

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

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I. Introduction¹

This external evaluation report was drafted in my capacity as international expert involved in the periodical external evaluation of the Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD) within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. The IOSUD evaluation committee has been made up by: (1) PhD Iamandi Luca (full professor, “Danubius” University of Galati) as the Director of the mission; (2) PhD Marius Gabriel Petrescu (full professor, Gas University of Ploiesti) as the Coordinator of the IOSUD Committee; (3) PhD Alina Nicu (associate professor, University of Craiova) as IOSUD expert for Social Sciences – Fundamental domain of science; (4) Mr. Sergiu Aurel Orasan-Alic (PhD student, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat “King Mihai I of Romania” of Timisoara) has been the PhD student expert; and myself. The evaluation period has been from 15 to 18 November 2021. Due to the pandemic context caused by the COVID-19, the ARACIS Ciscowebex platform and the platform of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest have been used for the meetings in which I have been involved.

The overall objective of the periodical external evaluation of the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has been the assessment on the fulfilment of the standards and criteria,² which are needed in view of the maintaining its accreditation. The periodical external evaluation has been carried out by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS).

The evaluation of the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has been carried out under the terms of the Art. 132(1) of Law No 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, on the basis of the provisions of Art. 13(a)-(c) of the Government Emergency Ordinance No 75/2005 on the Quality Assurance of Education, approved with amendments by Law No 87/2006, with subsequent amendments and supplements. In addition, the ARACIS Guide on conducting the process of periodic external

¹ Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise

² As set out in Annex No. 4 of the Guide on conducting the process of Periodic External Evaluation of Doctoral Study Domain.



evaluation of institution organizing doctoral study programs (IOSUD) has been especially useful for the preparation of this report.

The IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a single doctoral school, which is in the field of Law. By virtue of Art. 12(6) of the GD no. 681/2011, the Doctoral School of Law is a department of the Faculty of Law that depends directly on the Rector of this University. It counts on 10 PhD study sub-fields according to the fields of expertise of the PhD supervisors, namely: civil law, criminal law, criminal procedural law, criminal executional law, commercial law, general theory of law, European Union law, administrative law, international public law, and intellectual property law.

The Doctoral School of Law within IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has been approved by the Order of the Minister of Education, Research and Youth no. 3004 of 07.01.2004, as a result of the granting the status of Doctoral Organizing Institution to the “Nicolae” Titulescu” University of Bucharest. Furthermore, following institutional evaluation made by the ARACIS, the “Nicolae” Titulescu” University of Bucharest obtained the high degree of confidence rating for the period 2012-2017 and 2017-2022.

During the period assessed by this evaluation, 66 new PhD students have been admitted for doctoral studies and 28 PhD students have got their respective PhD degrees. Regarding the new PhD students admitted each academic year, it has to be mentioned that 67 PhD students were enrolled in the 2015/2016 academic year, 62 PhD students were enrolled in the 2016/2017 academic year, 66 PhD students were enrolled in the 2017/2018 academic year, 67 PhD students were enrolled in the 2018/2019 academic year, 61 PhD students was enrolled in the 2019/2020 academic year, and 61 PhD students were enrolled in the 2020/2021 academic year. Moreover, during 2015-2020, 9 PhD students were expelled, namely: 5 of them were withdrawn from the PhD studies and 4 were expelled due to lack of results, exceeding deadlines and attempted fraud.

The doctoral students have counted on between 8 and 11 PhD supervisors. This difference on the number of the PhD supervisors is due to special circumstances, such as passing away and retirement. It should be underlined that two new PhD supervisors have registered with this Doctoral School in 2021. This aspect is highly positive if it is taken into account that a university professor may be doctoral supervisor at a unique IOSUD on the Romania’s territory.

I would like to mention that the IOSUD – “Nicolae” Titulescu” University of Bucharest is tributary to the private character of this academic institution. It is my conviction that it has been more difficult for this IOSUD to establish and develop its activity. The outstanding work of its staff over the years has enabled it to consolidate its position as a solid and prestigious academic institution in the Romanian university context.

II. Methods used

Due to the pandemic context caused by COVID-19, the external evaluation process of IOSUD has been carried out virtually and travelling to the premise of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest of some members of the evaluation committee, following ARACIS guidelines. As required by Article 2 of the civil



agreement signed with the ARACIS on 1.11.2021, I had to use my own knowledge, skills and experience in order to prepare this Report. Moreover, I used the qualitative and quantitative data available in the documents provided by the ARACIS and the Doctoral School of Law regarding this external evaluation, both before and during the evaluation mission.

The online meetings through the ARACIS Ciscowebex platform and the platform of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest (namely, with representatives of the persons in charge with the direction of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and of the Senate of this University; with members of the Ethics Commission; with doctoral supervisors; with members of the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC)/Department for Assurance of Quality; with directors and persons in charge with the research centers and laboratories within the Law domain and doctoral studies in general; with the PhD students; with representatives of graduates for the Doctoral School of Law, with members of Doctoral School Council and of Doctoral University School Council; with employers’ representatives of Doctoral graduates in Law; as well as with the Director of the Doctoral School of Law and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report.

In relation to this, I should made a special reference to the following methodological aspects I have taken into account in order to prepare this report, namely: the analysis of the internal evaluation report of the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, its 108 annexes, and the additional documents that kindly have been prepared and made available by the evaluated University during the mission on 15-18 November 2021. The website of this University and the online meetings and discussions as scheduled by the ARACIS (see Annex) have been especially fruitful for the preparation of this report. Each meeting and discussion consisted of questions asked by the members of the committee of evaluation and answers we got, which occasioned an active and relevant debate so necessary for writing this Report.

III. Analysis of ARACIS’s performance indicators³

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The domain analysis was carried out in accordance with the Romanian legislation and ARACIS standards. The facts, the documents provided by the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest (before and during the evaluation mission) as well as the online evaluation meetings have been taken into consideration for the assessment of this domain.

As a general description of the domain analysis, the finding is that the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest meets the vast majority of the conditions required on its institutional capacity for an effective functioning of doctoral studies in Law, as it results from the analysis of the following criteria, standards and indicators.

³ Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise



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.

The IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has implemented the high part of the effective operating mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organisation of doctoral studies, as shown by the analysis of the following three indicators. The first indicator has been partially fulfilled and the other two indicators have been fulfilled.

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):*

At IOSUD level, the following regulations are established and applicable:

a) internal regulations of the administrative structures (Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral academic studies programmes, which has three annexes, namely:

(i) Annex no. 1 – to the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral academic studies which constitutes - The selection and admission procedure, which constitutes x Annex no. 25/1 to this report;

(ii) Annex no. 2 – to the Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral academic studies which constitutes - The methodology for completing doctoral academic studies, which constitutes x Annex no. 25/2 to this report;

(iii) Annex no. 3 – to the Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral academic studies which constitutes a Guide for writing the doctoral thesis, which constitutes x Annex no. 25/3 to this report.

b) The Doctoral School has within the Faculty of Law of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University the status of a department, the elections for the Council of the Doctoral School taking place in accordance with the provisions of art. 11 and 12 of the Regulation (Annex no. 25) the rules applicable to elections for the positions of director of departments.

c) methodologies of organization and conducting doctoral academic studies (admission of PhD candidates, completion of doctoral academic studies) is regulated by the Regulation on the organization of doctoral studies (Annex no. 25/1).

d) functional management structures, at the level of CSUD/CSD, proving also the regularity of convening the meetings: The Doctoral School Council is convened periodically, according to the Regulation (art. 13) and meets whenever necessary.

The Council reunited in meetings as follows:

- In 2015/2016: 8 meetings;
- In 2016/2017: 8 meetings;
- In 2017/2018: 13 meetings;
- In 2018/2019: 7 meetings;
- In 2019/2020: 15 meetings.



The Doctoral School Council met whenever necessary to decide on the following: enrolment and expulsion of PhD candidates, at the proposal of PhD supervisors members of the doctoral school; establishing the conditions for interrupting doctoral programmes, establishing the attendance obligations of PhD candidates, redistributing PhD candidates in situations where PhD supervisors have ceased their activity, approving individual university study plans of PhD candidates and other responsibilities established by art. 14 of the Regulation on the organization of doctoral academic studies. The regularity of the meeting of the Doctoral School Council is attested by the Minutes of the meetings.

- f) the doctoral academic study contract (Annex no. 26). The standard contract is posted on the University's website and is concluded with each PhD candidate, individually.
- g) internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals on the subject of training programmes based on advanced university studies. It was established at the level of the Doctoral School that it is a compulsory discipline "Deontology of the scientific research activity", the other three subjects from the in-depth study stage being established by the PhD supervisor together with the PhD candidate.

Regarding *the internal regulations of the administrative structures*, I consider that the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies has represented the internal regulation of the Doctoral School of Law for years. This legal text has been approved by the Senate of the University on 21 September 2011 and revised in several occasions so far (in November 2019, July 2020 and October 2020) in order to be adapted to the legislation in force in Romania. This legal background has been completed by the Regulation on the organization and carrying out the Doctoral School of Law, which has been approved by the Senate of "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission). In this way, this University has a legal context that is according to the current legal requirements of the Romania's legislation in this field.

In relation to *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*, I have to mention that Article 11(2) of the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies within the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest, which has been approved by the Senate of this University on 21 September 2011, contains references to how the members of the Doctoral School Council are elected. This Article also mentions that the Director of the Doctoral School of Law will be elected according to the Methodology for setting up and electing management structures and functions. Such a Methodology has been approved by the Senate of this University in October 2012, which has been amended on 23 September 2013, 17 June 2015 and 16 February 2017. In addition, on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission) the Senate of "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has approved the Methodology on the organization of the public competition for the appointment of the CSUD director. The same day the election calendar for the post of the CSUD director has been also approved by the Senate of this University.

Regarding the election of representatives for the PhD students in CSD, it has been mentioned that there are references to the election of such representatives in different structures of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest. However, so far such a methodology has not been adopted in this field yet.



In relation to *the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students and for the completion of doctoral studies*, I consider that Chapter VI and Annexes 1-2 of the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies, which was approved by the Senate of the University on 21 September 2011, contains the methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students and for the completion of doctoral studies). The provisions of this Regulation related to the doctoral studies in Law have been developed by the Methodology on the organization and carrying out the admission to university studies at Bachelor of Art, Master and PhD levels, which has been approved by the Senate of this “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 25 April 2012.

In my opinion, as *the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad*, I consider that Article 17 of the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies, which was approved by the Senate of the University on 21 September 2011, sets out the specific regulation for doctoral supervisor. Several paragraphs of this Article refers to the recognition of the status of a doctoral supervisor and how the doctoral degree obtained abroad may be considered equivalent to the one got from “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest. Moreover, on 14 September 2017 the Senate of this University has approved the institutional Regulation on the organisation and conduct of the obtaining the certificate of competence to supervise PhD Thesis (available at:

https://www.univnt.ro/wp-content/uploads/doctorat/documente/05_regulament_abilitare.pdf). This legal text has been revised on 30 October 2019 and 1 October 2020. In addition, Article 10(1) of the Regulation on the organization and conduct of the Doctoral School of Law, which has been approved by the Senate of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission), refers to the acceptance of the doctoral supervisors who got this condition abroad.

On the other hand, regarding the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad, at present the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest does not count on such tools.

Regarding *functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings*, I may affirm that during the period 2015-2020 the Senate of this University has celebrated numerous meetings.

As for the *contract for doctoral studies*, I estimate that, at present, the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a template of contract for doctoral studies, which is signed by the Rector of the University, the doctoral supervisor, and the doctoral student.

In relation to the *internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies*, I consider that the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has established serious and strong internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies. These procedures apply at the level of the Doctoral School of Law for each PhD student.



Recommendations: Firstly, to continue with the election process for the post of CSUD director. Secondly, to adopt a specific methodology on the election of representatives for the PhD students in the CSD in Law. Thirdly, to regulate the necessary mechanisms in order to recognize the equivalence of the doctoral degrees obtained abroad.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

The Regulation of the Doctoral School of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University by drawn up by the Doctoral School's Council after consultation of and based on the proposals of all PhD supervisors (according to art. 14, letter a) of the Regulation) and was approved by the University Senate during the meeting of 20 September 2011. The Regulation was reviewed several times in order to be put in agreement with legal regulations (laws, Government decisions, orders of the minister of national education (Annex no. 25).

The Regulation for organisation and carrying out of doctoral studies, implemented by the Doctoral School, sets the compulsory criteria, procedures and standards aimed at the minimal aspects provided under art. 17, para. (5) of the Code of Doctoral Studies, as well as other numerous provisions and regulations necessary for the organisation and operation of the School, according to its particulars (that of organiser of doctoral studies without State funding, despite the fact that it would be entitled to such funding), such as those related to study programmes, the rights and duties of PhD supervisors and PhD students, admission and expulsion of students, access to research resources, relationships between PhD supervisors and PhD students, the format and quality of theses, the procedure for taking up the thesis examination.

As such, the Doctoral School's Regulation contains and sets compulsory criteria, rules, procedures and standard aimed at the following aspects:

- (i) The setting for organising and carrying out doctoral studies within the Doctoral School operating within the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest (the University), as institution organising doctoral studies in the field of "law" and its status, which is equivalent to that of a department of the Faculty of Law.
- (ii) The content of a doctoral study programme (an initial cycle of advanced studies within the School, and a second cycle, of individual studies, ending with the submission of a thesis, all of these together and under the guidance and coordination of PhD supervisors);
- (iii) Duties of the University's Senate (determining the strategy, approval of the regulation for organisation and operation, approval of the Doctoral Study Framework Agreement, tuition amounts, approval of partnerships and of study organization in co- partnership, approval of applicable measures for providing a high quality and originality of theses, as

well as compliance with deontology and anti-plagiarism rules, granting support to PhD students for studies abroad etc.);

- (iv) Management of the Doctoral School (the School's Council, head, means of election, Council tasks and meetings);
- (v) Organisation of the Doctoral School's secretariat, procedures and means of operation and communication with PhD candidates and anyone interested by the School's activity;
- (vi) The criteria required to become a members of the Doctoral School of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University and the affiliation procedure (upon proposal by the School's Council, by decision of the University's Senate);
- (vii) The rights and duties of PhD Supervisors and the liability thereof for the quality of the supervision process and of the theses drawn up by PhD candidates;
- (viii) Loss of the Doctoral School membership, upon request and/or in compliance with the rules set under the Code of Doctoral Studies;
- (ix) Replacement of the students' PhD supervisors, upon request or for objective reasons;
- (x) Admission to doctoral studies and registration, doctoral study agreement and the content thereof, tuition fees;
- (xi) Duration of doctoral studies, discontinuance and extension of studies;
- (xii) Rights and obligations of PhD Students, access to research resources and support in carrying out the training programme, liability for the quality of results;
- (xiii) Training programme and its structure. Within the training stage, based on advanced university studies, the following are provided as study subjects: a compulsory subject for all doctoral sub-fields, which is the "Deontology of the scientific research activity", and three specialised subjects set by PhD supervisors, together with every PhD student separately.
- (xiv) Expulsion of PhD students, instances and procedure for expulsion;
- (xv) Doctoral thesis, prerequisites, drafting guide, review of similarities, amending the thesis's title, submission of thesis and the examination before the guidance board and the examination board, and assessment thereof.

According to the IOSUD Internal Self-assessment report, the Regulation contains more than the minimum provisions set by art. 17, para. 5) of the Code of Doctoral Studies.

On the basis of the analysis of the facts, the assessed institution's documents as well as the evaluation mission itself, I consider that the Regulation on the organization and carrying out of the doctoral studies of Law (approved by the Senate of the University in September 2011), the institutional Regulation on the organization and carrying out of doctoral studies programmes (approved by the Senate of the University on 17 November 2021), and the Regulation on the organization and functioning of Doctoral School of Law (approved by the Senate of the University on 17 November 2021) fulfill all the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011.

The indicator is fulfilled.



Performance Indicator* A.1.1.3⁴. *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.*

The IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a single doctoral school in the field of Law and organizes doctoral academic studies in ten subdomains.

The Doctoral School had, between 2015 and 2020, a maximum number of 11 PhD supervisors, and a minimum number of 8 PhD supervisors, all of them being university professors and the authorisation granted pursuant to the regulations in force on the date on which they have become PhD supervisors and it organized doctoral studies for 10 sub-fields, namely:

- Civil Law, through Professors Liviu Stănciulescu (until 2017) and Gabriel Boroï;
- Criminal Law, through Professor Vasile Dobrinou;
- Criminal Proceedings Law, through Professor Ion Neagu;
- Criminal Enforcement Law, through Professor Ioan Chiș;
- Commercial Law, until 2019, through Professor Stanciu D. Cărpenaru;
- General Law, through Professor Nicolae Popa;
- European Union Law, through Professor Augustin Fuerea;
- Administrative Law, as of 2017, through Professor Vasilica Negruț;
- Public International Law, until 2020, through Professor Raluca Miga-Beșteliu;
- Intellectual Property Law, through Professor Viorel Roș.

The capacity of PhD supervisors ceased for two of them, and a third individual is currently ending her activity as PhD coordinator, as follows:

- Mr Liviu Stănciulescu, Professor – no places were scheduled for enrolment since 2017 in his specialisation field; since then, he was completing the activities with the PhD students who have not completed their studies until that date;
- Mr Stanciu D. Cărpenaru, Professor – when he died on November 25, 2019, his PhD students being taken over by the PhD supervisors with specialisations in the closest fields for the PhD students’ theses, namely by Professor Gabriel Boroï and Professor Viorel Roș, pursuant to the Decision of the Doctoral School (Annex no. 32 for assigning the PhD students of Mr Stanciu D. Cărpenaru).
- Mrs Raluca Miga-Beșteliu, Professor – she resigned from her position of PhD coordinator in 2020, her PhD students being taken over by Professor Vasile Dobrinou and Professor Augustin Fuerea (Annex no. 33 –assignment of the PhD student S. O. to Professor A. Fuerea and x Annex no. 34 – assignment of the PhD student S. O. to Professor Vasile Dobrinou).

⁴ The indicators marked with an asterisk (*) hold a special status, referring exclusively to the evaluation of doctoral schools, as per Article 12 from the annex No.1 of the Order of the minister of education No. 3651/12.04.2021 approving the Methodology for evaluating university doctoral studies and the system of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation In case they are not fulfilled, the Agency extends a period of maximum 3 years to IOSUD to correct the respective deficiencies.



All PhD supervisors carrying out their activities in the field of doctoral studies LAW have achievements with relevant significance for the field in which they coordinate PhD, which shows that high standards of scientific research are maintained, as shown by their self-assessment sheets.

Therefore, I consider that the Doctoral School of Law at the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest is organized as disciplinary thematic, according to Article 158(7) of the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

As a general description of the analysis of this standard, it is noted that the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has the necessary logistical resources in order to carry out the doctoral studies' mission, as shown by the analysis of the following 2 indicators, which have been fulfilled.

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 IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest uses an appropriate IT system to keep track of the doctoral students and their academic background (Annex no. 27), which operates and is efficient for keeping track of, monitoring and checking the academic background of the doctoral students at any time, its own database developed by means of this system being constantly updated with changes in the background the doctoral student.

The software used is named ELIS and it provides the following information: candidates rejected at the entrance examination for doctoral studies, enrolled doctoral students, expelled doctoral students, doctoral students who suspended their studies, doctoral students who extended the duration of their doctoral studies. Data related to exams, papers, reports and marks obtained, status of fulfilment of financial obligations (payment of fees), etc. can also be accessed for each doctoral student.

My evaluation has been conducted on the basis of evidences sent by the ARACIS and by the IOSUD – „Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucarest during the mission, the documents available on the website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, and the virtual meetings hold on 15 and 16 November 2021. Taken into account all this information I may affirm that there is an effective and appropriate IT system in order to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.

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.

The IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest uses a software programme to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses (Annex no. 28 – Agreement concluded with the provider of



the antiplagiarism software). In compliance with the obligation provided by Article 67 para. (2) letter (b) (*“the doctoral school carries out the review of similarities using a software recognized by the National Council for the Validation of Titles, Diplomas and University Certificates (CNATDCU); the doctoral school may additionally request the use of a nationally-developed programme for checking similarities; similarity reports are included in the “doctoral file”*) and in consideration of the provisions of Article 47 of the Regulations for doctoral studies of our University, the Doctoral School uses, electronic document comparison service from Plagiarism-System/Antiplagiarism through Internet SRL as of May 9, 2016, and, respectively, by using the internet service sistemantiplagiat.ro to verify the percentage of similarity in doctoral theses. The agreement for these services is concluded annually.

The procedure to verify doctoral theses by similarity review is provided both by Article 47 of the Regulation of Doctoral Studies and by Annex no. 2 of the Regulation on the organization and process of doctoral studies regarding the Methodology for the completion of doctoral studies, considering that the similarity report is a document in the doctoral file (Annex no. 25/2).

The PhD students have the opportunity to verify their originality, respectively the existence or non-existence of similarities, both by accessing the University system and other verification systems available on the Internet, verification by the anti-plagiarism system available to the University being available at the request of the PhD students (e.g.: x Annex no. 29/1, thesis of the PhD student M. A. M. verified by means of the antiplagiarism system while completing it) and x Annex no. 29/2 – similarity report for a chapter of the thesis at the request of the PhD student A. L..

In order to get acquainted with the system of verification of similarities and to apply it in future works, the “Ethics of research activity” exam involves the preparing a written paper verified with the anti-plagiarism system used by the University, the result of this first verification carried out at the beginning of the PhD studies of each student being made available to the PhD students and PhD supervisors (Annex no. 21 – similarity reports for PhD students, articles x Annexes no. 21/1 - 21/2 - 21/3 - 21/4 - 21/5 - 21/6 - 21/7 - 21/8 - 21/9 - 21/10 - 21/11 - 21/12 - 21/13, for all PhD students who passed the entrance examination and enrolled in 2020).

Through the documentation and information made available, I consider that the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has had and has used an appropriate software program for checking the percentage of similarity in all the PhD theses.

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.

As a general description of the analysis of this standard, it is noted that the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies specific activities, as shown by the analysis of the following 3 indicators. All the indicators have been fulfilled.



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

The Doctoral Law School has a space exclusively designated for doctoral activities (“Doctoral School Hall”), located on the ground floor of the University and numbered 29, it serves for meetings between PhD supervisors and PhD candidates, courses, documentation activities, study, database access, and so on.

Considering the specifics of the research activity in the field of Law, the Doctoral School does not have other laboratories, experimental fields, research resorts, etc.

Taking into account the IOSUD internal self-assessment report, the website of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest as well as the opinions of several members of the evaluation mission, who visited personally this University of 17 November 2021, I may affirm that the IOSUD/the doctoral school of Law present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.).

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

IOSUD has concluded collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, scientific associations or public institutions. IOSUD of “Nicolae Titulescu” carries out activities based on the agreements concluded with: the Legislative Council of Romania ([Annex no. 101](#)); “Academician Andrei Rădulescu” Institute of Legal Research ([Annex no. 102](#)); Romanian Society of European Law ([Annex no. 103](#)); Scientific Association for Intellectual Property Law ([Annex no. 104](#)); “Titu Maiorescu” University of Bucharest ([Annex no. 105](#)); University of Maastricht ([Annex no. 85](#)); Romanian Constitutional Court ([Annex no. 106](#)).

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 Doctoral School was adequately equipped in 2016 with the necessary furniture and adequate equipment, two computers and a video projector, as well as a book fund containing the latest works in the law subfields for which doctoral academic studies are organized.



The infrastructure of the Doctoral School is made on account of the exclusive contribution of the University and of the fees paid by the PhD candidates. Although according to the law, the University is entitled to budget allocations, until this date the University has not received funds from the state budget. In this context, we remind you that the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest is, in terms of graduates admitted to the legal professions on the basis of an exam, on the 3-4th place among all faculties in the country, surpassing the following two law faculties in higher law education in terms of the number of graduates admitted to legal professions.

Regarding the graduates of doctoral academic studies, a total of 143 in the period between 2007 (the date of defending the first doctoral thesis at IOSUD “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest) and the date of the report, they are graduates with outstanding results not only in the legal professions (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), but also in the field of professions of teaching, diplomacy, civil servants, penitentiary administration, police and specialists in the field of intellectual/industrial property.

Taking into account the IOSUD internal self-assessment report and various of its annexes, as well as the information gathered during different meetings scheduled for 15 and 16 November 2021, I consider that the IOSUD and its Doctoral School of Law prove that they 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 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.

As a general description of the analysis of this standard, it is considered that there is sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program within the Doctoral School of Law at the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, as shown by the analysis of the following two indicators. The first indicator has been partially fulfilled, while the second one has been fulfilled.

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 studies⁵ does not exceed 20%.

According to the information available on the internal self-assessment report, the duration of doctoral academic studies taken is 3 years, according to article 159 para. (3) of Law no. 1/2011 of national education.

⁵ 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.



The report mentions that no PhD supervisor coordinate more than 12 PhD candidates. The University's PhD supervisors currently have between two and eleven PhD candidates.

Thus, at the date of this report, the situation per advising professor with the activity of PhD supervisor is the following:

PhD supervisor	PhD candidates in the first three years of internship /PhD supervisor	PhD candidates in extension or grace period
Gabriel BOROI, PhD Univ. Prof.	Cercel Cristian-Răzvan	Catea Roxana Mihaela
	Ivănescu Georgiana Coman	Meiu Emilian
	Rugină Cristian Răzvan	Costea Corina
		Panait Alexandra
		Șchiopu Silviu Dorin
		Ochea Vlad Victor
Dinescu Adrian		
Augustin FUEREA, PhD Univ. Prof.	Larion Iuliana Mădălina	Solacolu Maria
	Dabija Corina Bardă – <i>under a period of interruption of studies</i>	Bantaș Dragoș Adrian
		Stoica Andrei
Papuc Patricia Casandra		
Vasile DOBRINOIU, PhD Univ. Prof.	Olănescu Sandra Sophie	Nicolae George Octavian
Ion NEAGU, PhD Univ. Prof.	Andrescu Alina	
	Călin Radu Bogdan	
	Țucă Alina Marilena Oprea	
	Manea Liliana – <i>under a period of interruption of studies</i>	
Petre Georgian Mirel		
Nicolae POPA, PhD	Olănescu Alexandru Vladimir	Stoica Florin

Univ. Prof.	Marin Andrada Georgiana	Nicolae Beatrice
		Radu Bianca
		Mărgoi Horațiu
Livi STĂNCULESCU, PhD Univ. Prof.	<i>He does not have PhD candidates in the first 3 years of internship.</i>	Mihai Daniela
		Văsii Gabriel
		Petrescu Răducu
		Suru Amir
		Dănilă Matei
Viorel ROȘ, PhD Univ. Prof.	Bălan Ioana Victoria Maftei	Banu Adriana
		Irimescu George
	Olariu Cristina	Marinescu Ana Maria
	Budileanu Cristiana Georgeta	Livădariu Andreea
	Curelea Adrian	Sirbu Cristina
Ioan CHIȘ, PhD Univ. Prof.	Marcovici Dantes	Tudor Iulia
	Giurgea Ioan Mihai	Magdalena Nicolae Cătălin
	Rus Andrei Claudiu	Chiriță Adrian
	Crețu Cosmin Iulian	Oprîșan Simona Cîreșica (Nedelcu)
	Tecoi Ruxandra Elena	
	Prună Elena Aurora	
	Florescu Gabriela	
Vasilica NEGRUȚ, PhD Univ. Prof.	Zorzoană Ionela Alina	Tagarță Crina (de SMET)
	Ulariu Constantin Claudiu	Preda Florina (Mureșan)
	Ieremie Maria Cristiana	Zăgărin Adelin

It results from the presented situation that no PhD supervisor exceeds the number of eight PhD candidates in the three-year study period, and regarding the total number of PhD candidates in coordination during the internship or grace period, no PhD supervisor exceeds number of 12 PhD candidates.

Taking into account the documents provided for this evaluation as well as the findings of the Self-Assessment Report and its Annexes as well as the additional information prepared by this University during the evaluation mission, I may affirm that the percentage of doctoral supervisors of the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 PhD students and no more than 12, is higher than 20%. However, if it is taken into consideration only those PhD students of the first three years of doctoral studies, this percentage is lower than 20% as no PhD supervisor of this Doctoral School has concomitantly coordinated more than 8 PhD students.

Recommendation: To offer new places for doctoral studies taking into account the total PhD students already admitted by the Doctoral School of Law in previous years and who have not finished their PhD studies yet.

The indicator is partially 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.

Out of the 11 PhD supervisors of the Doctoral School of “Nicolae Titulescu” University who were active between 2015 and 2020, 10 PhD supervisors were employed as tenured professors of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest; therefore, the indicator A.3.1.2. is met.



Mrs Vasilica Negruț, Professor, who was a professor at “Danubius” University of Galați joined the Doctoral School in 2017, and, in 2021 Ioan Lazăr, Associate Professor (formerly of “1 Decembrie” University of Alba Iulia and Ovidiu-Mircea Ursuța-Dărăban, Associate Professor (formerly of University of Oradea) joined the Doctoral School, under employment contracts concluded on indefinite period with “Nicolae Titulescu” University as scientific researchers.

With regard the other PhD supervisors – Gabriel Boroi, Ioan Chiș, Vasile Dobrinou, Augustin Fuerea, Ion Neagu, Nicolae Popa, Viorel Roș, as well as those who ceased their activity, namely Stanciu D. Cârpenaru, Raluca Miga Beșteliu and Liviu Stănciulescu – they have held teaching positions only at “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

For all those who reached the retirement age, the University Senate has approved each year to continue the collaboration with Professors Ioan Chiș, Vasile Dobrinou, Ion Neagu and Nicolae Popa and Liviu Stănciulescu, pursuant to Article 289 para. (3) and (6) of the Law no.1/2011. Mr Viorel Roș is not retired, and he continues his activity pursuant to Article 289 para. (3) and (6) of the Law of National Education no. 1/2011.

Taking into account the findings from the IOSUD internal self-assessment report prepared by “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest as well as the official documents presented to the members of the evaluation mission that visited personally this University on 17 November 2021 and whose opinions were mentioned to me during our online meeting on 18 November 2021, I may affirm that 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. Actually, all the doctoral supervisors have had such a contractual relationship with this University during the assessed period.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest demonstrates educational effectiveness and meets all the following criteria, standards and indicators.

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.

As a general description of the analysis of this standard, the finding is that the candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender, as shown by the analysis of the following two indicators. Both indicators have been fulfilled.



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.

Judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, intelligence workers, teachers, diplomats, officials in specialized public institutions and in the bodies of the European Union enrolled in the admission contest to doctoral academic studies.

Some of the candidates are graduates of two higher education institutions (legal studies and political sciences, medical studies and legal studies, technical studies and legal studies, military studies and legal studies, economic studies and legal studies), all are graduates of master courses or their equivalents, organized by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest and other higher education institutions, and some of the candidates and graduates are holders of doctoral degrees previously obtained in other fields (economics, military sciences, philosophy) - x Annex 59, drawn up in compliance with the protection of personal data, in accordance with Regulation (EU) no. 679/2018 on the protection of personal data.

Regarding the organization of exams of admission to doctoral studies, the necessary data (number of places, fields of study, PhD supervisors, topics and bibliography) are published on the University website under the heading Doctoral Admission, the site being accessible to candidates.

Admission to studies is based on examination in the subjects in which candidates wish to pursue doctoral studies. The number of places of each PhD supervisor, the bibliography for the exam and the dates on which the exam takes place are announced (posted on the university website in the Doctoral Admission section). The activity carried out, including the research one, counts in the evaluation of the candidates and the interview with each candidate is mandatory for the evaluation (Annex no. 60 - print screen with the announcements of doctoral admission in the period 2016-2020).

Given that this performance indicator is included in the standard entitled “*Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance*”, to prove the quality of candidates admitted to doctoral studies, we specify that every academic year, PhD candidates with outstanding scientific activity and practice were involved in teaching activities, as follows:

- Academic year 2015/2016: 29 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2016/2017 : 24 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2017/2018: 18 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2018-2019: 19 PhD candidates;
- Academic year 2019-2020: 19 PhD candidates.

Also, 20 of the PhD candidates who obtained the doctorate title at the Doctoral School became teachers at the University, being currently university assistants, lecturers, associate professors or university professors, with positions in the management structures of the University (it is about: Gheorghe Anca Nicoleta Univ. PhD Lecturer, Sitaru Dan Alexandru Univ. PhD Lecturer, Fierbințeanu Gabriela Assistant PhD Lecturer, Angheliescu Carla Alexandra Assistant PhD Lecturer, Nazat Catalin Bogdan Assistant PhD Lecturer, Nemeș Vasile PhD Lecturer, Conea Alina Mihaela Assistant PhD Lecturer, Iacob Oana Adriana



Assistant PhD Lecturer, Bărbăţeanu Valentina Assistant PhD Lecturer, Spătaru Negura Laura Cristiana Univ. PhD Lecturer, Ştefan Elena Emilia Univ. PhD Lecturer, Ene Dinu Cornelia Univ. PhD Lecturer, Buta Paul George Assistant PhD Lecturer, Cliza Marta Claudia PhD Lecturer, Hotca Mihai Adrian PhD Univ. Prof., Slăvoiu Radu Assistant PhD Lecturer, Sinescu Mircea Constantin Univ. PhD Lecturer, Hărăţău Lamya Diana Assistant PhD Lecturer (Annex no. 61 – Centralizing report of PhD candidates who have been involved in teaching activities as research assistants/PhD candidates acting as Assistant Lecturer).

In my opinion, Articles 21-28 of the Regulation on the organization and conduct of the Doctoral School of Law, which has been approved by the Senate of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest on 17 November 2021 (during the evaluation mission), contain numerous provisions regarding the admission to the doctoral programme of Law in a serious way. These provisions are completed by Articles 27-33 of the institutional Regulation on organisation and carrying out of the doctoral university programmes (approved by the Senate of this University on 17 November 2021) as well as by a specific Methodology of admission to different levels of academic studies that has been adopted on 25 April 2012. This comprehensive legal background shows that the admission commission usually takes into account various criteria in order to admit the best possible doctoral students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

According to the Annex no. 24 of the IOSUD-“Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, since September 2011 this University counts on an incentive programme for students with disabilities and a specific regulation for scholarships. Therefore, it is considered that the IOSUD and its Doctoral School of Law has a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.

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.

As a general description of the analysis of this standard on the training program, it is observed that the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has implemented a training program that is appropriate for improving doctoral students' research skills and to strengthen ethical behavior in science, as shown by the analysis of the following three indicators that have been fulfilled.



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.*

The research methodology and deontology in the scientific research activity represent a study subject with PhD candidates in which the aspects regarding the use of resources, the way of capitalizing them, the respect for the priorities of other authors, the quotation and the correct use of the quotation right as well as of anti-plagiarism education.

According to art. 40 of the Regulation of Doctoral Academic Studies, entitled “Doctoral Programme”, the organization and development of the programme of doctoral academic studies is regulated as follows:

- (1) The programme of doctoral academic studies ensures the formation of professional and transversal competences specific to level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and of the National Qualifications Framework reflected in the activity planning documents.
- (2) The doctoral programme is carried out within the doctoral school under the coordination of a PhD supervisor and includes: a) a training programme based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school and b) an individual scientific research program.
- (3) The form of conducting doctoral academic studies is low attendance, according to the agreement with the advising professor.
- (4) The doctoral coordinator also establishes the minimum attendance required for the activities in the doctoral program.
- (5) The PhD candidate must attend all those activities that Law no. 1/2011, the Code, the Charter and the present Regulation, as well as the PhD supervisor provide for them, respectively establish them as mandatory, as well as to prepare the documents related to such attendances and the annual research reports.

Also, according to art. 41 of the Regulation:

- (1) The doctoral programme that is carried out within the doctoral school includes:
 - (a) a training programme based on advanced university studies within the Doctoral School;
 - (b) an individual scientific research program.
- (2) The training programme based on advanced university studies involves taking 4 exams, of which the discipline Deontology of scientific research activity in the legal field is recommended, for which 6 credits and 3 specialized disciplines established by the PhD supervisor and PhD candidate, of 8 credits each.
- (3) The participation of a PhD candidate in the training programme based on advanced university studies and the choice of study elements within this programme that must be followed by the PhD candidate are established by the student’s PhD supervisor.
- (4) The Doctoral School Council recommends, as a means of information, training and making up of ethics skills in scientific research, observance of intellectual property rights and plagiarism prevention, the inclusion of the discipline Deontology of scientific research activity in PhD candidates’ training programme of the Doctoral School.
- (5) The PhD candidate may independently opt for the courses within the advanced university studies provided by the Doctoral School of the University or by other doctoral schools.
- (6) The PhD candidate who has previously completed research masters or completed doctoral or scientific research internships conducted in the country or abroad, in upmarket universities or in research and



development universities, may benefit from the equivalence of these studies with those from a training programme based on doctoral academic studies. The equivalence is proposed by the PhD supervisor and is approved by the Council of the Doctoral School.

For example, for PhD candidates admitted to doctoral academic studies in 2020 (but the situation is similar for the previous years), the study disciplines established by PhD supervisors with PhD candidates were the following:

1. For Criminal Proceedings Law
 - (i) Advanced Criminal Law
 - (ii) Criminal enforcement theory and practice
 - (iii) Fundamental institutions involved in carrying out criminal justice
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 2. For Criminal enforcement law
 - (i) Criminal enforcement theory and practice
 - (ii) Advanced Criminal Proceedings Law
 - (iii) Advanced Criminal Law
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 3. For General Theory of law
 - (i) Theory and philosophy of law
 - (ii) Constitutional justice
 - (iii) Elements of substantive law of the European Union
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 4. For Administrative Law
 - (i) Administrative law of assets
 - (ii) The right to good administration. Regulation and good practices
 - (iii) Elements of substantive law of the European Union
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
 5. Intellectual Property Law
 - (i) Protection of new and utility creations and distinctive signs of professional activity
 - (ii) Protection of formal creations in Roman law, European law and conventional law
 - (iii) Elements of substantive law of the European Union
 - (iv) Ethics of scientific research
- (Annex no. 63 – Training plans for students enrolled in the year 2019/2020).

Taken into account all the information contained by the IOSUD internal self-assessment report and several of its Annexes, I may affirm that the training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students and, moreover, at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the ethics of scientific research, which is so relevant for a serious doctoral research.

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.*

As shown above, within the training programme based on advanced university studies there is, since 2016, a discipline dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, with well-defined study thematic on these topics. The discipline, entitled *Deontology of the scientific research activity* has as course leader the Director of the Doctoral School, Viorel Roş, PhD Univ. Prof. and is attended by all PhD candidates enrolled in the first year in a discipline taught in the doctoral programme (Annex no. 64 - Discipline sheet – Deontology of scientific research activity).

The discipline is organized in the form of 6 courses (12 hours) and 3 seminars (6 hours) and a number of 6 credits. At the end of the Deontology courses and in order to take the exam in this subject, PhD candidates draw up a paper on a topic chosen by them together with the course holder, which is then subject to similarity check, and students and PhD supervisors who guide them are informed about its results. The evaluation method is done by oral exam.

The criteria of evaluation of the seminar activity are the following:

- participation in the didactic activity;
- appropriate use of penal legal language in debates;
- appropriate use of theoretical and legislative knowledge;
- solving concrete legal problems with the help of acquired knowledge.

For the examination taken by PhD candidates in 2020-2021, the reports are subject to x Annex no. 21 and 21/1- 21/2 - 21/3 - 21/4 - 21/5 - 21/6 - 21/7 - 21/8 - 21/9 - 21/10 - 21/11 - 21/12 - 21/13 - similarity reports for PhD candidates.

The compulsory Deontology Course for PhD candidates includes delimited topics on these subjects, as it results from the discipline file (Annex no. 64).

The course “Ethics of scientific research” is offered to all the PhD students. In addition, the Deontology course, which has to be attended and approved by all the doctoral students, contains delimited topics on issues related to ethics. Special attention should be paid to the fact that each doctoral supervisor is keen on the integrity in academic research, being an essential guide for his/her PhD students.

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 activities⁶.*

⁶ 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



During the doctoral academic studies, PhD candidates take exams in the first year (in all four subjects) and the papers (minimum 2, maximum 3), the acquired knowledge being verified by the exams taken and by defending the papers prepared by the PhD candidates before the guiding commissions. Each year of study, PhD candidates prepare an activity report that is presented to the leader and the guiding commissions.

IOSUD has created the mechanisms to ensure that the training programme based on advanced university studies, related to the evaluated field, aims at “learning outcomes”, specifying the competencies, skills and attitudes that PhD candidates should acquire after completing each discipline or through research activities.

The training programme based on advanced university studies, related to the field of LAW, is not only individualized according to the specialization chosen by the PhD candidate, but is focused on learning outcomes, the training programme being monitored by the PhD candidates’ guiding commissions.

The discipline sheets reveal the competencies, skills and attitudes that PhD candidates should acquire after completing each discipline or through research activities. Each discipline sheet includes the professional and transversal competences, as well as the general and specific objectives aimed (Annex no. 65 – Discipline sheets within the training programme based on advanced university studies, for the academic year 2018/2019).

The doctoral studies end with the elaboration and defence of the doctoral thesis, for which the procedure is regulated in the Regulation of the Doctoral Academic Studies of the Doctoral School.

The thesis prepared by the PhD candidate is subject to the following verifications and evaluations prior to its public defence:

- its verification by the PhD supervisor before being given by the PhD candidate the form in which he/she is to present himself/herself for the anti-plagiarism check;
- checking of the similarities, respectively the potential risk of plagiarism;
- the evaluation of the similarity report by the PhD supervisor, together with the PhD candidate and taking the necessary measures for the hypothesis in which the similarity report reveals a significant percentage not accepted by the Regulation of doctoral studies;
- restoration, if necessary, of the work followed by a new verification of similarities;
- presentation of the work of the guiding commission, evaluation by the commission and endorsement of the public defence/non-defence of the thesis;
- the public defence of the thesis, preceded by its verification by the members of the support commission and finalized by the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

In my opinion, the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has several mechanisms in order to assure that the academic training for each PhD students addresses „the learning outcomes”. Besides the doctoral research plan, which is signed at the beginning of the doctoral training period, the IOSUD has

of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.



established an operational procedure for the doctoral students in order to be evaluated periodically and to present their research reports each year of their doctoral training.

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.

As a general description of the analysis of this standard, it is noted that the doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, products and service orders, as demonstrated by the assessment of the following indicator that has been fulfilled.

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

The PhD candidates of the Doctoral School of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University who completed their studies and defended their doctoral theses made valuable works, some of them being impact articles, others being the theses themselves that were published by upmarket publishing houses in the country.

The IOSUD internal self-assessment report contains details of the relevant papers published by 29 of the PhD candidates under the supervision of Professor Gabriel and who have completed their studies by publicly defending their theses. The tables from pp. 59-63 of this report has not been introduced in my Evaluation Report as I am considering it not to be necessary in this regard.

There are enough evidences prepared by the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest before and during the evaluation mission according to which the Doctoral School of Law within this IOSUD has put in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the Law field. In this regard, mention should be made to the doctoral students’ presence at conferences, their publications that are made available to those who may be interested in.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards



As a general description of the analysis of this standard on the quality of doctoral theses, it is noted that the doctoral theses presented in the framework of the IOSUD - "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest fulfill high quality standards as it is shown by the following indicator that has been fulfilled.

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.*

In the period 2015-2020 (academic years) no doctoral theses were invalidated, without the right to repeat, which demonstrates the high value from a scientific point of view and the originality of the doctoral theses prepared by IOSUD PhD candidates – Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest.

It must be highly appreciated the fact that all the PhD theses have been validated by the General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU) during the period 2015-2020.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

As a general description of this domain, the finding is that the IOSUD - "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest meets all the conditions required on its quality management for the doctoral studies, as it results from the analysis of the following criteria, standards and indicators.

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.

It is considered that the IOSUD - "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest counts on a periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system, as shown by the assessment of the following 4 indicators. Each indicator has been fulfilled.

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:*

Within the Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest, there is a Department for Evaluation and Quality Assurance, whose director is Univ. PhD Lecturer Mirela Gorunescu.

The department also ensures the functioning of the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Commission. The activity of this commission aims at evaluating and ensuring the quality level regarding all the didactic



activities within the University, including the activity carried out in the Doctoral cycle by PhD supervisors, members of the guiding commissions and PhD candidates.

The scientific activity of PhD supervisors is carried over annually, PhD candidates having the opportunity to get to know their published works.

Taking into account all the facts and documents facilitated by the ARACIS and the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest before and during the evaluation mission, the online meetings scheduled for 15 and 16 November 2021 as well as the opinions expressed by the members of the evaluation commission during our internal working meeting on 18 November 2021, I may consider that this IOSUD has an adequate evaluation process and internal quality assurance system of the scientific work of its doctoral supervisors, as shown in the lines below:

In relation to *the scientific work of Doctoral advisors*, I consider that the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has an adequate evaluation process and internal quality assurance system of the scientific work of its doctoral supervisors.

As for *the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity*, I consider that PhD students at the Doctoral School of Law within the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest have the necessary infrastructure and logistics in order to carry out their respective doctoral research. Moreover, I estimate that the existence of the Centre of Legal, Economics and Socio-Administrative Studies (in Romanian, C.S.J.E.S.A) within this University (<http://csjesa.univnt.ro/acasa.html>) has given the PhD students the possibility to have access to a solid legal specialization in different fields and, at the same time, it has created strong synergies for teaching and doctoral research.

Regarding *the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized*, I consider that the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has adopted and implemented specific procedures and subsequent rules regarding doctoral studies, specifically in the field of Law.

In relation to *the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students*, I estimate that there are extensive evidences that the PhD students of the Doctoral School of Law (which belongs to the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest) can benefit from social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling. During my meetings on 15, 16 and 18 November 2021, I have had the opportunity to see the strong and serious commitment of the doctoral supervisors with the task to train new PhDs and give them the opportunity to teach at the Faculty of Law of this prestigious University.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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



Within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, there is the Students’ Association in which also PhD candidates may enrol.

In my opinion, Article 7 of the Methodology for setting up and electing management structures and functions (approved by the Senate of this University in October 2012) and Article 4(7)(d) of the institutional Regulation on the organization and carrying out of doctoral studies programmes (approved by the Senate of the University on 17 November 2021) assures the legal basis for the election of doctoral students’ representatives in the CSUD by universal, direct and secret vote. All the doctoral students have the right of electing or to be elected. In relation to this, it should be mentioned the active role played by the ASUNT (Association of Students of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University; see: <https://www.facebook.com/asunt.ro/>).

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.*

Within the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, there is ASUNT - Association of students in which also PhD candidates can enrol. They can be elected to positions on doctoral school councils and can opt, insofar as they wish, to enrol in ASUNT.

Taking into account the information posted on the website of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest as well as on the Facebook account of ASUNT (Association of Students of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University), on 22 October 2021 elections for the Senate of this University have taken place (see: <https://www.facebook.com/univnt/posts/4707307139325307>).

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.*

To remedy the deficiencies found and/or reported, the Doctoral School Council proposed and the University Senate approved the appropriate revision of the Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral academic studies, until the date of control, the Regulation being subject to revisions whenever necessary.

The website of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has an entrance dedicated to the academic quality of this institution. According to the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Commission of Evaluation and Assurance of Quality (approved by the Senate of this University in October 2012, and modified in October 2014 and February 2017), the IOSUD and its Doctoral School of Law draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD. I consider that the Rector’s reports, which have been published



annually; see: <https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/asigurarea-calitatii/>) contain references to the strategies and policies that have been drafted by the IOSUD and its Doctoral School of Law in order to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.

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.

It is considered that the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Law of Buchares has implemented an accurate system in order to provide information of interest to the PhD students as well as to future PhD candidates. This standard has been assessed on the basis of the indicator mentioned below, which has been fulfilled.

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:*

The following data and information are published on the University website, within the limits permitted by the Regulation on personal data protection, as previously shown in Indicator C.2.1.1. above:

- (iv)** The Doctoral School Regulations, which also contain the admission regulations, the thesis writing guide and the procedure regarding the public defence of the doctoral theses;
- (v)** The standard contract for doctoral studies, which is the model according to which the individual study contracts are concluded;
- (vi)** Academic and scientific profile of PhD supervisors, CVs and list of papers;
- (vii)** Information on the standards for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis which represents the Annex to the Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral studies;
- (viii)** Information on the conferences organized by the University, by partners with whom the University has agreements or by other entities that formulate invitations to participate in these conferences;
- (ix)** Abstracts of doctoral theses and links to these abstracts, but also other information regarding the defence of the doctoral thesis.

(a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation

All the information related to the regulation of the IOSUD and its Doctoral School of Law is available on the website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest in the part dedicated to doctoral studies (<https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/doctorat/>).

(b) the admission regulation

The website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains the rules approved for the admission regulation to the Doctoral School of Law.

(c) the doctoral studies contract



I have observed a relevant transparency from “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest in relation to all the aspects on doctoral studies. The website of the University (www.univnt.ro) is a tool in this regard.

(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis

The website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains detailed regulation on the procedure for the public presentation of each PhD Thesis.

(e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies

There is detailed information regarding the content of the training program based on advanced academic studies, which is available for the public at large.

(f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data

The academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the doctoral supervisors within each domain of the Doctoral School of Law, as well as their institutional contact data have been published on the website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

(g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);

Although this aspect could be improved, I have observed the conviction of this University to protect personal data of its PhD students. Therefore, this aspect of the performance indicator C.2.1.1. should be assessed taken into account the Romanian legislation on personal data protection.

(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis

The website of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains detailed information regarding the standards to be developed during the doctoral studies.

(i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.

The part dedicated to the News (“Stiri”, in Romanian; see: <https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/category/stiri/>) on the website of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest contains numerous information regarding this kind of opportunities (attendance to conferences, publication of articles, scholarships, mobilities, 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.



The “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest makes available the doctoral theses’ summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented. This information is usually made publicly well in advance before the presentation of the PhD thesis.

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.

It is assessed that the IOSUD/Doctoral School of Law provides its PhD students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies, as shown by the analysis of the following 3 indicators. Each indicator has been fulfilled.

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.

PhD candidates have access to the database, for which the University has concluded a subscription, the students’ access to this database being free. Through the computers available to PhD candidates, with unlimited internet access, PhD candidates can access other databases useful in the research activity, such as the databases of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Justice of the European Union, The European Court of Human Rights, the High Court of Cassation and Justice, as well as the decisions ruled by the Constitutional Court of Romania.

In my opinion, all the PhD students have free access to more than one platform providing academic databases, which are relevant to the doctoral studies in Law.

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.

PhD candidates have access to the electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity of the papers prepared by them, with other scientific papers in the field. In order to get acquainted with this verification system, PhD candidates draw out in the subject Deontology of scientific research activity, in preparation for the exam, a report that is verified by the anti-plagiarism system, the report being given to the student and to the PhD supervisor.

Taken into account the evidences that have been facilitated before the during the evaluation mission, I may say that each PhD student has access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works. There are specific rules adopted by this University in this field.

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.*

PhD candidates have access to the research resources available to the University (library, equipment consisting of computers with internet access, specialized papers, study and discussion spaces with PhD supervisors).

I consider that all the PhD students of the Doctoral School of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest – which is the only Doctoral School of the IOSUD within this University – have access to diverse facilities depending on their specialization within the Doctoral School. All the evidences provided for this evaluation mission as well as the online meetings (especially the ones scheduled for Monday, 15 November 2021, and Tuesday, 16 November 2021, have given me the opportunity to note that the students of this Doctoral School can benefit from the activities of the Centre of Legal, Economics and Socio-Administrative Studies (C.S.J.E.S.A)) and including the personal libraries of their doctoral supervisors. There is a strong commitment of doctoral supervisors in this regard.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

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

As a general description of the analysis of the standard, it is observed that there is a strategy in place, which is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies. This assessment is based on 4 indicators: two of them have been fulfilled, the third one has been fulfilled only partially, and the fourth one has not been fulfilled.

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.*

“Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has collaboration agreements with 12 universities abroad (x Annexes no. 74 – 75 – 76 – 77 – 78 – 79 – 80 – 81 – 82 - 83 - 84) and with public entities in Romania (x Annexes no. 101 - 102 – 103 – 104 – 105 – 106), and based on these agreements, PhD candidates of the university has participated in international conferences, training courses abroad, participated as guests and held courses or seminars with foreign students.



“Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has a person designated to manage relations with universities, through which student mobility is carried out and who is responsible for identifying mobility, selecting candidates, organizing travel and financial aid granted for it.

We mention that in 2019, 5 PhD candidates were selected in order to carry out actions within the Erasmus program, but that in the context of the health crisis, 2 such actions were completed (PhD candidates Andreea Livădariu and George Mihai Irimescu).

Exceptional personalities from the world of law such as Mr. Francis Gurry, Director- General of WIPO and Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court of Justice of the European Union gave lectures to PhD candidates, teachers and students.

Taking into account all the documents and facts provided by the ARACIS and the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest before and during the evaluation mission, as well as the information I have gathered during the online meetings scheduled on 15 and 16 November 2021, I may say that this IOSUD has concluded mobility agreements with foreign universities. Moreover, the IOSUD develops and implements policies and action plans aimed at increasing the number of PhD candidates participating in training courses abroad. It should also be mentioned that, taking into account the doctoral students’ profile (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, etc.), it has been impossible for this IOSUD to have at least 35% of the doctoral students that have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms.

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.*

The Doctoral School of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has, in the field of intellectual property, a PhD candidate who studies under doctoral co-supervision with the University of Maastricht, the doctoral thesis following to be defended in the near future.

In my opinion, the IOSUD supports the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage. In this regard, mention should be made to the agreement for an international co-tutelage signed by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest with the University of Maastricht. Furthermore, the IOSUD has been keen on inviting leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for its doctoral students.

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 IOSUD internal self-assessment report, the doctoral thesis carried out in the co-supervision studies is to be carried out in the near future. Within the Doctoral School of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, there were no doctoral theses defended in foreign language.

Taking in account all the evidences prepared by the IOSUD of this University before and during the evaluation mission as well as the online meetings scheduled for 15 and 16 November 2021, I may affirm that so far no doctoral thesis has been drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language. But, it is worth mentioning that at present a PhD student is preparing his thesis in the field of intellectual property law in the framework of an international co-tutelage agreement signed by the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest with the University of Maastricht.

Recommendations: To adopt a strategy for the IOSUD in order to assure that in the next years doctoral theses will be drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language as well as to increase the number of the doctoral theses organised in international co-tutelage.

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 committees⁷ etc.).*

According to the IOSUD internal self-assessment report, until now, the Doctoral School did not have foreign PhD candidates, but foreign students attended courses during the mobility actions at the Faculty of Law of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University.

I consider that this performance indicator is highly exigent if we take into account that there is not such an academic tradition in Romania. I am convinced that, on the basis of the seriousness of the academic activities developed by the IOSUD of “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, in the future this indicator will be fulfilled.

Recommendations: To establish a strategy at the level of IOSUD in order to attract international doctoral students as well as to include international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees.

The indicator is not fulfilled.

⁷ 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

It is considered that the IOSUD/Doctoral School of Law has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms, as shown by the assessment of the following seven indicators. Six indicators have been fulfilled and another one has been partially fulfilled.

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

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

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

The advanced training programme for PhD candidates is a compulsory subject for them “Deontology of scientific research activity”, its main objectives being knowledge and compliance with the rules of ethics and deontology in research, the correlation between intellectual property rights and the rights and obligations of researchers, the intellectual property rights of the creators of scientific works, the rights and obligations of PhD candidates and PhD supervisors and their responsibility for violating the rules of deontology in the research activity.

At the level of the Doctoral School of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University, an attempt of fraud was detected, following its notification the ethics commission for plagiarism research was set up. Following the research started, the PhD candidate withdrew from his studies and was expelled. The plagiarism was notified by the PhD supervisor after the completion of the thesis and its public defence, but before the completion of the thesis evaluation procedure within CNATDCU.

The attempted fraud was notified by the PhD supervisor in December 2016, following which the following steps were taken:

- Request addressed to CNATDCU on 21.12.2016 for the suspension of the thesis validation procedure (Annex no. 107)
- The establishment, on January 4, 2017, of the Ethics Commission in order to verify the suspicion of plagiarism and to summon the PhD candidate before the Commission.



- However, they did not have an activity, the PhD candidate admitting the plagiarism as soon as he was summoned for explanations, followed by
- expulsion of the PhD candidate (Annex no. 108).

It results, from the above, that the plagiarism was notified by the PhD supervisor and operative verification measures were taken that for its verification, finalized with the expulsion of the PhD candidate from studies.

On the basis of all the documents provided before and during the evaluation mission, I can say that the IOSUD - "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has adopted and applied specific regulations on ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom. In relation to this, it has developed: policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken; practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students; practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community; administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions; mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.

In this regard, I consider that mention should be mentioned to the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Commission of Evaluation and Assurance of Quality (approved by the Senate of the University in October 2012) and the Regulation of the Commission of Etichs and University Professional Deontology (approved by the Senate of the University in February 2020). In addition, this University has adopted its Code of Ethics and University Professional Deontology (available at: <https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/comisia-de-etica/>). Especially useful for the assessment of this indicator has been the meeting with the members of the Commission of Ethics scheduled for 15 November 2021 from 13:00 to 13:45 (Romanian time). I consider that all the tools established in relation to these issues have worked in the case of the identification and notification of a plagiarism. I am refering to the attempt of fraud by a doctoral student, who was finally expelled.

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.*

The only notification regarding the violation of the deontology rules within the Doctoral School of the "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest was the one detected in December 2016 and finalized with the expulsion of the PhD candidate on January 5, 2017.

No other attempted fraud has been identified. There were no such situations.



I consider that the situation described in the assessment of the previous indicator (C.4.1.1.) has been the unique such situation. Therefore, the IOSUD has acted validly.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

In the Report of the Ethics Commission for 2017 there is no mention regarding the attempted fraud of the doctoral student Ivănescu Ovidiu-Emilian, because before any activity of the Commission, he made a request to withdraw from studies, and subsequently, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, he was expelled.

Taking into account the affirmations of various members of the Ethics Commission during the meeting scheduled for Monday, 15 November 2021, from 13:00 to 13:45 (Romania's time), every year this Commission prepares its report. The technical secretary of this Commission has all the reports that have been prepared so far.

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.*

At the level of the Doctoral School of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, there are no theses in respect of which notifications have been formulated regarding suspicions of plagiarism and withdrawal of the doctoral degree.

According to all the evidences prepared by the IOSUD – “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest before and during the evaluation mission, so far the CNADTCU has never withdrawn the title of “doctor” granted by the Doctoral School of Law within this IOSUD following accusations of plagiarism.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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



According to the IOSUD internal self-assessment report, there were no other attempts at fraud than the one mentioned, and therefore there were no complaints for suspicions of plagiarism and there was no need to take action against PhD supervisors.

It has been observed that the IOSUD - "Nicolae Titulescu" University of Bucharest has not adopted yet specific measures aimed to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies. This may be explained by the outstanding fact that so far the CNADTCU has never withdrawn the title of "doctor" granted by the Doctoral School of Law within this IOSUD.

Recommendations: To adopt specific measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, such as: (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; and (c) suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

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

According to the IOSUD internal self-assessment report, this kind of information is not applicable to it.

For all the reasons expressed above in relation to the previous five indicators of this standard, I consider that no scientific reviewers members have been a part of the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, for a period of at least 3 years. There has never been a special case of this nature.

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).***

In the absence of a legal obligation of IOSUD to publish doctoral theses in a public database, IOSUD cannot publish theses without the consent of PhD candidates, the doctoral theses being protected by copyright.



The publication of doctoral theses that have not been published by PhD candidates by their own initiative is done by the Ministry of National Education on the UEFISCDI platform, at the expiration of the 2-year term provided by GD no. 681/2011, term calculated from the date of defending the doctoral thesis.

On the basis of the information available on the website of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest, there is a specific part dedicated to the summaries of the theses that have been defended in this University in the last years (see: <https://www.univnt.ro/index.php/doctorat/rezumat/>). Regarding the publication of the content of these theses in electronic format, I think that it is a sensitive issues and a complex issue to be addressed.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic prestige of the IOSUD. - Dynamism and strong involvement of the doctoral supervisors. - Excellent academic visibility for the doctoral supervisors. - Strong legal background of the PhD students. - Very good material basis (in terms of buildings and facilities) for carrying out doctoral research. - Efficient communication strategy between the doctoral supervisors and their students. 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few manifestations of internationalization despite of being settled this University in Bucharest. - Inexistence of a doctoral supervisor in the field of public international law despite of the existence of a Faculty of International Relations and Administration and of a specialized field on international and European Union law within the Faculty of Law. - Degree of access to research grants involving PhD students.
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being a consolidated IOSUD in the academic landscape of the European Union. - Being a dynamic University from the capital of one of the European Union’s Member States. - Attractiveness of its doctoral offer of studies and their relevance to the national, European and international market. 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pandemic caused by COVID-19. - Potentially, there may be external threats arising from the environment in which it operates and carries out its activity. - Compatibility of doctoral research activity with the professional activity of PhD students in the field of law.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>	Partially fulfilled	<p><i>Firstly, to continue with the election process for the post of CSUD director. Secondly, to adopt a specific methodology on the election of representatives for the PhD students in the CSD in Law. Thirdly, to regulate the necessary mechanisms in order to recognize the equivalence of the doctoral degrees obtained abroad.</i></p>
2.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
3.	PI *	<p>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</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.		
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	
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	
6.	PI	A.2.1.1. The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)	Fulfilled	
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%.	Partially fulfilled	<i>To offer new places for doctoral studies taking into account the total PhD students already admitted by the Doctoral School of Law in previous years and who have not finished their PhD studies yet.</i>
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	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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 organising 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	
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. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.)		
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 process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.	Fulfilled	
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 studnets having the right of electing or being elected.	Fulfilled	
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	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
21.	PI *	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
22.	CPI	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Fulfilled	
23.	CPI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
24.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	Fulfilled	
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	
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	<i>To adopt a strategy for the IOSUD in order to assure that in the next years doctoral theses will be drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language as well as to increase the number of the doctoral theses organised in international co-tutelage.</i>
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; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).	Not fulfilled	<i>To establish a strategy at the level of IOSUD in order to attract international doctoral students as well as to include international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees.</i>
30.	PI	C.4.1.1. IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public positionings, 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; <p>IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.</p>		
31.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
32.	PI	<p>C.4.1.3. Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
33.	CPI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	
34.	PI	<p>C.4.1.5. The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p>	Partially fulfilled	<p><i>To adopt specific measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, such as: (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; and (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.</i></p>
35.	PI *	<p>C.4.1.6. The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the “doctor” title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.</p>	Fulfilled	
36.	PI	<p>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).</p>	Fulfilled	



VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has consolidated itself in the Romanian academic landscape of PhD studies as a solid and prestigious academic institution and has become a centre of reference for doctoral studies. Since its establishment, the IOSUD has been able to take advantage of its human capital as well as to attract PhD students with an excellent legal background.

General recommendations:

1. To continue working on the adaptation of the legal background to the national requirements for IOSUD.
2. To recruit a new doctoral supervisor in the field of public international law and, if possible, of a new doctoral supervisor in the field of private international law as well.
3. To enlarge and consolidate an internationalization strategy, paying special attention to the increase in signing Erasmus+ agreements for doctoral research, the signature of new agreements for PhD theses in international co-tutelage, and the involvement of foreign doctoral supervisors in the activities of the IOSUD.
4. To consolidate and diversify the IOSUD strategy in order to gather information on the quality of the doctoral activities carried out.
5. To establish an institutional repository on doctoral research projects in the pipeline at the Doctoral School of Law. This repository could contain the following information: the name of the PhD student, the title of the PhD thesis, the doctoral supervisor's / supervisors' name(s), and the summary of the doctoral research project. This repository should be public.
6. To improve the quantity and quality of the information uploaded on the website of the “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest.

Against this background, I consider that during the evaluated period (2015-2020) the IOSUD - “Nicolae Titulescu” University of Bucharest has continued consolidating itself in the Romanian academic landscape of PhD studies as a solid and prestigious academic institution in the field of law at both national and international level.

VII. Annexes

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *Scanned documents – any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.*

Signed in A Coruña (Spain) on 23 November 2021