



The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain UNIVERSITATEA NAȚIONALĂ DE ARTE "GEORGE ENESCU" DIN IAȘI

I. Introduction

The evaluation took place from July 15th to 19th 2021. It was in a hybrid surrounding, and I was able to participate in a virtual way, via zoom.

A short overview can be presented in the following way, as stated in the self-evaluation documents. In 2000, the institution initiated the necessary steps to organise PhD studies in the Theatre Department of the "George Enescu" National Art University of Iași; at the time, this Department was part of the Faculty of Composition, Musicology, Music Pedagogy and Theatre. The first admission session took place in the academic year 2002/2003 (as it is elaborated in The Establishment Appendix). Starting with the academic year 2007/2008, after the affiliation to the Bologna System, the Regulation has undergone a various amendments; the main amendment involved the inclusion of two types of doctoral degrees in the Theatre Field: research doctorate and professional doctorate, a distinction which is still maintained. The Theatre Doctoral School has had a complex evolution, both in terms of human resources (coordinating professors and doctoral students), and of research infrastructure. The evolution of the Theatre Doctoral School has been intimately linked to the that of the "George Enescu" National Art University of Iași, the oldest higher education institution in the field of arts in Romania, whose core goal has been to develop scientific research and artistic creation in the fields of Visual Arts, Music and Theatre and Performing Arts, to become a pole of excellence enjoying national and international recognition. Actually, UNAGE Iași is the only university in Romania which institutionally brings together three major art fields: Music, Theatre and Visual Arts, an exceptional situation which enabled from the very beginning the development of interdisciplinary perspectives and which, inevitably, had impact on the three Doctoral Schools included in the IOSUD.

The Mission of the Doctoral School - Theatre and Performing Arts is threefold:

- A Formative Mission, aiming at the existing specialisations and the specialisations proposed for the years, as well as the development of individual or collective research projects, integrated into research themes which require team work, specific to the art of theatrical performance;
- A Creative mission, aiming at scientific research and/or artistic creation, the development of the creative personality of doctoral students in the context of acquiring national and universal values specific to the field;
- A complementary Formative Mission, which involves the articulation of projects with socio-cultural development policies, in order to raise awareness on human issues and moral values, and to become integrated into the development of Romanian culture.

An integral part of IOSUD UAGE, this Doctoral School has prioritised scientific research and/or artistic creation as an activity which derives from the quality principles imposed by the Strategic Plan of the University, from the Operational Plan of the Faculty of Theatre and from the quality principles imposed by the European landscape. Its vision on scientific research



and/or artistic creation aims to consolidate the position of the Theatre Doctoral School in the IOSUD, in the UAGE strategy of scientific research and artistic creation, but also at national, European and international levels, and to increase its reputation and visibility.

II. Methods used

The methods and tools employed in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, including the following:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and some of the Annexes, because all of them were in Romanian;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting was not possible for me, because I was a part of the virtual surrounding evaluation, but the colleagues were there on site, and the overall context was grasped from the conversation with different participants;
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The "George Enescu" National Arts University of Iași, the successor of the former School of Fine Arts which was founded in 1860, which later became, since 1931, the Academy of Fine Arts until 1949, gathered for the very first time, for only one year, 1949-1950, as part of the Institute of Arts, the three artistic fields Music, Theatre and Visual Arts. Starting from 1977, the "George Enescu" Conservatory of Iași continued the tradition of the umbrella shared by Music and Plastic Arts, and later, in 1990, the two fields were joined by Theatre under the fresh umbrella of the "George Enescu" Academy of Arts of Iași. Subsequently, the "George Enescu" Academy of Arts became the "George Enescu" National Arts University of Iași, a public higher artistic education institution, the only one of its kind in Romania, considering its form of organisation, bringing together under its cupola the three established artistic fields: Music, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts. The Doctoral School of the current UNAGE was first opened in 2001, when the name of the institution was "George Enescu" Arts University of Iași, according to Order No. 4227/02 Aug. 2001 of the Minister of Education and Research, which had certified it as a Doctoral Institution(I.O.D.). The original document makes this specification because, at that time,



IOD's structure only included musical arts. Within just a few years, IOD obtained the right to organise doctoral studies in the fields of Theatre (as per Order No. 3572/19 April 2002 of the Minister of Education and Research; see Annex 02: Theatre Doctoral programme) and Fine and Decorative Arts (as per Order No. 667/28 March 2007 of the Minister of Education and Research; see Annex 03: Creation of Plastic Arts dep.). "Fine and Decorative Arts", as a doctoral topic, became "Visual Arts" in 2013.

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

The activities of doctoral schools are managed by CSUD (Council of University Doctoral Studies) that includes the CSUD members and the CSUD Director who is assigned in position after winning a selection contest. Activities of the IOSUD attached to UNAGE Iași are governed by the Doctoral School Regulation which was prepared in accordance with National Education Law No. 1/2011, Code of the Doctoral Studies (Government Decision No. 681/2011, published in Official Gazette No. 551/03.08.2011) and the Charter of UNAGE Iași (Annex_002_Charter of UNAGE Iasi). CSUD members were voted by the mentors of the three doctoral schools and by doctoral students. The mission of IOSUD falls within the broader mission of "George Enescu" National Arts University of Iași to train well-prepared specialists, capable of providing the public with a high-quality cultural act by means of a permanent artistic creation and research, while ensuring the progress of Romanian art and culture, in the social and cultural context of the international environment.

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 attached to UNAGE Iași aims at becoming a pole of advanced artistic knowledge, a relevant centre in wider educational and art context which is to be found in Romania and abroad, that can provide models to follow in the field of artistic practices, theoretical or historiographical research for professional artists working in the field of visual arts, music, theatre and performance arts.

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.

Evaluation mentions the following strengths:

METHODOLOGIES AND REGULATIONS- methodologies, general regulations, standards should be updated and customised permanently; field-specific guides should be written so as to match the activities and requirements they are supposed to; and all should be compatible with the type of research and creative activities for which they are created.

Regulations governing Doctoral Studies;

Methodologies based on which CSUD members are elected; doctoral applicants are accepted; applicants are habilitated and get affiliated; mentors are regularly appraised, etc.;- purchase plagiarism detection software; - maintain the permanent compatibility of the criteria based on which qualifiers are established (excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, not satisfactory) for doctoral papers with CNATDCU criteria;- regularly update the admission guides for all three doctoral schools to provide clear evaluation criteria, to match the ever more complex environment of the proposed topics.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES- Assess and prepare procedures based on which to regularly assess the activities of doctoral mentors;- assess and prepare procedures based on which periodically appraise doctoral students, by submitting a general activity report concerning doctoral research activities, at the end of the second year after defending the three research reports;- organise elections to form the councils of the doctoral schools and to select their directors; prepare a procedure adapted to the current situation; improve hybrid communication (online and in-person) to match the context of atypical circumstances (pandemics).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCESThe Teaching Staff- annual analysis in CSUD of doctoral students and mentors, based on peer reviews and student reviews;- attract members with professional and academic prestige into the commissions that do the final evaluations of the doctoral theses;- attract doctoral mentors that have high performances in their scientific research and/or artistic creation, with international visibility, from Romania and/or abroad, in order to have them involved in cotutelle projects;- permanently re-evaluate the affiliation criteria and encourage the preparation and presentation of the habilitation applications by experienced researchers, in order to increase the number of doctoral study mentors, and monitoring performance criteria for their admission in the doctoral school. Doctoral students - higher demands from applicants in order to raise the bar of research activities and to improve the quality of doctoral theses by establishing sets of clear norms included in the doctoral admission methodology; - permanently monitor the research activities of doctoral students in order to obtain good-quality results and to comply with the research calendars;- make the research outcomes of doctoral students more visible by:
-having the most relevant doctoral theses published by UNAGE's Artes house or by other well-known houses from Romania and abroad;-using the press and media to promote the artistic events (concerts, exhibitions, performances) of doctoral students;



- CSUD's organising an annual convention and publishing a compendium that should bring together the most notable achievements of the three doctoral schools (hardcopies or e-books) -annually;
 - each doctoral school should organise an annual event to promote its research accomplishments or research in progress (exhibitions of the doctoral students, concerts, theatre performances or any other such manifestation);
 - open a training centre to teach writing skills to those who write science papers and prepare research projects that should follow a scientific research methodology;
 - have doctoral students involved in the research centres that are created and funded in UNAGE;
 - involve doctoral students in the financed projects that are won by means of project competitions and encourage doctoral students to apply;
 - the database in which the results of the research/creations of doctoral students are stored and showcased on DOCTART.ro (the educational portal of UNAGE's IOSUD) should be updated permanently;
 - doctoral students, MA students and undergraduate students should be involved in joint activities in order to develop professional connections amongst themselves;
- 29- also, the doctoral students of all three doctoral programmes should organise joint activities in order to debate and discuss their research topics;
- students should also participate in Erasmus+ mobilities and the like, UNAGE's programmes should be made compatible with those available internationally (EU) in the broader context of UNAGE's efforts to internationalise its presence. Administrative personnel
 - the administrative personnel and the secretarial offices of the doctoral schools must work efficiently and cooperate among themselves;- the communication flows amongst these secretarial offices and the CSUD secretarial office must be optimised.

EXPANDING THE HUMAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO UNAGE IAȘI- Additional financing resources must be identified for the doctoral programmes (FDI grants, sponsorships, advisory services, etc.) in order to provide a financial incentive to doctoral students who have a good potential demonstrated in their scientific research activities, performances and artistic creations;- attract financing from doctoral studies conducted in cooperation with art and culture institutes and - in general - with the business environment.

This condition is fulfilled, and this was verified in the conversation and in the self-evaluation documents: internal regulations of the administrative structures (institutional regulations for the organisation and functioning of doctoral studies, doctoral schools regulations);

Recommendations: **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 condition is fulfilled, as it is seen from the self-evaluation documents.



Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator* A.1.1.3. 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.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

I was not able to participate in an on-site visit, but colleagues from the evaluation committee declare that venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out.

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.

George Enescu" National Arts University of Iași Doctoral School provides a complex information system, made available to doctoral students for quality assurance purposes and containing various online portals and facilities, managed and maintained by the IT and Printing Services Department, in collaboration with other departments.

The indicator is 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.

Anti-plagiarism software exists and is available to students and professors.

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 main pillar of the research infrastructure is the Multidisciplinary Art Research Institute (Institutul de cercerare multidisciplinară în artă) that was first opened in 2021 and that hires researchers focusing on the three areas of interest (music, visual arts, theatre and performance arts).

Research as praise to interdisciplinarity is a constant concern of the Doctoral School, even more so as the art of theatre remains a syncretic art. Moreover, the very structure by domains of the "George Enescu" National Art University of Iași encourages such approaches. They intend to focus more on the joint supervision of PhD thesis, on the participation of PhD students in programmes initiated by other Doctoral Schools (Philosophy,



Psychology, Sociology etc.), and approach colleagues from other fields and involve them in the scientific events organised by the Doctoral School.

Their goal is to strengthen professional communication in the various fields of humanities, both nationally and internationally. Frequently, in their research projects, their doctoral students face various situations which go beyond their field of specialisation, and need transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary guidance.

Another area of interest focuses on research turned in upon itself or, in other words, the interest for meta-research.

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.)

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 institute works with the other research centres that are part of UNAGE. All doctoral mentors are members of the research centres and develop projects which involve doctoral students too. UNAGE Iași has the following research centres:

1. Institute for multidisciplinary research in art (UNAGE Iași);
2. The “Aesthetics and Artistic Creation” Centre (“Estetică și creație artistică” - Faculty of Visual Arts and Design);
3. CReART centre – conservation, restoration, and applied arts (Faculty of Visual Arts and Design);
4. “Vasile Drăguț” Mediaeval Art Research Centre (Faculty of Visual Arts and Design);
5. Contemporary photography centre (Faculty of Visual Arts and Design);
6. Painting - contemporary visual practices research centre (Centrul de cercetare “Pictură – practici vizuale contemporane” - Faculty of Visual Arts and Design);
7. INNOVISART (the Centre for Research, Development, Innovation and Technological Transfer - Faculty of Visual Arts and Design);
8. Art of Theatre - study and creation centre (Centrul “Arta teatrului – studiu și creație” - Theatre Faculty);
9. “Science of music” Research Centre (Centrul de cercetare “Știința muzicii” - Faculty of Performance, Composition and Theoretical Musical Studies);
10. The Centre for Intercultural Studies and Research (Centrul de studii și cercetări interculturale - Department for the Preparation of the Teaching Staff).

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.

All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities, depending on the specificity of the area/areas of the doctoral school, based on internal rules.

The physical facilities for the scientific research and artistic creation activities shall consist of the UAGE infrastructure, more specifically, laboratories and other similar facilities, performance and exhibition halls, amphitheatres and study and production halls and workshops, Library, printing house, IT facilities.

Unless otherwise specified, the use of the physical facilities shall be free of charge or only the current expenses related to the use of that constituent segment of the physical facilities shall be covered.

In UAGE, scientific research and artistic creation shall benefit free of charge from the services of the entire information and documentation network of the University.

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%.

Just as it was specified in the previous subchapters, the IOSUD attached to UNAGE Iași covers three doctoral areas:

1. MUSIC DOCTORAL PROGRAMME;
2. THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS DOCTORAL PROGRAMME;
3. VISUAL ARTS DOCTORAL PROGRAMME.

The ratio is good. In this purpose the IOSUD at UNAGE Iași hired 25 mentors (18 full timers and 7 visiting professors) over 2019-2020.

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.

From the Annexes it is visible that more than 50% are under contract.



The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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.

The Doctoral School has 41 doctoral students.

Admissions in 2015-2020:

2015 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 4 students - seats reserved for students from the Republic of Moldova;

2016 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats and 1 student - tuition seat;

2017 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 students - seats reserved for students from the Republic of Moldova;

2018 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 , 1 student - tuition seat;

2019 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 2 students -tuition seats;

2020 – 6 students admitted - tuition-free seats, 6 students - tuition seats, 1 student - Romanians Abroad Programme.

Recommendations: **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.

These type of stimulation is encouraged, even towards minorities. Special scholarships are appointed as well.

Recommendations: **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.

Since this school is dealing with art education, two forms of doctoral programmes are available in all of the three schools: scientific doctorate and professional doctorate. Only the scientific doctoral programme is available in the Theatre Doctoral School, while the other two doctoral schools (Music and Visual Arts) also cover the scientific doctorate and the professional doctorate. Each doctoral school cultivates excellence in its scientific and art research since doctoral theses are scientific works (history or theory) or works of art (complex visual or musical art research projects) that are supported by a sound theoretical basis.

Each doctoral school has its own specific thematic profile which is updated regularly. The general structure of the internal quality assurance and certification system, for all three doctoral programmes, relies on a set of very well-prepared evaluation instruments:

- Evaluation of the quality of the teaching staff ;
- Self-evaluation report;
- Peer review report;
- Rules and procedures governing the periodical evaluation;
- Doctoral student's report;
- Regular reports on the artistic and research activities of the doctoral students.

All of the documents that cover the activities conducted by the doctoral programmes, including the student registers and the thesis defence reports that certify the defence of the three doctoral research reports are stored in the archives of CSUD secretariate (both electronically and in hard copies) and all information regarding the activities of doctoral students and mentors alike is stored there.

Recommendations: **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.

There is a special course dedicated to Ethics and Academic Integrity, obligatory to all PhD students.

There is at least one discipline devoted to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property or well demarcated themes addressing these topics in the doctoral curriculum. The ongoing Education Plan includes the subject "Academic Ethics and Integrity", which is compulsory for all doctoral students in the field.

Recommendations: **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.

The areas of doctoral studies managed by the doctoral schools attached to IOSUD are: MUSIC (doctoral programme), Visual Arts (doctoral programme), THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS (Theatre Doctoral Programme). Learning outcomes are precise and in accordance with the specific domains and subjects.

Recommendations: **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.)

Most of the students capitalize their work in different fields, not only as articles, but implementing some ideas into artistic life in general.

For the field subject to assessment, the appraisal commission must be presented with at least one article or another relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a PhD degree in the past 5 years. Out of this list, members of the appraisal commission select randomly for review five such articles/relevant contributions per university doctoral study field.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards

Operation of the internal quality assurance system in this doctoral school: 1.4.1. Objectives and general structure of the internal quality assurance (QA) system
The purposes of this internal QA system involve the following:

1. Ensure a high-quality standard.
2. Interconnect all structures of the Doctoral School and ensure a high-quality professional communication, based on mutual trust and on fostering a feeling of artistic and scientific value.



3. Ensure an environment ruled by professionalism and based, on one hand, on the prestige of the mentors, and on the other hand on the transposing this prestige into the actual outcomes of the research activities.
4. Transform and keep doctoral schools as elite departments of the University, and as academic examples of good practices and good conduct in the highest-level research.
5. Prepare and implement in a phased way a strategy to internationalise UNAGE's doctoral schools, which would enable UNAGE to have its doctoral research and creative activities connected to up-to-the-minute environments such the ones existing now in Europe. This purpose will be achieved as follows: internationalise the curriculum, support of the student and mentor exchanges under Erasmus+ mobility programme, run cotutelle doctoral research projects, perform joint art and research projects in partnerships with other schools in EU countries, submit research funding applications to obtain EU research grants.
6. Developing the internal and cultural connections created through the research, scientific and artistic activity of teaching personnel working in the doctoral school.
7. Connectivity with the external socio-economic and professional environment, since visibility is a prerequisite for the ensuring the quality of the activities of the three doctoral schools.
8. Create tangible ways to make the most of the research reports, other than those ever more doctoral students are supposed to write before they get their PhD's (published articles, exposure in specialised magazines, exhibitions, music, theatre performances, etc.).

Quality assurance policies; procedures, beneficiaries and their responsibilities Quality assurance policies are regulated in the Arts' Doctoral School Regulations (Regulamentul Instituțional de organizare și desfășurare a programelor de studii universitare de doctorat), but also in the Doctoral School Regulations of the doctoral programmes. All of these norms and regulations govern the way in which IOSUD's management structures work, the mission of every structure, the rights and obligations formalised in the Doctoral Study Contracts, the procedures based on which doctoral studies are organised and conducted, as well as the quality standards observed by doctoral programmes, other issues associated to the evaluation of the doctoral school and mentors, regular internal evaluations that are aimed at securing a high-quality level of the activities, other detailed information about the study programmes and about the scientific research or creative and art activities. A great importance is attached to the quality of the research reports and final thesis. The rights and obligations of the doctoral student are covered by a separate chapter; the mentors' rights and obligations have their own separate chapter too.

At the same time, IOSUD-UNAGE is aligning the QA policies that it has in its Strategic Plan The fundamental document that contains the quality assurance policies, procedures, beneficiaries and their responsibilities is UNAGE's QA Code

Participation of the staff, students, doctoral students and external stakeholders in the quality assurance process In the 2019-2020 academic year, the University's CEAC Commission included mentors but also doctoral students and trade unionists. The mentor evaluation form, which is filled in by doctoral students, is aimed at directly involving them into the QA process. The Councils of the Doctoral Schools include doctoral students who have the same decision-making rights as mentors do. Also, a proportional number of doctoral students is



included in CSUD. CSUD meetings are attended by IOSUD secretary, UNAGE's in-house legal adviser and - whenever deemed suitable - by other University departments.

Interaction between the quality assurance system and university management
The interaction between the quality assurance system and university management is mainly supported by the existence and functioning of the University's CEAC Commission which also includes members of the doctoral schools. UNAGE has a Board that monitors, coordinates and provides methodological guidance to support the development of the managerial control system, set up by a Rector's Decision, in reliance upon Order no. 200/2016. The purpose thereof is to develop and implement the internal control/managerial system - SCIM integrated in UNAGE, in order to ensure that the institution's goals are reached in an efficient, effective, and economical manner.

The objectives proposed for the 2015 Strategic Plan and for the University's 2019-2020 Operational, were accomplished by both the University and the activities that are specific to each of the three doctoral programmes.

The University's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan covers a set of general strategic objectives that ensures the coherence and viability of the University's development programme. The doctoral schools are also implementing the same sets of goals while focusing on working with peers in Romania and abroad to design a consistent strategy based on which to develop quality of the research projects and to internationalise research outcomes.

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.

None.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.**

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.

All of the annual reports prepared by this Commission are published on UNAGE's web page. Efficiency of internal quality assurance procedures and structures and their impact on PhD activities The effects of the internal QA procedures and structures are to be seen especially in the high quality of the research activities, e.g., the scientific level of research reports, the closing theses, but also the scientific articles that doctoral students publish in field-specific magazines. The high rate of attendance of classes taught under the Training Programmes, compliance with some fundamental documents such as the Doctoral Student's Personal File,



the domestic and international prestige that mentors are enjoying are due to a sizeable extent to how the internal QA process is being management and structured.

Use of information generated by the internal QA system as an instrument for quality management and improvement of education and of other activities The Council of each Doctoral School looks at the internal evaluation reports and identifies medium- and long-term solutions to fix the shortcomings. These evaluation reports, done for each Doctoral Programme, are centralised and discussed inside the CSUD in order to make them consistent with each other.

Ongoing monitoring, assessment and development of the internal quality assurance system. Doctoral school directors work with doctoral school councils regularly to monitor the way in which the goals established according to the available evaluation methods are accomplished. Doctoral school directors write annual reports in which they describe inter alia the shortcomings they found and the ways in which these shortcomings are to be solved.

CSUD directors include in their annual reports the reports submitted by doctoral school directors in order to support problem solving and to develop the internal QA system.

Information about the extent to which performance criteria, standards and performance indicators are met All Information about the extent to which criteria, standards and performance indicators are satisfied are to be found in the three online presentation files of the doctoral programmes. UNAGE's IOSUD is compliant with all critical performance indicators, according to the statistics and information published in the above-mentioned files.

Strategies and procedures implemented in the doctoral school, as measures to ensure the continuous improvement of the quality of doctoral study programmes, other than those specified in the minimum standards.

The strategies and procedures that are implemented to improve doctoral programmes involve the following:

- defining and adapting the thematic research areas covered by each doctoral school to make they keep abreast of the times;
- defining and permanently improving art research methodologies in order to have them implemented in all subject matters specified in the curricula;
- defining professional and scientific doctorates in greater detail by writing bespoke research and writing guides for each doctoral area;
- run joint research projects bringing together all three doctoral schools, submit joint financing applications, which should include professors, doctoral students and line professionals in the research teams;
- for each doctoral school, implement long-term research plans that should be related to the thematic research areas of the other doctoral schools too
- create DOCTART.ro, the online educational portal of the doctoral schools under UNAGE's IOSUD 2021 FD Grant;



- implement UNAGE's IOSUD internationalisation strategy by making the curriculum international, by running cotutelle projects and joint projects with peers from EU, as well as mobility projects under Erasmus+ programme.

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.

Recommendations: **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.

Recommendations: **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.

Recommendations: **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.

They are all included in the specific objectives (the objectives are part of the Research Strategy 2017- 2021), as follows:

1. To increase the number of doctoral mentors in the next two years;
2. To train human resources by means of research and/or artistic creation activities carried out in the Doctoral School and the Theatre Faculty, as well by interaction with theatre personalities in Romania and abroad;
3. To integrate new specialists/researchers as members in the permanent committees for doctoral student guidance;
4. To support initiatives to participate in field-specific programmes and projects, locally, nationally and internationally;
5. To develop the doctoral study programme, so as to become a training school for young researchers and creators, an attractive environment for their work; to diversify teaching and research strategies which involve the development of a participatory attitude of doctoral students;

6. To involve doctoral students in research teams;
7. To encourage and to motivate MA students/young teaching staffers to get involved in research and/or artistic creation; to organise joint scientific sessions with PhD students-teaching staff;
8. To identify potential partners, taking into account the activity profile and any co-operation opportunities which may lead to initiatives to tackle certain topics and projects;
9. To enhance co-operation with national and international partners, personalities, institutions, professional associations;
10. To involve the Doctoral School in European co-operation programmes at the level of doctoral studies;
11. To provide the necessary conditions to organise regular meetings of doctoral mentors, members of the supervision committees with doctoral students to take stock of any ongoing specific activities.
12. To make the teaching staff and collaborators involved in the activity of the Doctoral School accountable for the value of individual and joint research projects, as well for the importance of professional expression in artistic creation;
13. To support the development of editorial programmes and artistic performances which should contribute to new knowledge development through the arts of theatrical performance;
14. To raise awareness on interdisciplinary work and on contemporary cultural vocation in scientific research and artistic creation;
15. To encourage the implementation of artistic research projects by doctoral students and teaching staff involved in the activity of this Doctoral School.
16. To capitalise on research results, by means of specific channels: publication of studies, essays, articles in the journal Colocvii teatrale [Theatrical Colloquia] of the Research Centre Theatre Art - study and creation (Arta teatrului - studiu și creație), in specialist/cultural journals with high impact at national level; publication of specialist books at the ArtesPublishing House of UNAGE and at other recognised publishing houses; the members of the Doctoral School should ensure specialist expertise as a scientific reviewers, authors of forewords, afterwords, introductory studies, book launches, etc.
17. To capitalise on scientific research and/or artistic creation outcomes achieved by the members of the Doctoral School by participation in symposia, conferences, theatre performances, art tours in Romania and abroad, by publication of articles/studies in national or international symposia/conferences volumes, in journals with international recognition or IDB indexed journals etc.
18. Doctoral School members participate in evaluation committees/national and international competitions;
19. Membership in national and international professional organisations, unions and research and creation associations;
20. National research/creation competitive grants or international grants;
21. To support the development and implementation of partnership projects between the Research Centre Theatre Art - study and creation (Arta teatrului –studiu și creație) of the Theatre Faculty and similar centres/universities in Romania and abroad (workshops, conferences, symposia, festivals);



22. To become involved in the procurement of specialist publications (books and periodicals) in Romania and abroad, to ensure scientific research against international standards;

Recommendations: **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.

“George Enescu” National Arts University of Iași and, implicitly, provides a complex information system, made available to doctoral students for quality assurance purposes and containing various online portals and facilities, managed and maintained by the IT and Printing Services Department, in collaboration with other departments.

Recommendations: **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.

The doctoral school, through IOSUD, publishes on the website of the organising institution, by observing the data protection general rules, information on: (a) the regulation of the doctoral school; Theatre Doctoral School Regulations - Regulation on the organisation and functioning of doctoral study programme.



Recommendations: **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.

IOSUD contracted and implemented software services/applications enabling similarity checks for the scientific achievements of doctoral students, including the doctoral thesis, with other existing scientific or artistic works, and for doctoral students' access to this facility. The proprietary software www.sistemantiplagiat.romay be used upon request filed with the Secretariat by doctoral students or by doctoral mentors. Pursuant to the legislation in force, the reports issued by www.sistemantiplagiat.ro are uploaded on the CNATDCU platform of the Ministry to obtain the validation of each PhD thesis.

Recommendations: **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.

Regulated on the University level. More bases should be included.

Recommendations: **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.

Some of the students have went abroad for training, but most of them for conferences.

Recommendations: **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.

Recommendations: **NOT ENOUGH DATA.**



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.

- 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.

Recommendations: **NOT ENOUGH DATA.**

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, etc.).

Institution is highly promoting its Doctoral School. Internalization is planned but not fulfilled entirely.

Recommendations: **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.

The monitoring of internal quality assurance in the Doctoral School is included in the annual reports of the CEAC Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission. The Doctoral School



drafts annual self-assessment reports which drive the actions taken to support internal quality assurance.

All procedures and subsequent rules underpinning the organisation of doctoral studies by the Doctoral School are specified in the Institutional Regulation on the organisation and functioning of doctoral study programmes. Participants in the regular CSUD meetings analyse the options of re-organisation related to procedures and subsequent rules, based on any changes in the legal context and in the educational philosophies.

During the doctoral study period, mechanisms are implemented in order to obtain feedback from doctoral students, whereby their needs, as well as their general satisfaction level to the university doctoral study curriculum are identified, in order to permanently improve the academic and administrative processes. Student/PhD student satisfaction is an important indicator of the quality of educational services provided by UNAGE. The institution develops and applies various methods to investigate this degree of satisfaction, on annual basis; students participate annually in teacher assessments and express their views on the quality of teacher performance in all activities in the curriculum, on the general speciality training they receive, on the artistic practice and other actions in which they are involved.

“George Enescu” National Art University of Iași also applies a questionnaire to study the degree of satisfaction in order to enhance the quality of education and all services provided to students. Results suggest that over 85% of the students attending courses provided by this institution are satisfied with the learning environment and the opportunities of professional and personal development offered by the university.

Recommendations: **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.

Each doctoral student has access, upon request, to an electronic system enabling him/her to check the similarity to other existing scientific or artistic creations. IOSUD contracted and implemented software services/applications enabling similarity checks for the scientific achievements of doctoral students, including the doctoral thesis, with other existing scientific or artistic works, and for doctoral students' access to this facility. The proprietary software www.sistemantiplagiat.rom may be used upon request filed with the Secretariat by doctoral students or by doctoral mentors. Pursuant to the legislation in force, the reports issued by www.sistemantiplagiat.ro are uploaded on the CNATDCU platform of the Ministry to obtain the validation of each PhD thesis.

Recommendations: **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.

Recommendations: **NOT ENOUGH DATA.**

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.

Implemented, but never happened.

Recommendations: **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.

Recommendations: **NOT ENOUGH DATA.**

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.

Recommendations: **NOT ENOUGH DATA.**

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).

Database exist and it is available on the Doctoral School web.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

IV. SWOT Analysis

Doctoral programmes can be improved by optimising the following issues:



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| <p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <p>The configuration and sustainability of the research infrastructure; openness to other cultural paradigms which may enrich and really foster the pathway to performance in the Arts Field; dialogue with institutions working in the field of performing arts and research, and they often try and successfully convince them to open up to cooperation with doctoral students and graduates of the Doctoral School, and to integrate the latter's professional excellence in their own institutional objectives; actions to permanently ensure research excellence and indisputable originality.</p> | <p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <p>Not so much foreign grants and projects; students seem to be not so eager to internationalize the activities.</p> |
| <p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>To support initiatives to participate in field-specific programmes and projects, locally, nationally and internationally; to develop the doctoral study programme, so as to become a training school for young researchers and creators, an attractive environment for their work; to diversify teaching, research strategies, that involve the development of a participatory attitude of doctoral students.</p> | <p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>Closing in local community issues; difficult to raise awareness on interdisciplinary work and contemporary cultural vocation in scientific research and artistic creation.</p> |

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations