

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



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

Higher Education Institution	West University of Timișoara
Doctoral School:	Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration
Doctoral Domain:	Finance
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.	Professor Spulbăr Cristi-Marcel, PhD. Habil.	Evaluation Expert – Chair of the Evaluation Panel	
2.	Associate Professor Copăceanu Cristina, PhD.	International Evaluation Expert - member	
3.	PhD. Student Ștrempel Christian-Gabriel	PhD. Student Evaluation Expert - member	

I. Introduction

Within the context of the periodic external evaluation procedure carried out for the purpose of maintaining the accreditation of the doctoral university studies field (DSUD) of Finance, the present external evaluation report for the field has been drafted, organized within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), belonging to the IOSUD – West University of Timișoara. The evaluation aimed to verify the degree of fulfillment of the ARACIS performance standards and indicators applicable to doctoral university studies fields, with a view to maintaining the accreditation of the DSUD of Finance for a new 5-year period.

The evaluation covered the period 2021–2025, and the on-site visit took place on 21–22 May 2026, in accordance with the schedule annexed to this external evaluation report.

The composition of the committee of expert evaluators is as follows:

- Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Cristi Marcel Spulbăr – University of Craiova;
- International expert: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cristina Copăceanu – European University of Political and Economic Studies "Constantin Stere", Chișinău, Republic of Moldova;
- Doctoral student: Christian-Gabriel Ștrempele – "Transilvania" University of Brașov.

According to the information available on the university's official website and that presented in the content of the internal evaluation report (REI), the West University of Timișoara (UVT) is one of the leading comprehensive higher education institutions in Romania, with an academic tradition that began in 1944, through [Royal Decree-Law No. 660/1944](#). At present, the university operates as a public institution of higher education and research, playing an important role in the academic and scientific development of western Romania. General institutional information is available on the university's official [website](#):

In the process of institutional development and internationalization, UVT has become a member of the [Universitaria Consortium](#) and a founding member of the European University Alliance [UNITA](#), while also being affiliated with relevant international academic organizations, such as the European University Association (EUA), the International Association of Universities (IAU), and the European Association for International Education (EAIE). The activity of IOSUD-UVT and the specific information on doctoral university studies are available on the dedicated platform: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/>.

The West University of Timișoara is oriented towards advanced education and research, through the generation and transfer of knowledge to society, the training of highly qualified human resources, and the promotion of democratic values and those of the European Higher Education Area. The university carries out its activity in accordance with the provisions of the [University Charter](#) and with the principles of university autonomy, academic freedom, and quality assurance.

UVT assumes its own mission as a catalyst for the development of Romanian society by creating an innovative and participatory environment for scientific research, learning, cultural-artistic creation, and sports performance, transferring competences and knowledge to the community through the education, research, and consultancy services it offers to partners from the economic and socio-cultural sphere, as well as through the formation and promotion of democratic values, of the rule of law, and of fundamental rights and freedoms, preparing active citizens engaged in society. Furthermore, UVT assumes the mission of managing research, development, and innovation activities, including through living labs for innovation in education, research, and community relations (UVT Charter, art. 5).

UVT's governance structure includes the [University Senate](#) and the [Board of Administration](#), both of which operate under regulations approved by the University.

The composition and activity of the University Senate are publicly available at <https://www.uvt.ro/organizare/senat-uvt/>, and the information regarding the Board of Administration is accessible at <https://uvt.ro/ro/organizare/consiliul-de-administratie/>.

The university organizes university study programs at all three Bologna cycles, through its 12 faculties (which manage 83 bachelor's programs and 98 master's programs), as well as IOSUD-UVT, which manages 26 doctoral university studies fields (organized within eight doctoral schools), 629 doctoral

students, 234 doctoral supervisors, and 16 postdoctoral researchers. Information regarding the academic offer and the structure of the faculties is available at <https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/>.

Regarding doctoral university studies, UVT operates as an Institution Organizing Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD), in accordance with the Higher Education Law No. 199/2023 and Order No. 3020/2024, which establish the Framework Regulation on doctoral university studies. The structure and responsibilities of the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) are published at: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/>.

According to [ARACIS Council Decision No. 100/25.11.2021](#), IOSUD – West University of Timișoara maintained accreditation for 21 of the 22 doctoral university studies fields evaluated 5 years ago. Subsequently, the field of Marketing, which had received conditional accreditation, maintained its accreditation through ARACIS Council Decision No. 95/H of 27.04.2023, so that, at present, all evaluated fields are accredited.

At the institutional level, doctoral activity is coordinated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), in accordance with the IOSUD-UVT regulations available at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/baza-legala/>.

The doctoral university studies field of Finance operates within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) of IOSUD – West University of Timișoara. The organization and functioning of the field are regulated by the normative framework applicable to doctoral university studies and by the internal regulations of IOSUD-UVT, available at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/>.

The governance of the field is carried out within the management structure of the SDEAA, with the doctoral school coordinated by the Doctoral School Council, composed of the SDEAA director, representatives of the doctoral fields, and a doctoral student representative. According to the documents analyzed by the evaluation committee, the field of Finance received the rating "Maintenance of accreditation" following the ARACIS external evaluation conducted in 2021, as per [ARACIS Council Decision No. 100/25.11.2021](#).

The comparative analysis of the data for the periods 2016–2021 and 2021–2025 highlights the consolidation of the SDEAA's institutional and academic capacity, as well as that of the field of Finance. At the doctoral school level, the number of doctoral supervisors increased from 41 to 59, and the number of organized doctoral fields increased from 5 to 6 with the inclusion of the field of Economic Informatics.

Within the field of Finance, at the time of the external evaluation, there are 21 affiliated doctoral supervisors, of whom 16 are UVT permanent staff, 3 are associated teaching staff, and 2 are affiliated supervisors from other higher education institutions. Compared to the previous evaluation, during the period 2021–2025, four new permanent teaching staff members who obtained the habilitation certificate were affiliated, indicating the development of the academic resource and the consolidation of the capacity to coordinate doctoral university studies.

The [statistical data analyzed](#) indicate a positive trend in the number of doctoral students in the field of Finance, from 25 in the 2021–2022 academic year to 33 in the 2024–2025 academic year, and 30 in the 2025–2026 academic year. During the evaluated period, 17 doctoral theses were defended in the field of Finance.

According to the documents analyzed, doctoral research in Finance addresses topics such as fiscal and monetary policies, financial markets, financial systems, financial intermediation, and financial stability. Information regarding the activity and structure of the doctoral field is available at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/finante/>.

Overall, the data and documents analyzed highlight a positive evolution of the doctoral university studies field of Finance, achieved after the last ARACIS external evaluation, reflected through the development of academic resources, the increase in the number of doctoral supervisors, the number of doctoral students, as well as through the consolidation of doctoral and research activity.

II. Methods used

The evaluation process included analyzing the Internal Evaluation Report and examining relevant institutional documents. In the process of drafting the External Evaluation Report of the doctoral university studies field of Finance, the evaluation committee analyzed the documents, data, and information available on the electronic platforms of IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA, namely <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/> and

<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/> (the regulations, methodologies, procedures, and reports drawn up at the institutional level and at the level of the SDEAA), relating to the organization of doctoral university studies, research activity, internal quality assurance, and the academic and administrative infrastructure. Before and during the on-site evaluation visit, additional documents and information were requested, these concerning the research activity carried out during the period 2021–2025, the internal quality assurance processes, the situation of admission to doctoral university studies during the period 2021–2026, the fulfillment of the minimum CNATDCU standards by the doctoral supervisors in the field of Finance, the digital infrastructure used in doctoral activity, and the accessibility of the spaces for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the course descriptions, documents on the acquisition of software licenses used in doctoral activities, and reports on the use of the Moodle platform for teaching and doctoral research were analyzed. The requested documents and information were provided upon completion of the on-site visit and constitute additional annexes to the drafted REE.

The external evaluation visit took place on 21–22 May 2026, in accordance with the schedule agreed upon by the coordinator of the team of experts and the contact person on behalf of the SDEAA. During the on-site visit, the spaces and infrastructure presented in the Internal Evaluation Report for the "Finance" doctoral field were visited. The evaluation activities were carried out in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the West University of Timișoara, located at 16 I.H. Pestalozzi Street, Timișoara, as well as in the administrative spaces of IOSUD-UVT.

During the on-site visit, the spaces used for the teaching, research, and administrative activities of the Finance doctoral field were inspected, including the lecture and seminar rooms, the teaching and research laboratories, the offices of the doctoral supervisors, the administrative spaces of the doctoral school, and the facilities intended for the doctoral students. The members of the evaluation committee found that the FEAA infrastructure includes 8 lecture rooms/amphitheaters, 18 seminar rooms, 6 laboratories, and its own library. At the same time, the study and documentation facilities for doctoral students, the bibliographic and digital resources made available to them, and the access to international scientific databases through the ANELIS Plus platform were verified. The institutional measures regarding the accessibility of the infrastructure for students with disabilities were also verified, including access ramps, accessible elevators, and adapted sanitary facilities.

During the two days, the members of the evaluation committee held on-site meetings with: the representatives of the management of IOSUD-UVT and of the SDEAA (CSUD director, SDEAA director, FEAA dean, two members of the SDEAA Council); the team that drafted the REI; the heads of the research centers/laboratories; the teaching staff who are doctoral supervisors in the field of Finance, the doctoral students, graduates of the evaluated field of study, representatives of the employers of the DSUD Finance graduates, representatives of the organizational structures in the field of quality assurance, as well as members of the university ethics committee. The discussions during these meetings provide the content for the minutes prepared and assumed by the members of the evaluation committee.

III. Judgment 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. Organizational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organizational components in its structure that function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, ensuring an effective management system.

Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1	For delivering the study program/domain, the HEI has adequate organizational components and an adequate management system that operate in accordance with methodologies, regulations, and procedures periodically reviewed as required by law.
--------------------------	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The West University of Timișoara operates as an Institution Organizing Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD – UVT), in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law (No. 199/2023, as amended) and of Order No. 3020/2024 of the Ministry of Education and Research for the approval of the Framework Regulation on doctoral university studies, a status also enshrined in the [Charter of the West University of Timișoara](#) (chap. 8, art. 42). Within this framework, the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) has a clearly defined organizational and management structure, which ensures the efficient conduct of the doctoral study programs and the coherent implementation of the quality assurance mechanisms.

The governance of doctoral studies is ensured through a well-defined institutional system. At the level of IOSUD–UVT, the activity is coordinated by the [Council for Doctoral University Studies \(CSUD\)](#), a body led by Prof. Dr. Habil. Florin Alin Sava comprises teaching staff from various doctoral fields and doctoral students, designated through democratic and transparent procedures. The Doctoral Studies Office ensures the administrative functioning of the CSUD.

At the level of the SDEAA, the functioning is regulated by the [IOSUD UVT Regulation on doctoral university studies](#) and the [Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration Regulation for doctoral university studies](#). The doctoral school is led by Prof. Dr. Petru Marin Ștefea and by a council composed of doctoral supervisors and a representative of the doctoral students, elected through universal, direct, and secret vote (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/>).

In addition to this governance framework, IOSUD–UVT and SDEAA have a set of regulations, methodologies, and procedures applicable to all the processes specific to doctoral studies (admission, doctoral pathway, completion of studies, habilitation, affiliation of doctoral supervisors, etc.), publicly available at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/>, which demonstrates the existence of a functional, transparent, and periodically updated management system.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the factual situation indicates that IOSUD–UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration have an organizational structure and management system appropriate for conducting doctoral university studies. The responsibilities and competences of the management structures are clearly defined and distributed between the CSUD and the SDEAA Council, ensuring a transparent and efficient decision-making process. The mechanisms for designating representatives within management structures, including doctoral students, respect the principle of representativeness. At the same time, the activity is supported by a normative framework comprising regulations, methodologies, and procedures that cover all relevant doctoral studies processes. The existence of mechanisms for the periodic review of these documents, in accordance with legislative changes and the recommendations of the quality assurance bodies, demonstrates the capacity of IOSUD–UVT and the SDEAA to maintain a functional management system.

- **Recommendations:**

The establishment of a set of performance indicators for the periodic evaluation of the efficiency of the management structures and functions of the SDEAA (SDEAA Council, SDEAA director).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI demonstrates that it engages relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies, regulations, and implementation procedures.

Indicator
I.P.A.1.2.1

The opinions of the faculty and department members, the subsidiary or extension, and other stakeholders are considered in adopting and revising methodologies, regulations, and implementation procedures.

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) systematically integrates the opinions of doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, and other interested parties into the processes of drafting, adopting, and revising the institutional methodologies, regulations, and procedures. This process is supported by formal mechanisms of consultation and representation, including student participation in the management structures (Senate, Board of Administration, CSUD, and CSD), the use of questionnaires and surveys to collect feedback, and consultation with employers and representatives of the socio-economic sphere. The regulations and procedures are analyzed and updated periodically based on contributions from these categories of actors and are published on the institution's website.

The professional and socio-economic sphere is involved through UVT's consultative structures (GPS UVT, alumni) and through the participation of their representatives in scientific events that facilitate dialogue with doctoral students and doctoral supervisors. The Strategic Partners Group – GPS UVT is an independent consultative structure established on 20 May 2021 that ensures consultation with the professional sphere in the drafting and implementation of the university strategies. GPS UVT brings together leaders from the Romanian entrepreneurial sphere and international corporate management, ensuring, through its sectoral diversity, cross-cutting consultation of the professional sphere in decision-making at the university level (https://www.facebook.com/uvtromania/posts/ast%C4%83zi-s-a-constituit-grupul-partenerilor-strategici-gps-uvt-structur%C4%83-consultat/4072717306104391/?locale=pt_BR).

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), the involvement of interested parties is an important element of decision-making and quality assurance for the DSUD Finance. The doctoral students benefit from representation in the Doctoral School Council and provide semestral feedback through the institutional evaluation instruments. The doctoral supervisors actively contribute to the updating of the regulations, to the definition of the research directions relevant to the DSUD Finance, to the assessment of the appropriateness of affiliating new doctoral supervisors, and to the designation of the members of the guidance and academic integrity committees, thus ensuring the quality, relevance, and representativeness of the doctoral process ([AS IPA 1.2.1 Consultative processes](#)).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the factual situation highlights the existence of an institutional framework through which the SDEAA ensures the active participation of the main categories of interested parties in the drafting, adoption, and revision of internal methodologies, regulations, and procedures. The involvement of doctoral students is guaranteed through their representation in decision-making structures and periodic mechanisms for collecting feedback. At the same time, consultation with the socio-economic and professional spheres enables the adaptation of the doctoral program in finance to the requirements of the labor market and society's needs, ensuring the relevance of the research topics and academic processes. The doctoral supervisors play an active role in updating the regulations, developing the doctoral program, and maintaining quality standards. The whole of these mechanisms demonstrates that the opinions of the relevant actors are systematically integrated into the decision-making and institutional review processes, in accordance with the principles of quality assurance and participatory governance.

With reference to the framework for the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies at the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, including in the field of Finance, in January 2025, the consultations carried out with the interested parties facilitated the finalization of the Regulation of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) on doctoral university studies. The participants in the consultations emphasized the need for a well-defined framework for the rights and obligations of the doctoral students, the relationship with the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committees, as well as for the conditions of admission, evaluation, completion of studies, and defense of the doctoral thesis. It was considered important to have transparent recognition of activities in the individual research program, clear reporting of progress, and explicit rules regarding the extension or interruption of studies. Furthermore, the consolidation of support for doctoral students was advocated, both academically and administratively, including access to research infrastructure, support from the doctoral supervisor, and guidance and academic integrity from the academic integrity committee.

The representatives of the employers appreciated the orientation of the regulation towards the formation of competences relevant to the labor market, especially through applied research, innovation, project management, and data analysis. The employers noted the usefulness of the provisions of the regulation that allow doctoral students to participate in internships and partnerships with the socio-economic sphere,

as these increase the practical relevance of doctoral studies and their connection with the economic sphere.

The doctoral supervisors confirmed the importance of clear rules on minimum performance standards and research ethics, as these elements support the quality of the doctoral endeavor.

A common conclusion was the importance of the doctoral program's flexibility, allowing research and training activities to be adapted to the research topic, the individual needs of doctoral students, and the objectives of doctoral training.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- Systematic collection of feedback through questionnaires and periodic consultations;
- The involvement of representatives from the professional sphere, through consultative groups, GPS UVT, and alums, facilitates alignment of doctoral research with the needs of the labor market.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

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 carry out the study program/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for 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 persons with disabilities. Optimal venues are also provided for staff activities. Such venues are adequately equipped.
--	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) owns and administers an estate that adequately supports the conduct of teaching, research, and administrative activities, as well as student services, thereby contributing directly to the fulfillment of the institutional mission and objectives. The university's infrastructure includes teaching and research spaces, laboratories, research centers, accommodation spaces, as well as facilities for social, cultural, and sports activities, all developed and used in accordance with the technical, safety, and hygienic-sanitary norms in force. The UVT estate comprises 125,233 sqm of teaching spaces, buildings, and land; 60,471 sqm intended for accommodation; 105,796 sqm for practical activities; and 4,310 sqm for sports activities. Detailed information regarding the infrastructure is available in the document ["UVT Teaching Spaces Situation"](#). The university constantly invests in the expansion, renovation, modernization, and accessibility of the spaces, including for persons with disabilities, as presented in the Rector's Report on the state of the West University of Timișoara for the year 2025 (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Anexa-1.-Raportul-anual-al-Rectorului-cu-privire-la-starea-Universitatii-de-Vest-din-Timisoara.pdf>).

Within the SDEAA, the teaching and research activities are carried out in spaces belonging to FEAA, located at 16 J.H. Pestalozzi Street and in the central headquarters of UVT at 4 Vasile Pârvan Boulevard in Timișoara. These total 2,446 sqm and are equipped with appropriate furniture, multimedia equipment, smartboards, video projectors, computers, air conditioning systems, and specialized software. Details on the spaces and equipment are presented in the document "FEAA Study Programs Spaces Situation."

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

During the on-site visit, the external evaluation team of the DSUD Finance found that UVT has an extensive and adequate infrastructure for the conduct of education, research, administration, and student services, in accordance with the requirements of the evaluated indicator. The institution's estate includes spaces appropriate for the educational process, research, practice, accommodation, and sports activities, which are developed and managed in relation to the number of students and academic staff, as well as the specificity of the study programs. The university demonstrates a constant concern for modernizing and expanding infrastructure, including increasing accessibility for persons with disabilities (AS [IPA 2.1.1. Services intended for students](#)).

In the case of the SDEAA, activities are carried out in UVT-owned spaces located in areas that provide access to comprehensive academic and administrative resources. The existing equipment (IT equipment, multimedia technologies, specialized software, and appropriate furniture) adequately supports teaching and research, providing a favorable environment for learning and staff activity.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
 - Transparent monitoring of investments through the rector's annual reports
 - Institutional commitment to equal opportunities and the creation of an inclusive academic environment
 - Advanced technological equipment for teaching and research spaces.
- **Recommendations: not applicable**
The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources	
The organizational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study program/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, research, and work.

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) has institutional mechanisms for the administration, maintenance, and management of its movable and immovable property, ensuring optimal conditions for study, research, accommodation, and work. According to the [Technical-Administrative Organizational Chart](#), the management of the university's estate is carried out by the [Administrative Service](#), which is subordinated to the General Administrative Directorate (DGA). It administers all UVT buildings, ensuring the material conditions necessary for the conduct of academic activities. Its activity concerns the efficient management of the infrastructure supporting teaching and research.

Also within the DGA, the Dormitory Administration and Management Service is responsible for the administration and maintenance of accommodation spaces on the university's estate. At the level of each faculty, designated administrators are responsible for the management of the faculty's goods and estate and contribute to ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the conditions of use.

The spaces used by the SDEAA, presented in the document ["FEAA Study Programs Spaces Situation"](#), are equipped with modern teaching and communication equipment, including video projectors, computers, videoconferencing equipment, video cameras, Cisco routers, and workstations. In addition, UVT/FEAA/SDEAA provides wireless internet access and uses licensed software for both general activities and specialized research and analysis. The ICT infrastructure, based on two state-of-the-art servers and permanently administered e-Learning platforms, ensures the continuous and efficient operation of the digital services required for the educational and research processes.

The software applications used within the SDEAA are licensed both for basic software (operating systems, antivirus programs), specialized software (SPSS, CIEL, EVIEWS, SAS/R), and for application software (the Microsoft Office suite, MS Sharepoint, MS SQL Server, other dedicated programs – EViews, Stata, etc. ([AS IPA 2.2.1 - Software license acquisition minutes 2026.pdf](#)).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the factual situation reveals a well-structured institutional system for the administration, maintenance, and development of UVT's movable and immovable estate. The responsibilities for managing the infrastructure are clearly distributed between the specialized administrative structures of the General Administrative Directorate and the faculty administrators, enabling the continuous monitoring of the condition of the goods and the maintenance of adequate conditions for academic and research activities. The spaces within the SDEAA are equipped with modern teaching and communication technology, a high-performance ICT infrastructure, wireless connectivity, and licensed software for teaching and research support, providing access to digital resources. Furthermore, dedicated services for the administration of accommodation spaces help ensure adequate living conditions for students.

During the on-site visit, the members of the external evaluation committee of the DSUD Finance noted the institution's concern for the maintenance and efficient use of the estate, with a view to supporting an environment conducive to study, research, and work. At the FEAA level, the laboratories have specialized software that doctoral students in Finance can use in their research. The ECREB research department provides doctoral students in room P08 of FEAA with five computers and a printer, and ensures access to Stata. Laboratories 204 and 205 of FEAA also offer open access to software such as Stata, eViews, SPSS, R, RStudio, SmartPLS, and Python.

Room	Equipment	Other facilities
204	25 Computers, a video projector, and 2 flat-screen displays	Windows 11 Pro 64-BIT Stata, SPSS, R, RStudio, SmartPLS și Python
205	25 Computers, a video projector, and 2 flat-screen displays	Windows 11 Pro 64-BIT Stata, SPSS, R, RStudio și eViews

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
 - Each faculty benefits from its own administrator responsible for the management of goods and estate
 - Modern ICT infrastructure, based on state-of-the-art servers that support the online learning platforms.
- **Recommendations: not applicable**
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 organize and deliver the evaluated study program/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organizational component are suitable to perform the activities of the evaluated study program/domain. The teaching staff have the required qualifications and professional competencies to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.
--------------------------	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) has adequate human resources for carrying out the evaluated doctoral university studies program. The affiliation of doctoral supervisors to IOSUD UVT/SDEAA is carried out transparently, in accordance with the provisions of the institutional affiliation procedure ([Framework procedure for affiliation or de-affiliation within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-UVT](#)).

Of the 59 [doctoral supervisors affiliated](#) to the SDEAA, in the field of Finance, there are 21 doctoral supervisors, of whom 16 are permanent teaching staff at UVT, 2 are permanent teaching staff at other higher education institutions in Romania but are affiliated to IOSUD UVT, within the SDEAA, and 3 are retired professors, former permanent staff at UVT, who currently no longer have doctoral students under their supervision.

On the occasion of the on-site visit, the verification sheets for the fulfillment of the CNATDCU standards by the doctoral supervisors in the field of Finance were presented and analyzed (AS IPA 3.1.1. - CNATDCU minimum standards verification sheets_May 2026), all of them meeting the standards (excluding from this analysis the retired professors, former permanent staff at UVT, who currently no longer have doctoral students under their supervision). Moreover, of the 18 active doctoral supervisors, 14 hold a habilitation certificate in finance. The permanent doctoral supervisors at UVT report their scientific activity annually ([List of publications](#)).

The teaching activities are supported by teaching staff and researchers with ISCED-8 qualification, demonstrated academic competencies, and international visibility (Google Scholar, ORCID), according to

<https://feaa.uvt.ro/fisiere/educatie/doctorat/finante/stat-de-functiuni-sdeaa-2025.pdf>.

Furthermore, researchers with international reputations are invited to organize workshops for doctoral students (List of ECREB events), and specialists from the country and abroad are co-opted to the guidance and academic integrity committees.

The research activity of the doctoral supervisors is continuous and relevant, with an international openness, reflected through participation in national and international projects ([FEAA research projects – Finance](#)), publications in journals indexed in Web of Science, and involvement in international scientific networks.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration of IOSUD-UVT has adequate human resources to carry out the doctoral university studies program in Finance. The academic body comprises teaching staff and doctoral supervisors with solid scientific experience. The competences of the teaching staff are supported by relevant research activity, by publications indexed in Web of Science, and by visibility at the international level. The research activity is continuous, and the educational process benefits from the involvement of international experts and from transparent affiliation procedures, ensuring the adequacy of the human resources to the requirements of the doctoral program.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The international openness of the educational and research process, materialized through the involvement of researchers and professors with international visibility in the teaching activities and through the inclusion of specialists from the country and abroad in the guidance and academic integrity committees.

- **Recommendations:**

The creation of quality assurance mechanisms for the externally affiliated staff and for the international guests, through the definition of unified selection criteria and through the monitoring of their contribution to the activities specific to doctoral studies in the field of Finance.

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) ensures the continuous professional and personal development of the academic staff through a structured and diversified institutional framework. The Academic Development Center (CDA) (<https://cda.uvt.ro/>) contributes to the continuous training of the teaching staff through semestral workshops focused on current topics such as the use of GenAI in the assessment of learning, the co-design and assessment of international collaborative learning, or the authenticity of learning outcomes. In 2025, the CDA launched the webinar series TalkEdUVT – Voices shaping learning, which facilitates international academic dialogue within the UNITA consortium and addresses topics such as evidence-based education, future competencies, and the integration of artificial intelligence in education. The complete list of activities is available at <https://cda.uvt.ro/>, in the "Training programs" section.

In addition, the Directorate for the Management of RDI Activities supports professional development through continuous information on project calls, consultancy for the drafting and implementation of research projects, and the management of development grants. These offer each member of the teaching staff annual funding dedicated to professional development, usable for participation in conferences, the acquisition of academic resources, or access to databases ([Methodology for accessing and using Development type grants at the West University of Timișoara](#)).

Furthermore, UVT's membership in the European university consortium UNITA (<https://www.uvt.ro/unita/>) offers the academic staff access to international cooperation networks, resources, and scientific events, as

well as to the resources of the partner universities, with advantages for the professional and personal development of the teaching staff and researchers, including the doctoral supervisors.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the information presented highlights the existence of a well-structured institutional framework, through which the West University of Timișoara supports the professional and personal development of the academic staff. The activities of the Academic Development Center demonstrate a constant commitment to updating teaching and pedagogical competencies through training programs aligned with current trends in higher education and research, including the use of artificial intelligence.

At the same time, UVT supports the development of research competencies through dedicated institutional mechanisms, such as consultancy services for accessing funding and the Development grants, which facilitate doctoral supervisors' participation in scientific events and access to academic resources. The international dimension is consolidated through participation in the European consortium UNITA, which offers opportunities for collaboration, academic mobility, and the exchange of good practices. These measures demonstrate a systematic and sustainable approach to the professional and personal development of academic staff.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The "TalkEdUVT – Voices shaping learning" series represents a valuable initiative that provides academic staff with access to international expertise and the exchange of good practices.
- The annual allocation of dedicated funding to each member of the teaching staff for participation in conferences, the acquisition of academic resources, specialized software, and access to databases.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures

Teaching staff recruitment procedures are compliant with the provisions of the law.

Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the law and are established and carried out transparently.
--------------------------	---

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

IOSUD UVT, through the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, has the human resources to carry out the doctoral university studies program in Finance.

The affiliation of doctoral supervisors is regulated through public and transparent procedures, in accordance with national legislation on doctoral studies and habilitation, as well as the CNATDCU standards. Affiliation may be requested by persons who hold the right to supervise doctorates in Romania or abroad, in compliance with the applicable recognition conditions (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/>) [[Legal basis - Habilitation, Affiliation, Title recognition](#)].

The affiliation process involves the submission of a candidacy file, the verification of the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria, and the completion of an institutional evaluation and approval circuit, which involves the Doctoral School Council, the CSUD, and the UVT Senate, and, from an administrative point of view, the Doctoral Studies Office. All stages are formalized and supported by publicly [available documents and procedures](#).

In cases of obtaining the status of doctoral supervisor through habilitation, UVT applies an institutional regulation that ensures the evaluation of academic standards, the transparent organization of the public defense, and the validation of the results at the institutional and national levels.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

Based on the information presented, it is found that IOSUD-UVT/SDEAA has an institutional and procedural framework appropriate for the recruitment, selection, and affiliation of human resources involved in the coordination of doctoral studies in Finance. The process is regulated through legally founded, transparent norms and supported by clearly defined eligibility criteria, objective evaluation mechanisms, and formalized decision-making stages. These elements demonstrate the institutional capacity of IOSUD UVT to maintain a qualified and competitive academic body for supporting the evaluated doctoral program.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**
The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalization of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation

The digital transformation process in the organizational component aims to simplify administrative processes and improve the quality of services provided to its own community members and to third parties.

Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organizational component uses IT tools in its own procedures to improve access and deliver high-quality services to its community members and the indirect beneficiaries of education.
--	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

Through the extensive use of information technology tools in the administrative, academic, and research processes, CSUD–UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration demonstrate a mature institutional approach to digital transformation, oriented towards increasing the accessibility, efficiency, and quality of the services offered to the members of the academic community and to external beneficiaries.

IOSUD UVT uses integrated information systems to manage the entire doctoral pathway, from admission to completion of studies. The admission process is fully digitalized through the platform admitere.uvt.ro, which allows online registration, document upload, confirmation of places, and electronic payments. The record-keeping and monitoring of doctoral students are carried out through the University Management System (UMS), which is interconnected with the Single Matriculation Register (RMU), and the documents related to the completion of studies are managed electronically through the Integrated Educational Register (REI).

The digital components are used to ensure academic integrity. The similarity check is integrated procedurally both during the drafting of the thesis and before the public defense, using the plagiarism detection software iThenticate (at the level of the supervisors and the Doctoral Studies Office) and Turnitin (individual access for doctoral students via the institutional e-mail address).

Access to information is ensured through the doctoral studies portal doctorat.uvt.ro and through the dedicated SDEAA page, [SDEAA – doctorat.uvt.ro](http://SDEAA-doctorat.uvt.ro), where the regulations, procedures, forms, information regarding admission and the completion of studies, as well as announcements of public interest, are transparently published. In addition, the doctoral students benefit from digital access to academic and research resources through ANELIS Plus, international databases, and the university's [e-learning platforms](#).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the factual situation highlights the existence of an integrated digital system at the CSUD–UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, designed to streamline administrative processes, increase service accessibility, and improve the user experience. Information technology tools are used systematically at all stages of the doctoral pathway, from admission and academic record-keeping to completion of studies. At the same time, digitalization supports institutional transparency, process traceability, and rapid access to information through dedicated platforms and integrated databases. The use of the applications for similarity checking contributes to the consolidation of academic integrity. Online access to educational and research resources, as well as the public availability of information relevant to doctoral students and third parties, demonstrate the institution's commitment to providing modern, efficient services centered on the needs of the academic community.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The integration of the similarity-checking tools (iThenticate and Turnitin) into institutional procedures to ensure academic integrity and research quality.
- The full digitalization of the doctoral flow, from admission to the completion of studies.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**
The indicator is fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programs

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programme/s*

The study program is based on a curriculum designed to help students achieve the expected learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study program is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes and organized around transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research, and evaluation experiences, which together lead to a higher education qualification.
--------------------------	---

• Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data

The doctoral university studies program in Finance, organized within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, is designed in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, the ARACIS standards, and the institutional regulations of the West University of Timișoara. The program's structure ensures alignment among the educational objectives, learning outcomes, and curricular components, in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The program leads to the university qualification by accumulating 240 ECTS credits, distributed between two complementary components: the training program based on advanced university studies (30 ECTS) and the individual scientific research program (210 ECTS). The advanced training component includes courses on research ethics and integrity, academic writing, and field-specific topics. In contrast, the research component supports the progressive development of the competences necessary for drafting the doctoral thesis.

The curriculum comprises four disciplines, of which one is compulsory (Research Ethics and Intellectual Property), and the others are chosen according to the scientific interests of the doctoral student and the recommendations of the doctoral supervisor ([The curriculum](#)).

The course descriptions contain the following information: the name of the discipline in Romanian and in English, the status of the discipline according to the discipline's contribution to the formation of the graduate, the faculty/department/field of study/cycle of study/study program, the number of transferable study credits (according to ECTS) associated with the discipline, the total number of hours per semester necessary for obtaining the credits corresponding to the discipline and their distribution (teaching hours related to university training and hours allocated to individual study, learning, and preparation for evaluation activities), the specification of the preconditions and conditions for completing the discipline (if applicable), the statement of the expected learning outcomes (expressed in the form of knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy), consistent with level 8 of the NQF, that will be formed following the completion of the discipline, the thematic content and its corroboration with the expected learning outcomes, the practices associated with teaching, learning, and evaluation, the bibliography, the detailing of the evaluation system, information about the use of artificial intelligence-based tools, the names of the teaching staff who deliver the teaching activities related to the discipline.

The individual scientific research program is carried out under the coordination of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee, including activities such as documentation, publications, participation in scientific events, academic mobilities, and annual progress evaluations ([Doctoral Studies Plan](#)).

• Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator

The doctoral program in Finance is structured coherently and aligned with national and institutional requirements for quality assurance in higher education. The organization, based on ECTS credits and the explicit definition of the learning outcomes, demonstrates an orientation towards competences and the international compatibility of the program. The balanced distribution between academic training and research activity contributes to the progressive development of the competencies specific to the qualification of a doctor. Furthermore, the detailed documentation of the disciplines and the integration of

* 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.

the research, publication, and mobility activities support the achievement of the expected learning outcomes. The use of modern tools, including those based on artificial intelligence, reflects a concern for modernizing the educational process. Overall, the program meets the requirements of the indicator through the coherent integration of the learning, research, and evaluation experiences necessary for obtaining the university qualification.

- **Recommendations:**

- *The rewriting, in the curriculum, of the learning outcomes (already defined in the form of knowledge, skills/abilities, responsibility, and autonomy), through observable and measurable action verbs, in the form of statements that refer to what a doctoral student knows, understands, and can do at the end of a learning pathway;*
- *The optimization of the content of the course descriptions through the extended integration of specific topics relevant to the doctoral field of Finance.*

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competences

In the curriculum design and development process, the organizational component seeks to ensure the qualification level and its correlation with the envisaged occupations.

Indicator

I.P.B.2.1.2

The expected learning outcomes are aligned with the competences required by those occupations, as defined by occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The doctoral university studies program organized in the field of Finance within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration is designed so that the expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by the occupations corresponding to the doctoral level, in accordance with level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), the Classification of Occupations in Romania (COR), and the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations classification (ESCO). In the process of curricular development, both the qualification requirements and the occupational profile specific to the graduates are taken into account, namely researcher/scientific researcher and, as the case may be, teaching staff in higher education.

The learning outcomes are formulated in terms of knowledge, abilities, and responsibility/autonomy. They are aligned with the competences necessary for the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge, participation in academic communities, and the development of frontier research. The curriculum includes competences regarding research methodology, ethics and academic integrity, academic writing and publishing, the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence, as well as the communication and capitalization of research results through conferences and scientific publications, for doctoral students oriented towards an academic career, competencies in teaching, mentoring, and institutional integration are also developed. The correlation between the learning outcomes and the occupational competences is supported by the program's curricular structure, which comprises an advanced training program of 30 ECTS and an individual research program of 210 ECTS. The latter allows the acquisition and demonstration of professional competencies through research activities, drafting, publication, and dissemination of results, with progressive evaluation until the [completion of the doctoral thesis](#). Therefore, the program ensures the consistency between the learning outcomes and the occupational requirements associated with the doctoral qualification.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The doctoral program in Finance demonstrates an explicit correlation between the expected learning outcomes and the competences required by occupations relevant to the doctoral level, in accordance with the NQF, COR, and ESCO. The learning outcomes are formulated in accordance with the descriptors of qualification level 8 and aim to develop the competences necessary for advanced research, innovation, scientific dissemination, and academic activity. The curricular structure ensures a direct relationship between the disciplines, the competences developed, and the occupational profile of the graduates. The

advanced training program and the individual research program complement each other in the formation and validation of professional and transversal competences. Furthermore, the inclusion of research ethics, academic publishing, digital tools, and the communication of research results demonstrates the program's adaptation to the current requirements of the academic environment and the knowledge-based labor market.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
 - The integration of digital competences and the use of artificial intelligence into doctoral training
- **Recommendations: not applicable**
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles

The organizational component implements the principles of student-centered learning.

Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organizational component ensures the implementation of student-centered learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in learning and teaching activities and experiences.
--------------------------	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

Within the doctoral field of Finance of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), the principles of student-centered learning are implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the West University of Timișoara, which promotes the centrality of the student in education as a fundamental principle of university activity. The doctoral university studies program is designed and carried out to support the autonomy, active participation, and accountability of doctoral students in their own training and research.

The implementation of these principles is ensured through a flexible curriculum that allows doctoral students to choose their research topic, doctoral supervisor, and study resources based on their scientific interests and objectives. The teaching activities are organized according to the curricula, the Plan of Doctoral University Studies, and the course descriptions, which are updated annually and [institutionally approved](#).

The teaching strategies promote active, critical, and collaborative learning through debates, individual and team projects, research activities, and applied analyses, all oriented towards the development of academic and professional competencies.

The doctoral students are integrated into research projects and centers, consolidating their competencies through research activities and scientific production ([Doctoral students' research activity](#)). Furthermore, access to educational and scientific resources is facilitated through the e-learning platform ([e-learning.uvt.ro](#)), the digital library, and the international databases to which the university is subscribed.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The doctoral program in Finance demonstrates consistent implementation of the principles of student-centered learning across the curriculum, teaching strategies, and quality assurance mechanisms. The flexibility of the curriculum and the opportunity to personalize the doctoral pathway foster doctoral students' autonomy and responsibility. The learning outcomes are defined and integrated into the program documents, and the teaching and guidance methods promote active involvement, critical thinking, and collaboration. The integration of the doctoral students into research activities and structures supports learning through research and the development of advanced competencies. Access to digital and scientific resources completes the framework necessary for an educational process centered on the needs and development of the doctoral students.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
 - The personalization of the doctoral pathway through curricular flexibility.
 - The integration of doctoral students into research projects and research centers.
- **Recommendations: not applicable.**
The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organizational component ensures that students have opportunities to participate in academic mobility programs, both in person and virtually.
---------------------------	---

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

Within the doctoral field of Finance, the program's organizational component ensures that doctoral students have access to diverse opportunities for academic mobility, in accordance with the principles of student-centered learning and the internationalization objectives of West University of Timișoara. Mobilities are facilitated through the Erasmus+ programs, the CEEPUS network, the European university alliance UNITA – Universitas Montium (<https://www.uvt.ro/unita/>), PRIMENetworking, and other institutional partnerships with universities abroad. UVT-FEAA is an associate member of the PRIMENetworking. This network brings together 19 universities worldwide and aims to foster academic cooperation, scientific research, and collaboration with the business sector. Membership in this network offers doctoral students and doctoral supervisors additional opportunities for international collaboration and participation in academic and research activities. At the same time, Erasmus+ and collaboration agreements have been concluded with higher education institutions in Malta, Kosovo, Georgia, and China, expanding opportunities for mobility and academic exchange.

The International Relations Directorate of UVT coordinates the activity, and information on mobility opportunities, selection procedures, and academic recognition is publicly available on the [institutional platform](#).

Mobilities are supported through dedicated institutional regulations and procedures and can be carried out in either a physical or a mixed ("blended") format, in accordance with the Erasmus+ framework. The [participation of the doctoral students in the field of study Finance in mobilities](#) is documented for the period 2021–2025.

In addition, the university offers [financial support for participation in conferences and other national and international research activities](#), contributing to the development of academic competencies and to the integration of the doctoral students, including those in the field of study Finance, into the [international scientific community](#).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The doctoral studies program in Finance provides a robust organizational framework for doctoral students' participation in national and international academic mobility. The diversity of internationalization instruments (Erasmus+, CEEPUS, UNITA, PRIMENetworking, and bilateral agreements) demonstrates the existence of real, accessible opportunities for academic and professional development—clear institutional procedures for selection, funding, and academic recognition support mobilities. The possibility of carrying out mobilities in physical or mixed format meets the current requirements of the European education and research area. In addition, the provision of financial support for participation in conferences and research activities completes the mechanisms for supporting doctoral students' development. The entire set of measures presented demonstrates that the institution creates the conditions necessary for doctoral students' active participation in international learning and research experiences.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The diversification of the academic mobility opportunities: simultaneous access to the Erasmus+, CEEPUS, UNITA, PRIMENetworking programs, and to bilateral agreements;
- Integrated institutional support for mobility and research: the existence of clear selection procedures, complemented by financial support for participation in conferences and research activities.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organizational component provides fair opportunities for students.

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

In the doctoral university studies cycle, the learning process is conceived as individualized and flexible, centered on the relationship between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor, allowing the adaptation of objectives, pace, and working methods to the potential and aspirations of each doctoral student. The SDEAA ensures equitable opportunities for all doctoral students, regardless of socio-economic criteria, gender, ethnicity, or disabilities, through access to educational resources, support services, and institutional mechanisms of representation within the CSUD and the CSD-SDEAA.

The Counseling and Support Service complements the institutional support for Students and is provided by the [Career Counseling and Guidance Center \(CCOC\)](#), which offers individual counseling (career, vocational, personal optimization) with a maximum of 5 sessions/year. The [curriculum](#) is designed to meet the needs of the field of economic sciences, offering flexibility through optional disciplines and adaptation to various learning styles.

The elaboration of individual research plans is carried out in accordance with the principles of equity, inclusion, and personalization of the doctoral pathway, so that each doctoral student benefits from adequate conditions for developing competencies and achieving their professional and scientific objectives. In addition, UVT ensures inclusion and equity through institutional services adapted to diversity, including cultural and sports activities for social integration and support for students with special needs. We appreciate that these mechanisms as a whole reflect an approach centered on equity, participation, and adaptation to the diversity of learning styles and capacities.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The institutional system described above highlights an organization centered on equity and personalization, in which the academic pathway is adapted to the needs and potential of each doctoral student. The individualized relationship with the doctoral supervisor and the flexibility of the research plan allow for the continuous adjustment of the learning objectives. At the same time, the curricular structure offers flexibility through optional disciplines and annual evaluation based on measurable results (ECTS). The equal access to counseling services and to integration activities can be highlighted, which supports the diversity of learning styles and inclusion.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[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 organizational component provides access to adequate resources and support services tailored to students' needs.	
Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organizational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, tailored to individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the organization of the study program.

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

Within the SDEAA, doctoral students have access to resources and support services for learning and research that are appropriate to the doctoral cycle and individual training needs. Documentation is ensured through the [BCUT](#) Eugen Todoran, with an extensive collection and IT infrastructure, and electronic access to international databases via Enformation (ProQuest, SpringerLink, Scopus, Taylor & Francis, Sage, EBSCO, JSTOR, Oxford Journals, CEEOL, etc.), as well as reading services.

The book collection and the resources of the faculty's research centers are used, including for academic writing and documentation activities. The digital support includes an @e-uvr.ro account, G Suite for

Education, the platform <https://elearning.e-uvv.ro/>, EduRoam, Microsoft 365, StudentWeb, and InfoCentru, as well as online administrative services. Counseling is ensured through the [Counseling and Support Services for Students and periodic teaching consultations](#). The support includes the Career Counseling and Guidance Center, the Department for the Training of Teaching Staff for professional development, management of the academic pathway, and integration and psycho-pedagogical counseling. Students with special educational needs (SEN) receive support through the CCOC and accessibility services, individual counseling, a sign language interpreter, and RoboBraille text conversion and educational support. The [infrastructure](#) includes ramps, accessible elevators, the accessible BCUT reading room, and resources adapted to extended accessibility needs. The doctoral supervisors monitor progress through [individual consultations](#), periodic evaluations, continuous feedback, and periodic reporting. This institutional framework supports the quality of the evaluated doctoral program and equal opportunities for all doctoral students, through integrated, accessible, and permanently updated resources, in accordance with the European standards of academic quality.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The organizational system described above outlines an integrated framework of support for doctoral students, combining traditional academic resources (libraries, research centers) with advanced digital infrastructure and online platforms. Access to international databases through the Enformation portal and the use of the platform <https://elearning.e-uvv.ro/> consolidate the research and learning dimension. The support component is complemented through academic, psychological, and professional counseling services. A distinct focus on the inclusion of students with SEN is evident through measures of physical and digital accessibility. The individual monitoring carried out by the doctoral supervisors ensures the tracking of scientific progress. Overall, the system is oriented towards personalization, accessibility, and digitalization, supporting the doctoral pathway in conditions of quality and equity.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

➤ Ensuring accessibility for students with SEN (RoboBraille, sign language interpreter, adapted infrastructure).

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[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 support students' and teachers' understanding of the curriculum's content.
--------------------------	---

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The SDEAA, within which the doctoral university studies program in Finance is integrated, applies a coherent, transparent framework for defining learning outcomes in accordance with ARACIS and NQF requirements. These outcomes are then detailed in a grid structured on the three dimensions required by the national/European standards:

- Knowledge (C) – the acquisition of advanced-level inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge, integrated into the field of economic sciences and finance;
- Abilities (A) – the use of advanced techniques of research, synthesis, and critical thinking, as well as the innovation and redefinition of academic and professional knowledge;
- Responsibility and autonomy (RA) – the manifestation of a high level of scientific and academic integrity, of professional authority, and of commitment to the development of new ideas and models.

The learning outcomes within the doctoral university studies program of Finance are defined in accordance with level 8 of the NQF and reflect the advanced competencies of research, critical analysis, and innovation specific to the field. The curriculum comprises a matrix correlating the learning outcomes with the disciplines provided for in its content ([Curriculum](#)). The learning outcomes are taken from the curriculum and transposed into the course descriptions, being brought to the attention of the doctoral students at the

beginning of the semester. The teaching staff using the learning outcomes in the organization of the teaching activities.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

From the corroborated analysis of the curriculum and of the course descriptions posted on the SDEAA website (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/finante/>), we highlight the following aspects:

- the learning outcomes are included in the course descriptions, but the level of detail and clarity varies between disciplines, which may lead to different interpretations of the expectations regarding the targeted competences;
- In some of the disciplines, the learning outcomes are formulated in accordance with the objectives of the course, but are not expressed through measurable and observable action verbs, which limits the evaluation of the degree of their achievement.
- There is a general correlation between the contents of the disciplines and the learning outcomes, but this connection is not explicitly highlighted in all the course descriptions.
- the learning outcomes offer benchmarks regarding the targeted competences, but are not always sufficiently detailed to facilitate a complete understanding of the expectations by the students;
- the existence of certain mismatches between the matrix correlating the learning outcomes and the disciplines provided for in the curriculum, on the one hand, and the learning outcomes formulated in the course descriptions, on the other hand. In its current form, the matrix does not reflect in a unitary and coherent manner the contribution of the disciplines to the achievement of the learning outcomes assumed by the doctoral studies program in Finance.

- **Recommendations:**

- The rewriting of the learning outcomes at the DSUD Finance level in accordance with the recommendation from Indicator IPB 1.1.1.;
- the redoing of the matrix correlating the learning outcomes and the disciplines from the curriculum, in accordance with the real contribution of the disciplines to the formation of competences;
- The updating of all course descriptions in accordance with the new correlation matrix to ensure curricular coherence and the traceability of learning outcomes.

The indicator is partially fulfilled

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), including in the doctoral field of Finance, verification of achievement of the learning outcomes is carried out through a system of continuous and final evaluation, regulated by the institutional and national frameworks applicable to doctoral university studies. The evaluation process is transparent, predictable, and aligned with the doctoral students' training and research objectives. During the training program based on advanced university studies, learning outcomes are evaluated through varied methods, such as presentations, case studies, debates, projects, and other forms of continuous evaluation aligned with the disciplines in the curriculum. Within the individual scientific research program, the progress of doctoral students is monitored and evaluated annually by the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, based on the objectives established in the individual doctoral studies plan.

The final verification of the learning outcomes takes place through a rigorous [process of completion of studies](#), which includes the internal evaluation of the thesis, the pre-defense, the originality check, the public consultation period, and the [public defense before a doctoral committee with external participation](#). These mechanisms ensure validation of the research competencies and the academic results acquired during doctoral studies.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the factual situation highlights the existence of a structured and coherent system for evaluating learning outcomes within the SDEAA and the doctoral field of Finance, aligned with the institutional and national regulations applicable to doctoral studies. The evaluation is conceived as a continuous and final process, combining the verification of progress throughout the disciplines of the advanced training program with the annual monitoring of the individual scientific research activity. The use of various evaluation methods (presentations, projects, case studies) and the integration of digital platforms ensure equitable access and transparency in the educational process. In the final stage, the evaluation mechanisms include rigorous procedures for checking originality, internal evaluation, pre-defense, and public defense of the doctoral thesis. These elements demonstrate the existence of robust mechanisms for validating the competences and the learning outcomes, with an emphasis on academic quality, transparency, and compliance with the standards in force.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

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 organizational component applies the admission procedures.

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

West University of Timișoara applies institutional procedures regarding the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral university studies, in accordance with the applicable national and institutional regulations. Within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), the admission information - the [number of SDEAA places by field](#), the [topics offered in the competition](#), the [schedule of the admission competition](#) - is published annually on the institutional platform: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/studii-doctorale/admitere/>.

The admission process for doctoral studies is carried out in accordance with the institutional methodology and applicable national regulations. The organization of the admission competition is regulated by the institutional documents approved by the UVT Senate, namely the [Methodology for admission to doctoral studies](#) and the [Regulation for admission to doctoral university studies of the SDEAA](#). The registration process is entirely online via the institutional admission platform at <https://admitere.uvt.ro/inscrie-te-online/>. The admission competition includes the evaluation of language competencies and the taking of an oral examination based on the doctoral research project proposed by the candidate, in accordance with the [Regulation for the organization and conduct of the admission competition to doctoral university studies of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration](#). The doctoral supervisors propose the research topics. For the 2025–2026 academic year, the admission process at the SDEAA was conducted in two sessions, held in July and September. The situation of the cohorts of doctoral students admitted to the doctoral university studies program of Finance, during the period 2021–2025, is presented in the following table ([AS IPB 7.1.1_Admissions Status – DSUD Finance, 2021–2025](#)):

Cohort	Enrolled	Expelled	Withdrawals	Study interruptions	Final defenses	Doctoral students in their program as of 20.05.2026	Doctoral students in study extension
2021 - 2022	9	0	0	0	3	25	3
2022 - 2023	9	2	0	2	4	27	5
2023 - 2024	7	2	0	1	3	28	4
2024 - 2025	10	4	0	1	5	33	3
2025 - 2026	7	1	2	1	6	30	2

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

Admission to doctoral university studies within the SDEAA is a structured, institutionally regulated process carried out in accordance with the applicable institutional procedures. Registration is carried out entirely online, [through the dedicated institutional platform](#). The stages of the admission competition are clearly defined and include the evaluation of language competencies and an oral examination based on the doctoral research project. This mechanism allows the evaluation of both the academic preparation and the candidates' capacity to formulate and defend a research project relevant to the doctoral field of Finance. Admission for foreign citizens is regulated separately under the SDEAA, with a session dedicated to non-EU candidates organized in July. The data analyzed for the period 2021–2026 highlight the continuity of the doctoral recruitment process and the consistent number of doctoral students admitted annually. At the same time, the institution monitors the doctoral pathway by highlighting the situations of expulsion, interruption, extension, and completion of studies.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The full digitalization of the admission process and the annual publication of information on available places, research topics, and the competition schedule increase transparency in the selection process.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

Admission to the doctoral university studies programs within the SDEAA, including for the doctoral field of Finance, is carried out in compliance with the principles of equity, equal opportunities, and non-discriminatory access to education, in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as well as with the applicable institutional regulations of IOSUD-UVT (the [Methodology for the organization and conduct of the admission competition to doctoral university studies](#) and the [Regulation for the organization and conduct of the admission competition to doctoral university studies of the SDEAA](#)). IOSUD UVT complies with the provisions of [art. 1\(2\), chap. 1, art. 129, sect. 3 of the Higher Education Law No. 199/2023](#), which guarantees equal access to education for all candidates: Romanian citizens, citizens of the member states of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and the Swiss Confederation, Romanians from everywhere, and citizens from states outside the EU. Roma candidates benefit from distinctly allocated places, and for candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities, IOSUD-UVT implements support measures adapted to the individual needs, including assistance in the online registration process and the adaptation of the conditions for conducting the admission tests: <https://www.uvt.ro/educatie/info-studenti-proces-educational/accesibilitate-pentru-studentii-cu-dizabilitati/>

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The admission process at the SDEAA level respects the principles of equity, transparency, and equal access to doctoral education. The use of institutional digital platforms for registering and publishing results enhances the accessibility and transparency of the selection process. The results of the admission competition are published on the IOSUD-UVT platform, in compliance with the regulations regarding the protection of personal data: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/studii-doctorale/admitere/>.

Upon admission, each doctoral student concludes a doctoral university studies contract that governs the rights and obligations of the parties during doctoral studies, in accordance with the applicable institutional regulations.

The documents analyzed and the discussions held during the evaluation visit confirm the existence of institutional support measures for candidates coming from vulnerable groups and for persons with disabilities, including accessibility services and the possibility of adapting the admission conditions. At the

same time, the existence of distinct places allocated to certain categories of candidates reflects the application of institutional policies on inclusion and equal opportunities.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

An example of good practice is the existence of an integrated institutional support system for persons with disabilities, coordinated through the Center for Psycho-pedagogical Assistance and Integration (CAIP), which includes counseling services, sign language interpretation, an accessible reading room, and the use of the RoboBraille platform for the conversion of educational materials into accessible formats.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

IOSUD – West University of Timișoara and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), within which the doctoral field of Finance is organized, apply the institutional regulations regarding the professional activity and the academic pathway of the doctoral students, in accordance with the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral university studies](#), the [individual doctoral university studies contract](#), and the [curricula applicable to the doctoral programs](#). The applicable documents and regulations are available on the IOSUD-UVT platform: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/baza-legala/>.

According to the documents analyzed, the standard duration of the doctoral program is 4 years, with the possibility of extending the studies by 1–2 years under the conditions provided by national legislation and institutional regulations. At the same time, the institutional regulations provide for the possibility of interrupting and resuming doctoral studies, as well as maintaining the status of doctoral student during internal and/or international academic mobilities.

The individual doctoral university studies contract regulates the rights and obligations of doctoral students and of IOSUD-UVT and is available, including in English, to international doctoral students. Within the SDEAA, administrative and academic procedures govern the management of doctoral students' individual situations related to mobility, the extension of studies, and the interruption and resumption of doctoral activity.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The institutional regulations regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral studies are applied uniformly at the field of Finance level and provide a clear procedural framework for managing the academic pathway of doctoral students. The administrative and academic mechanisms implemented enable transparent management of mobility-related situations, including the interruption, resumption, and extension of doctoral studies. At the same time, the individual studies contract helps clarify the rights and obligations of the parties involved in the doctoral process.

During the evaluation visit, the doctoral students and their supervisors confirmed the consistent application of the institutional regulations regarding the organization of doctoral studies and academic mobilities.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

IOSUD – UVT implements the [UVT Strategy for Internationalization and Global Cooperation](#), and the doctoral university studies field of Finance, organized within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), is integrated into the institution's internationalization policy and international academic cooperation. The internationalization activities are coordinated through the International Relations Directorate of UVT, responsible for the management of the international agreements and of the academic mobilities carried out through the Erasmus+ programs and other international academic cooperation programs: <https://ri.uvt.ro/>

UVT participates in the European university alliance UNITA – Universitas Montium, a structure that facilitates academic collaboration and the development of the European dimension of doctoral studies.

Within the SDEAA and the doctoral field of Finance, the international mobilities of doctoral students and of teaching staff who serve as doctoral supervisors, participation in conferences and international research projects, the organization of scientific events with international participation, and the development of international academic collaborations are supported. Internationalization activities are reflected through the participation of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors in Erasmus+ mobilities, Blended Intensive Program (BIP)-type programs, [conferences, and collaborative research activities](#).

In the doctoral field of Finance, international specialists are involved in the activity of the guidance and academic integrity committees, and some doctoral theses are elaborated in English, including under an international joint supervision (cotutelle) regime. During the evaluated period, academic and scientific events with international participation were organized, including the [TIMTED conference](#) and other events carried out within the [EPOC project](#).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

During the evaluation visit, representatives of IOSUD-UVT, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, and graduates confirmed their ongoing participation in Erasmus+ mobilities, international conferences, and research activities carried out in partnership with universities and institutions abroad.

The discussions with the representatives of the research centers highlighted the involvement of the doctoral students in international scientific activities and collaborations, including within the ECREB and ICAM research centers. The evaluation committee found a functional institutional framework for the internationalization of doctoral studies and for supporting international academic cooperation in the field of Finance. The participation in the UNITA alliance, the existence of Erasmus+ agreements, and the involvement of doctoral students in international academic and research activities contribute to the consolidation of the European and international dimensions of the doctoral program.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The participation of IOSUD-UVT in the European university alliance UNITA – Universitas Montium, which facilitates the integration of academic and research activities into European university networks and supports the international mobility of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors.

- **Recommendations:**

The consolidation of the international dimension of the doctoral program through the increase of the participation of the doctoral students in international mobility programs, in joint research activities, and in international academic networks.

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 is supported and capitalized upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study program.
--------------------------	---

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The research activity carried out within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), in which the doctoral university studies field of Finance is integrated, is based on the [Research-](#)

[Development-Innovation Strategy of the West University of Timișoara](#) and on the [Regulation on scientific research and university creation](#).

The doctoral research in the field of Finance is oriented towards the development of advanced research competencies and the capitalization of scientific results in the educational process and academic activity. The [research topics](#) addressed are aligned with the field of Finance and concern fiscal and monetary policies, financial markets, financial stability, banking systems, and economic sustainability.

The doctoral learning process is organized around scientific investigation and includes research activities, seminars, workshops, periodic presentations of research progress, and academic writing. According to the [curriculum](#) and the analyzed documents, doctoral students acquire competences in the methodological design of research, the analysis and interpretation of data, scientific writing and communication, and compliance with the norms of academic ethics and integrity.

The research results are disseminated through doctoral students' and supervisors' participation in national and international scientific conferences, the publication of articles in journals indexed in international databases, and involvement in [national and international research projects](#). According to the documents analyzed, during the period 2021–2025, doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in the field of Finance published articles in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus and participated in international scientific conferences ([AS IPB 9.1.1._Research Activity 2021–2025](#)).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

From the analysis of the institutional documents and the activities carried out within the doctoral field of Finance, it results that the doctoral learning process is based on scientific investigation and on the integration of research results into the academic training of doctoral students. During the evaluation visit, the doctoral students and their supervisors highlighted their ongoing participation in research activities, scientific conferences, and academic publishing. The discussions with representatives of the research centers confirmed the doctoral students' involvement in research projects and teams, as well as their access to research infrastructure, scientific databases, and digital academic resources. The capitalization of research results through publications and conference participation demonstrates the functionality of the institutional mechanisms supporting doctoral research and its integration into the educational process. For example, in accordance with the course description of "Research Methods", the bibliography of the discipline comprises scientific works elaborated and/or edited by the holder of the discipline, as well as other works relevant to the topic of the course, thus confirming the inclusion of one's own scientific research in the teaching resources and, implicitly, the integration of the research results into the teaching activities addressed to the doctoral students. The course description of "Scientometrics and the Evaluation of Scientific Research" contains in its bibliography methodological sources and specialized materials used in practical demonstrations (e.g. VOSviewer, Publish or Perish, Web of Science, etc.), and the content of the courses and seminars (related to practical exercises and bibliometric analyses) reflects the direct integration of the scientific research results of the holder of the discipline into the teaching and doctoral training process. Last but not least, the content and bibliography of the discipline "Artificial Intelligence applied in research" include case studies, works, and modern resources used in practical applications (e.g., LLM, Python), and the corroboration section explicitly mentions the role of the discipline in the preparation of research works and the dissemination of scientific results. Thus, the discipline attests to the integration of research production into doctoral teaching.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The integration of doctoral students into research activities and projects carried out with their doctoral supervisors, support for their participation in conferences, and the publication of scientific articles.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research about the objectives of the study program

The organizational component conducts scientific research aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study program.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at the national and international levels in that scientific domain and are capitalized upon in an adequate manner.
--	---

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The results of the research conducted within the doctoral studies in Finance are disseminated through scientific publications, conference presentations, and participation in national and international research projects. The doctoral supervisors and the doctoral students in the field of Finance publish research results in journals indexed in international databases, including Web of Science and Scopus, and [participate in national and international scientific conferences](#).

The research results are also capitalized through participation in research [projects](#) carried out in collaboration with academic institutions and partners from the socio-economic sphere. The research activity carried out in the field of Finance includes publications produced in collaboration between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, participation in international scientific events, and the integration of research results into the elaboration of doctoral theses and into academic activity.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The research activity carried out in the field of Finance ensures the national and international visibility of the scientific results through publications in internationally indexed journals and through constant participation in conferences and research projects.

During the evaluation visit, the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students confirmed their active involvement in scientific publishing and dissemination activities, including international academic collaborations and interdisciplinary projects. The discussions with the representatives of the research centers highlighted the integration of the doctoral students into applied research activities and into research teams with academic visibility. The research results are disseminated through publications, conference participation, research projects, and their integration into the doctoral training process and into the relationship with the socio-economic sphere.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The involvement of the doctoral students in publishing activities in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, and their participation in conferences and in research projects carried out together with the doctoral supervisors and with partners from the international academic sphere.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

An internal quality management system operates at the West University of Timișoara, coordinated by the Commission for the Evaluation and Assurance of Quality (CEAC-UVT), in accordance with the institutional regulations and the national legislation applicable to quality assurance in higher education. The activity regarding quality assurance is supported at the institutional level also by the Educational Management Directorate of UVT.

Within IOSUD-UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), procedures are in place to monitor and continuously improve educational and doctoral research activities. The teaching activity is evaluated periodically by students through standardized institutional questionnaires, and the results are used to analyze and improve the academic activity ([Methodology regarding the evaluation process of teachers by students at the West University of Timișoara](#)).

From the interaction during the on-site visit with representatives of the DSUD Finance who participated in drafting the REI, it emerged that, between 2021 and 2025, the questionnaire for evaluating the teaching staff at UVT underwent substantial transformations. In the 2021-2022 academic year, the process included two distinct questionnaires: one for self-evaluation of the learning process and one for evaluation of the teaching staff member. Starting in the second semester of the 2022-2023 academic year, a single evaluation questionnaire remained.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, a phased model was introduced at three points in the semester, including, for the first time, an evaluation after the examination session, focused on how the learning outcomes were assessed. At the same time, the structure of the items was refined, with the questions regarding the clarity of the objectives, the quality of teaching, the feedback offered, and the fairness of the evaluation being consolidated, which shows an evolution from a summative mechanism to a more formative one, more oriented towards the continuous improvement of the teaching process.

The academic pathway and the research activities of doctoral students are monitored annually by the guidance and academic integrity committees, based on progress reports and documents provided in accordance with the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral university studies](#). The institutional procedures for completing doctoral studies include a similarity check of doctoral theses using the iThenticate and Turnitin platforms, in accordance with the institutional methodology.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The institutional procedures and mechanisms implemented at the level of IOSUD-UVT and in the doctoral field of Finance are consistently applied and contribute to the monitoring and continuous improvement of the doctoral program's quality.

The mechanisms for evaluating the teaching activity, monitoring doctoral progress, and verifying compliance with academic ethics and integrity norms contribute to maintaining a coherent quality assurance framework. The use of progress reports, periodic evaluations, and feedback mechanisms allows the continuous monitoring of academic activities and the identification of improvement measures.

During the evaluation visit, representatives of IOSUD-UVT, doctoral supervisors, and doctoral students confirmed the application of institutional mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring doctoral activities, as well as the involvement of doctoral students in feedback and quality assurance processes.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The systematic use of the institutional mechanisms for evaluating the teaching activity and for monitoring doctoral progress through the guidance and academic integrity committees.
- The use of the iThenticate and Turnitin platforms to assess the similarity of doctoral theses and the integration of procedures regarding academic ethics and integrity into the process of completing doctoral studies.
- The transparent publication of the regulations, the curriculum, and the course descriptions on the institutional platforms of IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

At the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), institutional mechanisms are in place to consult and involve interested parties in the evaluation, monitoring, and quality assurance of doctoral study programs.

Representatives from the academic, socio-economic, and professional spheres participate in consultation and dialogue activities organized at the doctoral school level, contributing to the adaptation of the research directions and the competences targeted by the doctoral program to the requirements of the economic sphere and the labor market. The doctoral supervisors and members of the academic structures involved in organizing doctoral studies contribute to updating internal procedures and regulations by formulating proposals and providing feedback on the organization and conduct of doctoral activities.

From the documents analyzed, it results that at the UVT level, consultative structures dedicated to the relationship with the academic, professional, and socio-economic spheres operate, including the [Academic Consultative Council, the Strategic Partners Group \(GPS UVT\), and the Alumni Consultative Council](#).

The [Strategic Partners Group – GPS UVT](#) ensures consultation with the professional sphere in the drafting and implementation of the university's strategies. GPS UVT has outlined the priority "Co-creation and co-design of study programs" for 2030, through which: talents are developed for industry, based on partnerships; concrete opportunities are created: practical internships, internships, private scholarships, jobs, and applied research topics; and the alignment of the curriculum to the needs of the labor market is ensured. This priority also applies to the doctoral programs, since the link between applied research and industries is essential.

GPS UVT promotes projects focused on experiential learning through industry-university partnerships, in which risk situations are debated, concrete cases are evaluated, and the specific sensitivities of the business sphere are rethought. This process of continuous evaluation and rethinking ensures the periodic review of the methodologies and procedures.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

From the analysis of the institutional documents and the information obtained during the evaluation visit, it results that the SDEAA uses functional and coherent mechanisms for the consultation and involvement of interested parties in the implementation and review of academic and administrative procedures.

The participation of doctoral students in the management and consultative structures of the doctoral school, as well as the periodic use of the institutional feedback instruments, contribute to the monitoring and improvement of educational and doctoral research activities. At the same time, the involvement of representatives from the academic, professional, and socio-economic spheres in consultative activities and academic events facilitates alignment of doctoral research directions with the developments and requirements of the external environment.

During the evaluation visit, the doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, and representatives of the socio-economic sphere confirmed the existence of institutional mechanisms for consultation and dialogue used in the development and adaptation of doctoral activities.

As a result, the opinions of the academic community and other interested parties are integrated into the evaluation and implementation processes for the procedures governing the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in the field of Finance.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The functioning of the institutional consultative structures dedicated to the relationship with the academic, professional, and socio-economic sphere, including the Academic Consultative Council, the Strategic Partners Group (GPS UVT), and the Alumni Consultative Council.
- The organization of academic activities and events with the participation of the representatives of the academic and socio-economic sphere, with a view to adapting the research directions and the competences developed within the doctoral program of Finance.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[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 ensure that organizational structures perform their specific role and functions adequately.

Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.
---------------------------	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

At the West University of Timișoara, the University Ethics Commission operates, organized in accordance with the Regulation on organization and functioning, approved by the UVT Senate, and in compliance with the provisions of national legislation in the field of academic ethics and integrity. The activities of the Ethics Commission and the subcommission dedicated to research ethics are regulated by [specific institutional procedures](#). The commission's structure includes student representation, including doctoral students, and its activities are reflected in the annual reports approved by the UVT Senate.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the institutional documents and public information indicates that the University Ethics Commission operates independently of the university's executive and administrative structures and applies the legal and institutional provisions on academic ethics and integrity. The existence of a subcommission dedicated to research ethics and of specific procedures contributes to consolidating the institutional framework for the prevention and analysis of ethics violations in teaching and research activities.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The existence of a subcommission dedicated to research ethics and the inclusion of the representatives of the doctoral students in the university ethics structures;
- The publication of the annual reports of the Ethics Commission and of the institutional regulations regarding university ethics and deontology on the institutional platforms of UVT.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

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

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures

The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.
--------------------------	---

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

At the level of IOSUD–West University of Timișoara and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), institutional procedures and regulations are in place for the organization, monitoring, and evaluation of doctoral university studies, including those in the field of Finance. The doctoral activity is regulated through:

- ✓ The Regulation of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration for doctoral university studies;
- ✓ The IOSUD UVT Regulation on doctoral university studies;
- ✓ The Methodology for accessing financial support for mobility and research activities of the doctoral students;
- ✓ The Methodology for accessing the institutional resources for professional training by doctoral students;

- ✓ The Methodology regarding the norming and the activity of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee of IOSUD-UVT;
 - ✓ The Methodology for the organization and conduct of the admission competition to doctoral university studies;
 - ✓ The Regulation for the organization and conduct of the admission competition to doctoral university studies of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration;
 - ✓ The Framework procedure for affiliation or de-affiliation within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-UVT;
 - ✓ The IOSUD UVT Methodology regarding the recognition of the doctoral diploma and of the title of doctor in sciences or in a professional field, obtained abroad;
 - ✓ The Methodology regarding the automatic recognition of the status of doctoral supervisor obtained in accredited higher education or research-development institutions abroad.
- All the regulations, methodologies, and procedures above are [published](#).

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of institutional documents and public information indicates that IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA consistently apply procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of doctoral studies, including admissions, doctoral progress, study extensions, doctoral thesis defenses, and monitoring of research activity.

The application of the institutional procedures contributes to ensuring transparency, administrative coherence, and compliance with the standards regarding academic quality and integrity in the doctoral field of Finance.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The existence of an integrated institutional procedural framework that regulates all the stages of doctoral university studies.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

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

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

At the level of IOSUD–West University of Timișoara and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), institutional mechanisms are in place to involve members of the academic community and other interested parties in the process of applying and revising the procedures specific to doctoral university studies.

For example, during the drafting and updating of the SDEAA Regulation on doctoral university studies, consultations were held with doctoral students, graduates (doctors), representatives of employers, and doctoral supervisors, as well as with the professional sphere through GPS UVT. Each interested party formulated observations and proposals regarding the structure of the doctoral program, the eligible activities within the individual research program, the flexibility of the doctoral pathway, the support for research and publication, the collaboration with the socio-economic sphere, as well as the assurance of academic quality and integrity. These contributions were integrated into the updated regulation, which thus reflects a participatory formulation grounded in the feedback of interested parties.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of institutional documents and discussions recorded during the evaluation visit highlights that IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA apply a participatory approach to the implementation and updating of doctoral studies procedures.

The doctoral students, the doctoral supervisors, and the representatives of the socio-economic sphere confirmed their involvement in consultation, evaluation, and the formulation of feedback on doctoral activities and research directions.

The institutional mechanisms analyzed demonstrate the existence of a functional and transparent process of consultation and the application of procedures at the doctoral field level in Finance.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
 - The existence of institutional mechanisms for consulting representatives of the academic, professional, and socio-economic spheres in the process of updating regulations and doctoral research directions.
- **Recommendations: not applicable**
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

- ***Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data***

The West University of Timișoara uses institutional mechanisms for the periodic evaluation of the teaching staff by students, including at the doctoral level. The evaluation of the teaching activity is carried out through an institutional online platform, based on the Methodology for the evaluation of the teaching staff by students, as well as a [standardized electronic questionnaire](#). The results of the evaluations are centralized and analyzed at the institutional level, and synthesis reports and comparative analyses of the evaluation process are [available on the UVT platform](#). At the same time, evaluations of auxiliary teaching and administrative staff are conducted in accordance with the specific institutional procedures.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of the institutional documents and the discussions held during the evaluation visit highlights that IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA use the evaluation results of the teaching activity as an instrument for monitoring and improving the quality of the educational process and doctoral activities.

The feedback collected from doctoral students is used to identify levels of satisfaction with the teaching activity and the relevance of the doctoral training activities. The mechanisms implemented contribute to consolidating transparency and to continuously improving teaching and research activities.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
 - The use of an institutional electronic platform for the periodic evaluation of the activity of the teaching staff and for the centralization of the evaluation results.
 - The publication of the synthesis reports and of the information regarding the process of evaluation of the teaching activity at the institutional level.
- **Recommendations: not applicable**
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

- ***Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data***

The West University of Timișoara uses institutional information systems to collect, process, and analyze data for internal quality assurance. At the level of IOSUD-UVT and of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA), platforms and databases dedicated to the management of the doctoral activities are used, including the platform [doctorat.uvt.ro](#), the [e-learning platform Moodle](#), the schooling management information system UMS, and the platforms dedicated to Erasmus+ mobilities.

These tools allow monitoring the doctoral students' activity, academic progress, participation in mobilities and conferences, and research activities.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of institutional documents and information presented during the evaluation visit indicates that IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA systematically use databases and information platforms for the monitoring and evaluation of doctoral activities and internal quality assurance processes ([AS IPC 5.1.1._Analysis of the Internal Quality Assurance Process](#)). The data collected are used to monitor the progress of doctoral students, academic performance, and research activities, thereby substantiating the evaluation and improvement processes of the doctoral program.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The integrated use of the institutional information platforms for the management of the doctoral activities, the mobilities, and the academic evaluation processes.
- The access of the doctoral students and of the doctoral supervisors to electronic platforms dedicated to teaching, administrative, and research activities. ☐☐☐☐

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

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

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency

The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.
--------------------------	--

- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data**

The West University of Timișoara, IOSUD-UVT, and SDEAA ensure the publication and accessibility of information of public interest regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in the field of Finance. The information regarding the educational offer, admission, regulations, methodologies, curricula, course descriptions, research activity, academic staff, and the facilities offered to the doctoral students is published on the institutional platforms of UVT, IOSUD, and SDEAA: <https://www.uvt.ro/>; <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/>; <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdeaa/>.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The analysis of available public information and institutional documents highlights that IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA ensure transparency regarding the doctoral university studies program in Finance through the systematic publication of relevant documents and their periodic updating. The institutional platforms provide access to information on admissions, academic and administrative activities, applicable regulations, and the facilities available to doctoral students, thereby ensuring a transparent and accessible framework for candidates, doctoral students, and other interested parties.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The centralized publication and periodic updating of the information regarding doctoral studies on the institutional platforms of UVT and of IOSUD-UVT;
- Ensuring public access to regulations, methodologies, curricula, course descriptions, and information regarding admission and doctoral activities.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

[The indicator is fulfilled.](#)

**Indicator
I.P.C.6.1.2**

The organizational component ensures transparent decision-making.

- ***Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data***

The decision-making processes at the level of IOSUD–West University of Timișoara and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) are regulated by the IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral university studies and the [doctoral school's own regulation](#). The decisions adopted at the level of the CSUD and of the UVT Senate are published on the institutional platforms and are accessible to the academic community: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/hotarari/>

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The documents analyzed and the discussions held during the evaluation visit highlight the existence of clear institutional mechanisms for transparency in decision-making at the levels of IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA. The publication of decisions and institutional regulations, as well as the involvement of academic and administrative structures in the decision-making process, help ensure a transparent and predictable framework for organizing doctoral university studies.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

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 organizational component carries out the procedures for the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organize the evaluated study program in accordance with the law.

- ***Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data***

The West University of Timișoara operates as an Institution Organizing Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD-UVT), in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, of the Framework Regulation on doctoral university studies, and of the applicable institutional regulations.

The activities of IOSUD-UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (SDEAA) regarding external quality evaluation are regulated by the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation](#) on doctoral university studies. The doctoral university studies field of Finance was evaluated externally by [ARACIS in 2021](#), obtaining the rating "Maintenance of accreditation", and in October 2024, the intermediate progress report regarding the implementation of the recommendations formulated within the previous evaluation was submitted.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, considering the analysed performance indicator**

The documents analyzed and the information presented during the evaluation visit highlight the existence of functional institutional mechanisms for the organization and conduct of the external quality evaluation processes.

IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA apply specific procedures for self-evaluation, monitoring, and reporting in accordance with the ARACIS standards and national regulations on quality assurance in higher education. The existence of the intermediate progress report and the implementation of recommendations from the previous evaluation demonstrate the institution's commitment to continuous monitoring and improvement of the doctoral program's quality.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- The elaboration and submission of the intermediate progress report regarding the implementation of the recommendations formulated within the previous external evaluation.
- The existence of an institutional mechanism for the monitoring and self-evaluation of the doctoral activities, in accordance with the ARACIS standards.

- **Recommendations: not applicable**

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

• Strengths: Clearly defined organizational structure and functional management system at the level of IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA, with well-delimited responsibilities between the CSUD and the SDEAA Council; Consolidated mechanisms for the involvement of the interested parties (doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, employers, alumni) in the drafting and revision of the regulations and procedures; Extensive and modern material and ICT infrastructure (rooms, laboratories, library, servers, e-learning platforms) that adequately support the teaching and research activities in the doctoral field of Finance; Adequate human resources, with a large number of active doctoral supervisors, fulfilled CNATDCU standards, and international openness through publications and research projects; Advanced digital transformation: the full digitalization of the doctoral flow (admission, record-keeping, completion of studies), the use of UMS, RMU, REI, Moodle, as well as the use of iThenticate and Turnitin for academic integrity; Coherently structured curriculum, correlated with 240 ECTS, with a clearly defined curriculum and study plan, learning outcomes formulated on the dimensions of knowledge, abilities, responsibility/autonomy; Functional internal quality management system, with mechanisms of self-evaluation, intermediate progress report, and monitoring of the implementation of the ARACIS recommendations.	INTERNAL FACTORS ⬆	Weaknesses: Lack of a formalized set of performance indicators for the periodic evaluation of the efficiency of the management structures and functions of the SDEAA (SDEAA Council, SDEAA director); The need to rewrite the learning outcomes in the curriculum through observable and measurable action verbs, in order to explicitly reflect what the doctoral student is able to know and do at the end of the pathway; The need to optimize the course descriptions through the extended integration of specific topics relevant to the doctoral field of Finance; Lack of specific quality assurance mechanisms for the externally affiliated staff and the international guests, namely of unified criteria for the selection and monitoring of their contributions to the development of the doctoral field of Finance; Marked dependence on the individual reports of the doctoral supervisors for the visibility of the scientific activity, with the potential for heterogeneity in the manner of valuing and reporting performance.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: UVT's membership in the European university alliance UNITA, the Universitaria Consortium, and the	⬆ EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: Possible changes in the legislative framework and in the national standards regarding doctoral university studies (including the

PRIMENetworking network, and its participation in Erasmus+ and CEEPUS, create the basis for expanding international cooperation and doctoral student mobility in Finance. Access to international scientific databases through ANELIS Plus and Enformation, which supports the increase of the visibility and quality of doctoral research in the field of Finance; The institutional professional development policies (CDA, the Develop grants, the TalkEdUVT webinars) provide a favorable context for consolidating the teaching and research competences of doctoral supervisors. The integration of digital competences and of artificial intelligence tools into doctoral training, reflected in the content of the disciplines and the use of GenAI tools in the educational process. The development of partnerships with the socio-economic sphere (through GPS UVT, alums, employers) creates opportunities for applied research, internships, and the enhancement of the labor-market relevance of doctoral topics in Finance. The institutional financial support policies for mobility and conference participation facilitate doctoral students' participation in international scientific networks and the consolidation of their research profile.		CNATDCU and ARACIS standards) may generate additional pressure on the resources and procedures already implemented; Competition with other IOSUDs and doctoral schools in the country and abroad for the attraction of high-performing doctoral students and supervisors may affect the rate of increase in the number of students and supervisors in the field of Finance. Possible budgetary constraints at the national or institutional level may limit the rate of investment in infrastructure, digitalization, and financial support for mobility and research. The dependence on the stability and continuity of international projects and networks (Erasmus+, CEEPUS, UNITA, PRIMENetworking) may affect mobility and academic cooperation opportunities in the event of changes in funding or priorities. Demographic developments and changes in candidates' preferences for other fields or forms of doctoral education may, in the medium term, affect enrollment in the field of Finance.
--	--	---

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 program/domain, the HEI has adequate organizational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations, and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	The establishment of a set of performance indicators for the periodic evaluation of the efficiency of the management structures and functions of the SDEAA (SDEAA Council, SDEAA director).

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
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 staff activities. 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	The creation of quality assurance mechanisms for the externally affiliated staff and for the international guests, through the definition of unified selection criteria and through the monitoring of their contribution to the activities specific to doctoral studies in the field of Finance.
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.	F	The rewriting, in the curriculum, of the learning outcomes (already defined in the form of knowledge, skills/abilities, responsibility, and autonomy), through observable and measurable action verbs, in the form of statements that refer to what a doctoral student knows,

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			understands, and is able to do at the end of a learning pathway; The optimization of the content of the course descriptions through the extended integration of specific topics relevant to the doctoral field of Finance.
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
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	
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.	PF	The rewriting of the learning outcomes at the DSUD Finance level in accordance with the recommendation from Indicator IPB 1.1.1.; the redoing of the matrix correlating the learning outcomes and the disciplines from the curriculum, in accordance with the real

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			contribution of the disciplines to the formation of competences; The updating of all the course descriptions in accordance with the new correlation matrix, to ensure curricular coherence and the traceability of the learning outcomes.
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	The consolidation of the international dimension of the doctoral program through the increase of the participation of the doctoral students in international mobility programs, in joint research activities, and in international academic networks.
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon adequately.	F	
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	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate. It performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	0	0
Domain B. Educational efficacy	13	1	0
Domain C. Quality management	10	0	0
Total	31	1	0

VI. Conclusions

A number of important aspects noted during the evaluation are reiterated here, and general conclusions are made about the quality of education delivered within the evaluated doctoral study domain.

A. Conclusions regarding institutional capacity

The external evaluation of the DSUD Finance highlights that IOSUD–UVT and the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration have a well-defined organizational structure and management system, with responsibilities clearly distributed between the CSUD, the SDEAA Council, and the technical-administrative structures. The governance mechanisms are based on a comprehensive normative framework (charter, regulations, methodologies, and procedures), which is periodically updated in accordance with national legislation and the ARACIS standards. The involvement of the teaching staff and doctoral students in decision-making processes, through representation in management structures, as well as that of other interested parties in formal consultations, confirms the functioning of a participatory management model for the doctoral field of Finance.

In terms of material and digital resources, the external evaluation report reveals an adequate and modern infrastructure at both the institutional and FEAA/SDEAA levels. UVT owns a significant estate of teaching, research, accommodation, and sports activity spaces, managed through specialized administrative structures and maintenance mechanisms that ensure optimal conditions for study and research. The spaces used by the SDEAA (lecture rooms, laboratories, library) are equipped with ICT equipment and specialized software (Stata, eViews, SPSS, R, SmartPLS, etc.), which directly supports the teaching and research activities of doctoral students in the field of Finance. The digital transformation is one of the strengths of the institution, with the full digitalization of the doctoral flow (admission, record-keeping, completion), the use of the UMS, RMU, REI, e-learning platforms, and the systematic integration of the similarity checking tools (iThenticate, Turnitin) into the procedures for ensuring academic integrity being highlighted.

The human resources involved in carrying out the doctoral university studies program in Finance are considered adequate both in terms of number and quality. The existence of 21 affiliated doctoral supervisors, mostly UVT permanent staff, compliance with the minimum standards of the CNATDCU, and the high proportion of supervisors with habilitation in the field indicate a solid capacity for coordinating doctoral research. Their research activity, as evidenced by internationally indexed publications, research projects, and scientific visibility, is reflected in the content of the disciplines and in the integration of doctoral students into research projects and centers. In addition, the institution ensures the continuous professional development of the academic staff through the programs of the Academic Development Center, the Develop grants, and the opportunities for international collaboration offered by the UNITA consortium and by other academic networks.

B. Conclusions regarding educational effectiveness

The curricular structure of the doctoral program in Finance is aligned with the requirements of the National Qualifications Framework, the ARACIS standards, and the institutional regulations. It is built on 240 ECTS distributed between advanced training (30 ECTS) and the individual research program (210 ECTS). The curriculum includes disciplines oriented towards research ethics, academic writing, methodology, scientometrics, and topics specific to the field, all correlated with an individual research plan that involves activities such as documentation, publication, participation in conferences, and academic mobilities. The program is designed so that the expected learning outcomes align with the competences required for doctoral-level occupations (researchers, teaching staff in higher education), in accordance with the NQF, COR, and ESCO.

The report emphasizes the consistent implementation of the principles of student-centered learning within the field of Finance. The doctoral students benefit from a flexible pathway that allows them to choose their research topic, doctoral supervisor, and optional disciplines based on their scientific interests and professional objectives. The teaching strategies used (debates, projects, case studies, applied exercises) promote active learning, critical thinking, and collaboration, and the integration of the doctoral students into research centers and projects supports the development of advanced competencies through learning-research. The evaluation system is structured around both the advanced training component, through

continuous evaluation, and the research component, through annual monitoring of progress and rigorous procedures for completing the thesis (internal evaluation, originality check, pre-defense, and public defense).

From the perspective of internationalization and mobilities, the program offers doctoral students access to a diverse range of opportunities through Erasmus+, CEEPUS, UNITA, PRIMENetworking, and bilateral agreements with institutions from various countries. The existence of clear procedures for selection, funding, and academic recognition, as well as the financial support for participation in national and international conferences, contributes to the integration of doctoral students into the scientific community and to the increased visibility of research results. The research activity carried out in the field of Finance is capitalized through publications in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, participation in conferences, and involvement in national and international research projects, aspects that confirm the relevance and scientific quality of the program.

C. Conclusions regarding quality management

At the West University of Timișoara, an internal quality management system operates that fully covers the doctoral field, coordinated by CEAC-UVT and supported by specialized structures of the Educational Management Directorate. IOSUD-UVT and SDEAA apply procedures for self-evaluation, monitoring, and reporting in accordance with the ARACIS standards, including drafting intermediate progress reports and tracking the implementation of recommendations from previous external evaluations. The mechanisms for systematically collecting feedback from doctoral students, supervisors, and other interested parties, as well as the involvement of the socio-economic sphere (GPS UVT, alumni, employers) in the revision of the regulations, indicate a mature institutional framework oriented towards continuous quality improvement.

The analysis of the report highlights that the majority of the quality indicators are fulfilled, with examples of good practice (the digitalization of the doctoral pathway, the integration of anti-plagiarism tools, the systematic professional development of staff, the diversification of mobilities). However, some aspects that require optimization have also been identified without substantially affecting the program's overall quality. Among these are the need to establish a set of performance indicators for the periodic evaluation of the efficiency of the management structures of the SDEAA, the rewriting of the learning outcomes at the level of the field of Finance, through observable and measurable action verbs, as well as the redoing of the outcomes–disciplines correlation matrix to increase curricular coherence. Furthermore, it is recommended to optimize the content of the course descriptions by integrating more topics relevant to the field and by creating explicit quality assurance mechanisms for externally affiliated staff and international guests. The only indicator considered partially fulfilled concerns the definition of the learning outcomes, which indicates a clear potential for improvement in the explicitation and traceability of the competences, not a fundamental deficiency in the educational content.

Overall, the evaluation concludes that the doctoral university studies field of Finance has a consolidated institutional capacity, adequate material and human resources, a coherent curriculum aligned with the requirements of the doctoral level, and functional mechanisms for the assurance and improvement of quality. The quality of the education provided is reflected in the program's structure and functioning, in the manner of organizing the learning process centered on the doctoral student, in the coherent integration

of scientific research, and in the national and international visibility of the results. The recommendations formulated mainly aim to refine the descriptive framework of the learning outcomes and consolidate certain mechanisms for monitoring and assuring quality, confirming that the program is on a trajectory of development and improvement, maintaining high standards of educational quality.

Propose and substantiate a decision.

Following the conduct of the external evaluation of the DSD Finance, organized by IOSUD-UVT, taking into account the fact that:

- a. All the standards within the evaluation process for the purpose of maintaining the accreditation of the field of study have been fulfilled;

- b. 31 performance indicators were appreciated by the members of the external evaluation committee as being fulfilled;
- c. There is a single performance 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), appreciated as being partially fulfilled,

The decision of the evaluation committee is **maintaining accreditation** (MAC) of the **Doctoral Study Domain in Finance**.

VII. Annexes

1. The program of the on-site evaluation visit;
2. The list of documents examined, attached as supplementary annexes to the External Evaluation Report (EER) of the Doctoral Study Domain in Finance and relevant to the evaluation procedure;
3. The minutes drawn up for the meetings conducted during the evaluation visit.