report, the online meetings and the visit to the IOSUD of the Ovidius University Constanta (IOSUD UOC), it was concluded that the Ovidius University Constanta demonstrates the institutional capacity to carry out in excellent conditions the activities related to IOSUD, successfully meeting the standards required for this activity.

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

*Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

*f) the contract for doctoral studies;*

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

*- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.*

*- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.*

IOSUD-UOC has adopted a series of regulations which are updated periodically, depending on the evolution of national regulations and based on the identification of typical problems in the functioning of doctoral studies.

The development of the activities within IOSUD UOC is regulated by the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral university studies. The last edition of the institutional regulation is dated September 2021 and it was drafted in the legal frameworks in force, in

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<sup>2</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



compliance with the National Education Law 1/2011, respectively of HG681 Code of doctoral studies, with subsequent amendments, in force at the time of drafting the regulations. They establish the institutional framework for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (doctoral schools, governing bodies: CSUD, CSUD director, doctoral school councils, doctoral school directors), define the main actors in this process (doctoral students, doctoral supervisors), stipulate the conditions for admission to the doctorate, the staff of the doctoral research activity as well as the conditions for completing the doctoral university studies.

Evaluated institution presented evidence of the methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct. Also, the methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies) were submitted.

Similarly, it was proven the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad; the functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), with proof of the regularity of meetings and the contract for doctoral studies. Finally, the internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies were also submitted.

It is considered that the evaluated institution provided all required specific regulations as well as proof of their application at the level of IOSUD and SD. When needed, additional documents were provided. Based on the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, this performance indicator is considered to be fulfilled

*Recommendations:*

- *The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task. This evaluator had difficulties to find some relevant information.*
- *Alos, it will be highly recommended to translate into english all available information on the institutional website.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

The evaluated institution submitted for review regulation of IOSUD, and included mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions. Based on the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, this performance indicator is considered to be fulfilled.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**



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

Three of the doctoral schools (DS) include two doctoral domains, while the other two five DS operate with only one Doctoral Domain. This grouping of the fields within the doctoral schools allows a natural collaboration in the activities of guiding the doctoral students. Additionally, the training programs based on advanced university studies are organized, in relation to the specifics of the Doctoral Schools and of the fields they include, on specialized disciplines / topics, but also on interdisciplinary topics.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution needs to develop strategies to further promote and facilitate multi- or interdisciplinary PhDs Thesis within IOSUD, with PhD Supervisors belonging to different Doctoral Schools.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

According to the Self-Assessment Report and the online and on-site visit, the committee found that the IOSUD UOC has the necessary logistical resources to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.

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

The evaluated institution benefits from a computerized PhD Student management program (IT system) necessary for the optimization and development of administrative activities related to doctoral students (Doctoral module of the integrated UMS student management system). This module includes information about the student's doctoral thesis, his / her reports and the activities he / she carries out. Among the general functionalities of the module are: concluding the situation of doctoral students for the years when they do not have disciplines with qualificatives, managing the situation they obtain over the years, as well as the information on the progress reports.

*Recommendations:*

*It is recommended to complete the student management informatic (IT) system in order to extend its capabilities and to include an electronic signature system, this way achieving almost complete digitalization of the bureaucratic flow within IOSUD.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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



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

All doctoral theses defended at the "Ovidius" University of Constanta since March 2016 have been verified against plagiarism using specialized software and which is included in the List of programs recognized by the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU), specified in OM 3485/2016.

During the evaluated period, IOSUD UOC reported the use of two different similarity check softwares:

- Between March 2016 and September 2018: Plagiarism-detector platform ([www.plagiarism-detector.com](http://www.plagiarism-detector.com));
- Between September 2018 and September 2020, the platform Sistemantiplagiat.ro.

The similarity report is individually analyzed by the PhD Supervisor assessing the instances of similarity identified by the software.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to further promote the use of anti-plagiarism software within their PhD Students at all levels of PhD Thesis development.*

*It is recommended to use a state of the art plagiarism check software (such as Turnitin or iThenticate) in order to benefit from the use of a larger database and therefore increase the possibility of early detection of high similarities of PhD thesis with other published work.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure**

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

The research facilities and the equipment available at IOSUD UOC are adequate for scientific research activities and contribute successfully to the achievement of its mission and objectives.

**Performance Indicator A.2.1.1.** *The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)*

IOSUD UOC provides doctoral students a high-performance research and educational infrastructure, with modern spaces, equipped with study facilities and equipment necessary for the teaching process. In the last 5 years, there has been a permanent and growing concern for the development of the available educational and research infrastructure offered to doctoral students. All the spaces, the research laboratories, the resources from the faculties that support the activity of the doctoral schools are made permanently available, free of charge, to the doctoral students.

All doctoral students from IOSUD UOC are assigned to a laboratory or research center within the department where the doctoral supervisor works. They have access to the scientific research laboratories



or other facilities of UOC, according to the internal regulations of the laboratories or research centers. Also, all doctoral students have access to the international databases specific to their activity field, provided through the ANELIS Plus program.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to further improve the allocated space both for educational and research purposes, since the lack of adequate spaces has been a recurring complaint in the interviews conducted.*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to include on their institutional website ([www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat](http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat)) information on the research infrastructure and the provision of research services.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator A.2.1.2.*** *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.*

The evaluated institution proved that its research activities are carried out in partnership with other higher education and research institutes in the country or abroad, within research networks or consortia. UOC is also part of the ERASMO consortium - The European Alliance on Sustainable Mobility - which aims at developing interdisciplinary and strengthened synergies between education, research and innovation to tackle the sustainable mobility socio-economic challenges.

The research services are presented publicly using a dedicated platform (EERIS - <https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000G-0164>), although it seems that not all available research infrastructure and research services are included in the platform.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to include all available research infrastructure and research services in a dedicated platform.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

The evaluated institution proved that it has made progress in the last 5 years in increasing research capacity and enhancing quality and performance in scientific research activity. The evaluated institution initiated 3 institutional development projects in six strategic areas, funded within the FDI 2018-2020 project competition, carried out under the auspices of the Ministry of National Education and coordinated by the National Council for Financing Higher Education (CNFIS).



***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resource**

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

***Performance Indicator \* A.3.1.1.*** *The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.*

Although for some of the years of the evaluated period the number of PhD Advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students was considerably high, IOSUD UOC recently introduced new regulations that establish that a PhD Supervisor can guide a maximum of 8 doctoral students during doctoral studies (3 or 4 years, depending on the field) and a maximum of 4 doctoral students in extension of schooling and / or during grace period. The annual number of places put up for admission to each doctoral supervisor is within the limit of 8 vacancies up to the maximum number established per doctoral supervisor. IOSUD UOC has made considerable efforts to lower the number of PhD Advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students. According to the documents provided by the evaluated institution, currently, from the 68 PhD Supervisor affiliated to IOSUD, only 1 is coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students (1,5%). None of the Doctoral Domains exceeds the 20% ratio.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

According to the information provided in the Self-Assessment Report, from the 68 PhD Supervisor affiliated to IOSUD, 36 have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD (52.9%). There are several Doctoral Domains where this ratio is below 50%: Filology, Civil Engineering and History.

However, if all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs are taken into account (as the Performance Indicator clearly points out), then this percentage changes dramatically, exceeding by far 50% for all doctoral domains.

Therefore, this indicator is considered fulfilled.

#### ***Recommendations:***

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to actively support their research and teaching staff to prepare and defend their habilitation thesis so that the percentage of PhD Supervisor with a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD can be increased in the future, specially for those domains where the ratio is low.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

Online and on-site visits, as well as the analysis of submitted documents, show a diversity as social representation and by gender as well as in origin universities of students at IOSUD; the admission methodology provides the framework for a good selection of students, with a clear concern for selecting the best performing students. Students and employers of the graduates show a high level of satisfaction with the professional skills and competences obtained during the doctoral studies.

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

Standard B.1.1. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender.

**Performance Indicator \* B.1.1.1.** *Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.*

According to the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation meetings that took place, it was proven that admission to doctoral study programs at IOSUD UOC is based on selection several selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific research, publications in the domain and a research proposal. Furthermore, an interview with the candidate is always carried on as part of the admission procedure.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.1.1.2.** *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.*

It seems that admission to any form of education within IOSUD UOC is based on non-discriminatory principles, being promoted equal opportunity between candidates as regards gender, ethnicity or social origin. IOSUD, through its Doctoral School has a policy to stimulate the registration of doctoral students from disadvantaged social backgrounds by organizing support programs to prevent them from dropping out of university. Also, doctoral students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or with social issues receive financial support from UOC through tax reductions and other financial mechanism. In the last 2 years, IOSUD UOC approved tax reductions for a number of 85 doctoral students.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***





## **Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs**

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

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

Each doctoral domain within IOSUD UOC organizes a series of courses within the advanced university training program. These courses aim to the formation of skills, abilities and aptitudes for scientific research in particular, respectively for academic activity in general. Independently of the DS where they are enrolled, PhD Students can benefit of a discipline dedicated to research methodology: British and American research techniques, Research techniques in Romanian philology, Research methods in the field of history, Biostatistics, Scientific authorship, Modern research methods in theology, Methodology of scientific research and management of scientific research project. The optional courses proposed to doctoral students are organized in thematic packages that ensure flexible in-depth specialization courses, in relation to their research topics, all curricula include at least one optional subject package

### *Recommendations:*

*To include within the Training Program of the PhD Students new courses that include information on how to effectively present research output, how to make better presentations, how to speak in public and how to properly communicate a scientific message.*

*Also, to promote inter-disciplinary collaborations within IOSUD, courses belonging to the advanced training program should be available and offered for all PhD Students, independently of the doctoral domain where they are enrolled.*

### ***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

The curricula of all training programs based on advanced university studies contain the discipline "Ethics and academic integrity".

### ***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses "the learning outcomes", specifying the*



*knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>4</sup>.*

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, the IOSUD has proven to have mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

***Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.*** *For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)*

The evaluated institution provided an analysis of the publications registered in Web of Science with PhD students at IOSUD UOC as co-authors (a total of 138 Publications). In the same time, a total of 218 PhD Students graduated, therefore an overall ratio of 0.63 (138/218) WoS Publication / PhD Graduate. This is considered as a rather low average, but of course this analysis has to be carefully taken, as there are important differences among doctoral domains and not all of them support their activity through ISI or WoS publication. However, this ratio can be considerably increased if we consider the number of other type of publications (222) or contribution to scientific meetings (576). According to the discussions with IOSUD management, it was also explained that publishing in high quality journals is also encouraged and supported by financing Article Processing Charges (APC). The institution also claims that initiatives to exploit the results of doctoral studies through related products or services are consistent with the approach of involving doctoral students in research contracts funded by either national or European programs or by contracts with third parties. In this sense, for the evaluated period there were a total of 25 research grants under development at IOSUD UOC in which PhD Students or PhD graduates participated.

Nonetheless, the evaluated institution has to further encourage participation of PhD Student at both national and international scientific meetings and to develop financial mechanism to support them.

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



*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is recommended to develop, at IOSUD level, a unitary financial mechanism to support PhD Students training mobility as well as attendance to national or international scientific meeting (participation fees and travel grants).*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses**

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards

***Performance Indicator B.4.1.1.*** *At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non- validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.*

For the evaluated period, there were 2 theses invalidated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending. This represents a percentage of 0,9% (2/218) from the total PhD Thesis that underwent public defense at IOSUD UOC. However, it is somehow worrying that both PhD Thesis belong to the same DD (Theology). Furthermore, this Doctoral Domain has also a relatively large number of PhD Theses that are not validated in first instance at CNADTCU. After discussion with IOSUD UOC and Theology DD management, it resulted that are discrepancies with CNADTCU criteria in terms of quality indicators of PhD Thesis. The evaluated institution seems to be aware of the situation and already implemented actions to improve this situation.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to harmonize and update (if necessary) their standards and guidelines of PHD Thesis validation with those of CNADTCU to avoid future rejection (non-validation) of their theses by CNADTCU and thus improve the quality and prestige of their doctoral schools.*

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

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

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

From the analysis of the available documents as well as a result of online meetings and on-site visits it was noted the existence of the institutional framework for quality assurance and the application of policies and procedures for internal quality assurance.



**Performance Indicator C.1.1.1.** *The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory:*

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

The institutional regulation for the organization and functioning of the doctoral study programs within IOSUD UOC includes a chapter on Quality Assurance of the doctoral study programs. Chapter IX regulates the modalities of periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students. In 2018, IOSUD elaborated the Operational Procedure for centralization and follow-up of the capitalization of the research results carried out within IOSUD-UOC, PO-16 and The Operational Procedure for the Periodic Evaluation of Doctoral Supervisors in IOSUD UOC Doctoral Schools, PO-18. The purpose of PO-16 is to establish the way in which the centralization and pursuit of the capitalization of the results obtained by the doctoral supervisors and the doctoral students in the university scientific research activity is achieved. The purpose of PO-18 is to establish the way in which the periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors is performed in the light of the results obtained in the didactic and scientific research activity. In addition, the Doctoral Schools constantly carry out a process of evaluation and internal quality assurance according to the operational procedures implemented by IOSUD: Internal procedure regarding the elaboration, revision and approval of curricula for undergraduate, master's and doctoral study programs at UOC, Operational procedure for the preparation, updating and approval of syllabuses for undergraduate and master's degree programs and full-time education.

Following the application of internal evaluation procedures, the SD Management prepares a SD evaluation and monitoring report that specifically contains elements on the evaluation of the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors, the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity, procedures and rules on the basis of which the doctoral studies are carried out, the scientific activity of the doctoral students, the training program based on advanced university studies, as well as remedial measures for each of these elements. The report of the director of the Doctoral School is sent to the Quality Assurance Commission - CEAC at IOSUD level to draft the analysis report and identify the appropriate measures to remedy the problems found. CEAC commission analyzes the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors, the infrastructure and logistics necessary for carrying out the research activity, the procedures and norms based on which the doctoral studies are organized and the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

Consequently, self-evaluation reports are drafted periodically at both IOSUD and DS levels.

The University manages the accommodation process of doctoral students in dormitories and ensures the maintenance of accommodation spaces. The Career Counselling and Guidance Center (<http://consiliere.univ-ovidius.ro>) of UOC offers students guidance and vocational counselling services (such as assessment of occupational interests, skills and career priorities, change of field of study or retraining, exploration of occupational and/or academic pathways depending on the specialisation



pursued, support in career decision-making or support in developing a career plan), as well as psychological counselling if needed.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

According to the information provided by the evaluated institution and based on the discussion that took place during the meetings, it is clear for this evaluator that students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students, organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected..

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.1.1.3.*** *Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.*

According to the information provided by the evaluated institution and based on the discussion that took place during the meetings, it is clear for this evaluator that students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students, organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \* C.1.1.4.*** *Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.*

IOSUD UOC and the member doctoral schools carried out several internal evaluations. Following these evaluations, several problems of general functioning of doctoral studies were identified, and these findings led, in general, to the proposal and operation of some transformations (updates) of the specific regulations and methodologies. Some clear examples of the *strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies* are the following (as it can be extracted from the latest PV of CEAC IOSUD):

1. Regarding the reduction of the number of doctoral students in the case of doctoral supervisors who have more than 12 doctoral students under their supervision, the CEAC recommends amending Art 19 (para. 1) of the Institutional Regulations for the Organisation of Doctoral Studies, concerning the maximum number of doctoral students that can be supervised concurrently by a doctoral supervisor.



2. The CEAC recommends that one of the sanctioning measures adopted in the case of doctoral supervisors who fail to meet the minimum standards within 2 years of the finding of failure to meet the standards of qualification should be the non-allocation of places for admission until the standards are met. The same measure can be taken in the case of doctoral supervisors who do not respond to the requests of the doctoral school.

3. The CEAC recommends that each doctoral school introduce in its own regulations strategies for remedying existing deficiencies, for stimulating scientific performance, for evaluation and regular organisation of doctoral studies.

Also, compliance with the aforementioned OP-16 Operational procedure for centralisation and follow-up of the valorisation of research results carried out in the ISD-UOC has been monitored. A sustained effort was also made to ensure that the research results of doctoral students comply with the individual scientific research programme in the Individual Doctoral Study Plan (annex to the study contract) and the doctoral study contract. The doctoral schools ensured through the CSD that the Individual Doctoral Study Plan established together with the doctoral supervisor was closely followed, and that the publication activity took into account the minimum national standards for the award of the doctoral degree applicable to the field. Doctoral students were encouraged to publish jointly with the supervisor, in teams or individually, according to the requirements of the field.

Also, other recommendations of the CEAC commission include:

- Identify and approve a set of punitive measures at DS level for PhD supervisors with poor research performance, together with IOSUD coordination. It is also recommended to encourage, through awards, PhD supervisors whose research activity is reflected in the publication of articles in WOS indexed journals.
- Promote and apply the use progress report of PhD Students in the future in order to make the doctoral student-supervisor relationship more effective.
- The CSD should adopt measures that can be applied to PhD supervisors who do not respond to the DS requests.
- The Directors of DS and the CSDs continue to place greater emphasis on meeting the standards for all PhD Supervisors.
- To encourage colleagues who are engaged in scientific and research activity to meet the standards and obtain habilitation.
- To allocate at least 10% of the doctoral school budget for student participation in national and international conferences and publication of articles in prestigious journals.
- To diversify international databases and virtual libraries, and to allocate larger amounts of the doctoral schools' budgets for the purchase of materials, software, equipment, apparatus in order to develop the material base of the doctoral schools.
- Each doctoral school should have its own space for meeting doctoral students and for supporting projects and dissertations.
- Clear strategies should be formulated at the level of each doctoral school for the regular evaluation of the development of the doctoral school, the infrastructure and logistics required in the doctoral programme and in the conduct of research.

*Recommendations:*



*The evaluated institution is encouraged to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations made in the latest IOSUD CEAC report. These recommendations, together with evaluation results from staff and students, should be considered for strategic decision-making. Both the results as well as the consequences are highly recommended to be made publicly available (as for example, on the institutional website).*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

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

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

According to the description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents, the consulted websites and the evaluation visit itself it can be concluded that the IOSUD publishes, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, on the institutional website (<https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat>) as well as other websites belonging to the evaluated institution and affiliated doctoral schools, relevant information on:

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



*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website (<https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat>) in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task.*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to create a complete English version of its website and to offer, if applicable, teaching alternatives and guidance in English.*

*Also, the evaluated institution should post regularly links to the doctoral theses' summaries and habilitation thesis to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented on their institutional website also on each DS website (as for the moment is only done at IOSUD level); this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

All PhD Students are granted access to the University Main Library. UOC benefits through the ANELIS Plus 2020 National Project of online access to scientific electronic resources (databases/platforms of scientific journals with full text and bibliographic and bibliometric databases) to support research, education, innovation and stimulate scientific production.

Access to the ANELIS+ platform was facilitated on the UOC website for PhD students. Information on ANELIS access is posted on the UOC website in the research section dedicated to IOSUD. Doctoral students were facilitated, free of charge, access to the einformation platform <https://www.e-nformation.ro/join-us> based on the institutional account created by each doctoral student. PhD students were repeatedly informed, by email, about this facility. Access is allowed throughout the doctoral studies, permanently, based on username and password, free of charge, from anywhere - and each doctoral student has been assigned an institutional address and a password. The platform includes a multitude of generalist databases, with publications relevant to the field.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is recommended to keep this good practice and to further improve access to online database (include more databases) as well purchase of printed material for its library, as it is essential for certain doctoral domains.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.2.2.2.*** *Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.*

Each doctoral student has access, upon request and with the consent of the doctoral supervisor, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic creations.





During the evaluated period, IOSUD UOC reported the use of two different similarity check softwares:

- Between March 2016 and September 2018: Plagiarism-detector platform ([www.plagiarism-detector.com](http://www.plagiarism-detector.com));
- Between September 2018 and September 2020, the platform Sistemantiplagiat.ro.

The similarity report is individually analyzed by the PhD Supervisor assessing the instances of similarity identified by the software.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to further promote the use of anti-plagiarism software within their PhD Students at all levels of PhD Thesis development.*

*It is recommended to use a state of the art plagiarism check software (such as Turnitin or iThenticate) in order to benefit from the use of a larger database and therefore increase the possibility of early detection of high similarities of PhD thesis with other published work.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

After analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself it was verified that there are internal regulations that ensure that PhD students have access to all research laboratories available, under the supervision of PhD Advisor and/or other research staff. The doctoral studies contracts stipulate the right of doctoral students to have access to the UOC libraries, respectively to the different research laboratories, depending on the specific field.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

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

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

On average at IOSUD level (for the evaluated period of 5 years), the number of national or international conferences attended by a UOC doctoral student was 229. The total number of PhD students who have completed Erasmus +mobility in the same period was only 9 and if we consider other types of research



mobilities, this number increases to 12. It has to be taken also into account that in the last 18 months, mobilities were dramatically affected by COVID-19 outbreak. However, this number is low and should be improved.

In 2017/2018 UOC had a total of 413 enrolled PhD Students and 238 new PhD students were enrolled since then. At the same time, 48 PhD Students dropped their studies. Therefore, in order to properly calculate the ratio we should consider:  $(229+9+3)/(413+238 - 48)=241/603=39.9\%$ . IOSUD UOC, through their affiliated DS, has a considerable amount of mobilities agreements signed with other universities.

If we consider the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, the ratio is  $12/603=2\%$ , very far from 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area. However, this indicator evaluates if IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, and it is true that IOSUD makes considerable efforts in order to increase the number of doctoral students participating in training courses. Therefore, this indicator is fulfilled.

*Recommendations:*

*IOSUD UOC is encouraged to actively apply policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of students' research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad) and to get it as close as possible to 20% by 2026, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area. It is highly recommended for each student to perform a research internship of at least three months outside the evaluated institution during his/hers PhD Thesis development.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was clear that there is an international opening related to the co-opting of foreign students and for the organization of doctorates in international co-tutelage.

In the evaluated period, a total of 17 (14 international and 3 national) - out of a total 218 - co-tutelle PhD theses were defended (7,8%), which, although it is a good number, can be further increased.

At each DS level, several leading experts were invited to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students during the evaluation period. Also, an international conference was organized (1st International Student Conference Water for Sustainable Development - WSD 2018) at which PhD Students from the corresponding domain were able to participate.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution should further increase its collaborative effort into realizing a higher number of doctorates in co-tutelage with both national and international institutions. As a goal, a level of 20% co-tutelaegae PhD Thesis can be considered for 2026.*



***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, for the evaluated the number of PhD drafted and submitted in an international foreign language is 23 out of 218 (10.5%). However, not all Doctoral Domains fulfill the minimum 10% requirement for this performance indicator. It was concerning to observe that there are many doctoral domains with no PhD Thesis drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or organised in international co-tutelage for the entire evaluation period. .

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is strongly encouraged to promote PhD Thesis that are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage, especially for those doctoral domains where the current ratio is very low.*

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.4.** *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees<sup>5</sup> etc.).*

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, the internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD mostly by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students, and to some extent by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees. In the last 5 years, Ovidius University of Constanta has participated in numerous international educational fairs: Chisinau - July 2016, Chisinau - July 2017, EAIE 2017 (Seville) - September 11-16, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia (Begin Group) - 15 October 2017, Kiev (Ukraine) - 19-21 April 2018, Turkmenistan - July 2018, Chisinau - July 2018, EAIE 2018 (Geneva) - September 2018, Tunisia- Romania Campus - 18-19 October 2018, Prague - 27 November 2018 ( within the FDI Ovidiact project).

However, only 8 including international experts were included in guidance committees or doctoral committees during the evaluated period. This evaluator considers that the number of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees should be dramatically increased in the next 5 years.

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<sup>5</sup> Doctoral studies are completed by presenting the doctoral thesis in public session in front of a committee whose members hear and judge the final public presentation of the thesis



#### Recommendations:

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to increase the percentage of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees as close as possible to 25% within next 5 years.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion C.4. System for assurance of ethical and academic integrity**

Standard C.4.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms

***Performance Indicator C.4.1.1. IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:***

- *policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken;*
- *practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;*
- *practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;*
- *administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;*
- *mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;*

*IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.*

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it can be certified that IOSUD applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:

- policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity;
- practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;
- practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;
- administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;
- mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind.

Also, it was proven that IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes.



*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to modify regulation of the Ethics Commission in order to also consider anonymous complaints. Also, it would be beneficial to include within this Commission, if possible, members that do not belong to the University.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.4.1.2.*** *All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.*

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to change the regulation in order to be able to set up more efficiently the ethics-related (plagiarism) analysis committees at each Doctoral School level.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.4.1.3.*** *Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies.*

The procedure that the Ethics Commission of "Ovidius" University of Constanta follows in investigating complaints of plagiarism as well as the sanctions that may be applied are provided for in the National Education Law no. 1/2011, in Law no. 206/2004 on good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation, with subsequent amendments and additions, in the Code of Ethics and University Professional Deontology of "Ovidius" University and in the Regulation of Organization and Functioning of the Commission.

The committee proposed to take steps to identify the legal way for the deans to formulate proposals for review committees and the obligation to be part of these committees to constitute an administrative task and that the same request should also exist from the Doctoral School to the extent that the ethics committee requests support, including for the use of the anti-plagiarism program, as well as when there are complaints concerning doctoral theses.

The evaluated institution provided reports of the Ethics Commission and they include, in any case, information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



**Performance Indicator C.4.1.4.** *The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of “doctor” following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU’s decision and in the current legislation.*

IOSUD UOC proved to follow legal paths after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of “doctor” following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU’s decision and in the current legislation.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.5.** *The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be:*

- a) *Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism;*
- b) *Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism;*
- c) *Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism.*

The evaluated institution provided the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies. The regulation contains information on how to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism (<https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2021-2022/carta-si-regulamentele/12b/RIOF%20programe%20doctorat.pdf> - Chapter IX).

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*C.4.1.6.** *The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.*

Not applicable, as for the evaluated period there were no scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism. It is important to highlight that UOC has regulation of doctoral studies that includes specific measures to apply in such a situation.

***The indicator is fulfilled***

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.7.** *IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author,*



*doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).*

The “Ovidius” University of Constanța has a database of doctoral theses defended in the institution since 2016 in a format that contains: field, author, doctoral supervisor, thesis title.

Also, the evaluated institution publishes announcements of PhD thesis public defense that contain: the title, the field, the author, the doctoral supervisor, the composition of the evaluation and public support commission, the date of the defense and the thesis summary.

All doctoral theses from 2016 until today are listed on the platform of the Ministry of Education, the vast majority of which can be consulted: <https://rei.gov.ro/teze-doctorat>.

*Recommendations:*

*IOSUD UOC is recommended to grant full access to defended PhD Thesis in electronic format through a own dedicated web platform.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A functional institutional capacity proven both by the quality of the teaching and research staff and by the administrative structure of IOSUD UOC, which has a constant concern in supporting the training process of PhD students.</li> <li>2. A dynamic management team, supported by the University Senate and the Rectorate as well as other administrative entities within UOC.</li> <li>3. Transparency in decision-making and efforts to improve quality of the activities carried out within IOSUD UOC based on internal monitoring and evaluation of the services and processes carried out for all doctoral activities;</li> <li>4. Highly qualified PhD Supervisors, with significantly number of publication and professional acknowledgment;</li> <li>5. Heterogeneous opportunities for doctoral students to get involved in various research actions/projects;</li> <li>6. Optimal collaboration between supervisor / doctoral student based on trust and mutual respect;</li> <li>7. High degree of employability of PhD Students;</li> <li>8. Highly motivated management at IOSUD level.</li> <li>9. Positive dynamics regarding the development of the research facilities;</li> <li>10. Positive feedback from students, graduates and employers;</li> <li>11. Existence of collaboration protocols with other higher education institutions, research centres or economic agents ensuring access of doctoral students to the research infrastructure of partner institutions;</li> <li>12. Continous effort towards continued correlation of internal regulations with those existing at national level.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The small number of co-tutelage Phd Thesis with both national and international partners.</li> <li>2. The small number of PhD Thesis drafted in international languages;</li> <li>3. Low number of PhD Supervisors for some of the Doctoral Domains within IOSUD;</li> <li>4. The small number of PhD thesis developed in collaboration with industry/socio-economic environment (industrial doctorates)</li> <li>5. The low number of international participants in PhD Thesis Defense and/or Guidance Committees;</li> <li>6. The information contained on the instituional webpage is not complete and information is sometimes difficult to find.</li> <li>7. Funding for PhD Students from other non-budgetary sources.</li> <li>8. There is a very low number of students that participated in research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad).</li> <li>9. The workspace for PhD Students, such as small offices - individual spots are not always available - or the available area within research laboratories for carrying out experiments - which is limited, do not always meet students' expectations. Alos, IOSUD UOC has to identify dedicated spaces to meetings, projects and dissertations defence, and conferences for PhD students for all DS within IOSUD.</li> <li>10. Sometimes, complicated bureaucratic procedures are required.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IOSUD UOC should focus more on inter- and transdisciplinary research by increasing the level</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unpredictability of scientific research funding at national level.</li> </ul>



<p>of collaboration between PhD Supervisors affiliated to different DSs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. IOSUD UOC should increase national and international mobility and promote joint scientific research programmes;</li> <li>3. IOSUD UOC should promote involvement of doctoral students in research projects carried out within research institutes from outside UOC, facilitating possible future employment.</li> <li>4. Establishing a co-funding program between UOC and private companies for the development of industrial PhDs could be an excellent opportunity to strengthen links with industrial partners as well as to attract more students towards IOSUD UOC. Other possibilities might arise by attracting industrial partners into private-funded research labs.</li> <li>5. Excellent relationship with Universities in the ERASMOB international consortium and therefore the possibility to create strong academic and research links.</li> <li>6. Offering a full English website for IOSUD and DSs as well as providing certain documents/forms of interest to foreign students in English (or other foreign languages) can attract more PhD Students towards IOSUD UOC.</li> <li>7. Existence of a high number of faculty members who are in the process of writing/finishing their habilitation thesis, therefore a significant increase of PhD Supervisors is expected in the near future.</li> <li>8. IOSUD UOC should invite more international experts to give lectures for PhD Students more often during the development of their doctoral theses, thus fostering the possibility of establishing new collaborations at all levels.</li> <li>9. Access to additional sources of funding (ERC grants, POSDRU, Marie Curie, etc.) to support the research activities of doctoral students;</li> <li>10. Implement a feedback mechanism from graduates and their employers to improve the content of the advanced training programme;</li> <li>11. IOSUD UOC should better communicate with potential employers of their graduates, consult them on the main areas on which doctoral study</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The decreasing number of PhD applicants in last year is also concerning.</li> <li>- Decrease in the number of applicants due to the introduction of doctoral studies in other Universities and/or Institutes of the Romanian Academy in the same geographic area;</li> <li>- Overestimation of the degree of responsiveness of potential PhD supervisors to IOSUD's requests to pursue and complete habilitation, especially for those Doctoral Domains where the number of PhD Supervisors is already very low.</li> <li>- Decrease of PhD Students number due to the reduced number of available PhD scholarships and/or the lack of financial interest compared to other alternatives (such as salary in a private company, for example).</li> <li>- The negative perception of the quality of the educational act carried out within IOSUD UOC due to the large number of theses not validated by CNADTCU in certain domains and the great media repercussion of these facts.</li> </ul>
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programmes are organized and further promote their educational offer, as employer's representative considered that there is a high potential to attract many potential PhD students from among their staff.

12. CEDMOG research centre is connected to several national and international research networks and with great potential for development, has the ability to attract both PhD Students as well as Postdocs in the future.

13. IOSUD UOC should promote a stronger stimulation and support for applicants belonging to diverse groups (rural students, Roma, LGBTQI+ community, single-parent families, etc.)

## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.1.</b> The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task. This evaluator had difficulties to find some relevant information.</p> <p>Also, it will be highly recommended to translate into english all available information on the institutional website.</p>
2.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.2.</b> The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
3.	PI *	<p><b>A.1.1.3.</b> Doctoral schools included in IOSUD are organized as disciplinary or interdisciplinary disciplines/thematic, according to Article 158, paragraph (7) of the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<p>The evaluated institution needs to develop strategies to further promote and facilitate multi- or inter- disciplinary PhDs Thesis within IOSUD, with PhD Supervisors belonging to different Doctoral Schools.</p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
4.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	Fulfilled	It is recommended to complete the student management informatic (IT) system in order to extend its capabilities and to include an electronic signature system, this way achieving almost complete digitalization of the bureaucratic flow within IOSUD
5.	CPI	A.1.2.2. The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.	Fulfilled	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to further promote the use of anti-plagiarism software within their PhD Students at all levels of PhD Thesis development.</p> <p>It is recommended to use a state of the art plagiarism check software (such as Turnitin or iThenticate) in order to benefit from the use of a larger database and therefore increase the possibility of early detection of high similarities of PhD thesis with other published work.</p>
6.	PI	A.2.1.1. The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)	Fulfilled	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to further improve the allocated space both for educational and research purposes, since the lack of adequate spaces has been a recurring complaint in the interviews conducted.</p> <p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to include on their institutional website (<a href="http://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat">www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat</a>) information on the research infrastructure and the provision of research services.</p>
7.	PI	A.2.1.2. The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.	Fulfilled	The evaluated institution is encouraged to include all available research infrastructure and research services in an dedicated platform.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
8.	PI	<b>A.2.1.3.</b> The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent renewal of the research infrastructure to provide doctoral students access to up-dated research resources, by applying to various funding competitions and using own university resources for acquiring new research infrastructure.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
9.	PI *	<b>A.3.1.1.</b> The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
10.	CPI	<b>A.3.1.2.</b> At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>The evaluated institution is encouraged to actively support their research and teaching staff to prepare and defend their habilitation thesis so that the percentage of PhD Supervisor with a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD can be increased in the future, specially for those domains where the ratio is low.</b>
11.	PI *	<b>B.1.1.1.</b> Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
12.	PI	<b>B.1.1.2.</b> The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
13.	PI	<b>B.2.1.1.</b> The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>To include within the Training Program of the PhD Students new courses that include information on how to effectively present research output, how to make better presentations, how to speak in public and how to properly communicate a scientific message.</b>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				Also, to promote inter-disciplinary collaborations within IOSUD, courses belonging to the advanced training program should be available and offered for all PhD Students, independently of the doctoral domain where they are enrolled.
14.	PI	<b>B.2.1.2.</b> At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
15.	PI	<b>B.2.1.3.</b> The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses “the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
16.	PI	<b>B.3.1.1.</b> For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>The evaluated institution is recommended to develop, at IOSUD level, a unitary financial mechanism to support PhD Students training mobility as well as attendance to national or international scientific meeting (participation fees and travel grants).</b>
17.	CPI	<b>B.4.1.1.</b> At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non-validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>The evaluated institution is encouraged to harmonize and update (if necessary) their standards and guidelines of PHD Thesis validation with those of CNADTCU to avoid future rejection (non-validation) of their theses by CNADTCU and thus improve the quality and prestige of their doctoral schools.</b>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
18.	PI	<p><b>C.1.1.1.</b> The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;</li> <li>b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;</li> <li>c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;</li> <li>d) the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.</li> </ul>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
19.	PI	<p><b>C.1.1.2.</b> Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
20.	PI	<p><b>C.1.1.3.</b> Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
21.	PI *	<p><b>C.1.1.4.</b> Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations made in the latest IOSUD CEAC report. These recommendations, together with evaluation results from staff and students, should be considered for strategic decision-making. Both the results as well as the consequences are highly recommended to be made publicly available (as for example, on the institutional website).</p>
22.	CPI	<p><b>C.2.1.1.</b> The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their</p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>the general regulations on data protection, information such as:</p> <p>a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation;</p> <p>b) the admission regulation;</p> <p>c) the doctoral studies contract;</p> <p>d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</p> <p>e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;</p> <p>f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</p> <p>g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);</p> <p>h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</p> <p>i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.</p> <p>j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.</p>		<p>website (<a href="https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat">https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/educatie/doctorat</a>) in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task.</p> <p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to create a complete English version of its website and to offer, if applicable, teaching alternatives and guidance in English.</p> <p>Also, the evaluated institution should post regularly links to the doctoral theses' summaries and habilitation thesis to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented on their institutional website also on each DS website (as for the moment is only done at IOSUD level); this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.</p>
23.	<b>CPI</b>	<b>C.2.2.1.</b> All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of the their thesis.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<p>The evaluated institution is recommended to keep this good practice and to further improve access to online database (include more databases) as well purchase of printed material for its library, as it is essential for certain doctoral domains.</p>
24.	<b>PI</b>	<b>C.2.2.2.</b> Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<p>The evaluated instituiton is encouraged to further promote the use of anti-plagiarism software within their PhD Students at all levels of PhD Thesis development.</p> <p>It is recommended to use a state of the art plagiarism check software (such as Turnitin or iThenticate) in order to benefit from the use of a larger database and therefore increase the possibility of early detection of high</p>



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				similarities of PhD thesis with other published work.
25.	PI	<b>C.2.2.3.</b> All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
26.	PI *	<b>C.3.1.1.</b> IOSUD, for every doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>IOSUD UOC is encouraged to actively apply policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of students' research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad) and to get it as close as possible to 20% by 2026, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area. It is highly recommended for each student to perform a research internship of at least three months outside the evaluated institution during his/hers PhD Thesis development.</b>
27.	PI	<b>C.3.1.2.</b> IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>The evaluated institution should further increase its collaborative effort into realizing a higher number of doctorates in co-tutelage with both national and international institutions. As a goal, a level of 20% co-tutelage PhD Thesis can be considered for 2026.</b>
28.	PI *	<b>C.3.1.3.</b> At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.	<b>Partially Fulfilled</b>	<b>The evaluated institution is strongly encouraged to promote PhD Thesis that are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage, especially for those doctoral domains where the current ratio is very low.</b>
29.	PI	<b>C.3.1.4.</b> The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>The evaluated institution is encouraged to increase the percentage of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees as close as possible to 25% within next 5 years.</b>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
30.	PI	<p><b>C.4.1.1.</b> IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken;</li> <li>- practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;</li> <li>- practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;</li> <li>- administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;</li> <li>- mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;</li> </ul> <p>IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.</p>	Fulfilled	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to modify regulation of the Ethics Commission in order to also consider anonymous complaints. Also, it would be beneficial to include within this Commission, if possible, members that do not belong to the University.</p>
31.	PI	<p><b>C.4.1.2.</b> All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.</p>	Fulfilled	<p>The evaluated institution is encouraged to change the regulation in order to be able to set up more efficiently the ethics-related (plagiarism) analysis committees at each Doctoral School level.</p>
32.	PI	<p><b>C.4.1.3.</b> Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.		
33.	<b>CPI</b>	<b>C.4.1.4.</b> The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
34.	<b>PI</b>	<b>C.4.1.5.</b> The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be: a) Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; b) Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; c) Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
35.	<b>PI *</b>	<b>C.4.1.6.</b> The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
36.	<b>PI</b>	<b>C.4.1.7.</b> IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).	<b>Fulfilled</b>	<b>IOSUD UOC is recommended to grant full access to defended PhD Thesis in electronic format through a own dedicated web platform.</b>



## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

"Ovidius" University of Constanta is an educational institution which organizes doctoral studies since 1990. UOC is committed to strengthening high-performance curricula and aligning its educational offer with the societal needs and standards of contemporary scientific, artistic and cultural knowledge and promoting quality, student-centered education. The university aims to maintain its priority research areas aligned with regional priorities and the latest trends in the development of knowledge at European level. UOC also supports excellence in research and innovation by strengthening competitive research teams, rewarding performance, stimulating innovation, involving students in RDI activities, actively supporting artistic creation and sports performance. As an institution of accredited scientific doctoral studies, "Ovidius" University of Constanța (IOSUD UOC) currently comprises 5 doctoral schools that organize 8 doctoral domains, as follows: the Doctoral School of Humanities, for Philology and History; the Doctoral School of Sciences, with Biology and Civil Engineering and Installations; the Doctoral School of Medicine with Medicine and Dental Medicine; the Doctoral School of Theology with Theology; and the Doctoral School of Mathematics with Mathematics.

IOSUD UOC has improved its policies for recruiting doctoral candidates and for the affiliation of new PhD supervisors. They have also made developments in the internationalization of doctoral studies. The high motivation of IOSUD UOC management was also positively valued.

Overall, it was concluded that IOSUD UOC benefits from a functional institutional capacity proven both by the quality of the teaching and research staff and by the administrative structure of IOSUD UOC, which has a constant concern in supporting the training process of PhD students; a dynamic management team which operates always under the principles of transparency in decision-making and makes constant efforts to improve quality of the activities carried out within IOSUD UOC based on internal monitoring and evaluation of the services and processes carried out for all doctoral activities. IOSUD UOC also ensures heterogeneous opportunities for doctoral students to get involved in various research actions/projects and fosters optimal collaboration between supervisor / doctoral student based on trust and mutual respect. The evaluated institution experiences a positive dynamics regarding the development of the research facilities, received positive feedback from students, graduates and employers and makes continuous effort towards correlation of internal regulations with those existing at national level.

On the other hand, there were identified several aspects that can be improved within IOSUD, such as the small number of co-tutelage Phd Thesis with both national and international partners, the small number of PhD Thesis drafted in international languages, the low number of PhD Supervisors for some of the Doctoral Domains or the the small number of PhD thesis developed in collaboration with industry/socio-economic environment (industrial doctorates). Regarding the internationalization, IOSUD UOC can improve the number of international participants in PhD Thesis Defense and/or Guidance Committees and increase the number of students that participated in research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad). Lastly, IOSUD UOC should make considerable efforts to reduce bureaucracy and to improve allocated workspace for PhD Students at some DD and to identify dedicated spaces to meetings, projects and dissertations defence, and conferences for PhD students for all DS within IOSUD. Also, one of the aspects that can be clearly improved is updating information on the IOSUD and all DS websites as well as translate into english all available information on the institutional website and offer, if applicable, teaching alternatives and guidance in English.



Areas where IOSUD UOC can operate improvements are focusing on inter- and transdisciplinary research by increasing the level of collaboration between PhD Supervisors affiliated to different, increase national and international mobility and promote joint scientific research programs, promoting involvement of doctoral students in research projects carried out within research institutes from outside or establishing a co-funding program between UOC and private companies for the development of industrial PhDs. Offering a full English website for IOSUD and DSs as well as providing certain documents/forms of interest to foreign students in English (or others foreign languages) can attract more PhD Students towards IOSUD UOC. Lastly, IOSUD UOC should better communicate with potential employers of their graduates, consult them on the main areas on which doctoral study programs are organized and further promote their educational offer and take advantage of CEDMOG Research Centre potential high ability to attract both PhD Students as well as Postdocs in the future.

From a formal quantitative point of view, all critical performance indicators have been qualified as Fulfilled. Only one performance indicator was rated as Partially Fulfilled and none was considered Not Fulfilled. Several recommendations were made as guidance for the evaluated institution to optimize their activity and to reach fulfillment in the near future of these specific performance indicators.

In conclusion, the educational and research activity at IOSUD Ovidius University of Constanta meets all the evaluation criteria, often exceeding the quantitative indicators, as a result of the full involvement of IOSUD management, PhD supervisors, all the teaching staff and decision makers, as well as all the other actors involved in the educational and training process carried out in the institution.

**Granada 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2021**

**RAZVAN IONUT GHINEA, PhD**

## VII. Annexes

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*



AGENȚIA ROMÂNĂ DE ASIGURARE A CALITĂȚII ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNTUL SUPERIOR  
 Membră în Asociația Europeană pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - ENQA  
 Înscriasă în Registrul European pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - EQAR

Nr. 6008/ 27.10.2021

Programul<sup>1</sup> vizitei de evaluare instituțională - IOSUD/ domeniul de studii universitare de doctorat a Universității „Ovidius” din Constanța  
 The timetable of the institutional evaluation visit - IOSUD/ doctoral study domains at "Ovidius" University of Constanța

Perioada de derulare a vizitei: 22-26.11.2021  
 The evaluation period: 22-26.11.2021

Evaluarea Externă Periodică a IOSUD și a domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat  
 Periodical External Evaluation of the Institution Organising Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD), and of the doctoral study domains

Intervalul orar / Hour (Bucharest time)	Activitate/ Activity		Participanți/ Participants
	IOSUD/ IOSUD evaluation panel	domenii/ domains evaluation panel	
<b>Luni/ Monday, 22.11.2021</b>			
09:00-10:30	Întâlnire preliminară online pentru pregătirea și armonizarea etapelor de evaluare, în modul mixt, la nivel de domenii de doctorat și IOSUD <i>Online preliminary meeting for the preparation and harmonization of evaluation steps, in hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD</i> Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma ARACIS ZOOM (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) <i>Audio-video recording/ ARACIS ZOOM platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</b> <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>
10:45-11:45	Întâlnirea online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții conducerii universității și ai CSUD <i>Online meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)</i> Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) <i>Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</b> <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i> - reprezentanți ai conducerii <i>representatives of the University's management</i>

<sup>1</sup> În perioada vizitei, pot fi solicitate și alte întâlniri, pentru eventuale clarificări.  
 During the visit, other meetings may be requested for possible clarifications.

Intervalul orar / Hour (Bucharest time)	Activitate/ Activity		Participanți/ Participants
	IOSUD/ IOSUD evaluation panel	domenii/ domains evaluation panel	
			- reprezentanți ai CSUD și ai școlii/școlilor doctorale <i>representatives of the CSUD and of the Doctoral School/Schools</i> - persoana de contact IOSUD/domenii <i>the contact person for IOSUD/ doctoral domains</i>
13:00-13:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> <b>IOSUD:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu directorul CSUD/directorii școlilor doctorale din IOSUD supus procesului de evaluare și cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă <i>IOSUD: Online meeting with the director of CSUD/ directors of doctoral schools and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report</i> <b>Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)</b> <i>Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD</b> <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <i>members of IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - reprezentanți ai CSUD și ai școlii/școlilor doctorale/ IOSUD <i>representatives of CSUD and of doctoral school(s)/IOSUD</i>
14:00-14:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> <b>IOSUD:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu personalul didactic aferent școlilor doctorale din IOSUD <i>IOSUD: Online meeting with IOSUD academic staff</i> <b>Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)</b> <i>Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD</b> <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <i>members of IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - cadre didactice cu titlul de conducător de doctorat <i>Doctoral coordinators</i>

Marti/ Tuesday, 23.11.2021

2

Intervalul orar / Hour (Bucharest time)	Activitate/ Activity		Participanți/ Participants
	IOSUD/ IOSUD evaluation panel	domenii/ domains evaluation panel	
09:00-09:55	Întâlnire online cu membrii Comisiei de Etică a universității <i>Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission</i> <b>Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)</b> <i>Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i> <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i> -membrii Comisiei de Etică <i>Ethics Commission members</i>
10:00-10:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> Întâlnire online cu membrii Comisiei pentru Evaluarea și Asigurarea Calității (CEAC)/ Departamentul de asigurare a calității <i>Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members/ Quality Assurance Department</i> <b>Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)</b> <i>Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii</b> <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i> <b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i> - reprezentanți ai CEAC/Departament AC <i>representatives of Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC)/ Quality Assurance Department</i>
11:00-11:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> <b>IOSUD:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu studenții doctoranzi <i>IOSUD: Online meeting with PhD students</i> <b>Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma ARACIS ZOOM (Apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)</b> <i>Audio-video recording/ ARACIS ZOOM platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD</b> <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <i>members of IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - studenții doctoranzi <i>PhD students</i>
14:00-14:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> <b>IOSUD:</b> Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți ai absolvenților IOSUD <i>IOSUD: Online meeting with IOSUD graduates</i>		<b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD</b> <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <i>members of IOSUD evaluation panel</i>

3

Intervalul orar / Hour (Bucharest time)	Activitate/ Activity		Participanți/ Participants
	IOSUD/ IOSUD evaluation panel	domenii/ domains evaluation panel	
	Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)		- reprezentanți ai absolvenților <i>representatives of doctoral graduates</i>
15:00-15:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> IOSUD: Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți ai angajatorilor absolvenților <i>IOSUD: Online meeting with employers of doctoral graduates</i> Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)		Comisia de evaluare IOSUD <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <i>members of IOSUD evaluation panel</i>  - reprezentanți ai angajatorilor <i>employers' representatives</i>
<b>Miercuri/ Wednesday, 24.11.2021</b>			
10:00-10:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> IOSUD: Întâlnire online cu directorii/ responsabili centrelor/ laboratoarelor de cercetare IOSUD <i>IOSUD: Online meeting with the Directors/ persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within IOSUD</i> Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)		Comisia de evaluare IOSUD <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <i>members of IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - directorii centrelor/ laboratoarelor de cercetare <i>Directors of the research centers/laboratories</i>
11:00-11:55	Activități de evaluare <i>Evaluation activities</i> IOSUD: Întâlnire cu membrii Consiliului Studiilor Universitare de Doctorat al IOSUD		Comisia de evaluare IOSUD <i>IOSUD evaluation panel</i> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD

4

Intervalul orar / Hour (Bucharest time)	Activitate/ Activity		Participanți/ Participants
	IOSUD/ IOSUD evaluation panel	domenii/ domains evaluation panel	
	IOSUD: Online meeting with Doctoral University Studies Council (CSUD) members Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma UOC (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)		members of IOSUD evaluation panel - membrii CSUD <i>CSUD's members</i>
13:00-14:00	Întâlnire tehnică online, pentru identificarea aspectelor specifice care trebuie clarificate, dacă este cazul, pe parcursul vizitei la fața locului <i>Online technical meeting to identify specific issues that need to be clarified, if necessary, during the on-site visit</i> Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma ARACIS ZOOM (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) Audio-video recording/ ARACIS ZOOM platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)		Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i> - <b>toți membrii echipei de vizită</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>
<b>Joi/ Thursday, 25.11.2021</b>			
09:00-17:00	Reuniuni de lucru față în față <sup>2</sup> , vizitarea bazei materiale didactice și de cercetare <i>Face-to-face working meetings, visiting the educational and research infrastructure</i> Vizită in situ la UNIVERSITATE <i>Site visit to the university</i>		- <b>directorul de misiune și coordonatorul, un student doctorand evaluator</b> <i>the Evaluation Director and the coordinator of the IOSUD evaluation panel, one student</i> - reprezentanți ai universității <i>university's representatives</i>
<b>Vineri/ Friday, 26.11.2021</b>			
11:45-12:45	Întâlnire online pentru concluzii <i>Online meeting for conclusions</i> Înregistrare audio-video/ platforma ARACIS ZOOM (Apăsați <a href="#">aici</a> pentru a vă conecta) Audio-video recording/ ARACIS ZOOM platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)		Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii <i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i> - <b>toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b> <i>all evaluation panel members</i>

<sup>2</sup> Experții evaluatori la nivelul domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat pot stabili independent programul vizitei la fața locului, de comun acord cu persoana de contact de la domeniul evaluat și respectând programul întâlnirilor comune cu restul membrilor echipei de evaluare. *The evaluators at doctoral study domain level can independently establish the program of the on-site visit, in agreement with the contact person for the evaluated domain and respecting the schedule of joint meetings with the rest of the evaluation panel members.*

5



Intervalul orar / Hour (Bucharest time)	Activitate / Activity		Participanți / Participants
	IOSUD / IOSUD evaluation panel	domenii / domains evaluation panel	
13:00-14:00	<p>Întâlnire finală online în vederea prezentării principalelor constatări rezultate în urma evaluării la nivel de domenii de doctorat și IOSUD și a recomandărilor de îmbunătățire a calității</p> <p><i>Meeting with representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main recommendations</i></p> <p>Înregistrare audio-video/ <b>platforma UOC (Apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)</b></p> <p><i>Audio-video recording/ UOC platform (Click <a href="#">here</a> to join)</i></p>		<p><b>Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&amp;domenii</b></p> <p><i>IOSUD&amp;domains evaluation panel</i></p> <p><b>- toți membrii echipei de evaluare</b></p> <p><i>all evaluation panel members</i></p> <p>- reprezentanții universității</p> <p><i>university's representatives</i></p>

Director de misiune

Prof. univ. dr. Nicolae Adrian OPRE

Director CSUD

Prof. univ. dr. Monica VLAD