The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

External Evaluation Report (REE) for the procedure for obtaining a maintaining accreditation (MAC) of Doctoral Study Domain

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest
Doctoral School:	Engineering and Management of Plant and Animal Resources
Doctoral Domain:	Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)

Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
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I. Introduction

Type of evaluation: Periodic evaluation of the field of doctoral studies
Evaluation period: 02-03 March 2026
Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel:
Prof.univ.dr. Tiberiu IANCU, USV "King Michael I" from Timişoara
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Higher agronomic education in Bucharest has its origins in 1852, with the establishment of the Pantelimon School, the first agronomic institution in Romania. The subsequent evolution of Bucharest's agronomic education was marked by successive reorganizations, adapted to economic and social transformations, a process that led to the establishment of the current University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Bucharest, a public institution of higher education integrated into the national education system (History of USAMV)
Throughout its development, the university has strengthened its academic profile by expanding its educational offer, modernizing its infrastructure and integrating scientific research into the training process. Currently, USAMV Bucharest operates on the basis of University Charter and Internal Regulations, being organized by Faculties, departments, Doctoral Schools and administrative structures that ensure the implementation of the institutional mission in the field of education, research and knowledge transfer to the socio-economic environment.
The University organizes university study programs in the three cycles – bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees – in accredited fields according to the legislation in force. The doctoral activity is carried out within IOSUD-USAMV Bucharest, in accordance with the legal provisions and specific institutional regulations of the third cycle of university studies.
The Doctoral School of Engineering and Management of Plant and Animal Resources (IMRVA) organizes and conducts doctoral studies programs in the fields of Agronomy, Horticulture, Biotechnologies, Animal Husbandry, Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development. The general framework of organization and function of the doctoral school of Engineering and Management of Plant and Animal Resources is established by the provisions of GD 681/2011 regarding the approval of the Code of Doctoral University Studies, with subsequent amendments and completions, the IOSUD regulation, the regulation of the IMRVA doctoral school in compliance with the law. According to GD 681/2011 art. 14(1), the doctoral school of Engineering and Management of Plant and Animal Resources is led by the director of the doctoral school and the council of the doctoral school. The Council of the Doctoral School of Engineering and Management of Plant and Animal Resources is made up of 5 members, 2 members from among the doctoral supervisors of the doctoral school, in a maximum proportion of 50%, a doctoral student of a field within the doctoral school, representing 20% and two members from outside the doctoral school, recognized scientific personalities, doctoral supervisors. The Doctoral School of Engineering and Management of Plant and Animal Resources was established in accordance with the legislation in force (with art. 158 paragraph (1) and (2) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011 and the Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, with subsequent amendments and completions) by the approval of the USAMV Senate in Bucharest on 20.07. 2011.
The Faculty of Management and Rural Development has been operating as a distinct structure within the university since 2000, continuing the tradition of training specialists in the field of economic engineering in agriculture, institutionally relaunched in 1992. In the context of the implementation of the Bologna Process, the faculty adopted the three-cycle structure of studies and the European Transferable Credit System, organizing bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.
Field of doctoral studies **Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development** is organized within IOSUD-USAMV Bucharest and aims to train highly qualified researchers and specialists, capable of developing advanced scientific research and applied solutions in the field of farm management, rural development, agri-food economics and agricultural policies. The field operates under the conditions of the normative acts in force, being supported by qualified doctoral supervisors, with relevant scientific activity at national and international level. The doctoral research topics are correlated with the strategic priorities

in agriculture and rural development and are integrated into the research plans of the faculty and the university.

II. Methods used

In order to carry out the external evaluation report of the field of doctoral studies **Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development**, within IOSUD-USAMV Bucharest, the following activities were carried out:

- Analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report of the doctoral field and the related annexes;
- Analysis of documents, data and information available on the university and faculty website (regulations, methodologies, strategic plans, annual reports);
- Verification of supporting documents regarding the activity of doctoral supervisors, doctoral students and scientific research results;
- On-site visit, which included the assessment of the infrastructure for doctoral activities (research spaces, library, laboratories, research centers, IT infrastructure);
- Meetings with the management of IOSUD, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates and representatives of quality assurance structures;
- Discussions with representatives of the socio-economic environment and institutional partners involved in research activities and doctoral collaboration.
- Meetings were held with representatives of the various structures of USAMV in Bucharest, according to the visit calendar:

Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance at university and faculty level,
Quality Assurance Department
The Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures),

III. Judgement on the extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

Criterion A.1. Managerial and administrative structures and processes involving students and other stakeholders

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1	For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** USAMV Bucharest has an adequate management system (Regulations on the organization and functioning of the university) with organizational components, directorates and administrative services clearly structured in the organizational chart (USAMVB Organization Chart). The field of doctoral studies **Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development** operates within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, ARACIS accredited institution in 2021, with the qualification "High degree of trust". The organizational structure and management system of doctoral studies are regulated by a coherent normative framework, which includes: the University Charter, the University's Organization and Functioning Regulations, the Institutional Regulation of Doctoral Studies, the Framework Regulation approved by OM no. 3020/2024, as well as the specific regulations of the Council for Doctoral Studies and the Council of the Doctoral School is coordinated by CSUD, a deliberative structure in which doctoral students are also represented, and the EMARD field is managed within the Doctoral School, through the Director of the Doctoral School and the Doctoral School Council, with clearly delimited attributions in terms of the

organization and monitoring of the doctoral activity. The academic and administrative processes — admission to the doctorate, enrollment, monitoring of the doctoral path, periodic evaluations, public defense of theses, academic mobility, ethics and quality assurance — are regulated by methodologies and procedures approved by the University Senate and periodically reviewed, in accordance with the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 and with the ARACIS standards applicable to the third cycle of university studies. USAMV Bucharest applies an ISO 9001/2015 certified quality management system, certified since 2008/2016, which also includes activities specific to doctoral fields, ensuring process coherence and continuous monitoring of institutional performance. On the university's website, regulations, procedures, rules, instructions, etc. are presented.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The organizational structure related to the EMARD doctoral field is clearly defined, functional and aligned with the national and institutional regulatory framework. The decision-making powers and responsibilities are distinctly delimited between the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the CSUD and the CSD, which guarantees a transparent and efficient academic governance mechanism. The regulations underlying the organization of doctoral studies are updated, approved by the statutory forums and published on the institution's website, ensuring predictability and transparency. The processes are formalized, documented and monitored systematically, and the EMARD domain is coherently integrated into the IOSUD architecture, benefiting from adequate administrative and logistical support. The analysis of the documents and the functioning of the structures involved confirms the full fulfillment of the requirements related to the evaluated indicator, without finding structural non-conformities or procedural gaps.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, the process of adopting and reviewing the methodologies and regulations governing doctoral studies is based on a participatory institutional mechanism, involving the relevant academic structures and stakeholder representatives. Regulations specific to the EMARD field are analyzed and endorsed within the Council for Doctoral Studies and the Council of the Doctoral School, structures in which doctoral students elected according to the regulatory framework in force are represented. The documents are then submitted to the Board of Directors for debate and approval by the University Senate. Before the final adoption, the Proposals to amend the regulations are discussed at the level of the doctoral school and the faculties involved, ensuring the consultation of the doctoral supervisors and the academic community. Relevant stakeholders in the development of methodologies and regulations, as well as application procedures, can also contribute to the CEAC Commission at university level, which is composed of teachers, students, representatives of the trade union, employers and administrative structures with attributions in the field of quality.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The consultation mechanisms are formalized and integrated into the governance structure of IOSUD, ensuring the direct participation of doctoral students and teachers in the decision-making process. Their representation in the CSUD and CSD ensures that the views of the academic community are included in the regulatory adoption and review process. The decision-making process is transparent, phased and documented, and the updating of the regulations is carried out in correlation with legislative changes and recommendations made following internal and external evaluations. The involvement of stakeholders is demonstrable both at institutional level and at the level of the EMARD field, through academic consultations and constant interaction with the professional and scientific environment. The analysis confirms the proper functioning of the consultation mechanisms and

* The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter "organisational components"

the effective integration of relevant feedback into the regulatory review process, without identifying any shortcomings in relation to the requirements of the assessed indicator.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion A.2. The material resources and optimisation of the use of the material resources

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study programme/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.

Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: USAMV Bucharest owns the spaces intended for teaching, research and administrative activities, including those related to doctoral studies organized within IOSUD. The material base allows the optimal development of the learning-teaching, practical application and research activities included in the curriculum and described by the Course syllabus. The doctoral students of the EMARD field carry out their activity within the Faculty of Management and Rural Development, in the A and P buildings, located in The University's Heritage. These spaces include classrooms and seminars equipped with modern multimedia equipment (video projectors, audio systems, computers, internet connection), as well as specialized laboratories used for research and applied analysis activities: modeling and simulation laboratory, accounting laboratory, econometrics laboratory, institutions and European integration laboratory, economic analysis laboratory. PhD students benefit from adequate IT infrastructure, access to international scientific databases and Bibliographic resources relevant to the field as well as administrative spaces dedicated to IOSUD activities (secretariat, spaces for academic meetings and public advocacy). Access to research infrastructure is regulated by regulations, depending on individual research plans and the needs of scientific activities. There is also a University Library, a Guidance and counselling center, accommodation through its own dormitories, a self-service-restaurant, gym and sports field, other administrative spaces. The university spaces are adapted for use by people with disabilities, in accordance with the institutional rules on accessibility.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The infrastructure used for the EMARD doctoral field is legally owned by the institution and is integrated into the university's patrimony, ensuring stability and autonomy in the organization of academic and research activities. The material resources are adequate both from a quantitative and qualitative perspective, being aligned with the requirements of the doctoral program and individual research plans. The infrastructure contributes directly to the achievement of the objectives of the doctoral study program and to the development of scientific activities in optimal conditions.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources The organisational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study programme/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The management of the movable and immovable assets related to the EMARD doctoral field is carried out centrally at the level of USAMV Bucharest, through the specialized administrative structures (General Administrative Directorates), in accordance with the internal regulations and the applicable legal provisions. The administration of the teaching and research infrastructure is carried out on the basis of institutional procedures that regulate the preventive and corrective maintenance of the spaces, the monitoring of the conditions for carrying out academic activities and the updating of the facilities. The University

applies an ISO 9001/2015 certified quality management system, certified in 2008/2016, which includes formal mechanisms for infrastructure maintenance and optimization of the use of material resources. Access to research infrastructure is formally organized, based on approved plans and responsibilities established at faculty and IOSUD level. During the evaluated period, no malfunctions were reported regarding the conditions of study, research or academic activities.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: The administration of the material resources related to the EMARD field is institutionally structured and based on clear procedures, integrated into the general management system of the university. The academic infrastructure of the university, including the teaching and research areas and administrative spaces, benefits from rigorous maintenance through technical revisions and constant repairs. This systematic maintenance strategy aims to guarantee a functional and safe working environment, adapted to current educational standards, so that both students and staff can carry out their work in optimal conditions.

Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion A.3. Adequate human resources and transparent staff recruiting procedures developed according to the law

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:

The EMARD doctoral field has a qualified and adequate human resource for organizing and carrying out the activities specific to doctoral studies, within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest. Currently, the field benefits from 13 active doctoral supervisors, who fully meet the CNATDCU minimum standards in force. Between 2021 and 2025, new doctoral supervisors were empowered, strengthening the academic capacity and sustainability of the field. PhD supervisors are tenured or university-affiliated professors with relevant scientific activity, international visibility highlighted by registration on Sciconnect demonstrated by Indexed publications and participation in national and European research projects. Their expertise covers the thematic area of the EMARD field, ensuring coherence between the scientific profile of the supervisors and the doctoral research topics. The number of supervisors is correlated with the number of PhD students in internships, the limits on coordination capacity established by national and institutional regulations being respected. Within the Doctoral School, there is an Auxiliary teaching staff, which adequately provides the auxiliary activities of the teaching process.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: Human resources are adequate for the organization and conduct of the EMARD doctoral program. PhD supervisors possess scientific and professional skills relevant to the field, and their publishing and research activity supports the objectives of the program. The current structure ensures a balance between the number of doctoral students and the coordination capacity, without exceeding the regulated limits.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: USAMV Bucharest supports the professional and personal development of human resources involved in the EMARD doctoral field through a coherent institutional framework, oriented towards strengthening academic and scientific performance. Academic staff are supported in participating in national and international research projects, as well as academic mobility programs (Erasmus+, COST, Horizon Europe), which contribute to the internationalization of scientific activity and to increasing institutional visibility. Teachers are

involved in scientific committees and editorial boards of specialized journals, which reflects the recognition of professional competence at national and international level. The institution supports the evolution in the academic career by organizing the promotion procedures and by supporting the obtaining of the habilitation certificate for doctoral supervision, in accordance with internal and national regulations. At the same time, the staff benefits from training and improvement programs organized at institutional level, as well as access to modern research infrastructure and international scientific databases. The administrative staff involved in the management of doctoral activities participate in Periodic training sessions, in order to optimize the academic and administrative services offered to doctoral students.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** USAMV Bucharest integrates the professional development of the staff into the institutional strategy, through functional mechanisms that support academic progress, scientific performance and involvement in international networks and projects. There are real and accessible opportunities for academic promotion, empowerment and participation in competitive research, and these mechanisms directly contribute to strengthening the quality of the EMARD field. Professional development is correlated with scientific performance and the objectives of the doctoral program, supporting the competitiveness of doctoral supervisors and alignment with European standards of doctoral training.

✓ **Recommendations:** Organizing/supporting staff participation in training sessions dedicated to personal development.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The recruitment of teaching and research staff at USAMV Bucharest is carried out in accordance with the national legislation in force, namely the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as well as with the Methodologies and internal regulations approved by the University Senate on the organization and conduct of competitions for teaching and research positions. The vacancies are put out to public competition, in compliance with legal conditions regarding the publication of announcements, the establishment of eligibility criteria, the establishment of specialized commissions and the conduct of evaluation tests. The procedures include the evaluation of the competition files, the taking of the teaching and scientific tests, as well as the display of the results within the deadlines provided by the applicable regulations. Promotion in the teaching career is achieved through an exam organized based on internal methodologies, in accordance with the national minimum standards and with the academic performance criteria established at institutional level. As far as the EMARD doctoral field is concerned, the process of empowerment and affiliation of doctoral supervisors is carried out in accordance with CNATDCU regulations and IOSUD procedures, being subject to validation at national level. The documents regarding the organization of the competitions, the methodology for filling the positions and their results are published on the Institution's website, ensuring public access to the information of interest.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The recruitment procedures applied by USAMV Bucharest are in accordance with the legislative framework and are based on internal methodologies approved by the university's statutory structures. The selection process is organized through public competitions, with clearly defined stages and criteria, which guarantees the transparency, objectivity and verifiability of the evaluation of candidates. The selection of doctoral supervisors and the occupation of teaching positions are carried out based on the national criteria on scientific and professional competence, ensuring the maintenance of a qualified and competitive academic body within the EMARD field. The institutional human resources policy is oriented towards meritocracy, legality and equal opportunities, no deviations from the legal provisions or deficiencies in the application of the principles of transparency in relation to the analyzed indicator being identified.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation The digital transformation process in the organisational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.	
Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The digital infrastructure of USAMV Bucharest is managed through specialized administrative structures that ensure the functioning and development of the information systems used in academic and administrative management, including for doctoral studies organized within IOSUD. The university uses an Integrated information system for student records, management of the school situation and administration of human and financial resources, facilitating quick access to relevant information for doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and administrative staff. Online platforms are used for managing the admission process, monitoring the academic path, uploading and verifying Ph.D. Theses in dedicated national systems, as well as for specific institutional reporting. At the level of the EMARD doctoral field, academic and research activities are supported by appropriate IT infrastructure, including computer laboratories, specialized software for statistical and econometric analysis, access to international scientific databases and digital instruments for academic collaboration. Institutional communication and decision-making transparency are ensured by the permanent updating of the university's website, where the regulations, methodologies, decisions of the Senate, information on Admission, doctoral course and public presentation of theses are published.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** USAMV Bucharest systematically uses IT tools for the management of academic and administrative processes related to the EMARD doctoral field, ensuring the accessibility of information and the efficiency of institutional communication. The integration of digital platforms in the doctoral activity contributes to increasing the quality of services offered to doctoral students, to the rigorous monitoring of the academic path and to supporting the decision-making process at IOSUD level. The current level of digitalization is adequate to the requirements of the doctoral program and aligned with quality management standards, no major dysfunctions or systemic vulnerabilities being identified in relation to the analyzed indicator.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programme/s* The study programme is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The doctoral degree program in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is based on a curriculum designed in relation to the expected learning outcomes, formulated in terms of knowledge, skills, autonomy and professional responsibility, corresponding to level 8 of qualification according to the National Qualifications Framework. The structure of the doctoral program is organized in accordance

* The term "programmes" concerns the external quality evaluation for the study programmes contained in a master/doctoral domain. The term "programme" shall be used hereinafter.

with the legal provisions on doctoral studies and includes two distinct components: the training program based on advanced university studies and the individual scientific research program. The curriculum and the study modules highlight the contribution of each activity to the formation of research skills specific to the EMARD field. The activities included in the doctoral program include: courses and seminars, applied activities, elaboration and implementation of the individual research project, participation in scientific events, publication of research results and public defense of the doctoral thesis. The entire academic path is organized in the system of transferable study credits, according to the Institutional Regulation on the application of the credit system within university studies. The evaluation of the doctoral progress is carried out through periodic research reports, the public defense of the research project and, finally, through the defense of the doctoral thesis, which leads to obtaining the title of doctor in the EMARD domain.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: The curricular structure of the EMARD doctoral program is organized in a coherent and systematic manner, being based on clearly defined learning outcomes for level 8 qualification and correlated with the research profile of the field. The integration of the advanced training program with the individual research activity ensures the progressive development of the scientific, methodological and analytical skills necessary to make an original contribution to the knowledge in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development. The correlation between training objectives, teaching activities, individual research and evaluation mechanisms supports the coherence of the doctoral path and ensures the achievement of the declared learning outcomes. The program reflects an integrated approach to doctoral training, in which the educational and research components are harmonized, appropriately leading to the obtaining of the doctoral university qualification.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.2. Alignment of the curriculum with the qualification

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competences In the curriculum design and development process, the organisational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.	
Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: Expected learning outcomes related to the doctoral field Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development are formulated in accordance with the descriptors of level 8 of qualification of the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework, as well as with the European references - ESCO, being expressed in terms of advanced knowledge, original scientific research skills, critical analysis capacity, decision-making autonomy and professional responsibility, being anchored in the program's mission and detailed in Course syllabus. The curricular structure of the doctoral program, which includes the advanced university training component and the individual research program, ensures the integration of methodological, analytical and applicative skills necessary for the elaboration of original scientific contributions and the substantiation of strategic decisions in the field of EMARD. The learning outcomes are explicitly reflected in the curriculum, in the Course syllabus and in the objectives of the individual doctoral research program.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: The rigorous correlation between the expected learning outcomes and the demands of the labor market is explicit and coherently structured at the curricular level. There is a clear traceability between the objectives of the doctoral program, the scientific and professional skills targeted and the occupational profile of the graduate, both in the academic and research environment, as well as in the socio-economic sector. The structure of the program supports the formation of a doctoral qualification with relevance to advanced research, innovation, strategic analysis and policymaking in the field of agriculture and rural development.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.3. Student-centred learning, teaching and evaluation

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles The organisational component implements the principles of student-centred learning.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The doctoral degree program in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is organized in accordance with the principles of student-centered learning, specific to the third cycle of university studies. The implementation of the principles of student-centered education within the framework is guaranteed by a rigorous regulatory framework, which recognizes doctoral students as full partners, according to the University Charter, a Regulation on the professional activity of students and the University Studies Agreement. Program structure includes an Advanced university training component and an individual scientific research program, developed in such a way as to allow the customization of the doctoral path according to the research topic and the scientific interests of the doctoral student. The choice of specialized disciplines and the definition of the individual research plan is carried out in agreement with the doctoral supervisor and the objectives assumed by the doctoral project, each doctoral student being coordinated by a doctoral supervisor and supported by a steering committee, which monitors the scientific progress and provides structured academic feedback (Doctoral studies regulations). The evaluation of the activity is carried out in stages, by supporting the annual progress reports and by publicly defending the doctoral thesis, in accordance with institutional and national regulations. The teaching, learning and assessment methods related to the advanced training component are described in the Course syllabus and transparently communicated to the doctoral students, being oriented towards the development of independent research skills, critical analysis and the elaboration of original scientific contributions.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The organization of the EMARD doctoral program reflects an approach centered on the doctoral student, through curricular flexibility and by adapting the training path to the specifics of the research topic. The direct and continuous relationship between the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and the steering committee ensures progress monitoring, methodological support and systematic academic feedback, contributing to the development of scientific autonomy. The teaching strategies and evaluation mechanisms are consistent with the objectives of the doctoral program and support the formation of advanced research skills and the consolidation of one's own scientific identity.

✓ **Recommendations:** Developing a methodology to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in the academic activity of doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.

Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: The EMARD doctoral field, organized within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, offers doctoral students opportunities to participate in academic mobility programs through the Erasmus+ Program, interinstitutional agreements concluded at university level, as well as developed research partnerships within national and international projects. The University has a Regulated institutional framework for academic mobilities, which establishes the conditions for the selection, recognition and equivalence of activities carried out abroad. PhD students can benefit from research internships, training mobilities, participation in international conferences, workshops and summer schools organized in universities and research institutes in the European and non-European space. Between 2021 and 2025, doctoral students in the field of EMARD carried out 12 research and documentation mobilities in prestigious institutions in Europe and Latin America, the activities carried out being correlated with the doctoral research themes. Also, the institutional framework allows the organization of theses in international cotutelle and the integration of doctoral students in academic networks and European research consortia.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: The EMARD field benefits from a stable and functional institutional framework that facilitates the access of doctoral students to academic mobility programs, integrated into the university's internationalization strategy. The mobilities contribute to strengthening advanced research skills, developing professional networks and integrating PhD students into the international scientific community. The correlation of external internships with individual research plans ensures the academic relevance of the mobilities and the direct impact on the quality of the scientific results obtained. Participation in mobilities is an effective tool for increasing the visibility of the doctoral field and strengthening international collaborations around Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.

✓ Recommendations: Increasing the number of academic mobility of doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities

Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: Within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, the EMARD doctoral field ensures the development of the doctoral training process in a unitary regulated framework, which guarantees fair treatment and uniform application of academic criteria for all doctoral students. The doctoral activity is organized according to the Institutional Regulation of Doctoral Studies, which establishes the rights and obligations of doctoral students, the stages of the doctoral path, the methods of evaluation and the conditions for defending the thesis. The evaluation of progress is carried out in stages, through annual activity reports and through public presentations of reports, based on clearly defined criteria and transparently communicated. The academic path is adapted to the specifics of each Research topic, through the elaboration of the individual study and research plan, approved by the doctoral supervisor and the advisory committee. Doctoral students benefit from personalized academic support through the direct coordination of the doctoral supervisor and through periodic consultations with the members of the steering committee. USAMVB applies Equal opportunities and non-discrimination policies and has provisions regarding support for people with special educational needs, including by facilitating access to infrastructure and adapting assessment conditions, in accordance with the regulatory framework in force.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: The EMARD field applies a coherent procedural framework that guarantees the fairness of the doctoral educational process, by using uniform and transparent evaluation criteria and by ensuring equal access to academic resources and research infrastructure. The individualization of the doctoral path, through the research plan and through permanent academic coordination, allows the potential of each doctoral student to be capitalized, in accordance with their professional and scientific aspirations. By integrating the principles of equity, transparency and personalized academic support, the doctoral field provides adequate conditions for the development of research skills at an advanced level and for the formation of an autonomous scientific identity.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.4. Accessibility and efficiency of the resources and support services, adequate for learning

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services The organisational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.	
Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The EMARD doctoral field, organized within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, ensures the access of doctoral students, including those with Special needs / disabilities, to the teaching and research infrastructure of the Faculty of Management and Rural Development and the university. Access to teaching resources is institutionally regulated, through internal procedures regarding the use of infrastructure and programming of spaces, ensuring the efficient and equitable use of available facilities. PhD students benefit from access to the University Library, electronic resources and digital academic support platforms, including international databases through the ANELIS Plus platform. Administrative services and academic support are provided through dedicated structures, such as the IOSUD secretariat, Career Guidance and Counselling Centre, which provides support in managing the doctoral pathway.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The material, digital and bibliographic resources made available to doctoral students are appropriate to the specifics of the EMARD field and level 8 of qualification, supporting advanced research activities, scientific analysis and elaboration of the doctoral thesis. The academic and administrative support structures contribute to the efficient monitoring of the doctoral path and to support doctoral students in managing the stages of the program. The institutional framework allows the adaptation of the support provided according to individual needs, ensuring a functional and inclusive academic environment, corresponding to the requirements of doctoral studies.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.	
Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within the EMARD doctoral field, the learning results are explicitly formulated in the Doctoral Program Documents, respectively in the curriculum, the Course syllabus and in the institutional regulations of doctoral studies. They are defined in accordance with level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework and reflect the specifics of doctoral training. Learning Outcomes are correlated with the research activities carried out within the program, with the stages of annual progress evaluation and with the requirements regarding the elaboration and public defense of the doctoral thesis. Program Documents are accessible to doctoral students, ensuring transparency of academic expectations. The use of specific descriptors — from knowledge and interpretation of specialized language to the ability to innovate and solve complex problems — ensures full transparency of academic expectations for both doctoral students and doctoral supervisors. This terminological coherence facilitates the understanding of the curricular content and guarantees the alignment of the educational process with the requirements of the labor market, being in full compliance with the European Occupational Classification (ESCO) and current occupational standards.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The formulation of learning outcomes is carried out in a clear and coherent manner, in accordance with the profile of the doctoral qualification and the descriptors of CNC/EQF level 8. The correlation between the objectives of the program, the contents of the disciplines and the research activities support the understanding of the academic requirements by both doctoral students and doctoral supervisors. The curricular structure and evaluation mechanisms contribute to the clear delimitation of the targeted competences and to their progressive monitoring during the doctoral internship, ensuring coherence between the declared results and the activities carried out within the programme.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2	Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Within the EMARD doctoral field, the verification of the achievement of learning outcomes is carried out through a structured system of continuous evaluation and final evaluation, regulated by the Institutional Regulation of Doctoral Studies and by the internal procedures approved at IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest level. During the first year of studies, within the training program based on advanced university studies, the evaluation of doctoral students is carried out through exams and colloquiums related to the subjects studied, in accordance with the Course syllabus. Assessment methods (written and/or oral tests, projects, scientific reports) are correlated with the targeted competences and are communicated transparently at the beginning of the teaching activities. In the following years, the evaluation of progress is carried out by presenting the annual research reports in front of the doctoral supervisor and the steering committee, which analyzes the status of the achievement of the objectives set by the Individual Research Program. At the end of the doctoral internship, the validation of the learning outcomes is carried out through the public defense of the doctoral thesis, in accordance with the Applicable national and institutional regulations.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The evaluation mechanism is phased and covers both the training component, related to the disciplines of the advanced university study program, and the research component, carried out throughout the duration of the doctoral internship. Annual assessments allow for progressive monitoring of scientific competence and capacity to conduct independent research. The public defense of the doctoral thesis is the final form of validation of the learning outcomes, certifying the achievement of the specific competences of level 8 CNC/EQF. The applied system ensures coherence between the objectives of the doctoral program, the learning outcomes and their verification mechanisms.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.7. Procedures and practices regarding the admission competition, the journey, recognition and equivalence of studies, and result certification

Standard S.B.7.1. Admission The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1	The organisational component applies the admission procedures.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Admission to doctoral studies in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is based on the Institutional Regulations for the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies and the admission regulations approved by the USAMV Bucharest Senate, in accordance with the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 and the applicable national regulations. The regulation establishes the conditions for registration, the necessary documents, the competition calendar, the evaluation criteria and the composition of the admission commissions. Information on the number of places, the research topics proposed by PhD supervisors and the conditions of participation are published on the institution's website, ensuring public access to relevant data. The admission process is competitive and includes the analysis of the file, the evaluation of the academic and research skills of the candidates, correlated with the scientific directions of the field and with the availability of doctoral supervisors. The enrollment of the candidates declared admitted is carried out based on the institutional decision and the signing of the doctoral studies contract.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The admission procedures are based on regulations approved by the statutory structures of the university and are applied in a unitary manner at IOSUD level. The publication of the methodology and relevant information ensures the transparency of the process and the equal treatment of candidates. The selection criteria are appropriate to the specifics of the doctoral cycle and aim to assess the research potential and compatibility of the proposed project with the EMARD field. The organization of the admission competition reflects a coherent procedural framework, correlated with the requirements of research training at doctoral level.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary
The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2	Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** Admission to doctoral studies in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is carried out in compliance with the principles of equity, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, in accordance with the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, the applicable national regulations and the Regulation on the organization of the doctoral admission competition, which is public and establishes clear and transparent conditions for registration and selection, uniformly applicable to all candidates. The institution has measures to facilitate access for candidates from vulnerable groups, as well as for people with special educational needs or disabilities. For foreign citizens, the admission procedures are applied based on specific regulations, ensuring their integration under conditions in accordance with the legal framework. Information regarding admission conditions, timetable, number of places and support measures is published on the university's website, ensuring free access to data of interest for candidates.
✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The admission procedures applied at the level of the EMARD field are based on a clear regulatory framework and support non-discriminatory access to doctoral studies, being an impartial and transparent process, focused on the academic competences of applicants and carried out in the absence of any discriminatory criteria. Its coherence and quality are ensured through specific operational procedures that regulate monitoring and permanent alignment with legal quality assurance standards.
✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary
The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students The organisational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** USAMV Bucharest provides a coherent and predictable academic framework for the conduct of doctoral studies in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development through the application of the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, as well as the regulations specific to the doctoral school, approved by the University Senate. The regulations explicitly establish the conditions for carrying out the activity of doctoral students, their rights and obligations, the structure of the doctoral program, the methods of evaluation and the conditions for completing the studies. The academic path of the doctoral student is based on the Individual Research Program, approved at the beginning of the program and updated according to academic requirements. Progress monitoring is carried out annually, by presenting and evaluating research reports within the competent academic structures (doctoral supervisor, steering committee, doctoral school). The regulations also provide for procedures for the interruption, extension or resumption of studies, as well as Stages related to the public defense of the doctoral thesis. The application of the regulatory provisions is supported by specific operational documents (doctoral study contract, individual research plan, annual reports, evaluation minutes, documents related to the defense of the thesis), integrated into the institutional quality management system.
✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The regulations on the professional activity of doctoral students are applied unitarily and consistently at the level of the EMARD field, ensuring the coherence and transparency of the doctoral path. The institutional regulatory framework allows for systematic monitoring of scientific progress and academic intervention when the pace of research requires support or adjustment measures. Through the phased structuring of the evaluation and the involvement of the doctoral supervisor and the steering committee, the doctoral program provides a functional mechanism

for monitoring performance and ensuring the quality of the research activity.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.	
Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** USAMV Bucharest promotes Internationalization as a strategic direction for institutional development, through the implementation of internationalization measures and annual operational plans, coordinated by the structures dedicated to international relations and the ERASMUS+ program. Within this framework, the doctoral field Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is actively integrated into the university's network of academic and scientific partnerships. The field benefits from bilateral agreements and international partnerships concluded by the university with higher education institutions and research centers in Europe and outside the European space, which facilitate study and research mobility for doctoral students, as well as teaching and training mobilities for doctoral supervisors. EMARD doctoral students participate in research mobilities, documentation internships, conferences and international workshops, in accordance with the research themes assumed. There is also the possibility of organizing International PhD cotutelle and collaborations within European projects (Erasmus+, COST, Horizon Europe, INTERREG), which support integration into scientific networks and the development of advanced research skills. PhD supervisors are involved in international projects, academic networks, editorial boards and transnational scientific collaborations, contributing to strengthening the international dimension of the field (sciconnect).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The international cooperation actions carried out within USAMV Bucharest directly support the quality of doctoral training in the field of EMARD, by facilitating academic mobility and integration into relevant research networks at European and international level. The participation of doctoral students in internships and external scientific events contributes to the development of research skills, to the expansion of academic collaborations and to the increase of the visibility of scientific results. The involvement of PhD supervisors in international projects and structures strengthens the integration of the field into the European academic community and supports alignment with international standards of research excellence.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The PhD field Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development structurally integrates advanced scientific research into the Doctoral training process, which is the central component of the educational path. PhD students are involved in national and international research projects, participate in scientific conferences and publish results in specialized journals, under the coordination of doctoral supervisors. The research directions of the field are supported by the scientific infrastructure and institutional partnerships of USAMV Bucharest, facilitating the development of applied and interdisciplinary research in the field of agricultural management and rural development.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The EMARD doctoral program directly capitalizes on scientific research as an essential mechanism for training advanced skills specific to level 8 of the National

Qualifications Framework. The integration of doctoral students in research projects and networks, as well as participation in scientific events, contributes to the development of the capacity for critical analysis, innovation and scientific substantiation of decisions. The correlation between the research activity, the objectives of the doctoral program and the learning outcomes highlights the existence of an academic framework in which doctoral training is supported by scientific topicality, professional relevance and national and international visibility.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study programme The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The research activity related to the doctoral field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is organized in accordance with the Research strategy of USAMV Bucharest and with the Operational plans assumed at the level of IOSUD and the Doctoral School. The research directions focus on farm management, rural development policies and strategies, sustainability, agricultural entrepreneurship, agri-food economics and applied econometric analysis. PhD supervisors and doctoral students publish research results in journals indexed in international databases, in Collective volumes and proceedings of scientific conferences, constantly participating in national and international academic events. The scientific activity is supported by involvement in research projects funded from national and European sources, as well as by institutional collaborations and membership in specialized academic and professional networks (sciconnect). The results of the research are capitalized both through scientific dissemination and through their integration into the doctoral educational process, by updating the research topics, the bibliography and the content of the disciplines in the advanced university study program. The impact and international prestige of the collective are confirmed by the publication of 203 articles in Web of Science (WOS) indexed journals with an impact factor in the period 2020-2025, results validated by the significant number of citations and the high values of the Hirsch index (h-index) (Sciconnect).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The doctoral study program demonstrates an optimal correlation between scientific research and the educational process. The national and international relevance is factually supported by the development of grants/contracts and the publication of many Web of Science indexed articles in the period 2020-2025, which attests to a high scientific productivity of the teaching staff. Capitalizing on the research results within the educational process strengthens the quality of doctoral training and contributes to the development of a solid academic profile of the doctoral school, characterized by scientific relevance and integration into the European research community.

✓ **Recommendations:** Creating a mechanism through which employers' representatives can propose research topics according to the current needs of society.

The indicator is: fulfilled

DOMAIN C. Quality management

Criterion C.1. Quality assurance strategies and procedures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, which involve students, employers and other stakeholders and are applied in a consistent, transparent manner

Standard S.C.1.1. Application Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures	
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** At the level of IOSUD –

USAMV Bucharest, there is an Internal Quality Assurance System integrated into the Institutional governance structure, regulated by University Charter, Quality Assurance Regulation and related operational documents. Within this system, the responsibilities for monitoring and improving the quality of doctoral studies are delimited between the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance, CSUD, the Councils of the Doctoral Schools and the management structures of the university. The strategic directions in the field of quality are assumed through the Institutional strategy and through the annual operational plans, which include specific objectives for the EMARD doctoral field, related to strengthening the research activity, increasing scientific visibility, monitoring the progress of doctoral students and updating the internal regulations in accordance with the legislative changes. The application of the procedures is reflected in the periodic elaboration of internal evaluation reports at IOSUD level and doctoral field, internal audit reports in the field of quality assurance, in the annual monitoring of the progress of doctoral students, in the evaluation of doctoral supervisors and in the updating of regulations and methodologies regarding admission, doctoral path and thesis defense. The results of these evaluations are analyzed in the competent academic structures and substantiate measures to optimize academic and administrative activities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The EMARD domain is integrated into a coherent institutional quality assurance framework, in which strategies, procedures and monitoring mechanisms are systematically applied and documented. The correlation between strategic objectives, internal regulations and effective implementation at doctoral level supports the efficient functioning of the program and the continuous adaptation to the requirements of the regulatory framework and the academic environment. Internal audit and evaluation mechanisms and periodic review generate relevant information for the decision-making process and contribute to strengthening academic standards, increasing scientific performance and continuously improving the quality of doctoral training.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.	
Indicator I.P.C.1.2.1	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** At the level of IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest and the EMARD doctoral field, a participatory governance model is applied, through which the members of the academic community are directly involved in the implementation and monitoring of Quality Assurance Procedures. PhD supervisors participate in specific decision-making structures (CSUD, CSD), where the regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies, the evaluation of progress and the completion of theses are analyzed and applied. PhD students are represented in these structures, according to the legal provisions and internal regulations, having the opportunity to formulate points of view regarding the organization of academic activities, the conditions for conducting research and the application of institutional procedures. The responsibility for the observance and implementation of the procedures is reflected in the duties provided in the DAC regulation and CEAC regulation in the periodic evaluations of the academic activity. Also, as emerged from the meetings and discussions held during the visit, the EMARD field collaborates with institutional and socio-economic partners, thus contributing to the integration of the external perspective in the application of academic procedures.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The involvement of the members of the academic community in the implementation of the procedures is formalized through their participation in the governance structures and through the internal consultation mechanisms applied at IOSUD and doctoral level. The representation of doctoral students in CSUD and CSD ensures the integration of their perspective in the decision-making processes relevant to the doctoral path. Using various tools — from periodically applied questionnaires to consultations within quality assurance commissions and meetings with the economic environment — the university ensures decision-making transparency and the adaptation of procedures to the real needs of the beneficiaries. This collaborative approach underpins a continuous improvement approach, validating the effectiveness of administrative and academic measures in terms of the satisfaction of all stakeholders.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.2. Functionality of education quality assurance structures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, according to the law

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organisational structures adequately perform their specific role and functions.	
Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** The University Ethics Commission operates within USAMV Bucharest, constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law and organized based on an Own organization and functioning regulations, approved by the University Senate. The work of the commission is also regulated by the Code of Ethics and University Deontology, which sets out the principles of academic integrity, rules of conduct and procedures for reviewing complaints. The Ethics Commission exercises its duties independently of the executive and management structures of the university, having the competence to analyze and resolve complaints regarding deviations from the norms of academic ethics, including cases of plagiarism, conflicts of interest or other violations of scientific integrity (Report of the Ethics Committee). The activity of the commission is documented through decisions and reports presented to the University Senate, and the norms on ethics and integrity are communicated to the academic community through the institutional website and the internal regulations address.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The University Ethics Commission operates based on an institutionally approved regulatory framework and in full compliance with the applicable legislation in the field of higher education. Its independence from other management structures is guaranteed by the organisational regulations and the clear delimitation of its powers. The institutional mechanisms for preventing and managing situations regarding academic integrity are also applicable to the EMARD doctoral field, contributing to ensuring an academic climate based on responsibility, scientific rigor and compliance with deontological norms.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.3. Procedures for the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of the study programmes and domains and of the performed activities, involving students, employers and other stakeholders

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** At the level of IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, the initiation, monitoring and review of the fields of doctoral studies are regulated by the Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies, by CSUD-specific regulations and by doctoral schools, as well as by procedures integrated into the Internal Quality Assurance System. For the EMARD doctoral field, the monitoring of academic and scientific activity is carried out through the annual progress reports of doctoral students, periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors, analysis of indicators on the completion of studies and publication of research results. The results of these evaluations are analyzed within the Council of the Doctoral School and the Council for Doctoral Studies, which formulate optimization measures regarding the organization and functioning of the field. The review of internal regulations and procedures is carried out periodically, in accordance with legislative changes and Recommendations from internal and external evaluations, ensuring the updating of the normative framework applicable to doctoral studies.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The procedures regarding the monitoring and evaluation of the

EMARD doctoral field are integrated into the institutional quality assurance system, being applied consistently at the level of IOSUD. The annual evaluation of the progress of doctoral students and the analysis of the performance of doctoral supervisors contribute to maintaining academic standards and substantiating managerial decisions. The involvement of the CSD and CSUD structures in the periodic analysis of the activity of the field reflects the functioning of an institutional mechanism of continuous improvement, through which the results of the monitoring are capitalized in the adjustment of the procedures and in the optimization of the organization of the doctoral program.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: The process of implementing the procedures regarding the monitoring and review of the EMARD doctoral field is carried out in a participatory framework, involving members of the academic community and relevant institutional partners. Professors and doctoral supervisors actively participate, through the Council for Doctoral Studies and the Council of the Doctoral School, in the application of the procedures regarding the annual evaluation of the progress of doctoral students, the analysis of academic performance and the updating of internal regulations. PhD students are represented in IOSUD's management structures, contributing to the debates on the organization of doctoral activities and formulating proposals on improving academic processes. The involvement of external stakeholders is achieved through scientific collaborations, institutional partnerships and the participation of external experts in the evaluation committees and public defense of doctoral theses. Also, the interaction with the socio-economic environment is reflected in joint research projects and dissemination of scientific results.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: At the level of the EMARD field, the involvement of the members of the academic community in the application of the procedures is formalized and functional, being integrated into the governance structures of IOSUD. The participation of doctoral students in decision-making processes contributes to the adaptation of institutional mechanisms to the real needs of doctoral training. The involvement of external stakeholders is present in academic and scientific activities and supports the relevance and openness of the field to the professional environment and the scientific community. This participatory framework strengthens the collaborative character of the quality assurance process and supports the continuous development of the doctoral field.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.4. Procedures for the periodic evaluation of the quality of the activities of teaching staff, auxiliary teaching staff, and administrative staff

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: Within IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest, the evaluation of the activity of the teaching and research staff is carried out based on institutional methodologies approved by the University Senate, integrated into the Internal Quality Assurance System. The evaluation system includes evaluation by doctoral students of teaching staff, peer evaluation, self-evaluation and evaluation by academic management. The semester evaluation of teaching staff by doctoral students is carried out anonymously, through institutional electronic platforms, based on questionnaires aimed at the organization of teaching activities, clarity of communication, relevance of content, evaluation methods and teacher-doctoral student interaction. Within doctoral studies, the feedback of doctoral students concerns both the teaching activities in the advanced university study program (first year) and aspects related to scientific coordination. The results of evaluations are centralized and analyzed at the level of academic structures, being discussed with the evaluated teachers and integrated into the annual reports on quality assurance. The conclusions of the

analysis substantiate the Recommendations and measures for optimizing teaching and coordination activities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** At the level of the EMARD field, the process of periodic evaluation of teachers' activity is applied consistently and generates relevant data for monitoring the quality of the educational process. The mechanism is formalized, transparent and integrated into the institutional quality management system. The analysis of the results allows the identification of strengths and aspects that need improvement, contributing to the adjustment of teaching practices and to the strengthening of the academic relationship between doctoral students and coordinators. The integration of feedback into decision-making processes supports the continuous improvement of the quality of doctoral training.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.5. Systematically updated databases on internal quality assurance

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** USAMV Bucharest uses Information Systems and integrated institutional procedures for the collection and management of academic and research data, relevant to the internal quality assurance process. At the level of IOSUD and the EMARD doctoral field, information on the Number of PhD students enrolled, Active PhD supervisors, Theses defended, Results of scientific research (publications, participation in conferences), academic mobilities and research projects carried out are recorded and regularly updated. The doctoral school ensures the systematic collection and analysis of data through UMS (academic management and quality assessment) and SAP (financial management and human resources), while facilitating benchmarking with other institutions. The process is structured on levels of responsibility, where departments and faculties manage specific databases on staff, curricula and research, while the Department of Quality Assurance (DAC) centralizes and statistically analyzes feedback from students, graduates and employers, along with infrastructure and legislative compliance indicators. The data are centralized through the competent administrative and academic structures and are capitalized in the elaboration of annual internal evaluation reports, in self-evaluation documents and in external evaluation processes. The quantitative and qualitative indicators analyzed include doctoral progress, scientific performance, degree of internationalization and use of institutional resources. Information of public interest is available on the university's website, and internal records are managed in accordance with document management and data protection regulations.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** At the level of the EMARD field, data collection and analysis is carried out systematically, based on clear institutional procedures and the existing digital infrastructure. The monitored indicators allow the evaluation of the evolution of the doctoral field and the substantiation of managerial decisions regarding its organization and development. The integration of data into internal evaluation reports and their use in decision-making demonstrates the functionality of quality assurance mechanisms. The consolidation of an integrated periodic analysis of the indicators specific to the EMARD field contributes to increasing the efficiency of quality management and to supporting the strategic development of the doctoral field.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including those regarding the study programmes and domains offered, and transparency regarding the related certificates, diplomas and qualifications

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** USAMV Bucharest, through IOSUD and the related academic structures, ensures the transparency of information of public interest regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, including for the EMARD field, by publishing them on the Official website of the university. Information of public interest is available regarding: the institutional regulation of doctoral studies; methodologies regarding admission, completion of studies and public defense of theses; the organizational structure of IOSUD (CSUD, CSD); doctoral supervisors affiliated to the field; registration conditions and admission calendar; procedures regarding the evaluation and monitoring of the doctoral path; the norms of ethics and academic integrity. Documents approved by the University Senate, including Regulations and procedures relevant to doctoral studies, are public and accessible online. The information is updated periodically, according to the legislation and integrated into the section dedicated to doctoral studies within IOSUD, ensuring easy access for candidates, doctoral students and other interested parties.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The institutional policy on information transparency is applied consistently and ensures public access to essential data on the organization of the EMARD domain. The publication of regulations, methodologies and operational information contributes to the predictability of academic processes and the clarity of the rights and obligations of the parties involved. Open access to information strengthens the trust of beneficiaries in the organization of doctoral studies and reflects compliance with legal obligations regarding information of public interest. The consolidation of a section dedicated to the EMARD field, with synthetic and regularly updated information, supports the increase of the visibility and coherence of institutional communication.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data:** In accordance with the University Charter and the internal regulations on academic governance, USAMV Bucharest ensures the transparency of the decision-making processes related to doctoral studies, including for the EMARD field, by systematically publishing relevant information on the institution's official website. Decisions on the organization and functioning of doctoral studies are adopted within the statutory structures (Senate, Board of Directors, CSUD, CSD), based on the competences established by Institutionally approved regulations. The decisions adopted are recorded in minutes and official documents, and the approved regulations, methodologies and procedures are published online, ensuring access to the academic community and other interested parties. PhD students are represented in IOSUD structures, participating in the deliberative process and in the adoption of decisions regarding the organization of academic activities. The regulatory framework clearly establishes the attributions of each structure and the decision-making circuit, guaranteeing the delimitation of responsibilities and the coherence of the governance process.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:** The governance model applied at the level of USAMV Bucharest is a regulated, documented and participatory one, based on clearly defined competences and on the publication of the adopted decisions. The institutional structure ensures the traceability of the decision-making process and managerial responsibility at doctoral level. The publication of normative acts and the involvement of doctoral students' representatives in the management structures contribute to strengthening transparency and trust in the organization of the EMARD field. Strengthening external communication on industry-specific decisions, including through summaries of CSD rulings, supports the visibility and clarity of decision-making processes.

✓ **Recommendations:** It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion C.8. Participation in external evaluation processes, according to the law

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data: IOSUD – USAMV Bucharest and the doctoral fields organized within it, including the EMARD field, have gone through the external quality assessment procedures in accordance with Law 199/2003 and ARACIS standards applicable to doctoral studies. The doctoral school of USAMV Bucharest, including the field "Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development", officially operates based on the regulations approved in 2011, in the context of the implementation of GD 681/2011 and the regulation of the USAMV Senate adopted on August 3, 2011. At the periodic evaluation in 2021, Maintaining accreditation was obtained (according to Order no. 5.267/14.09.2021, published in *the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 888 of September 16, 2021*), thus confirming the institution's full alignment with national quality requirements.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts: IOSUD Bucharest demonstrates an optimal organizational capacity in managing external quality assessment procedures, in full compliance with Law no. 199/2023 and ARACIS standards. External validation confirms that the institution has the necessary procedural mechanisms in place to guarantee the quality standards required for the organisation and conduct of higher education.

✓ Recommendations: It is not necessary

The indicator is: fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:		Weaknesses:
✓Functional institutional governance, with clearly defined structures (IOSUD, SSUD, CSD) and delimited responsibilities. ✓Complete, updated and consistently applied normative framework in the organization of doctoral studies. ✓Qualified human resource, PhD supervisors who meet national standards and have visible scientific activity. ✓Material and research infrastructure are appropriate to the specifics of the field. ✓Integration of research into the training process, with scientific results visible at national and international level. ✓Functional internationalization through mobilities, partnerships and participation in academic networks. ✓Formalised and operational institutional quality assurance system	INTERNAL FACTORS	✓ The small number of theses under supervision. ✓ The small number of foreign doctoral students.
SWOT analysis		

Opportunities: ✓ Access to European and national funding for research, digitalisation and academic mobility. ✓ Increasing the relevance of the field in the context of the green transition, digitalization of agriculture and rural development policies. ✓ Growing demand for expertise in agricultural management, public policy and bioeconomy. ✓ The possibility of expanding Phd cotutelle and strategic international collaborations. ✓ Development of European benchmarking mechanisms to strengthen academic positioning.	EXTERNAL FACTORS	**Threats:** ✓ Increased competition between IOSUD and international universities to attract high-performing PhD students. ✓ Demographic trends and academic migration can affect recruitment and retention. ✓ Possible budgetary constraints limiting investment in scientific infrastructure and resources.

V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	I.P.A.1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.	F	
3.	I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.	F	
4.	I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.		
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	Organizing/supporting staff participation in training sessions dedicated to personal development
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	Developing a methodology to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in the academic activity of doctoral students.
12.	I.P.B.3.1.2 The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	Increasing the number of academic mobility of doctoral students.
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	
15.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	the admission procedures.		
18.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	Creating a mechanism through which employers' representatives can propose research topics according to the current needs of society.
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
31.	**I.P.C.6.1.2** The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	**I.P.C.8.1.1** The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	0	0
Domain B. Educational efficacy	14	0	0
Domain C. Quality management	10	0	0
Total	32	0	0

VI. Conclusions

The field of doctoral studies **Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development** organized within IOSUD-USAMV Bucharest is implemented in an institutional ecosystem that guarantees high standards of educational quality. The efficiency of the program is supported by a coherent organizational structure and a participatory governance mechanism, facilitating the correlation of the material base with the curricular and research requirements necessary for the formation of doctoral students' professional skills. The process is monitored through a rigorous quality management system, governed by transparency principles and standardized operating procedures.

Following the procedures for maintaining accreditation and the elaboration of this External Evaluation Report, based on the information and data made available to the institution but also of the on-site visit, we consider that the field of studies of the PhD **in Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development** meets the standards and performance indicators maintaining accreditation.

Following the completion of the accreditation/maintaining accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following:*

a) ~~accreditation*~~ ~~(AC)~~/ MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION (MAC);

~~b) conditional maintaining of the provisional authorisation to operate* (CMPA)/conditional maintaining of accreditation (CMAC);~~

~~c) non-accreditation* (NAC)/withdrawal of the accreditation (WAC).~~

VII. Annexes

1. The timetable for the evaluation of the external quality evaluation visit for the doctoral university study domain Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.
2. Minutes of meetings.

* When the external quality evaluation for accreditation is performed with undergoing the procedure for obtaining a provisional authorisation to operate.