



Nr. 5159/17.08.2023

Annex 3

## External evaluation report for the setting up (establishment) of a doctoral study domain

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

This chapter will contain a brief presentation of:

- the context in which this external evaluation report was drafted (**the type of evaluation, the period of the evaluation visit, the composition of the Experts Panel** etc.);

Evaluation of the field of doctoral studies – Biology (SDB), Western University of Timisoara (UVT).

Type of assessment: on-site

The evaluation visit took place from August 02 to August 04, 2023. On the agenda of the visit were the evaluation activities, shown in the *Annex 1*.

The Evaluation Panel appointed by ARACIS for the Biology Doctoral Study Domain was composed of four experts:

- **Prof. Dr. Dragoş-Lucian GORGAN** ("Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University from Iasi) – Coordinator;
- **Prof. Dr. Roman VOLKOV** ("Yuriy Fedkovych" Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine) - International expert;
- **Prof. Dr. Diana CUPŞA** (University of Oradea);
- **Student Radu Ionuţ STAN** (George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, and Technology of Târgu Mureş)
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- details about the doctoral school(s) of which the doctoral domain under review will be part (number of doctoral advisors, number of students, institutional context, short history etc.);

The Western University of Timișoara (UVT) was established by Royal Decree-Law no. 660 of December 30, 1944 and operates continuously as an emblematic higher education and research institution for the western region of Romania based on Council of Ministers Decision no. 999 of September 27, 1962, reinforced by Government Decision no. 458 of July 29, 1994.

The Western University of Timișoara is the Organizing Institution for Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD – UVT) and operates on the basis of the National Education Law (1/2001, of GD 681/2011 – The Code of University Doctoral Studies and the Charter of

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<sup>1</sup> When applicable, gendered information will be presented as well.



the Western University of Timișoara, 2021 (Annex 1. Charter of the Western University of Timișoara) which stipulates, in this sense: "UVT is the Organizing Institution for Doctoral University Studies (hereinafter referred to as IOSUD-UVT). IOSUD-UVT operates on the basis of the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of studies university doctoral studies in UVT (Annex 2. Institutional regulation regarding the organization and conduct of university doctoral studies IOSUD-UVT) which is approved by the Senate of UVT, under the conditions of the law and the Code of university doctoral studies." (ch. 8, Organizational structure of UVT, art. 46.1).

Doctoral studies in IOSUD - Western University of Timișoara took place, during 2022, within 24 doctoral study programs belonging to 12 doctoral schools: Arts (field: Visual Arts), Chemistry (field: Chemistry), Law (field: Law), of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (fields: Accounting, Economics, Marketing, Management, Finance), Physics (field: Physics), Geography (field: Geography), Informatics (field: Informatics), Mathematics (field: Mathematics), Music (fields: Music, Theater and Performing Arts), Psychology (fields: Psychology, Educational Sciences, Sports Science and Physical Education), Sociology, Philosophy and Political Science (fields: Sociology, Philosophy, Political Science ), Humanities (fields: Philology and History). During 2022, two new doctoral fields obtained ARACIS accreditation, Economic Informatics and Social Work.

In the course of 2022, 596 doctoral students were enrolled at the doctoral schools within IOSUD – UVT, of which:

- 559 Romanian students: 307 in the budgeted regime, 252 in the fee-based regime,
- 30 international students (EU students, Romanian students from everywhere and in their own currency account.
- details about the doctoral study domain under review (institutional context);

The Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) is in the process of being established since 2022, following the fulfillment of the requirements that at least 3 teaching staff affiliated with IOSUD-UVT hold the title of doctoral supervisor (qualification). Thus, it becomes possible for the first time in the history of UVT, the existence of a level of doctoral studies in the field of Biology.

The cycle of doctoral university studies in the field of biology lasts 6 semesters (3 years) and has 2 components:

- Advanced training program lasting one semester - 30 ECTS credits,
- The scientific research program lasting 5 semesters, completed with the defense of the doctoral thesis.



The education plan includes mandatory subjects, which provide doctoral students with a unified vision in the approach to scientific research in the doctoral field and, respectively, management skills of scientific research projects, the valorization of scientific results, the ethics of scientific research and notions of bioinformatics. The training also includes participation in specialized conferences, writing and presenting reports from the individual training program and publishing the results.

## II. Methods used

This chapter will cover the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process before and during the evaluation visit, including at least:

- Review of the Internal evaluation report for the doctoral study domain under review and its annexes;

Immediately after receiving the external evaluation document, it was analyzed together with the annexes and clarifications were subsequently requested.

- Review of the documents provided by the IOSUD in physical format during the evaluation visit (if such documents were requested);

IOSUD made available to the evaluation committee the entire file containing the internal evaluation report and related Annexes.

- Review of the documents, data and information available on the website of the IOSUD/the Doctoral School(s), in electronic format;

All the documents on the IOSUD website were analyzed. All documents can be found on the institution's website, and the informative nature of this website, with all the aspects provided by the indicators, is fully realized (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>).

- Visiting the buildings of the institution, including (an indicative and non-exhaustive list, may change according to the context): classrooms; laboratories; the institution's library; the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre; lecture halls for students; student residences; student cafeteria; sports facilities, etc.;

The visit to the UVT was carried out on August 2 and had as its main objective the visualization and degree of use of the learning-research infrastructure by doctoral students. Lecture halls were visited, as well as all laboratories and research centers where PhD students work. The existence of a new research infrastructure was found, with well-equipped spaces and equipment that allows advanced studies to be carried out, in accordance with the university's objectives of international competitiveness. Images taking during the visit are presented in the *Annex 2*.

- Meeting/discussions with members of the management of the Doctoral School



where the doctoral study domain under review will operate;  
Aspects related to the funding of the doctoral school and doctoral students were presented. Following the discussions, the desire of the doctoral coordinators and teaching staff to involve students in research projects, to stimulate research activities and to participate in international scientific events became apparent.

- Meeting/discussions with doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;

During the meeting with the supervisors of the doctoral students from the evaluated field, some aspects were highlighted, such as: the access of doctoral students to international databases with special literature and access to anti-plagiarism check programs, the involvement of doctoral students in research projects, as well as a very clear presentation of the rules for the defense of doctoral theses

- Meeting/discussions with representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School where the doctoral study domain under review is operating: the Council of the Doctoral School, the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures); the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre; student organizations; secretariats; various departments / administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.), etc.;

At the University Headquarter, meetings were held with the members of the Ethics Committee, the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission and the Doctoral School Council, who promptly responded to the requests of the members of the Evaluation Commission and provided all requested documents.

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

#### Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

UVVG demonstrates a special institutional capacity for organizing doctoral studies in the field of Biology, confirmed by the existence of specific regulations, methodologies and procedures, of high-performance computer systems used in the management of students and their progress, as well as the verification of the similarity of the works developed, systems to which they have equal access to teaching, administrative staff and students.

**Criterion A.1.** Administrative and managerial institutional structures, and 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 organisation of doctoral studies.

Within the UVVG, the efficient mechanisms for the regulations, methodologies and procedures are implemented.

**Performance indicator A.1.1.1.** The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the doctoral school that the doctoral domain is a part of:

a) the internal regulations of the doctoral school;

See: Annex 2 – Regulation of organization and operation of the Doctoral School of Biology <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/ROF-SD-Biologie.pdf>

b) 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 the CSD, and evidence that such elections were conducted;

The elections of all structures and management functions within the UVT for the 2020-2024 mandates were held in accordance with the Regulation containing the Methodology regarding the elections of structures and management functions of the UVT for the 2020-2024 mandates (Annex 14. The Regulation containing the Methodology regarding the elections of structures and functions of UVT for the 2020-2024 mandate). All information related to these elections (methodology, candidates, results) is posted on the university's website at the address - <https://oldsite.uvt.ro/ro/alegeri-2020-2024/>. Paragraph 2.2 of the methodology regarding the conduct of elections in the UVT for the 2020-2024 mandate establishes the regulations for the election of the members of the Doctoral School Council.

The election of students in the management structures of the CSUD, respectively in the doctoral school councils, is regulated by separate, specific documents intended for the organization of student elections within the UVT (Regulations for the election of student representatives in the UVT, 04.02.2021 mandate 2020-2024, Annex 15. Regulation for the election of student representatives in UVT, 04.02.2021 mandate 2020-2024). Student elections take place annually, in compliance with a specific calendar, announced by student organizations within UVT- <https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/2021/02/alegeri-pentru-studentii-representanti-in-consiliile-facultatilor- the university-senate-the-councils-of-doctoral-schools-and-the-council-for-university-doctorate-studies/>



c) methodologies for organising and conducting doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies);

Annually CSUD teachers discuss aspects regarding the admission to studies of doctoral students, proposing customized public admission methodologies at [https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Regulament-admitere-doctorat - UVT-2022-2023.pdf](https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/06/Regulament-admitere-doctorat-UVT-2022-2023.pdf). These methodologies comply with the national methodologies of the Ministry of Education and Research, respectively with the Study Admission Methodologies of Romanian candidates everywhere.

Admission to university doctoral studies in IOSUD-UVT (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>) is carried out under conditions of transparency, with the dissemination of useful information for enrollment. Thus, the available places are announced on the website as well as their type (frequency / reduced frequency; budget with scholarship / budget without scholarship / self-financing) as well as the distribution of places by doctoral schools and areas of doctoral university studies.

IOSUD-UVT also has clear procedures for completing doctoral university studies. Drafted based on national legislation and compliant with the national platforms for validating doctoral degrees (the Integrated Educational Register and the Single Matriculation Register), these procedures include information on the stages preceding the defense of the doctoral thesis as well as on the conditions for its defense. The latest variant of the methodology for supporting doctoral theses is available at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/10/Metodologie-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-support-of-doctorate-theses-ed.-III-a-2022.pdf>. The last procedure regarding the support of doctoral theses in the online version is available at <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Regulament-SDFSSP.pdf>.

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

Methodology for the Recognition within WUT of the Doctoral Supervisor Quality Obtained by Foreign Accredited Higher Education Institutions is publicly available at [https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Methodologia-privind-recunoasterea-de-catre-UVT-a-qualitatii-de-conducator-de-do-obtinuta-in-institutii-de-vatamant - University-accredited-from-foreign-edition-a-II-a.-HS-36-from-13.07.2017.pdf](https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Methodologia-privind-recunoasterea-de-catre-UVT-a-qualitatii-de-conducator-de-do-obtinuta-in-institutii-de-vatamant-University-accredited-from-foreign-edition-a-II-a.-HS-36-from-13.07.2017.pdf) (Annex 17. Methodology regarding the recognition, by UVT, of the quality of doctoral supervisor obtained in institutions of accredited university education from abroad) as well as the Methodology for the recognition within UVT of the doctoral degree and the title of doctor in sciences or in a professional field, obtained in accredited university education



institutions from abroad (Methodology for the Recognition within WUT of the Ph.D. Diploma and Doctoral Degree of Science or Professional Fields Certificates and Degrees Awarded by Foreign Accredited Higher Education Institutions), available at: [https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Methodologie\\_privind\\_recuonastrea\\_titulului\\_de\\_doctor.pdf](https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Methodologie_privind_recuonastrea_titulului_de_doctor.pdf) (Annex 18. Methodology regarding the recognition within the UVT of the doctoral degree and the title of doctor in sciences or in a professional field, obtained in accredited university education institutions abroad).

e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), including proof of the regular frequency of convening their meetings;

The management structure of doctoral studies in the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) will be ensured by the Council of the Doctoral School of Biology, which will be constituted in accordance with the regulations in force. The Council of the Doctoral School of Biology will meet, according to the documents that regulate the activity of this forum, "as often as needed, but not less than twice a year". In essence, the Council will be convened to decide on the proper conduct of doctoral studies for the field supported within the Doctoral School. In this sense, for example, the Council contributes to the organization of doctoral admissions (allocation of places, organization of committees, confirmation of results), analysis and validation of doctoral study committees, research plans, evaluation and validation of examination committees, etc. Proof of the regularity of these meetings will be found in the convocations or minutes of the meetings.

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

The contracts are signed by the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor, they are approved by the Rector. The contract for doctoral university studies (publicly available at [http://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Contract-2022-2023\\_1.pdf](http://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Contract-2022-2023_1.pdf)) specifies the rights and obligations of each of the parties, establishing during the doctoral student's years of study.

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

Doctoral students complete, together with the doctoral coordinator and in common agreement with him, a Study Plan in which all the usual academic course of the doctoral student is specified (disciplines from the advanced study program, assignments and periods for submitting progress reports, the term provided for public support, projects in





which the doctoral student participates, etc.) all these forms can be found at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>.

The doctoral coordinator, as a result of the analysis of his research topic, proposes the guidance committee which is subsequently approved by the CSD. The study plans proposed by the doctoral supervisors together with the doctoral students will be analyzed by the SDSB Council and approved by the signature of the SDSB Director.

*Recommendations:* Upload to the SD site and continuously update all reference documents

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator A.1.1.2.** The doctoral school's Regulations include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards concerning the aspects specified in art. 17, para. (5) of Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, as further amended and supplemented.

The Regulation of the Doctoral School of Biology (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/08/ROF-SD-Biologie.pdf>) includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for the aspects specified in art. 17, para. 5 of HG 681 / 2011. The regulations of the doctoral schools within IOSUD – UVT specify these procedures, with the particularities of each field of university doctoral studies. The acceptance of the affiliation of new members within the doctoral schools is validated by the Councils of the doctoral schools, based on feasibility analyzes and taking into account the fulfillment of scientific criteria and of scientific and professional integrity.

Doctoral schools follow Romanian legislation in force as well as the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of university doctoral studies (available at <http://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/Regulament-organizare-si-desfasurare-studii-de-doctorat.pdf>) to resolve possible incompatibility or even conflict situations between the doctoral coordinator and the doctoral student, resorting to mediation between the two or, when necessary, to changing the doctoral coordinator. Also, the procedures regarding the prevention of intellectual fraud, including plagiarism, respectively the aspects related to the frequency of doctoral students respect these general procedures.

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

IOSUD has an adequate computer system both for the record of students enrolled in doctoral studies and for checking the degree of similarity of doctoral theses.



**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.

IOSUD-UVT supports the implementation of the necessary IT solutions to optimize and carry out administrative activities related to doctoral students. Thus, the record of doctoral students and their academic progress can be found in UVT's own system: UMS - University Management System, but also in the systems of the Ministry of National Education: REI - Integrated Educational Register and RMU - Unified Matriculation Register. (Annex 11 – Academis IT system service contract).

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator A.1.2.2.** The existence and use of an appropriate software and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 1, art. Art. 4 pc. b) to Order 3897/16.05.2017 for the amendment of the Organization and Operation Regulation of the National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates of 24.03.2016, IOSUD-UVT uses as a support tool for learning academic writing and for checking the degree of similarity the on-line software iThenticate (available at <http://www.ithenticate.com>) through which, according to internal procedures, all doctoral theses are analyzed before the defense within the guidance committee, respectively before the public defense. The resulting reports are fully uploaded on the REI National Platform, in order for the CNATDCU to verify and validate the doctorate files and the proposal for conferring the doctorate. Also, the similarity report is accompanied by a resolution of the PhD supervisor by which he evaluates the situations of similarity identified by the software.

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Criterion A.2.** Research infrastructure

**Standard A.2.1.** The IOSUD has a modern research infrastructure to support the performance of specific doctoral study activities.

**Performance indicator A.2.1.1.** The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the



public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.

Within the Faculty of Chemistry, Biology, Geography, the Department of Biology-Chemistry there are 3 research centers, whose material base can be used by teaching staff and doctoral students in the teaching and research process of the Biology doctoral field within IOSUD-UVT: The Research Center for Environmental Thermal Analysis, the Research Laboratory in Physical-Physical and Computational Chemistry for Nanosciences and QSAR (L-CF-SC-NQ) and respectively the Advanced Environmental Research Laboratories (<http://www.elearning-chemistry.ro/lcam1/> – LCAM). These research centers provide theoretical and practical assistance services in problems related to chemistry and biology, chemical and biological analyzes in specific fields, implement research projects and thus support scientific research activities (experimental, theoretical or in the field), with an inter -, multi- and transdisciplinary, respectively organize various types of scientific events, students (and especially doctoral students) being involved in all these activities.

SDB has equipped spaces and computer labs for the teaching and research activities of doctoral students. Laboratories and rooms have specific equipment (research equipment, computers, TV, projection systems) and, where appropriate, software specific to research activities (Chimera, PyMol, ToxTree, Ochem) and access to servers that allow the implementation of some online studies. There is a constant concern for increasing study and research conditions in UVT premises.

PhD students within SDB have, under the internal regulations and on the basis of their student ID, access to the research infrastructure of the Western University of Timișoara. The electronic resources made available by BCUT are available at: <http://www.bcut.ro/>. They can be accessed from the networks of the University of the West, including from its dormitories and from the library networks (wireless from the B building of the library) and include, among others: the ROLiNeST Portal; ANELIS PLUS; Web of Science; CEEOL; Ebsco; Oxford Journals; ScienceDirect; PURPOSE; Sage; SpringerLink e-journals; Ulrichs; Wiley Journals etc.

*Recommendations:* the continuation of the endowment and purchase of equipment.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

### **Criterion A.3. Quality of human resources**

Standard A.3.1. For each domain, there is qualified staff having the experience required for carrying out the doctoral program.

**Performance indicator A.3.1.1.** Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors work within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and



Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.

Within the Biology doctoral field, 3 doctoral supervisors (quality obtained according to the law) will carry out their activity, 100% of them (3 out of 3) meeting the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the qualification certificate, at the time of the evaluation of the Biology doctoral field.:

**Prof. habil. dr. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN** cf. OM 5133/23.09.2017 (Annex 8. Authorization order) – holder of UVT; bachelor's degree in Physics and Biology, master's degree in Management and marketing, doctorate in Physics, postdoctorate in computational biology, habilitation in Biology (Annex 13. Curriculum vitae doctoral coordinators).

**Prof. habil. dr. Nicoleta IANOVICI** cf. OM 4154/21.06.2017 (Annex 8. Authorization order) – holder of UVT; BA in Biology; master in Biology, doctorate in Biology, habilitation in Biology and Dean of FCBG. (Annex 13. Curriculum vitae of PhD coordinators)

**Prof. habil. dr. Lucian PÂRVULESCU** cf. OM 3299/22.02.2022) (Annex 8. Authorization order) – holder of UVT; bachelor's degree in Biology, master's degree in Biology, PhD in Biology, habilitation in Biology (Annex 13. Curriculum vitae PhD coordinators).

*Recommendations:* Encouraging young university staff / researches to defend the habilitation exam and join the doctoral school.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator\* A.3.1.2.** At least 50% of the doctoral advisors in the doctoral domain under review are tenured professors within the IOSUD and have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period.

The 3 doctoral supervisors in the field of Biology: Prof. univ. skilled dr. Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN, Univ. Prof. skilled dr. Nicoleta IANOVICI and Prof. univ. skilled dr. Lucian PÂRVULESCU, are tenured staff at the Western University of Timișoara, Faculty of Chemistry, Biology and Geography, within the Department of Biology-Chemistry (DBC) (Annex 11. State of DBC functions, 2022-2023).

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator A.3.1.3.** The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or associate professors / CS II, with proved expertise in the



field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.

In the Biology doctoral field, subject to accreditation, the subjects in the training program based on advanced university studies related to the field are supported by teaching staff who have the title of doctoral supervisor/qualification, with proven expertise in the field of taught subjects. In this regard, we attach the CVs of the teaching staff (Annex 13. Curriculum vitae doctoral coordinators) and the lists of works (Annex 12. List of works doctoral coordinators) who will teach the respective subjects, as well as the Curriculum of the new field of doctoral university studies Biology (Annex 6. The educational plan of the new field of doctoral studies in Biology, DSUD – B, for 2023-2024)

*Recommendations:* stimulating young teaching staff to promote to the positions of lecturer and university professor and to support the qualification in the field of Biology.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

Standard A.3.2. The doctoral advisors within the doctoral domain are carrying out a scientific activity that is visible at international level.

**Performance indicator A.3.2.1.** At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international visibility within the past 5 years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past 5 years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organising committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.

All PhD supervisors (100%) have a minimum of 5 Web of Science indexed publications in journals with an impact factor (Appendix 21 – CVs of PhD Supervisors in the Field of Biology).

**Adriana Vetuța ISVORAN**

Web of Science: 71 articles/497 citations, H Index 12

Scopus: 71 articles/ 480 citations, H Index 12



Google Scholar: 197 papers indexed, H Index 16

- membership in professional associations and/or their boards:

Member of the Romanian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics

Member of the Romanian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Member of the Romanian Bioinformatics Society

Member of the Romanian Physics Society

Member of the Romanian Society of Chemistry

Member of the BioMentorHub association

### **Nicoleta IANOVICI**

Web of Science: 24 articles/312 citations

Scope: 22 articles/ 323 citations

Google Scholar: 130 papers indexed

International Journal of Science, Technology, and Design, ISSN: 2757-8127

NewFrontChem, ISSN 2393-2171

Current Trends in Natural Sciences, ISSN 2284-9521

Romanian Journal of Meteorology, ISSN 2284-6220

### **Lucian PARVULESCU**

Web of Science (Profile ResearcherID: A-1278-2012): 34 articles/477 citations

Scope: 34 articles/490 citations

Google Scholar: 74 papers indexed

Regional Ambassador in the European Reference Genome Atlas (ERGA), from 2021

Member of Ponto-Caspian Invasive Species Experts Group PCISEG, since 2011

Member of the International Association of Astacology IAA, based in Auburn, since 2008

Member of the Limnology Society SL, based in Bacău, since 2003

Contributor to the IUCN Red List database, Cambridge UK

Contributor to the database of the Natura 2000 network in Romania

*Recommendations:* Continue publishing in journals with the highest possible impact factor, which confers increased visibility

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator \* A.3.2.2.** At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past 5 years.

From the total of 3 doctoral supervisors assigned to the field of Biology, all 3 continue to be very active scientifically (100%), obtaining more than 25% of the score required by



the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the qualification certificate, based on the scientific results of the last 5 years, as evidenced by the above data and the documents in electronic format available in the annexes.

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS.

Within the IOSUD UVT of Timisoara, special attention is paid to educational effectiveness so that at the end of the doctoral studies the graduates are placed in the field of work according to the qualification obtained.

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

Standard B.1.2. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.

The academic, research and professional performance criteria that form the basis of the admission process, are specified in the Regulations for admission to doctoral university studies.

**Performance indicator\* B.1.2.1.** Admission in the doctoral study programmes is based on selection criteria including the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates; their interest for scientific or artistic/sports research; publications in the domain, and a proposal of a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is mandatory as part of the admission procedure.

Admission to doctoral studies is based on the provisions of the Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of the admission competition for university doctoral studies, Academic Year 2023/2024, Doctoral School of Biology, IOSUD – UVT.

Each doctoral supervisor can propose doctoral topics for the entrance exam. Each topic will be accompanied by a list of 5 topics and the corresponding bibliography.

The selection criteria are based on the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates and consist of: the option of each candidate for a doctoral thesis that he will record in the Enrollment Form and for which, in advance, he will request the opinion of the doctoral supervisor who proposed the theme. Then the candidate will prepare a description of the Individual Research Project (IPC), according



to the doctoral theme and in agreement with the theme proposed by the doctoral supervisor, which he will include in the admission file and present it at the admission exam.

The admission test consists of an oral test, which includes two stages: the verification of the candidate's knowledge based on the list of subjects and the presentation of the PIC respectively.

The admissions committee will evaluate the candidates' training level correlated with the list of subjects related to the doctoral thesis and the related bibliography, the proposed PIC, as well as the candidates' results in the previous academic course and research activity (if any). In addition, the evaluation will consider the candidate's motivation for the relevant doctoral topic correlated with previous academic performance.

The minimum average for admission to doctoral studies is 8 (eight).

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

The training program based on advanced university studies within the Doctoral School of Biology of the Western University of Timisoara, is structured in accordance with the normative requirements in force and is adequate to improve the research skills of doctoral students and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.

**Performance indicator B.2.1.1.** The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant for the scientific research training of doctoral students, out of which at least one discipline focuses on the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing.

The curriculum of the Biology Doctorate Program includes, within the PPUA, a number of 4 disciplines, three compulsory and one optional discipline (from a package of two disciplines). The disciplines are relevant for the preparation of doctoral students, one discipline is Research Methodology in the field of Biology and an optional discipline called: Computational methods and databases used in research in the field of biology.

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations

**The indicator is fulfilled.**





**Performance indicator B.2.1.2.** At least one discipline is dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.

In the Education Plan, within the PPUA there is a subject called “Ethics and academic mentoring” that addresses topics specific to biological and biomedical disciplines, aspects of professional deontology in research and the teaching career.

*Recommendations:* changing the name of the discipline in Ethics of scientific research or a similar name that does not contain the term "mentored".

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator B.2.1.3.** The IOSUD has the mechanisms in place to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced higher education studies related to the evaluated domain addresses the “learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, and the responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>2</sup>.

In accordance with the Subject Sheets related to each didactic activity, the learning outcomes are oriented towards the formation of skills, skills and attitudes specific to the level of doctoral studies. The disciplines within the Biology doctoral program have been designed to complement and develop students' knowledge of advanced research topics and methods.

According to the subject sheets (Annex 6. The educational plan of the new field of doctoral studies in Biology, DSUD – B, for 2023-2024) the learning outcomes are organized into two categories of skills: professional and transversal. In each discipline, teachers corroborate these skills with those of other disciplines.

*Recommendations:* revising the number of hours of individual study for each discipline, so that a credit granted corresponds to 25 hours (assisted activities and individual study). Specifying the skills developed by the subjects in all the Subject Sheets.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## DOMAIN C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

At the Western University of Timisoara, there is a functional quality management system.

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<sup>2</sup> Or by what the graduate should know, understand and be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology for the listing and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order of the Minister of National Education no.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.



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

Standard C.1.1. The institutional framework is in place, and policies and procedures are applied for the internal assurance of the relevant quality.

In order to ensure the quality of the activities carried out within the doctoral schools, IOSUD-UVT periodically organizes the internal evaluation of the doctoral schools. The internal evaluation reports follow the evolution of the infrastructure necessary for the research activity, the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors, respectively the evolution of the procedures and norms based on which the activities are carried out within the doctoral schools.

**Performance indicator C.1.1.1.** The doctoral school to which the doctoral study domain belongs demonstrates that the internal evaluation and quality assurance process of the study domain is carried out constantly, according to a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, including an evaluation of the following mandatory criteria:

- a) the scientific work of doctoral advisors;
- b) the infrastructure and logistics needed for carrying out the research activity;
- c) the regulations and procedures based on which doctoral studies are organised;
- d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;
- e) the training program based on advanced higher education studies of doctoral students;
- f) social and academic support services (including for participation in various events, publishing papers, etc.) and counselling services available for the doctoral students.

IOSUD produces internal evaluation reports of its own activity and internal evaluation reports of doctoral schools and doctoral university study areas, based on OMEN no. 5403/1.11.2018 (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>). In order to optimize all the components of the doctoral activity, a series of audit and internal control procedures were started within the university. The Rector of the Western University of Timișoara, at the proposal of the CSUD Director, appointed a committee to audit the teaching activities carried out by doctoral students within the university's departments.

The scientific activity of doctoral supervisors periodically evaluated in accordance with the Methodology for the annual evaluation of individual professional results and performances obtained by teaching and research staff from UVT (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Appendix-4.-Performance-evaluation-methodology-didactic-framework-ed.-I.pdf>). In order to facilitate this reporting, a process was initiated to digitize the CNATDCU criteria verification sheets.



Doctoral students work in laboratories and research centers whose infrastructure and logistics are managed at the level of the relevant faculties.

The regulations and procedures based on which doctoral studies are organized are publicly available at <https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>. They are periodically updated at the level of IOSUD and within each SD.

The scientific and artistic activity of doctoral students is supervised by doctoral supervisors and guidance committees. The list of own works accompanies each doctoral thesis submitted for analysis.

At the UVT level, through the Department of Scientific Research and Artistic Creation, it maintains a record of UVT-affiliated publications, updated periodically.

With the signing of the Study Contract, doctoral students complete a Research Plan ([https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat-1 .pdf](https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat-1.pdf)) in which the topics and periods of support for progress reports are specified, the training program based on advanced university studies, the scientific research projects in which the doctoral students participate, the mobilities carried out, etc.

Starting from 2022, UVT adopted a Methodology regarding the access by doctoral students to institutional resources for professional training available at: [https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Anexa-7. -Methodology-access-institutional-resources-doctorates.pdf](https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Anexa-7.-Methodology-access-institutional-resources-doctorates.pdf).

Every year, an initiation session is organized for the doctoral students admitted in the first year, at the IOSUD UVT level, in which the main activities, opportunities, facilities are presented and a first community-type relationship is made between the doctoral students at the beginning of the doctoral internship and those in the final stages of their studies.

*Recommendations:* updating the regulations with the provisions of Law 199/2023

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance indicator\* C.1.1.2.** Mechanisms are implemented during the doctoral study program to enable identification of the doctoral students' needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.

IOSUD UVT has a questionnaire available on the [evaluation.uvt.ro](https://evaluation.uvt.ro) platform (<https://forms.gle/kvSxqnmEQzecXadA>) for the evaluation of teaching staff and courses within the advanced university training program. The authentication of doctoral students on the platform is done with the help of the @e-uvt.ro institutional account credentials.

*Recommendations:* consistent application of the questionnaire and implementation of the Action Plan.



**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

Within the IOSUD Western University of Timisoara there are strategies and policies to ensure the transparency of information and accessibility to learning resources.

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

Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and information of public interest is available for consultation on the university website (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>).

**Performance indicator C.2.1.1.** Subject to compliance with the data protection regulations in force, the IOSUD publishes the following types of information on the website of the higher education institution:

- a) the regulations of the doctoral school;
- b) the admission regulations;
- c) the doctoral study contract;
- d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;
- e) the content of the training programs 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 in the domain concerned, with basic information (year of enrolment; advisor);
- h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;
- i) links to the summaries of the doctoral theses to be presented publicly, as well as the day, time and place where they will be presented, at least 20 days before the presentation.

IOSUD-UVT publishes relevant information on the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies on its website. Thus, on the website you can find the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies, as well as a whole series of concrete information regarding enrollment in doctoral university studies, the conduct of doctoral studies/research, respectively the public defense of the doctoral thesis (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>).

The website contains information related to the Doctoral School of Biology regarding: study organization regulations, admission regulations, content of the study program, study contracts, information on doctoral supervisors.



*Recommendations:* Presentation of information on the website also in English, to be able to attract international students to doctoral studies.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

IOSUD UVT provides doctoral students with access to the resources necessary to carry out their doctoral studies. For this purpose, it has methodologies that regulate various aspects of these activities.

[Performance indicator C.2.2.1.](#) All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.

UVT is part of the Anelis+ consortium, which provides access to the leading scientific bibliography. The subscription covers the most important databases in various scientific fields.

After registration, doctoral students are assigned an institutional account with which they have both campus and mobile access to the databases provided by Anelis+.

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

[Performance indicator C.2.2.2.](#) Each doctoral student, upon request, has access to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

Based on their institutional account, doctoral students have access to the Turnitin plagiarism checking software. They can check their doctoral theses at any time during their writing, and they can also check the scientific articles they are going to publish.

The final verification of the doctoral thesis before its defense is done on Ithenticate, software for which doctoral students can receive access / become the holder of an account upon request, based on a request to the IT service and after verifying their doctoral status

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

[Performance indicator C.2.2.3.](#) All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain / domains within the doctoral school, according to a set of internal regulations.



The doctorate university study contracts (<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/doctorat/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>) stipulate the right of doctoral students to have access to the UVT libraries, respectively to the various laboratories of research, depending on the specific field. The annexes attached to the internal evaluation reports of the fields of doctoral university studies specify which specific laboratories are which, respectively, which is their specific material base.

Doctoral students, after prior training, have access to the laboratories independently and outside the normal eight-hour/day schedule. They have the obligation to record in the laboratory register the periods in which they used the equipment and the type of analyzes they carried out with their help.

*Recommendations:* There are no recommendations.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**



## SWOT analysis

<p><u>Strong points:</u></p> <p>The existence of a large number of graduates of bachelor's and master's studies in Biology at UVT who can apply for enrollment in doctoral studies.</p> <p>The existence of the initiation week for students, at the beginning of each academic year, during which they are introduced to the regulations, university facilities, teaching staff, etc.</p> <p>Accessibility to learning and research resources. Doctoral students have the opportunity to access representative databases for the field of Biology and to use the UVT research laboratories.</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <p>Lack of a research master's degree in Biology.</p>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <p>Strengthening collaboration with industry, medical and pharmaceutical stakeholders could provide additional financial support for conducting research activities and improving the quality of the doctoral study program.</p>	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <p>The existence of only three PhD supervisors in the field.</p>



## Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.1.</b> The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the doctoral school that the doctoral domain is a part of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the internal regulations of the doctoral school;</li> <li>b) 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 the CSD, and evidence that such elections were conducted;</li> <li>c) methodologies for organising and conducting doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies);</li> <li>d) existence of mechanisms for recognising the status of a doctoral advisor and the equivalence of a doctoral degree obtained abroad;</li> <li>e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), including proof of the regular frequency of convening their meetings;</li> <li>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</li> <li>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</li> </ul>	fulfilled	Uploading to the SD site and continuously updating all reference documents.
2.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.2.</b> The doctoral school's Regulations include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards concerning the aspects specified in art. 17, para. (5) of Government Decision no. 681/2011, as further amended and supplemented.</p>	fulfilled	No recommendations
3.	PI	<p><b>A.1.2.1.</b> The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	fulfilled	No recommendations
4.	PI	<p><b>A.1.2.2.</b> The existence and use of an appropriate software and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.</p>	fulfilled	No recommendations
5.	CPI	<p><b>A.2.1.1.</b> The venues and the material equipment available to the IOSUD/the doctoral school enable the research</p>	fulfilled	Continuation of the endowment and purchase of equipment, in accordance with the diversification of research directions



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.		
6.	CPI	<b>A.3.1.1.</b> Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors work within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	fulfilled	Encouraging young university teachers / researchers to take the qualification exam and join the Doctoral School of Biology
7.	PI *	<b>A.3.1.2.</b> At least 50% of the doctoral advisors in the doctoral domain under review are tenured professors within the IOSUD and have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period.	fulfilled	No recommendations
8.	PI	<b>A.3.1.3.</b> The study subjects in the education programme based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or associate professors / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.	fulfilled	Stimulating young teaching staff to promote to the positions of lecturer and university professor and to support the qualification in the field of Biology.
9.	CPI	<b>A.3.2.1.</b> At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for	fulfilled	Continue publication in journals with the highest possible impact factor, resulting in increased visibility



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organising committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
10.	PI *	<b>A.3.2.2.</b> At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.	fulfilled	No recommendations
11.	PI *	<b>B.1.2.1.</b> Admission in the doctoral study programmes is based on selection criteria including the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates; their interest for scientific or artistic/sports research; publications in the domain, and a proposal of a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is mandatory as part of the admission procedure.	fulfilled	No recommendations
12.	PI	<b>B.2.1.1.</b> The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant for the scientific research training of doctoral students, out of which at least one discipline focuses on the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing.	fulfilled	No recommendations
13.	PI	<b>B.2.1.2.</b> At least one discipline is dedicated to ethics and intellectual	fulfilled	Changing the name of the discipline in “Ethics of scientific research” or a similar name that does not



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		property in scientific research, or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.		contain the term "mentored".
14.	PI	<b>B.2.1.3.</b> The IOSUD has the mechanisms in place to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced higher education studies related to the evaluated domain addresses the "learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, and the responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	fulfilled	Revision of the number of hours of individual study for each discipline, so that a credit granted corresponds to 25 hours (assisted activities and individual study). Specifying the skills developed by the subjects in all the Subject Sheets.
15.	PI	<b>C.1.1.1.</b> The doctoral school to which the doctoral study domain belongs demonstrates that the internal evaluation and quality assurance process of the study domain is carried out constantly, according to a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, including an evaluation of the following mandatory criteria: a) the scientific work of doctoral advisors; b) the infrastructure and logistics needed for carrying out the research activity; c) the regulations and procedures based on which doctoral studies are organised; d) the scientific activity of doctoral students; e) the training program based on advanced higher education studies of doctoral students; f) social and academic support services (including for participation in various events, publishing papers, etc.) and counselling services available for the doctoral students.	fulfilled	Updating the regulations with the provisions of Law 199/2023.
16.	PI *	<b>C.1.1.2.</b> Mechanisms are implemented during the doctoral study program to enable identification of the doctoral students' needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.	fulfilled	Consistent application of the questionnaire and implementation of the Action Plan.
17.	CPI	<b>C.2.1.1.</b> Subject to compliance with the data protection regulations in force, the	fulfilled	Presentation of the information on the website also in English in order to attract international students



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>IOSUD publishes the following types of information on the website of the higher education institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the internal regulations of the doctoral school;</li> <li>b) the admission regulations;</li> <li>c) the doctoral study contract;</li> <li>d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</li> <li>e) the content of the training programs based on advanced academic studies;</li> <li>f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</li> <li>g) the list of doctoral students in the domain concerned, with basic information (year of enrolment; advisor);</li> <li>h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</li> <li>i) links to the summaries of the doctoral theses to be presented publicly, as well as the day, time and place where they will be presented, at least 20 days before the presentation.</li> </ul>		to study for a doctorate.
18.	PI	<b>C.2.2.1.</b> All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.	fulfilled	No recommendations
19.	PI	<b>C.2.2.2.</b> Each doctoral student, upon request, has access to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	fulfilled	No recommendations
20.	PI	<b>C.2.2.3.</b> All doctoral students have access to the scientific research laboratories or to other facilities depending on the specific domain / domains within the doctoral school, according to a set of internal regulations.	fulfilled	No recommendations



## Conclusions and general recommendations

For the Biology Field, there are 3 PhD supervisors with high qualifications and international research achievements, 3 of whom are tenured teaching staff (representing a percentage of 100%).

The Commission formulates the following recommendations:

- Continuation of the concerns in order to improve the internationalization process, by recruiting both foreign students and teaching staff from abroad for the Guidance Committees and for the Doctorate Theses Support Committees.
- Providing information on PhD studies in Biology in English to attract international students.
- Affiliation to the Doctoral School of Biology of new doctoral supervisors, holders or associates.
- Establishment of a research master in the field of Biology.

Prof. Dr. Roman VOLKOV

“Yuriy Fedkovych” Chernivtsi National University,  
Chernivtsi, Ukraine



Programul vizitei de evaluare a domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat BIOLOGIE  
a Universității de Vest din Timișoara

Interval orar hour	Activitate / <i>Activity</i>	Participanți / <i>Participants</i>	Observații/ Locație <i>Observations/ Location</i>
Miercuri / <i>Wednesday</i> , 02.08.2023			
13:00- 13:30	Întâlnire organizatorică a comisiei de experți evaluatori  <i>Organizational meeting of the panel evaluators</i>	- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / ARACIS panel members	<i>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</i>
13:30- 14:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții conducerii instituției evaluate și ai CSUD  <i>Panel evaluators` meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)</i>	- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / ARACIS panel members  - Reprezentanți ai conducerii universității / <i>Representatives of the University's management</i>  - Reprezentanți ai CSUD și ai școlii doctorale / <i>Representatives of the CSUD and of the Doctoral School</i>  - Persoana de contact / <i>The contact person</i>	<i>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</i>
14:00- 15:00	Pauză de prânz / Lunch break		



Interval orar hour	Activitate / <i>Activity</i>	Participanți / <i>Participants</i>	Observații/ Locație <i>Observations/ Location</i>
15:00-16:00	<p>Întâlnirea comisiei de experți evaluatori cu responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat și cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă</p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
16:00-18:00	<p>Vizitarea bazei materiale didactice și de cercetare</p> <p><i>Visiting the educational and research infrastructure</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p>Vizitarea laboratoarelor din clădirea situată în strada Pestalozzi nr.16 și clădirea LCAM din strada Oituz nr.4.</p>
<b>Joi / <i>Thursday</i>, 03.08.2023</b>			
9:00-9:30	<p>Întâlnire tehnică a comisiei de evaluare</p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` technical meeting</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
9:30-10:00	<p>Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experți evaluatori cu responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat</p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
10.00-	<p>Întâlnirea echipei de evaluare cu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reprezentanți din Senatul universitar (inclusiv studenți); /</li> </ul>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori</p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din</p>



Interval orar hour	Activitate / <i>Activity</i>	Participanți / <i>Participants</i>	Observații/ Locație <i>Observations/ Location</i>
11.00	<p><i>representatives from the University Senate (including students);</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>reprezentanții organizației / organizațiilor studentești; / representatives of the student organization / organizations;</i></li> </ul>	<p>ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p>Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
11:00 - 12:00	<p><b>Întâlnirea echipei de evaluare cu membrii Comisiei pentru Evaluarea și Asigurarea Calității (CEAC) / Departamentul de asigurare a calității</b></p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members / Quality Assurance Department</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
12:00- 13:00	<p><b>Întâlnirea echipei de evaluare cu membrii Comisiei de Etică a instituției de învățământ superior</b></p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Membrii Comisiei de Etică / <i>Ethics Commission members</i></p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
13:00- 14:00	<p>Pauză de prânz / <i>Lunch break</i></p>		
14:00- 15:00	<p><b>Întâlnirea echipei de evaluare cu personalul didactic aferent domeniului evaluat</b></p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain</i></p>	<p>- Comisia de evaluare ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Cadre didactice care au calitatea de conducător de doctorat / <i>Doctoral coordinators</i></p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>
15:00- 16:00	<p><b>Întâlnirea echipei de evaluare cu directorii/ responsabilii centrelor/ laboratoarelor de cercetare aferente domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat</b></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>-Directorii centrelor /</p>	<p>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</p>





Interval orar hour	Activitate / <i>Activity</i>	Participanți / <i>Participants</i>	Observații/ Locație <i>Observations/ Location</i>
	<i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the Directors/ persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within the doctoral study domain</i>	laboratoarelor de cercetare / <i>Directors of research centers/laboratories</i>	
16:00-18:00	<p>Derularea activităților specifice comisiei de experți evaluatori și efectuarea de consemnări în proiectul raportului de evaluare externă.</p> <p><i>Carrying out the specific activities of the panel evaluators and making entries in the draft of the external evaluation report.</i></p> <p>Dacă se consideră necesare, pot avea loc întâlniri suplimentare, spre exemplu cu / <i>If deemed necessary, additional meetings may be held, for example with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reprezentanți din Senatul universitar (inclusiv studenți); / <i>representatives from the University Senate (including students);</i></li> <li>• reprezentanții organizației / organizațiilor studențești; / <i>representatives of the student organization / organizations;</i></li> <li>• reprezentanți ai Centrului de Consiliere și Orientare în Carieră (CCOC); / <i>representatives of the Career Counseling and Guidance Center (CCOC);</i></li> <li>• reprezentanți ai bibliotecii instituției de învățământ superior; / <i>representatives of the library of the higher education institution;</i></li> <li>• reprezentanți ai centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare din domeniul școlii / școlilor doctorale sau din domeniul evaluat; / <i>representatives of research centers / laboratories in the field of the doctoral school / schools or in the evaluated field;</i></li> </ul>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.



Interval orar hour	Activitate / <i>Activity</i>	Participanți / <i>Participants</i>	Observații/ Locație <i>Observations/ Location</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reprezentanți ai direcției cămine-cantine (sau echivalentă) / <i>representatives of the dormitory-canteen department (or equivalent).</i></li> </ul>		
Vineri / <i>Friday</i> , 04.08.2023			
09:00-  10:00	<p><b>Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experți evaluatori cu responsabilul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat</b></p> <p><i>Panel evaluators` meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review</i></p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p><i>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</i></p>
10:00 - 12:00	<p>Derularea activității comisiei de experți evaluatori (inclusiv continuarea anumitor activități începute/stabilite în ziua precedentă, analiza documentelor suplimentare puse la dispoziție de reprezentanții instituției supuse evaluării, efectuarea de consemnări în proiectul raportului de evaluare externă sau derularea unor întâlniri cu reprezentanți ai instituției supuse evaluării). / <i>Carrying out the work of the panel evaluators (including the continuation of certain activities started / established in the previous day, analysis of additional documents provided by the representatives of the institution under evaluation, making notes in the draft external evaluation report or holding meetings with representatives of the institution under evaluation) .</i></p> <p>Discuții referitoare la elaborarea</p>	<p>- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS' panel members</i></p> <p>- Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i></p>	<p><i>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</i></p>



Interval orar hour	Activitate / <i>Activity</i>	Participanți / <i>Participants</i>	Observații/ Locație <i>Observations/ Location</i>
	raportului de evaluare externă al comisiei de experți evaluatori. / <i>Discussions on the preparation of the external evaluation report of the panel evaluators.</i>		
12:00-13:00	Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții instituției evaluate pentru comunicarea concluziilor procesului de evaluare  <i>Panel evaluators` meeting with representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process.</i>	- Membrii comisiei de experți evaluatori ARACIS / <i>ARACIS panel members</i>  - Reprezentanți ai instituției evaluate / <i>University's representatives</i>	<i>Sala 180, sediul central al Universității de Vest din Timișoara, bd. Vasile Pârvan nr.4.</i>

\* Toate activitățile incluse în structura programului vizitei comisiei de evaluare sunt obligatorii, însă ordinea și durata alocată acestora sunt stabilite de către comisie în funcție de specificul evaluării. / \* All activities included in the structure of the panel evaluators visit program are mandatory, but the order and duration allocated to them are established by the commission according to the specifics of the evaluation.

Images taken during the visit to  
Advanced Environmental Research Laboratory



Electroanalytical Lab



Sterilization Facility



Cultivator



Chromatography Lab



## Construction of new building of Interdisciplinary Research Center





## The Faculty of Biology, Chemistry, and Geography







Internship rooms