



Annex No. 3

Nr Inregistrare: 3983/19.06.2023

*The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain
Architecture - Politehnica University Timisoara | Timisoara | Romania*

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I. Introduction¹

Higher education institution: Politehnica University Timișoara

Doctoral School: Doctoral School of Engineering Studies

Core field: Humanities and Arts

Field of evaluated doctoral studies: Architecture

The objective of the external evaluation: Establishment of a new field of doctoral studies

Visit period: 06-08 June 2023

Composition of the ARACIS commission that performs the evaluation:

1. Prof. Dr. Iuliana CIOTOIU - Coordinator
2. Prof. Dr. Alexandru BOUREANU - member
3. Prof. Dr. Arta BASHA-JAKUPI - member
4. Stud. Andrei LACRARU – student member

Representatives of the field of doctoral studies evaluated:

1. Prof. univ. Dr. arch. Ileana KISILEWICZ – responsible person
2. Sc.I.dr.arch. Yasmina ONESCU - contact person
3. Sc.I.dr.arch. Cristina POVIAN - documentation team member

Within the IOSUD-UPT, following the Institutional Regulation for the organization and conduct of university doctoral studies in the Politehnica University of Timișoara (RIODSUD-UPT), developed according to Law 1/2011 and GD 681/2011, the activity of university doctoral studies is carried out within a single doctoral school, the Doctoral School of Engineering Studies, established with the approval of RIODSUD-UPT in the UPT Senate in 2011 (RIODSUD-UPT is Annex 10 to the UPT Charter). The Doctoral School of Engineering Studies seat is in the UPT Rectorate building, P-ța—Victoriei no. 2, Timișoara, floor 1, room 103 A, B, C.

The IOSUD-UPT option of establishing and operationalizing a single doctoral school proved very beneficial for developing doctoral university study programs, consistent with the mission and specifics of the Timișoara Polytechnic University. Thus, a unitary approach to developing doctoral university study programs is possible, with a beneficial impact on the observance of quality standards for all doctoral fields accredited in IOSUD-UPT. For example, the assumption in IOSUD-UPT of a minimum performance criterion for the public support of doctoral theses, according to art. 83 of RIODSUD-UPT, of publication (or proof of acceptance for publication) of at least two scientific works indexed Web of Science (ISI circuit) in which the doctoral student has the quality of author with direct affiliation to the Politehnica University of

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



Timișoara. This obligation of the doctoral student is also included in the doctoral studies contract starting in 2011.

In IOSUD-UPT, CSUD is led by a director, appointed following the public competition organized by UPT, following the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of elections for the organizational structures and management functions of doctoral university studies at the level of the institution organizing studies university doctorate "Politehnica" the University of Timișoara, no. 6937 of 22.05.2012, approved by UPT Senate Decision no. 13 of 10.05.2012.

Following the competition organized in 2020, according to a decision no. 1840/112/C of 20.10.2020 of the Rector of UPT, the Director of CSUD was appointed Prof. Dr Eng. Radu-Emil PRECUP for a 4-year mandate.

CSUD for a 4-year mandate:

- o Prof. Dr. Eng. Stefan-Gheorghe Preitl
- o Prof. Dr. Eng. Anca Draghici
- o Prof. Dr. Eng. Ion-Gheorghe Boldea
- o Prof. Dr. Eng. Aldo de Sabata
- o Prof. Dr Eng. Francis Peter
- o CS.dr.eng. Sebastian Muntean
- o Dr. Eng. Ion Panfilii

CȘD for a 5-year mandate:

- o Prof. Dr. Eng. Adina-Georgeta Negrea
- o Prof. Dr. Eng. Flora Dinu
- o Dr. Eng. Dominiq Ludovic Alexander Jakab

Currently, the technical secretariat of the Doctoral School of Engineering Studies comprises three people: Mrs Eng. Monica JURJIU (Admission, study contracts, current problems of doctoral students and supervisors, creation of the doctoral student's file), Mrs Eng. Steliana CUCU (support of doctoral theses and submission of doctoral files to CNATDCU in the RMU/REI system of the MEC, development of the advanced university training program) and Mrs CS II Dr Nicoleta NEMEȘ (activities regarding reporting information to the MEC, INS ANS, accreditation).

The Doctoral School of Engineering Studies of IOSUD-UPT manages 13 fields of university doctoral studies, according to HG 778/2015, HG 376/2016, HG 140/2017 and HG 158/2018, HG 326/2019, HG. 299/2020, HG 403/2021, HG 433/2022. Through OME 5981/2021, it was approved to maintain the accreditation of the doctoral university studies fields organized in the Doctoral School of Engineering Studies of IOSUD-UPT. These doctoral fields are presented in the table below, together with the CNATDCU specialist commissions to which they are assigned.

D#	The field of doctoral studies in IOSUD-UPT	CNATDCU specialized commission
D01	Chemistry*	4. Chemistry
D02	Civil Engineering and Installations	6. Civil Engineering and Management



D03	Materials engineering	7. Materials engineering
D04	Chemical engineering	8. Chemical engineering, medical engineering, materials science and nanomaterials
D05	Electrical engineering	9. Electrical engineering
D06	Energy Engineering	10. Energy engineering
D07	Electronics Engineering, Telecommunications and Information Technology	11. Electronics, telecommunications and nanotechnology
D08	Computers and information technology	15. Computers, information technology and systems engineering
D09	Systems engineering	
D10	Industrial engineering	16. Industrial engineering and management
D11	Engineering and management	
D12	Mechanical engineering	17. Mechanical, mechatronics and robotics engineering and genetic and armaments engineering
D13	Architecture*	33. Architecture and urban planning

*in the process of accreditation

The Doctoral School of Engineering Studies has a body of doctoral supervisors consisting of

- o 157 doctoral supervisors affiliated with IOSUD-UPT at the date of this self-evaluation report, of which
- o 80 full-time doctoral supervisors (teaching staff with an indefinite employment contract in IOSUD-UPT), 46 associate doctoral supervisors (with a fixed-term employment contract for guiding doctoral students during the internship). A small part of the associated doctoral supervisors does not have a contract with IOSUD-UPT at the date of this report because they are not currently supervising doctoral students in the internship but are professionally active.
- o 71 titular doctoral supervisors who obtained the qualification certificate.

The table below shows the distribution of doctoral supervisors affiliated with IOSUD-UPT at this self-evaluation report's date for doctoral studies in Architecture.

D#	The field of doctoral studies in IOSUD-UPT	PhD supervisors affiliated with the Doctoral School of Engineering Studies from IOSUD-UPT.					
		Total	Of which women	Holders in UPT	Of which women	Qualification certificate	Of which women
D13	Architecture	3	3	3	3	3	3

Three doctoral supervisors affiliated with IOSUD UPT are working within the field of Architecture. Among them, 3 are holders of IOSUD UPT (Annex_A.3.1.2. from the self-evaluation form of the doctoral field).

No. Crt.	empowerment	PhD supervisor	Ministerial order by which they have conferred the title of doctoral supervisor	STATUS
1	authorized	KISILEWICZ ILEANA MARIA	3807/01.04.2019	RTD
2	authorized	HONORED YASMINA	5746/29.09.2022	RTD
3	authorized	POVIAN CRISTINA MARIA	4439/08.08.2022	RTD

CDT - titular doctoral supervisor



The research infrastructure of UPT is made available to doctoral students according to the institutional obligation assumed by the doctoral university studies contract (Art 6B). The policy of IOSUD-UPT is to immerse doctoral students in research groups and collectives, of which the doctoral supervisor is a part and/or in which the members of the guidance committee are active, to ensure a high rate of assimilation of knowledge, techniques and experimental methods, numerical simulation techniques, and quick familiarization with the research infrastructure to be used in the doctoral research program.

In the Politehnica University of Timișoara, the following research centres and institutes are established and internally accredited, http://www.upt.ro/Upt-Timisoara_centre-si-institute-de-cercetare-_153_ro.html :

- o Research Institute for Renewable Energies
- o Complex Fluid Systems Engineering Research Center
- o Research Center for Mechanics of Materials and Construction Safety
- o Automated Systems Engineering Research Center
- o Center for Research in Intelligent Control of Energy Conversion and Storage
- o Research Center for Inorganic Materials and Alternative Energies
- o Center for Research in Chemistry and Engineering of Macromolecular and Natural Organic Compounds
- o Research Center for the Analysis and Optimization of Power Systems Regimes
- o Computer and Information Technology Research Center
- o Research Center for Advanced Materials Processing and Characterization
- o Advanced Materials and Technologies Research Center
- o Mechatronics and Robotics Research Center
- o Research Center for Machinery and Thermal Equipment, Transport and Pollution
- o Center for Research in Construction Facilities
- o Medical Engineering Research Center
- o Center for Research in Advanced Methods for the Study of Physical Phenomena
- o Multimedia Research Center
- o Research Center for Urban Planning https://www.arh.upt.ro/?page_id=735
- o Center for Research in Urban Planning and Architecture https://www.arh.upt.ro/?page_id=3546
- o Building Rehabilitation Research Center
- o Center for Research in Intelligent Electronic Systems
- o Center for Research in Intelligent Signal Processing
- o Center for Research in Engineering and Management
- o Center for Research in Environmental Science and Engineering
- o Hydro technics and Environmental Protection Research Center
- o Integrated Engineering Research Center
- o Infrastructure Research Center for Construction and Transport

The research infrastructure of IOSUD-UPT is presented (equipment and research services offered) in the IT platform "Engage in the Romanian Research Infrastructures - ERRIS" at the link <https://erris.gov.ro/UNIVERSITATEA-POLITEHNICA-TI>. The primary research equipment and services are shown for each research centre listed above.

The development of UPT's research infrastructure is carried out through research and development contracts carried out in the university, obtained through national and international competitions, but also



through UPT's internal research grants, organized in the last years of 2017, 2018 and 2019, financed from revenues owned by UPT and intended for young researchers.

The main achievements in the activity of scientific research and technological development in UPT have been summarized annually in the "Research Annual Report - the Politehnica University of Timișoara", reports publicly available since 2012 at the link http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_rapoarte-decercetare_170_ro.html.

In Architecture, the research infrastructure can be consulted at: <https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000R-0036>. At the level of the field of university doctoral studies, the main objective of the quality system for doctoral study programs is the conduct of doctoral studies in such a way as to record a high success rate in obtaining the title of doctor, the doctor's diploma certifying the training of researchers scientists capable of independently starting research activities.

The structure of the quality management system is presented on the UPT website (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_asigurarea-calitatii-in-upt_12_ro.html). It is described in the Quality Manual (http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2017-2018/calitate/180730_upt_Manualul_Calitatii.pdf), quality assurance as part of the quality management system being realized in a coherent whole.

University doctorate studies are an essential component of the educational process in UPT. In this context, the regulation of the activities associated with doctoral university studies is carried out by: " The institutional regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in the "Politehnica" University of Timișoara - annexe 10 to the UPT Charter (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_reglementari-referitoare-la-ciclul-de-doctorat_271_ro.html), general quality system documents (Strategic Plans, Quality Manual) and specific quality assurance documents (procedures and work instructions). All specific stages of the doctoral course are carefully documented to be monitored and, if necessary, corrected in time. The UPT website related to doctoral university studies (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_studii-universitare-de-doctorat_266_ro.html) contains clear and helpful information for the doctoral student intended to inform him correctly and integrate him into the university community, including information regarding the documents that must be considered (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_documentele-doctoranzilor-inmatriculati-incepand-cu-anul-201_286_ro.html).

The quality assurance policies are stated in the rector's declaration (http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2014-2015/calitate/Declar_Rector_2014.pdf) and the accompanying documents (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_asigurarea-qualities-in-upt_12_ro.html). They are detailed in the strategic plan of UPT (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_planuri-strategice_59_ro.html) and separate chapter (4.1.3. Doctoral university studies) in the operational plans (http://upt.ro/img/files/po/2019/1_PO-UPT_2019.pdf).

To fulfil the mission and define the strategy, UPT's Board of Directors of UPT is advised by a Steering Committee of UPT comprised of 17 people, an advisory, autonomous and independent body of UPT.

The regulations and procedures of the UPT, for example, the work instruction regarding the defence of the doctoral thesis (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_studii-universitare-de-doctorat_266_ro.html) and the documentation of participation in external scientific events (see the sections http://www.upt.ro/international/Mobilitati-Si-Cooperari-Internationale_Programul-de-finantare-LSI_27_ro.html and, in general, the headings from the "Forms and Regulations" section on the page of the International Relations Department of UPT (http://www.upt.ro/international/Departamentul_Mobilitati_Si_Cooperari_Internationale_ro.html) contain explicit provisions that attest that the activity of the staff interacting with the UPT Doctoral School is part



of a quality assurance system. Doctoral students have a representative in the Committee of Ethics of the UPT. The steering committee, which represents the interest of employers in the training of highly qualified human resources, including through doctoral studies, contributes to the identification of research topics to be engaged through doctoral research to their proper development.

In UPT, the training of human resources for research through university doctoral studies has always been viewed in correlation with the research requirements of various companies and institutions, the solution of their requests presupposing a safe course of doctoral research, implicitly a quality assurance system.

The UPT rector coordinates the UPT quality assurance system through the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission (CEAC –UPT) and the General Directorate of Quality Assurance (DGAC). The interaction between the Board of Directors of UPT and the DGAC, a direction with an executive role in ensuring the operation of the quality management system in UPT, is permanent and aims to involve the quality system in all primary and support processes in UPT. In this context, DGAC cooperates directly with all university entities, departments, and departments in the UPT Rectorate, including the UPT Doctoral School. The board of directors uses the monitoring reports of CEAC and DGAC, initiates with DGAC new procedures and work instructions, and operates based on the analysis reports submitted by DGAC of the self-evaluation reports of programs and fields of study.

The UPT website has a separate section on quality assurance (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_asigurarea-calitatii-in-upt_12_ro.html). It contains information about the documents of the quality system, its organization, and references to national and international references in the field of quality assurance in university education. DGAC is tasked with verifying and posting on the UPT website the information from most of the headings that appear on the UPT page (<http://www.upt.ro/>). Among the headings of interest for internal and external beneficiaries are those related to the organization of the teaching process (see the "study programs" page) and the educational and research offer of UPT (see the "research" page).

Within the UPT, various activities are mainly regulated by regulations. They cover the main processes in the university. Operating procedures and work instructions regulate essential or critical aspects of processes. The DGAC and the Doctoral School collaborate in the development of procedures directly related to the basic activities of doctoral students and provide support for the documentation of supporting processes that also support the activity of doctoral students (information through the UPT website, administrative activities and activities related to the services offered to students within the university). The efficiency of the quality system documents is revealed by the results obtained by UPT, particularly by the Doctoral School of UPT.

Annually CEAC organized audits on topics related to UPT's conditions available to students (http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_asigurarea-calitatii-in-upt_12_ro.html). The results of the audits are sent, together with proposals for corrective measures, to the rector of the UPT. From the year 2018, the evaluation of teaching staff by the student is done online. Procedures were developed for the internal self-evaluation given the external evaluation by ARACIS.



II. Methods used

In the external evaluation of the Faculty of Doctoral Studies in Architecture within IOSUD-UPT, the ARACIS evaluation commission analyzed the internal evaluation report prepared, accompanied by several 88 annexes containing documents attesting to the information presented in the report. The file, submitted to ARACIS, was consulted before the start of the visit. The internal evaluation report (REI) is drawn up according to the ARACIS guide based on criteria, standards and indicators. It contains references to the annexes corresponding to the information entered in the document. Following this stage, four additional annexes were requested:

- S.1. – Affiliation decision within IOSUD-UPT no. 582/112/C of 24.04.2019
- S.2. – Affiliation decision within IOSUD-UPT no. 2241/112/C of 08.12.2022
- S.3. – Affiliation decision within IOSUD-UPT no. 2242/112/C of 08.12.2022
- S.4. – Decision for the person in charge of the PhD field of Architecture

The visit to IOSUD-UPT was carried out between 06.06.2023-06.08.2023 by the evaluator Prof. Dr Iuliana CIOTOIU, Prof. Dr Alexandru BOUREANU, Prof. Dr Arta BASHA-JAKUPI, respectively student Andrei LĂCRARU, during which were visited locations and spaces intended for activities related to the field of Architecture in the buildings in the inheritance of the institution with legal headquarters in Piața Victoriei no. 2, Timisoara. During the evaluation, meetings and discussions were organized in which all members of the evaluation team, both of IOSUD and the field, participated; meetings were organized according to the following schedule:

- Preliminary organizational meeting for the preparation and harmonization of the evaluation stages, at field level of doctorate and IOSUD on Tuesday, 06.06.2023, between 9.00 and 09.30, all members of the ARACIS evaluation expert commission.

- The meeting of the evaluation expert commission with the representatives of the management of the evaluated institution and the CSUD, Tuesday, 06.06.2023, time interval 10.00-11.00, the members of the ARACIS evaluation expert commission, representatives of the university management and representatives of the CSUD and the doctoral school.

- The meeting of the evaluation expert commission with the person in charge of the evaluated doctoral university studies field and the team that produced the internal evaluation report, Tuesday, 06.06.2023, time interval 11.00 – 13.00, the members of the ARACIS evaluation expert commission and representatives of the evaluated institution.

- Meeting of the evaluation team with the members of the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC) / Quality Assurance Department, Tuesday, 06.06.2023, time interval 14.00-15.00, the members of the commission of ARACIS evaluators and representatives of the evaluated institution. CEAC members participated along with the members of the ARACIS evaluation team.

- Meeting of the evaluation team with the members of the Ethics Commission of the higher education institution, Tuesday, 06.06.2023, time slot 15.00-16.00, the members of the commission of ARACIS evaluators and representatives of the evaluated institution. Along with the ARACIS evaluation team members, the ethics commission members participated.



- Visiting the didactic and research material base, Tuesday, 06.06.2023, time interval 16.00-17.00, members of the commission of ARACIS evaluators and representatives of the evaluated institution.
- Technical meeting of the evaluation commission, Wednesday, 07.06.2023, time interval 09.00-09.30, members of the commission of ARACIS evaluation experts.
- The meeting of the evaluation expert committee with the person in charge of the evaluated doctoral university studies field, Wednesday, 07.06.2023, time interval 09.30 – 10.00, the members of the ARACIS evaluation expert committee and representatives of the evaluated institution.
- The meeting of the evaluation team with the teaching staff related to the evaluated field, Wednesday, 07.06.2023, time interval 10.00 - 11.00, the ARACIS evaluation committee and the teaching staff who have the quality of doctoral supervisor.
- Meeting of the evaluation team with the members of the Doctoral School Council, within which the evaluated field will operate, on Wednesday, 07.06.2023, time interval 11.00 – 12.00, the members of the ARACIS evaluation expert committee and the CSD members.
- Meeting of the evaluation team with the directors/responsible of the research centres/laboratories related to the field of doctoral university studies, Wednesday, 07.06.2023, time interval 12.00 – 13.00, the ARACIS evaluation committee and the directors of the research centres/laboratories.
- Carrying out the specific activities of the expert evaluator commission and making entries in the draft external evaluation report, Wednesday, 07.06.2023, time interval 14.00 – 18.00, members of the ARACIS expert evaluator commission.
- The meeting of the evaluation expert committee with the person in charge of the field of evaluated doctoral university studies, Thursday, 08.06.2023, time interval 09.00 – 10.00, the members of the ARACIS evaluation expert committee and representatives of the evaluated institution.
- Activities of the evaluation expert commission, Thursday, 08.06.2023, time interval 10.00-12.00, members of the ARACIS evaluation expert commission and representatives of the evaluated institution.
- The meeting of the evaluation expert commission with the representatives of the evaluated institution to communicate the conclusions of the evaluation process, Thursday, 06.08.2023, time interval 12.00 – 13.00, the members of the ARACIS evaluation expert commission and representatives of the evaluated institution.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

IOSUD-UPT manages all areas of doctoral university studies; a unified approach to the development of doctoral university study programs was possible, constituting a measure of continuous improvement of the quality of doctoral study programs, with a beneficial impact on the observance of quality standards for all doctoral fields accredited in IOSUD-UPT.

According to the regulations valid for all fields in which doctoral studies are organized, the public support of doctoral theses (art. 83 of RIODSUD-UPT) is conditional on the publication (or proof of acceptance for publication) of at least two scientific works indexed in the Web of Science (ISI circuit) in which the doctoral student has the quality of author with direct affiliation to the Politehnica University of Timișoara, as a first measure to improve the quality of doctoral university studies conducted in IOSUD - UPT.

As the history of the IOSUD-UPT Doctoral School, all doctoral theses developed in IOSUD-UPT have been validated by CNATDCU specialized commissions, confirming the doctorate title.



Considering the analysis of the program's results carried out until 2020 and identifying a series of changes necessary to increase scientific production and its quality, the Board of Directors decided to continue the funding program through HCA no. 14 / 02.02.2021. The conditions for running these programs and granting financing are specified at: http://www.upt.ro/international/Mobilitati-Si-Cooperari-Internationale_Programul-de-finantare-ISI_27_ro.html. All the work procedures related to these programs are described:

- o Work procedure regarding obtaining a support grant for participating in Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics (ISI) indexable scientific events of university assistants and doctoral students.
- o Work procedure for obtaining grant support for publishing papers in journals indexed in Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics (ISI) with impact factor.
- o Application for type 1 support grant - support grant for participating in scientific events indexable in Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics (ISI).
- o Request for cancellation of grant type 1 – support grant for participation in scientific events indexable in Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics (ISI).
- o Application for support grant type 2 - to publish a work in ISI-rated journals with an impact factor, support grant type 3 - for research and support grant type 4 - additional incentive.
- o Request regarding the return of part of the support grant to the virtual account.
- o Request regarding the cancellation of the approval/confirmation of support grant type 2 - to publish a work in journals indexed in ISI with an impact factor, support grant type 3 - for research and support grant type 4 - additional incentive.

In this context, of the ISI works published by the doctoral students, after the completion of the internship of the university doctoral studies, the doctoral students can benefit, for one semester of extension, from a scholarship from UPT's income. These doctoral grants, aimed at the definition and public support of doctoral theses, are approved by the HCA at the end of each academic year, following requests for the extension of doctoral university studies developed by the doctoral supervisors and approved by the Director of the Doctoral School. The data are public at www.upt.ro.

To continuously improve the quality of doctoral programs, UPT acquired 2020 a volume license for MATLAB - Matlab Campus-Wide License. It is a development environment produced by the MathWorks company, used for designing algorithms, statistical analysis, numerical calculation, and creating interfaces. The software package contains over 100 additional components, including the Simulink graphical environment, which allows modelling, simulation and testing of complex systems. The purchased license provides access to the latest software versions and covers unlimited users and workstations. Thus, MathWorks products can be used by UPT staff and doctoral students in the teaching and research process and can be installed on both UPT and personal computer equipment.

Another measure to continuously improve the quality of doctoral study programs was to grant financial support to newly admitted doctoral students who did not obtain a budgeted place with a MEN scholarship after the admission interview. Starting with the 2018/2019 academic year, UPT initiated granting scholarships from UPT's revenues for 800 lei/month. For each field of university doctoral studies, these are granted in the order of averages obtained at the admission interview, according to the procedure developed by the CSUD.

When a doctoral student is admitted to budgeted places without a scholarship, whose average is identical to the average of the last doctoral student who obtained a MEN budgeted place, the scholarship from UPT's income has the value of 1500 lei/month. Scholarships from UPT's income are granted for the entire internship period of doctoral university studies.



Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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

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

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their Application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:

- (a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;*
- (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 CSD and the evidence of their conduct;*
- (c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);*
- (d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;*
- (e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;*
- (f) the contract for doctoral studies;*
- (g) internal procedures for analyzing and approving proposals for doctoral program training based on advanced academic studies.*

The Doctoral School is dedicated to ensuring a strong alignment between the training programs based on advanced university studies and the research topics proposed by the doctoral supervisors. This collaboration involves IOSUD-UPT, doctoral supervisors, and doctoral students through the doctoral university study contracts.

The training program, rooted in advanced university studies, is tailored to each doctoral student's needs. After admission to the doctoral university studies, the doctoral supervisor develops an Individual Training Plan based on advanced university studies (refer to Annex 1 of the doctoral university studies contract). This plan is created exclusively and independently by the doctoral supervisor for each student, considering their specific research area and objectives.

To maintain consistency and quality, the Doctoral School follows the IOSUD-UPT Procedure for analyzing and approving proposals related to the training program based on advanced university studies (refer to Annex_A.1.1.1.g-1). The decision to approve individual plans for the current academic year is made by the Doctoral School Council, under the Director of the Faculty of Education (refer to Annex_A.1.1.1.g-2).

Through this meticulous process, doctoral students receive tailored and comprehensive training that aligns with their research interests and goals.

***Recommendations:** For practical analysis and review of doctoral study programs, it is crucial to have well-defined and efficient internal procedures in place. One such mechanism is the creation of Internal Annual Reports, which document the development of doctoral study programs throughout the*



year. These reports include valuable input from internal and external stakeholders through annual surveys. By assessing the achievements made, these reports enable the identification of areas for improvement, setting new goals, and implementing necessary alterations to the revised doctoral program.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Following Article 17, paragraph 5 of GD 681/2011, The Regulation of the individual doctoral school within IOSUD-UPT (Annex_A.1.1.1.a.), there are mandatory criteria, procedures, and standards established for the following aspects:

- a) Acceptance of new members as doctoral supervisors and regulations outlining the process for withdrawing a doctoral supervisor from the doctoral school membership (Article 16, 17).*
- b) Decision mechanisms concerning the training program's suitability, structure, and content based on advanced university studies (Articles 55-67).*
- c) Procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor for a specific doctoral student and mechanisms for mediating conflicts (Articles 15, 25).*
- d) Conditions under which the doctoral program can be interrupted (Articles 47, 48).*
- e) Measures to prevent fraud in scientific research, including addressing plagiarism issues (Articles 77, 79, 85).*
- f) Ensuring access to research resources (Articles 68-72).*
- g) Attendance obligations of doctoral students (Articles 41, 53).*

These regulations and standards ensure the doctoral school's smooth functioning and quality assurance within IOSUD-UPT. They provide clear guidelines and processes that contribute to the integrity and excellence of the doctoral education system. By adhering to these established criteria, procedures, and standards, the doctoral school fosters an environment of accountability, fairness, and continuous improvement, ultimately supporting its students' academic and research growth.

Recommendations Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.2. The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary for the doctoral studies' mission.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic backgrounds.

The computer system used within IOSUD-UPT for the record of doctoral students and their academic courses includes the following components:

- 1. ENROLL admission platform: This platform manages information related to student admissions, monitors the activity of doctoral students, and establishes electronic doctoral files. It has been*



expanded to cover doctoral studies and is accessible at <http://admitere.upt.ro/phd/> since the academic year 2017/2018.

2. Entire admission file submission on ENROLL platform: Starting from the 2020/2021 university year, IOSUD-UPT allows students to create and submit their entire admission file through the ENROLL platform.
3. Instructions for completing the admission file: Detailed instructions for completing the admission file in the ENROLL PhD platform can be found in Annex_A.1.2.1-1, which is publicly available at http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/Admitere/Doctorat/Admitere%20PHD_2022_Instructiuni_enroll.pdf.
4. Registration form for doctoral university studies: The registration form includes personal data, information on the chosen PhD options, PhD field, financing options, PhD supervisor selection, document uploading, and completion of registration.
5. Use of ENROLL platform for doctoral study contracts: Since 2017, the ENROLL platform has been utilized to generate doctoral study contracts for admitted doctoral students and to generate meta-data for inclusion in the Unified Matriculation Register (RMU). The platform is expected to be further extended to generate all documents included in the PhD student's file.
6. ACCES database: The ACCES database, named "Record of Doctoral students enrolled in UPT," is designed to keep track of enrolled doctoral students at UPT and monitor their academic progress. It allows for various queries and data extractions for statistical purposes, including general/personal data for each enrolled student, the situation of enrolled and expelled doctoral students per field/faculty/supervisor, information on completed doctoral theses, internship interruptions, defended theses, scholarship statuses, fee-paying students, and observations regarding internships (interruptions, expulsions, extensions).

Additionally, the academic course within the doctoral program is facilitated through the system, tracking the following information:

- Subjects in the advanced university training program and their respective holders.
- Submission dates and qualifications awarded for each advanced university training program subject.
- Research project titles.
- Research reports 1 and 2, along with supporting data.
- Composition of the guidance committee.
- Title of the doctoral thesis.
- Composition of the doctoral committee.
- Date of thesis defence and the qualification awarded.
- Ministerial order number conferring the doctorate title and its date.
- Doctor's degree number and date of issue.

The computer system and databases provide comprehensive record-keeping and monitoring capabilities, ensuring efficient management of doctoral student information and facilitating the educational process within the doctoral program at IOSUD-UPT.

Recommendations: Not Applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.



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

IOSUD-UPT has implemented a rigorous process to verify the percentage of similarity in doctoral theses developed since 2016. This verification is conducted using computer programs approved by MENCS (Ministry of Education, National Council of Scientific Research) per OM 3485/2016. The following computer programs have been utilized during different periods:

- 1. Plagiat.pl: This program was used through the doct.edu.ro/doct IT platform of the Ministry of Education between June 2016 and July 2017 for similarity checks.*
- 2. SemPlag: Between August 2017 and September 2017, the SemPlag program was employed through the uefiscdi-direct.ro/semplag/index.php platform for similarity analysis.*
- 3. iThenticate: Since October 2017 and up to the present, IOSUD-UPT has acquired and utilized iThenticate, an industry-leading plagiarism detection software. iThenticate is employed for checking the percentage of similarity in doctoral theses.*

For a comprehensive list of computer programs used to check the similarity percentage, please refer to Annex_A.1.2.2-1. This annexe provides detailed information on the programs employed by IOSUD-UPT for this purpose.

By utilizing these approved computer programs, IOSUD-UPT ensures the integrity and originality of doctoral theses, upholding high standards of academic excellence and research ethics.

Recommendations: Not Applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.3. The IOSUD ensures that financial resources are used optimally and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.

**general description of the standard analysis.*

Performance Indicator A.1.3.1. Existence of at least one research or institutional/human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least two research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past five years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, engage doctoral students.

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research Infrastructure



Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD has a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific 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, purchased and developed within the past five years, will be presented distinctly.

The IOSUD/Doctoral School has premises and resources to support research activities in the evaluated field, aligning with its mission and objectives. These resources include computers, specialized software, equipment, laboratory facilities, a comprehensive library, and access to international databases.

The UPT Central Library offers access to various informational resources in traditional and electronic formats. The library collection comprises monographs, serial publications, and electronic resources, with a significant portion accessible on the shelves (45%) and the remainder stored in book and magazine storage (55%).

With a spacious area of 8400 m² spread across six levels, the library provides 750 reading seats, a 24-hour Access Reading Room with 100 seats, Group Study Rooms, a Conference Room, Multimedia Rooms, IT Spaces, and Individual Study Rooms, as well as relaxation areas.

Library users can access information resources through the Electronic Catalog or by directly browsing the shelves. The books in free access are organized in the following manner:

Alphabetical order of domain/subdomain

Within each field/subfield, alphabetical order based on the author's name or title of the publication

Within the same author/title, in alphabetical order of titles

Within the same title, edition/chronological order

Within the edition of the same title, in ascending order of the inventory number

The library's open-access shelf collections are presented in detail in the table, showcasing the diverse range of resources available to support research and study within the IOSUD/Doctoral School.

The UPT Central Library is a valuable resource hub, enabling doctoral students and researchers to access the knowledge and materials necessary for their academic pursuits.

1. The art. Science. TECHNICAL	The art. Science. TECHNICAL	Et. IIB – Free access
	Book deposit	semi-basement
2. Doctoral theses	PhD theses	Et. IIIA – Free access
	Book deposit	semi-basement
3. Language. Linguistics. Literature	Language. Literature	Et. IIIB – Free access
	Book deposit	semi-basement
4. standard	standard	Et. IIIA – Free access
5. reference	reference	Et. IIA – Free access
	Book deposit	semi-basement
6. Magazines	Magazines	Et. IIB – Free access
	Magazine Warehouse	Ground floor
7. bibliography	bibliography	Et. IA – Free access
	Bibliography repository	semi-basement
8. Old book	Old book	semi-basement



9. Rare book	Rare book	semi-basement
10. UPT Teaching Frameworks Collection (1920-1955)	UPT Teaching Frameworks Collection (1920-1955)	semi-basement

Access to the wide range of informational resources is conveniently available through the UPT Central Library's website at <https://library.upt.ro/>.

The library's databases can be accessed directly at <https://library.upt.ro/baze-de-date/> or through the PRIMO Search System module by selecting Primo Central Index and Subscriber Databases.

For information resources in traditional formats that may not be included in the electronic catalogue, the library provides traditional catalogues where they can be located.

Specifically within the field of Architecture, the infrastructure details can be found in Annex_A.2.1.1 provides comprehensive information about the available resources and facilities tailored to support research and studies in this discipline.

Recommendations: Regularly updating the library's holdings can support the pursuit of knowledge and facilitate cutting-edge research within the architectural community. We highly recommend ensuring the continuous enrichment of the library's collection with recent publications, along with subscribing to scientific journals specifically focused on the field of Architecture. It will provide students, researchers, and faculty members access to up-to-date resources and enhance the academic environment, fostering a culture of research and innovation.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

Standard A.3.1. At the level of each domain, sufficient qualified staff ensure the conduct of the doctoral study program.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors 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 field of Architecture, three doctoral supervisors affiliated with IOSUD–UPT is working. All fully meet the CNATDCU minimum criteria imposed by OMEN 6129/2016.

The following table synthetically presents the nominal situation regarding the fulfilment of the minimum standards for the reporting period 2018 – 2022, and in Annex_A.3.1.1. The centralizers are presented with the minimum standards detailed by criteria for each of the doctoral supervisors of the field of Architecture.

No.	Lead PhD	CNATDCU minimum conditions	Score achieved	Meets CNATDCU standards
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1	Ileana Kisilewicz	200 points	1633.00	YES
2	Cristina-Maria Povian	200 points	1851.75	YES
3	Yasmina Onescu	200 points	1055.50	YES

$3/3*100 = 100.00$ % meet standards

Recommendations: During the visit to IOSUD-UPT, it was observed that the doctoral program in the field of Architecture had proposed six potential doctoral supervisors, consisting of 3 qualified holders and three experienced doctoral supervisors who were retired but lacked a certificate of qualification. As this is a relatively new doctoral field, the committee acknowledges that evaluating the Architecture doctoral program aligns with accreditation standards through the three qualified holders. However, to complete the accreditation process, it is recommended to provide an additional annexe that presents the relevant information regarding criterion A.3.1.1. This will ensure transparency and compliance with the required accreditation standards for the doctoral program in Architecture at IOSUD-UPT.

The indicator is fulfilled.

*Performance Indicator *A.3.1.2.* At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract indefinitely with the IOSUD.

Within the field of Architecture, three doctoral supervisors affiliated with IOSUD-UPT will carry out their work. All of them are holders of the IOSUD UPT and qualified in Architecture (Annex_A.3.1.2 .).

No.	Lead PhD	Ministerial order by which they have conferred the title of doctoral supervisor	STATUS
1	Ileana Kisilewicz	3807/01.04.2019	RTD
2	Cristina-Maria Povian	4439/08.08.2022	RTD
3	Yasmina Onescu	5746/29.09.2022	RTD

CDT - titular doctoral supervisor

3 PhD supervisors in total

$3/3*100 = 100\%$ holders

The list of doctoral supervisors, updated on 01.12.2022, can be consulted at: https://upt.ro/img/files/2022-2023/doctorat/Conducatori_doctorat_IOSUD_UPT.pdf.

Recommendations: The three individuals responsible for IOSUD UPT hold indefinite full-time employment contracts with the institution and possess qualifications in the field of Architecture.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies about the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral



thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / 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 teaching above and research functions, as provided by the law.

The subjects included in the training program based on advanced university studies for the field of study are taught by qualified teaching staff or researchers who hold the positions of PhD supervisor/qualified, professor/CS I, or university lecturer/CS II and possess proven expertise in the respective subjects.

The training program based on advanced university studies comprises the following types of disciplines:

- **TRANSVERSAL Discipline:** This discipline is mandatory for all first-year doctoral students.
- **TUTORIAL courses** are focused on the doctoral research topic and are individually designed and mentored by the doctoral supervisor.
- **MASTER disciplines:** These are disciplines that the PhD student has not previously studied.

All subjects within the training program based on advanced university studies are taught by teaching staff or researchers who hold the title of PhD supervisor/qualified, professor/CS I, or university lecturer/CS II and possess proven expertise in the relevant fields.

As of 2021, the transversal discipline is titled "Ethics and Academic Integrity in Scientific Research and Dissemination of Results" and is taught by Prof. Dr Eng. Nicolae Vaszilcsin. The syllabus for this discipline is publicly accessible and can be found at the following link: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/EIACSDR/SYLLABUS_EIACSDR-2021-2022.pdf.

Annex_A.3.1.3 provides examples of the subjects included in the training program based on advanced university studies and their respective instructors. These subjects are an integral part of Annex 1 in the doctoral university studies contract for each doctoral student.

Recommendations: The field of Humanities and Arts, notably Architecture, would benefit from including optional disciplines in the curriculum to support student-centred education and align with their doctoral theses. The commission recommends analyzing the decision of IOSUD-UPT to offer master's program disciplines as optional courses, considering the integrated nature of the Architecture field. Additionally, the commission highlights the need to ensure that the content of the master's program courses meets the advanced training requirements of a doctoral course to enhance the doctoral thesis with rigorous and scholarly research.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.3.2. The Doctoral advisors within the domain are carrying out a scientific activity visible internationally.

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 have enjoyed 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 defence 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 organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.

All three PhD supervisors in the field of Architecture meet this criterion. Annex_A.3.2.1. provides a nominal presentation of the international visibility elements, including lists of five publications or other achievements and their participation as members in committees or groups abroad. As all three supervisors fulfil these requirements, the percentage of compliance is 100%.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

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 five years.

All 3 PhD supervisors in the field of *Architecture* meet this criterion. The nominal situation regarding the fulfilment of this criterion for the period 2018 - 2022 is shown in the following table:

No.	Lead PhD	Score percentage achieved 2018 - 2022	Meets 25% between 2018 and 2022
1	Kisilewicz Ileana Maria	531/200=265.50%	YES
2	Povian Cristina	1219/200=609.50%	YES
3	Onescu Yasmina	667.50/200=333.75%	YES

$$3/3*100=100\%$$

In Annex_A.3.2.2. the points from the activity for the last five years (2018 - 2022) and the related calculations are nominally synthesized

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

*general description of domain analysis.

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

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



**general description of the standard analysis.*

*Performance Indicator *B.1.2.1. admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest in science or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory as part of the admission procedure.*

The proposed PhD field of Architecture for accreditation will adhere to the existing methodology of IOSUD-UPT as outlined below:

The admission process for university doctoral studies in IOSUD-UPT is governed by the Institutional Procedure for the organization and conduct of admission to university doctoral studies in UPT. This procedure is updated annually to ensure compliance with legislative regulations. The candidate selection criteria specified in Annex 7 of the Admission Procedure (Annex_B.1.2.1) are considered during admission.

Candidates' academic performance is evaluated based on grades N1-N4 in the selection criteria. An interview with the applicant is conducted to assess the quality and clarity of their study directions, and intentions quantified using grade N5. The candidate's interest in scientific research is evaluated and assigned grades N6-N8. Publications in the field are quantified and graded as N9-N10.

For the academic year 2022/2023, information regarding the admission process is publicly available at the following address: http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_admitere----doctorat_1714_ro.html.

Admission to doctoral university studies at IOSUD-UPT is conducted through an admission interview. The Council of the Doctoral School of Engineering Studies of IOSUD-UPT establishes and announces the doctoral admission committees associated with the respective doctoral fields. The committee consists of permanent members, a secretary, and a chairman. The permanent committee members remain the same for both admission sessions. More details can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/Admitere/Doctorat/PROCEDURA_ADMITERE_2022.pdf.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

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 for improving doctoral students' research skills and strengthening ethical behaviour in science.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least three 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 individual training plan for doctoral students in the field of Architecture, as outlined in Annex 1 of the Doctoral Universities Studies Contract, will include a minimum of three subjects relevant to the scientific research training of the student. According to UPT regulations (footnote 1 in the annexe), the plan will consist of the following types of courses:

- i) Transversal course, organized by the Doctoral School (§D).
- ii) Tutorial course on doctoral research, proposed and supervised by the doctoral supervisor.
- iii) Course from a master's program that the doctoral student has not previously attended.

The transversal course is mandatory for all first-year doctoral students and focuses on research methodology, scientific ethics, and academic integrity. As of 2021, this course is named "Ethics and Academic Integrity in Scientific Research and Dissemination of Results." The syllabus for this course is publicly available at: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/EIACSDR/SYLLABUS_EIACSDR-2021-2022.pdf.

The transversal course consists of 7 lectures, seven conferences, and seven seminars delivered by distinguished lecturers and professors. It aims to provide in-depth knowledge of research methodology and develop competencies and skills related to research.

In addition to the transversal course, doctoral supervisors in the field of Architecture provide three tutorial courses:

1. Research Methodology in Architecture, Prof. Dr. habil. Arch. Ileana Kisilewicz
2. New Contemporary Architectural Trends, Assistant Lecturer Dr Arch. Cristina-Maria Povian
3. Multi-Risk Architectural Strategies for Protecting Heritage on an Urban Scale, Assistant Lecturer Dr Arch. Iasmina Onescu

Please refer to Annex_B.2.1.1 for the proposed individual training plan for doctoral students in the evaluated field.

Recommendations: We strongly emphasize the need to reconsider the education plan concerning elective subjects.

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 within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.

The course "Ethics and Academic Integrity in Scientific Research and Dissemination of Results" is compulsory for all doctoral students and is conducted in English. The syllabus for this course is publicly available and can be accessed at the following link: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/EIACSDR/SYLLABUS_EIACSDR-2021-2022.pdf. The detailed syllabus is provided in Annex_B.2.1.2.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

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 activities².

The primary objective of doctoral university study programs is to prepare doctoral students for independent scientific research through mentored doctoral research. This preparation culminates in the public defence of the doctoral thesis, leading to attaining the doctorate title. The minimum performance indicators established by IOSUD-UPT, or those set by CNATDCU specialized commissions if they exceed the minimum UPT indicators, serve as benchmarks for evaluating student achievements.

The competencies, skills, and abilities acquired by doctoral students through the completion of subjects in the advanced university training program are outlined in the course descriptions. Here are the key points regarding the different courses:

- The transversal course, mandatory for all doctoral students, focuses on developing competencies and skills related to research methodology, project structuring, technological development, and innovation. It also emphasizes adherence to ethical norms in research and disseminating research results. Detailed information about the transversal course can be found in the course description sheet provided in Annex B.2.1.2. For the academic year 2021-2022, the course sheet is publicly available at the following link: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/EIACSDR/SYLLABUS_EIACSDR-2021-2022.pdf.*
- Tutorial courses, recommended by the PhD supervisor, offer additional professional skills specific to the doctoral field. The competence, skills, and abilities developed through these courses are detailed in the respective course description sheets provided in Annex_B.2.1.3-1a, Annex_B.2.1.3-1b, and Annex_B.2.1.3-1c. Completing tutorial courses enhances doctoral students' proficiency in areas directly related to their doctoral thesis topic.*
- Following the tutorial courses, the doctoral student delves deeper into the specific topics of their research under the guidance of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee. The examination of these topics is conducted by the doctoral supervisor in collaboration with the guidance committee.*
- Completing subjects in the training program based on advanced university studies or doctoral research activities aims to acquire skills and abilities corresponding to qualification level 8 according to the National Qualifications Framework (CNC). IOSUD-UPT follows a procedure to verify the fulfilment of the requirements of doctoral university studies, as described in Annex_B.2.1.3.*

These provisions ensure that doctoral students develop a strong foundation in research methodology and acquire the necessary competencies and skills to excel in their respective fields.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

² Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology of 17 March 2017 regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.



Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

Standard C.1.1. An institutional framework and procedures are in place, and relevant internal quality assurance policies are applied to monitor internal quality assurance.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain 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 IOSUD, 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 scientific activity of doctoral students;*
- (e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;*
- (f) social and academic services (including participation at different events, publishing papers etc.)*

and counselling made available to doctoral students.

In UPT, the teaching and research staff regularly present their research results to the department, faculty, and university management. These results are documented in standardized national-level reports, centralized at the department and university levels and uploaded to the MEC IT platform. These reports play a role in the funding allocation process by MEC and are verified and validated by CNFIS.

Internal reports within UPT are also generated to allocate departmental funding. These reports are created using the COGITO electronic platform and electronic evaluation templates/grids. They are used to evaluate the results of teaching and research activities, contributing to the merit assessment.

The Board of Directors and departmental bodies discuss and analyze these reports, and they are also presented and validated in the UPT Rector's Annual Report and other institutional documents such as the Research Report. The reports serve as monitoring and evaluation tools for teaching and research activities, ensuring compliance with the minimum standards outlined in Article 303 paragraph (4) of LEN 1/2011, as well as OMENCŞ no. 6129/2016, which establishes the minimum necessary and mandatory standards for granting teaching titles in higher education, professional degrees in research and development, and the quality of doctoral supervision.

UPT's strategic development plan for the period 2020-2024, which includes the enhancement of research infrastructure to meet international standards, can be found at https://www.upt.ro/img/files/ps/2020-2024/Plan_strategic_FSC_2020-2024.pdf.

Research activities at UPT primarily occur in the university's 25 research centres. The research infrastructure of these centres is showcased on the ERRIS platform, accessible at the link: <https://eeris.eu/ERIO-2000-000R-0036>.

UPT's research infrastructure development is supported by research and development contracts obtained through national and international competitions and internal research grants funded by UPT's revenues, specifically aimed at young researchers.



The admission procedure for doctoral university studies is updated annually to align with national legislation. For the academic year 2022-2023, the procedure can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_admitere----doctorat_1714_ro.html. Similarly, the doctoral university studies contract is updated annually.

According to the internal regulations in IOSUD-UPT, the minimum requirement for supporting a doctoral thesis is to publish at least two scientific works indexed in the WOS database. This criterion is specified in Article 16 of the Doctoral University Studies Contract. The guidance committees monitor the scientific activity of doctoral students during the doctoral internship.

Throughout the reporting period, IOSUD-UPT has implemented a support program for doctoral students to publish papers in WOS-listed journals and participate in conferences with WOS-indexed proceedings. Details can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/international/Mobilitati-Si-Cooperari-Internationale_Programul-de-finantare-ISI_27_ro.html.

The subjects in the training program based on advanced university studies are taught by teaching staff or researchers who hold positions such as PhD supervisor/qualification, professor/CS I, or university lecturer/CS II, with proven expertise in the respective field. Annex_B.2.1.1 provides examples of the subjects in the training program and their respective instructors, constituting Annex 1 of the doctoral university studies contract for each doctoral student.

Within IOSUD-UPT, the Career Counseling and Guidance Center operates as a structure of the Timișoara Polytechnic University (UPT). Its mission is to provide students with the best information, professional guidance, and social integration. More information can be found at: <https://www.cicoc.upt.ro/> and <https://www.facebook.com/CCOC.UPT>.

The transversal discipline of "Ethics and academic integrity in scientific research and dissemination of results" includes courses and seminars on the participation of doctoral students in scientific events and the publication of articles in specialized journals. Details can be accessed at: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/EIACSDR/SYLLABUS_EIACSDR-2021-2022.pdf.

IOSUD-UPT provides financial support for doctoral students to participate in scientific events and publish papers in WOS-indexed journals. More information can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/international/Mobilitati-Si-Cooperari-Internationale_Programul-de-finantare-ISI_27_ro.html.

In 2018, IOSUD-UPT initiated a scholarship program for doctoral students participating in prestigious international conferences organized by UPT. Further details can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/international/Mobilitati-Si-Cooperari-Internationale_Burse-pentru-doctoranzi-care-participa-la-conferinte-organizate-de-UPT_126_ro.html.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

*Performance Indicator *C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students to identify their needs and overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program 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.*



Throughout the doctoral internship, doctoral students are regularly surveyed to assess their satisfaction with the advanced university training program (Annex_C.1.1.2-1) and the scientific research program (Annex_C.1.1.2-2). Based on the analysis of the collected feedback, a set of measures has been developed and outlined in Annex_C.1.1.2-4. These measures aim to address any identified areas for improvement and enhance the overall quality of the doctoral experience.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Performance Indicator C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:

- (a) the 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 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) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, and place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

The regulations governing the doctoral school at IOSUD-UPT are part of the "Institutional Regulations for the Organization and Conduct of University Doctoral Studies in the Politehnica University of Timișoara," which can be accessed at http://www.upt.ro/administrare/dgac1/file/2011-2012/regulamente/Anexa_10_CartaUPT_Regulament_doctorat.pdf.

To ensure consistency and streamline the management of doctoral studies across all fields, a single document has been chosen to encompass the regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies within IOSUD-UPT. The admission regulations are regularly updated to comply with national legislative changes and the allocation of doctoral positions by field. The institutional procedures for admission to doctoral university studies in IOSUD-UPT are publicly available at the following links:

- 2022: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/Admitere/Doctorat/PROCEDURA_ADMITERE_2022.pdf*

The doctoral study contracts for the academic year 2022/2023 can be found publicly at the following addresses:



- Scholarship: www.upt.ro/img/files/2022-2023/doctorat/Contract_Studii_Doctorale_bursa_2022_V4.doc
- UPT own income scholarship: www.upt.ro/img/files/2022-2023/doctorat/Contract_Studii_Doctorale_bursa_venituri%20proprii_2022_V4.doc
- No scholarship: www.upt.ro/img/files/2022-2023/doctorat/Contract_Studii_Doctorale_fara%20bursa_2022_V4.doc
- Fee: www.upt.ro/img/files/2022-2023/doctorat/Contract_Studii_Doctorale_taxa_frecventa%20redusa_2022_V4.doc

Please note that these contract files are password-protected Word documents, allowing doctoral students to fill in their data while preserving the framework of the contract.

The regulations for completing doctoral studies are detailed in the "Working instructions for completing doctoral university studies and the public defence of doctoral theses in UPT," last updated in 2022. The document can be accessed at http://upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/proced_sust_publica/HCA_87_2022_Instructiune_de_lucru_sustinere_publica_teza_doctorat.pdf.

At the time of this evaluation, the "Working instructions for the completion of doctoral studies and the public defence of the doctoral thesis" approved by HCA 87/19.04.2022 are publicly available at: http://upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/proced_sust_publica/HCA_87_2022_Instructiune_de_lucru_sustinere_publica_teza_doctorat.pdf.

Information on the compulsory transversal discipline for all doctoral students in the year of advanced university training (the year I of the doctoral university study program) can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_etica-si-integritate-academica-in-scientific-research-and-1409_ro.html.

The doctoral university studies program is individually tailored to each doctoral student based on the proposal of their doctoral supervisor, taking into account the tutorial courses in the year of advanced university training and the doctoral research program.

The updated list of doctoral supervisors for admission to university doctoral studies can be found at the following link for the admission year 2022: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/Admitere/Doctorat/Oferte/Oferte_conducatori_de_doctorat_2022_UPT.pdf.

Contact details for PhD supervisors can be accessed at: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2021-2022/doctorat/CONDUCATORI_DOCTORAT_date_de_contact_2022.pdf and http://upt.ro/img/files/carte-telefon/Carte_de_telefon_angajati_2022.pdf.

The list of UPT doctoral students enrolled in the academic year 2022-2023 can be found at: http://upt.ro/img/files/2022-2023/doctorat/Ordinul_17462_inmatricularea_doctoranzi_iulie_2022.pdf.

Politehnica Publishing House publishes doctoral theses developed within IOSUD-UPT in detailed book format, which can be accessed at: http://www.upt.ro/img/files/2014-2015/doctorat/editare_teza/Instructiuni_pentru_redactarea_tezelor_de_doctorat_Ed_Politehnica.pdf.

The public templates for writing theses, including the initial part model (in Romanian and English), template thesis chapters, and details on editing formulas, can be found at: http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_documentele-doctoranzilor-inmatriculati-incepand-cu-anul-201_286_ro.html.

Additionally, Politehnica University of Timișoara ensures the publication of 25 copies of each doctoral thesis from its income, in addition to the two copies archived at the UPT Central Library and the National Library of Romania.



For information regarding public defences of doctoral theses in IOSUD-UPT, announcements are regularly posted on the UPT website's doctoral studies section in Romanian and English. Examples of these announcements can be found at the following links:

- Romanian: http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_anunturi---sustineri-publice-ale-tezelor-de-doctorat-in-iosu_293_ro.html
- English: http://www.upt.ro/Informatii_anunturi---sustineri-publice-ale-tezelor-de-doctorat-in-iosu_293_en.html

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Based on the on-site visit and the documents provided to the committee, it has been determined that all doctoral students at IOSUD-UPT have unrestricted access to electronic resources (as specified in Annex_C.2.2.1) and databases offered by UPT Central Libraries. This access is available from any computer with an IP address on the UPT campus.

To access the databases owned by the Library, doctoral students can visit the following address: <https://library.upt.ro/baze-de-date/>. Alternatively, they can directly access the databases through the PRIMO search system module by selecting Primo Central Index and Subscribed Databases options.

If information resources in traditional formats are not available in the electronic catalogue, doctoral students can consult the traditional catalogues of the library to locate such resources.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

IOSUD-UPT has recently acquired the computer program iThenticate (<http://www.ithenticate.com/>) to analyze the level of similarity between the content of doctoral theses and other documents. During the finalization phase of the doctoral thesis, the Doctoral School designates a specific person responsible for conducting the similarity analysis using the iThenticate software. The generated similarity report is then sent to the doctoral supervisor of the thesis.

Upon request from the doctoral student or the doctoral supervisor, similarity reports can be generated at different stages of the doctoral thesis development or for scientific works associated with the doctoral research program.



In the case of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral supervisor prepares a similarity report, which includes the report generated by the iThenticate computer program as an appendix. This comprehensive approach ensures transparency and accountability in assessing the originality of the doctoral thesis.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The obligations of IOSUD-UPT concerning doctoral students' access to infrastructure and research facilities are explicitly stated in the doctoral university studies contract, which is signed between IOSUD-UPT and each enrolled doctoral student. These obligations are outlined as follows:

- Article 6.B.3: IOSUD-UPT is committed to ensuring that doctoral students have access to the necessary educational and research facilities within the university doctoral studies (refer to Annex_C.2.2.3 - Doctoral Studies Contract).*

In addition, as part of their work in the research laboratory, doctoral students receive training on strictly adhering to labour protection rules and fire prevention and extinguishing protocols. This specific function emphasizes the importance of maintaining a safe and secure working environment for all doctoral students.

Recommendations: Not applicable.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of the human resources at IOSUD-UPT is evidenced by their qualifications and the high scores achieved in the CNATDCU file. Furthermore, the young average age of the doctoral supervisors indicates a promising future for the development of the doctoral school, as they bring fresh perspectives and expertise to their roles. • IOSUD-UPT boasts numerous research centres that provide ample opportunities for research and innovation. Additionally, the infrastructure of the Polytechnic 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is worth noting that not all documents related to the PhD field of Architecture are currently available in an international language. This limitation hinders the accessibility and reach of the field's research and knowledge to a broader international audience. Furthermore, the PhD program of Architecture would benefit from implementing marketing and PR strategies to attract researchers from outside the country, thereby fostering a more diverse and global research community.
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<p>University, including the library and access to international databases, offers extensive resources to support the development of the Architecture doctoral field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed accreditation of the Architecture doctoral field at IOSUD-UPT is unique in the country's western region. This distinction presents the potential for the field to acquire a trans-regional European character in the future, further enhancing its significance and impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing network of partner universities for PhD programs under co-supervision and mobility of future PhD students in Architecture is currently inadequate. Expanding and strengthening this network would provide valuable opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mobility among doctoral students, enhancing the overall quality and internationalization of the program.
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity to attract new doctoral supervisors from the university's esteemed teaching staff who are currently active at the bachelor's and master's levels could be explored. By providing support and incentives for their qualification and involvement in doctoral supervision, the PhD field of Architecture can benefit from their valuable expertise and contribute to the program's overall quality. The PhD field of Architecture can leverage the experience and knowledge of teaching staff who have previously been engaged in doctoral research. Their expertise can continue to be utilized by involving them in the guidance committees of future PhD students, providing valuable mentorship and guidance throughout the doctoral journey. The establishment of special grants dedicated to the new doctoral field can be instrumental in efficiently utilizing the allocated 10% funding to support the activities of future doctoral students. These grants can provide financial assistance, research opportunities, and resources that specifically cater to the 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of a transparent methodology in doctoral research and a clear distinction between professional and research doctorates threatens the quality and credibility of the Architecture doctoral program. Without established guidelines and a robust methodology, the research outcomes may lack rigour and fail to contribute significantly to the field. Insufficient funding, resulting from future economic constraints, poses a significant threat to the sustainability and growth of the Architecture doctoral program. Inadequate financial resources can limit research opportunities, hinder student support, and impede the program's ability to attract and retain talented doctoral candidates and supervisors. The lack of clarification regarding the possibility of completing doctoral theses under co-supervision threatens the coherence and effectiveness of doctoral research in Architecture. Without clear guidelines and procedures, there is a risk of confusion and ambiguity, which can negatively impact the progress and outcomes of doctoral research projects.

<p>needs and goals of Architecture doctoral candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with other doctoral schools within Romania and across the European Union can significantly enhance the visibility and reputation of the Architecture doctoral field. By fostering partnerships, joint research initiatives, and academic exchanges, the PhD program can attract attention and recognition on a broader scale, attracting talented researchers and promoting the field's growth and development. 	
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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 Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>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 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 (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p>	Fulfilled	<p>For practical analysis and review of doctoral study programs, it is crucial to have well-defined and efficient internal procedures in place. One such mechanism is the creation of Internal Annual Reports, which document the development of doctoral study programs throughout the year. These reports include valuable input from internal and external stakeholders through annual surveys. By assessing the achievements made, these reports enable the identification of areas for improvement, setting new goals, and implementing necessary alterations to the revised doctoral program.</p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		g) internal procedures for analysing and approving proposals for doctoral program training based on advanced academic studies.		
2.	PI	A.1.1.2. The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on approving the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
3.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic backgrounds.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
4.	PI	A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the similarity percentage in all doctoral theses.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
5.	CPI	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 five years, will be presented distinctly	Fulfilled	Regularly updating the library's holdings can support the pursuit of knowledge and facilitate cutting-edge research within the architectural community. We highly recommend ensuring the continuous enrichment of the library's collection with recent publications, along with subscribing to scientific journals specifically focused on the field of Architecture. It will provide students, researchers, and faculty members access to up-to-date resources and enhance the academic environment, fostering a culture of research and innovation.
6.	CPI	A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors 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	During the visit to IOSUD-UPT, it was observed that the doctoral program in the field of Architecture had proposed six potential doctoral supervisors, consisting of 3 qualified holders and three experienced doctoral supervisors who were retired but lacked a certificate of qualification. As this is a relatively new doctoral field, the committee acknowledges that evaluating the Architecture doctoral program aligns with accreditation standards through the three qualified holders. However, to complete

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
				the accreditation process, it is recommended to provide an additional annexe that presents the relevant information regarding criterion A.3.1.1. This will ensure transparency and compliance with the required accreditation standards for the doctoral program in Architecture at IOSUD-UPT.
7.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract indefinitely with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	The three individuals responsible for IOSUD UPT hold indefinite full-time employment contracts with the institution and possess qualifications in the field of Architecture.
8.	PI	A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies about the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / 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 teaching above and research functions, as provided by the law.	Fulfilled	The field of Humanities and Arts, notably Architecture, would benefit from including optional disciplines in the curriculum to support student-centred education and align with their doctoral theses. The commission recommends analyzing the decision of IOSUD-UPT to offer master's program disciplines as optional courses, considering the integrated nature of the Architecture field. Additionally, the commission highlights the need to ensure that the content of the master's program courses meets the advanced training requirements of a doctoral course to enhance the doctoral thesis with rigorous and scholarly research.
9.	CPI	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 have enjoyed 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 defence	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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 organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
10.	PI *	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 five years	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
11.	PI *	B.1.2.1. admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest in 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	No Recommendations Provided.
12.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least three 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	We strongly emphasize the need to reconsider the education plan concerning elective subjects.
13.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or well-defined topics are within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
14.	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	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.		
15.	PI	<p>C.1.1.1. The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain 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 IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 scientific activity of doctoral students; e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students; f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students. 	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
16.	PI *	<p>C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students to identify their needs and overall satisfaction with the doctoral study program 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.</p>	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
17.	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 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 program based on advanced academic studies; f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral 	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, and place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.		
18.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
19.	PI	C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.
20.	PI	C.2.2.3. According to internal order procedures, All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School.	Fulfilled	No Recommendations Provided.

The recommendations contained in the report shall be resumed in the indicators' analysis. Other general recommendations may be made that do not fit within a particular indicator.

VERY IMPORTANT!!! – Each identified weakness must be correlated with at least one recommendation to improve the situation!

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The doctoral field Architecture in IOSUD - Politehnica University Timisoara stands as part of a single doctoral school within the IOSUD-UPT which has proven to be highly conducive to the advancement of doctoral university study programs, aligning with the mission of the Politehnica University Timișoara. This unified approach has also facilitated a more streamlined and efficient administrative process. The centralized structure has simplified procedures, reduced bureaucratic hurdles, and enhanced the overall management of doctoral programs.

The academic staff and management exhibit a commendable work ethic and sincere dedication to catering to the evolving needs of academia and research. They showed exceptional preparedness and



adaptability, which will allow future students to seamlessly integrate into other research institutions, a testament to the transferable knowledge they acquire within the university. Engaging with esteemed professors who consistently surpass their professional obligations, driven by the desire to leave a lasting legacy for future generations, was a pleasure.

The research activity of the responsible professors is robust, with students of other levels of study making significant scientific contributions. The infrastructure and state-of-the-art research facilities are of good quality, facilitating an environment conducive to innovative research and scholarly pursuits. Throughout the assessment week, external and internal evaluators shared a wealth of information. The Internal Evaluation Report comprehensively justified each criterion, standard, and performance indicator, ensuring transparency and thorough assessment.

Based on the evaluation, it is evident that the Doctoral field of Architecture aligns with European Standards and Guidelines. The recommendations the evaluation team put forth will further unlock the untapped potential within the school. In light of this, the recommendations extracted from the previous chapter of the report will be the focal point for future enhancements:

Improving the Efficiency of the Internal Quality Assurance System:

It is essential to establish well-defined and efficient internal procedures for analysing and reviewing doctoral study programs. It can be achieved by implementing Internal Annual Reports for doctoral study programs, including annual surveys conducted among internal and external stakeholders. These surveys should assess the program's achievements, identify areas for improvement, and set new goals for the future.

Institutions should adopt quality principles derived from Total Quality Management and refer to established quality management methodologies such as the EFQM (European Foundation of Quality Management). These principles should serve as preconditions and guide the necessary actions to achieve the institution's Quality Policy. By implementing these principles, institutions can ensure continuous improvement and excellence in their programs.

Regular student surveys are conducted and utilized effectively to enhance the quality of the study domain. The results of these surveys should be incorporated into the Internal Annual Report, providing valuable insights for program enhancement. Additionally, it is crucial to conduct formal and systematic surveys among external stakeholders, such as employers and graduates, to gather feedback on the program's effectiveness and relevance.

By implementing these measures, institutions can strengthen their internal quality assurance system, foster a culture of continuous improvement, and ensure the delivery of high-quality doctoral study programs that meet the needs of students and stakeholders.

Enhancing Cooperation and Internationalization:

To increase visibility and attract more international students, it is advisable to translate published documents into English/foreign languages. It will enable better access to the international community and enhance the institution's reputation on a global scale.

The institution should continue participating in ERASMUS+ mobility programs and actively promote other mobility and grant programs such as OEAD, DAAD, Fulbright scholarships, etc. These initiatives provide valuable opportunities for international collaboration and academic exchange.



The institution should continue to develop and expand co-mentorship programs internationally. Encouraging guest lectures and fostering collaborations with international lecturers, professors, supervisors, and academic staff will further enhance the quality and international perspective of the doctoral study program.

It is strongly encouraged for the evaluated institution to increase its internationalization activities. It can be achieved by actively promoting the doctoral program to the international community. All relevant documents and regulations related to the study program should be available in English. The curriculum should be offered in English, and the syllabi should be aligned with EU standards of higher education, including improved learning outcomes. Promoting the program internationally will attract more international students and foster a diverse and inclusive academic environment.

By implementing these recommendations, the institution can strengthen its internationalization efforts, attract a diverse pool of students and academics, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge on a global scale.

Resources and Provisions for the Doctoral Domain:

Based on the institution's evaluation, several recommendations have been made to enhance the availability of resources and provisions within the doctoral domain. I want to highlight the following key points:

Based on the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation report, I highly recommend considering the allocation of PhD grants, which will position UP as a hub for cutting-edge research and attract students eager to engage in impactful scholarly work. It will also strengthen the university's reputation as a supportive and research-oriented institution, thereby contributing to our academic standing.

The evaluated institution should develop strategies to attract additional and diversify funding sources. Exploring opportunities through research grants like Horizon and other European and internationally funded projects should be actively pursued. Students can access financial resources to support their research and education endeavours by aligning PhD topics with project grants.

There is a potential to increase self-funding activities by fostering collaboration with local, national, and international institutions and the public and private sectors. Creating an entrepreneurial environment within the domain of Architecture can open up avenues for generating additional revenue.

Implementing these recommendations will strengthen the financial sustainability of the doctoral domain and provide students with the necessary resources to pursue their research goals. It will also foster collaboration and innovation, enabling the institution to establish itself as a hub for impactful research and development.

Enhancing Doctoral Studies: Recommendation for the Establishment of a PhD Program in Urban Planning

Establishing a PhD in Urban Planning is also recommended, which aims to bridge two distinct fields defined by law. This interdisciplinary approach would welcome students from various disciplines, including architecture, political science, geography, and social science. Embracing diverse perspectives and encouraging collaboration between students with different academic backgrounds would enrich the



PhD program. The PhD in Urban Planning would foster comprehensive and holistic research within the doctoral studies domain by encompassing a wide range of fields.

prof. Dr. Arta Basha Jakupi
ARACIS external evaluator