

Doctoral Studies Code of June 29th, 2011

>(on 03-aug-2011 the Act was approved by Decision 681/2011)

TITLE I: General Provisions

CHAPTER I: Objectives

Art. 1

The Doctoral Studies Code, hereinafter referred to as „The Code“, is the legal framework regulating the organisation and provision of doctoral programmes in Romania.

Art. 2

The implementation of the Code is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- a)** provide a minimal reference framework for organising doctoral programmes;
- b)** introduce shared procedures and principles for quality assurance in the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes.

CHAPTER II: Scope and terminology

Art. 3

(1) The Code applies to all institutions that provide doctoral studies operating in compliance with the law Romania.

(2) The provisions of the Code equally apply to doctoral programmes provided as part of international university cooperation, based on agreements between the institutions involved.

Art. 4

The following words and phrases shall have meanings ascribed bellow:

- a)** doctoral studies – upper cycle of university studies resulting in the development of human resources capable of carrying out scientific research and employable on the high-skill labour market. They consist of research-based training in research, development & innovation, and provide professional research experience that, after defending the doctoral thesis, results in the award of the title of doctor;
- b)** doctoral student – the student enrolled in a doctoral programme;
- c)** thesis supervisor – member of the academic staff or researcher – experienced in scientific research – who coordinates the work of the doctoral student, having acquired this right in compliance with Art. 166 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011;
- d)** doctoral studies programme, hereinafter referred to as “doctoral programme” – all the activities that the doctoral student undertakes and that are relevant for the doctoral studies;
- e)** doctoral thesis – written piece of original research prepared by a doctoral student during his/her doctoral studies – a legal requirement for obtaining the doctor title;
- f)** institution providing doctoral studies, hereinafter referred to as IPDS, - the entity entitled to provide doctoral programmes;

g) doctoral school - organizational structure attached to IPDS providing the necessary support for doctoral studies organized around a specific discipline, research theme or interdisciplinary area.

TITLE II: Organisation and delivery of doctoral studies

CHAPTER I: IPDS, doctoral school, contract for doctoral studies, thesis supervisor and guidance committee

SECTION 1: IPDS

Art. 5

(1) Doctoral studies may only be provided by accredited or provisionally authorised doctoral schools operating within an IPDS.

(2) On the grounds of Art. 158 (3) of Law no. 1/2011 and the Code, the Romanian Academy may establish the Doctoral School of the Romanian Academy, complying with Law no. 1/2011 in terms of authorisation, accreditation and operation as higher education institution. The Doctoral School of the Romanian Academy may be IPDS and may provide doctoral programmes.

Art. 6

(1) IPDS may be established in any one of the following ways:

a) by a higher education institution;

b) by a university consortium;

c) by the partnership legally set up between a higher education institution and research & development entities;

d) by the partnership legally set up between a university consortium and research & development entities.

(2) The partnerships provided for at (1) c) and d) are established by partnership agreements under the law that do not result in the creation of a new legal entity.

(3) The entity that is legal representative of the IPDS shall be:

a) in the case provided for under (1) a), the higher education institution;

b) in the case provided for under (1) b), the university consortium;

c) in the case provided for under (1) c), the higher education institution member of the partnership;

d) in the case provided for under (1) d), the university consortium member of the partnership.

(4) The research & development entities provided for under (1) c) and d) may be public or private entities, and may not be higher education institutions or entities established within such higher education institutions.

(5) Higher education institutions and research & development entities may be members in more than one IPDS, depending on the membership of the consortium or partnership provided for under Paragraph (1).

(6) Any of the following entities may be a member of an IPDS:

a) higher education institution provided for under (1) lit. a) or c);

- b)** higher education institutions or research & development entities that are members in the university consortium provided for under (1) b) or d);
- c)** research & development entities members of the partnership provided for under (1) c) or d).

Art. 7

(1) For the purpose of the Code herein, the heads of the IPDS member institutions shall be:

- a)** the rector, in the case of higher education institutions;
- b)** the general manager or director, in the case of research & development entities, other than higher education institutions.

(2) For the purpose of the Code herein, the collective management bodies of IPDS member institutions shall be:

- a)** the university senate, in the case of higher education institutions;
- b)** the scientific council, in the case of public research & development entities, other than higher education institutions;
- c)** the management body with similar responsibilities as the scientific council, in the case of private research & development entities, other than higher education institutions.

(3) For the purpose of the Code herein, the head of the entity that is legal representative of the IPDS shall be:

- a)** the rector, where the entity that legally represents the IPDS is a higher education institution;
- b)** the president of the university consortium, where the entity that legally represents the IPDS is a university consortium.

Art. 8

(1) IPDS shall provide institutional, administrative and logistic support to its subordinated doctoral schools.

(2) The status as IPDS shall be acquired where at least one accredited or provisionally authorised doctoral school is established in the institution, on the grounds of Law no. 1/2011 and this Code.

(3) The status as IPDS shall be forfeited when the following conditions are met concurrently:

- a)** no doctoral school of the IPDS is accredited or provisionally authorised;
- b)** all doctoral students under contract with the IPDS in question have completed their doctoral studies or have been expelled.

(4) The IPDS may enrol new doctoral students only in an accredited or provisionally authorised doctoral school.

Art. 9

- (1)** The IPDS shall be led by a doctoral studies board, hereinafter referred to as DSB.
- (2)** DSB shall operate based on this Code and the institutional regulations for the organisation and provision doctoral programmes.
- (3)** DSB shall comprise a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 17 members.
- (4)** At least one member of DSB shall be elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of thesis supervisors from the doctoral schools of the IPDS.
- (5)** At least one member of DSB shall be elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of doctoral students from the doctoral schools of the IPDS.
- (6)** The DSB director shall be a member *ex officio* in the DSB.
- (7)** At least 50% of the DSB members shall be appointed by the heads of the IPDS member entities. Where the IPDS is a partnership, the number of DSB members appointed by the head of each partner shall be determined in the partnership agreement. Where the IPDS is a university consortium or a partnership in which a university consortium is member, the number of DSB members appointed by the head of each member of the university consortium shall be determined in the partnership agreement that regulates the operation of the consortium.
- (8)** The members of the DSB may be:
- a)** persons from within or outside the IPDS;
 - b)** persons from the country or abroad;
 - c)** scientific personalities or personalities from relevant industry or social-economic sectors;
 - d)** representatives of doctoral students from the doctoral schools of the IPDS.
- (9)** The members of the DSB set up under this Code who are academic staff or researchers should be entitled to act as thesis supervisors in Romania or abroad and meet the minimal and mandatory standards for accreditation as thesis supervisor, as in force at the time of their designation as members of the DSB, and as approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, in compliance with Art. 219 (1) a) of Law no. 1/2011.
- (10)** The methodology for designation of DSB members shall comply with the provisions herein, shall be proposed by the heads of the entities comprised in the IPDS and approved by the collective management bodies of each entity comprised in IPDS.
- (11)** The DSB members' term of office shall 4 years.
- (12)** The main responsibilities of ale DSB are:
- a)** determine the IPDS strategy;
 - b)** prepare institutional regulations for the organisation and provision of doctoral programmes by the IPDS;
 - c)** approve decisions on the establishment and closure of doctoral schools within the IPDS;
 - d)** select thesis supervisors in a newly established doctoral school;

e) coordinate the partnership – where the IPDS is a partnership, according to the partnership agreement;

f) other specific responsibilities, as set forth in the institutional rules for organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes, as provided for by law.

(13) The DSB shall meet as and when necessary, when summoned by the DSB director or by at least one third of its members.

(14) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraphs (4) and (5), when setting up the IPDS, the DSB may operate as an interim body, without members elected by the thesis supervisors, but no longer than one month from the establishment of the first doctoral school, and without members elected by the doctoral students, but no longer than one month after the enrolment of the first cohort of doctoral students, respectively.

Art. 10

The institutional rules for organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes prepared by the DSB shall be approved by the collective management bodies of each entity comprised in the IPDS.

Art. 11

(1) The DSB shall be chaired by a director.

(2) The position as DSB director shall be equivalent to that of vice-rector.

(3) The DSB director shall be designated based on an open competition organised by the entity that is legal representative of the IPDS.

(4) The methodology for the open competition shall comply with the provisions herein, shall be proposed by the heads of the entities comprised in the IPDS and approved by the collective management bodies of each entity comprised in IPDS.

(5) The open competition shall be announced at least two months before the deadline for registration of candidates.

(6) The announcements shall be published by the following means as a minimum:

a) visibly, on the main page of the websites of all entities comprised in the IPDS;

b) on the dedicated website managed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, provided for at Art. 295 (3) of Law no. 1/2011;

c) in the Official Journal of Romania, Part III.

(7) The IPDS and the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports may announce the contests by any additional means, including general mass-media, national and international scientific publications, job websites and others alike.

(8) Only individuals entitled to act as thesis supervisors and who meet the minimal and mandatory standards for accreditation as thesis supervisor in force at the time of the publication in the Official Journal of Romania, Part III, of the contest announcement for the position, approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, according to Art. 219 (1) a) of Law no. 1/2011, shall be entitled to participate in the contest for the position as DSB director.

(9) The contest committee shall be comprised of 5 members, of whom a minimum of 3 shall be from outside the entities comprised in the IPDS, from Romania or abroad.

(10) At the time of the publication in the Official Journal of Romania, Part III, of the contest announcement, at least one member of the contest committee shall be an employee of a foreign higher education and research institution included on the list approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, Order prepared in compliance with Art. 216 (2) f) of Law no. 1/2011.

(11) The members of the contest committee should be entitled to act as thesis supervisors in Romania or abroad and meet the minimal and mandatory standards for accreditation as thesis supervisor, as in force at the time of the publication in the Official Journal of Romania, Part III, of the contest announcement for the position, approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, according to Art. 219 (1) a) of Law no. 1/2011.

(12) Based on the decision of the contest committee, the head of the entity that is legal representative of the IPDS shall enter a 4 year management agreement with the designated person.

SECTION 2: Doctoral school

Art. 12

(1) Doctoral studies programmes shall be organised and delivered in IPDS only in doctoral schools.

(2) A doctoral school may only be set up if it has at least 3 thesis supervisors.

(3) One or several doctoral school may operate in a IPDS.

(4) The overall framework for the organisation and operation of doctoral schools shall be comprised by the provisions herein and by institutional rules for organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes, and may be supplemented with the provisions of the each individual doctoral school's rules, according to the law.

(5) The establishment of doctoral schools shall be proposed by the heads of the entities comprised in the IPDS, endorsed by the collective management bodies of each entity comprised in IPDS and approved by the DSB.

(6) In the organisational structure of higher education institutions, a doctoral school shall have the same rank as a department and be entitled to set up research centres or laboratories operating as cost centres, according to Art. 131, Art. 133 (4) and Art. 134 of Law no. 1/2011.

(7) The affiliation between a doctoral school and other units of the entities comprised in the IPDS shall be determined in the institutional rules for organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes.

Art. 13

(1) Doctoral school shall be organised and operate in a IPDS with thesis supervisors who have obtained this entitlement, as provided for by law.

(2) Thesis supervisors members of a doctoral school shall work in the entities comprised in the IPDS.

(3) The doctoral school may set minimal scientific performance standards that the thesis supervisors must meet in order to become members of that particular doctoral school.

(4) Along thesis supervisors, other researchers or academic staff from the entities comprised in the IPDS or from other Romanian or foreign institutions or research & development entities may be affiliated to a doctoral school.

Art. 14

(1) A doctoral school shall be managed by a director and the doctoral school council. The doctoral school director shall be equivalent to a department director. The doctoral school council shall be equivalent to the department council.

(2) The members of the doctoral school council shall be thesis supervisors of the doctoral school (maximum 50%), doctoral students (20%, rounded up, if necessary), and the difference shall be filled-in by members from outside the doctoral school, selected among scientific personalities whose activity has significant international recognition and/or personalities from the relevant industry or social-economic sectors.

(3) The members of the doctoral school council set up under this Code who are academic staff or researchers should be entitled to act as thesis supervisors in Romania or abroad and meet the minimal and mandatory standards for accreditation as thesis supervisor, as in force at the time of their designation as members of the doctoral school council, as approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, according to Art. 219 (1) a) of Law no. 1/2011

The DSB shall determine the number of thesis supervisors from the doctoral school who shall be members in the doctoral school council.

(5) The members of the doctoral school council shall be elected by universal, direct, secret equal vote of the thesis supervisors from the doctoral school in question.

(6) The term of office of the doctoral school council shall be of 5 years.

(7) Doctoral students, members of the doctoral school council, who complete their doctoral studies while in office, shall forfeit their membership as from the date when they defend their thesis.

(8) To fill-in vacancies on the doctoral school council, partial elections shall be organised, as per the provisions of Paragraph (5), and the new member's term of office shall end at the end of the doctoral school council term of office.

(9) The doctoral school council shall be led by the doctoral school director. The latter shall be appointed by the DSB from among the thesis supervisors of the doctoral school and be member ex officio in the doctoral school council.

(10) The doctoral school council shall meet at least three times a year, when summoned by the DSB director or by at least one third of its members.

Art. 15

The main responsibilities of the doctoral school council shall be:

a) prepare the rules of the doctoral school;

b) decide on appointing or dismissing thesis supervisors as members of the doctoral school, as well as set minimum scientific performance standards for the objective implementation of such procedures;

c) register and expel doctoral students, on proposal of thesis supervisors members of the doctoral school;

- d)** decide on the approval of the organisation chart of academic and research staff affiliated to the doctoral school, as applicable;
- e)** assist the external evaluator in the process of (re)accreditation or provisional authorisation of the doctoral school;
- f)** other specific responsibilities.

Art. 16

- (1)** The doctoral students shall be enrolled with a doctoral school by one of the higher education institutions comprised in the IPDS.
- (2)** New students may be enrolled in a doctoral school only if it is accredited or provisionally authorised.
- (3)** The provisional authorisation of a doctoral school may not extend for more than 3 years.

Art. 17

- (1)** The rules of the doctoral school shall determine the manner in which the doctoral programmes provided by the doctoral school are organised and delivered.
- (2)** The rules of the doctoral school shall be developed by the doctoral school council in consultation with all the thesis supervisors of the school in question, in compliance with the institutional regulations for the organisation and provision doctoral programmes of the IPDS.
- (3)** The rules of the doctoral school shall be endorsed by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the absolute majority of the thesis supervisors from the school in question.
- (4)** The rules of the doctoral school shall be approved by the DSB.
- (5)** The rules of the doctoral school shall set forth mandatory criteria, procedures and standards covering at least the following aspects:
 - a)** acceptance of new thesis supervisors and the manner whereby a thesis supervisor may be excluded from the doctoral school;
 - b)** mechanisms for deciding on the adequacy, make-up and contents of the advanced university studies programme;
 - c)** procedures for replacing a doctoral student's thesis supervisor and conflict mediation procedures;
 - d)** conditions for interrupting a doctoral programme;
 - e)** means for preventing research fraud, including plagiarism;
 - f)** providing access to research resources;
 - g)** doctoral students' attendance requirements, based on a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.
- (6)** The rules may also apply for doctoral programmes delivered in co-tutorship, if so provided for in the partnership agreement.

Art. 18

The doctoral schools shall be required to provide accurate and complete information to candidates to doctoral programmes, academic community and other stakeholder natural or juristic persons.

Art. 19

(1) The IPDS shall guarantee transparency in the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes in all its doctoral schools.

(2) The doctoral schools, with the logistic support of the IPDS, shall ensure that all the necessary information on the doctoral programmes are published on the Internet, with a particular focus on:

- a)** The rules of the doctoral school;
- b)** information on vacancies for doctoral students;
- c)** information on vacancies for thesis supervisors;
- d)** information on the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes;
- e)** information on the contents of doctoral programmes;
- f)** information on the funding of studies and costs born by the doctoral student;
- g)** standard framework contract for doctoral studies;
- h)** information on thesis supervisors and doctoral students they coordinate, including, as a minimum, the list of their publications and patents;
- i)** information on the professional performance and achievement of thesis supervisors;
- j)** information on doctoral theses – writing standards, evaluation procedures and criteria;
- k)** summaries of doctoral theses that are scheduled to be defended, including the date, time and venue for public defence sessions, at least 14 days in advance of the date;
- l)** addresses where completed doctoral theses are available, published on a website managed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

Art. 20

(1) The doctoral school and the thesis supervisor shall be required to inform the doctoral student on the scientific, professional and university ethics and verify his/her compliance with such ethical principles, including:

- a)** compliance with deontological requirements throughout the doctoral research;
- b)** compliance with deontological requirements in writing the doctoral thesis.

(2) The doctoral school and IPDS shall take measures to prevent and punish any breaches of the scientific, professional and university ethics, in compliance with the institution's code of professional ethics and deontology.

(3) In case of any academic fraud, breaches of academic ethics or failure to comply with good research conduct, including plagiarism, the doctoral student and/or thesis supervisor shall be liable under the law.

Art. 21

(1) The IPDS, through the doctoral schools, may grant financial support to doctoral students for research internships in Romania or abroad, with the approval or the thesis supervisor.

(2) The doctoral schools may also support the mobility of doctoral students by:

a) entering institutional agreements or partnerships, approved by the doctoral school council;

b) co-tutorship doctoral research;

c) exchanges of doctoral students and academic/research staff with internationally recognised universities;

d) participation in international consortia, for the purpose of including doctoral research subjects in international scientific projects.

SECTION 3: Contract for doctoral studies

Art. 22

(1) The rights and obligations incumbent on doctoral students, thesis supervisors and IPDS shall be determined in the contract for doctoral studies.

(2) The standard form of the framework contract for doctoral studies shall be prepared by the doctoral school, endorsed by the doctoral school council and approved by the DSB.

(3) Based on the negotiation, a contract for doctoral studies shall be entered into with each individual doctoral student. The contract shall be signed by the doctoral student, thesis supervisor and the representative of the entity that is legal representative of the IPDS.

(4) Any teaching activities of the doctoral student should not impact negatively on his/her time allocated to the doctoral programme, given that the doctorate is first and foremost a professional research experience.

Art. 23

The contract for doctoral shall include the following information as a minimum:

a) doctoral student's and thesis supervisor's identification data;

b) data on the IPDS and doctoral school;

c) selected research subject;

d) monthly scholarship, as applicable;

e) tuition fee, as applicable;

f) language in which the doctoral thesis is to be written and defended – Romanian, national minority or international language;

g) deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis;

h) requirements for extending the deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis;

i) volume and period of teaching activities that the doctoral student undertakes to deliver, as per Art. 164 (3) of Law no. 1/2011.

Art. 24

(1) Any dispute between the doctoral student and the doctoral school shall be mediated by the DSB.

(2) Any dispute between the doctoral student and the thesis supervisor shall be mediated by the doctoral school council and, should such mediation fail, then the dispute shall be referred for resolution to the DSB.

SECTION 4: Thesis supervisor and the guidance committee

Art. 25

The persons who have acquired the right to supervise doctoral theses before the coming into force of Law no. 1/2011 and the persons who acquire this right on the grounds of Art. 166 of Law no. 1/2011 may be thesis supervisor.

Art. 26

(1) In order to act as thesis supervisors, academic and research staff who have acquired this rights should have an employment agreement with an IPDS or an IPDS member entity and should be members of a doctoral school.

(2) A thesis supervisor may provide guidance to doctoral students only in the field in which they have acquired this right.

(3) An academic and research staff member who is entitled to act as thesis supervisor and has tenure in a higher education or research institution that is not an IPDS or member of an IPDS may, under Art. 166 (3) of Law no. 1/2011, be a member of a doctoral school of an IPDS.

Art. 27

(1) A thesis supervisor may simultaneously guide doctoral students in one IPDS only, except in the case of co-tutorship doctoral programmes.

(2) Doctoral studies may also be organised in co-tutorship. In such case, the doctoral student shall carry out his/her work under the concomitant supervision of one thesis supervisor from Romania and one thesis supervisor from another country or under the concomitant supervision of 2 thesis supervisors form different Romanian institutions, based on the written agreement made between the participating institutions. The co-tutorship doctorate may also be organised when the thesis supervisors are members of the same IPDS, but have different areas of expertise/fields of study or one of the thesis supervisors is 65 years of age, according to Art. 289 (4) of Law no. 1/2011.

(3) A thesis supervisor may simultaneously guide not more than 8 doctoral students in various stages of their doctoral studies.

In the case of co-tutorship doctoral programmes, one head thesis supervisor shall be appointed. The doctoral student shall be fully accountable to the head thesis supervisor, including in terms of determining his/her teaching and research work.

Art. 28

For their work in this capacity, thesis supervisors shall be remunerated according to the applicable regulations.

Art. 29

(1) At the substantiated request of the doctoral student, the doctoral school council may decide to replace a thesis supervisor, if it shall be found that such supervisor

has failed to discharge his/her legal or contractual obligations or for other reasons related to the supervision relationship between the thesis supervisor and the doctoral student.

(2) The doctoral school council shall designate another thesis supervisor, in the case provided for under Paragraph (1), as well and in case it finds that a thesis supervisor is not available.

(3) When designating a new thesis supervisor, the doctoral school council shall give priority to the need for the doctoral student to complete the doctoral programme.

Art. 30

(1) In undertaking the doctoral programme, the doctoral student shall receive support from a guidance committee comprised of 3 members. Such members may be part of the research team of the thesis supervisor, other affiliates of the doctoral school or unaffiliated academic and research.

(2) The membership of the guidance committee shall be determined by the thesis supervisor, based on consultations with the doctoral student.

Art. 31

The activity of thesis supervisors, members of the guidance committee and members of doctoral studies board shall be regulated by the institutional regulations for the organisation and provision of doctoral studies, where the methods for their payment shall also be set forth, as provided for by law.

CHAPTER II: Procedure for the organisation and delivery of doctoral studies

SECTION 1: Selection, admission and participation in doctoral programmes

Art. 32

(1) The procedure for admission to doctoral studies is the process whereby candidates are selected for each doctoral student vacancy that the thesis supervisors from the doctoral school decide to fill-in at a given time.

(2) The selection of a doctoral candidate for a vacancy shall be carried out by the thesis supervisor that supervised that particular position.

(3) Based on the proposal of the thesis supervisor, a doctoral student may only be enrolled if and when he/she obtains the approval of the doctoral school council.

Art. 33

The contents and format of the admission examination shall be determined by the thesis supervisor, in consultation with doctoral school council.

Art. 34

Only graduates holding a master's degree or equivalent from Romania and abroad shall be entitled to participate in the admission procedure to doctoral studies, as per Art. 153 (2) of Law no. 1/2011.

Art. 35

Resident medical doctors shall be entitled to enrol in a doctoral programme and thus have the status of research assistant or university assistant at the same time, for a predetermined period of time and be remunerated for both activities, according to the law.

Art. 36

Doctoral schools shall ensure the transparency of the doctorate selection and admission procedures, evaluation criteria and standards required from candidates, where applicable, as well as guarantee access to such information, including by their publication on the Internet.

Art. 37

(1) On completion of the admission procedure and execution of the doctoral studies contract, the admitted person shall be a doctoral student for the time he/she undertakes the doctoral programme.

(2) Doctoral students shall be employed by any of the entities comprised in the IPDS as research or university assistants, for a predetermined period of time.

(3) The organisational charts shall be prepared for each doctoral school and include academic staff, researchers and doctoral students that activate in the doctoral school. The doctoral school may employ auxiliary academic, research and non-academic staff.

(4) The organisational chart of a doctoral school may also include vacancies, so that the doctoral students that teach more hours than those entered in the doctoral studies contract be paid by the hour.

SECTION 2: Structure and duration of doctoral studies

Art. 38

A doctoral programme may only be delivered in a doctoral school, under the coordination of a thesis supervisor, and include:

- a)** an course of study in the advanced university programme, in a doctoral school;
- b)** an individual scientific research or artistic creation programme.

Art. 39

(1) In the fields of study regulated at European level, the duration of doctoral studies shall comply with the applicable regulations.

(2) In general, the duration of a doctoral programme shall be of 3 years. By exception, in higher education in human medicine, veterinary medicine and pharmacy, in compliance with Art. 174 (3) of Law no. 1/2011, the duration of the doctoral programme shall be, as a rule, of 4 years.

(3) For sound reasons, under the rules of the doctoral school, the duration of a doctoral programme may be extended by 1-2 years, by approval of the university senate, on the proposal of the thesis supervisor and within the limit of available funds.

For good reasons, the doctoral studies may be stayed, under the terms and conditions set forth in the rules of the doctoral school. The duration of such studies shall be extended by the cumulated length of time of the approved interruptions.

(5) The extension provided for at (3) and the interruption and extension provided for at (4) shall be enacted by addenda to the contract for doctoral studies.

Art. 40

(1) Should the doctoral student fail to complete the theme within the deadline set forth in the contract for doctoral studies and any addenda to the contract, than the

doctoral student shall be granted a grace period of up to 2 years to complete the thesis and defend it publicly. Exceeding this new deadline shall automatically result in the students being expelled.

(2) During the grace period provided for at (1), the doctoral student may not receive a doctoral scholarship from doctoral grants provided for at Art. 52.

Art. 41

After defending the doctoral thesis, the IPDS shall issue a certificate confirming the period of time when the doctoral student attended doctoral studies, irrespective whether passed or not.

SECTION 3: Doctorate routes and types

Art. 42

(1) There are two types of doctoral programmes:

a) scientific doctorate, with the end of generating original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge, based on scientific methods; the scientific doctorate is a prerequisite for a career in higher education and research;

b) professional doctorate, in the fields of arts and sports, with the end of generating original knowledge, based on the application of scientific method and systematic reflection on artistic creations or high-level, national and international athletic performance, and that may form the basis for a career in upper education and research in the fields of arts and sports.

(2) Each IPDS, through its doctoral schools and depending on the field of specialism, may organise both scientific and professional doctorate programmes.

(3) Scientific doctoral studies in arts and sports may be organised, if the research topic meets the requirements set forth in Paragraph (1) a), including in doctoral school of arts universities.

Art. 43

(1) The form of doctoral studies is with daily attendance, as per Art. 140 (4) of Law no. 1/2011.

(2) The doctoral student shall allocate a significant part of his/her time to the doctoral programme that requires his/her effective presence at one or several entities comprised in the IPDS or in research & development entities that have entered institutional agreements or partnerships with the IPDS, in compliance with Art. 21 (2) herein, except for the periods of time allocated to student mobility programmes.

(3) The required doctoral student's effective attendance may differ from one doctoral school to another and from one doctoral student to another, it being decided by the thesis supervisor, depending on the specifics of the doctoral programme and in compliance with the rules of the doctoral school.

(4) The rules of the doctoral school shall include provision on attendance requirements, according to a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

(5) The attendance requirements shall be a criterion for assessing the quality of the doctoral school, including for funding purposes.

CHAPTER III: Evaluation of doctoral schools and thesis supervisors

Art. 44

(1) The establishment of a new doctoral school shall entail the provisional authorisation and accreditation process, based on a methodology approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, on proposal of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, hereinafter referred to as ARACIS, National Council for Research, hereinafter referred to as CNCS, and the National Council for Attesting Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates, hereinafter referred to as CNATDCU. Doctoral schools that are operational and accredited at the time of this Code coming into force shall be subject to the continuing evaluation process provided for at Art. 158 (4) of Law no. 1/2011, starting with the academic year 2011-2012.

(2) Each doctoral school shall be subject to external evaluation every 5 years, according to Art. 158 (4) and (5) of Law no. 1/2011.

(3) The external evaluation of doctoral schools shall be carried out based on the performance of the doctoral school and the institutional capacity of the IPDS of which the doctoral school is part.

(4) The external evaluation of doctoral schools shall be carried out by ARACIS or another Romanian or foreign quality assurance agency, based on the CNCS reports on the quality of research and on the CNATDCU reports on the quality of human resources.

(5) The system of evaluation criteria and methodology shall be established by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, based on joint proposals of ARACIS, CNCS and CNATDCU. The evaluation criteria of doctoral school shall mainly include elements concerning the quality of scientific outputs of the research groups led by thesis supervisors from the doctoral school, and with a focus on the international impact and relevance of such groups' research.

(6) A doctoral school that, after 5 years from the last accreditation, did not undergo the external evaluation process provided for under (2) and was not reaccredited shall forfeit its accreditation.

Art. 45

(1) A doctoral school that has forfeited its accreditation may no longer enrol new doctoral students.

(2) The doctoral students undergoing a doctoral programme in a doctoral school that has forfeited its accreditation shall continue their course of study as per the contract and timetable of studies until the completion of such studies.

Art. 46

(1) The defence of doctoral theses of doctoral students from a doctoral school that has forfeited its accreditation shall be organised by another, accredited doctoral school from the same or a similar field.

(2) The doctoral committee shall be approved by the accredited doctoral school's council and the chairperson of the doctoral committee shall represent the IPDS of which the accredited doctoral school is a part.

(3) The doctors' diploma and degree shall be granted by the IPDS of which the accredited doctoral school that organised the public defence of the thesis is part.

Art. 47

(1) The doctoral school may be wound up by DSB decision and the IPDS shall be required to inform the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports on the winding up process and outcome.

(2) The winding up of a doctoral school shall only be possible after all the doctoral students from the school in question will have completed the doctoral programme or been expelled for reasons that are not related to the winding up.

Art. 48

(1) Thesis supervisors shall be evaluated every 5 years.

(2) The evaluation procedure shall be established by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, on proposal from CNATDCU, and mainly envisage aspects concerning the quality of scientific outputs of the group led by the thesis supervisors, with a focus on the impact and relevance of such groups' research at international level and national level, in the case of specifically Romanian fields. The findings of the evaluation shall be public.

Art. 49

The doctoral school may carry out regular internal evaluations. Based on the external [provided for at Art. 44 (2)-(4)] or internal evaluations, the doctoral school may decide to extend or terminate the employment of a thesis supervisor, in compliance with the rules of the doctoral school.

Art. 50

(1) In case the standards of quality or conduct in the organisation and delivery doctoral studies are not observed, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports may take the actions provided for under Art. 170 of Law no. 1/2011.

(2) Any natural or juristic person, including members of CNATDCU and IPDS, may notify in writing, via the UEFISCDI¹, the general Council of CNATDCU on any failure to comply with the quality or conduct standards, including on any plagiarism, in a doctoral thesis, irrespective of the date when the thesis was defended and the title of doctor was awarded.

► *(on 10-mar-2016 Art. 50, Para. (2) of Title II, Chapter III, amended by Art. I, Point 1 of Decision 134/2016)*

(3) The National Council for Ethics of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation may be notified on any breach of good conduct rules in research and development by the research and development staff of the IPDS, according to the provision of Art. 323 of Law no. 1/2011.

CHAPTER IV: Financing of doctoral studies

Art. 51

(1) Doctoral studies shall be financed in compliance with Art. 160 of Law no. 1/2011.

(2) Every 3 years, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports shall put together the list of doctoral studies field financed from public funds. The doctoral schools may also establish doctoral programmes funded from research & developed programmes financed from other public or private sources.

¹ Executive union for the financing of higher education, research, development and innovation

Art. 52

(1) In order to participate in the national competition for doctoral grants for thesis supervisors who are members in doctoral schools, the applicants shall submit project proposals including the following types of information as a minimum:

- a)** curriculum vitae and list of scientific papers of the thesis supervisor;
- b)** information on the number, stage and topics of research carried out by doctoral students coordinated by the thesis supervisor at the time of submitting the project;
- c)** number of doctoral grants applied for;
- d)** topic of the doctorate for each individual doctoral grant or for a set of doctoral grants applied for, in the form of a description of the scientific project in which the doctoral student(s) will participate in; the scientific project may be part of a research project that the thesis supervisor has undergoing.

(2) In order to participate in the national competition for doctoral grants for doctoral schools, such schools shall submit project proposals, including as a must the information indicated in Para. (1), for each thesis supervisor of the doctoral school to which funding is to be allocated, if the grant is won.

(3) Where the doctoral programme is extended under the provisions of Art. 39 (3), the thesis supervisor or doctoral school may propose the extension of the doctoral grant. The methodology for the project competitions fore doctoral grants shall provide for instruments to extend the doctoral grant, by national competition.

(4) In the process of evaluating applications for doctoral grants, the CNCS shall apply criteria conforming to best international practice and make use of independent, internationally recognised experts in the specific field covered by the project proposal. Foreign experts may also be employed, from other EU Member States or from Member States of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The number of foreign experts shall be determined by the CNCS.

(5) The CNCS may not admit applications for doctoral grants from institutions that do not comply with the provisions of this Code or of the regulations in force at the time of submitting the grant application. In evaluating the applications for doctoral grants, the gradual allocation of the number of students within the limits set forth in Art. 167 of Law no. 1/2011 will also be considered for each applying thesis supervisor, by the beginning of the academic year 2013-2014.

(6) Where doctoral grants are financed from a programme under the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation and the budget for each project is lower than the Lei equivalent of 50,000 Euros, by exception from the provisions of Art. 47 (3) of the Rules for contracting, funding, monitoring and evaluating research, development and innovation projects and activities included in the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation, approved by Government Decision no. 1.265/2004, as amended, the ratio of foreign to local experts employed in the evaluation of a project shall be determined by the CNCS.

Art. 53

Notwithstanding other forms of remuneration provided for by the applicable regulations, the remuneration and rights of a doctoral student shall be in compliance with Art. 164 of Law no. 1/2011.

Art. 54

Individuals who have suitable financial resources from own resources or from grants provided by natural or juristic persons, may be admitted, on their request, as doctoral students with tuition fees, under the provisions of this Code.

Art. 55

Where the IPDS is a partnership, doctoral grants allocated to a doctoral school or other joint funding intended for doctoral programmes set up by the contribution of several partners shall be distributed between partners according to the partnership agreement.

Art. 56

(1) The IPDS or thesis supervisor shall only use the doctoral grants for activities related to the implementation of the doctoral programmes of doctoral students for whom the funds have been allocated.

(2) Every 6 months, the thesis supervisor shall be required to inform the doctoral student on the use of the doctoral grant money.

(3) Under no circumstances may all or any of the funds allocated as doctoral grants to a doctoral student be used to support the work of another doctoral student.

TITLE III: Contents and completion of doctoral programmes

CHAPTER I: Skills provided by doctoral programmes

Art. 57

Doctoral studies programmes ensure the development of specific, professional (contents, cognitive and research) and cross-cutting skills.

Art. 58

(1) For the purpose of this Code, the following skills specific to the field shall be deemed as professional skills:

- a)** advanced knowledge in the field;
- b)** capacity to identify, formulate and solve research problems;
- c)** mastery of advanced research methods and techniques;
- d)** knowledge on the management of research projects;
- e)** mastery of new research procedures and solutions;
- f)** scientific paper research, writing and utilisation skills;
- g)** academic language skills in international languages required for scientific paper research and writing;
- h)** understanding and capacity to apply the principles and values of research ethics to the specific field.

(2) For then purpose of this Code, cross-cutting skills shall be:

- a)** written and oral communication skills in science and culture;
- b)** advanced language skills in international languages;
- c)** use of information and communication technology;
- d)** interacting and team work skills;
- e)** human, physical and financial resources management skills;

- f) leadership skills;
- g) knowledge on career management, as well as acquisition of job searching and job creation techniques;
- h) knowledge on risk, crisis and failure management;
- i) knowledge on the use of intellectual property laws;
- j) economic, technological and social entrepreneurship skills.

CHAPTER II: Training programme based on advanced university studies and the scientific research programme

Art. 59

(1) The doctoral schools may provide doctoral students with a training programme based on advanced university studies comprising activities carried out in institutionalised study teams, in courses, seminars, laboratories and other alike.

(2) The appropriateness of organising a training programme based on advanced university studies and its structure and contents are at the latitude of the doctoral school, according to the rules of the doctoral school.

(3) The doctoral school shall be required to ensure free and unrestricted access to the advanced training programme to all doctoral students from the doctoral school in question or from other doctoral schools.

Art. 60

(1) The completion of the advanced university studies programme may lead to the award of a number of transferable credits, as decided by the doctoral school.

(2) In the case of doctoral programmes in veterinary health and medicine, the advanced studies of the doctoral school shall be worth a total of 60 credits.

(3) The training programme based on advanced university studies shall not negatively impact on the time available to the doctoral student for his/her individual scientific research or artistic creation programme and shall be relevant for the research topic of the doctoral thesis.

(4) The credits obtained in a master's research programme or in previous doctoral and/or scientific research programmes undertaken in Romania or abroad, in universities or in prestigious research & development entities, may be recognised as equivalent to those of a training programme based on advanced university studies. The recognition shall be proposed by the thesis supervisor and approved by the doctoral school council.

(5) The participation of a doctoral student in the training programme based on advanced university studies and the choice of topics to be pursued by the doctoral student shall exclusively and independently be determined by the thesis supervisor. Any limitation of this autonomy of the thesis supervisor shall be prohibited.

(6) The doctoral student may independently choose to take the advanced university studies provided by the doctoral school where he/she is enrolled or by another doctoral school. Any limitation of this personal choice shall be prohibited.

(7) The total duration of the advanced university studies programme may not exceed 3 months, except in the case of doctoral programmes in veterinary health and medicine.

Art. 61

(1) The training programme based on advanced university studies is a tool for enriching the knowledge of the doctoral student and serves him/her to carry out the research programme in good order and to acquire advanced skills, specific for the doctoral studies cycle.

(2) Any evaluations of the courses, seminars or laboratories in the advanced university studies programme shall serve an exclusively informative purpose, not be mandatory for the doctoral students and may not be a condition for the funding of doctoral students or for their route in the study programme. Evaluation for the award of the doctor title shall be based on the doctoral thesis and its public defence.

(3) The IPDS, via its doctoral schools, shall facilitate and guarantee the curricular flexibility of doctoral programmes.

Art. 62

(1) In order to provide the necessary knowledge base for doctoral studies, doctoral schools may organise research master's studies, exclusively in full-time system, focused mainly on the development of research skills.

(2) Learning in the research master programme may be assimilated to training programme based on advanced university studies.

(3) The training programme based on advanced university studies may also be delivered through the participation of doctoral students to the research master programme provided by the doctoral school, if such doctoral students have not already taken these courses, without the doctoral students being required to take the exams of this cycle of studies.

Art. 63

(1) The scientific research programme involves the participation of the doctoral student in one or more scientific projects determined by the thesis supervisor.

(2) The responsibility on the structure, contents, delivery and organisation of the scientific research programme of the doctoral student lies with the thesis supervisor.

(3) The thesis supervisor shall be directly responsible for the scientific development of the doctoral student, being required to take all the measures necessary to provide the student with the conditions, knowledge and information needed for maximising him/her chances of completing the doctoral programme.

(4) The provision of the resources required for the research projects involving the doctoral student shall also be a specific requirement on the IPDS, doctoral school and thesis supervisor.

Art. 64

With a view to ensuring a coherent scientific development route, on his/her request and at least once every 12 months, the doctoral student shall present the progress of the research programme in front of the guidance committee and the thesis supervisor, whose responsibility shall be to guide, correct and support the scientific development of the doctoral student.

CHAPTER III: Doctoral thesis and completion of doctoral studies

Art. 65

(1) The doctoral thesis shall be prepared in compliance with the requirements laid down in the rules of the doctoral school.

(2) The doctoral school may define a standard format for the doctoral thesis, which may include layout and formatting elements, and the doctoral student shall be required to comply with such standard format.

(3) The contents of the doctoral thesis shall be determined by the doctoral student in consultation with the thesis supervisor and shall fully comply with the framework structure and limitations imposed by the rules of the doctoral school.

(4) The title of the doctoral thesis may be modified at the latitude of the doctoral student at any time before its completion for public defence.

(5) The doctoral thesis shall be an original paper, it being mandatory to indicate the source for any material taken over from other sources.

(6) The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and shall take full responsibility for the accuracy of the data, information, opinions and demonstrations presented in the thesis.

(7) Alongside the author, the thesis supervisor shall also be responsible for compliance with the quality or professional conduct standards, including for ensuring the originality of the contents, according to the provisions of Art. 170 of Law no. 1/2011.

Art. 66

(1) The theses and any annexes thereof shall be public documents and are also to be prepared as digital documents. In the field of arts, doctoral theses may be accompanied by digital recordings of the original arts creation. Doctoral thesis and its annexes shall be published on a website managed by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, in compliance with the applicable copyrights regulations.

(2) Intellectual property rights over the doctoral thesis shall be ensured as provided for by law.

(3) The copyrights and/or intellectual property rights over the original product or creation developed in the doctoral studies shall be protected in compliance with the provisions of the applicable regulations.

(4) The make up of the «doctorate file» and access to it shall be regulated by a procedure developed by CNATDCU and approved by Order of the Minister of National Education and Research, in compliance with the laws in force. Such procedure shall comply with the following rules:

a) the summary of the thesis shall be published on the university website or, as applicable, of the Romanian Academy, and be available to the public, after the appointment of the thesis defence committee;

b) the printed thesis shall be available for consultation at the library of the university or, as applicable, of the Romanian Academy, at least 20 days before the date of the public defence. The doctoral thesis shall remain a public document, in the library of the university or, as applicable, of the Romanian Academy;

c) if the doctoral student does not opt for publishing distinctly the thesis or chapters thereof, the thesis in digital format shall be made public and freely available on the national platform, after the issuance of the order awarding the doctor title; the copyright licence shall be issued for the thesis;

d) if the doctoral student chooses to publish distinctly the doctoral thesis or chapter thereof, he/she shall be granted a term of grace of maximum 24 months for such publication; at the end of the grace term, if IPDS has not received any notification on the distinct publication of the thesis, the digital document shall become freely available on the national platform, with the issuance of a copyright license;

e) after the publication of the thesis or chapters thereof, the author shall be required to notify IPDS accordingly and to submit a bibliographic indication and a link to the publication, which shall then be posted on the national platform;

f) within no more than 30 days from the award of the doctor title, the IPDS shall be required to submit a printed copy of the doctoral thesis to the National Library of Romania, where it shall be accessible on request.

(5) The IPDS shall permanently archive the doctorate file.

► *(on 10-mar-2016, Art. 66, Para. (3) of Title III, Chapter III supplemented by Art. I, Point 2. of Decision 134/2016)*

Art. 67

(1) The doctoral studies are completed by the defence in public session of the doctoral thesis, in front of the thesis defence committee, hereinafter referred to as the doctoral committee.

(2) The public defence may only take place after the following steps:

a) the doctoral student delivers the thesis in electronic and, as applicable, hard copy to the doctoral school's secretariat;

b) the doctoral school analyses the thesis for similarities using an application recognised by CNATDCU; supplementary, the doctoral school may request the use of an national application for the detection of similarities; similarities reports are to be included in the «doctorate file»;

c) the doctoral thesis is presented to the guidance committee; after this pre-defence (which may be public), the thesis supervisor and guidance committee decide on the official submission of the thesis and organisation of the public defence; the acceptance report by the thesis supervisor and the approval of the guidance committee are to be included in the «doctorate file»;

d) the doctoral thesis is officially filed with the secretariat of the doctoral school, in printed and electronic copy, together with the doctoral thesis summary and the CV of the doctoral candidate; the secretary of the doctoral school then certifies that the candidate has met all his/her obligations in the doctoral programme;

e) the application for the setting of a date for thesis defence (approved by the thesis supervisor and the chairperson of the thesis defence committee) is to be filed with the secretariat of the doctoral school at least 20 calendar days before the date proposed for defence;

f) the doctoral school prepares and displays the notice for the public defence at least 20 calendar days in advance or the date proposed for defence. Such notice shall include the date, venue and time of the thesis defence session, name of the thesis

supervisor(s), and the location where the full text of the thesis may be consulted in printed format. The public defence notice, electronic summary of the thesis, candidate's CV, CV's of the members of the thesis defence committee or links to such documents shall be posted on the IPDS's website.

► (on 10-Mar-2016, Art. 67, Para. (2) of Title III, Chapter III amended by Art. I, Point 3. of Decision 134/2016)

(3) If breaches of good research-development conduct, including plagiarism of other authors' findings or publications, manufacturing of findings or replacement of findings with fictitious data are identified during the evaluation of the thesis by the thesis supervisor or the guidance committee, the approval for public defence shall not be granted.

(4) The doctoral committee shall be proposed by the thesis supervisor and approved by the doctoral school council. The doctoral committee shall be comprised of a minimum of 5 members: chairperson, as representative of the IPDS, thesis supervisor, and at least 3 official national or international reviewers, experts in the field of the doctoral thesis, of whom at least 2 from outside the IPDS in question. The members of the doctoral committee shall be doctors and hold at least the teaching position of associate professor or level II researcher or be thesis supervisors in Romania or abroad.

(5) Both the IPDS and the doctoral school may set minimal scientific performance standards that the members of the doctoral committee should meet in order to participate in a particular committee.

(6) The defence of the doctoral thesis can only take place after the thesis has been evaluated by all the members of the doctoral committee and in the presence of at least 4 of the members of whom two shall be the committee chairperson and the thesis supervisor.

(7) The public defence shall include as a must a session of questions from the members of the doctoral committee and the public, according to Art. 168 (3) of Law no. 1/2011.

(8) It is prohibited for the doctoral student to offer gifts or other similar undue benefits to the members of the doctoral committee or for the doctoral student to be required to contribute to the reimbursement of travel expenses of certain members of the doctoral committee or of other costs of organising the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

(9) The capacity as doctoral student is terminate when the doctor title is awarded or when the expelling order is issued.

► (on 10-Mar-2016 Art. 67, Para. (8) of Title III, Chapter III supplemented by Art. I, Point 4. of Decision 134/2016)

Art. 68

(1) Base don the defence of the doctoral thesis and the reports by the official reviewers, the doctoral committee shall evaluate and deliberate on the grading of the doctoral thesis. The awarded grades may be: "Excellent", "Very good", "Good", "Satisfactory" and "Unsatisfactory".

(2) Should during the evaluation of the thesis a member of the doctoral committee identify serious breaches of the research and academic good conduct rules, either

before or during the defence of the thesis, including plagiarism of other authors' findings or publications, manufacturing of findings or replacement of findings with fictitious data, such member of the doctoral committee shall be required to take the following measures:

a) notify the ethics committee of the higher education institution where the doctoral student is enrolled and the ethics committee of the thesis supervisor's employer to analyse and resolve the case, including by expelling the doctoral student, in compliance with Art. 306-310 and 318-322 of Law no. 1/2011 and Law no. 206/2004 on good practice in scientific research, technological development and innovation, as amended;

b) notify such breaches to all the members of the doctoral committee and propose the "Unsatisfactory" grade.

(3) If the doctoral student has met all the requirements of the research programme and the assessment of the doctoral results in grades "Excellent", "Very good", "Good" or "Satisfactory", the doctoral committee shall propose the award of the doctor title. The proposal is to be submitted to CNATDCU for validation. After evaluating the file, CNATDCU proposes the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sport to award or refuse the title of doctor.

(4) In case the grade is "Unsatisfactory", the doctoral committee shall indicate the contents elements that are to be reconsidered or amended in the doctoral thesis and requests a new thesis defence session. The second thesis defence session shall take place in front of the same doctoral committee as the first one. In case the grade in the second thesis defence session is also "Unsatisfactory", the title of doctor shall not be awarded and the doctoral student be expelled.

(5) In case CNATDCU invalidates the doctoral thesis on good grounds, the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports shall forward to the IPDS a written reason for the invalidation, written based on the observations of CNATDCU. The doctoral thesis may be retransmitted to CNATDCU within one year from the date of the first invalidation. If the doctoral thesis is invalidated a second time, the title of doctor shall not be awarded, and the doctoral student shall be expelled.

(6) In case CNATDCU members of the doctoral thesis evaluation committee find that the professional conduct standards have been breached, including any plagiarism, in the thesis and/or work on which it is based, they shall invalidate the doctoral thesis, notify such findings to the other members of the evaluation committee and request the General Council of CNATDCU to determine the responsibility of the thesis supervisor or doctoral school and apply the provisions of Art. 69 (5).

► *(on 10-Mar-2016 Art. 68, Para. (5) of Title III, Chapter III supplemented by Art. I, Point 5. of Decision 134/2016)*

Art. 69

(1) The doctor title shall be awarded by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, after the validation of the doctoral thesis by CNATDCU.

(2) Within 45 days from receiving a notification under Art. 50 (2), the General Council of CNATDCU shall analyse and decide as required by law. The General Council may consult other members of CNATDCU and enrol support from external experts who should not be in any conflict of interests with the author or the thesis supervisor.

► (on 10-Mar-2016 Art. 69, Para. (2) of Title III, Chapter III amended by Art. I, Point 6. of Decision 134/2016)

(3) Within the deadline laid down at (2), the General Council of CNATDCU shall request an opinion from the IPDS. The latter shall reply within 30 days from receiving such a request. In case the IPDS confirms a breach of quality or professional conduct standards, it shall submit to CNATDCU its proposal to withdraw the doctor title. The proposal shall be dully signed by the rector or, as applicable, by the President of the Romanian Academy, and endorsed by the legal department of the university or, as applicable, of the Romanian Academy.

(4) Within the deadline provided for at (2), the General Council al CNATDCU shall decide whether the quality or professional conduct standards have been breached, including any plagiarism, and the President of CNATDCU shall submit to the person who notified the breach, thesis author and IPDS the resolution of the General Council of CNATDCU and its substantiation. The recipients shall have 10 days to challenge the procedure, and the General Council of CNATDCU shall have 10 days to respond to any such challenge.

(5) In case the General Council of CNATDCU decides that the quality or professional conduct standards have been breached, including any plagiarism, the president of CNATDCU shall propose the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research one or more of the following measures:

- a)** withdrawal of the capacity as thesis supervisor;
- b)** withdrawal of the doctor title;
- c)** withdrawal of the accreditation of the doctoral school.

(6) Following a proposal under (5), Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, based on the legal opinion from the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, shall be required to take the measures provided for under Art. 170 of Law no. 1/2011, as amended. The Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research shall inform all the stakeholders on the orders issued.

(7) All the documents concerning such notifications and actions shall be included in the «doctorate file» and uploaded on the national platform; the decisions taken by the ethics committees and CNATDCU shall also be published on their respective websites.

► (on 10-Mar-2016 Art. 69, Para. (2) of Title III, Chapter III supplemented by Art. I, Point 7. of Decision 134/2016)

Art. 70

(1) The diploma awarded on the successful completion of a doctoral programme is called a doctor's diploma. In the case of scientific doctorates, the diploma that certifies the award and tenure of a doctor's title shall specifically indicate the disciplinary or interdisciplinary area of the doctorate. In the case of professional doctorates, the diploma that certifies the award and tenure of a doctor's title shall specifically indicate the professional area of the doctorate.

(2) On successful completion of scientific doctoral studies, the IPDS shall award the diploma and title of doctor in sciences, with the acronym Dr.

(3) On successful completion of professional doctoral studies, the IPDS shall award the diploma and title of doctor in a professional area, with the acronym Dr. P.

(4) The doctor's diploma shall bear the grade obtained by the doctoral student, namely "Excellent", "Very good", "Good" or "Satisfactory". Furthermore, the doctor's diploma shall carry a text in Latin, thus:

- a)** for the grade "Excellent", the indication "Summa cum laude";
- b)** for the grade "Very good", the indication "Magna cum laude";
- c)** for the grade "Good", the indication "Cum laude".

TITLE IV: Rights and obligations of the doctoral student and thesis supervisor

Art. 71

(1) Throughout the doctoral programme, the doctoral student shall be entitled to:

- a)** receive support, guidance and coordination from the thesis supervisor and the guidance committee;
- b)** participate in seminars and working meetings of research & development staff of the IPDS, when relevant issues for the doctoral studies are on debate;
- c)** be represented in the decision-making bodies of the doctoral school, as provided for herein;
- d)** use the logistics, research centres, libraries and equipment of the doctoral school and IPDS to develop his/her research project and a doctoral thesis;
- e)** enrol in courses and seminars organised by other doctoral schools;
- f)** work together with the teams of researchers of the IPDS or research & development entities that are under contract or in partnership with the IPDS;
- g)** benefit from national or international mobility programmes;
- h)** receive institutional support for participating in scientific conferences or congresses, workshops, summer or winter schools and national and international seminars in his/her chosen area of expertise for the doctoral thesis;
- i)** participate in academic conferences organised by the doctoral school and/or IPDS;
- j)** be informed on the curriculum of doctoral studies of the doctoral school.

(2) The doctoral student shall have the following obligations:

- a)** observe the timetable set together with the thesis supervisor and discharge his/her obligations to present the work and research findings;
- b)** submit activity reports to the thesis supervisor and guidance, as and when requested;
- c)** permanently liaise with the thesis supervisor;
- d)** observe institutional discipline.

Art. 72

(1) The rights and obligations thesis supervisor stem from Law no. 1/2011, the institutional rules for organisation and delivery of doctoral studies of each IPDS, the rules of the doctoral school, as well as from his/her employment agreement.

(2) Without limitation, the rights of the thesis supervisor shall include:

- a)** the right to participate in competitions for doctoral grants;
- b)** the right to guide and evaluate the work of the doctoral student in the doctoral programme, based on the principles of professional and academic autonomy, on the lines of the doctoral programme requirements and in consideration of their professional interests of the doctoral student;
- c)** the right to propose the doctoral committee;
- d)** the right to impartial internal and external evaluation, in compliance with the specific evaluation process methodology;
- e)** the right to know the methodology used for his/her internal/external evaluation;
- f)** the right to know the outcomes of internal/external evaluation of his/her activity;
- g)** the right to refuse to tutor a doctoral student, if he/she is unwillingly in a conflict of interests;
- h)** the right to request the doctoral school council to terminate the tutorship of a student;
- i)** the right to select the doctoral candidate for a vacancy under his/her supervision and propose the enrolment of a doctoral student;
- j)** the right to request the doctoral school to organise an admission contest for each doctoral student vacancy under his/her supervision;
- k)** the right to decide the elements of study of the advanced university studies programme in which the doctoral student is required to participate, in compliance with this Code.

(3) The thesis supervisor shall have the following obligations:

- a)** to provide scientific, professional and deontological guidance to each doctoral student;
- b)** to propose research topics;
- c)** to provide the conditions and motivate the progress of the doctoral students in their respective research work;
- d)** to objectively and thoroughly monitor and evaluate each doctoral student;
- e)** to support the mobility of doctoral students;
- f)** to avoid conflicts of interests in the guidance of doctoral students.

TITLE V: Transitional and final provisions

Art. 73

The institutions entitled to organise doctoral studies at the time of this Code's entering into force shall:

- a)** start the procedure for the establishment and/or accreditation of their own doctoral schools within 15 days from the entry into force of this Code;
- b)** reorganise according to this Code and finalise such reorganisation within 12 months from the entry into force of this Code.

Art. 74

(1) The institutions that do not become IPDS following the accreditation of their doctoral schools and doctoral schools that do not obtain accreditation under this Code within 12 months from its coming into force, shall forfeit the right to organise doctoral studies and no longer enrol new doctoral students.

(2) The doctoral students undertaking a doctoral programme in an institution that has forfeited the right to organise doctoral studies shall continue the programme according to the contract and timetable until completion, under the provisions of Art. 46. The institution shall be required to ensure ten conditions necessary for the completion of the programme.

Art. 75

The persons that have obtained the right as thesis supervisors without an indication of the area for which they have such an entitlement shall have their respective area of competence defined by Order of the Minister of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, on the proposal of CNATDCU.

Art. 76

(1) In all cases where a thesis supervisor provides guidance simultaneously to more than 8 doctoral students who started their doctoral programmes before the coming into force of Law no. 1/2011, such doctoral students may continue and complete their studies with the same thesis supervisor.

(2) Doctoral students who started a doctoral programme before the coming into force of Law no. 1/2011 in another attendance form than full time may continue and complete their studies in such other form of attendance.

(3) In the case of doctoral students whose doctoral theses have been subject to preliminary review by the academic department or the research team before the 1st of October 2011, the provisions of Art. 28 and subsequent of Government Decision no. 567/2005 on the organisation and delivery doctoral studies, as amended, will continue to apply.

(4) In the case of doctoral students doctoral theses have not been subject to preliminary review by the academic department or the research team before the 1st of October 2011, the provision of this Code shall apply, including any provisions on the designation of the guidance committee, taking into account the current stage they are in: training programme based on advanced university studies or scientific research programme. If by the completion of the doctoral thesis the guidance committee will not have been designated, the defence of the thesis may take place based only on the agreement of the thesis supervisor.

Art. 77

The number of maximum 8 doctoral students (required by Art. 167 of Law no. 1/2011) by any thesis supervisor who, at the time of the coming into force of this Decision, is coordinating more than 8 doctoral students shall be achieved gradually, as and when doctoral students currently under the coordination of the thesis supervisors in question complete their studies, according to the applicable regulations. The IPDS shall be required to accurately report the schedule of doctoral programmes and defence of theses, with a view to complying with Art. 167 of Law no. 1/2011. Doctoral students found in a period of interruption or stay of studies shall not be counted in for the duration of such interruptions. The management of universities and doctoral shall be required to take the necessary actions to ensure

compliance with these legal provisions. The ratio of doctoral students to thesis supervisors shall be a quality assessment criterion of the IPDS and doctoral school.

Art. 78

(1) The IPDS's doctoral schools that no longer obtain accreditation shall complete the doctoral programmes of their doctoral students, according to the applicable regulations. The institution shall be required to ensure the conditions necessary for the completion of the programmes. After the loss of accreditation, the doctoral schools may no longer enrol new students.

(2) The academic staff entitled to act as thesis supervisor may participate in consortia or partnerships in another IPDS.

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