*Annex No. 3*

# The External Evaluation Report of an Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD)

# West University Timisoara Romania

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# I. Introduction[1]

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

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

**Director:**
Prof. PhD Adrian Opre
Babes Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca
**Coordinator:**
Prof. PhD. Adriana Giurgiu
University of Oradea
**International expert:**
Prof.dr. Razvan Ionut Ghinea
University of Granada, Spain
**PhD student:**
Dalban Costel-Marian
University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Iasi

The evaluation period extended from 11/10/2021 to 15/10/2021, and it was developed in a hybrid mode, meaning that the evaluation benefited from both online meetings and on-site visits.

After my appointment as an International Expert Evaluator, I was informed by the Director (Prof Dr. Adrian Opre, Babes Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca), the Coordinator (Prof. Dr. Adriana Giurgiu, University of Oradea) as well as the Technical Assistant (Carmen Mirian - ARACIS) of the evaluation team on important aspects of the evaluation process, such as:

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

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[1] Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.

*Background*

The West University of Timișoara is an Organizing Institution for Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD -UVT) and operates as such based on the National Education Law (1/2001) and GD 681/2011 - Code of Doctoral University Studies. In fact, it is defined as such by the Charter of the West University of Timișoara which stipulates, in this sense: „UVT is the Organizing Institution of Doctoral University Studies (hereinafter referred to as IOSUD-UVT). IOSUD-UVT operates on the basis of the institutional regulation on the organization and development of doctoral studies in UVT which is approved by the UVT Senate, in accordance with the law and the Code of doctoral studies.

The activity of IOSUD is coordinated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), subordinated to the Board of Directors. The doctoral school is run by a doctoral school board. IOSUD-UVTcurrently has 12 doctoral schools - DS (with 22 doctoral domains - DD), as follows: Doctoral School of Arts, Doctoral School of Chemistry, Doctoral School of Law, Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, Doctoral School of Physics, Doctoral School of Geography, Doctoral School of Computer Science, Doctoral School of Mathematics, Doctoral School of Music and Theater, Doctoral School of Psychology, Doctoral School of Sociology, Philosophy and Political Science, Doctoral School of Humanities.

In accordance with the legislation in force, the doctoral university studies have the general mission to ensure the preparation in the third cycle of university studies which is completed by defending the doctoral thesis and granting the doctoraldegree. The IOSUD-UVT mission consists in ensuring the European level training of doctoral students, by institutionalizing a coherent, stable, unitary, permanent and sustainable system of attracting and guiding doctoral students in activities to deepen the topics of doctoral theses, in the form of scientific research, artistic creation or sports performance, as well as efficient public use of the results obtained.

The main financial sources for carrying out IOSUD-UVT activities are the annual doctoral grants (financed by the Ministry of Education) and the fees associated with doctoral studies. To these main financial sources are added the non-reimbursable funds obtained through national competitions (PNIII programs, FDI for research) and European (H2020, structural funds) which include activities of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

According to the documents provided by the evaluated institution, at IOSUD level, a total of 190 PhD Advisors are affiliated to the differnet DS and a total of 835 Doctoral Students were enrolled during the evaluated period (2016-2020). At the same time, a total of 389 Doctoral Students obtaiend their doctorate in the same period.

At UVT there is, according to the legislation in force, a Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance whose composition is approved by the University Senate, and at the level of each faculty of UVT there is a Commission for Quality Management.The operation of the CEAC is carried out with the operational support of the Quality Management Department (DMC). DMC has as fundamental objective the promotion of a culture of quality in the West University of Timișoara by implementing ESG 2015 - Standards and Guidelines of the European Union for quality assurance in higher education. The evaluation of teachers and support staff by students is mandatory and takes place at theend of each semester, using an electronic platform to which all university students have access, guaranteeing the evaluator's confidentiality, based on a system procedure approved by the University Senate.

The doctoral schools offers doctoral students a training program based on advanced university studies consisting of courses, seminars, laboratories, and various specific activities. Another important

aspect is that each PhD student benefits from the existence of an individual Guidance Commission, that will help and assess each PhD Student throughout the development of the thesis.

All PhD students have access to several research facilities. A great part of the research facilities and/or research equipment was either built or acquired in the last 5 years, which proves the continuous effort of the evaluated institution to provide its students with the best resources for the proper development of their PhD Thesis. UVT has teaching spaces, offices and conference rooms that can be used by both PhD supervisors and PhD students. Finally, PhD Students have access to electronic documentation resources provided through the information platform (ANELIS+project) and physical documentation resources through the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" Timișoara (BCUT).

## II. Methods used

*Self-Assessment Report*

The institution has taken the evaluation process very seriously and carefully prepared a *Self-Assessment Report* of IOSUD. This document was available as 49 pages .pdf document in the ARACIS cloud, and I was able to access it easily, on-time and as often as necessary. To support information included in the *Self-Assessment Report*, the annexes were addressed as links to documents publicly available online in digital format. These documents were later completed with other additional documents, upon request from the evaluation panel. All these documents were uploaded to the ARACIS cloud or sent directly by e-mail to the evaluation panel. No physical documents were requested during the evaluation visit.

*Additional Information available on-line*

To complete this evaluation report, documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format was also frequently consulted (I will list just a part of them):
www.uvt.ro
doctorat.uvt.ro
senat.uvt.ro
dmc.uvt.ro
https://depami.uvt.ro/patrimoniu-uvt/spatii-de-invatamant/

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

*Meeting/discussions with doctoral students enrolled at IOSUD*

The meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review was on-line and took place on 12/10/2021. At the meeting participated more than 50 students at different years (stages) of the PhD program enrolled at the different DS belonging to the evaluated IOSUD UVT. Students were generally positive and stated that PhD Supervisor were always supportive and accessible, that they have their own allocated space and easy access to all available research resources. However, students showed some concerns regarding the number and quantity of scholarships and financial allocations made available to them.

Another issue identified during these interviews was that scientific meeting fees and travel support was almost exclusively funded by research grants awarded to the PhD Supervisor, therefore limiting access to scientific meetings only to those PhD Students that are also part of a research project. This aspect must be rapidly addressed and corrected by the evaluated institution by developing financial instruments to support travel grants and scientific meeting attendance for all enrolled PhD students.

Another drawback that was identified during this meeting was the fact that the available information on the institutional website (at IOSUD level, but mostly at DS level) is often incomplete or hard to find. It is important therefore for the evaluated institution to complete, simplify and update the website with all necessary information, as well as available funding instruments for PhD Students.

One very important topic that was discussed was the involvement of PhD Students in CSUD (IOSUD Council). It was truly concerning to find out that they are generally not aware of the possibility to apply as student representative within CSUD. The evaluated institution is encouraged to try to motivate students to take more responsibility and ownership for the development of IOSUD.

*Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of IOSUD*

Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review was on-line and took place on 12/10/2021. At the meeting participated more than 20 former students from IOSUD UVT. Overall, they all seem satisfied with the quality of their development throughout the PhD, and they easily found a job. The doctoral graduates valued positively the learning/development/research environment offered by IOSUD UVT as well as the research facilities.

However, it seems that most of the graduates did not perform an international mobility during their doctoral studies neither they participated as team members of a research project. Graduates suggested that IOSUD should improve the financial allocations for PhD Students, the level of internationalization, availability of co-supervision thesis with both national and international partners, simplification of the bureaucratic flow within IOSUD and a better and more efficient communication with the students.

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

The meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review was on-line and took place on 13/10/2021. At the meeting participated more than 20 representatives of employers of graduate students from IOSUD UVT. Overall, they were all satisfied with the level of training of the graduates as well as their considerably high level of multidisciplinary approach. They all agreed that both employers and doctoral schools can benefit from constant cooperation that should start as soon as possible.

IOSUD UVT also benefits of the existence of a large zonal consortium with 17 partners (of which UVT is a partner) promoting quality training and education. Some of the employers' representatives suggested the inclusion of a Key Performance Indicator within Doctoral Schools, the development of a guide for funding tools available for students and development of a co-financing program between UVT and private companies for the development of industrial PhDs or private-funded research contracts.

*Meeting/Discussions with IOSUD officials*

Meeting/Discussions with the Director of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating was on-line and took place on 11/10/2021. At the meeting participated the Director of IOSUD Prof. Dana Petcu and several Directors of different DS. During the meeting, participants were informed on the results of the review of the Self-Assessment Report and several complementary documents were requested. All requested documents were either uploaded or sent by the evaluated institution within few days from request.

It was discussed the access methodology for Doctoral studies and the procedure of election of CSUD members. One of the concerns expressed by the evaluation team was related with the lack of a student member in the CSUD (form two positions available, only one was occupied). Also, it was discussed the frequency of CSUD meetings (answered as 24 in the past year), the availability of the minutes of each meeting as well as the publication on the institutional website of this meetings and their minutes.

Overall, it was concluded that IOSUD benefits from a high academic and research level; efficient administrative organization; high transparency; good coordination of the activities at the different doctoral schools, firmness and fairness in applying the in-force regulations; good quality of PhD theses (no rejections from CNATDCU), increasing number of ISI publications of PhD students and increasing number of doctoral school application. Also, it has to be highlighted that IOSUD makes considerable effort towards continued correlation of internal regulations with those existing at national level and that there is a concern for promoting PhD Supervisor habilitation by academic staff.

On the other hand, there were identified several aspects that can be improved within IOSUD, such as: dissemination of the procedure for accessing funds; the relatively small number of PhDs carried out in international co-tutelle; the relatively small number of international internships for PhD students or the relatively small number of PhD thesis developed in collaboration with industry/socio-economic environment (industrial doctorates). Regarding the administrative part, there were some concerns regarding the small number of employees at CSUD secretariat in relation to their usual workload as well as the, sometimes, complicated bureaucratic procedures required. IOSUD should make efforts to hire additional support staff at IOSUD-UVT secretariat level. Also, one of the aspects that can be clearly improved is constantly updating information on the IOSUD and all DS websites.

*Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in IOSUD*

The meeting/discussions with the doctoral advisors in IOSUD UVT was on-line and took place on 11/10/2021. At the meeting participated more than 90 PhD Advisors as well as the Director of IOSUD UVT, Prof. Dana Petcu.
Generally, it was discussed the specific research field of the participants, the number of PhD students that they supervise currently, their actual position within the DSs and their strategy to attract possible PhD candidates. Overall, IOSUD UVT benefits of a large diversity of DDs with PhD Supervisors covering a wide range of research fields. IOSUD UVT has improved its policies for recruiting doctoral candidates and for the affiliation of new PhD supervisors. They have also made developments in the internationalization of doctoral studies. Phd Advisors also valued positively the very good communication and collaboration with the CSUD director and IOSUD-UVT members and the constant concern to update the regulatory framework, regulations, methodologies and procedures within IOSUD. Also, a clear interest shown by IOSUD-UVT in solving problems of the doctoral schools was identified.

Some shortcomings of ISOUD and DDs were also identified, such as the need to promote multi(inter)disciplinary PhDs Thesis, low number of scientific seminars offered to PhD Students, and insufficient funding for PhD students' participation in scientific conferences.

Also, PhD Advisors expressed their concerns regarding the relatively small number of PhDs carried out in international co-supervision; a relatively small number of internships for PhD students and a relatively small number of doctoral topics developed in collaboration with industry/socio-economic environment. Also, a topic that was recurrent, was the fact that external members in guidance committees are not financially supported by the institution.

Some other issues also arise, such as low number of doctoral scholarships and budgeted places; requirement that doctoral students complete their thesis strictly in 3 years, any extension (other than medical, postnatal leave, etc.) involving the payment of the annual tuition fee; the lack of a large-scale integrated research structure; the need for additional support staff at IOSUD-UVT secretariat level or the need to continuously update the information on the IOSUD-UVT website regarding data from the doctoral schools.

Participants were also asked regarding the students' research training and internships in foreign institutions. It was answered that PhD Students are encouraged to attend lectures at international conferences, as well as research training and internships.

Regarding the possibility to attract foreign students towards IOSUD UVT, PhD Advisors noted the difficulties arising from the fact that certain documents/forms of interest to foreign students (actual or potential) are not provided (or not fast enough) in foreign languages, the fact that some members of the administrative staff (secretariat) fail to communicate with students in foreign languages ant the financial and regulatory limitations at national level.

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

*Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD UVT*

The Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) under review were on-line and took place on 11/10/2021 (Representatives of UVT, IOSUD and DD management), 12/10/2021 (Ethics Commission) and 11/10/2021 (Quality Assurance Department). All were joint meetings for IOSUD and different DD panel evaluators. General aspects of IOSUD organization within UVT, funding sources, achievements of the last years and projects for the future were discussed.

Madalin Bunoiu, as Vice-President (Prorector) of UVT is in charge of supervising quality assurance within IOSUD UVT. He briefly explained the architecture of quality management at UVT and IOSUD level. The quality management department (DMC) uses templates, model questionnaires, and several others technical tools for collecting feedback from students and all other actors involved in the educational process at IOSUD level. It was explained that DMC is very pro-active and growing as structure within UVT. However, there is a lack of a computerized support to keep track of performance indicators, as DMC uses online storage tools (Google drive) to centralize answer and feedback. UVT representatives clearly shown their interest in the complete digitization of the quality assessment process, which is currently on-

going. Nevertheless, information regarding Quality Assurance Committee and its activity was difficult to collect form institutional website, and UVT was strongly encouraged to update its website and include all necessary information, as requested by the evaluation committee.

The Chair of the Ethics Committee explained the mission and purpose of the ethics committee and its composition. The Ethics Committee has regular meetings, and it has the ability to make recommendations in the area of prevention but has no competence to monitor implementation (which depends on other structures). It was also resumed what kind of complaints the Ethics Committee received and how they were addressed and eventually solved. The Commission has the capacity to act on its own initiative (self-initiated) or following a complaint. According to the current commission regulation, anonymous complaints are not accepted.

*Meeting/Discussions with CSUD UVT members and directors*

Meeting/Discussio*ns with CSUD UVT members and directors* was on-line and took place on 12/10/2021. At the meeting participated the Director of IOSUD Prof. Dana Petcu as well as several members of CSUD. It was discussed the activity of the IOSUD council, what type of decision are they in charge of and other issues arising, such as periodical internal evaluation.

It was discussed if the PhD students are offered the possibility to teach, and it was explained that not everyone can be offered the opportunity to teach, because there are many who are either foreigners or cannot participate in teaching activities because teaching hours are not available in their corresponding departments.

It was also discussed the fact that participation in guidance commissions are not financially rewarded for those members of the guidance committee who are external to UVT. The fact that there is no remuneration for the members of the guidance committees may be a factor that discourages the participation of external staff in guidance committees, which reduces the number of external participants in these committees.

The evaluation panel emphasized the importance of providing information about the election of students within CSUD and the importance of their participation in decision-making bodies. Also, it was recommended to improve the information flow towards PhD students. Research support micro-grants (2500 RON) exist for all DS, but many students are not aware of their existence.

All discussed items were properly answered by the participants. The evaluation team also requested additional information on how student satisfaction questionnaires are presented and how their results are further considered and insisted on the importance of these questionnaires.

*The Evaluation Visit*

The evaluation visit took place on 14/10/2021. At the visit participated the Director (Prof. PhD Adrian Opre) and the Coordinator (Prof. PhD. Adriana Giurgiu). The International expert did not participate.

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

## III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators[2]

### Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*f) the contract for doctoral studies;*

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

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

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

The development of the activities within IOSUD-UVT is regulated by the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and development of doctoral university studies. The three editions of the institutional regulation were drafted in the legal frameworks in force, in compliance with the National

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Education Law 1/2011, respectively of HG681 Code of doctoral studies54, with subsequent amendments, in force at the time of drafting the regulations. They establish the institutional framework for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (doctoral schools, governing bodies: CSUD, CSUD director, doctoral school councils, doctoral school directors), define the main actors in this process (doctoral students, doctoral supervisors), stipulate the conditions for admission to the doctorate, the staff of the doctoral research activity as well as the conditions for completing the doctoral university studies.

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

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

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

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task. This evaluator had difficulties to find some relevant information.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

*Performance Indicator\* A.1.1.3³. 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.*

Seven of the doctoral schools (DD) each manage a single field of doctoral study, while the other five DDs operate with more than one domain. This grouping of the fields within the doctoral schools allows a natural collaboration in the activities of guiding the doctoral students.

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

Standard A.1.2. The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.
According to the Self-Assessment Report and the online and on-site visit, the committee found that the IOSUD UVT has the necessary logistical resources to to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.

*Performance Indicator A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.*
The evaluated institution benefits from a computerized PhD Student management program (IT system) necessary for the optimization and development of administrative activities related to doctoral students. The record of doctoral students and their academic path can be found in the UVT's own system: UMS - University Management System, but also in the systems of the Ministry of National Education: REI - Integrated Educational Register and RMU -Single Matriculation Register.

*Recommendations:*
*It is recommended to complete the student management informatic (IT) system in order to extend its capabilities and to include an electronic signature system, this way achieving almost complete digitalization of the bureaucratic flow within IOSUD. As a goal, reaching a level of "paperless university" by 2026 can be considered.*

**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.*

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³ 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 minster 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.

IOSUD-UVT uses the online software iThenticate (available at http://www.ithenticate.com) as a support tool for academic writing instruction and for checking the similarity percentage. With the help of the software, all doctoral theses are analysed in accordance with internal procedures before their defence in front of the advising committee and before their public defence. The resulting reports are uploaded in full on the national REI platform, so that CNATDCU can check and approve the doctoral files and propose PhD title award. Additionally, the similarity report is accompanied by a statement from the doctoral supervisor assessing the instances of similarity identified by the software

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

The research facilities and the equipment available at IOSUD UVT are adequate for scientific research activities and contribute successfully to the achievement of its mission and objectives. The research infrastructure and the offer of research services are presented to the public through the ERRIS platform (https://erris.gov.ro). In addition to the premises used for its functioning, there is a room for public presentations of doctoral and habilitation theses, as well as for various public conferences. Conferences and symposia can also be held in the IOSDU UVT's specially equipped rooms.

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

The research infrastructure and the offer of research services are presented to the public through the ERRIS platform (https://erris.gov.ro). Each doctoral school has spaces dedicated to doctoral activities, the development of courses in the program of advanced university studies, and the actual research of doctoral students. The self-assessment reports attached to the current report detail these features.

All doctoral students from IOSUD-UVT are assigned to a laboratory or research center within the department where the doctoral supervisor works. They have access to the scientific research laboratories or other facilities of UVT, according to the internal regulations of the laboratories or research centers. Also, all doctoral students have access to the international databases specific to their activity field, provided through the ANELIS Plus program.

This evaluator could not find proof of the fact that the research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through specific online (website) platforms at IOSD level.

An important part of the research facilities and/or research equipment was either built or acquired in the last 5 years.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to include on their institutional website (doctorat.uvt.ro) information on the research infrastructure and the provision of research services.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

The evaluated institution proved that its research activitie are carried out in partnership with other higher education and research institutes in the country or abroad, within research networks or consortia. UVT is part of the UNITA consortium, which, through its long-term strategy and mission, it's main objectives are to create a participatory, open, inclusive and efficient European university. This mission will be achieved by developing a research-based and student-centered education of excellence, creating a learning environment that inspires them, promoting linguistic diversity in Europe by using the method of intercomprehension in communication, supporting non-central regions / innovation in research, increasing the number and quality of physical and virtual mobility for the whole community, and contributing to the strengthening of European identity, citizenship and values.

Additionally, IOSUD-UVT is also a partner in the University Consortium "Universitaria" (University of Bucharest, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, A.I. Cuza University of Iași, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies), together with which it organized national conferences for doctoral students .

Furtherore, UVT has concluded bilateral partnership agreements with universities from several continents; in 2020, the number of Erasmus + agreements was 548, and the number of international inter-institutional agreements was 241.

Also, the research services are presented publicly using a dedicated platform (ERRIS), and IOSUD representatives indicated that several partners approched them after finding their research services in the aforementioned platform.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

The evaluated institution proved that it has made progress in the last 5 years in increasing research capacity and enhancing quality and performance in scientific research activity, reflected by the increasing number of research grants accesed in the evaluated period. According to the documents provided, in 2020 thre were 48 on-going research projects at IOSUD-UVT level, compared to 24 in 2017, 42 in 2018 and 38 in 2019.

Also, there are also several ongoing projects that aim to improve (amog others) research infrastructure available at IOSUD UVT and affiliated DS. For example, the MOISE project or the BID institutional project.

There is also an ongoing development of building and equipping a new advanced research institute, ICAM.

*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.

IOSUD UVT integrates 22 doctoral domains. The teaching staff is of exceptional quality, as proven by the CNATDCU's far exceeded qualifications. It was also noted that IOSUD-UVT hires full-time researchers to serve within different DS and research infrastructures, therefore improving quality of the educational and training act within IOSUD UVT.

*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[4] does not exceed 20%.*

Currently, from the 187 PhD Supervisor affiliated to IOSUD, 8 (191) are coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students (4.18%). According to current situaiton, there is one Doctoral Domain (Political Science) where this ratio is 25%.
No PhD Supervisor coordinates simultaneously more than 12 PhD Students. It is noteworthy that, since academic year 2021/2022 the evaluated institution has regulation in force that forbiddens simultaneously PhD supervision of more than 12 doctoral students.

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution is encouraged to develop active strategies to increase the number of affiliated PhD Supervisors in order to balance distribution of PhD Students and to decrease the number of PhD Supervisor with more than 8 doctoral students to as low as possible (as a target, 15% can be considered for 2026) in the specific domains were this ratio exceeds 20%.*

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

According to the information provided in the Self-Assessment Report, from the 187 PhD Supervisor affiliated to IOSUD, 119 have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD (63.64%). There are two domains, where this ratios is below 50%: Physics and History.

However, if all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs are took into

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[4] 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.

account (as the Performance Indicator clearly point out), then this percentage changes dramatically, exceeding by far 50% for all doctoral domains.

Therefore, this indicator is considered fulfilled.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

## Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Online and on-site visits, as well as the analysis of submitted documents, show a diversity as social representation and by gender as well as in origin universities of students at IOSUD; the admission methodology provides the framework for a good selection of students, with a clear concern for selecting the best performing students. Students and employers of the graduates show a high level of satisfaction with the professional skills and competences obtained during the doctoral studies. Currently, at IOSUD level, candidates coming from other higher education institutions from Romania and abroad, represent approximately 12.3% of total enrolled students, being provided primarily by foreign candidates (Romanians across borders, graduates of some universities from Serbia or Moldova, third-country nationals, in particular Iraq, Algeria, Vietnam, Armenia and India).

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

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

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

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

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

It seems that admission to any form of education within IOSUD UVT is based on non-discriminatory principles, being promoted equal opportunity between candidates as regards gender, ethnicity or social origin. Starting 2017, IOSUD UVT allocated places for Roma candidates. There is an

UVT Career Counseling and Guidance Center that offers doctoral students vocational guidance and counseling services, as well as psychological counseling.

IOSUD, through its Doctoral School has a policy to stimulate the registration of doctoral students from disadvantaged social backgrounds by organizing support programs to prevent them from dropping out of university. Also, doctoral students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/with social issues receive financial support from UVT through tax reductions and other financial mechanism.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

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

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

Each doctoral domain within IOSUD UVT organizes a series of courses within the advanced university training program. These courses aim to the formation of skills, abilities and aptitudes for scientific research in particular, respectively for academic activity in general. Curricula usually include between 3 and 5 courses (practical courses and seminars), of which about a third areintended for the formation of general research skills (Academic Writing / Scientific Research / Research Methods / Ethics courses and integrity of research), and about two thirds are dedicated to specialized courses, designed to train advanced research skills in the specific field of doctoral studies.

Among the proposed disciplines, one subject is allocated to the profoundly study of research methodology and/or the statistical data processing (although it varies according to the specific DD) .

*Recommendations:*
*Although both students and former students highly appreciated the training program, they were not fully satisfied with the contents of the available courses. Therefore, this Evaluator recommends the following:*

*To include within the Training Program of the PhD Students new courses that include information on how to effectively present research output, how to make better presentations, how to speak in public and how to properly communicate a scientific message, as well as some more technical courses, such as basic computer programming or big data analysis (where applicable).*

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

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

Starting with the academic year 2018 -2019, all doctoral schools of IOSUD UVT have included in the curricula within the advanced university training program, the Research Ethics course, in accordance with OM no. 3131 / 30.01.2018

**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[5].*

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

*Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technologial 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 ar national and international conerences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctroal students in writing research-development projects etc.)*

The evaluated institution provided an analysis of the publications registered in Web of Science with PhD students at IOSUD UVT as co-authors, who obtained in the meantime the scientific title of PhD in the period 2016-2020. It revealed a ratio of 0.68 (260/381) WoS Publication / PhD Graduate. This is considered as a rather low average, but of course this analysis has to be carefully taken, as there are important differences among doctoral domains and not all of them support their activity through ISI or Wos

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[5] 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.

publication. According to the discussions with IOSUD management, it was also explained that publishing in high quality journals is also encouraged and supported by financing Article Processing Charges (APC). The institution also claims that initiatives to exploit the results of doctoral studies through related products or services are consistent with the approach of involving doctoral students in research contracts funded by either national or European programs or by contracts with third parties.

UVT materially supported the participation of PhD students at scientific conferences. Participation in local, national, international scientific events and publication of articles is financially supported by doctoral grant funds (10% of the value of the doctoral grant, respectively 30% in the case of co-tutelle), support funds (FDI), faculty funds, or national or international research and development grants. The statistical situation for the evaluated period of 5 years, reveals that the average number of participation in conferences at IOSUD level of a doctoral student is higher than 2. Again, this number is rather low and is domain-dependent. It has to be taken also into account that in the last 18 months, mobilities were dramatically affected by COVID-19 outbreak.

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

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution is recommended to develop, at IOSUD level, a unitary financial mechanism to support PhD Students training mobility as well as attendace to national or international scientific meeting (participation fees and travel grants). This is very important, as it seems that attendance to scientific meeting largely depends on either the PhD Student is also part of a research project granted to the PhD supervisor or not. This issue has to be fixed at IOSUD level, as PhD training (mobilities) and possibility to present results at relevant scientific meetings should be granted for all students and should not depend on other external factors.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards

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

For the evaluated period, there were no theses invalidated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending.

**The indicator is 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.

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

*Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory:*
*(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;*
*(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;*
*(c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;*
*d) the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*

In order to ensure the quality of the activities carried out within the doctoral schools, IOSUD-UVT has organized periodically internal evaluations of the doctoral schools. The internal evaluation reports followed the evolution of the logistic infrastructure necessary for the research activity, the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors, respectively the evolution of the procedures and norms based on which the activities within the doctoral schools are carried out. A series of internal audit and control procedures were started within the university.The scientific activity of PhD Supervisors is monitored periodically, on a two year basis, in the context of the CNFIS IC reports. PhD students work in laboratories and research centres whose infrastructureand logistics are managed at the level of specialized faculties

The regulations and procedures are publicly available at https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=37.Thus, annually CSUD discusses the frameworks of the admission of doctoral students, proposing customized admission methodologies (available atat https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=43). Admission to doctoral studies in IOSUD-UVT is carried out transparently and the enrolment information is disseminated efficiently. Thus, the number and type of available places are announced on the website, as well as the distribution of places todoctoralschools and fields of doctoral studies. IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for completing doctoral studies. Drafted on the basis of national legislation and compliant with national platforms for the validation of doctoral degrees (Integrated Education Register and the UniqueMatriculation Register), these procedures include information on the stages prior to defending the doctoral thesis and the conditions for defending it.

The scientific and artistic creation activity of doctoral students is carefully supervised by the doctoral supervisors and the advisingcommittees.The list of own works accompanies each doctoral thesis submitted for analysis.

Upon signing the Study Contract, the doctoral students complete, together and in agreement with the doctoral supervisor, a Research Plan (available at http://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Planul-studiilor-doctorale3.pdf), in which are specified the topics and times for

presenting the progress reports, the training programme based on advanced university studies, the scientific research projects in which the doctoral students participate, the mobilities carried out, etc.

The University social service manages the accommodation process of doctoral students in dormitories and ensures the maintenance of accommodation spaces.The Career Counselling and Guidance Center (http://www.ccoc.uvt.ro) of WUT offers students guidance and vocational counselling services, as well as psychological counselling if needed.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution is encouraged to try to motivate students to take more responsibility and ownership for the development of both DS and IOSUD by better communicate the roles and responsabilities of CSUD and CSD student representatives as well as by advertising open positions.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution is encouraged to try to motivate students to take more responsibility and ownership for the development of both DS and IOSUD by better communicate the roles and responsabilities of CSUD and CSD student representatives as well as by advertising open positions.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

IOSUD-UVT and the doctoral schools within it carried out several internal evaluations. Following these evaluations, several problems of general functioning of doctoral studies were identified, and these findings led, in general, to the proposal and operation of some transformations (updates) of the specific regulations and methodologies. Regarding the strategies for stimulating the scientific performance of doctoral supervisors, they are convergent with those developed within the entire West University, which adopted in this regard the Strategy for institutional development of the West University of Timisoara for 2016 - 2020.

Within IOSUD-UVT, an evaluation form was designed for the doctoral student's relationship with the doctoral supervisor / guidance committee. In order to prepare applications for doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship projects, questionnaires were developed to lead to the evaluation of the degree of satisfaction with studies at the university.

*Recommendations:*

*The evaluated institution is encouraged to accelerate the implementation of the majority of the measures specified and adopted in the Strategy for institutional development of the West University of Timisoara, and that affects IOSUD development.*

*In order to create a real climate of quality culture, the institution is encouraged to promote the purpose and benefits of quality assurance procedures among both staff and students. The student satisfaction questionnaires should be filled at least once a year by the majority of PhD Students. Consequently, the evaluation results should be considered for strategic decision-making. Both the results as well as the consequences are highly recommended to be made publicly available (as for example, on the institutional website).*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

*Performance Indicator C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:*
*(a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation;*
*(b) the admission regulation;*
*(c) the doctoral studies contract;*
*(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;*
*(e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;*

*(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;*
*(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);*
*(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;*
*(i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences,to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.*
*(j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

According to the description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents, the consulted websites and the evaluation visit itself it can be concluded that the IOSUD publishes, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, on the institutional website (doctorat.uvt.ro) as well as other websites belonging to the affiliated doctoral schools, relevant information on:
- the Doctoral School regulation;
- the admission regulation;
- the doctoral studies contract;
- the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;
- the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;
- the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;
- the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);
- information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website (doctorat.uvt.ro) in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task. This evaluator had difficulties to find some relevant information.*
*Also, the evaluated institution should post regularly links to the doctoral theses' summaries and habilitation thesis to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented on their institutional website also on each DS website (as for the moment is only done at IOSUD level); this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

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

*Recommendations:*

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

The evaluated institution proved the use of one of the best plagiarism check (percentage of similarity) softwares (iThenticate). This grants access to each PhD Student to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

PhD students can receive access/become holders of an Ithenticate account upon request. The Information Technology department will grant access after verifying their doctoral student status.

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

**The indicator is fulfilled**

## Criterion C.3. Internationalization

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

*Performance Indicator * C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and*

*measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.*

On average at IOSUD level (for the evaluated period of 5 years), the number of national or international conferences attended by a UVT doctoral student exceeds the value of 2 (200%). The number of participations varies from an average of 0.3 at he Doctoral School of Music to a maximum of 4.9 at the Doctoral School of Mathematics.

The number of PhD students who have completed Erasmus +mobility varied from 10 to 27 (1.68% to 4.78%) from 2016 to 2020. It has to be taken also into account that in the last 18 months, mobilities were dramatically affected by COVID-19 outbreak. However, this number is low and should be improved.

There was also a considerable amount of mobilities or internship at other universities funded by POSDRU projects or bilateral agreements among institutions.

*Recommendations:*
*IOSUD-UVT is encouraged to actively apply policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of students' research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad). It is highly recommended for each student to perform a research internship of at least three months outside the evaluated institution during his/hers PhD Thesis development.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, it was clear that there is an international opening related to the co-opting of foreign students and for the organization of doctorates in international co-tutelage. Also, IOSUD and SD Directors as well as CSUD and CSD members showed a continuing concern regarding the invitation of leading experts and specialists for lectures of interest for PhD students.

In the evaluated period, a total of 49 (31 international and 18 national) co-tutelle PhD thesis were operated, which, although it is a good number, can be further increased.

At DS level, several leading experts were invited to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students during the evaluation period. Complementary, several Scientific Meetings (as for example SYNASC or TIM) with international participation are organized. International seasonals schools for doctoral and master's students are also organized.

*Recommendations:*
*The evaluated institution should further increase its collaborative effort into realizing a higher number of doctorates in co-tutelage with both national and international institutions.*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, for the evaluated the number of PhD drafted and submitted in an international foreign language is 79 out of 455 (17.36%). However, not all Doctoral Domains fulfill the minimum 10% requirement for this performance indicator. Currently, only 9/22 DDs (41%) fulfill this requirement.

It is understandable that some specfic domains, such as Law for example, to have a lower number of PhD Thesis submitted in foreign languages, but there are many other DDs that have to dramatically improve this percentage.

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

**The indicator is partially fulfilled.**


**Performance Indicator C.3.1.4.** *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees[6] etc.).*

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, the internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD mostly by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students, and to some extent by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees.

This evaluator considers that the number of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees should be dramatically increased in the next 5 years.

Recommendations:
*The evaluated institution is encouraged to increase the percentage of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees as close as possibly to 50% within next 5 years.*

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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[6] 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

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

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

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

- policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity;

- practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;

- practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;

- administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;

- mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind.

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

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

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

According to the analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself, All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received. The reports of the UVT Ethics Commission are public (https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/uvt/comisia-etica-uvt/rapoarte-etica/ - they refer to the decisions of the commission).

**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-intiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies.*

The reports of the UVT Ethics Commission are public (https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/uvt/comisia-etica-uvt/rapoarte-etica/ - they refer to the decisions of the commission) and they include, in any case, information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-intiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

IOSUD UVT proved to follow legal paths after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation. For the only case under the incidence of this indicator, in september of 2020 (within the legal term), UVT filed a lawsuit against Bodog Florin Dorel for withdrawing his PhD Title.

**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 withrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.*

The evaluated institution provided the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies. The regulation contains information on how to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism. During the evaluated period, no situations that fall under this specific indicator were identified.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

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

Not applicable, as for the evaluated period no doctoral theses were registered with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism.

*The indicator is fulfilled*

**Performance Indicator C.4.1.7. IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the** *doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).*

Announcements of doctoral theses from the reported period are available on https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=46 . However, there was no direct link from the main website to these information (or this evaluator was unable to find).
These announcements contain: the title, the field, the author, the doctoral supervisor, the composition of the evaluation and public support commission, the date of the defense and the thesis summary. The search engine allows you to quickly find the data associated with a doctoral student.
The doctoral theses are kept by the West University of Timișoara in its own archive, in digital format at the Doctoral Studies Office (and physically, during the reported period). The variants of the doctoral theses submitted to the Central University Library "Eugen Todoran" are kept in a special fund, based on the agreements between UVT and BCUT "Eugen Todoran". After granting the doctorate, within a maximum of 180 days, IOSUD-UVT has the obligation to send to the National Library of Romania a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes.

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

*Recommendations:*

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

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

## IV. SWOT Analysis

| Strengths: | Weaknesses: |
|---|---|
| 1. A functional institutional capacity proven both by the quality of the teaching and research staff and by the administrative structure of IOSUD UVT, which has a constant concern in supporting the training process of PhD students. | 1. The small number of co-tutelage Phd Thesis with both national and international partners. |
| 2. Highly qualified PhD Supervisors, with significantly number of publication and professional acknowledgment; | 2. The process of electing student representative within CSUD and CSD Council. |
| 3. High degree of employability of PhD Students; | 3. The information contained on the instituional webpage is not complete and information is sometimes difficult to find. |
| 4. Research facilities are adequate and they fulfil all recent requirements in terms of space distribution, allocated spaces, available complementary services, etc. In terms of research infrastructure, research facilities have equipment that can clearly help and motivate students to properly engage in their research activities. | 4. Funding for PhD Students from other non-budgetary sources. |
| 5. Highly motivated management at IOSUD level. | 5. Available financial resources for a PhD student varied significantly depending on if the PhD Advisor had or had not ongoing research grant; |
| 6. Positive dynamics regarding the development of the research facilities; | 6. There is a low number of students that participated in research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad). |
| 7. The competences formed are successfully confirmed by the low dropout rate. | 7. There is still a low degree of digitalization within IOSUD structure. |
| 8. Positive feedback from students, graduates and employers; | 8. The small number of employees at IOSUD - CSUD secretariat compared ot their usual workload. |
| 9. Existence of collaboration protocols with other higher education institutions, research centres or economic agents ensuring access of doctoral students to the research infrastructure of partner institutions; | |
| 10. Continous effort towards continued correlation of internal regulations with those existing at national level. | |

| **Opportunities:** | **Threats:** |
|---|---|
| - Excellent links with industry and research institutes (potential employers and partners in research projects). Establishing a co-funding program between UVT and private companies for the development of industrial PhDs could be an excellent opportunity to strenghten links with industrial partners as well as to attract more students towards IOSUD UVT. Other possibilities might arise by attracting industrial partners into private-funded research labs.<br>- Excellent relationship with other Universities in both the national and the international consortium and therefore the posibility to create strong academic and research links.<br>- Development of new international partnerships to increase the number of students participating in mobilities;<br>- Offering a full english website for IOSUD and DSs as well as providing certain documents/forms of interest to foreign students in english (or others foreign languages) can attract more PhD Students towards IOSUD UVT.<br>- Increase the level of collaboration between PhD Supervisors affiliated to different DSs to promote inter-disciplinar PhD thesis development.<br>- Existence of a high number of faculty members who are in the process of writing/finishing their habilitation thesis, therefore a significant increase of PhD Supervisor is expected in the near future.<br>- Access to additional sources of funding (ERC grants, POSDRU, Marie Curie, etc.) to support the research activities of doctoral students;<br>- Implement a feedback mechanism from graduates and their employers to improve the content of the advanced training programme; | - Unpredictability of scientific research funding at national level.<br>- Decrease in the number of applicants due to the introduction of doctoral studies in other Universities and/or Institutes of the Romanian Academy in the same geographic area;<br>- Overestimation of the degree of responsiveness of potential PhD supervisors to IOSUD's requests to pursue and complete habilitation, in the absence of internal evaluation and promotion criteria linked to those established at national level.<br>- Decrease of PhD Students due to the reduced number of available PhD scolarships and/or the lack of financial interest compared to other alternatives (salary). |

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

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | PI | **A.1.1.1.** The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s): <br> 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); <br> 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; <br> c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies); <br> d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad; <br> e) functional management structures CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings; <br> f) the contract for doctoral studies; <br> g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task. This evaluator had difficulties to find some relevant information.** |
| 2. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 3. | PI * | **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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution needs to develop strategies to further promote and facilitate multi- or inter- disciplinary PhDs Thesis within IOSUD, with PhD Supervisors belonging to different Doctoral Schools.** |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | PI | **A.1.2.1.** The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background. | **Fulfilled** | **It is recommended to complete the student management informatic (IT) system in order to extend its capabilities and to include an electronic signature system, this way achieving almost complete digitalization of the bureaucratic flow within IOSUD. As a goal, reaching a level of "paperless university" by 2026 can be considered.** |
| 5. | CPI | **A.1.2.2.** The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated instituiton is encouraged to further promote the use of anti-plagiarism software within their PhD Students at all levels of PhD Thesis development.** |
| 6. | PI | **A.2.1.1.** The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of posessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.) | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to include on their institutional website (doctorat.uvt.ro) information on the research infrastructure and the provision of research services.** |
| 7. | PI | **A.2.1.2.** The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 8. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 9. | PI * | **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%. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to develop active strategies to increase the number of affiliated PhD Supervisors in order to balance distribution of PhD Students and to decrease the number of PhD Supervisor with more than 8 doctoral students to as low as possible (as a** |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | target, 15% can be considered for 2026) in the specific domains were this ratio exceeds 20%. |
| 10. | CPI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 11. | PI * | **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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 12. | PI | **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 organsing support programs to prevent drop-outs. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 13. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | **Although both students and former students highly appreciated the training program, they were not fully satisfied with the contents of the available courses. Therefore, this Evaluator recommends the following:**<br><br>**To include within the Training Program of the PhD Students new courses that include information on how to effectively present research output, how to make better presentations, how to speak in public and how to properly communicate a scientific message, as well as some more technical courses, such as basic computer programming or big data analysis (where applicable).** |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | Also, to promote inter-disciplinary collaborations within IOSUD, courses belonging to the advanced training program should be available and offered for all PhD Students, independently of the doctoral domain where they are enrolled. |
| 14. | PI | **B.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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 15. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 16. | PI | **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. technologial 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 ar national and international conerences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctroal students in writing research-development projects etc.) | **Fulfilled** | The evaluated institution is recommended to develop, at IOSUD level, a unitary financial mechanism to support PhD Students training mobility as well as attendace to national or international scientific meeting (participation fees and travel grants). This is very important, as it seems that attendance to scientific meeting largely depends on either the PhD Student is also part of a research project granted to the PhD supervisor or not. This issue has to be fixed at IOSUD level, as PhD training (mobilities) and possibility to present results at relevant scientific meetings should be granted for all students and should not depend on other external factors. |
| 17. | CPI | **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 | **Fulfilled** | |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years. | | |
| 18. | PI | 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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 19. | PI | 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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to try to motivate students to take more responsibility and ownership for the development of both DS and IOSUD by better communicate the roles and responsabilities of CSUD and CSD student representatives as well as by advertising open positions.** |
| 20. | PI | 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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to try to motivate students to take more responsibility and ownership for the development of both DS and IOSUD by better communicate the roles and responsabilities of CSUD and CSD student representatives as well as by advertising open positions.** |
| 21. | PI * | 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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to accelerate the implementation of the majority of the measures specified and adopted in the Strategy for institutional development of the West University of Timisoara, and that affects IOSUD development.** **In order to create a real climate of quality culture, the institution is encouraged to promote the purpose and benefits of quality assurance** |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | procedures among both staff and students. The student satisfaction questionnaires should be filled at least once a year by the majority of PhD Students. Consequently, the evaluation results should be considered for strategic decision-making. Both the results as well as the consequences are highly recommended to be made publicly available (as for example, on the institutional website). |
| 22. | CPI | **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:<br>a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation;<br>b) the admission regulation;<br>c) the doctoral studies contract;<br>d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;<br>e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies;<br>f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;<br>g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);<br>h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;<br>i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences,to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.<br>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. | **Fulfilled** | The evaluated institution is encouraged to re-organize information on their website (doctorat.uvt.ro) in order to simplify access paths and to make retrieving information an easier task. This evaluator had difficulties to find some relevant information.<br><br>Also, the evaluated institution should post regularly links to the doctoral theses' summaries and habilitation thesis to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented on their institutional website also on each DS website (as for the moment is only done at IOSUD level); this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation. |
| 23. | CPI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | The evaluated institution is recommended to keep this good practice and to further improve access to online database (include more databases) as well purchase of printed material for its library, as it is essential for certain doctoral domains. |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 24. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated instituiton is encouraged to further promote the use of anti-plagiarism software within their PhD Students at all levels of PhD Thesis development.** |
| 25. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | |
| 26. | PI * | **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%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area. | **Fulfilled** | **IOSUD-UVT is encouraged to actively apply policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of students' research training and internships in external institutions (mobility period abroad). It is highly recommended for each student to perform a research internship of at least three months outside the evaluated institution during his/hers PhD Thesis development.** |
| 27. | PI | **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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution should further increase its collaborative effort into realizing a higher number of doctorates in co-tutelage with both national and international institutions.** |
| 28. | PI * | **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. | **Partially Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is strongly encouraged to promote PhD tThesis that are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage, especially for those doctoral domains where the current ratio is very low.** |
| 29. | PI | **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; | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to increase the percentage of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees as** |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.). | | **close as possibly to 50% within next 5 years.**<br><br>**The evaluated institution is encouraged to create a complete English version of its website and to offer, if applicable, teaching alternatives and guidance in English.** |
| 30. | **PI** | **C.4.1.1.** IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:<br>- policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postioinings, studies, analyses or measures taken;<br>- practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;<br>- 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;<br>- administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;<br>- mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;<br>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. | **Fulfilled** | **The evaluated institution is encouraged to modify regulation of the Ethics Commission in order to also consider anonymous complaints. Also, it would be beneficial to include within this Commission, if possible, members that do not belong to the University.** |
| 31. | **PI** | **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 | **Fulfilled** | |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  | expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received. |  |  |
| 32. | PI | **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-intiative 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. | **Fulfilled** |  |
| 33. | CPI | **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. | **Fulfilled** |  |
| 34. | PI | **C.4.1.5.** The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be:<br>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;<br>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;<br>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. | **Fulfilled** |  |
| 35. | PI * | **C.4.1.6.** The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withrawal 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. | **Fulfilled** |  |

| No. | Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI) | Performance indicator | Judgment | Recommendations |
|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 36. | PI | **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). | **Fulfilled** | **IOSUD-UVT is recommende to grant full access to defended PhD Thesis in electronic format through an own dedicated web platform.** |

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

IOSUD-UVT mission consists in ensuring the European level training of doctoral students, by institutionalizing a coherent, stable, unitary, permanent and sustainable system of attracting and guiding doctoral students in activities to deepen the topics of doctoral theses, in the form of scientific research, artistic creation or sports performance, as well as efficient public use of the results obtained. Overall, IOSUD UVT benefits of a large diversity of DDs with PhD Supervisors covering a wide range of research fields. IOSUD UVT has improved its policies for recruiting doctoral candidates and for the affiliation of new PhD supervisors. They have also made developments in the internationalization of doctoral studies. The high motivation of IOSUD UVT management was also positively valued.

Overall, it was concluded that IOSUD benefits from a high academic and research level; efficient administrative organization; high transparency; good coordination of the activities at the different doctoral schools, firmness and fairness in applying the in-force regulations; good quality of PhD theses (no rejections from CNATDCU), increasing number of ISI publications of PhD students and increasing number of doctoral school application. Also, it has to be highlighted that IOSUD makes considerable effort towards continued correlation of internal regulations with those existing at national level and that there is a concern for promoting PhD Supervisor habilitation by academic staff.

On the other hand, there were identified several aspects that can be improved within IOSUD, such as: dissemination of the procedure for accessing funds; the relatively small number of PhDs carried out in international co-tutelle; the relatively small number of international internships for PhD students or the relatively small number of PhD thesis developed in collaboration with industry/socio-economic environment (industrial doctorates). Regarding the administrative part, there were some concerns regarding the small number of employees at IOSUD-CSUD secretariat in relation to their usual workload as well as the, sometimes, complicated bureaucratic procedures required. Also, one of the aspects that can be clearly improved is updating information on the IOSUD and all DS websites.

Other areas where IOSUD UVT can operate some improvements, is promoting multi(inter)disciplinary PhDs Thesis, increase the number of scientific seminars offered to PhD Students as well as increment funding for PhD students' participation in scientific conferences.

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

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

# VII. Annexes

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

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

Nr.5038 /15.09.2021

**Programul[1] vizitei de evaluare instituțională - IOSUD / domenii de studii universitare de doctorat**
*The timetable of the institutional evaluation visit - IOSUD / doctoral study domains at the* **UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST DIN TIMIȘOARA - WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA**

**Perioada de derulare a vizitei: 11-15.10.2021**
*The evaluation period: 11-15.10..2021*

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

| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Luni /** *Monday***, 11.10.2021** | | | |
| 09:00-09:45 | Întâlnire preliminară online pentru pregătirea și armonizarea etapelor de evaluare, în modul mixt, la nivel de domenii de doctorat și IOSUD *Online preliminary meeting for the preparation and harmonization of evaluation* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii** *IOSUD&domains evaluation panel* **- toți membrii echipei de evaluare** *all evaluation panel members* | Înregistrare audio-video **ARACIS** / platforma **ZOOM** **(apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)** *Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform (click here to join)* |

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[1] În perioada vizitei, pot fi solicitate și alte întâlniri, pentru eventuale clarificări.
*During the visit, other meetings may be requested for possible clarifications.*

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| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | steps, in hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD | | |
| 10:00-10:45 | Întâlnirea online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții **conducerii universității și ai CSUD** *Online meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii** *IOSUD&domains evaluation panel* - **toți membrii echipei de evaluare** *all evaluation panel members* - **reprezentanți ai conducerii** *representatives of the University's management* - reprezentanți ai CSUD și ai școlii/școlilor doctorale *representatives of the CSUD and of the Doctoral School /Schools* - persoana de contact IOSUD/domenii *the contact person for IOSUD / doctoral domains* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** (apăsați **aici** pentru a vă conecta) *Audio-video recording* **UVT** */ ZOOM platform (click here to join)* |
| 12:00-12.55 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities* **IOSUD**: Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu **directorul CSUD/directorii școlilor doctorale din IOSUD** supus procesului de evaluare și cu **echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă** *IOSUD: Online meeting with the director of CSUD / directors of doctoral schools and the* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD** *IOSUD evaluation panel* - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD *members of IOSUD evaluation panel* - reprezentanți ai CSUD și ai școlii/școlilor doctorale/ IOSUD *representatives of CSUD and of doctoral school(s)/IOSUD* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** (apăsați **aici** pentru a vă conecta) *Audio-video recording* **UVT** */ ZOOM platform (click here to join)* |

| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | team who drafted the internal evaluation report | | |
| 13:00-13:55 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities* **Domeniu II**[2]: Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu **responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat** și cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă *Domain I: Online meeting with the* **contact person for the doctoral study domain under review** *and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report* | **Comisia de evaluare domeniu Domeniu II ( Fizica)** *Domain II evaluation panel ( Physics)* -membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu *members of domain evaluation panel* -responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat și echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă *The doctoral studies domain contact person and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** (apăsați **aici** pentru a vă conecta) *Audio-video recording* **UVT** */ ZOOM platform (click here to join)* |
| 14:00– 15:00 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities* **IOSUD:** Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu **personalul didactic aferent școlilor doctorale din IOSUD** *IOSUD: Online meeting with IOSUD academic staff* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD** *IOSUD evaluation panel* - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD *members of IOSUD evaluation panel* - cadre didactice cu titlul de conducător de doctorat *Doctoral coordinators* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** (apăsați **aici** pentru a vă conecta) *Audio-video recording* **UVT** */ ZOOM platform (click here to join)* |

| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15:15 - 16:15 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities*<br><br>Întâlnire online cu membrii **Comisiei pentru Evaluarea și Asigurarea Calității (CEAC) / Departamentul de asigurare a calității** *Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members / Quality Assurance Department* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii** *IOSUD&domains evaluation panel* - **toți membrii echipei de evaluare** *all evaluation panel members*<br><br>- reprezentanți ai CEAC/Departament AC *representatives of Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) / Quality Assurance Department* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** **(apăsați** aici **pentru a vă conecta)**<br><br>*Audio-video recording UVT / ZOC* *(click* here *to join)* |
| 17:30-18:15 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities*<br><br>Domeniu II: Întâlnire online a comisiei de experți evaluatori cu personalul **didactic aferent domeniului evaluat** *Domain: Online meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain* | **Comisia de evaluare domeniu** **Domeniu II (**Fizica**)** *Domain evaluation panel* *II (Physics)*<br><br>-membrii comisi domeniu membr |  |
| 09:30– 10:25 | Activități de *Evaluati* |  |  |

| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Domeniu II: Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu **studenții doctoranzi** *Domain II: Online meeting with PhD students* | - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu *members of domain evaluation panel*<br><br>- studenții doctoranzi *PhD students* | *(click* here *to join)* |
| 10:30-11:25 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities*<br><br>IOSUD: Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu **studenții doctoranzi** *IOSUD: Online meeting with PhD students* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD** *IOSUD evaluation panel* - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD *members of IOSUD evaluation panel*<br><br>- studenții doctoranzi *PhD students* | Înregistrare audio-video **ARACIS / platforma ZOOM** **(apăsați** aici **pentru a vă conecta)**<br><br>*Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform* *(click* here *to join)* |
| 11:30-12:25 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities*<br><br>IOSUD: Întâlnire cu membrii **Consiliului Studiilor Universitare de Doctorat** al IOSUD *IOSUD: Online meeting with Doctoral University Studies Council (CSUD) members* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD** *IOSUD evaluation panel* - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD *members of IOSUD evaluation panel*<br><br>- membrii CSUD *CSUD's members* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** **(apăsați** aici **pentru a vă conecta)**<br><br>*Audio-video recording UVT / ZOOM platform* *(click* here *to join)* |
| 13:30 - 14:25 | Activități de evaluare *Evaluation activities*<br><br>Domeniu II: **Întâlnire online cu membrii Consiliului școlii /școlilor** | **Comisia de evaluare domeniu** **Domeniu II (** Fizica**)** *Domain evaluation panel* *II (Physics)* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** **(apăsați** aici **pentru a vă conecta)**<br><br>*Audio-video recording UVT / ZOOM platform* *(click* here *to join)* |

| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | doctorale (CSD) în cadrul cărora funcționează domeniul evaluat <br> *Domain: Online meeting with Doctoral Schools Council (CSD members)* | - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <br> *members of domain evaluation panel* <br><br> -membrii CSD <br> *CSD's members* | |
| 14:30 - 15:30 | Întâlnire online cu membrii **Comisiei de Etică** a universității <br> *Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii** <br> *IOSUD&domains evaluation panel* <br><br> - **toți membrii echipei de evaluare** <br> *all evaluation panel members* <br><br> -membrii Comisiei de Etică <br> *Ethics Commission members* | Înregistrare a· (apăsați a· <br><br> A· |
| 16:35-17:20 | Activități de evaluare <br> *Evaluation activities* <br><br> **Domeniu II**: Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți ai **absolvenților domeniului** <br> *Domain II: Online meetir graduates for the doctoral study d·* | **Comisia de evaluar Domeniu II ( Fiz¹** <br> *Domain eva¹* <br> *II (Physi·* | |

| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17:30-18:30 | Activități de evaluare <br> *Evaluation activities* <br><br> **IOSUD**: Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți ai **absolvenților IOSUD** <br> *IOSUD: Online meeting with IOSUD graduates* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD** <br> *IOSUD evaluation panel* <br><br> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD <br> *members of IOSUD evaluation panel* <br><br> - reprezentanți ai absolvenților <br> *representatives of doctoral graduates* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** (apăsați <u>aici</u> pentru a vă conecta) <br><br> *Audio-video recording UVT / ZOOM platform* *(click <u>here</u> to join)* |
| | **Miercuri / *Wednesday*, 13.10.2021** | | |
| 09:00 -09:45 | Întâlnire tehnică online, pentru identificarea aspectelor specifice care trebuie clarificate, dacă este cazul, pe parcursul vizitei la fața locului <br> *Online technical meeting to identify specific issues that need to be clarified, if necessary, during the on-site visit* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii** <br> *IOSUD&domains evaluation panel* <br><br> - **toți membrii echipei de vizită** <br> *all evaluation panel members* | Înregistrare audio-video **ARACIS / platforma ZOOM** (apăsați <u>aici</u> pentru a vă conecta) <br><br> *Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform* *(click <u>here</u> to join)* |
| 10:50-11:35 | Activități de evaluare <br> *Evaluation activities* <br><br> **Domeniu II:** Întâlnire online cu **directorii/responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare** aferente domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat | **Comisia de evaluare domeniu Domeniu II (Fizica)** <br> *Domain evaluation panel II (Physics)* <br><br> - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori domeniu <br> *members of domain evaluation panel* | Înregistrare audio-video **UVT / platforma** (apăsați <u>aici</u> pentru a vă conecta) <br><br> *Audio-video recording UVT / ZOOM platform* *(click here to join)* |

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| Data/ora Date/hour (Bucharest time) | Activitate / *Activity* | Participanți / *Participants* | Observații/ Responsabil *Comments/ Responsible* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | IOSUD: Întâlnire online a comisiei de evaluare cu reprezentanți **ai angajatorilor absolvenților** *IOSUD: Online meeting with employers of doctoral graduates* | - membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori IOSUD *members of IOSUD evaluation panel* <br> - reprezentanți ai angajatorilor *employers' representatives* | *Audio-video recording UVT / ZOOM platform (click here to join)* |
| **Joi /** *Thursday*, **14.10.2021** | | |
| 09:00-18:00 | Reuniuni de lucru față în față³, vizitarea bazei materiale didactice și de cercetare *Face-to-face working meetings, visiting the educational and research infrastructure* | - **directorul de misiune și coordonatorul, un student doctorand evaluator** *the Evaluation Director and the coordinator of the IOSUD evaluation panel, one student* <br> - reprezentanți ai universității *university's representatives* | Vizită UNIVERSITATE *Site visit to the university* |
| **Vineri /** *Friday*, **15.10.2021** | | |
| 10:00-11:30 | Întâlnire online pentru concluzii *Online meeting for conclusions* | **Comisia de evaluare IOSUD&domenii** *IOSUD&domains evaluation panel* <br> **- toți membrii echipei de evaluare** | Înregistrare audio-video **ARACIS /** platforma **ZOOM** **(apăsați aici pentru a vă conecta)** *Audio-video recording ARACIS / ZOOM platform* |

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³ Experții evaluatori la nivelul domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat pot stabili independent programul vizitei la fața locului, de comun acord cu persoana de contact de la domeniul evaluat și respectând programul întâlnirilor comune cu restul membrilor echipei de evaluare. *The evaluators at doctoral study domain level can independently establish the program of the on-site visit, in agreement with the contact person for the evaluated domain and respecting the schedule of joint meetings with the rest of the evaluation panel members.*