

## **The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain**

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

This is the report of the External Periodic Evaluation of doctoral study field of Psychology at West University of Timisoara (UVT) in the period 2016 - 2020.

Visit period: 11 - 15 September 2021 carried out in blended format (both online meetings and site visit to the university. Due to the ongoing pandemic situation, my participation was only online, via ZOOM platform

Composition of the ARACIS commission that performs the evaluation:

Coordinator: Prof. Păvălache Ilie Mariela (Universitatea Transilvania din Brasov)

International expert: Prof. Carmen Díaz Batanero (University of Huelva, Spain)

PhD student: Ciurbea Flavia-Elena (Academia Română)

The Doctoral School of Psychology was launched in 2014 with the doctoral training program in the field of Psychology. Two other teaching programs were incorporated at the Doctoral School of Psychology in 2018 and 2019: Educational Sciences and Sports Science and Physical Education. Currently there are 18 doctoral coordinators (9 coordinators in the field of Psychology, 6 coordinators in the field of Educational Sciences, 3 coordinators in the field of Sports Science and Physical Education). The total number of doctoral student at this moment at the Doctoral School are 55 (25 following the Doctoral Training Program in Psychology; 15 on the Doctoral Training Program in the field of Sports Science and Physical Education and 10 in the field of Educational Science.

The doctoral study domain in Psychology training program was started in 2014, Currently there are 9 doctoral coordinators in the field of Psychology (5 Professors, 3 Associate Professors, 1 Assistant Professor), of which 6 meet the habilitation standards in force). According to the internal report, the total number of doctoral student at this moment at the Doctoral Training Program in the field of Psychology are 25 (4 - 1st year; 8 - 2nd year; 8 - 3rd year; 5 - in extension)

### **II. Methods used**

Methods and tools used in the external evaluation process included:

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<sup>1</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



- Analysis of internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain of Psychology and its Annexes
- Analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School website, in electronic format
- Meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies
- Meeting with the contact person for doctoral study domain of Psychology and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report
- Meeting with the Doctoral School Council
- Meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain of Psychology
- Meeting with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain of Psychology
- Meeting with the members of Ethics Commission
- Meeting with the persons in charge of the research centers and laboratories within the doctoral study domain of Psychology
- Meeting with the graduates of the doctoral study domain of Psychology
- Meeting with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain of Psychology

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

#### **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;*

Three documents regulate the Doctoral School: 1) The Charter of the West University of Timisoara; 2) the Institutional Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral studies; 3) the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology. These regulations are available either annexed or on the website:

<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=37>

According to the internal report, the Charter of the West University of Timișoara lists the doctoral schools that operated in West University of Timișoara in 2016. The document is correctly annexed.

The Institutional Regulation on the organization and development of doctoral studies, revised lastly in 2021 is not described in the report, although it is accessible in:

<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Anexa-6.-Regulament-organizare-si-desfasurare-studii-de-doctorat-ed.-a-III-a.pdf>.

The Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology, revised in 2019, states the regulations applicable to organization and management (chapter II); for doctoral supervisors (chapter III); PhD students (chapter IV); criteria for obtaining

doctorate (VI); organization and development of doctoral studies (chapter V). Updated regulation integrate the two new doctoral studies in the Doctoral School on Education Sciences and Sports Science.

*(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;*

Several functions at the level of doctoral studies are mentioned in the report as elective in West University of Timișoara:

- 1) Member of CSUD (4 positions) with respectively 2 positions for each of the doctoral school boards. According to the regulations mentioned, the mechanisms for the performance, organization and development of elections for the different positions are available. After some difficulties in filling the positions mentioned in the report, it is reported that they are now filled since 2016. However, the specific current composition of the members are not mentioned in the internal report and the information is of difficult access on the website
- 2) Student representatives, report mentions that it is regulated by special, specific documents. The documents are annexed nor there is evidence of the holding of elections or the annual composition of these representatives. From the meetings carried during visit it is gathered some difficulties for filling student representatives.
- 3) Regulations for electing the position of director of the Council of doctoral school is annexed in the report.

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

The report mentions specific regulations for the admission and completion of students to the doctoral program (e.g. IOSUD-WUT admission methodologies; The Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology). These regulations are correctly annexed / published in the website.

The interviews with the supervisors and the PhD Students, together with the information provided, it was not appreciated any problem or disconformity in the procedure for the approval of proposals and assignation of supervisors and other regulations related with doctoral studies.

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

Three methodologies are mentioned in the internal report to regulate the recognition of the quality of the doctoral coordinator:

- Methodology regarding the recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor obtained abroad;
- Methodology for recognizing in the WUT the doctor's degree obtained abroad;
- Framework procedure for the affiliation of doctoral supervisors.

In the internal report there is no mention about where this regulations can be found, neither have been found in the website.



e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;

Neither the internal report nor the information available on website have specific evidence that prove the regularity of the meetings. From the meeting with the Council of the doctoral school it is mentioned that there are no reports of these meetings, although these meetings take place in regular basis. Two plagiarism files under evaluation are mentioned in this point in the evaluation report, no being this issue related to the indicator evaluated in this section.

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

The document, which establishes the relationship between the student, his supervisor and IOSUD-WUT, is described and correctly annexed.

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

According to the internal report, this procedure is regulated on the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology. The disciplines included in this program are proposed by the Director of the Doctoral School and adopted by the Doctoral School Council

***The indicator A.1.1.1 is partially fulfilled***

*Recommendations: There is an adequate regulatory and organizational structure for the doctoral study domain. However, some of the documentation seems difficult to access. It is recommended to review the publication of these documents on the website and make clearer organization of presentation of these documents. There is also a lack of evidence of the meetings of the Council of the doctoral School, it is recommended that the reports of these meetings be prepared and attached to the next evaluation report. Students representatives vacants in CDS should be filled.*

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

The Regulations of *the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Doctoral School of Psychology* accomplish all the aspects specified in the Art. 17 of the GD 681/2011:

- *Acceptance of new doctoral supervisors (Article 7)*
- *Suspension of membership for doctoral supervisors (Article 8)*
- *Withdrawal of membership for doctoral supervisors within (Article 9)*
- *Changing the doctoral supervisor and mediating conflicts (article 14)*
- *Access of doctoral students to resources (article 15)*
- *Actors responsible for the structure and content (Article 19)*
- *Professional competencies specific to the field (article 23)*
- *Duration and conditions for interruption (article 17)*
- *Compliance to scientific, professional and university ethics (article 30)*
- *Students attendance obligations (article 24)*

***The indicator A.1.1.2. is fulfilled***



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

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

The University Management System (UMS) allow managing personal data, status of the doctoral student, file of doctoral student. Although this evaluator could not evaluate how the system operate, during the interviews no one from the teaching staff, quality assurance commission or students declared any conflict or problem about it

***The indicator A.1.2.1 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.***

There are two anti-plagiarism software solutions implemented: Turnitin and iThenticate. All doctoral theses within the Doctoral School of Psychology are compulsorily verified with iThenticate, the software emphasizes the percentage of similarity and allows the comparative reading of the analyzed text with the text to which reference is made although it is mentioned that there is no stablished percentage of similiary fixed. Students have free acces to these tools.

***The indicator A.1.2.2. is fulfilled***

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

***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 2 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 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.***

The evidence provided on the report for this indicator is evaluated very positively. It can be confirmed the existence of 5 researchers having research projects on topics of interest to the field of study of the doctoral program: dr. Florin Alin Sava; dr. Delia Virgă;; dr. Laurențiu Maricuțoiu; dr. Paul Sârbescu; dr Andrei Rusu whith a cumulative budget of over 2.7 million euros.

Doctoral students were included in the research teams of some projects carried out by the doctoral supervisors (Okros Norberth, Tisu Luca, Pap Zselyke, Popescu Bianca, Marian Ștefan, Bunghez Cătălina, Huzoaița Florina).

***The indicator A.1.3.1 is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.***



According to internal report, of the 23 students in the doctoral training stage at the time of the evaluation, 7 (30.43%) are currently financially supported by research or institutional development grants. In addition, other 6 doctoral students have been employed in the evaluation period (2016-2020) as research assistants or as technicians in research grants carried out by members of the Department of Psychology of the UVT for more than 6 months.

***The indicator A.1.3.2 is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.<sup>2</sup>*** *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

Internal report inform of difficulties to estimate the specific amount of funding used to promote professional training of doctoral students. 2 cases are mentioned: Daria Lupsa receiving funding for attending to a conference and Luca Tisu who was economically supported for a working visit. Further than this there is a mention (and document linked) of 6 PhD students receiving scholarships through POSDRU 140863 project.

Additional to these specific grants, internal report states that there have been organized several training activities for all staff (including students): intensive courses on Network Analysis, Structural Equation Modelling, meta-analysis... During the visit we gathered evidences of students reporting economical support from the university for developing their training and research activities (e.g. assistance to conferences, summer schools, scientific papers publication fees).

***The indicator A.1.3.3. is partially fulfilled.***

*Recommendations: Although specific economic actions aimed at supporting student training are recognized, the amount of the dedicated budget cannot be clearly established. This deficiency could be remedied with a more transparent control of investments. The actions implemented for successive academic years are recognized as positive.*

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<sup>2</sup> The indicators marked with an asterisk (\*) hold a special status, referring exclusively to the evaluation of doctoral studies domains, as per Article 12 from the annex No.1 of the Order of the minister of education No. 3651/12.04.2021 approving the Methodology for evaluating university doctoral studies and the system of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation. In case they are not met, the Agency extends a period of maximum 3 years to IOSUD to correct the respective deficiencies.



## **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.*

The equipment of IOSUD / Doctoral School within the research centers and laboratories, is analyzed on the basis of the reported documents, the discussions with the staff involved and the field visit.

***Performance Indicator A.2.1.1.*** *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.*

The availability of following resources are positively value: statistical data processing programs, data collection platforms; programs for the design of experimental studies; applications for evaluation and delivery of online interventions; psychological testing applications  
However, some resources that are not specific to research work are mentioned. Most relevant resource ciete for research development is Central University Library (B.C.U.) "Eugen Todoran". PhD students have access, through BCUT, to books and specialized journals in the field of psychology. No specific laboratory equipment is mentioned in the internal report.  
However, during visit, research center responsible persons detailed specific equipment for reseach and report about an specific new place being rehabilitated for being used as a psychological research center.

***The indicator A.2.1.1. is fulfilled.***

Recommendations: It is recommended that research laboratory infrastructures be expanded.



### Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

*Standard A.3.1. At the level of each domain there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.*

For the field of Psychology, the activity of the doctoral supervisors, the degree of fulfillment of the minimum CNATDCU standards and the international visibility of the teachers are analyzed.

**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.*

Nine doctoral supervisors carry out their activity (quality obtained according to the law) and at least 50% of them (i.e., 6 out of 9) meet the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of evaluation, necessary and mandatory to obtain the habilitation certificate. Moreover, all the scientific supervisors within the field of doctoral studies in Psychology have obtained in the last five years over 25% of the minimum total score required for habilitation. All evidence concerning this indicator is correctly annexed.

**The indicator A.3.1.1 is fulfilled.**

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

According to internal report 8 out of 9 doctoral advisors are tenured members of the Department of Psychology within the West University of Timișoara. The ninth member (prof.univ.dr. Mihaela Minulescu), being affiliated to the Doctoral School of Psychology from UVT and employed as a tenured professor at SNSPA Bucharest. The requirements of indicator are met.

**The indicator A.3.1.2 is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.** *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or 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 aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*

Four subjects are cited (*Research methodology and scientific authorship; Advances study topics in psychology; Advanced multivariate statistics; Ethics and academic integrity*), where the contents are taught by professors with proven experience:

Florin Alvin Sava: 3 research projects, (H2020 project Twinning Project No. 952464/2020, "Learning in emotionally vulnerable people"; project PN-III-P4-ID-PCE2020-1964; project RO-NO-2019-0412; H-index 11)

Alin Gavreliuc: 34 research papers, 320 citations on WOS; H - index 8

Laurentiu P. Maricutoiu: 2 research projects (PN-III-P4-ID-PCE2020-1760; PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-0398); H - index 8

Coralia Sulea: 14 research papers; H - index 8

The information has been contrasted through the research IDs of each of the researchers cited.

**The indicator A.3.1.3 is fulfilled.**



**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs<sup>3</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

The report presents a table with the number of students that each supervisor coordinates (in each academic year). After clarification of internal evaluation report comsion, it can be checked that there are no situations of exceeding the maximum number of 12 doctoral students coordinated at the same time (maximum student being coordinated at same time 8, by prof. univ. dr. Florin Alin Sava).

**The indicator A.3.1.4 is fulfilled.**

*Standard A.3.2. The Doctoral advisors within the domain are carrying out a scientific activity visible at international level.*

The scientific production of doctoral supervisors and their international visibility are analyzed.

**Performance Indicator A.3.2.1.** *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international 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 defense 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 9 doctoral supervisors in the field of Psychology present at least 5 publications indexed Web of Science or ERIH. The information has been contrasted through the research IDs of each of the researchers cited, except for Prof. Dr. Mihaela MINULESCU neither prof. dr. Mona VINTILĂ . After requesting in clarification period their WOS citation report have been made accesible to external evaluation comission.

The report further cites the boards of national journals listed in CNATDCU (Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology, Psihologia Resurselor Umame) and membership in the boards of international professional asociation (Board of Directors of Romanian Association of Psychologists, Romanian College of Psychologists, Association of Industrial Psychologist in Romania and Association of Industrial Psychologists in Romania), as indicator of international visibility.

The researcher Florin Sava brings merits related to the participation in international commissions such as: Executive Committee of the European Association of Personality Psychology ; European Journal of Personality.

**The indicator A.3.2.1 is fulfilled.**

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<sup>3</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.



**Recommendation:** *It is recommended to increase international visibility through more academic coordinators participatin 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 defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad.*

**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.*

The data provided for this evaluation confirmed that 8 of the 9 doctoral coordinators in the field of study Psychology have obtained, in the last 5 years, at least 25% of the score required by the minimum standards CNATDCU in force at the date of assessment, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the certificate of habilitation.

**The indicator A.3.2.2 is fulfilled.**



## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

For the field of Psychology, the correct and complete information regarding the doctoral studies program is analysed. It is ensured the publication on the internet of all information regarding the doctoral study program: regulations; information on the content of doctoral study programs; the model of the framework contract for doctoral studies; information on doctoral supervisors; information regarding the doctoral theses, procedures and criteria for their evaluation; summaries of doctoral theses to be defended publicly, date, time and location of the public dissertations; the addresses to which the completed doctoral theses can be accessed.

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

*Standard B.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies has the capacity to attract candidates from outside the higher education institution or a number of candidates exceeding the number of seats available.*

Graduates of master's degree programs from other universities, both in the country and abroad, participating in the competition for admission to doctoral studies organized by IOSUD are analyzed.

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.1.1.** *The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.*

In the period of evaluation, the ratio between the number of master's degree graduates of other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who registered for the admission competition for doctoral studies in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition within the field of doctoral studies is 0.48 (higher than 0.2). It should be noted that the ratio in question did not fall below 0.2 in any year.

Regarding the ratio between the number of candidates and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition in the field of doctoral studies, is 1.40 (higher than 1.2).

**The indicator B.1.1.1. is fulfilled.**

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

Selection process of student is analyzed

**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 for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.*

Selection procedure of students is public and based on merit and examinations. proposal for a research subject and the interview with the candidate is carried out on a public presentation of

the preliminary research project in front of the admission commission. The following bonuses consider the criteria:

- previous academic, research and professional performance : “0.50 p to be added to the admission grade if the candidate has previous research experience (excluding volunteering, but points to professional experience of employee in relevant positions such as technician, research assistant in scientific research projects obtained through national or international competitions)”; or “1.00 p to be added to the admission grade if the candidate is accepted as a member of a research grant obtained through national or international competitions, whose project director or coordinator for UVT is a department head (the grant is in the contracting phase or unfolding at the time of admission)”.
- Publications in the domain: “1.00 p to be added to the admission grade if the candidate already has as first / only author at least one paper already published or accepted for publication in an impact factor journal, indexed WoS in the area of specialization for which he / she is applying (Psychology, Sciences education, sports science and physical education)” or “0.50 p to be added to the admission grade if the candidate, as co-author, already has at least one paper already published or accepted for publication in journals with WoS indexed impact factor in the area of specialization for which he / she is applying (Psychology, Sciences education, sports science and physical education).”

**The indicator B.1.2.1. is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.1.2.2.** *The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission<sup>4</sup> does not exceed 30%.*

According to internal report, in the period 2016-2020, a total of 36 PhD students were enrolled in the field of Psychology. Of these, during this period, four expelled doctoral students were registered (11.11%).

**The indicator B.1.2.2. is fulfilled.**

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

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

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

Under the curriculum of the doctoral program there are four disciplines, of which two disciplines are dedicated to the in-depth study of research methodology and statistical data processing: “Research methodology and scientific authorship” (by Professor Florin Sava) and “Advanced multivariate statistics” (by Associate Professor Laurențiu Paul Maricutoiu). Along with these two disciplines, PhD students also benefit from training in qualitative research techniques, within the course coordinated by prof.dr.habil. Alin Gavreliuc .

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<sup>4</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.



All these disciplines, provided in the training program based on advanced university studies, are relevant for the training of doctoral students in scientific research.

**The indicator B.2.1.1. is fulfilled.**

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

The training program in scientific research of doctoral students includes the discipline “Ethics and academic integrity” (by Coralia Sulea.)

**The indicator B.2.1.2. is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>5</sup>.*

After request by commission, internal evaluation comitee provided the competencies foreseen for the subject “Ethics and academic integrity”, missing in the intial report. The disciplines in the training program intend to provides the skills necessary for the doctoral student to design and conduct experiences, interpret the results, disseminate them and develop the doctoral thesis, respecting professional ethics and deontology. During visit, specific examples were provided by academic staff on how this learning outcomes are assessed.

**The indicator B.2.1.3. is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.4.** *All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.*

According to internal report, students receive guidance from three teachers: one of them specialized in research methodology, another expertise in the doctoral thesis, and one last habilitated to coordinating doctoral students. The student is able to contact with either of this counselors.

Students show highest level of satisfaction in the relationship with the coordinator (average of 5.6 on a scale from 1 to 6), followed closely by satisfaction with the guidance received from other members of the faculty (average of 5.12 on a scale of 1 to 6) on a opinion poll delivered in 2020. According to the same poll, 29% of respondents stated that they interacted between 1 and 3 hours per week with the coordinator and 10% stated that they interacted even more frequently (i.e., more than 3 hours per week) with the coordinator

**The indicator B.2.1.4 is fulfilled**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.5.** *For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.*

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<sup>5</sup> 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.



At the time of the evaluation, 23 doctoral students are enrolled in the field of Psychology studies and 9 academic coordinators were involved. Thus, the ratio in question is 2.55 doctoral students for each coordinator

**The indicator B.2.1.5. is fulfilled.**

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

The main scientific achievements of the coordinators are presented, and the main scientific achievements of doctoral students in the doctoral fields within the doctoral study domain on Psychology can be found in the internal evaluation report.

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

**Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.** *For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.*

From the information that can be obtained from the report, it can be deduced that 12 students obtained a doctoral degree in the last 5 years. Of the students on the list, 5 have contributions to journals with lower international visibility (national journals or journals with low impact factor).

Items selected for analysis:

Moza, D., Lawrie, S. I., Maricuțoiu, L., Gavreliuc, A., & Kim, H. S. (2020). Not All Forms of Independence Are Created Equal: Only Being Independent the "Right Way" Is Associated With Self-Esteem and Life Satisfaction. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11, 3749. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.606354>

Samfira, E. M., & Sava, F. A. (2021). Cognitive-behavioral correlates of pupil control ideology. *PloS one*, 16(2), e0246787. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246787>

Pantelie, S. R. (2020). Psychological factors related to the development of the communication competences in the first year of life. *Revista de Științe ale Educației*, 41(1), 3-18. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=881574>

Pascalau, A., Gavreliuc, A., Gouveia, V. V., & Coelho, G. L. D. H. (2020). Honor Scale in Romania: Psychometric Parameters and Associations to Human Values. *Psychological Reports*, 0033294120945598. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033294120945598>

Veress, Z. E., & Gavreliuc, A. (2018). Organizational Commitment, Organizational Justice and Work Satisfaction: A Comprehensive Model in a Romanian Organizational Setting. *Romanian Journal of Psychology*, 20(2). 60-69 [http://www.rjap.psihologietm.ro/Download/rjap202\\_5.pdf](http://www.rjap.psihologietm.ro/Download/rjap202_5.pdf)

Among the 5 items selected, 3 of them (Moza et al., 2020; Samfira et al., 2021; Pascalau et al 2020) constitute relevant contributions. It is though recommended to extend the international visibility of results in journals indexed in WOS.

**The indicator B.3.1.1 is fulfilled.**



*Recommendations:* It is recommended to extend the international visibility of results in journals indexed in Web Of Science.

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.1.2.** *The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

Between 2017-2020, 7 out of the 12 graduates of the doctoral study program in the field of Psychology presented 17 papers at prestigious international events (e.g. European conference on Personality; International Congress of Cognitive Psychotherapy; World Conference on Educational Sciences; International Multidisciplinary Scientific Conference on Social Science). The ratio between the number of presentations and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period is 1.4 (higher than the threshold of 1). However, it can be seen that most of these contributions are made by three students, having other students with no contributions. It is recommended that all students be encouraged to present papers at conferences.

**The indicator B.3.1.2. is fulfilled.**

*Recommendation:* It is recommended that a greater number of students participate in international activities for the dissemination of results.

*Standard B.3.2. The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.*

The participants in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses are analyzed.

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.1.** *The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.*

According to internal report, for the public defense of the doctoral theses, in 2018, prof.dr. Florin Alin Sava organized 3 public defenses (for doctoral students Mandache Mirela Elena, Sălăgean Nastasia and Sârbu Roxana). In the case of 2 of these public defenses, the referent commissions were identical: conf.dr. Delia Birla (University of Oradea), associate professor Ana-Maria Cazan (Transilvania University of Braşov) and associate professor Ramona Paloş (UVT).

In 2020, prof.dr. Alin Gavreliuc organized 2 public defenses (for doctoral students Păşcălu Ana and Veress Zsolt Endre) with identical commissions: conf.dr. Mihaela Boza (UAIC), conf.dr. Mugurel Dragomir (UPT).

**The indicator B.3.2.1 is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.2.** *The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.*

In the evaluated period (2016 - 2020), none of the scientific references outside the UVT were part of more than 2 commissions, which represents a ratio of 0.167



**The indicator B.3.1.2. is fulfilled.**

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

*The process of evaluation and quality assurance is evaluated. The quality assurance of the following priority activities are considered: teaching-learning, scientific research, management and administration, services, quality management.*

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

*Standard C.1.1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.*

**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 for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*

According to internal report, UVT has internal audit practices on these main areas. For indicator C.1.1.1, a series of documents are cited where compliance with the different indicators is monitored on a regular basis: (Internal Auditor's Charter, Internal Audit Procedures Manual, Internal audit regulations). The results of this evaluation are annually published on the web site as an internal evaluation report. In the annexes of present report it is available the self-assessment report of year 2018 and 2019. In these report, all criteria required are included.

**The indicator C.1.1.1 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 allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.*

The report states that In UVT there are specific procedures for the systematic collection of feedback from doctoral students. In the report it can be seen a form of questionnaire use to collect student's opinion about teachers and support staff in the doctoral training program. Also, a survey carried out by Nature on PhD students is mentioned. Gathering information of students needs has been verified in the conversations with students.

**The indicator C.1.1.2 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 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, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

The information available in the website provided in the internal report (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=32>) is related to other doctoral school (Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science). Regarding the information located in the section of Psychology doctoral school (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/?cat=67>) it can be found that while the information is publicly available on the website, the organization of the information may not be entirely clear to a student. It is recommended that the path to the information be made clearer. The presentation of this information and documents is specially confusing in the english version.

In relation to section (i), (links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation) although the information related to the defense is included, a link to the summary of the document is not included and it has not been possible to locate english summaries of the doctoral thesis.

***The indicator C2.1.1. is partially fulfilled.***

***Recommendations:*** It is recommended to review the publication of these documents on the website and make clearer organization of presentation of documents in both romanian and english version of website. Summaries of thesis to be defended should be included in the website.

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

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

West University of Timișoara offers access, through the institutional e-mail account (@ e-uvt.ro), to all doctoral students and to its teachers, to the following databases: Web of Science; Scopus; as well as the journals offered by the following internationally renowned publishers: Wiley, ScienceDirect Elsevier, Sage, Springer, Cambridge, CEEOL, Nature. Additional access is



provided through BCUT and to the databases integrated in the EBSCO. They have open and free access to platforms with academic databases relevant to the field of study  
**The indicator C.2.2.1. 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.*

All doctoral theses within the Doctoral School of Psychology are compulsorily verified using the iThenticate system. This system is accessible through the institutional account @ e-uvv.ro and can be used freely.

**The indicator C.2.2.2. is fulfilled.**

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

The internal report states that institution provides students with the necessary space and material means to carry out their work. During conversation with students, accessibility of all students to these facilities have been confirmed.

**The indicator C.2.2.3. is fulfilled.**



### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

*Standard C.3.1. There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.*

Partnership agreements in Erasmus + programs and general bilateral agreements according to which mobilities have taken place are analyzed.

**Performance Indicator \*C.3.1.1.** *IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.*

There are valid collaboration agreements for the level of doctoral studies in Psychology with the following 12 European universities: KU Leuven (Belgium); University of Bordeaux (France); University of Applied Sciences in Ottersberg (Germany); University of Turin, Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta in Rome and the University of Milan-Biococca (Italy); Complutense University of Madrid (Spain); Universidade da Beira Interior and Instituto Superior da Maia (Portugal); Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University of Warsaw (Poland); University of Szeged (Hungary); Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University (Turkey).

Most of the stays carried out by the students of the program and reported in the internal evaluation report are with other institutions. Although during visit, there were found more cases of student carrying out actual mobilities, it is recommended to extend the period of stay, which in those listed in the internal report no case exceeds one month.

**The indicator is C.3.1.1. fulfilled.**

Recommendations: It is recommended to increase the internationalization of the doctoral students through long exchanges mobilities. Also it is recommended to expand the number of agreement with collaborators universities.

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.2.** *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

There was no international co-tutelage during evaluation period. However, according to internal report, during the evaluated period (2016-2020), the doctoral study program received the visit of international experts Cristina Zogmaister, Georgeta Ion, Sofia Marques da Sliva and Gui Notelaers), with different resources of financial support. These actions are presented as isolated, although the organization of doctoral studies in international co-supervision has been recently regulated in 2021 by the Methodology on cosupervision of European Doctorate that states that economic support is supported through Erasmus+ programs.

**The indicator C.3.1.2 is fulfilled.**

Recommendations: Increasing deeper collaborations with international research groups in terms of coauthorships and co-supervision of doctoral thesis



**Performance Indicator C.3.1.3.** *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).*

*Some actions as the publication of information on websites (<https://ri.uvt.ro/cetateni-din-state-terte-uniunii-europene-2/?lang=en>) participation in educational fairs are mentioned in the internal report, although actions are not specific of doctoral study program, but events promoting UVT.*

**The indicator C.3.1.3. is fulfilled.**

*Recommendations: Increase the specific actions for improving the international dimension of the doctoral studies and therefore of the doctoral students. Revise information provide in english in the website.*



#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- High quality of academic staff</li><li>- Supervisors involvement with students (guidance comssion)</li><li>- Free access to research facilites and economical support for students</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Some information difficult to obtain in website</li><li>- Short-lenght outgoing mobilities</li><li>- Scarce participation on international boards.</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Conducting doctoral theses in international co-supervision.</li><li>- Connecting domestic and foreign doctoral students for work in the laboratory and writing top scientific papers.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Difficulties of accessing information in english, avoiding the opening to other students from outside.</li><li>- Lack of specific laboratory for students.</li></ul>

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

*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.*

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.1.</b> The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School 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> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	Some of the documentation seems difficult to access. It is recommended to review the publication of these documents on the website and make clearer organization of presentation of documents concerning regulations and its application. Students representatives vacants in CDS should be filled.
2.	PI	<p><b>A.1.1.2.</b> The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
3.	PI	<p><b>A.1.2.1.</b> The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
4.	PI	<p><b>A.1.2.2.</b> The existence and use of an appropriate software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
5.	IP	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 2 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 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.	Fulfilled	
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).	Partially fulfilled	Although specific economic actions aimed at supporting student training are recognized, the amount of the dedicated budget should be more clearly established. This deficiency could be remedied with a more transparent control and record of budget investments.
8.	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 5 years will be presented distinctly	Fulfilled	It is recommended that research laboratory infrastructures be expanded
9.	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,	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	
11.	PI	A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or 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 aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.	Fulfilled	
12.	PI *	A.3.1.4. The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs does not exceed 20%.	Fulfilled	
13.	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 enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense 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	Fulfilled	It is recommended to increase international visibility through more academic coordinators participatin 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 defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
14.	PI *	<b>A.3.2.2.</b> At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
15.	PI *	<b>B.1.1.1.</b> The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
16.	PI *	<b>B.1.2.1.</b> Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
17.	PI	<b>B.1.2.2.</b> The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
18.	PI	<b>B.2.1.1.</b> The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
19.	PI	<b>B.2.1.2.</b> At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
20.	PI	<b>B.2.1.3.</b> The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
21.	PI	<b>B.2.1.4.</b> All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
22.	CPI	<b>B.2.1.5.</b> For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
23.	CPI	<b>B.3.1.1.</b> For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor’s title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain	<b>Fulfilled</b>	It is recommended to extend the international visibility of results in journals indexed in WOS.
24.	PI *	<b>B.3.1.2.</b> The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	It is recommended that most graduates in the study program present contributions at conferences.
25.	PI *	<b>B.3.2.1.</b> The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
26.	PI *	<b>B.3.2.2.</b> The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than	<b>Fulfilled</b>	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.		
27.	PI	<p><b>C.1.1.1.</b> 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"> <li>a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;</li> <li>b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;</li> <li>c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;</li> <li>d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;</li> <li>e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;</li> <li>f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.</li> </ul>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
28.	PI *	<p><b>C.1.1.2.</b> Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.</p>	<b>Fulfilled</b>	
29.	CPI	<p><b>C.2.1.1.</b> 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"> <li>a) the Doctoral School regulation;</li> <li>b) the admission regulation;</li> <li>c) the doctoral studies contract;</li> <li>d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;</li> <li>e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;</li> <li>f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral</li> </ul>	<b>Partially fulfilled</b>	It is recommended to review the publication of these documents on the website and make clearer organization of presentation of documents in both romanian and english version of website. Summaries of thesis to be defended should be included in the webstie.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		<p>advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;</p> <p>g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);</p> <p>h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;</p> <p>i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.</p>		
30.	PI	<p><b>C.2.2.1.</b> All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.</p>	Fulfilled	
31.	PI	<p><b>C.2.2.2.</b> Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.</p>	Fulfilled	
32.	PI	<p><b>C.2.2.3.</b> All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.</p>	Fulfilled	
33.	PI *	<p><b>C.3.1.1.</b> IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.</p>	Fulfilled	<p>It is recommended to increase the internationalization of the doctoral students through long exchanges mobilities. Expand the number of agreement with collaborators universities</p>
34.	PI	<p><b>C.3.1.2.</b> In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.</p>	Fulfilled	<p>Increasing deeper collaborations with international research groups in terms of coauthorships and co-supervision of doctoral thesis</p>
35.	PI	<p><b>C.3.1.3.</b> The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete</p>	Fulfilled	<p>Increase the specific actions for improving the international dimension of the doctoral studies and therefore of the</p>



No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).		doctoral students. Revise information provide in english in the website.



## **VI. Conclusions and general recommendations**

*This international external report of the Doctoral Studies in Psychology in UVT have analyzed (A) the insitutional capacity, (B) the insitutional effectiveness and (C) the quality management. Withing the doctoral field of Psycholgoy, currently work 9 doctoral coordinators. 6 of these coordinators meet the CNATDCU minimum standards.*

*The specialized disciplines on the Doctoral Study in Psychology domain are well structured and have a teaching staff with proven expertise. Contents desinged enable a good training in of graduates in this field. The satisfaction of the doctoral students, graduates and employers with the program and supervisors is high.*

*Institution offer free access to students to proper infrastructures for conducting their training, though they would benefit from a greater investment in specific equipment. Although specific economic actions aimed at supporting student training are recognized, the amount of the dedicated budget should be more trasparently reported.*

*For doctoral students who graduated in the evaluation period of time there is at least one article or another contribution. Three articles from those selected for analysis present significant original contributions to the field. However, It is recommended to extend the international visibility of results in journals indexed in WOS.*

*Some weaknesses observed are related with information available on the website, such as summaries of the doctoral thesis, that should be accessible prior to defense. Relating international dimension of the program, it is recommended to stimulate doctoral students and teaching staff on more and longer research stays with international teams.*