



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

Higher Education Institution/ Education Provider Organization:	Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara West University of Timișoara
Doctoral School:	Școala Doctorală de Economie și de Administrare a Afacerilor (SDEAA) Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA)
Doctoral Domain:	Economie Economics
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	MANOLICĂ Adriana	Expert evaluator	
2.	ALBU Svetlana	International Expert	
3.	CRIȘAN Mihai - Ioan	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

- the context in which the external evaluation report was drafted :

This report presents the findings of the external evaluation of the doctoral study domain of **Economics** carried out under the ARACIS periodic review framework. Rather than focusing solely on compliance, the evaluation sought to capture the overall development of the domain during the 2020–2025 period, considering its academic achievements, organisational capacity, and commitment to continuous quality enhancement. The assessment was informed by institutional evidence, performance indicators, and the self-evaluation materials prepared by the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (Școala Doctorală de Economie și de Administrare a Afacerilor – SDEAA). Discussions with academic staff, doctoral students, graduates, employers, and other stakeholders provided additional insights into the functioning of the doctoral domain. The review also examined how quality assurance policies are embedded in practice and how effectively they support the achievement of the school's strategic and academic objectives.

The site visit was conducted at the premises of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) in Timișoara on 15 – 16 June 2026. The evaluation panel comprised Prof. Adriana Manolică, PhD (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania), Prof. Svetlana Albu, PhD (Technical University of Moldova, Republic of Moldova), and Mihai-Ioan Crișan, student evaluator (Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

- description of the higher education institution :

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) traces its origins to Royal Decree-Law No. 660 of 30 December 1944. Since then, it has operated continuously as a higher education and research institution, playing a central role in the academic and scientific development of western Romania. Its status was further consolidated through Decision No. 999 of the Council of Ministers, issued on 27 September 1962. The institution adopted its current name, **West University of Timișoara**, following Government Decision No. 458 of 29 July 1994.

A significant milestone in the university's development was reached in 2012, when UVT joined the [Universitaria Consortium](#), the most influential academic alliance in Romania, which today brings together ten universities.

The academic standing of the West University of Timișoara (UVT) is reflected in its consistent presence in both national and [international rankings and classifications](#), which provide external recognition of the institution's educational and research performance. The university operates under the provisions of its [University Charter](#), a governing document aligned with Romanian legislation and with the principles underpinning the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Alongside its educational mission, UVT maintains close links with the socio-economic environment, contributing to workforce development, providing expertise, and delivering solutions to a broad range of economic and societal challenges.

The West University of Timișoara holds the status of an Institution Organising Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UVT), carrying out its doctoral education activities in accordance with the provisions of the National Education Law No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended, and Order No. 3020/2024 approving the Framework Regulation for Doctoral University Studies. The institutional framework governing doctoral education is further defined by the University Charter. According to Chapter 8, Article 42 of the Charter, IOSUD-UVT operates under the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on Doctoral University Studies](#), approved by the University Senate in compliance with national legislation. Strategic oversight and coordination of doctoral studies are entrusted to the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD).

During the 2025–2026 academic year, doctoral education within IOSUD-UVT was delivered through eight doctoral schools covering a broad spectrum of disciplines. These included:

- the Doctoral School of Arts (Visual Arts),
- the Doctoral School of Law (Law),

- the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (Accounting, Economics, Marketing, Management and Finance),
- the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science (Social Work, Sociology, Philosophy, Political Science and Communication Sciences),
- the Doctoral School of Music and Theatre (Music, Theatre and Performing Arts),
- the Doctoral School of Psychology (Psychology, Educational Sciences, Sport Science and Physical Education),
- the Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Computer Science and Mathematics),
- and the Doctoral School of Humanities (Philology and History).

The most recent external quality evaluation of doctoral studies was completed in 2021. Following this process, [ARACIS Council Decision No. 100 of 25 November 2021](#) confirmed the accreditation status of 21 out of the 22 doctoral study domains assessed within IOSUD-UVT. At that time, the doctoral domain of Marketing received conditional accreditation. This status was subsequently revised through ARACIS Council Decision No. 95/H of 27 April 2023, which confirmed the maintenance of full accreditation. Since the previous evaluation cycle, IOSUD-UVT has further expanded its doctoral portfolio through the accreditation of four new doctoral domains: Business Informatics (28 July 2022), Social Work (31 August 2022), Communication Sciences (13 July 2023), and Biology (31 August 2023), all approved through decisions of the ARACIS Council.

- [general description of the doctoral study domain :](#)

The doctoral study domain of Economics is hosted within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (Școala Doctorală de Economie și de Administrare a Afacerilor – SDEAA), which operates under the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEAA) of the West University of Timișoara (UVT). As with the other doctoral schools functioning within IOSUD-UVT, the organisation of doctoral studies in the Economics domain is supported by a well-defined legal framework and formally recognised through national regulatory acts, including [Ministerial Order No. 5037 of 13 September 2013](#) and [Government Decision No. 595 of 22 July 2015](#).

The quality and academic viability of the doctoral domain have also been confirmed through successive external evaluations. Following the most recent assessment conducted by [ARACIS, Council Decision No. 100 of 25 November 2021](#) reconfirmed the accreditation status of the doctoral study domain of Economics by awarding the qualification “**Maintenance of Accreditation**”.

A long-established component of IOSUD-UVT, the doctoral study domain of **Economics** has evolved into a well-consolidated academic environment that combines tradition with a forward-looking approach to doctoral education and research. Particular emphasis is placed on fostering international visibility, strengthening research excellence, and encouraging innovation across doctoral activities. These developments position the domain in close alignment with both the expectations of the external quality assurance framework and the European principles underpinning doctoral education and research training.

II. Methods used

- [Analysed documents :](#)

The evaluation process relied extensively on the analysis of the self-evaluation report prepared by the institution, together with the accompanying supporting documentation. These materials provided a comprehensive overview of the organisational framework of the doctoral domain, its governance arrangements, academic activities, research performance, and quality assurance mechanisms. They also served as the primary source of evidence for assessing compliance with the applicable accreditation standards and evaluation criteria.

- On-site visit :

As part of the evaluation methodology, an on-site visit was conducted to validate the information and evidence provided in the self-evaluation documentation. The visit offered the evaluation panel the opportunity to gain a direct understanding of the academic, research, and administrative environment supporting doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA).

The review included visits to the teaching and research facilities of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, within which SDEAA operates. These facilities comprised lecture rooms, specialised laboratories, and the ECREB Research Centre. The evaluation team also examined the resources available through the University Library, including access to international scientific databases and other research support services. Additional attention was devoted to the administrative structures responsible for the management of doctoral studies, as well as to the wider institutional infrastructure, including campus facilities, student accommodation, and social support services.

A series of meetings and discussions were held with the principal stakeholder groups involved in the delivery and development of doctoral education. These included **representatives of the leadership of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration**, namely the Director and members of the Doctoral School Council, as well as **doctoral supervisors affiliated** with the evaluated doctoral domain of **Economics**. The evaluation panel also met with **doctoral students** at different stages of their studies, **graduates** who had successfully completed the doctoral programme and obtained the doctoral degree, **employers** of doctoral graduates, **administrative staff** involved in the management of doctoral studies, and representatives of the **university's quality assurance structures**.

The information gathered through these visits and consultations provided valuable complementary evidence, enabling the evaluation panel to assess not only the formal compliance of the doctoral domain with accreditation requirements but also the effectiveness of its implementation in practice.

Overall, the facilities observed during the visit appear well suited to the research profile of the doctoral domain and contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to high-quality research and doctoral training.

- Other relevant methods or aspects:

The evaluation findings are based on the triangulation of evidence collected from multiple sources, allowing the panel to validate information and gain a comprehensive understanding of the doctoral study domain of Economics. In particular, the evaluation drew upon:

- *the self-evaluation report* and supporting documentation submitted by the institution, including evidence relating to the organisation, governance, academic activities, and research performance of the doctoral domain;
- *observations gathered during the site visit*, including the inspection of teaching, research, administrative, and support facilities;
- *meetings and consultations* with key stakeholder groups, namely doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates, employers, administrative staff, and representatives of the quality assurance structures;
- *an analysis of the scientific output and research achievements* of doctoral supervisors and doctoral candidates, based on publication records and other evidence provided in the evaluation files;
- *a review of the mechanisms governing quality assurance, research ethics*, academic integrity, and plagiarism prevention within the doctoral domain;
- *the consistency between institutional data*, documentary evidence, and the realities observed during the site visit, with particular attention to the effectiveness of policy implementation and the functioning of doctoral studies in practice.

This multi-source approach enabled the evaluation panel to formulate evidence-based conclusions regarding the quality, sustainability, and development prospects of the doctoral study domain of Economics.

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:

The West University of Timișoara operates as an Institution Organising Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UVT) under the provisions of National Education Law No. 199/2023, as amended, and Order No. 3020/2024 approving the Framework Regulation for Doctoral University Studies. The legal and organisational framework governing doctoral education is established through the [IOSUD UVT Regulation on Doctoral University Studies](#) (latest revision: November 2025) and the [Regulation of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration for Doctoral University Studies](#) (latest revision: 2025).

At institutional level, doctoral studies are coordinated by the [Council for Doctoral University Studies](#) (CSUD), chaired by Prof. Florin Alin Sava, PhD, Habil., and composed of eight academic members (including one external member) representing different doctoral fields, together with three doctoral student representatives. The mandate of academic members covers the period 2024–2029, while student representatives are elected annually through a process organised by the West University of Timișoara Student Organisation (OSUT).

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), governance responsibilities are entrusted to the Director, Prof. Petru Marin Ștefea, PhD, and the Doctoral School Council. The Council includes three doctoral supervisors - Prof. Camelia Hațegan, PhD, Habil., Prof. Laura Mariana Cismaș, PhD, and Prof. Valentin Partenie Munteanu, PhD, Habil. - together with one doctoral student representative. The current mandate began in 2024. Members of the governing bodies are elected through universal, direct, secret and equal voting procedures involving doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

The institutional framework is complemented by a comprehensive set of regulations, methodologies and procedures covering doctoral admission, doctoral training, thesis completion, habilitation procedures, supervisor affiliation and other key academic processes. These documents are publicly available through the doctoral studies portal and are periodically revised in response to legislative developments and recommendations issued by ARACIS and CNATDCU. The governance structure further includes the Doctoral School Council, affiliated doctoral supervisors, the General Assembly of doctoral supervisors, CSUD and the Doctoral Studies Office, each operating within clearly defined responsibilities and decision-making competences.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

Based on the evidence reviewed and discussions held during the visit, the indicator is considered fulfilled:

- A clearly defined **governance structure** exists at both IOSUD and doctoral school levels, supported by formally approved regulations and procedures.
- **The responsibilities** of CSUD, the Doctoral School Council, doctoral supervisors and the Doctoral Studies Office are explicitly allocated, reducing overlaps in decision-making and administration.

- **The election procedures** for academic and doctoral student representatives ensure transparency, representation and institutional legitimacy.
- **The management framework** supports coordination between SDEAA, the doctoral supervisors affiliated with the six doctoral domains hosted by the school, and CSUD.
- Key doctoral processes are regulated through **dedicated methodologies and procedures**, ensuring consistency in implementation and compliance with national regulations.
- **The periodic revision of the IOSUD UVT Regulation** on Doctoral University Studies and the Regulation of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration for Doctoral University Studies demonstrates the institution's capacity to adapt its governance framework to legislative and quality assurance requirements.
- **The approval of major regulatory documents by the University Senate** provides an additional layer of institutional oversight and accountability.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- The active involvement of doctoral student representatives in both CSUD and doctoral school governance structures, combined with the independent organisation of student elections by OSUT, strengthens doctoral student participation in institutional decision-making.
- The availability of a dedicated doctoral studies portal integrating regulations, methodologies, procedures and operational information provides a transparent and easily accessible governance framework for doctoral supervisors, doctoral students and other stakeholders.

✓ Recommendations

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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:

The West University of Timișoara has established a **participatory governance framework** that enables the systematic involvement of internal and external stakeholders in the development, adoption and revision of institutional regulations, methodologies and procedures. At university level, consultation mechanisms include student representation in decision-making bodies such as the Senate, Faculty Councils, the Administrative Council, CSUD and Doctoral School Councils, as well as periodic meetings, surveys and consultation processes involving academic staff, students, alumni and representatives of the socio-economic environment.

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), these mechanisms are applied to support the continuous improvement of doctoral education in the field of Economics. Doctoral students are represented in the [Doctoral School Council](#) and participate in decisions concerning academic, methodological and ethical matters. Their views are collected through university-wide satisfaction surveys administered on a regular basis and used to inform enhancements in supervision and doctoral training.

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

External stakeholders contribute through several consultative structures operating at university level, including the Academic Advisory Council, the Strategic Partners Group (GPS UVT) and the Alumni Advisory Council. Representatives of these bodies, together with other academic, professional and socio-economic partners from Romania and abroad, are involved in consultations concerning the development of doctoral studies and research directions. Their input supports the alignment of doctoral research topics and expected competences with contemporary economic, social and professional needs.

Doctoral supervisors actively contribute to institutional decision-making by proposing research themes, providing feedback on internal regulations and procedures, participating in decisions regarding the affiliation of new supervisors, and contributing to the composition of doctoral guidance and thesis examination committees. These consultation mechanisms ensure that the regulatory framework governing doctoral studies remains responsive to both academic developments and stakeholder expectations.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

Based on the evidence reviewed, stakeholder opinions are systematically considered in the adoption and revision of regulations, methodologies and procedures, and the indicator is therefore considered fulfilled:

- **Stakeholder consultation** is embedded in the governance structure of both UVT and SDEAA through formal representation and regular consultation mechanisms.
- **Doctoral students participate directly in decision-making processes** through their representation in the Doctoral School Council and through structured feedback instruments.
- **Academic staff and doctoral supervisors are actively involved** in shaping institutional regulations, doctoral procedures and research priorities.
- The existence of **dedicated consultative entities** linking the university with employers, alumni and external partners facilitates the integration of socio-economic perspectives into doctoral education.
- **Feedback collected** from internal and external stakeholders is used to support the periodic revision of regulations, methodologies and quality assurance procedures.
- The collaboration between the Doctoral School Council, CSUD and the relevant Senate structures contributes to **coherent institutional decision-making and regulatory consistency**.
- Consultation mechanisms support the **continuous adaptation of doctoral research themes** to emerging academic, economic and societal challenges.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The integration of doctoral students into doctoral school governance with full voting rights on academic, methodological and ethical matters ensures meaningful participation beyond a purely consultative role.
- The use of multiple university-level advisory structures - Academic Advisory Council, Strategic Partners Group (GPS UVT) and Alumni Advisory Council - to inform doctoral education creates a sustained dialogue between doctoral research, the labour market and broader societal needs.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The West University of Timișoara provides an extensive infrastructure supporting teaching, research, administrative activities and student services. The university's facilities comprise **125,233 m² of teaching space**, **60,471 m² of accommodation facilities**, **105,796 m² dedicated to practical activities** and **4,310 m² allocated to sports activities**. The continuous development and modernisation of this infrastructure, including measures aimed at improving accessibility for students with disabilities, are documented in the [Rector's Report for 2024](#).

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), doctoral activities in the field of Economics are supported by teaching and research facilities located both in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration building (**16 J. H. Pestalozzi Street**) and at the university's central campus (**4 Vasile Pârvan Boulevard**). The educational and research facilities assigned to FEAA cover a total area of **3,116 m²** and are equipped with modern teaching and research infrastructure, including computers, smartboards, multimedia equipment, digital displays and specialised software. Dedicated spaces are available for academic management, doctoral courses, seminars, supervisory meetings and the day-to-day activities of academic staff affiliated with the doctoral domain.

Doctoral students enrolled in the Economics domain benefit from extensive learning and research resources provided through the **Biblioteca Centrală Universitară „Eugen Todoran” (BCUT)** and its FEAA branch library. BCUT offers access to more than one million volumes, while its collections expand annually by approximately 22,000 new items. The library serves over 24,000 users each year and provides access to a broad range of international scientific databases, including Scopus, Science Direct Freedom Collection Journals, SpringerLink Journals, Clarivate Analytics, ProQuest Central, IEEE IEL, Wiley Journals, EBSCO databases, Nature and CEEOL. Access is available both on campus and remotely through the ANELIS platform. The central library includes reading rooms covering **679 m²** with **90 study places**, while the FEAA branch library provides **36 reading places** and **24 computers**.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

Based on the evidence reviewed and observations made during the site visit, the indicator is considered fulfilled:

- The university provides **important infrastructure resources** dedicated to teaching, research, accommodation, practical training and student support, ensuring an appropriate environment for doctoral education.
- The doctoral domain of Economics benefits from **dedicated facilities** for academic management, doctoral teaching, supervision and research activities.
- The available infrastructure is adequately **equipped with contemporary teaching technologies and digital resources** that support both face-to-face and research-oriented activities.
- Physical **accessibility** and the ongoing **modernisation** of university facilities demonstrate a commitment to inclusive learning conditions and continuous infrastructure improvement.
- The extensive holdings of the Central Library „Eugen Todoran” and the FEAA branch library provide doctoral students with access to a **comprehensive range of scholarly resources relevant to advanced research in Economics**.
- **Access to major international scientific databases** ensures the availability of up-to-date literature and supports the development of high-quality doctoral research.
- The combination of dedicated doctoral facilities, extensive library resources and modern educational infrastructure creates conditions conducive to **effective doctoral training and research performance**.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- The integration of doctoral activities within a broader academic infrastructure that combines dedicated doctoral facilities with access to university-wide research and learning resources allows doctoral students to benefit from both specialised and interdisciplinary environments.
- The scale and accessibility of the “Eugen Todoran” Central University Library—with more than one million volumes, annual growth of approximately 22,000 publications, access to major international databases, and remote connectivity through ANELIS—provide doctoral researchers with a particularly strong research support ecosystem.

✓ Recommendations

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

The maintenance and management of the university's physical infrastructure are supported by dedicated administrative structures operating under the General Administrative Directorate (DGA). According to the [Technical and Administrative Organisational Chart](#), the [Administrative Service](#) is responsible for the management and upkeep of all university buildings and facilities, ensuring appropriate conditions for teaching, research and academic work. Its responsibilities cover the administration of the infrastructure supporting educational activities, scientific research and student practical training. In parallel, the Dormitory Administration and Management Service oversees the efficient operation and maintenance of student accommodation facilities.

At faculty level, each faculty has a designated administrator responsible for the management of assets and facilities. Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), teaching and research spaces are equipped with contemporary educational technologies, including computers, projectors, projection screens, videoconferencing equipment, video cameras, Cisco routers and workstations. Wireless internet access is available throughout the facilities used by doctoral students and academic staff, as documented in Spații de învățământ FEAA-SDEAA.

The technological infrastructure supporting doctoral education is complemented by a broad portfolio of licensed software. In addition to operating systems, antivirus solutions and the Microsoft Office suite, doctoral students and academic staff have access to specialised software packages widely used in economic research, including SPSS, CIEL, EViews, SAS, Stata, NVivo, R and RStudio. The digital learning environment is supported by a network infrastructure based on two high-performance servers, ensuring the reliable operation of online learning platforms and institutional digital services. The ICT infrastructure and e-learning platforms are subject to continuous monitoring and maintenance in order to ensure uninterrupted functionality and efficient support for teaching and research activities.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

Based on the evidence reviewed during the evaluation, the university provides and maintains infrastructure that adequately supports the needs of doctoral students, academic staff and researchers; **therefore, the indicator is considered fulfilled:**

- The university has established **dedicated administrative structures** responsible for the maintenance, monitoring and development of its physical infrastructure and material assets.

- **Clear responsibilities** are assigned at both institutional and faculty levels, ensuring effective management of facilities used in doctoral education and research.
- **The teaching and research spaces available** to SDEAA are appropriately equipped to support contemporary doctoral training, supervision and academic collaboration.
- **The availability of wireless connectivity**, videoconferencing equipment and digital learning technologies facilitates both on-site and hybrid academic activities.
- Access to a **comprehensive portfolio of licensed software** provides doctoral students and supervisors with the tools required for advanced quantitative and qualitative research in Economics.
- The existence of a **dedicated ICT infrastructure**, supported by high-performance servers and continuously maintained e-learning platforms, contributes to the reliability and sustainability of digital academic services.
- Maintenance, technical support, cleaning, security and facility management activities are organised through **specialised personnel**, ensuring appropriate conditions for study, research and work.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The existence of a broad range of licensed research software - including SPSS, EViews, SAS, Stata, NVivo, R and Rstudio - prove that doctoral candidates have direct access to professional tools covering both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.
- The integration of significant ICT infrastructure, e-learning platforms and videoconferencing technologies into the doctoral learning environment supports flexible forms of doctoral education and facilitates collaboration among doctoral students, supervisors and external partners.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The West University of Timișoara, through the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), provides the human resources required to support doctoral education and research activities in the evaluated doctoral domain. Recruitment and promotion procedures for academic and research staff are governed by the national framework regulations and by the institutional methodologies adopted by UVT, including the [Methodology for the Organisation of Competitions for Filling Vacant Academic and Research Positions within UVT Academic Departments](#) and the [Methodology for the Organisation of Competitions for Filling Vacant Research Positions within UVT](#) (Administrative Council Decision No. 15/29.04.2025).

SDEAA brings together [59 affiliated doctoral supervisors](#) distributed across six doctoral domains: **Accounting (12)**, **Economics (6)**, **Finance (21)**, **Business Informatics (4)**, **Management (11)** and **Marketing (5)**. Of these, **39 have obtained the habilitation qualification**, while **46 doctoral supervisors (77.97%) meet the current CNATDCU standards**. Their

academic and research performance is subject to periodic evaluation through institutional quality assurance mechanisms and annual reporting procedures.

Within the doctoral domain of Economics, doctoral training courses are delivered by professors and researchers holding ISCED Level 8 qualifications and demonstrating relevant scientific expertise, academic experience and international research visibility, reflected in profiles and publications indexed in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar and ORCID. To complement the expertise available internally, SDEAA regularly involves internationally recognised scholars and researchers in doctoral training activities and scientific events organised in partnership with ECREB. In addition, doctoral guidance and academic integrity committees may include academics and researchers from Romania and abroad who possess recognised research credentials and substantial scholarly experience.

The research activity of doctoral supervisors is characterised by sustained scholarly engagement, international collaboration and thematic diversity. Research outputs are disseminated through publications indexed in Web of Science, participation in international scientific conferences, involvement in national and international research projects, and membership in academic networks such as PRIME Networking, CEEPUS – Supply Chains Management – From the Perspective of National Industries, and the INSPIRE Network.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The evidence reviewed indicates that the human resources available within the doctoral domain are adequate for the effective delivery of doctoral education and research; therefore, **the indicator is considered fulfilled**:

- The doctoral domain benefits from a **qualified and experienced academic personnel** capable of supporting advanced doctoral training and research supervision.
- The recruitment, promotion and evaluation of academic and research staff are governed by **transparent procedures** aligned with national regulations and institutional quality standards.
- The presence of **59 affiliated doctoral supervisors** across six doctoral domains provides substantial supervisory capacity and disciplinary diversity.
- The fact that **39 supervisors hold the habilitation** qualification and **77.97% fulfil current CNATDCU requirements** demonstrates a strong level of academic qualification and research performance.
- All doctoral courses are delivered by academics holding ISCED Level 8 qualifications and possessing recognised expertise in their respective fields.
- The regular involvement of internationally visible scholars in doctoral training activities enhances the international dimension of the doctoral environment and exposes doctoral students to diverse research perspectives.
- Active participation in **international research networks**, projects and scientific events supports the integration of doctoral students and supervisors into wider academic communities.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The systematic involvement of internationally recognised researchers and visiting scholars in doctoral training activities and scientific events organised in partnership with ECREB strengthens the international exposure of doctoral candidates and enriches the research environment.
- The strong participation of doctoral supervisors in international academic networks such as PRIME Networking, CEEPUS and INSPIRE creates additional opportunities for research collaboration, mobility and integration into international scholarly communities.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The West University of Timișoara has established a comprehensive framework for the continuous professional and personal development of academic staff, researchers and doctoral supervisors. A central role in this process is played by the **Academic Development Centre** ([Centrul de Dezvoltare Academică – CDA](#)), which organises training programmes, workshops and webinars on topics relevant to contemporary higher education and research. Recent initiatives have addressed areas such as the use of GenAI in learning assessment, the co-design and evaluation of international collaborative learning experiences, and the promotion of authentic learning outcomes. In 2025, CDA launched the [TalkEdUVT](#) – Voices Shaping Learning webinar series, bringing together members of the UVT academic community and partner universities within the UNITA alliance to discuss evidence-based education, the evolving role of university teachers, future-oriented competences and the implications of generative AI for teaching and learning. The complete portfolio of training activities organised between 2021 and 2025 is available through the CDA platform.

Additional support is provided through the [Research Career Counselling and Guidance Centre – Western Region](#), established with funding from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR). The centre offers individual counselling, networking opportunities and career development resources, including dedicated guidance materials for researchers. At the same time, the Directorate for Research, Development and Innovation Management regularly informs academic staff about national and international funding opportunities and provides support throughout the proposal-writing and project implementation stages.

Professional development is further encouraged through the **Develop Grants**, available annually to academic staff and regulated by the [Methodology for Accessing and Using Develop Grants at the West University of Timișoara](#) (updated through UVT Senate Decision No. 39 of 24 July 2025). These grants may be used for participation in scientific events, the acquisition of specialised software and academic literature, or subscriptions to scientific publications and databases. International exposure and academic collaboration are additionally supported through UVT's participation in the European university alliance UNITA and through the Faculty's membership in PRIME Networking, both of which provide access to international cooperation projects, academic events and research communities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

The evidence reviewed indicates that the university provides sustained and diverse opportunities for the professional and personal development of academic staff involved in doctoral education; therefore, **the indicator is considered fulfilled:**

- The university has developed a diversified and institutionalised framework supporting the **continuous professional development of academic staff**, researchers and doctoral supervisors.
- **Training opportunities** offered through the Academic Development Centre address both pedagogical innovation and emerging challenges in higher education and research.
- The [TalkEdUVT](#) – Voices Shaping Learning initiative contributes to the internationalisation of academic development activities by facilitating dialogue with experts and partner universities from the UNITA alliance.
- **Dedicated support structures** assist researchers in career planning, networking and access to research funding opportunities.
- The **Develop Grants** scheme provides a concrete financial instrument that supports individual professional development and research-related activities.
- Participation in **Erasmus+**, **UNITA** and **PRIME Networking** facilitates international collaboration, mobility and the exchange of academic good practices.
- The allocation of teaching responsibilities within the **Advanced Training Programme** is based on documented expertise, scientific achievements and institutional validation procedures, ensuring consistency between academic qualifications and teaching assignments.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- The Develop Grants scheme represents a distinctive institutional mechanism through which every academic staff member has annual access to dedicated resources for professional development, including conference participation, research tools, academic literature and database subscriptions.
- The TalkEdUVT – Voices Shaping Learning initiative creates a structured international forum for discussing evidence-based teaching, academic identity and the impact of emerging technologies, connecting the UVT community with colleagues from the UNITA alliance and other international partners.

✓ Recommendations

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

Recruitment and affiliation procedures within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) are governed by a [transparent regulatory framework](#) aligned with Law No. 199/2023, the applicable regulations on doctoral studies and habilitation, and the current CNATDCU minimum standards. The affiliation of doctoral supervisors and collaborating academics is regulated through the Framework Procedure for Affiliation or Disaffiliation within the Doctoral Schools of IOSUD-UVT, which is publicly available through the university's doctoral studies portal.

Affiliation is open to individuals who have legally acquired doctoral supervision rights in Romania or whose qualifications obtained abroad have been formally recognised. Candidates are required to submit supporting documentation demonstrating eligibility, academic achievements and compliance with academic ethics requirements. The [procedure](#) includes administrative verification, review by the Doctoral School Council, approval by CSUD and final validation by the UVT Senate, ensuring transparency and institutional oversight throughout the process.

[Habilitation procedures](#) are governed by the Institutional Regulation on the Organisation and Conduct of the Habilitation Process, which provides for the public dissemination of key information relating to candidates and evaluation committees. Teaching staff involved in the Advanced Training Programme are selected on the basis of their academic expertise and research profile, including, where appropriate, academics and researchers from partner institutions in Romania and abroad.

At the time of the evaluation, SDEAA had **59 affiliated doctoral supervisors**, of whom **40 had obtained doctoral supervision rights through the habilitation process**. Within the doctoral domain of **Economics**, **three doctoral supervisors held a habilitation certificate**.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

The evidence reviewed confirms that recruitment and affiliation procedures are implemented transparently and in accordance with the applicable legal provisions; therefore, **the indicator is considered fulfilled**:

- Recruitment and affiliation procedures are **formally regulated** and fully aligned with the national legal framework governing doctoral studies and habilitation.
- Eligibility criteria, required documentation and decision-making stages are **clearly defined and publicly available**, ensuring transparency and predictability.
- **The multi-level approval process** involving the Doctoral Studies Office, the Doctoral School Council, CSUD and the University Senate reduces the risk of arbitrary decisions.

- **Public disclosure of key information relating to habilitation procedures** strengthens institutional transparency and accountability.
- **The possibility of affiliating academics and researchers from external institutions** broadens the pool of expertise available to doctoral students and contributes to the internationalisation of the doctoral environment.
- The selection of teaching staff for the Advanced Training Programme is based on **documented academic competence and thematic relevance to the disciplines taught**.
- The presence of **59 affiliated doctoral supervisors**, including 40 who have acquired doctoral supervision rights through habilitation, demonstrates the existence of a substantial and qualified supervisory capacity within SDEAA.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The publication of detailed information regarding habilitation procedures - including candidates' CVs, publication lists, thesis summaries, evaluation committees and defence schedules - provides a level of transparency that exceeds the minimum procedural requirements and facilitates public scrutiny of academic recruitment processes.
- The structured, multi-stage affiliation procedure involving independent review at doctoral school, CSUD and Senate levels creates a robust quality assurance mechanism for the recruitment of doctoral supervisors and affiliated academics.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

Digital transformation represents an integral component of the governance and operational framework supporting doctoral studies at UVT. The university maintains a dedicated structure responsible for the centralised management of information and communication systems, ensuring the interoperability, security and continuous functioning of institutional digital services. In addition to reporting data electronically to national systems such as the **National Student Enrolment Register** (Registrul Matricol Unic - RMU), UVT has implemented a range of digital solutions that support administrative efficiency and user accessibility, including an online admission platform (admitere.uvt.ro) and an integrated online payment system.

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), digital tools are embedded in all major stages of the doctoral lifecycle. Following admission, doctoral students are registered and monitored through the **University Management System** (UMS), which supports academic records management and the tracking of doctoral progress. Upon completion of doctoral studies, thesis documentation is uploaded and archived in the **Integrated Educational Register** (REI) for national validation purposes. Administrative processes are further supported through the [UVT Intranet](#), which enables the management of teaching activities, institutional requests, room reservations and other operational procedures.

Digital solutions also support academic integrity and quality assurance processes. Similarity checks are conducted using **iThenticate** and **Turnitin**, with results documented through institutional procedures that ensure transparency and traceability in academic decision-making. In addition, UVT has adopted a dedicated Regulation on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Educational Process at UVT, providing guidance for the ethical and responsible use of AI tools in academic activities.

Information relevant to doctoral studies is made available through the doctoral studies portal (doctorat.uvt.ro), which was comprehensively redesigned in 2025 and now serves as the main information hub for all doctoral schools within IOSUD-UVT. The platform provides access to regulations, procedures, forms, admission and graduation information, announcements, public defence schedules and thesis summaries. Doctoral students and supervisors also benefit from remote access to ANELIS Plus resources, major international scientific databases, and the university's integrated e-learning environment.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

Based on the evidence reviewed, information technologies are effectively used to improve accessibility, transparency and service quality within the doctoral domain; therefore, the indicator is considered fulfilled.

- **Digital tools** are integrated throughout the doctoral student lifecycle, covering admission, academic records management, thesis completion and administrative services.
- The use of **UMS**, **REI** and the **UVT Intranet** contributes to the efficiency, traceability and standardisation of administrative processes.
- **Dedicated procedures** and **specialised software support** academic integrity through systematic similarity checking and documented decision-making processes.
- The adoption of a **university-wide regulation governing the use of generative AI** demonstrates a proactive approach to emerging technological challenges in higher education.
- The **redesigned doctoral studies portal** provides a single, transparent access point for regulations, procedures and operational information relevant to doctoral students and supervisors.
- **Remote access to ANELIS Plus**, international scientific databases and e-learning platforms supports equitable access to research resources and learning opportunities.
- **The interoperability of institutional digital systems** enhances the quality and reliability of services provided to doctoral students, supervisors and other stakeholders.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The complete redesign of the doctorat.uvt.ro platform in 2025 created a comprehensive and transparent digital gateway integrating regulations, procedures, forms, admission information, doctoral milestones and public defence information for all doctoral schools within IOSUD-UVT.
- The combined use of **iThenticate** and **Turnitin**, supported by formal institutional procedures and documented similarity reports, provides a robust and traceable framework for safeguarding academic integrity throughout the doctoral process.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

The doctoral programme in the field of Economics within SDEAA-UVT is structured on the basis of the Curriculum, cohort 2025–2029 (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-de-invatamant-domeniul-doctorat-economie-2025-2026.pdf>), in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), ARACIS standards and the UVT Regulation on the initiation and monitoring of study programmes (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Anexa-6.-Regulament-elaborare-planuri-de-invatamant-iulie-2025.pdf>), updated by UVT Senate Decision no. 49/22.01.2026.

The doctoral qualification (240 ECTS) is organised into two components:

- The Advanced Training Programme (30 ECTS) includes the compulsory subject Research Ethics and Intellectual Property and three optional subjects, delivered in Romanian and English, including by invited professors from partner universities.
- The Individual Research Programme (210 ECTS), structured through the Doctoral Studies Plan (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>), includes documentation, conference participation, article publication, mobilities and annual progress evaluations.

The course syllabi (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/economie/>) and the document Competences and Expected Learning Outcomes ensure coherence between objectives, content and assessment, with explicit reference to knowledge, skills and responsibility/autonomy in accordance with level 8 of the NQF.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

- The programme structure comprehensively covers all types of experiences required by the indicator: theoretical and methodological training, applied research, dissemination and continuous assessment, culminating in a public defence.
- The ECTS distribution of 210 credits for research and 30 for advanced training adequately reflects the specific nature of the doctoral cycle.
- The course syllabi do not present the course objectives as a distinct section. Instead, they include components of the intended learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy) under the heading: "Course objectives – expected learning outcomes to which the completion and successful completion of the course contributes."
- The intended learning outcomes do not appear to be specifically tailored to the doctoral field under evaluation. Rather, they are formulated in a generic manner and seem to be applicable across doctoral programmes, without clearly reflecting the particularities of the doctoral domain.
- The bibliographic references provided in some course descriptions are extensive and could benefit from a clearer distinction between essential and supplementary readings. Alternatively, the bibliography could be condensed by identifying a core set of mandatory or fundamental references. For example, the course Research Ethics and Intellectual Property presents the learning outcomes under the heading "Specific Skills Acquired" and includes nine recommended references; The course Methodology of Economic Science provides an extensive bibliography consisting of 119 bibliographic entries and five online resources; The course

* 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.

Conceptual Developments and Paradigmatic Changes in Business does not provide a clearly structured bibliography; instead, it refers broadly to a field of reference without identifying specific bibliographic sources.

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The quantification of scientific dissemination activities in ECTS credits within the individual research programme.

✓ **Recommendations**

To review the course syllabi within the doctoral training programme by clearly distinguishing **course objectives from intended learning outcomes**, **adapting the learning outcomes to the specific doctoral field**, and **rationalising the bibliographic references** through the identification of core and recommended readings, thereby enhancing the transparency, relevance and consistency of the doctoral curriculum.

The indicator is: partially 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:**

The expected learning outcomes of the doctoral programme in Economics are defined in accordance with level 8 of the NQF and correlated with the Romanian Occupational Classification (COR) and the European Skills, Competences and Occupations classification (ESCO), being operationalised through the Curriculum (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>), the course syllabi (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/economie/>) and the Doctoral Studies Plan (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>).

The outcomes are structured along three dimensions: **Knowledge**, covering advanced macro and microeconomic analysis, public policy, statistical and econometric modelling, European economic integration and sustainability; **Skills**, encompassing the application of high-level research techniques, critical synthesis and original contribution to knowledge; **Responsibility and autonomy**, reflecting scientific integrity, professional authority and commitment to generating new ideas and solutions.

These competences are directly correlated with ESCO occupations (**code 2631, Economist, including Economic Policy Analyst, Market Research Analyst and Economic Adviser**) and with national occupational standards (**COR 2631, Economists**). For academic career pathways, teaching and mentoring competences specific to higher education are also targeted.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The correlation between learning outcomes and occupational requirements is explicit and well documented.
- The programme structure, comprising the Advanced Training Programme (methodology, ethics, academic writing) and the Individual Research Programme (applied analysis, publication, dissemination), operationalises the targeted competences in a progressive and coherent manner.
- The expected learning outcomes are aligned with the requirements of art. 7 para. (9) and (10) of Order 3020/2024, and their correspondence with level 8 of the NQF is demonstrated through their formulation in terms of knowledge, skills and responsibility/autonomy.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

- The structuring of the doctoral pathway as a coherent sequence of advanced training and individual research activities, enabling the progressive development of competences corresponding to EQF/NQF Level 8 and facilitating the production of original scientific contributions.

✓ Recommendations

It is recommended to periodically revise the learning outcomes, taking into account developments in the academic and professional fields, in order to maintain their relevance and alignment with European standards.

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.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

The principles of student-centred learning are integrated both in the curriculum design and in the teaching strategies applied within the doctoral programme in Economics at SDEAA-UVT, in accordance with the provisions of the UVT Charter and the Curriculum 2025–2029 (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-de-invatamant-domeniul-doctorat-economie-2025-2026.pdf>).

Doctoral students' autonomy is structurally ensured through the possibility of choosing the research topic, the doctoral supervisor and the optional subjects, as well as through the significant number of hours dedicated to independent research. The supervision model involves periodic meetings, continuous feedback and individual consultancy from the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Commission, explicitly provided for in the course syllabi (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/economie/>). The teaching methods employed, including case studies, econometric simulations, analyses on real data, workshops and academic presentations, promote the active involvement of doctoral students.

Teaching materials are permanently accessible through the e-learning platform (<https://elearning.e-uvt.ro/>), and access to analytical tools (Stata, EViews, VOSViewer) and international databases (Scopus, Web of Science, EBSCO) supports autonomous learning. Doctoral students' opinions are collected semesterly through standardised questionnaires, in accordance with the Methodology for the Evaluation of Teaching Staff by Students, and the results are used to optimise the educational process.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

- The implementation of student-centred learning principles is demonstrated at the level of curriculum design, teaching strategies and feedback mechanisms.
- Curricular flexibility, personalised mentoring, interactive teaching methods and access to advanced digital resources configure a training environment adapted to the individual needs and profile of each doctoral student.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- The integration of a personalised learning environment through flexible curricular choices, continuous mentoring and access to advanced digital research resources that support autonomous learning and individual research development.

✓ Recommendations

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

Doctoral students in Economics benefit from a functional infrastructure for international academic mobilities, coordinated by the UVT International Relations Directorate, based on a procedural framework that includes the Regulation on the Organisation of Erasmus+ Outgoing Mobilities (https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/arhiva_ca/annex_Anexa_1_Regulament_Erasmus_Outgoing_UVT_aprilie_2016_12_04_2_016.pdf) and the Operational Procedure for Mobility Payments (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Procedura-operationala-privind-realizarea-platilor-catre-participantii-la-proiectele-de-mobilitati-Erasmus-organizate-la-Universitatea-de-Vest-din-Timisoara.pdf>).

Mobility opportunities are provided through several programmes and networks: Erasmus+, CEEPUS (Supply chains management from the perspective of national industries), the UNITA Universitas Montium university alliance (<https://ri.uvt.ro/>) and the PRIMENetworking network (<https://www.primenetworking.eu/>).

In the period 2021–2025, doctoral students in Economics completed **6 international mobilities**, comprising **2 research stays** (Hungary, Italy) and **4 Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)** mobilities organised by universities in Italy, Spain and France, as documented in the International Mobilities and BIP Report for Economics Doctoral Students (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/situatie-mobilitati-internationale-si-bip-doctoranzi-economie.pdf>).

Institutional financial support for participation in conferences and scientific events is provided through the doctoral grants mechanism, centralised since 2024 by the Doctoral Studies Office (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/granturi-doctorale-2024-2025.pdf>).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

- The institutional framework for mobilities is complete and functional, covering both in-person mobilities and blended formats (BIP), in accordance with the requirements of the indicator.
- UVT's membership of the UNITA alliance and the PRIMENetworking network significantly extends the opportunities available to doctoral students.
- The number of mobilities completed during the reporting period, while modest in absolute terms relative to the small number of enrolled doctoral students, reflects genuine participation that is geographically and thematically diversified.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

- The development of a diversified international mobility ecosystem through participation in the UNITA alliance, PRIMENetworking network, Erasmus+ and CEEPUS programmes, complemented by institutional financial support for doctoral research dissemination and international scientific participation.

✓ Recommendations

- ✓ No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts:

SDEAA ensures equal opportunities for all doctoral students, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, socioeconomic status or disability, through a clearly defined institutional framework, in accordance with the provisions of the UVT Charter (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Anexa-1.-Carta-UVT-2025-dupa-aviz-MEC.pdf>) and the applicable regulations.

The diversity of learning styles and abilities is addressed at multiple levels. The curriculum includes optional subjects, and the Doctoral Studies Plan (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>) is established together with each doctoral student at the beginning of the academic year, allowing adaptation of the pace and type of activities to individual potential. Teaching formats are varied, encompassing face-to-face, hybrid and online delivery, as well as workshops, scientific seminars and individual mentoring sessions. Personalised support is provided through the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (<https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/facilitati-pentru-studenti/consiliere-scsc/servicii-de-consiliere-individuala-pentru-studenti/>), which offers educational, vocational and psychological counselling.

For doctoral students with disabilities, the dedicated unit within the CCOC provides individualised counselling and maintains ongoing collaboration with teaching staff. Doctoral student representation structures are operational at the level of the SDEAA Council and the CSUD, ensuring their involvement in the decision-making process.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The existing institutional mechanisms cover both the dimension of equity of access and that of personalisation of the doctoral pathway.
- The individualised supervision model, through the supervisor-doctoral student relationship and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Commission, constitutes by its nature an adaptable framework responsive to the diversity of doctoral students' needs and aspirations. Institutional support services (CCOC, e-learning platform, IT infrastructure) are equally accessible to all doctoral students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The implementation of a personalised doctoral learning pathway through individually designed doctoral study plans, flexible learning formats and tailored mentoring arrangements that accommodate diverse learning needs and research profiles.
- The integrated support services for doctoral students, including educational, vocational and psychological counselling, complemented by dedicated assistance for students with disabilities through specialised institutional structures.
- The active involvement of doctoral student representatives in the governance and decision-making structures of the doctoral school, fostering participatory academic management and student engagement.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

Doctoral students in Economics benefit from access to a diversified set of resources and support services, provided through the digital and institutional infrastructure of UVT-FEAA-SDEAA.

Documentary support is ensured through the "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library (<https://bcut.ro/>), with over one million volumes and electronic access to major international databases (Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect, ProQuest, EBSCO, JSTOR, CEEOL, SpringerLink) through the ANELIS Plus portal, and through the FEAA branch library, equipped with 24 computers and 36 reading places. The Moodle platform (<https://elearning.e-uvt.ro/>) provides 24/7 access to course materials, datasets and research tasks. The software infrastructure includes licensed specialised applications: SPSS, EViews, Stata, NVivo, R/RStudio and Microsoft 365, accessible both on campus and remotely using UVT credentials.

Academic integrity is supported through access to the iThenticate plagiarism detection system (for doctoral supervisors and the Doctoral Studies Office) and Turnitin (for doctoral students), both procedurally integrated into all stages of thesis preparation. Personalised support is provided through the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (<https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/facilitati-pentru-studenti/consiliere-scsc/servicii-de-consiliere-individuala-pentru-studenti/>), including through the dedicated unit for students with disabilities, through periodic staff consultations (minimum 2 hours per week, publicly displayed at <https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/orar-consultatii-pentru-coordonatorii-de-doctorat-din-domeniul-p80838.pdf>), and through the Department for Teacher Training (<https://dppd.uvt.ro/>). Financial support for research and professional development activities is accessible through the doctoral grants mechanism (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/granturi-doctorale-2024-2025.pdf>).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The available resources and services cover all dimensions required by the indicator: documentary support, digital infrastructure and specialised software, academic integrity, personalised counselling and support for students with special needs.
- Access is ensured on equal terms, including remotely, through UVT institutional accounts.
- The diversity and integration of these resources are adequate to the specific nature of the doctoral cycle and the individual needs of doctoral students in Economics.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The provision of an integrated doctoral support ecosystem combining advanced research infrastructure, specialised software, digital learning resources, academic integrity tools, career counselling services and dedicated funding opportunities for research development.
- The systematic integration of academic integrity support throughout the doctoral lifecycle through complementary plagiarism detection systems accessible to both doctoral students and supervisors, combined with procedural safeguards embedded in thesis preparation and evaluation.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The expected learning outcomes of the doctoral programme in Economics are defined in accordance with level 8 of the NQF and structured along three dimensions, namely Knowledge, Skills and Responsibility and Autonomy, reflecting the advanced research, critical analysis and innovation competences specific to the field.

These outcomes are communicated transparently through the course syllabi

(<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/economie/>), the Curriculum

(<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-de-invatamant-domeniul-doctorat-economie-2025-2026.pdf>) and the Doctoral Studies Plan (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>), all available online on the UVT website, and are brought to the attention of doctoral students and supervisors at the beginning of each academic year through the Doctoral Studies Contract

(<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/contractul-de-studii-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>).

The common reference framework is complemented by the IOSUD UVT Regulation on Doctoral Studies (https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Anexa-1_Regulament-IOSUD-UVT-privind-studiile-universitare-de-doctorat_Modificarea-1.pdf) and the Methodology for the Completion of Doctoral Studies (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/01/Metodologie-privind-finalizarea-studiilor-de-doctorat.pdf>), which establish coherence between formative objectives, learning outcomes and assessment methods used throughout and at the completion of the doctoral programme.

The learning outcomes cover mastery of frontier knowledge in economic process analysis, advanced macro and microeconomics, statistical and econometric modelling and public policy; application of high-level research techniques and original contribution to the extension of knowledge; and demonstration of scientific integrity and professional autonomy in generating new solutions in the field of Economics.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The learning outcomes are formulated clearly, operationally and consistently, providing a common frame of reference for doctoral students and supervisors.
- The course syllabi explicitly contain minimum performance standards and assessment criteria, contributing to the transparency and predictability of the formative pathway.
- The publication of these documents on institutional platforms guarantees the accessibility of information for all parties involved.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The transparent communication of doctoral learning outcomes through an integrated set of academic documents, ensuring a shared understanding among doctoral students, supervisors and institutional stakeholders of the competences targeted throughout the doctoral programme.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to adapt the intended learning outcomes included in the course syllabi to the specific profile of the doctoral field of Economics, in order to explicitly highlight the research competencies and skills specific to this field.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The achievement of learning outcomes within the doctoral programme in Economics is verified through a coherent system of continuous and completion assessment, regulated by the IOSUD UVT Regulation on Doctoral Studies (https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Anexa-1_Regulament-IOSUD-UVT-privind-studiile-universitare-de-doctorat_Modificarea-1.pdf), the Methodology for the Completion of Doctoral Studies at UVT (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/01/Metodologie-privind-finalizarea-studiilor-de-doctorat.pdf>) and the National Framework Regulation 3020/2024 (https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/fisiere%20articol/OM_3020-2024.pdf).

Assessment is structured at two levels:

- During the Advanced Training Programme (semester I, year I), through continuous assessment comprising scientific presentations, debates, replication of empirical studies, case analyses and research projects for each of the four subjects in the Curriculum (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-de-invatamant-domeniul-doctorat-economie-2025-2026.pdf>). Assessment requirements are published on the e-learning platform (<https://elearning.e-uvt.ro/>), ensuring equal access for all doctoral students.
- During the Individual Research Programme, through annual progress reports evaluated by the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Commission, in accordance with the activities established in the Doctoral Studies Plan (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>). Prior to thesis completion, doctoral students have access to a Doctoral Thesis Writing Guide (https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/ghid-de-redactare-a-tezei-de-doctorat-in-domeniul-stiinte-econo_p38398.pdf).

Study completion requires the following mandatory stages: internal evaluation by the Guidance and Academic Integrity Commission, thesis pre-defence, public consultation period (90 days), originality verification through iThenticate/Turnitin (https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/rezolutia-conducatorului-de-doctorat-si-a-comisiei-de-indrumare_p66792.pdf) and public defence before a commission of at least five members, of whom at least two are external to IOSUD-UVT, in accordance with the Methodology for the Completion of Doctoral Studies (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/01/Metodologie-privind-finalizarea-studiilor-de-doctorat.pdf>).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts:

- The assessment system covers the entire doctoral pathway, from advanced training to final certification, ensuring continuous and documented monitoring of doctoral students' scientific and professional progress.
- Formative assessment through annual progress reports and summative assessment through the public thesis defence are complementary and coherent with the expected learning outcomes.
- The digital procedures employed (Moodle, iThenticate, Turnitin) guarantee the traceability and transparency of the process.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

- The implementation of a progressive assessment model that combines continuous evaluation during the Advanced Training Programme with annual monitoring of research progress, ensuring the systematic development and verification of doctoral competences throughout the entire doctoral cycle.
- The integration of multiple quality assurance stages prior to thesis defence, including pre-defence evaluation, originality verification and public consultation, strengthening the transparency, integrity and scientific rigour of the doctoral completion process.

✓ Recommendations

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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:

Admission to the doctoral programme in Economics within SDEAA-UVT is carried out through a competitive examination, organised in the July and September sessions, based on a procedural framework approved by the UVT Senate, which includes the Methodology for the Organisation and Conduct of the Doctoral Admission Competition (https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Metodologia-de-admitere-la-doctorat-UVT-2025-2026_semnat.pdf) and the Regulation on the Organisation and Conduct of the Doctoral Admission Competition at SDEAA (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Regulament-admitere-doctorat-SDP-2025-2026.pdf>).

The entire application process is conducted exclusively online through the Admissions Platform (<https://admitereonline.uvt.ro/auth/login>), where all relevant information is published: the number of places per doctoral field (https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Anexa-8_Propunere-CSUD-alocare-locuri-cu-finantare-de-la-buget-locuri-cu-taxa-admitere-septembrie-2025.pdf), the research topics available for competition (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/temele-scoase-la-concurs.pdf>) and the admission calendar (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/calendarul-desfasurarii-concursului-de-admitere.pdf>). The competition comprises two stages: a language proficiency test (online, eliminatory for candidates without certificates recognised by IOSUD-UVT) and a speciality examination (oral, in person), based on the doctoral research project proposed by the candidate.

Research topics are proposed by doctoral supervisors and approved by the SDEAA Council, CSUD and the Board of Administration. Upon completion of the admission process, each enrolled doctoral student signs the Doctoral Studies Contract.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The admission procedures are clearly defined, publicly available and uniformly applied, respecting the principles of transparency and merit-based selection.
- The full digitalisation of the application process reduces bureaucratic barriers and ensures equitable access for all candidates.
- The evaluation of research projects, combined with the verification of language proficiency, guarantees the selection of motivated candidates who are compatible with the requirements of the doctoral programme.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The implementation of a fully digitalised doctoral admission process through a dedicated online platform that centralises application procedures, research topics, admission calendars and competition results, ensuring transparency, accessibility and administrative efficiency.
- The integration of research-project-based assessment within the admission process, enabling the evaluation of candidates' scientific potential and the alignment of research interests with the expertise of doctoral supervisors from the outset of the doctoral journey.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

Admission to the doctoral programme in Economics within SDEAA-UVT is conducted in compliance with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, in accordance with the UVT Charter (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Anexa-1.-Carta-UVT-2025-dupa-aviz-MEC.pdf>), the Methodology for the Organisation and Conduct of the Doctoral Admission Competition (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp->

[content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Metodologia-de-admitere-la-doctorat-UVT-2025-2026_semnat.pdf](https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Metodologia-de-admitere-la-doctorat-UVT-2025-2026_semnat.pdf)) and the Regulation on the Organisation and Conduct of the Doctoral Admission Competition at SDEAA (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Regulament-admitere-doctorat-SDP-2025-2026.pdf>), both approved annually by the University Senate.

The procedural framework is applied uniformly to all categories of candidates: Romanian citizens, EU/EEA citizens, ethnic Romanians from the diaspora and citizens from third countries. Roma candidates benefit from places specially allocated by the Ministry of Education and Research, subject to the same SDEAA admission regulation. For candidates with special educational needs or disabilities, admission commissions adapt the process through individual assistance during registration, additional time for examinations and the possibility of online participation.

The educational offer includes both state-funded places and fee-paying places, allocated in accordance with the approval of the Board of Administration and the UVT Senate.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The existing procedural framework ensures an objective, non-discriminatory admission process that is open to all categories of eligible candidates.
- The support measures for vulnerable groups, including specially allocated places, adaptation of examinations for candidates with disabilities and the possibility of online participation, reflect the institutional commitment to inclusion.
- The transparent publication of all relevant information on the admissions platform guarantees equitable access to the selection process.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The implementation of inclusive doctoral admission procedures, ensuring equal access for diverse categories of candidates through adapted examination conditions, individual support measures and flexible participation arrangements for applicants with special educational needs or disabilities.
- The application of a unified and transparent admission framework for national, international and candidates from diverse backgrounds, promoting equity and equal opportunities in access to doctoral studies.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

SDEAA applies the regulations concerning the professional activity of doctoral students in Economics through a clear normative framework, comprising the Doctoral Studies Contract (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/contractul-de-studii-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>), also available in English (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/study-contract-for-phd.pdf>), the Doctoral Studies Plan (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>) and the IOSUD UVT Regulation on Doctoral Studies (https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Anexa-1_Regulament-IOSUD-UVT-privind-studiile-universitare-de-doctorat_Modificarea-1.pdf).

The procedural framework explicitly regulates the standard duration of the doctoral programme (4 years, with the possibility of extension by 1 to 2 years, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor and with the approval of the UVT

Senate); the conditions for interruption of studies (maximum one academic year, with reinstatement of doctoral student status upon return); and the maintenance of doctoral student status during national and international mobilities.

The administration of each individual academic pathway is carried out through the UMS information system, used for recording and monitoring the stages of doctoral studies, with data reflected in the National Student Registry (RMU).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The regulations concerning the academic pathway of doctoral students are clearly defined, accessible and uniformly applied, ensuring the flexibility necessary for managing individual situations such as interruptions, extensions and mobilities, without compromising the requirements of academic quality and rigour.
- The digitalisation of records through UMS information system and their reflection in the RMU (National Student Registry) guarantee traceability and compliance with national regulations.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The digital management and monitoring of doctoral students' academic pathways through an integrated information system linked to the National Student Registry, ensuring traceability, administrative efficiency and regulatory compliance throughout the doctoral cycle.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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:**

The internationalisation activities of SDEAA in Economics are implemented within the UVT Strategy for Internationalisation and Global Cooperation (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Anexa-5.-Strategia-de-internationalizare-si-cooperare-globala-UVT-2026-2030.pdf>), through institutional mechanisms managed by the International Relations Directorate.

Doctoral student mobility is supported through Erasmus+, CEEPUS, the UNITA Universitas Montium alliance (<https://univ-unita.eu/>) and the PRIMENetworking network (<https://www.primenetworking.eu/>). In the period 2021–2025, doctoral students in Economics completed 6 international mobilities, comprising research stays in Hungary and Italy and participation in BIP programmes organised by universities in Italy, Spain and France (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/situatie-mobilitati-internationale-si-bip-doctoranzi-economie.pdf>).

Doctoral supervisors completed **31 international mobilities** during the same period and participated in over 50 international conferences (https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/situatie-mobilitati-internationale-si-bip-conducatori-de-doctor_p19379.pdf), contributing to the promotion of the doctoral programme and to facilitating opportunities for doctoral students.

International research collaboration is reflected through the involvement of doctoral supervisors as members of international associations (International Strategic Management Association, Italian Economic Association); participation as visiting external examiners and evaluators of doctoral schools in Poland and postdoctoral projects in Lithuania; and the organisation of international scientific events in partnership with the ECREB research centre (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/evenimente-stiintifice-in-parteneriat-cu-ecreb.pdf>).

Collaboration agreements (**MoU**) have been concluded with universities in Malta, Kosovo, Georgia and China, and the number of enrolled international doctoral students has increased. The growth in the number of joint supervision arrangements, from 2 in 2021 to 23 in 2025 at IOSUD-UVT level, reflects the consolidation of the international dimension of doctoral programmes.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The international dimension of the doctoral programme in Economics is supported by a solid and diversified institutional framework, covering both physical and virtual mobility, as well as research collaboration and co-supervision of doctoral students.
- UVT's membership of the **UNITA alliance** and the **PRIMENetworking** network generates structural cooperation opportunities beyond individual bilateral agreements.
- The involvement of doctoral supervisors in international academic structures consolidates the visibility of the programme and facilitates the integration of doctoral students into international scientific communities.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The development of a **multi-layered internationalisation framework** combining doctoral student and supervisor mobility, participation in international academic networks, strategic institutional partnerships and joint supervision arrangements, thereby strengthening the global integration of doctoral training and research.
- The systematic promotion of **joint supervision arrangements** and international academic partnerships, contributing to the sustained strengthening of the international dimension of doctoral studies and research collaboration.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to increase the number of jointly supervised doctoral theses at international level within the Economics field.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

Research-based learning constitutes the central component of the doctoral programme in Economics at SDEAA-UVT, supported by the UVT strategic and normative framework, namely the Institutional Development Strategy (https://uvt.ro/cercetare/?jet_download=60e11bfe368572326c0f7da607b499eccfa79495) and the Regulation on Scientific Research and University Creation (https://uvt.ro/cercetare/?jet_download=9930758cec70f92da37eb90be4f089d21c6e8e0c), and operationalised through the curricular structure of the programme.

The Advanced Training Programme (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-de-invatamant-domeniul-doctorat-economie-2025-2026.pdf>) builds research competences through subjects focused on research methodology, ethics and academic integrity, academic writing and the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence in economic research.

The Individual Research Programme (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/planul-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.pdf>) progressively structures scientific investigation activities, covering documentation,

research problem formulation, data collection and analysis, writing and dissemination, evaluated annually by the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Commission.

Research results of doctoral students are disseminated through publications in WoS and Scopus indexed journals, participation in international conferences and involvement in research projects (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/lista-lucrari-conferinte-si-alte-rezultate-doctoranzi-economie.pdf>).

The ECREB research centre organises conferences, workshops and scientific events in partnership with SDEAA and foreign universities (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/evenimente-stiintifice-in-parteneriat-cu-ecreb.pdf>), providing an applied framework for the dissemination of doctoral students' research results.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- The integration of research into the training process is demonstrated at all levels of the doctoral programme: methodological grounding in the advanced training programme, individual scientific investigation through the Doctoral Studies Plan and capitalisation of results through national and international dissemination.
 - The teaching and research architecture ensures the progressive acquisition of the targeted competences, encompassing problem formulation, methodological design, critical analysis, academic writing and communication, and academic integrity, in accordance with level 8 of the NQF.
 - The scientific output of doctoral students, documented in the List of Papers, Conferences and Other Results, confirms the effective operationalisation of these competences.
- The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The integration of research training, scientific production and dissemination within a coherent doctoral pathway, supported by annual monitoring mechanisms and complemented by opportunities for publication, conference participation and engagement in international research activities.
- The incorporation of digital tools and artificial intelligence into doctoral research training, combined with a progressive research-based learning approach that supports the development, publication and international dissemination of original scientific contributions.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to expand opportunities for doctoral students to participate in research projects and international academic activities, thus increasing the visibility and impact of the programme.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts:**

The results of scientific research conducted within the Economics field at SDEAA-UVT are visible at national and international level through publications in indexed journals, participation in prestigious conferences and involvement in research projects, as documented in the List of Papers, Conferences and Other Results of Doctoral Supervisors (https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/lista-lucrari-conferinte-si-alte-rezultate-conducatori-de-docto_p80445.pdf) and the List of Papers, Conferences and Other Results of Doctoral Students (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/lista-lucrari-conferinte-si-alte-rezultate-doctoranzi-economie.pdf>).

Doctoral supervisors publish consistently in Web of Science and Scopus indexed journals, participate in international conferences and are actively involved in international scientific networks, including the International Strategic Management Association, the Italian Economic Association, PRIMENetworking and CEEPUS (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/proiecte-cercetare-feaa--conducatori-de-doctorat-economie.pdf>).

International visibility is further consolidated through the role of certain doctoral supervisors as keynote speakers and invited guests at scientific events organised by prestigious foreign universities, as well as through their function as external evaluators of doctoral schools in Poland and postdoctoral projects in Lithuania. The ECREB research centre organises international conferences and workshops in partnership with SDEAA (<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/economie/evenimente-stiintifice-in-parteneriat-cu-ecreb.pdf>), providing an institutionalised framework for the dissemination of research results by both supervisors and doctoral students.

Doctoral students' research progress is monitored and documented through annual progress reports, in accordance with the objectives established in the Doctoral Studies Plan, and completed doctoral theses are published by UVT Press, amplifying the visibility and scientific impact of the results obtained.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts:**

- Research activity in the field of Economics is characterised by continuity, thematic relevance and international openness, addressing current topics such as economic growth, regional disparities, labour migration, European economic integration and sustainability.
- The capitalisation of research results through indexed publications, international conferences, funded projects and institutional partnerships demonstrates alignment with international quality standards in the field.
- The involvement of doctoral students in research and dissemination activities, confirmed by their documented scientific output, attests to the effective integration of research into the doctoral training process.

The indicator is fulfilled.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples:**

- The establishment of an institutional framework for research dissemination through the East-European Center for Research in Economics and Business - **ECREB research centre**, which actively integrates doctoral supervisors and doctoral students into international conferences, scientific workshops and collaborative research activities, fostering the visibility and impact of doctoral research.

✓ **Recommendations**

The doctoral school is encouraged to strengthen its **international research presence** by supporting publications in high-quality journals and by increasing involvement in international research partnerships and networks.

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
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

At the West University of Timișoara, quality assurance is coordinated by the [Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission](#), which includes representatives of the academic community, students, employers, and trade unions. Within IOSUD-UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), educational quality is supported through a structured feedback–monitoring–improvement system. ([IOSUD UVT Regulation on doctoral Supervision committees within SDEAA](#))

Teaching activities are evaluated each semester through anonymous student surveys, while doctoral students' progress is monitored annually by supervision committees based on standardized procedures and documentation. ([Methodology regarding the conduct of the evaluation process of teachers by students at the West University of Timișoara](#))

Academic integrity is ensured through mandatory plagiarism checks using iThenticate/Turnitin before thesis defense. (with the possibility of reverification, [Resolution of the PhD supervisor and the supervision committee on the similarity report](#))

The [SDEAA Council](#), including doctoral student representatives, supports the governance of the doctoral school, while curricular transparency is maintained through the publication of [curricula](#) and [course syllabi](#), facilitating the continuous review and improvement of the study programme.

Educational Management Directorate within UVT ([Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Educational Management Directorate](#)) facilitates the implementation of regulations and their updating according to national and European standards.

✓ [Analysis of the state of facts](#)

The internal quality management system implemented at the level of UVT, faculties and doctoral schools ensures coherence and consistency in the development of educational and research activities.

The interaction between the CEAC-UVT and the doctoral schools ensures the coherence of the institutional quality management mechanisms, while the expertise and support provided by the UVT Educational Management Directorate facilitate the implementation and periodic review of regulations in line with developments in the regulatory framework and with national and European standards.

The existence of a clearly defined regulatory framework and periodic revision mechanisms indicates that the doctoral school systematically applies institutional procedures related to doctoral education management and quality assurance.

✓ [Aspects that constitute best practice examples](#)

Quality assurance has become the part of the organizational culture of the institution.

✓ [Recommendations](#)

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.
I.P.C.1.2.1	

✓ [Presentation of the state of facts](#)

The report demonstrates that SDEAA has established a comprehensive and participatory quality assurance framework that actively involves doctoral students, academic staff, alumni, and representatives of the socio-economic and cultural environment in decision-making, evaluation, and programme development processes.

At UVT level, the following Advisory Councils operate: i) the Academic Advisory Council, made up of personalities from the academic, cultural and professional environment; (ii) Group of strategic partners - GPS UVT, made up of representatives of the economic and social environment; (iii) The Alumni Advisory Council, made up of representatives of UVT graduates ([Regulations for the organization and functioning of the UVT Board of Directors](#)).

The consideration of stakeholders' opinions is provided for in institutional regulations, in particular in the [Regulation on the initiation, development, monitoring, and periodic review of university study programs and fields of study at the West University of Timișoara and their corresponding curricula](#).

The systematic consultation of stakeholders, combined with their representation in governance and advisory structures, ensures that doctoral education remains relevant, transparent, and responsive to academic developments and labour market needs.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

SDEAA focuses on a participatory approach to quality assurance, based on collaboration between all categories of stakeholders. The participation of doctoral students and representatives of the economic and social sectors in advisory and decision-making bodies ensures that the educational process is adapted to socio-economic developments, promotes the exchange of best practices with other higher education institutions, and aligns learning outcomes with the demands of the labor market.

The presence of stakeholder participation mechanisms and external members in decision-making structures demonstrates an inclusive governance model supporting quality assurance.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples

Collaboration with the business environment and professional organizations is an important priority. Proposing research themes could strengthen academia-industry links.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to identify new consultation mechanisms with stakeholders, in order to intensify the systematic collection of feedback from the socio-economic, educational, and cultural environment to support a transparent decision-making process.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The UVT University Ethics Committee operates in accordance with the [Regulations on the Organization and Functioning of the UVT University Ethics Committee](#) and makes decisions independently of any other body or individual. Within the Committee, there is a subcommittee dedicated to research ethics, whose activities are governed by a [specific procedure](#).

The activity of the Professional Ethics and Deontology Commission is presented in the [Annual Activity Reports](#) of the University Ethics Commission, approved by the University Senate.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The existence of an institutional ethics structure with clear legal and regulatory foundations demonstrates compliance with ethical standards in higher education.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The involvement of students (doctoral and/or master's students) in the ethics committee is a welcome and important practice for ensuring academic integrity.

Permanent access to the plagiarism detection system, international databases, and state-of-the-art electronic resources strengthens the culture of academic integrity and raises the standards of doctoral research in economics.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to organize regular workshops on research integrity, including topics such as open science and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in research.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Procedures governing the organization and functioning of doctoral studies, program implementation, and monitoring are regulated at institutional level and periodically reviewed according to legislative changes and quality assurance recommendations.

- The UVT Charter, approved in 2025
- Regulations of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration for doctoral studies;
- IOSUD UVT Regulation on doctoral studies;
- Methodology regarding accessing financial support for mobility and research activities of doctoral students;
- Methodology regarding the access by doctoral students to institutional resources for professional training;
- Methodology regarding the standardization and activity of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Commission within IOSUD-UVT;
- Methodology regarding the organization and conduct of the admission contest for doctoral studies;
- Regulation on the organization and conduct of the admission contest for doctoral studies, Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration;
- Methodology regarding the completion of doctoral studies at UVT;
- Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of the process of granting the habilitation certificate;
- Framework procedure for affiliation or disaffiliation within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-UVT;
- IOSUD UVT methodology regarding the recognition of the doctoral degree and the title of doctor of science or in a professional field, obtained abroad;
- Methodology for the automatic recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor obtained in accredited higher education or research and development institutions abroad.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

By applying quality assurance regulations, SDEAA monitors key aspects of the doctoral program, including admission, dropout rates, extensions of study, the defense of doctoral dissertations, the performance of doctoral advisors, and feedback from doctoral students.

The implementation of institutional procedures and regulations ensures the consistency and transparency of administrative processes, as well as adherence to the principles of academic ethics and integrity. Regular reporting and monitoring through specialized platforms contribute to the continuous improvement of the quality of academic and administrative processes and to the uniform application of evaluation criteria.

Institutional procedures and regular reviews allows a systematic monitoring and a continuous application of improvement mechanisms that supports an increased quality of doctoral activities.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The Doctoral School maintains rigor in complying with institutional regulations, procedures, and internal rules. Transparency and consistency in program management institutional-wide.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The implementation and monitoring of procedures specific to doctoral programs are carried out through the direct involvement of doctoral advisors, doctoral students, members of the advisory and academic integrity committees, as well as administrative and management bodies.

The revision of the doctoral regulations, procedures and curricula is carried out periodically ([Regulation on the initiation, elaboration, monitoring and periodic review of the programs and fields of university studies at the West University of Timișoara and their related curricula](#), updated through HS UVT no. 49/22.01.2026), following an approval process involving the doctoral school, CSUD and, as the case may be, the Board of Directors and the University Senate.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, members of the academic community and other stakeholders are actively involved in the implementation and evaluation of institutional procedures through a participatory approach aimed at continuous quality improvement. This process is supported by the periodic review of internal regulations, based on identified needs and changes in the legislative framework.

The application of institutional regulations and procedures is accompanied by the systematic collection of feedback from doctoral advisors, doctoral students, and other relevant partners, contributing to the continuous updating, adaptation, and refinement of the internal regulatory framework.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Integration of doctoral students and socio-economic stakeholders into the governance structures of the doctoral school, ensuring their active participation in decision-making and programme development processes

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to intensify joint research projects with companies.

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**

The internal evaluation report mentions student feedback and evaluation processes regarding teaching activities. The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the activities of the teaching, auxiliary and administrative staff involved in the development of the doctoral study programs is carried out for the teaching staff, based on a unitary procedure at the level of UVT, represented by the [Methodology for the annual evaluation of individual professional results and performances](#), and for the auxiliary and administrative teaching staff the evaluation is carried out on the basis of [Procedure for the evaluation of the annual individual professional performance of auxiliary teaching staff and administrative staff](#).

UVT uses a questionnaire to measure student satisfaction regarding the educational process, student services and university infrastructure of the West University of Timișoara. ([Methodology regarding the conduct of the evaluation process of teachers by students at the West University of Timișoara](#); [Questionnaire on the evaluation of teachers by students](#); [Ghid-completare-platforma.pdf](#)).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

There are mechanisms in place for collecting feedback from students.

In each academic semester, the doctoral school is inviting the students to submit in three distinct moments their feedback: at the beginning of the semester, in the middle and at the end. The purpose is to detect as soon as possible all the information that can support a correct data analysis and decision.

The collected data is following a designated flow that involves all the actors: from the doctoral school level to the involves professor.

Due to this process, the changes can be implemented in real time.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

UVT has an information system that facilitates the collection, processing and analysis of data and information relevant to institutional quality assessment and assurance. The SDEAA has access to UVT's IT systems, which enable the systematic collection of data that is analyzed at the doctoral school level and allows for the monitoring of doctoral students' progress, academic performance, and participation in mobility programs and conferences, thereby providing the basis for evaluating the quality of the educational and scientific process.

- for all information related to the legal basis for carrying out the activity in doctoral schools <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/en/>;
- for teaching activities, respectively the UMS education management information system used by the Doctoral Studies Office - elearning.uvt.ro;
- the electronic catalog platform catalog.uvt.ro
- the platforms available at the Erasmus+ Office for the management of contracts with partners and mobility of doctoral students and teachers (Online Learning Agreement, Erasmus Without Paper – EWP Dashboard, Beneficiary Module);
- digital centralizations from the Accounting Service for the accounting of statements for grants that support the professional activity of doctoral students and teachers (e.g. grants for participation in conferences, summer schools, Develop grant).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration benefits from information systems that allow the systematic collection and analysis of data on different components of the activities carried out. The integrated information from the institutional platforms ensures a monitoring of the progress of doctoral students, academic

performance and participation in mobilities and conferences, providing the basis for assessing the quality of the educational and scientific process.

The use of digital platforms and institutional databases supports systematic monitoring of academic activities and quality indicators.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Integrated IT systems covering all doctoral stages. Doctoral students have access and use this system.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the study program. Regulations, procedures, and institutional documents are published on the university website, ensuring transparency and access to information for stakeholders. The information can be found on the UVT website - <https://www.uvt.ro/en/> website, as well as on the [CSUD website](#). Information of public interest regarding the field of doctoral studies Management is available on the UVT website dedicated to doctoral studies: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/en/>

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

Permanent publication of information on doctoral activity on the website: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/en/> reflects UVT's commitment to transparency and public accountability.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Maintaining the high level of transparency is permanently an important priority of the doctoral school.

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Decision-making processes are conducted through formal governance structures such as the University Senate, the Board of Administration, and the Doctoral School Council. Regulations and decisions are publicly available. The CSUD decisions are public on the website of the doctoral studies <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/en/>, in the section [CSUD - Decisions](#). They are sent for validation to the UVT Senate.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The governance framework ensures transparency, participation, and accountability in institutional decision-making.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Conducting decision-making processes through formal governance structures, with publicly available regulations and decisions, ensuring institutional transparency



- Ensuring a governance framework characterized by transparency, participation, and accountability in institutional decision-making

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

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.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The Economics Field of SDEAA was evaluated in 2021, when it was awarded the qualification Maintenance of accreditation, by [ARACIS Council Decision no. 100 of 25.11.2021](#). In 2024, the Interim Progress Report was submitted to ARACIS. The commission that analyzed this material confirmed the implementation of the recommendations made in the previous evaluation process and the maintenance of quality standards in the organization and conduct of the doctoral study program in the field of Economics, in its own report.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

During the previous external evaluation cycle, the doctoral program in Economics at the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration was evaluated by ARACIS in 2021 and received the rating "Accreditation Maintained." Subsequently, in 2024, the interim progress report was prepared and submitted, highlighting the implementation of the recommendations made following the external evaluation and confirming the maintenance of quality standards in the organization and conduct of doctoral studies.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- Active participation in national external quality assurance processes (ARACIS), supporting the continuous maintenance of accreditation
- Alignment with external evaluation requirements through the systematic preparation of internal evaluation reports

✓ **Recommendations**

No recommendations are considered necessary at this stage.

The indicator is: fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: 1. Institutional capacity ✓ PhD supervisors with relevant scientific results and national and international recognition; ✓ Consolidated experience in coordinating doctoral theses; ✓ Involvement of foreign teachers and researchers in doctoral programs (courses, commissions, workshops); ✓ Modernized and accessible material base: access to computer laboratories, scientific databases, electronic research platforms; ✓ Advanced digitization of administrative processes (platforms for the registration of doctoral students, automatic generation of documents); ✓ Clear organizational structure, aligned with ARACIS and CNATDCU standards; ✓ UVT's collaboration with universities in Romania (within the Universitaria Consortium) and in Europe (within the UNITA alliance, PRIME Networking). 2. Institutional effectiveness ✓ External mobility opportunities for doctoral students; ✓ Financial support for participation in conferences, publication in indexed journals; ✓ Flexible curriculum that allows the adaptation of the topics to the doctoral student's profile and current trends (digitalization, sustainability, leadership); ✓ Inclusion of the dissemination activity of doctoral students in the Curriculum, with the allocation of ECTS; ✓ The presence of active scientific communities (workshops, conferences organized at UVT); ✓ The existence of the ECREB center, very active and internationally recognized on Economics issues. 3. Quality Management ✓ Presence of doctoral students and representatives of the socio-economic environment in quality commissions, doctoral councils and working groups; ✓ Regularly updated and transparent regulatory framework, accessible online; ✓ Clear procedures for evaluation, ethics, integrity and quality assurance of programs.	INTERNAL FACTORS ➡	Weaknesses: 1. Institutional capacity ✓ Only partial IT integration between internal platforms (admission, research, mobility, reporting); ✓ A small number of foreign researchers involved as members in the steering and academic integrity committees, respectively in the public defense committees of doctoral theses. 2. Institutional effectiveness ✓ Reduced number of theses written and defended entirely in English; ✓ Low number of doctorates in co-supervision; ✓ Relatively small number of foreign doctoral students; ✓ Collaboration with alumni, companies and public institutions is sometimes punctual, not systematic. 3. Quality Management ✓ The evaluation by doctoral students of the teaching staff who support teaching activities at the doctoral schools is not applied by the students; ✓ Multiple procedures, reports and documentation are time-consuming, reducing the time spent on research; ✓ Some mechanisms for monitoring doctoral progress are still predominantly bureaucratic.
	SWOT Analysis	
Opportunities: 1. Institutional capacity ✓ Intensifying international partnerships with universities in the EU, Asia and North America; ✓ Participation in European research networks (Horizon Europe, COST, Erasmus+ Partnerships); ✓ Access to European funds for infrastructure development and modernization of digital resources; ✓ Increasing the competitiveness of UVT and doctoral supervisors from DSUD Economics in international rankings; ✓ The possibility of attracting invited professors through European mobility programmes and grants. 2. Institutional effectiveness ✓ The potential for empowerment in the field of Economics of valuable teachers within UVT; ✓ Increasing the number of international mobilities for doctoral students and doctoral supervisors; ✓ Developing cooperation with companies, chambers of commerce, NGOs and public institutions;	⬅ EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: 1. Institutional capacity ✓ Chronic underfunding of education and research at national level; ✓ The decrease in the young population and the decreasing interest in doctoral studies in Romania; ✓ The competition of European and North American universities in attracting Romanian doctoral students. 2. Institutional effectiveness ✓ The acceleration of digitalization and the continuous need to adapt to new educational technologies (AI, big data); ✓ Migration of teachers and young researchers to universities abroad; ✓ Economic instability, global and geopolitical crises that can affect academic mobility. 3. Quality Management

✓ Emerging research trends: digitalization, AI, adaptive leadership, sustainability, green management; ✓ Opportunities for involvement in interdisciplinary projects (economy – digitalization – environment). 3. Quality Management ✓ New regulations on plagiarism checking and thesis publication can increase the quality of scientific production; ✓ European standards on integrity and open science become common benchmarks, increasing transparency; ✓ Expanding digital platforms for academic monitoring and evaluation.		✓ Frequent changes in education legislation, which can cause procedural blockages; ✓ Ethical risks of using AI in research and external pressures on research ethics and integrity – reputational risks in the event of misconduct.
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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 required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	
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.	PF	To review the course syllabi within the doctoral training programme by clearly distinguishing course objectives from intended learning outcomes , adapting the learning outcomes to the specific doctoral field , and rationalising the bibliographic references through the identification of core and recommended readings, thereby enhancing the transparency, relevance and consistency of the doctoral curriculum.
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	It is recommended to periodically revise the learning outcomes , taking into account developments in the academic and professional fields, in order to maintain their relevance and alignment with European standards.
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	
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	
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	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
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	The current learning outcomes are defined at the doctoral school level; however, their effectiveness could be enhanced by incorporating field-specific learning outcomes that capture the particular academic and professional expectations associated with each discipline. Such differentiation would support a more transparent alignment between programme objectives, curriculum content, and the expected achievements of doctoral students in each field of study.
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 the admission procedures.	F	
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	It is recommended that the number of jointly supervised doctoral theses at international level within the Economics field be increased.
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	It is recommended to expand opportunities for doctoral students to participate in research projects and international academic activities, thus increasing the visibility and impact of the programme.
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	The doctoral school is encouraged to strengthen its international research presence by supporting publications in high-quality journals and by increasing involvement in international research partnerships and networks.
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	F	It is recommended to identify new consultation mechanisms with

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	taken into account in the procedure implementation process.		stakeholders , in order to intensify the systematic collection of feedback from the socio-economic, educational, and cultural environment to support a transparent decision-making process.
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	It is recommended to organize regular workshops on research integrity , including topics such as open science and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in research.
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	It is recommended to intensify joint research projects with companies .
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.		
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.		
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.		
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.		
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.		

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	-	-
Domain B. Educational efficacy	13	1	-
Domain C. Quality management	10	-	-
Total	31	1	-



VI. Conclusions

The evaluation process has shown that the **Doctoral Studies Domain in Economics** at the **West University of Timișoara** benefits from a solid institutional foundation and a well-established academic environment. The organizational structures are functional and effective, providing doctoral students with the administrative support, research infrastructure, and access to scientific resources necessary for carrying out high-quality research activities. Overall, the conditions offered by the institution create a favorable framework for doctoral education and research development.

The analysis of the educational component confirms that the doctoral programmes are well designed and appropriately aligned with the current needs and developments of the Economics. The curriculum supports the achievement of the intended learning and research objectives, while the supervision process provides doctoral students with the guidance required for successful academic progression. Students are actively involved in research activities, regularly disseminate their work through scientific events, and are encouraged to publish in reputable journals, contributing to both their academic growth and the visibility of the doctoral domain.

The evaluation also highlights the effectiveness of the quality assurance processes implemented within the institution. Procedures for monitoring academic performance, ensuring compliance with ethical standards, and gathering feedback from doctoral students and other stakeholders are consistently applied. The evidence reviewed indicates a continuous concern for maintaining and improving quality, supported by a culture of institutional responsibility and ongoing development.

Based on the findings of the evaluation and considering that the assessed standards, criteria, and performance indicators are met, the evaluation panel supports the **maintaining of the accreditation for the Doctoral Studies Domain in Economics at the West University of Timișoara**. The domain demonstrates a stable and well-functioning academic profile, supported by active research, effective governance, and a clear commitment to quality enhancement. These strengths provide a solid basis for its future development and for further strengthening its national and international academic presence.

VII. Annexes

- *the schedule of the on-site visit*
- *the minutes of the visit*