

**The External Evaluation Report of  
University of Medicine and Pharmacy Craiova  
(IOSUD)**

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

I was appointed as a Foreign External Evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and consequently invited to join the evaluation team for periodical external evaluation of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Craiova (IOSUD). This report is drafted based on a periodical external evaluation of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy from Craiova organizing doctoral study programs. The evaluation of the institution carried out under the terms of the Article 132 para. (1) of Law No 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, based on the provisions of Art. 13 let. a) - c) of the Government Emergency Ordinance No 75/2005 on the Quality Assurance of Education, approved with amendments by Law No 87/2006, with subsequent amendments and supplements.

The evaluation period of University of Medicine and Pharmacy from Craiova took place from 5 to 9 July 2021 as a remote evaluation. The Evaluation director was Prof. Radu OPREAN from Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie „Iuliu Hațieganu” din Cluj-Napoca. The Coordinator of the IOSUD committee was Prof. Liliana Marcela Rogozea from Universitatea „Transilvania” din Brașov. Assoc. Prof. Sergul Duygulu (me) was the international expert from Hacettepe University, Paul Sorin Cotoi was PhD student expert from Universitatea de Medicină, Farmacie, Inginerie și Tehnologie „George Emil Palade” din Târgu Mureș and Prof. Daniela Adriana Ion from Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie „Carol Davila” din București.

The evaluation process started on Monday at 9.00 am (05/07/2021) with a preliminary online meeting to prepare and harmonize evaluation steps, in a hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD. Due to a technical problem, I could not attend the meeting with the institution's representatives and the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD). Additional online meetings held with the director of CSUD/ directors of doctoral schools and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report and IOSUD academic staff. The meetings held with the members of the Ethics Commission, Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members/ Quality Assurance Department, PhD students and IOSUD graduates on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the meetings held with Doctoral University Studies Council (CSUD) members, Directors/ persons in charge of the research centres/laboratories within IOSUD and

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<sup>1</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



employers of doctoral graduates. The last meeting of Wednesday was the technical meeting to identify specific issues that need to be clarified, if necessary, during the on-site visit. On Thursday, IOSUD evaluation activities continued independently. On Friday, an online meeting held for the conclusions. The last meeting was held with representatives of the institution under review to discuss the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main recommendations. The evaluation process finished on Friday, July 9. The evaluation process conducted in an open and collegial manner.

### ***Details about the institution organizing the doctoral studies***

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova was established by Law no. 119 on June 5, 1998, published in the Official Gazette of Romania on June 9, 1998. The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova is a state higher education institution of public interest, with legal personality and non-profit character, accredited according to Law and having autonomy by the provisions of the Romanian Constitution, education legislation and the UMF Craiova Charter, The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova includes faculties, study programs, departments, disciplines, doctoral schools, university clinics, research centres and service units, or other entities for production, knowledge transfer and technology activities. UMF Craiova's mission focuses on (1) basic university training in the fields of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, (2) preparing specialists with higher education (3) Advanced post-bachelor's professional development through residency, professional or research master's degrees, doctoral studies and post-doctoral programs, (4) training and professional development, (5) promoting scientific research (6) providing services in the profile of its competencies both for its community and for society and (7) opening of the university to all sectors of society, by constructively combining tradition with the requirements imposed by the development and modernization processes. The main objectives of the UMF Craiova set for fulfilling the assumed mission. The institution's objectives are focused on education and modernization in education processes and focused on quality assurance and continuous improvement in higher education. Study Programs Offered by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Craiova are Medicine, Dentistry, Dental Techniques, Pharmacy, Radiology and Imaging, Nursing, Balneophysiokinetoyherapy and Recovery, Medicine in English and Dentistry in English. Within IOSUD UMF Craiova, there is currently only one doctoral school. The Doctoral School of UMF Craiova organizes the higher cycle of doctoral university studies (in short, hereinafter doctorate) of the scientific doctoral type, in the fundamental field "Biological and biomedical sciences" UMFCV Doctoral School is an organizational and administrative structure established within the IOSUD UMFCV and provides the necessary support for the development of doctoral studies in the mentioned fields: MEDICINE, DENTAL MEDICINE AND PHARMACY. The doctoral school that manages the three fields has been operating within IOSUD UMF Craiova since 1999. As of 2020, the number of students in three doctoral fields (medicine, pharmacy and dentistry) is 404, and the number of graduates is 39. Currently, 86 doctoral supervisors work within the Doctoral School. Of these, 74 are associated with the field of Medicine, nine associated with Dentistry, and three are associated with Pharmacy. Sixty of the doctoral supervisors work full time, and 26 of them work part-time.

### **II. Methods used**

Evaluation methodology based on domains, criteria, standards and performance indicators for the periodical external evaluation of IOSUD to support the improvement of IOSUD. The used methods and tools in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, are given below:

#### **Before evaluation:**



- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and its Annexes;
- The analysis of data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website

**During evaluation:**

- Meeting/Discussions with doctoral students in the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates of the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with the Doctoral advisors affiliated with the IOSUD;
- Meeting/Discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School/Doctoral Schools in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- The Council of the University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), The Council of the Doctoral School(s) (CSD), the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures);

### **III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators**

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

Under Domain A. Institutional Capacity, IOSUD's administrative structures and financial resources, research infrastructure, quality of human resources analyzed. There were no unmet criteria and performance indicators in this domain. The institution has the necessary administrative structures, financial resources and quality human resources to achieve its corporate vision, mission, goals and objectives. However, the criteria and performance indicators partially met in this area and the recommendations regarding the subject explained in detail below.

***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.***

IOSUD has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies. According to the internal evaluation report of the institution and the information obtained from online meetings, it was determined that the standard was met. The detailed analysis of these performance indicators and related recommendation/s are given below.

***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.*

Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral study programs within IOSUD UMF Craiova explained as under three categories:

**Regulations:**

1. Organization and development of doctoral university study programs within the UMF Craiova Doctoral School;
2. Admission to doctoral university studies within IOSUD UMF Craiova;
3. Completing doctoral studies at IOSUD UMF Craiova;
4. The organization and development of the process of obtaining the habilitation certificate within IOSUD UMF Craiova;

**Procedures:**

1. Organizing the competition for CSUD 2020 Director;

**Methodologies:**

1. Choosing the Council for Doctoral University Studies and the management structures of the UMF Craiova Doctoral School;
2. Automatic recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor previously obtained in university institutions accredited from abroad;

Doctoral university contract;

- Guide for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis within IOSUD UMF Craiova.

- Internal procedure UMFCV curriculum 2021

The above-mentioned categories university tried to show the existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of IOSUD, respectively of the doctoral school (Annex\_A.1.1.1\_Regulamente\_specifice). Even one can easily understand the main regulations, it is not possible to follow the application of defined regulations, methodologies and procedures.

*Recommendations:*

*Besides, the methodology for conducting elections (especially the elections of student representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct) and organization and conduction of doctoral students admission is needed to be more clarified in detail.*

*The institution refers to internal procedures (Internal procedure UMFCV curriculum 2021) which dated back 2021, newly developed, suppose to for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs. The content of the procedure is not clear/needed to be clarified*

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

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

- *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.*

The institute defined (Anexa\_A.1.1.2\_Standarde\_obligatorii) regulations for the doctoral school component which included mandatory criteria, procedures and standards as

- acceptance of new doctoral supervisors
- decision-making mechanisms (the timeliness, structure and content of the training program)
- the procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor and the procedures for mediating conflicts
- the conditions under which the doctoral program may be interrupted
- the ways to prevent fraud in scientific research (plagiarism etc.)
- ensuring access to research resources
- attendance obligations of doctoral students, according to a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education.

***The indicator evaluated as fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator\**A.1.1.3<sup>2</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.*

- *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.*

The institution explained that there is only one doctoral school organized as disciplinary as Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. However, the laboratories and research centres of the university planned to be used as interdisciplinary facilities by all three disciplines involved in the training program based on advanced studies, respectively, the individual scientific research program.

***The indicator evaluated as fulfilled.***

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

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<sup>2</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.



According to the internal evaluation report of the institution and the information obtained from the online meetings, it was determined that "the standard was met". The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

**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.*

- *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.*

The institution has an IT platform (<https://www.phd.umfcvservices.ro/>) used to monitor the progress of doctoral students (articles developed and published in PubMed indexed journals and Web of Science Core Collection / Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI), participation in national and international conferences, mobility/internships for doctoral students, research grants in which doctoral students participate in the team. However, it was determined that there are no defined processes that evaluate the effectiveness of IT.

*Recommendations:*

It is recommended that the processes for evaluating the effectiveness of IT should be defined and that the effectiveness of IT should be evaluated and reported.

***The indicator evaluated as partly fulfilled.***

**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.*

- *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.*

The university has a website, 'www.sistemantiplagiat.ro' to estimate the percentage of similarity for all doctoral theses submitted for defence. All theses were checked against plagiarism in the website, the uploaded similarity reports for each doctoral thesis then ([www.rei.gov.ro](http://www.rei.gov.ro)), consulted by the Commission of Medicine / Dentistry / Pharmacy, respectively by the Ministry of Education before the evaluation process and validation of doctoral theses.

From the mentioned process, it can be seen that the Doctoral School uses verification and control mechanisms to prevent fraud both through the use of the electronic system for verifying the degree of similarities with other existing scientific creations and through the activity of the Curriculum Development, Quality and Research Ethics Commission that operates under the CSD.

***The indicator evaluated as 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.**



According to the internal evaluation report of the institution and the information obtained as a result of the online meetings held in the institution, the IOSUD/doctoral schools have a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities, and it was determined that the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s are given below.

**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.)*

- *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.*

UMF Craiova indicated that they owned two university campuses that ensure adequate conditions for continuing education and scientific research (Anexa\_A.2.1.1\_Infrastructura\_cercetare). The elements of university logistics correspond to the doctoral fields offered by the university consist of teaching rooms, laboratories and research centers, in accordance with the technical, safety and hygienic-sanitary norms in force.

It is seen that within UMF Craiova, doctoral students have spaces for the educational process, spaces for the development of research processes, library, publishing and printing house, dormitory, canteen, etc. The university revealed that it has over 450 computers and has new teaching and research spaces, including a modern library, lecture halls, and seminar rooms (dated 2010).

According to the internal evaluation report and the meeting with various participants from UMF (including students, academic staff, graduates etc) the research laboratories have modern equipment, which allows high-quality research, many of the classrooms being equipped to European standards, there is mobile video conferencing equipment in real-time with other centres in the country and abroad. In the last five years, 17 equipment of over 100,000 EURO has been purchased. Many disciplines have their computer networks (in addition to the disciplines of Informatics and Biostatistics), and the computer fleet is renewed annually.

The teaching materials, in electronic format, are uploaded in the student.umfcv.ro own platform from where students can access them. The Department of Informatics and Multimedia operates within the university, continuously developing and maintaining the specialized infrastructure.

University indicated that both the research offer and the research infrastructure presented to the general public on their website <http://www.umfcv.ro/cercetare> but also on the European platform dedicated to EERIS research infrastructures: <https://eeris.eu/>, <https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000J-0042>. The university also highlighted the Human Genomics Laboratory, Craiova Gastroenterology and Hepatology Research Center, Research Center for Microscopic Studies of Morphology and Immunology and Experimental Research Center for Normal and Pathological Aging.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator A.2.1.2.** *The IOSU / 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.*



- *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.*

UMF Craiova has indicated collaboration agreements between the main Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Iasi) and others general universities (Bucharest, Craiova, Pitești, Bucharest Polytechnic, Patras, GREECE), but also hospitals (Craiova County Emergency Clinical Hospital, Fundeni Clinical Institute Bucharest, Central Military Emergency Hospital Dr. Carol Davila Bucharest, Fondazione IRCCS Ca 'Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico Milan, ITALY), research institutes ("Nicolae Simionescu" Institute of Cell Biology and Pathology Bucharest, "Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry Iași, "Stefan S. Nicolau" Institute of Virology Bucharest, National Research-Development Institute for Materials Physics Bucharest-Măgurele, Romanian Institute of Science and Technology, Research-Development Institute on for fruit growing Constanța, the Research-Development Institute for fruit growing Mărăcineni, the Research-Development Institute for biotechnologies in Horticulture Ștefănești-Argești) and commercial companies whose object of activity is research & development (S.C. Delta Health Care SRL - Ponderas Academic Hospital, S.C. AVITECH CO SRL, S.C. Actamedica SRL-Lotus Life, S.C. Aptus Software SRL, S.C. Blue Logic S.R.L., S.C. Polipharma Industries SRL, S.C. Biotehnos S.A., Cherry Biotech Rennes, FRANCE).

The details of the last five years, partnership contracts and collaboration agreements within the national and international research grants won through competition by doctoral supervisors, detailed in Anexa\_A.2.1.2A\_Acorduri\_parteneriat.

**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.*

- *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.*

UMF Craiova revealed that many research grants won through competition by PhD supervisors, till now (May 2021), 17 research grants are currently ongoing (Anexa\_A\_2.1.3A\_Contracte\_cercetare\_in\_derulare). Through these grants, 25 PhD students were supported financially. Supplementary between 2016-2020, seven Ideas projects (PCE) (total amount of 9.096.014 RON), ten Young Teams (TE) projects (total amount 4.863.202), 16 Partnership projects [Complex Projects Carried out in Consortia (PCCDI), Complex Frontier Research Projects (PCCF), Transfer to Economic Operator (PTE) and Experimental Demonstration Projects (PED) (total amount 17.830.091 RON)], 3 Post-Doctoral projects [(PD), all funded by UEFISCDI], respectively two ERA-NET projects one funded by Horizon 2020 and the other one funded by the European Community (TANDEM) (suma totală 5.007.897 RON) (Anexa\_A.2.1.3B\_Contracte\_de\_cercetare\_2016-2020) have been undergone. Totally 35 PhD students were sustained financially through these projects. All these grants and competitions mentioned in the interim report support the development of the research infrastructure of UMF Craiova.





Additionally UMF Craiova stated they made acquisitions from their revenues to develop educational and research infrastructure (Annex\_A.2.1.3C\_Mijloace\_Objecte). The total amount used for the permanent renewal of the research infrastructure that ensures doctoral students access to current research resources was RON 36,644,976 for fixed assets, respectively RON 1,002,634 for inventory items.

***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.**

At the level of each Doctoral School, there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure a quality educational process. According to the internal evaluation report of the institution and the information obtained from the online meetings, it was determined that the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

***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<sup>3</sup> does not exceed 20%.***

- *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.*

At the doctoral level, supervisors guide and evaluate the doctoral student's activity within the doctoral studies program, according to the professional and university autonomy, following the exigencies of the doctoral studies program and respecting the professional interests of the doctoral student.

According to the report currently at UMF Craiova, within the doctoral school, there are 74 doctoral supervisors for the Medicine field, nine doctoral supervisors for the Dentistry field, as well as three doctoral supervisors for the Pharmacy field being positioned. Within IOSUD Craiova there is currently only one PhD supervisor who has 9 PhD students in coordination in the Pharmacy field. Otherwise, all other (85) PhD supervisors have less than 8 PhD students in guidance, the criterion is met. Since the supervisors' number vary between disciplines close attention should be given to the medicine except for disciplines.

***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.***

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



- *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.*

According to the internal evaluation report UMF Craiova most doctoral supervisors (60 out of 86 have full-time positions 70%) have a full-time position for an indefinite period and meet the minimum standards recommended by the National Council.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

Under Domain B. Educational Effectiveness; The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest, the content of doctoral programs, the results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation, quality of doctoral theses were analyzed considering the internal evaluation report and the results from meetings during the remote external evaluation of the IOSUD UMF Craiova. There were no unmet criteria and performance indicators in this domain. However, the criteria and performance indicators that are partially met in this area and the recommendations regarding the subject are explained in detail below.

#### **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.**

According to the internal evaluation report of the institution and the information obtained from the online meetings, it was determined that candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender, and the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

***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.***

- *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.*

According to institutions' internal evaluation report for the doctoral admission process, the Council of the Doctoral School UMF Craiova and admission are based on an interview. The admission commission analyzes the files (bachelor degree transcript, masters degree transcript, CV, list of published papers, presentations, copies of diplomas) for the academic, research and professional performance and interest, the proposal for the subject, interview the candidate and conclude with a decision. Following



this council verifies the decision, gender and social diversity. What was written in the report was also confirmed during the interviews.

***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.*

- *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.*

According to the institutions' internal evaluation report, the council taking measures (a system for requesting support, informing the candidates/students about the scholarship, regardless of social condition, first 25% of graduates invited to doctoral admission) to structure equal admission and enrollment for all candidates. The financial support for the socially disadvantaged students was placed through UMF Craiova budget. Also, from the report, it can be seen that research grants are used for financial sustain (25 PhD students supported through 17 grants). The Council of the Doctoral School UMF Craiova mediates conflicts/misunderstandings and monitors requests for extension and interruptions to prevent school drop-outs.

***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.**

IOUSUD's training program based on advanced university studies is appropriate for improving doctoral students' research skills and strengthening ethical behaviour in science. Considering the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and the opinions of the teaching staff, students, graduates it was decided that the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

***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.*

- *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.*

The training program, proposed by the Council of the Doctoral School and approved by the senate, offers seven compulsory and six optional subjects. This package of compulsory subjects is relevant to research methodology.

***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.*

- *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.*

The training program includes ethics in scientific research. This was confirmed in the interviews with faculty members, doctoral students, graduates, and the institution's administrators that organize the doctoral program.

**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>.*

- *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.*

The program has defined professional competencies as "a) advanced knowledge in the field; b) the capacity to identify, formulate and solve research problems; c) mastery of advanced research methods and techniques; d) knowledge regarding the management of research projects; e) mastery of new procedures and solutions in research; f) skills of documentation, elaboration and capitalization of scientific works; g) language skills at academic level in languages of international circulation necessary for the documentation and elaboration of scientific papers; h) understanding and capacity to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics in the respective field". According to the report, the school ensures meets the learning outcomes, uses a discipline sheet to record the activities. Even the program has defined learning outcomes, and the mechanisms are not clear to ensure the monitor and evaluation of meeting the outcome.

*Recommendations:*

The mechanisms should be clear to ensure the monitor and evaluation of meeting the learning outcomes of the doctoral students.

**The indicator is partially 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.**

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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.



IOUSUD's doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, patents, products and service orders. Considering the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and the opinions of the teaching staff, students, graduates it was decided that the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

**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.)*

- *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.*

The school uses publications as valorification mechanism. Students are encouraged to publish their research results in national and international journals. Also, it is mentioned that through an electronic platform, the school monitors the students' research activities during doctoral education. This information confirmed.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

##### **Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards**

IOUSUD's doctoral theses fulfil high-quality standards. Considering the internal evaluation report of the IOSUD and the opinions of the teaching staff, students, graduates, it was decided that the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

**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 (CNATDCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.*

- *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.*

IOUSUD UMF Craiova has no invalidated doctoral theses registration in the last five years without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, at CNATDCU General Council level.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**



## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

Under Domain C. Quality Management; Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system, transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources, internationalization and system for assurance of ethical and academic integrity, were analyzed considering the internal evaluation report and the results from meetings during the remote external evaluation of the IOSUD UMF Craiova. There were no unmet criteria and performance indicators in this domain too. However, the criteria and performance indicators that are partially met in this area and the recommendations regarding the subject are explained in detail below.

### **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.**

There is an institutional framework and procedures for monitoring internal quality assurance and relevant internal quality assurance policies. As a result of the analyzes made from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was decided that the standard was met. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

**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.*
  - 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.*

UMF Craiova stated on the internal evaluation report that the adoption of internal quality mechanisms directly correlates with external reference standards (ARACIS, ENQA). An annual IOSUD evaluation and monitoring report is prepared annually on educational and research services; a report presented to the CSUD and measures to improve the educational process. The management of IOSUD and the Doctoral School collaborates with the Senate Quality Assurance Commission to maintain the quality reference standards at the highest level. It was seen that UMF Craiova developed a procedure for evaluation and internal monitoring of doctoral school activity in May 2021. Although the procedures given in the appendices, the evaluations and evidence of improvements based on evaluations not presented.

The performances of doctoral advisors are regularly evaluated annually both at the level of IOSUD UMF Craiova; on the occasion of organizing the admission contest for doctoral studies, the Doctoral School proceeds to the internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors and this evaluation is made by the provisions of the relevant regulation. According to the evidence in the appendices, three-quarters of

the instructors achieved the desired performance, but one-fourth was limited in providing the desired performance. At the same time, it is seen that about half of them perform at the international level.

Although the necessary infrastructure and logistic support to carry out the institution's research activities provided by the university, it is seen that there are limitations in the establishment of the infrastructure of pharmacy and dentistry.

There are procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized. It has been stated in the internal evaluation report that proposals to amend the regulations and methodologies governing the work of IOSUD and the Doctoral School are periodically amended in accordance with the legislation and the proposals of the CSD and / or CSUD.

Doctoral students are monitored based on the frequency of in classes. During the pandemic, the students were monitored online via Webex platform. Academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc ) for the doctoral students are available, and the students are supported.

*Recommendations:*

It is recommended to implement practices to ensure that the instructors' performance, who are below the expectations in terms of performance, is at the desired level. The evaluations and evidence of improvements made in line with the evaluations should be reported. In addition, it is recommended to implement regulations and practices to increase the international activities of teaching staff. It is also recommended to develop the infrastructure of pharmacy and dentistry.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled***

***Performance Indicator C.1.1.2. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organize 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.***

- *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.*

According to internal evaluation report, the doctoral students organized elections to appoint their representative at the level of the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) of IOSUD UMF Craiova, in compliance with the regulations and legislation in force <http://www.umfcv.ro/alegeri-iosud-umf-craiova-2020>. This was also confirmed during online meetings.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator C.1.1.3. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organize 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.***

- *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.*

According to the evaluation report and meeting held with students and staff of IOSUD doctoral students organized elections to appoint their representative at the level of the Doctoral School Council (CSD)



UMF Craiova, in compliance with the regulations and legislation in force: <http://www.umfcv.ro/alegeri-iosud-umf-craiova-2017>

**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.*

- *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.*

It has been seen in the evaluation report that the internal evaluation of the UMF Craiova Doctoral School, respectively of the IOSUD UMF Craiova was analyzed at the level of the Council for Doctoral University Studies and the level of the Council of the UMF Craiova Doctoral School. The strategies and policies to eliminate the identified deficiencies and stimulate the scientific and academic performance of IOSUD, action strategies and policies will be developed. It has also been stated that some of the deficiencies resulting from the internal analyzes at IOSUD level in 2019 and 2020 were submitted to the Board of Directors and the Senate of UMF Craiova, being mentioned in the management program of the IOSUD director (Annex\_C.1.1.4A\_Program\_managerial\_IOSUD), for the current mandate 2020-2024. It is seen that the deficiencies have been identified within the evaluation reports, but the processes of eliminating the deficiencies (PDCA cycles have not been closed) have not been completed.

*Recommendations:*

It is recommended to complete the elimination processes (closing PDCA cycles) defined in line with the evaluation reports and to share the improvement results with the stakeholders.

**The indicator is partially 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.**

As a result of the analyzes made from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was decided that the standard was met. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information is available for electronic format consultation. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

**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.

- 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 and the doctoral school pay special attention to disseminating information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates, respectively information of public interest. These are available for consultation in electronic format on the UMF website in Craiova. Although some information can be obtained from the English web page of the institution, this information could not be obtained through the internal evaluation report as the Romanian web page could not be understood.

*Recommendations:*

The English web page can be developed to be more accessible to the international audience, future candidates and the public.

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

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

As a result of the analyzes made from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was decided that the standard was met. The IOSUD/The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

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

- 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.

All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis. There is a modernized and equipped UMF Craiova Library, all resources such as journals, and books are available for doctoral students. The institution has a modernized and equipped library, and students can access this library from outside the campus.

***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.***



- *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.*

Students - doctoral students have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works, through the Secretariat of the Doctoral School, to the system <https://sistemantiplagiat.ro/> to verify the similarity percentage. After the completion of the doctoral thesis, the similarity reports are uploaded, for each doctoral thesis, in the CNATDCU evaluation platform ([www.rei.gov.ro](http://www.rei.gov.ro)), where they are consulted by the Commission of Medicine / Dentistry / Pharmacy, respectively by the Ministry National Education before the process of evaluation and validation of doctoral theses.

***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.***

- *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.*

At the University level, 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. The information provided in the internal evaluation report was confirmed during the interviews by students and graduates.

***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.**

As a result of the analyzes made from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was decided that the standard and critical performance indicators were met. Performance Indicator \*C.3.1.3. "At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral school of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organized in international co-tutelage." was not met. However, this indicator is not mandatory. In addition, suggestions made for the internationalization of doctoral studies and detailed analyzes presented below.

***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.

- 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.

According to the internal evaluation report, the school has nine agreements with international universities, 21 students benefited from mobility agreements, 45 students participated in international conferences. Among 86 faculty, 58 participated in at least one international conference in the last five years. The report does not provide information on what year these numbers belong to. To which school do the agreements belong? Although the institution has mobility agreements, it has been determined in the meetings that doctoral students and academic staff have limitations in benefiting from these agreements. It has also been observed that most of the mobility agreements are for medicine, while agreements for pharmacy and dentistry are quite limited.

*Recommendations:*

It should be recommended to support the doctoral students to complete their training courses abroad. IOSUD should have a focus on the internalization activities of the doctoral students. Additionally, it is recommended to increase the number of mobility agreements and the number of doctoral students benefiting from mobility agreements for pharmacy and dentistry as well.

***The indicator partially 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.

- 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.

In the report, the school declares that in the last five years a total of 39 conferences and congresses were held with international participation. International co-tutelage of PhD students ensured with international speakers' lectures, attendance to conferences with a reduced fee, and interaction/knowledge exchange with visiting professors. This information was confirmed during the online meetings by teaching staff, administrators, students and graduates.

***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 organized in international co-tutelage.

- 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.

Due to higher proportion in similarity reports, the school gave up writing theses in foreign language nor international co-tutelage.



*Recommendations:*

At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral school of the IOSUD should be drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or should be organized in international co-tutelage.

***The indicator is not 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.).*

- *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.*

According to the report, four faculty member is adjunct in different abroad universities, and other international experts included in committees. Even some internationalization activities were reported, concrete measures and results are not reported.

*Recommendations:*

The internationalization of activities carried out during doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures can be improved. It can also be recommended that the support of the IOSUD can be evaluated, and the improvement can be made in the line of evaluation results with the participation of related stakeholders.

***The indicator is partially 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**

As a result of the analyzes made from the institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was decided that the standard was met. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms. A detailed analysis of the performance indicators and related recommendation/s given below.

***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*

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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



*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 internal evaluation report, IOSUD constantly monitors the observance of the internal regulations and the legislation in force regarding the code of ethics and academic integrity, acting promptly in all situations arising through the Doctoral School Council and the Council Doctoral University Studies. The Doctoral School uses verification and control mechanisms to prevent fraud both through the use of the electronic system to verify the degree of similarity with other existing scientific creations. Through the activity of the Curricular Development, Quality and Research Ethics Commission operating under the Doctoral School Council. The Commission verifies all doctoral theses before being officially submitted for Curricular Development, Quality and Research Ethics. Any notification related to possible academic fraud is carefully evaluated and discussed at both CSD and CSUD level, adopting the necessary measures according to the legislation in force. Both CSUD and CSD decisions published on the institution's website. Proportional to the gravity of the committed deed, the sanctions provided by the legal regulations in force will be applied, the decisions being taken at the level of the management bodies of IOSUD UMF Craiova. Any member of the academic community may file a reasoned complaint when his or her rights have been violated. The notifications will be analyzed at the IOSUD UMF Craiova management level, which will decide on the measures to be applied. In the decision-making process, the doctoral students are part through their representatives both at the level of the Doctoral School Council and at the level of the Council for Doctoral University Studies. The decisions of the two councils are public and can be consulted on the institution's website. The information provided in the self evaluation report was confirmed during the meetings by administrators, the Ethics Committee members and teaching staff.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

- *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.*

It has been stated in the internal evaluation report that any notification regarding the suspicions of plagiarism related to some doctoral theses is analyzed and solved by IOSUD within the legal term provided for the expression of the written point of view regarding the received notification.

***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. 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.*

Institution's internal evaluation reports that the annual reports of the Ethics Commission within IOSUD UMF Craiova include information on the state of settlement of each case in which there was a notification or self-notification relevant for doctoral studies regarding the violation of certain norms and ethical issues.

**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.*

- *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.*

The institution reported that the measures taken by IOSUD following the final decisions of the CNADTCU to withdraw the doctoral title following the plagiarism notifications would cover all the aspects provided in the CNADTCU decision and in the legislation in force. However, evidence documents showing the measures taken by IOSUD have not been presented. It is seen from the statement written by the institution that the measures to be taken care in the planning stage, and an opinion on the current practice could not be obtained.

*Recommendations:*

The measures to be taken care in the planning stage, the institution can make the measures to be taken and the regulations on the subject clearer.

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**

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

- 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;*
- 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;*
- 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.*

- *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.*

According to the internal evaluation report and results from meeting held during the remote evaluation of the IOSUD, at the level of IOSUD UMF Craiova, it was decided that proven notifications regarding academic fraud in doctoral studies, one of the identified measures, should be applied. However, the documents containing the measures specified in the report are not given in the annexes.

*Recommendations:*

However, the IOSUD decision on preventing academic fraud in doctoral studies (specified in the report) was not given in the annexes.

***The indicator is partially 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.***

- *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.*

According to the internal evaluation report at the level of IOSUD UMF Craiova, it was decided that the scientific references that were part of the public support commissions of two or more doctoral theses with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism should not be appointed in public support commissions. Doctoral theses for at least three years. This information was confirmed during the online meetings. However, the IOSUD decision on scientific reviewers specified in the report was not given in the annexes.

*Recommendations:*

The IOSUD decision on scientific reviewers specified in the report was not given in the annexes. Document/s containing IOSUD decisions regarding scientific reviewers should be available to the public.

***The indicator is partially 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).***

- *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 has electronically archived all the theses, and related doctoral files defended in the institution since 2016. Doctoral theses can be consulted publicly on the website managed by the Ministry of Education if there is an agreement of the author.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The university has valuable and expert doctoral supervisors</i></li> <li>- <i>There is a modernized research infrastructure</i></li> <li>- <i>The services offered to doctoral students are also of special quality,</i></li> <li>- <i>There are control mechanisms to improve the development of processes</i></li> <li>- <i>-The administrators have the motivation and effective leadership to improve the quality of doctoral studies</i></li> <li>- <i>All employees have the motivation to improve the quality of doctoral studies</i></li> <li>- <i>Good infrastructure and specialists in the field of medical genetics</i></li> <li>- <i>IOSUD UMF Craiova graduates have created added value in their current institutions</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Poor funding for mobility and participation in international congresses, due to insufficient funding from own revenues or research grant</i></li> <li>- <i>There is no identified quality assurance model for the IOSUD UMF Craiova</i></li> <li>- <i>The less number of supervisors in dentistry and pharmacy</i></li> <li>- <i>Less number of the quality articles presented and published in extenso by doctoral students, under the guidance of doctoral supervisors, in journals with medium and high impact factor (The number of the articles in published in ISI WEB of Science indexed journal has been decreased)</i></li> <li>- <i>The institution gave up writing the doctoral thesis in English because of high portion of plagiarism</i></li> <li>- <i>The small number of grants submitted and respectively won through competition, in the context of reducing the number of competitions due to insufficient research funding in Romania</i></li> <li>- <i>Low rate of students who have undergraduate and graduate education from other universities in doctoral programs (high rate of inbreeding)</i></li> <li>- <i>Increase in drop-outs from doctoral programs in 2019</i></li> <li>- <i>Receiving limited stakeholder contribution in the preparation of the internal evaluation report and not reading the report by all stakeholders</i></li> <li>- <i>Limited communication with graduates' employers</i></li> <li>- <i>Limited doctoral graduates tracking system</i></li> <li>- <i>Institutional inability to renew research infrastructure through investments from own revenues</i></li> <li>- <i>The low number of mobility agreements for pharmacy and dentistry and the number of dentistry and pharmacy doctoral students benefiting from mobility agreements</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Existence of national and international</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Lack of research competitions for the fields</i></li> </ul>



<p><i>programs that can provide funding for research</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Existing regulations for the organization of doctoral studies in the country</i></li> <li>- <i>The need for national and international research in the fields of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry</i></li> <li>- <i>Increase in employment rates of doctoral graduates at the national and international level, increase in the number of research-oriented institutions</i></li> <li>- <i>There are many institutions, research centres, laboratories, etc., that can be cooperated throughout the country for doctoral studies</i></li> <li>- <i>Evidence-based practices becoming more valuable every day, and there is a need for doctoral graduates who will produce evidence.</i></li> <li>- <i>There are a variety of international exchange opportunities for the students and teaching staff among European countries as well around the world</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>of Dentistry and Pharmacy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Poor funding through doctoral grants, respectively institutional development grants</i></li> <li>- <i>The low quotas are given to Exchange programs at the institutional level</i></li> <li>- <i>Increase in doctoral programs in the field of health (including medicine, pharmacy and dentistry) in Europe, Romania and in the world</i></li> </ul>
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#### V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1	C	A.1.1.1.	Partially fulfilled	<p>Besides, the methodology for conducting elections (especially the elections of student representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct) and organization and conduction of doctoral students admission is needed to be more clarified in detail.</p> <p>The institution refers an internal procedure (Internal procedure UMFCV curriculum 2021) which dated back 2021, newly</p>

				developed, suppose for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs. The content of the procedure is not clear/needed to be clarified.
2	C	A.1.1.2.	Fulfilled	-
3	*	A.1.1.3 <sup>6</sup> .	Fulfilled	-
4	C	A.1.2.1.	Partially fulfilled	It is recommended that the processes should be defined to evaluate the effectiveness of IT and that the effectiveness of IT should be evaluated and reported.
5	C	A.1.2.2.	Fulfilled	
6	C	A.2.1.1.	Fulfilled	
7	C	A.2.1.2.	Fulfilled	
8	C	A.2.1.3.	Fulfilled	
9	*	A.3.1.1.	Fulfilled	
10	C	A.3.1.2.	Fulfilled	
11	*	B.1.1.1.	Fulfilled	
12	C	B.1.1.2.	Fulfilled	
13	C	B.2.1.1.	Fulfilled	
14	C	B.2.1.2.	Fulfilled	
15	C	B.2.1.3.	Partially fulfilled	The mechanisms should be clear to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of meeting the doctoral students' learning outcomes
16	C	B.3.1.1.	Fulfilled	
17	C	B.4.1.1.	Fulfilled	
18	C	C.1.1.1.	Partially fulfilled	It is recommended to implement practices to ensure that the instructors' performance, who are below the expectations in terms of performance, is at the desired level The evaluations and evidence

<sup>6</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.

				<p>of improvements made in line with the evaluations should be reported</p> <p>In addition, it is recommended to implement regulations and practices to increase the international activities of teaching staff</p> <p>It is also recommended to develop the infrastructure of pharmacy and dentistry.</p>
19	C	C.1.1.2.	Fulfilled	
20	C	C.1.1.3.	Fulfilled	
21	*	C.1.1.4.	Partially fulfilled	It is recommended to complete the elimination processes (closing PDCA cycles) defined in line with the evaluation reports and share the stakeholders' improvement results.
22	C	C.2.1.1.	Partially fulfilled	The English web page can be developed to be more accessible to the international audience, future candidates and the public.
23	C	C.2.2.1.	Fulfilled	
24	C	C.2.2.2.	Fulfilled	
25	C	C.2.2.3.	Fulfilled	
26	*	*C.3.1.1.	Partially fulfilled	<p>It should be recommended to support the doctoral students to complete their training courses abroad. Additionally, IOSUD should have a focus on the internalization activities of the doctoral students.</p> <p>It is also recommended to increase the number of mobility agreements and the number of doctoral students benefiting from mobility agreements for pharmacy and dentistry as well.</p>
27	C	C.3.1.2.	Fulfilled	
28	*	*C.3.1.3.	Not fulfilled.	<i>At least 10% of the doctoral</i>

				<i>theses of every doctoral school of the IOSUD should be drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or should be organized in international co-tutelage</i>
29	C	C.3.1.4.	Partially fulfilled	The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures can be improved. It can also be recommended that the support of the IOSUD can be evaluated, and the improvement can be made in the line of evaluation results with the participation of related stakeholders
30	C	C.4.1.1.	Fulfilled	
31	C	C.4.1.2.	Fulfilled	
32	C	C.4.1.3.	Fulfilled	
33	C	C.4.1.4.	Partially fulfilled	The measures on withdrawing the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism to be taken are in the planning stage; the institution can make the measures to be taken and the regulations on the subject clearer
34	C	C.4.1.5.	Partially fulfilled	The IOSUD decision on scientific reviewers specified in the report was not given in the annexes Document/s containing IOSUD decisions regarding preventing academic fraud in doctoral studies should be available to the public
35	*	*C.4.1.6.	Partially fulfilled	The IOSUD decision on scientific reviewers specified in the report was not given in the annexes. Document/s containing IOSUD

				decisions regarding scientific reviewers should be available to the public.
<b>36</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C.4.1.7.</b>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

This report is based on my experiences what I have seen, read, and heard during the external remote evaluation of the IOSUD UMF Craiova. I hope that this report I have prepared will contribute to improving the institution's quality assurance processes. According to the analysis of the IOSUD UMF Craiova internal evaluation report, report annexes, web page and the results obtained from different meetings during the remote evaluation, it has been determined that the critical standards under institutional capacity, educational effectiveness and quality management have been met. The institution's doctoral education programs and graduates have the capacity to create added value in the country, in the European region and in the world.. However, my recommendations for improving the quality assurance processes of doctoral education at the level of IOUSUD UMF Craiova are presented below:

- Increasing the number of national and international grants
- Increasing the number of the articles published in ISI WEB of Science indexed journals
- Improving the internationalization processes
- Increase the number of mobility agreements and the number of doctoral students benefiting from mobility agreements for pharmacy and dentistry as well.
- Improving the institutional capacity to renew research infrastructure through investments from own revenues
- It is recommended that the processes should be defined to evaluate the effectiveness of IT and that the effectiveness of IT should be evaluated and reported
- The mechanisms should be clear to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of meeting the doctoral students' learning outcomes
- It is recommended to implement practices to ensure that the instructors' performance, who are below the expectations in terms of performance, is at the desired level. The evaluations and evidence of improvements made in line with the evaluations should be reported. In addition, it is recommended to implement regulations and practices to increase the international activities of teaching staff. It is also recommended to develop the infrastructure of pharmacy and dentistry.
- Completing the elimination processes (closing PDCA cycles) defined in line with the evaluation report and sharing the improvement results with the stakeholders.
- The English web page should be developed to be more accessible to the international audience, future candidates and the public.
- At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral school of the IOSUD should be drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or should be organized in international co-tutelage.
- The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures can be improved. It can also be recommended that the support of the IOSUD can be evaluated, and the improvement can be made in the line of evaluation results with the participation of related stakeholders.
- Increase the rate of students who have undergraduate and graduate education from other universities in doctoral programs.



- Apply effective strategies to decrease the drop-outs rates from doctoral programs.
- The measures on withdrawing the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism is in the planning stage; the institution can make the measures to be taken and the regulations on the subject clearer.
- The IOSUD decision on scientific reviewers specified in the report was not given in the annexes. Document/s containing IOSUD decisions regarding preventing academic fraud in doctoral studies should be available to the public.
- The IOSUD decision on scientific reviewers specified in the report was not given in the annexes. Document/s containing IOSUD decisions regarding scientific reviewers should be available to the public.
- Creating effective communication channels with graduates' employers.
- Building an effective doctoral graduates tracking system.
- Receiving limited stakeholder contribution in preparing the internal evaluation report and opening the report public, a consensus should be established in the areas that need improvement as a whole, and the report should be owned.

At the end of report, I would like to thank to the rector of the UMF Craiova and all the university staff, students, graduates, graduates' employers for creating a collaborative environment during the meetings. I also thank to IOSUD evaluation director-Prof. Radu Oprean, IOSUD committee coordinator- Prof. Liliana Marcela Rogozea, PhD student evaluator- Paul Sorin Cotoi and IOSUD expert evaluator- Prof Daniela Adriana Ion for the environment they have created for effective teamwork during the external evaluation. Lastly, I would like to extend my special thanks to ARACIS for inviting me as an international expert to the external evaluation of IOUSUD UMF Craiova's and for their kind support throughout the process.