

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMISOARA
Doctoral School:	DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF EXACT SCIENCES AND NATURAL SCIENCES
Doctoral Domain:	COMPUTER SCIENCE
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.	Pop Sitar Petrica Claudiu	Expert evaluator	
2.	Latinovic Tihomir	International Expert	
3.	Florea Mădălin-Gabriel	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

- the context in which the external evaluation report was drafted (the type of evaluation, the period covered by the evaluation, membership of the external quality experts' panel, etc.);

This report pertains to the **procedure for maintaining accreditation** of the doctoral study domain of **Computer Science**. The evaluation covers the period from the previous assessment in 2021 to the finalization of the **Internal Evaluation Report (IER) in 2026**. The process is conducted by the **Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)**.

The **External Quality Experts' Panel** typically consists of three members:

- **One expert evaluator (coordinator):** Prof. Petrica Claudiu POP SITAR professor and qualified PhD supervisor from the National Register (RNE–CD).
- **One international expert:** Prof. Tihomir LATINOVIC from the International Register (RNE–RI).
- **One doctoral student evaluator:** Mădălin-Gabriel FLOREA member of the National Register of student evaluators (RNE–S).

- description of the higher education institution / Romanian Academy (establishment, evolution, mission, governance, structure, study programmes/domains, external quality evaluation procedures applied);

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The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** was established by Royal Decree in **1944** and has operated continuously as a flagship institution for higher education and research in western Romania. It is a founding member of the **UNITA European University Alliance** and the **"Universitaria" Consortium**.

- **Mission and Governance:** UVT's general mission focuses on **advanced research and education**, acting as a catalyst for societal development and the promotion of democratic values. Governance is managed by the **University Senate** (the highest decision-making body) and the **Board of Directors** (executive management).
- **Structure:** UVT comprises **12 faculties** responsible for over 15,000 students. As an **Organising Institution for Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UVT)**, it manages **8 doctoral schools** offering **26 doctoral study programs**.
- **Quality Evaluation History:** The institution maintains high public trust; its last major doctoral evaluation in 2021 (ARACIS Council Decision No. 100) reconfirmed accreditation for IOSUD-UVT and 21 of its doctoral domains.

- general description of the doctoral study domain (why it was established - in the case of a provisional authorisation to operate; evolution and/or changes since the last external quality evaluation procedure - in the case of procedures intended for accreditation or maintaining accreditation, as applicable).

Computer Science has been an **autonomous doctoral field at UVT since 2003**, having previously operated under the auspices of Mathematics since 1991.

- **Evolution and Reorganization:** Since the 2021 evaluation, the domain has undergone significant strategic reorganization. At the start of the 2024–2025 academic year, it was integrated into the consolidated **Doctoral School of Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)**. This consortium brings together resources from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Computer Science, and Mathematics to foster **interdisciplinary collaboration** and leverage the UVT Institute for Advanced Environmental Research (ICAM).
- **Key Changes since 2021:**
 - **Human Resources:** The number of doctoral supervisors has increased from **7** in 2021 to **12** in 2025, expanding the expertise available to students.
 - **Student Growth:** The number of enrolled doctoral students has grown from **22** in 2021 to **32** in the 2025–2026 academic year.
 - **Internationalization:** The program is highly internationalized, with over **90% of doctoral theses** and research reports written in **English**, and frequent inclusion of international experts on defense and guidance committees.
 - **Research Integration:** Approximately **25% of current students** are integrated into funded research teams, including high-impact projects like the **Romanian Hub for Artificial Intelligence (HRIA)**.

II. Methods used

- Analysed documents (internal evaluation report and its annexes; additional documents requested before and during the on-site visit, if any; other documents or data);

The evaluation was based on a thorough review of the **Internal Evaluation Report (IER)** finalized in 2026 and its comprehensive set of digital annexes. These documents included:

- **Academic and Regulatory Framework:** The UVT Charter, IOSUD-UVT and SDSESN regulations, admission methodologies, and the standard doctoral study contract.
- **Curricular Data:** Detailed **syllabi** for specialized courses such as *Explainable and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence* and *Ethics and Academic Integrity*.
- **Human Resources Documentation:** Individual **CVs**, lists of papers, and verification sheets for the **12 doctoral supervisors**, including Hirsch indices from **Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar**.
- **Student Activity Records:** Data on student enrollment evolution, mobility grants, and a summary of research results for active PhD students.
- **Scientific Output:** A list of the **83 papers** published by doctoral students and abstracts of the **16 theses** successfully defended between 2021 and 2025.
- **Quality and Ethics Reports:** Reports from the **University Ethics Committee (CEU)** and the **2024 Progress Report** addressing previous recommendations.

- On-site visit (general list of visited locations and categories of persons with whom debates have been organised);

The on-site visit (or hybrid sessions where applicable) allowed the panel to verify the state of facts through direct observation and structured debates.

Visited Locations:

- **Academic and Administrative Spaces:** The headquarters of the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)**, the **Doctoral Studies Office (IOSUD secretariat)**, and specific rooms used for doctoral activities like **Room 061** (refurbished study space) and **Room 048** (presentation hall).
- **Research Infrastructure:** The **High Performance Computing Center (HPC-UVT)**, laboratory **033** (robotics), and assigned research laboratories within the **UVT Institute for Advanced Environmental Research (ICAM)**.
- **Support Facilities:** The **"Eugen Todoran" Central University Library**, the **Counseling and Career Guidance Center (CCOC)**, student dormitories, and the cafeteria.

Organised Debates and Meetings: Discussions were held with the following categories of stakeholders to assess the domain's quality and functionality:

- **University and IOSUD Leadership:** The Rector, Vice-Rectors, and the Director of **CSUD**.
- **Field Management:** The Director of the Doctoral School and the coordinator for the Computer Science domain.
- **Academic Staff:** Doctoral supervisors and teaching staff involved in the advanced training program.
- **Research Personnel:** Directors and staff in charge of research centers and specialized laboratories.
- **Internal Quality and Ethics Structures:** Representatives from the **CEAC**, the Quality Assurance Department (**Qualitas**), and the **University Ethics Committee**.
- **Direct Beneficiaries:** Meetings were held separately with current **doctoral students** and **alumni** of the program.
- **External Stakeholders:** Representatives from the R&D departments of regional **IT companies** and employers of graduates.

- Other relevant methods or aspects.

- **Digital Verification:** The panel verified the functionality of integrated IT systems, including the **UMS platform** for academic records, the **"Pagina TA"** portal for supervisors, and the similarity verification protocols using **iThenticate/Turnitin**.
- **Student Satisfaction Survey:** A standardized questionnaire was administered to doctoral students via **Google Forms** to collect anonymous feedback on institutional support, research resources, and the relevance of the training program.
- **Clerical and Technical Clarifications:** Technical meetings were held between panel members to harmonize findings and request additional documents or translations as needed during the evaluation cycle.

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

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

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

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.

Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1	For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** is an Organising Institution for Doctoral Studies (**IOSUD-UVT**) that operates in compliance with National Education Law (199/2023) and internal institutional regulations. The doctoral field of **Computer Science** is integrated within the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)**, following a reorganization that grouped related fields to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration.

The management system for doctoral studies is structured across three levels:

- **University level:** Governance is ensured by the **University Senate** and the **Board of Directors**, which establish the general administrative and academic charts.
- **IOSUD level:** The **Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD)** oversees the strategic management of doctoral programs and includes representatives of both teaching staff and doctoral students.
- **Doctoral School level:** The **Council of the Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (CSD-SDSESN)** manages operational activities, including the approval of curricula and doctoral supervisor affiliations.

The operation of these components is based on a comprehensive set of **methodologies, regulations, and procedures**, including:

1. **The UVT Charter**, which defines the institution's mission and autonomy.
2. **The Institutional Regulations for the Organisation and Conduct of Doctoral Studies**, which have been periodically reviewed (with editions in 2011, 2019, and 2021) to align with national legislative updates.
3. **SDSESN's Rules of Organisation and Operation**, which contain specific standards for accreditation and affiliation within the Computer Science field.
4. Specific methodologies for **admission, doctoral study contracts, thesis completion**, and the **recognition of supervisor status** obtained abroad.

All these documents are publicly accessible on the university's centralized websites (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/> and <https://www.uvt.ro/organizare/senat-uvt/>).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The organizational structure of IOSUD-UVT and SDSESN provides a coherent framework for the delivery of the Computer Science doctoral program. The management system exhibits clear lines of **competence and responsibility**, from the overarching university governance down to field-specific guidance committees.

The institution demonstrates a commitment to **legal compliance and periodic review**, as evidenced by the updated versions of the Institutional Regulations for Doctoral Studies and the annual approval of curricula. Transparency is a key feature, as evidenced by the systematic publication of decisions and regulations on the institutional portal, ensuring all stakeholders have access to current procedures. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the field meets these mandatory regulatory requirements.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **External Representation:** The Council of the Doctoral School includes **external members**, including specialists from other national institutions and from abroad, which enhances the objectivity and quality of the management process.
- **Integrated Digitization:** The use of dedicated IT systems like **UMS** for academic records and the **"Pagina TA"** platform for administrative tasks simplifies the management process and improves service quality for students and staff.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue to ensure that the specific requirements of the **Computer Science field** (such as specific performance standards for research) remain explicitly detailed and updated within the unified SDSESN regulations.
- Maintain and expand the practice of **consulting with doctoral supervisors and students** during the periodic revision of regulations to ensure they remain responsive to the needs of the scientific community.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.

Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

Within the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** at the **West University of Timișoara (UVT)**, the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations, and application procedures is built upon institutionalized consultation with internal and external stakeholders. Each doctoral field, including **Computer Science**, is represented in the Doctoral School Council, ensuring that field-specific needs are addressed during regulatory updates.

The university employs several mechanisms to ensure stakeholder participation:

- **Institutional Councils:** Regular meetings are held by the **Council of the Doctoral School (CSD)** and the **Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD)** to discuss proposals for changing or updating specific procedures.

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

- **Direct Academic Consultation:** Doctoral supervisors are specifically consulted regarding the content of the curriculum and the advanced training programs for students. Faculty and department opinions are collected through faculty councils and specialized committees.
- **Student Feedback:** UVT utilizes **standardized questionnaires** administered to doctoral students to collect feedback on organizational, administrative, and academic issues. Students are also represented in all university management structures, including the Senate and the Ethics Committee.
- **External Stakeholders:** The university maintains several **Advisory Councils** (Academic, Strategic Partners, and Alumni) that include personalities from the professional sphere and representatives from IT companies and the economic environment. For the Computer Science field specifically, representatives from research and innovation departments of IT companies were consulted during the preparation of strategies and internal reports.

The results of these consultations are centralized and analyzed, with relevant recommendations being integrated into official documents such as curricula, course content, and evaluation procedures.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science doctoral field demonstrates a high degree of **inclusive governance**. The existence of diverse consultation channels—ranging from formal council representation to anonymous student surveys—ensures that revisions to methodologies are not merely administrative but are informed by the practical experiences of supervisors and students.

The involvement of **external stakeholders** from the IT industry is particularly relevant for the Computer Science domain, as it aligns the school's research directions with contemporary socio-economic needs. The integration of student feedback through digital evaluation platforms shows a commitment to **continuous improvement** based on beneficiary satisfaction. These processes confirm that the institution does not operate in isolation when revising its regulatory framework.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Industry Integration:** Consulting with R&D departments of **IT companies** to identify applied research topics and strategies ensures that the doctoral program remains relevant to the labor market.
- **External Expertise in Governance:** Including **external members** (from other national or international institutions) in the Doctoral School Council provides an objective, external perspective on the school's regulations and quality standards.
- **Structured Advisory Bodies:** The use of specialized **Advisory Councils** (e.g., Strategic Partners Group) creates a formal bridge between the academic and professional communities.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Continue the plan to **expand the involvement** of members from the academic guidance and integrity committees in the specific process of reviewing Computer Science methodologies.
- Strengthen the **dissemination of information** regarding student elections and council decisions to further encourage active participation and transparency within the doctoral student community.
- Increase the use of professional networks (such as **LinkedIn**) and academic networks (such as **Informatics Europe**) to gather broader stakeholder input when promoting new doctoral research directions.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study programme/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** legally owns the necessary infrastructure to support the educational, research, and administrative processes required for the doctoral field of **Computer Science**. This includes dedicated spaces for teaching, research, and student services that provide a favorable environment for both academic and social life.

Specific facilities assigned to the doctoral studies in Computer Science include:

- **Teaching and Research Spaces:** Activities are conducted at the UVT central headquarters (rooms **048** and **061**) and within research laboratories at **ICAM-UVT**. Room 061 was refurbished in 2022 to serve as a collaborative workspace and houses a branch of the Computer Science Department library. Room 048, with a capacity of 60 seats, is used for progress reports and thesis defenses.
- **Specialized Laboratories:** Doctoral students focused on robotics have access to **laboratory 033**, which has been refurbished and equipped through partnerships with Timișoara-based IT companies.
- **Computing Infrastructure:** The **High-Performance Computing Center (HPC-UVT)** provides state-of-the-art resources, recently expanded in 2025 with **6 Lenovo ThinkSystem servers** equipped with **NVIDIA H200 GPUs** and specialized AI software.
- **Library and Documentation:** Physical and digital access to resources is ensured through the "**Eugen Todoran**" **Central University Library (BCU)**, which offers subscriptions to major international databases such as **Web of Science**, **Scopus**, **Science Direct**, and **IEEE**.
- **Accessibility and Student Services:** The university continuously implements measures to ensure accessibility for **people with disabilities**, including access ramps, elevators, and adapted signage. Students also benefit from modern dormitories, canteens, sports facilities, and career counseling services (CCOC).

Documentation and links regarding these facilities are available via the [UVT Campus portal](#) and the [Accessibility for Students with Disabilities](#) page.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The material resources provided by IOSUD-UVT for the Computer Science domain are not only adequate in terms of legal ownership but are also **periodically modernized** to meet the evolving needs of the field. The recent refurbishment of Room 061 and the significant 2025 upgrade to the HPC infrastructure demonstrate a commitment to providing a **competitive research environment**.

The integration of **high-performance computing resources** is a critical factor for the success of doctoral students working on topics like Artificial Intelligence and Big Data. Furthermore, the university's digital ecosystem—which includes licenses for **Google Workspace**, **Microsoft Teams**, and **specialized**

similarity verification software like iThenticate—ensures that the administrative and academic needs of students and staff are met regardless of the mode of delivery (physical or online). The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the infrastructure is well-maintained and aligned with the school's mission.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **State-of-the-art Computing:** The continuous development of the **High-Performance Computing Center (HPC-UVT)** provides doctoral students with computing power comparable to top international research institutes.
- **Strategic Industry Collaboration:** Refurbishing and equipping specialized labs (e.g., Laboratory 033 for robotics) with the **support of IT companies** ensures that students work with tools relevant to the industrial R&D sector.
- **Proactive Accessibility Policies:** The systematic implementation of infrastructure adjustments for **disabled persons** and the provision of differentiated educational support demonstrate a high level of social responsibility.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue the process of **periodically updating the computing infrastructure** to remain competitive with international developments in high-performance computing and AI.
- Improve the **dissemination of information** to doctoral students regarding the full range of facilities and equipment available to them to ensure maximum utilization of existing resources.
- Consider the creation of **additional collaborative research spaces** in the long term to accommodate the projected increase in the number of Computer Science doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources

The organisational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study programme/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.

Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** maintains a systematic approach to the upkeep and modernization of its material resources to support the doctoral field of **Computer Science**. The management of these assets is centralized under the **General Administrative Directorate**, which coordinates specialized structures to perform periodic repairs, maintenance, and modernization of buildings, technical installations, and equipment.

Key facts regarding the maintenance of assets include:

- **Modernized Spaces:** Recent investments have led to the refurbishment of dedicated doctoral spaces, such as **Room 061**, which was updated in 2022 to provide a high-quality environment for individual and collaborative work.
- **Equipment Upkeep:** Movable assets, particularly computing hardware and laboratory equipment, are regularly inventoried and maintained. Obsolete equipment is replaced as needed to ensure that research activities remain competitive.

- **Procedural Framework:** The university operates based on a formal **strategy for in-house repairs and maintenance**. Additionally, a "**Procedure for action in the event of an emergency**" is in place to address urgent infrastructure issues.
- **Digital and Specialized Infrastructure:** Maintenance efforts extend to the **High-Performance Computing Center (HPC-UVT)** and the **Computer Science Research Center**, ensuring that state-of-the-art servers and software licenses are fully functional.

Links to relevant institutional reports and maintenance procedures are available on the UVT Public Documents portal and within the Rector's annual reports.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence indicates that IOSUD-UVT does not merely "own" assets but actively manages their lifecycle through a **proactive maintenance and modernization policy**. The involvement of the General Administrative Directorate ensures that maintenance is not ad-hoc but part of a structured institutional process.

The refurbishment of Room 061 and the ongoing upgrades to the HPC infrastructure are tangible results of this strategy, directly benefiting the study and research conditions for Computer Science doctoral students. The existence of specific emergency procedures and systematic inventory practices confirms that the institution has the administrative capacity to sustain its material base over the long term. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that these material resources allow for high-quality research activity.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Administrative Oversight:** The centralization of maintenance under a specialized directorate (General Administrative Directorate) ensures consistency in the quality of work across all campus facilities.
- **Adaptive Replacement Strategy:** The practice of replacing movable assets based on research needs prevents the "technological aging" of the Computer Science field, where hardware obsolescence is a high risk.
- **Emergency Responsiveness:** The formalization of an emergency response procedure for infrastructure provides a safety net for critical research environments (like server rooms).

- ✓ Recommendations

- Develop and implement a more aggressive **information campaign** to ensure all doctoral students are aware of the full range of maintained facilities and equipment available to them.
- Proceed with the long-term plan to create **additional collaborative workspaces** to accommodate the increasing number of Computer Science doctoral students.
- Establish a specific **maintenance and upgrade cycle for AI-specialized hardware** (e.g., GPU servers) to ensure these critical assets remain at peak performance for intensive research tasks.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources

The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The doctoral field of Computer Science within the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** is supported by a team of **12 doctoral supervisors**, an increase from the 7 supervisors active during the 2021 evaluation. This team includes:

- **Eight tenured professors** at the West University of Timișoara (UVT) Faculty of Computer Science.
- **One retired professor emeritus** (V. Negru).
- **One scientific researcher** affiliated with the Institute for Advanced Environmental Research (ICAM-UVT).
- **Two supervisors from other universities** within the Universitaria Consortium (University of Bucharest and University of Craiova).

All doctoral supervisors are active researchers in the field of Computer Science and meet the mandatory **CNATDCU standards** for their rank. According to the individual verification sheets, the team **exceeds minimum national standards by an average of approximately 7 times**, with individual performance factors ranging from 1.46 to 31.69. The supervisors have high international visibility, as evidenced by their **Hirsch factors** (ranging up to 32 on Google Scholar) and their participation in over **12 national and international research projects** during the review period.

The subjects in the advanced university training program are taught by supervisors or qualified staff with proven expertise in their respective disciplines. For example, courses in **Artificial Intelligence** are taught by Prof. Darian Onchiș and Prof. Daniela Zaharie, while **Academic Writing and Research Ethics** are handled by specialists with relevant publication records in those areas.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The human resources assigned to the Computer Science doctoral program are highly qualified and possess the necessary professional competences to deliver a top-tier academic experience. The significant margin by which the staff exceeds **CNATDCU minimum standards** justifies a judgment of high scientific excellence.

The management has successfully addressed recommendations from the previous 2021 evaluation by **increasing the number of supervisors** to strengthen the field. Furthermore, the distribution of doctoral students is well-managed, with a **maximum of 6 students per supervisor**, well below the regulatory limit of 8. The integration of supervisors into the **Center for Research in Computer Science (CeRiCS)** ensures that teaching is directly influenced by current, high-impact research. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the staff possesses the expertise required for their assigned roles.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
 - **Exceptional Scientific Performance:** The staff's average performance, exceeding national accreditation standards by sevenfold, demonstrates a level of research productivity that places the program among the elite in the region.

- **Collaboration with External Experts:** Including supervisors from other prestigious Romanian universities and maintaining an associate researcher from an international institution (Johannes Kepler University, Linz) enriches the scientific guidance provided to students.
- **Research-Led Teaching:** The alignment of course offerings with the specific research expertise and ongoing projects of the supervisors ensures that doctoral students are exposed to the latest developments in areas like **Machine Learning and Distributed Computing**.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue to implement the strategy for **attracting younger researchers** to obtain habilitation to ensure the long-term sustainability and vitality of the supervisor team.
- Encourage supervisors to maintain their high levels of international involvement, specifically through **joint doctoral supervision** and participation in international research networks.
- Periodically review the **teaching workload** of supervisors to ensure that the expansion of the team continues to allow for high-quality, individualized mentoring of doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** has established a comprehensive ecosystem to support the continuous professional and personal development of its teaching, research, and administrative staff. This system is primarily driven by specialized internal structures and strategic international partnerships. Key components of staff development include:

- **Academic Development Center (CDA):** This center is dedicated to cultivating academic excellence by promoting educational processes based on current trends. It organizes frequent **workshops and webinars** on both educational and research topics. In the 2025-2026 academic year, topics included the **use of generative AI in assessing learning outcomes**. The CDA also manages **teaching grants** and the **TalkEdUVT (Voices Shaping Learning)** webinar series launched in 2025.
- **Research and Innovation Support:** The **Directorate for Research, Development, and Innovation Management (DMACDI)** provides guidance on project calls, proposal preparation, and implementation. Additionally, staff can access **UVT-Develop grants**, which provide financial support for disseminating research results through journal publications and conference attendance.
- **Career Counseling:** Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers benefit from the **Regional Center for Research Career Counseling and Guidance**, which offers specialized training programs, counseling, and networking opportunities.
- **International Mobility and Collaboration:** Through UVT's membership in the **European UNITA alliance**, staff participate in "matching events" to facilitate collaboration with researchers from partner universities, particularly in the **Digital Transition** priority area. Furthermore, the **Erasmus+ mobility program** provides structured opportunities for teaching and training at international partner institutions.

Relevant documentation and links are centralized on the [Academic Development Center](#) and [Research Career Counseling](#) portals.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science doctoral field demonstrates a systematic commitment to staff growth. The existence of a dedicated center for academic development (CDA) ensures that professional development is not incidental but a **core institutional process**. The integration of cutting-edge topics, such as **generative Artificial Intelligence**, into staff training reflects a proactive approach to maintaining the relevance of teaching methods in a rapidly evolving technological field.

While robust support structures are in place, the institution acknowledges that there is "room for improvement" in the level of participation. Currently, only some doctoral supervisors and students have fully utilized these resources. The use of internal **UVT-Develop grants** is a particularly effective mechanism, as it directly offsets the costs associated with high-level scientific dissemination, which is vital for the Computer Science field. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the institution provides the necessary framework for staff development.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Proactive AI Integration:** The CDA's initiative to train staff in the use of **generative AI for assessment** is a leading-edge practice that aligns pedagogical skills with current technological trends.
- **Strategic Consortium Use:** Leveraging the **UNITA Alliance** for specific "research matching" in Digital Transition allows Computer Science staff to build international research networks more effectively than traditional networking.
- **Direct Dissemination Funding:** The **UVT-Develop grant system** effectively lowers the financial barrier for staff to publish in high-impact venues and attend prestigious international conferences.

✓ Recommendations

Develop a **targeted communication plan** to increase the participation rate of doctoral students and younger researchers in the professional development programs offered by the CDA and the Career Counseling Center.

- Expand the **TalkEdUVT webinar series** to include specific modules led by Computer Science supervisors on "Digital Pedagogies in Advanced Computing" to share field-specific best practices university-wide.
- Encourage more **administrative and auxiliary staff** involved in the management of the Computer Science doctoral field to participate in Erasmus+ training mobilities to enhance the digitization of administrative services.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures

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

Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.
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- #### ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** ensures that doctoral students in **Computer Science** can benefit from a **personalized training program** tailored to their specific research topics, learning styles, and collaboration preferences. This fairness and flexibility are institutionalized through several mechanisms:

- **Customized Curriculum:** The structure of the SDSESN Curriculum allows students to select courses that align with their specific aspirations.
 - **Flexible Individual Research Plans:** Each student works with their supervisor and **Guidance Committee** to agree upon an individual plan that balances research and training activities based on the student's work style and potential.
 - **Institutional Support Services:** UVT provides equal opportunities by granting all doctoral students access to the **Student Counseling and Support Service**, which offers educational, vocational, and career counseling.
 - **Inclusivity and Equality:** The university implements a **Gender Equality Plan** and provides specific support measures for vulnerable groups and students with disabilities to ensure they have the same access to the educational process as their peers.
 - **Scientific Dissemination:** Students are actively encouraged to participate in scientific events and disseminate their research results among specialists.
- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science domain successfully shifts the focus from a standard administrative path to one that respects the **individual potential of the researcher**. By requiring that the individual plan be a consensus between the student, the coordinator, and the guidance committee, the institution ensures that the student's aspirations are central to their academic journey.

The existence of a dedicated counseling center and a formalized **Gender Equality Plan** indicates that fairness is not just a theoretical principle but is backed by **functional support structures**. These services effectively address the diversity of learning styles and abilities by providing differentiated support where necessary. Furthermore, the selection process during admission, which considers professional background and original research projects, ensures that opportunities are granted based on merit and potential.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- **Consensus-Based Research Planning:** The practice of having the student, coordinator, and guidance committee jointly agree on the Individual Research Plan ensures that the academic path is realistically aligned with the student's specific abilities.
 - **Integrated Counseling Ecosystem:** Providing access to specialized **psychological and career guidance** through the CCOC ensures that students have the mental and professional support needed to reach their potential.
 - **Proactive Equality Policies:** The implementation of the **Gender Equality Plan** and measures for **students with disabilities** (such as adapted signage and access ramps) demonstrates a high level of institutional maturity regarding fairness.
- ✓ Recommendations
- Continue to encourage doctoral students to give presentations at the **Scientific Seminar of the Center for Research in Informatics** to build confidence and refine their argumentation skills in a supportive environment.
 - Provide targeted advising to students on identifying the **most appropriate documentation resources** and dissemination venues (journals and conferences) that best fit the specific "niche" of their research potential.

- Regularly review the **impact of counseling services** on the retention and success of doctoral students to ensure these support mechanisms remain effective for the specific needs of the Computer Science field.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation

The digital transformation process in the organisational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.

Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** has implemented a comprehensive digital transformation process that ensures most procedural steps for the **Computer Science** doctoral field are digitized. This digital ecosystem serves candidates, students, and supervisors through several specialized platforms:

- For Candidates:** The entire admission process, including registration, place confirmation, and fee payment, is centralized through the admitere.uvt.ro platform. UVT was the first university in Romania to integrate all these stages into a single web-based tool.
- For Doctoral Students:** Academic progress and records are managed through the **University Management System (UMS)**. Students have secure access to their own academic records via the **StudentWeb** portal. Additionally, every student is provided with an institutional email address (@e-uvt.ro), granting access to the **Eduroam** network, the **Google Workspace for Education** suite, and the university's **e-learning platform**.
- For Doctoral Supervisors:** Administrative tasks such as completing timesheets, requesting certificates, and managing hourly payment slips are handled via the **"Pagina TA"** platform. Academic management of course grades is conducted through a dedicated **digital catalog** platform.
- Research and Quality Assurance:** Institutional access to major academic databases (Web of Science, Scopus, ScienceDirect) and the **ANELIS Plus** platform is provided remotely. To ensure academic integrity, the university utilizes specialized similarity verification software, such as **iThenticate** and **Turnitin**, which students can access with their institutional credentials.
- Evaluation and Communication:** The teacher evaluation process is entirely digitized, allowing students to provide anonymous feedback through a standardized online platform. Synchronous communication and online thesis defenses (often streamed publicly) are supported through licenses for **Microsoft Teams**, **Zoom**, and **Google Meet**.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The current IT infrastructure demonstrates a high level of **digital maturity** and administrative simplification. By integrating diverse functions—from admission and financial management to academic monitoring and research documentation—into secure, online platforms, the institution has successfully improved access for all members of the community.

The use of the **UMS platform** ensures a unified administration of academic information, which serves as a solid basis for monitoring and optimizing research and teaching activities. The digitization of the evaluation process for both teachers and doctoral research reports creates a transparent and objective feedback loop that directly impacts the quality of the educational process. The effectiveness of these systems was particularly evident during the transition to online activities necessitated by the pandemic, where streaming services maintained the public accessibility of thesis defenses. The 2021 evaluation reconfirmed the effectiveness of these IT systems for student records and similarity verification.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Online Admission:** The admitere.uvt.ro platform is a complex, user-friendly application that simplifies the entry point for candidates by providing all necessary information and registration steps in one place.
- **Institutionalized Feedback Loop:** The completely digitized teacher evaluation system allows for the immediate centralization and analysis of student feedback, enabling real-time adjustments to the doctoral program.
- **Robust Research Infrastructure Access:** Providing remote, institutional access to premium international databases (e.g., IEEE, ScienceDirect) through a single sign-on system significantly enhances the research productivity of the Computer Science domain.

✓ Recommendations

Leverage technical expertise within the **Faculty of Computer Science** to develop additional internal software tools specifically designed to collect and organize domain-specific research data and feedback.

- Continue the systematic **digitization of historical student records** and administrative documents held by the Doctoral Studies Office to ensure a fully paperless and archival-secure workflow.
- Develop a **digital dashboard** for doctoral students to track their required ECTS credits for research activities in real-time, further enhancing the transparency of their academic journey.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

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

The study programme is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

* 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 doctoral program in **Computer Science** at the West University of Timișoara (UVT) is a structured cycle of study designed to lead to an **EQF/NQF Level 8 qualification**. It is organized based on transferable study credits (ECTS), totaling **240 credits** for a standard four-year course.

The structure of the program encompasses both a training component and a research component:

- **Advanced University Training Program (PPUA):** Consists of **30 ECTS** credits. The curriculum includes two compulsory subjects (e.g., *Ethics and Academic Integrity* and *Academic Writing in Computer Science*) and two optional subjects chosen from a list updated annually to reflect current research trends such as *Explainable and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence* or *Emergent Research Topics in Computer Science*.
- **Individual Research Program:** Consists of **210 ECTS** credits focused on the specific topic of the doctoral thesis. This program includes the drafting and presentation of four periodic research progress reports.
- **Credit Distribution and Progression:** Credits are distributed as **60 ECTS per year**. To progress to the next year, a doctoral student must obtain a minimum of **30 ECTS**.
- **Documentation:** Curricula and course descriptions are updated annually and are publicly available on the Computer Science – Doctorate web page.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The doctoral program is developed and structured in clear relation to the expected learning outcomes, which are defined in terms of **knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy**. The distribution of credits provides a **coherent and predictable framework**, allowing doctoral students to plan their study and research activities efficiently.

The program successfully integrates learning, teaching, research, and assessment. Assessments are carried out through semester exams for the training program and the evaluation of progress reports by the **Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee** for the research program. The inclusion of field-specific activities in the individual research plan ensures that practical training is relevant to the domain of Computer Science. The 2021 external evaluation confirmed that the field meets these standards and maintains the quality of its educational activities.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Research Focus:** The allocation of most credits (210 out of 240) to the individual research program emphasizes the high-level research nature of the degree.
- **Flexible Personalization:** The structure allows doctoral students to personalize their path by selecting optional courses and specific research activities that best align with their thesis topic and professional goals.
- **Detailed Correlation Matrix:** The use of a matrix correlating specific activities with expected learning outcomes gives students an immediate overview of how every component of their program contributes to their final qualification.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Proceed with the plan to organize a **working group**—including supervisors, guidance committee members, and doctoral students in their final stages—to periodically analyze and propose updates to the curriculum to keep pace with the rapid evolution of the Computer Science field.
- Continue to refine the **matrix of activities** to ensure that new research methodologies and emerging technologies in areas like Artificial Intelligence are explicitly represented in the learning outcomes.

- Maintain the practice of providing **personalized feedback** after each research report defense to strengthen the link between ongoing evaluation and the achievement of learning outcomes.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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

In the curriculum design and development process, the organisational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.

Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The expected learning outcomes for the Computer Science doctoral program are defined in accordance with the **National Qualifications Framework (NQF/CNC) Level 8**. These outcomes are explicitly detailed in the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN) curriculum** and categorized into **knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy**.

The program aligns these outcomes with the professional requirements of the primary occupations targeted by its graduates, which include:

- **Research, development, and innovation (R&D) positions** in private IT companies.
- **Academic careers** in university education.
- **Specialized research roles** in computer science institutes and related interdisciplinary fields.

Specific competencies targeted by the curriculum include **advanced data analysis, critical thinking**, mastery of current IT technologies, and high levels of **autonomy in identifying research directions** and disseminating scientific results. Detailed learning outcomes for each specific course (e.g., *Explainable and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence*, *Topics of Machine Learning*) are provided in the individual course descriptions. Furthermore, the institution utilizes the **European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO)** framework as a reference to ensure that the training remains relevant to the broader European labor market.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The alignment between the curriculum and professional requirements is robust and systematically managed. By defining outcomes using the standardized "knowledge, skills, and autonomy" framework, the program ensures compatibility with both national and European (ESCO/EQF) standards. The integration of **Level 8 qualifications** ensures that graduates possess the high-level research and analytical skills required for complex R&D environments.

The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the training program successfully targets these learning outcomes, emphasizing that every discipline in the curriculum is designed with specific objectives and competencies in mind. The continuous involvement of **doctoral supervisors who are active in international research networks** ensures that the learning outcomes reflect current global trends in the computer science field, thereby increasing the employability of graduates.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Standardized Outcome Framework:** Adopting the "knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy" format directly facilitates the **transparency and comparability** of qualifications across the European Higher Education Area.
- **Industry-Relevant Skillsets:** Focusing on advanced competencies like **applied research in Artificial Intelligence and Big Data** directly addresses the "skills gap" identified in the IT industry.
- **Integrated Documentation:** Providing a matrix correlating specific activities with learning outcomes gives students a clear understanding of how their research contributes to their professional profile.

✓ Recommendations

The established **SDSESN working group** should continue to monitor updates to national and international **occupational standards** (specifically ESCO v1.1 and beyond) to propose timely curriculum adaptations.

- Further encourage the **annotation of learning outcomes** in course descriptions with ESCO terminology to improve international transparency for potential employers outside of Romania.
- Strengthening the focus on **transversal skills** (e.g., academic writing, ethics, and research management) as these are highly valued in both academic and corporate R&D leadership roles.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles

The organisational component implements the principles of student-centred learning.

Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** at UVT implements student-centered learning principles for the **Computer Science** field through the structure of both the advanced training program and the individual research program.

- **Personalization of Training:** The curriculum for the **Advanced University Training Program (PPUA)** allows doctoral students to personalize their path by choosing two optional subjects from a list proposed by supervisors. This list is updated annually to include current topics such as *Explainable and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence* and *Topics of Machine Learning*.
- **Flexible Research Planning:** The **Individual Research Plan** has a flexible structure that allows each student to select creditable activities specific to their doctoral topic, such as specialized documentation, study design, data collection, and implementation.
- **Mentorship and Feedback:** The activity of each student is monitored by a **Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee (CIIA)**, which includes specialists from Romania and abroad. After each defense of a research progress report, the supervisor and committee members provide a formal report containing specific recommendations for the student's research.
- **Academic Integration:** Students are encouraged to present preliminary results at the **Scientific Seminar** of the Center for Research in Computer Science and are integrated into the working teams of national and international research projects.

Documentation regarding these procedures is available through the SDSESN Curriculum and the Individual Research Plan templates.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science field demonstrates a genuine shift toward **student-centered learning**, moving away from a rigid "one-size-fits-all" academic model. By allowing students to select their own coursework and tailor their research activities within the individual plan, the institution acknowledges the diverse needs of high-level researchers.

The role of the **Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee** is central to this indicator. The transition from traditional examination to a **mentorship-based model** through progress reports ensures that evaluation is used as a tool for academic growth rather than just a hurdle for progression. Furthermore, the involvement of **external and international specialists** in these committees ensures that students receive diverse, objective perspectives that align with global research standards. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the field meets these principles by providing adequate guidance and support for the professional development of its students.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Customized Curricula:** The annual update of the list of optional courses ensures that students are not forced to take obsolete subjects but can focus on the **cutting-edge technologies** most relevant to their specific thesis.
- **Integrated Research Mentoring:** Having each student supported by a specialized **Guidance Committee**—as opposed to just a single supervisor—provides a broader scientific base and multi-faceted feedback.
- **Practical Project Integration:** Including a significant portion of doctoral students (25% as of 2025) in **funded research teams** (like HRIA or Quantum IRES) provides them with hands-on, student-centered research experience within a professional environment.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Implement the proposed actions to facilitate the **transfer of expertise** between the members of the guidance committees to identify and share the most beneficial coordination strategies for doctoral students.
- Strengthen the role of the **Scientific Seminar** as a safe, student-led space for debating emerging research ideas and practicing argumentation skills before formal defenses.
- Continue to monitor and review the **mandatory teaching workload** for doctoral students based on their feedback, ensuring that these activities are seen as valuable pedagogical training rather than an administrative burden.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** through **IOSUD-UVT** provides a structured framework and financial support for doctoral students in the **Computer Science** field to participate in various academic mobility programs, including conferences, summer schools, and research internships. These opportunities are available in both physical and virtual formats.

Key facts regarding mobility opportunities include:

- **Institutional Framework:** A specific methodology for providing financial support to doctoral students is available on the doctoral portal, which outlines the steps and required documentation for requesting funding.
- **Mobility Channels:** Students benefit from international mobility through the **Erasmus+ program**, the **European UNITA alliance**, and other international research initiatives.
- **Academic Recognition:** Mobility outcomes are recognized and integrated into the student's **Individual Research Plan**, provided there is an agreement with the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee.
- **Quantifiable Participation:** Between 2024 and 2025, doctoral students in the Computer Science field recorded at least **28 supported participations** in international conferences and summer schools.
- **Financial Commitment:** In the academic year 2024-2025, **17% of the total doctoral grants** allocated to the field of Computer Science were used specifically to support professional training and mobility.
- **Specific Examples:** Doctoral students such as Ariana Șerpar have secured specialized grants, such as the **UNITA Starting Tech Transfer Grant**, to conduct research internships at international institutions like HES-SO Switzerland.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science doctoral field effectively facilitates student mobility by combining institutional funding with participation in European consortia. The existence of a clear, publicly available methodology for financial requests ensures that mobility is accessible to all students. The transition toward **integrated mobility**, where research stays are part of the individual research plan, justifies a judgment of fulfillment as it ensures that mobility is not just an elective activity but a core component of the doctoral training. Furthermore, the substantial increase in the utilization of doctoral grants for professional training (reaching 17%) demonstrates that the institution has successfully addressed previous recommendations to better track and direct resources toward student development. While most mobilities currently remain short-term (conferences), the infrastructure for longer research stays is fully operational.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **UNITA Alliance Integration:** Leveraging the **UNITA consortium** to provide unique opportunities, such as the "My Thesis in 3 Minutes" competition and specialized tech transfer grants, enriches the mobility experience beyond standard Erasmus+ exchanges.
- **High Financial Support Rate:** Exceeding the standard 10% threshold by directing 17% of doctoral grants toward training and mobility is a significant commitment to student professional growth.
- **Virtual Participation Framework:** The use of digital platforms developed by UVT has institutionalized the ability for students to participate in and even present at international events virtually, ensuring continuity in various global contexts.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Identify additional financial resources, specifically through **national and international research projects**, to encourage doctoral students to undertake **longer-term research internships** (at least one month) at prestigious institutions abroad.
- Strengthen the strategy for **co-supervised doctorates** (cotutelle) to further institutionalize international research stays as a standard path for Computer Science students.
- Develop a **digital tracking dashboard** within the StudentWeb portal where students can easily view available mobility calls and track their mobility-related ECTS credits in real-time.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.

Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** ensures that doctoral students in **Computer Science** can benefit from a **personalized training program** tailored to their specific research topics, learning styles, and collaboration preferences. This fairness and flexibility are institutionalized through several mechanisms:

- **Customized Curriculum:** The structure of the SDSESN Curriculum allows students to select courses that align with their specific aspirations.
- **Flexible Individual Research Plans:** Each student works with their supervisor and **Guidance Committee** to agree upon an individual plan that balances research and training activities based on the student's work style and potential.
- **Institutional Support Services:** UVT provides equal opportunities by granting all doctoral students access to the **Student Counseling and Support Service**, which offers educational, vocational, and career counseling.
- **Inclusivity and Equality:** The university implements a **Gender Equality Plan** and provides specific support measures for vulnerable groups and students with disabilities to ensure they have the same access to the educational process as their peers.
- **Scientific Dissemination:** Students are actively encouraged to participate in scientific events and disseminate their research results among specialists.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science domain successfully shifts the focus from a standard administrative path to one that respects the **individual potential of the researcher**. By requiring that the individual plan be a consensus between the student, the coordinator, and the guidance committee, the institution ensures that the student's aspirations are central to their academic journey.

The existence of a dedicated counseling center and a formalized **Gender Equality Plan** indicates that fairness is not just a theoretical principle but is backed by **functional support structures**. These services effectively address the diversity of learning styles and abilities by providing differentiated support where necessary. Furthermore, the selection process during admission, which considers professional

background and original research projects, ensures that opportunities are granted based on merit and potential.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Consensus-Based Research Planning:** The practice of having the student, coordinator, and guidance committee jointly agree on the Individual Research Plan ensures that the academic path is realistically aligned with the student's specific abilities.
- **Integrated Counseling Ecosystem:** Providing access to specialized **psychological and career guidance** through the CCOC ensures that students have the mental and professional support needed to reach their potential.
- **Proactive Equality Policies:** The implementation of the **Gender Equality Plan** and measures for **students with disabilities** (such as adapted signage and access ramps) demonstrates a high level of institutional maturity regarding fairness.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue to encourage doctoral students to give presentations at the **Scientific Seminar of the Center for Research in Informatics** to build confidence and refine their argumentation skills in a supportive environment.
- Provide targeted advising to students on identifying the **most appropriate documentation resources** and dissemination venues (journals and conferences) that best fit the specific "niche" of their research potential.
- Regularly review the **impact of counseling services** on the retention and success of doctoral students to ensure these support mechanisms remain effective for the specific needs of the Computer Science field.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services

The organisational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.

Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** through **IOSUD-UVT** has established a robust framework to ensure that all doctoral students, including those with **special educational needs or disabilities**, have access to a comprehensive range of resources and services tailored to the **Computer Science** domain. Key facts regarding the support ecosystem include:

- **Accessibility for Disabilities:** The institution continuously implements physical and educational adjustments, such as **access ramps, elevators, and adapted signage** for those with visual impairments. Differentiated educational support is also provided where necessary to ensure active participation.

- **Support Services:** Students benefit from integrated services including **accommodation, medical services, recreation/sports facilities**, and specialized **psychological and career guidance** through the Counseling and Career Guidance Center (CCOC).
- **Documentation and Research Resources:** Doctoral students in Computer Science have extensive access to the "**Eugen Todoran**" **Central University Library (BCU)** and remote access to premium international databases via the **Enformation portal** (including **IEEE, ProQuest, Scopus, SpringerLink, and ScienceDirect**).
- **Digital Learning Environment:** Every student receives an institutional **@e-uvt.ro** account providing access to **G Suite for Education** and the university's **e-learning platform**.
- **Research Integration:** Eight of the current doctoral students are directly included in teams for **research-development-innovation projects** within the Computer Science Research Center, providing them with practical, high-level learning opportunities.

Documentation is accessible via the UVT Campus and Accessibility for Students with Disabilities portals.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence confirms that the organizational component provides a **favorable environment for living and studying** that is highly sensitive to individual learning needs. The combination of physical infrastructure adjustments and specialized support services like the CCOC demonstrates a holistic approach to student welfare.

For the Computer Science domain specifically, the availability of **remote access to international scientific databases** is a critical resource that aligns with the requirements of Level 8 (doctoral) studies, where high-level documentation is essential. Furthermore, the inclusion of a significant portion of the student body in **funded research projects** (such as HRIA or Quantum IRES) shows that the school moves beyond theoretical support to provide professional integration. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the institution provides the necessary framework and recommended ensuring continued database access, which UVT has successfully maintained.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Holistic Inclusivity:** The systematic implementation of infrastructure measures and **differentiated educational support** specifically for students with disabilities ensures equal opportunity in a tangible way.
- **Seamless Digital Integration:** Providing remote, single-sign-on access to a wide array of **top-tier scientific databases** (e.g., IEEE, Scopus) is essential for competitive research in Computer Science.
- **Professional RDI Involvement:** The active practice of selecting doctoral students to be part of **institutional research project teams** provides high-quality, practical training and financial support.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Continue to prioritize the selection of high-performing doctoral students for inclusion in **national and international research project teams** to further enhance their professional development.
- Maintain the strategy of **periodically updating documentation resources** and database subscriptions to ensure they remain aligned with the rapidly evolving topics of Computer Science (e.g., AI and Cybersecurity).
- Further encourage doctoral students to utilize the **full range of psychological and career counseling services** offered by the CCOC to support their well-being and transition to the labor market.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The doctoral field of **Computer Science** within the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** defines its learning outcomes in accordance with the **National Qualifications Framework (NQF/CNC) Level 8**. These outcomes are categorized into **knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy**, providing a standardized framework for academic excellence.

Key documentation and data supporting this indicator include:

- **SDSESN Curriculum:** Learning outcomes are explicitly described, including elements specific to the field of Computer Science, ensuring that doctoral students understand the requirements for achieving a Level 8 qualification.
 - **Activity Matrix:** A formal matrix exists that correlates specific research, training, and academic support activities with the expected learning outcomes. This tool allows students to identify which components of their individual study plan contribute to their professional development.
 - **Detailed Syllabi:** For all compulsory and optional subjects (e.g., *Explainable and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence, Academic Writing*), detailed course descriptions are provided, including specialized content, ECTS credits, and time allocation.
 - **Public Access:** All relevant information is transparently available on the Computer Science – Doctorate web page.
- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The description of learning outcomes for the Computer Science domain provides a solid foundation for both students and teachers. By breaking down outcomes into granular categories like **autonomy and responsibility**, the program moves beyond simple knowledge transfer to emphasize the high-level research capabilities required for a doctorate.

The use of the **correlation matrix** is particularly effective as it bridges the gap between theoretical objectives and practical research tasks, ensuring that both stakeholders have aligned expectations regarding the academic path. The systematic inclusion of specific objectives in every discipline's file clarifies the weight and role of each course within the broader doctoral program. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that these mechanisms appropriately target the intended outcomes.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Activity-Outcome Matrix:** Correlating every assessable activity with specific Level 8 competencies provides students with an immediate overview of how their research progress translates into professional qualifications.
- **Granular and Public Syllabi:** The practice of publishing comprehensive course descriptions that explicitly state learning outcomes, bibliography, and credit distribution ensures a high level of academic transparency.

✓ Recommendations

- Proceed with the plan to **periodically update** the list of recognized activities and the correlation matrix to ensure they incorporate emerging research methodologies and field-specific developments in areas like Artificial Intelligence.
- Continue to provide **personalized feedback** through the academic guidance and integrity committees after each report defense to reinforce the connection between the student's results and the targeted learning outcomes.
- Consider integrating direct links to **digital library resources** within the digital course syllabi to further clarify the expected depth of knowledge for specific subjects.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2	Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** at the West University of Timișoara (UVT) has a dual assessment system for the **Computer Science** field to ensure learning outcomes are met throughout the program:

- **Advanced Training Program (PPUA):** All subjects in the first year conclude with a formal examination scheduled in the first semester session. The specific requirements and grading methodologies (arithmetic means of tests/tasks) are transparently detailed in each **subject file (syllabus)** available on the Computer Science doctoral web page.
- **Individual Research Program:** Verification is carried out through **periodic research progress reports**. These reports are defined as assessable activities in the individual plan, with specific **ECTS credits** allocated for their drafting and public presentation.
- **Progression and Monitoring:** To advance from one year to the next, a student must obtain a minimum of **30 ECTS credits**, verified through the annual assessment of the **Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee (CIIA)**.
- **Study Completion:** The final verification of all learning outcomes occurs during the **thesis (pre)defense** before the CIIA. This stage is mandatory for advancement to the public defense and results in a formal report (Annex 5. CI Report) with recommendations for finishing the work.
- **Documentation:** Every report defense is finalized with the drafting of **minutes (Report Defense Minutes)** by the supervisor and committee members, providing documented feedback on the quality of research.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The assessment framework for the Computer Science domain is comprehensive, covering both theoretical knowledge and high-level research capabilities. The use of formal exams for the training component ensures that foundational skills in areas like **Artificial Intelligence or Research Ethics** are certified.

The transition to **mentorship-based verification** through progress reports in the research phase justifies a judgment of fulfillment because it "operationalises the continuous assessment of learning outcomes in relation to the progress of doctoral research". This system ensures that the student is not only

evaluated on their final product but is also guided through a series of intermediate quality gates. The involvement of the **CIIA** in every stage of progression and pre-defense provides a robust mechanism for maintaining scientific standards and academic integrity.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Structured Mentorship Feedback:** The requirement for the supervisor and the Guidance Committee to provide written reports after every progress report defense ensures that students receive qualitative, actionable feedback rather than just a pass/fail grade.
- **Digital Tracking:** The academic progress of each student, including their ECTS accumulation and exam results, is managed through the **University Management System (UMS)**, ensuring accuracy and transparency.
- **Rigorous Pre-Defense:** Treating the pre-defense as a formal assessment of the learning outcomes achieved over the entire doctoral cycle acts as a critical quality filter before the public defense.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue the established practice of providing **personalized feedback** after each evaluation stage, with a particular focus on the direct communication between the committee and the doctoral student.
- Ensure that the **assessment criteria for progress reports** are periodically reviewed by the Computer Science working group to better reflect the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of modern research projects.
- Consider using the internal software tools developed by the **Faculty of Computer Science** to further digitize the collection and organization of feedback from these ongoing examinations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.7.1. Admission

The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.

Indicator
I.P.B.7.1.1

The organisational component applies the admission procedures.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

Admission procedures for the **Computer Science** doctoral domain are applied in strict accordance with the institutional methodology and the **Organising Institution for Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UVT)** regulations. All stages of the admission process—ranging from preliminary information and registration to admission tests, result publication, and the final signing of the study contract—are clearly and transparently described on the institution's public websites.

Key institutional facts and documents supporting this indicator include:

- **Institutional Admission Methodology:** Defines the general framework, approved by the **UVT Senate** after being endorsed by the Board of Directors.
- **Integrated Online Admission Platform (admitere.uvt.ro):** Launched in September 2020, UVT was the first university in Romania to integrate all stages of online admission (information, registration, classification, and confirmation) into a single web-based application.

- **Field-Specific Information:** Specific elements for Computer Science admission, including the list of available places (budgeted vs. fee-based) and proposed research topics, are published on the Computer Science – Doctorate web page.
 - **Procedural Transparency:** The methodology includes clear, successive tie-breaking criteria to ensure fairness in candidate ranking.
- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence indicates that the management of the Computer Science domain successfully operationalizes admission through a **highly digitized and transparent system**. By centralizing all candidate interactions through the admitere.uvt.ro platform, the institution ensures that procedures are applied consistently and that all applicants have access to the same information and administrative tools.

The selection process is merit-based, focusing on the candidate's professional background and the quality of their proposed research project. The inclusion of all doctoral supervisors who have candidates in the evaluation committee ensures a uniform and transparent assessment. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the field meets the mandatory regulatory requirements and maintains standard quality conditions for its admission activities.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- **Pioneering Digital Integration:** The fully integrated admitere.uvt.ro platform is a leading-edge tool in the Romanian higher education landscape, significantly simplifying the entry point for indirect beneficiaries of education.
 - **Comprehensive Public Information:** Providing detailed, multi-category information (for Romanian, EU, foreign, and UNITA candidates) in one location ensures that potential students are well-informed before beginning the registration process.
- ✓ Recommendations
- Continue the **strict enforcement** of admission procedures as currently established to maintain institutional integrity.
 - **Intensify the promotion** of specific doctoral research topics through broader professional networks (e.g., **LinkedIn**) and specialized academic platforms (e.g., **Informatics Europe**) to attract a more diverse and high-performing pool of candidates.
 - Utilize the technical expertise within the **Faculty of Computer Science** to develop additional internal analytics tools for tracking candidate trends and identifying new recruitment opportunities.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2	Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** conducts its admission process for the **Computer Science** field based on the principles of fairness, equal opportunity, and transparency, ensuring that selection is strictly merit-based. The institution has established specific support measures for vulnerable groups and individuals with special educational needs or disabilities.

Key facts regarding the admission framework include:

- **Meritocratic Selection:** The admission exam is standardized and consists of two stages: (i) an oral presentation of a research project based on topics proposed by doctoral coordinators, and (ii) a Q&A session regarding the candidate's professional background and previous results. Candidates are marked by an evaluation committee that includes all supervisors who have candidates, ensuring a uniform and transparent assessment.
- **Support for Vulnerable Groups:** At the IOSUD-UVT level, a **Gender Equality Plan** is implemented to promote fundamental rights and non-discrimination. Additionally, the university provides specific measures for students with disabilities, including physical infrastructure adjustments like **access ramps, elevators, and adapted signage** for the visually impaired, as well as differentiated educational support.
- **Information Accessibility:** The [IOSUD-UVT website](#) provides detailed, categorized information for various applicant types: Romanian/EU/EEA citizens, Romanians abroad, foreign citizens, and UNITA joint doctoral programs.
- **Special Admission Places:** Historically, the school has offered specific places intended for Roma candidates and Romanian citizens from everywhere to ensure broader social inclusion.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The admission procedures for the Computer Science doctoral domain demonstrate a clear commitment to **inclusive excellence**. By combining a highly standardized, performance-based selection process with institutionalized equality policies (such as the Gender Equality Plan), the institution ensures that potential is recognized regardless of a candidate's background.

The physical and educational adjustments for **students with disabilities** are well-documented and integrated into the campus environment, fulfilling the requirement for establishing support measures for vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the transparency provided through the digital admission portal ensures that all candidates, domestic or international, have equal access to the necessary steps and documentation requirements, which minimizes administrative barriers to entry.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Institutionalized Equality Framework:** The implementation of a formal **Gender Equality Plan** at the university level provides a strong legal and ethical foundation for all academic processes, including admission.
- **Comprehensive Accessibility:** The proactive provision of both **physical adjustments** (ramps, elevators) and **differentiated educational support** for people with disabilities serves as a model for creating an enabling environment.
- **Categorized Transparency:** Providing tailored information pathways for Romanian, EU, foreign, and UNITA candidates ensures that specific legal and procedural requirements are clear for every potential applicant category.

- ✓ Recommendations

- **Broaden Global Promotion:** Intensify the promotion of doctoral topics and research opportunities through international professional networks like **LinkedIn** and academic platforms such as **Informatics Europe** to attract a more diverse pool of high-performing candidates.
- **Enhanced Inclusion Monitoring:** Periodically review the effectiveness of the support measures for vulnerable groups specifically within the Computer Science field to ensure they remain responsive to the needs of modern doctoral researchers.
- **Digital Outreach:** Continue to leverage the technical expertise of the Faculty of Computer Science to improve the user experience for candidates with visual or hearing impairments on the online admission platform.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** through **IOSUD-UVT** applies a comprehensive set of regulations that govern the professional and academic activity of doctoral students in the **Computer Science** field. These regulations are designed to ensure a structured and successful progression from admission to the final thesis defense.

Key facts and regulatory documents include:

- **The Doctoral Study Contract:** Establishes the legal relationship, rights, and obligations between the student, the coordinator, and the university.
- **The Individual Research Path and Study Plan:** These documents act as a dynamic roadmap, specifying the required training courses, the timeline for research reports, and the expected milestones for the doctoral thesis.
- **Periodic Progress Monitoring:** Students are required to present research progress reports to their **Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee (CIIA)**, a process that is codified in the institutional regulations and used to monitor academic advancement.
- **Transparency:** All templates and regulations, including information for newly admitted students and the stages for completing doctoral studies, are publicly visible on the [IOSUD-UVT website](#).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The application of professional regulations within the Computer Science domain is systematic and transparent. The academic journey is not merely an administrative process but is actively managed through **individualized planning and periodic evaluation**. By integrating the "Research Path" directly into the study contract, the institution ensures that both students and supervisors have clear, enforceable expectations.

The effectiveness of these regulations is evidenced by a **low dropout rate** in the field, which averaged only **6.65%** between 2021 and 2025. Furthermore, the introduction of strategies to monitor progress at the semester level allows for the early identification of **"at-risk" students**, ensuring that the regulations act as a support mechanism rather than just a set of hurdles. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the field meets these mandatory regulatory requirements.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Proactive "At-Risk" Monitoring:** Implementing semester-based tracking within IOSUD-UVT allows committees to identify and support students who may be falling behind their research milestones.
- **Integration with Funded Research:** Successfully involving **25% of the current student body** in national and international research project teams (e.g., HRIA, Quantum IRES) provides a practical professional environment that complements their academic regulations.
- **Consensus-Based Planning:** The requirement that the Individual Research Plan be agreed upon by the student, coordinator, and guidance committee ensures that the professional path is realistic and tailored to the student's specific topic.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue to **systematically collect and analyze data** regarding students' activity and results to further refine the progress monitoring system.
- Formalize and expand the practice of **organizing regular meetings** for doctoral students in training to present their results and discuss challenges in a collaborative setting.
- Ensure that any **revisions to the study contract or research path** are promptly updated on the digital platforms to maintain the high level of institutional transparency.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.

Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** actively promotes internationalization for the **Computer Science** field through scientific events, strategic alliances, and collaborative research projects. Key actions include:

- **International Scientific Events:** The **SYNASC international conference**, organized annually by UVT in collaboration with **Johannes Kepler University (Linz, Austria)** and the **e-Austria Research Institute**, is a central pillar of international cooperation. Since 2020, it has featured a **special session for doctoral students**, where papers are peer-reviewed and prizes are awarded to the best submissions.
- **Joint Doctoral Programs (Cotutelle):** The field has established formal co-supervision agreements with prestigious international institutions. A thesis was defended in 2021 in co-supervision with the **University of Pisa**, and another student (enrolled in 2024) is coordinated in collaboration with the **University of Granada**.
- **External Expertise:** International collaboration is embedded in the school's governance and evaluation structures. Between 2021 and 2025, **five out of sixteen** thesis defense committees included members from foreign universities (e.g., UK, Italy, Spain). Currently, **six international specialists** serve on doctoral guidance and integrity committees.

- **International Research Projects:** Doctoral students are integrated into European-funded research teams, such as the **Harmonia project (H2020)**, **Quantum IRES**, and **AI Robo**.
- **Language of Instruction and Research:** Over **90% of doctoral students** in Computer Science write their research reports and theses in **English**, and most materials for the advanced training program are provided in English to facilitate international visibility.

Relevant links and documentation are available on the [SYNASC conference](#) and [UNITA consortium](#) websites.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science domain has successfully transitioned from local academic activity to an **outward-looking international research environment**. The systematic use of **English as the primary language** for research and advanced training is a critical facilitator that allows for the seamless integration of foreign experts into guidance and defense committees.

The involvement in the **UNITA Alliance** and the organization of the **SYNASC conference** provide students with consistent exposure to the global scientific community. While most mobilities are currently short-term (e.g., conference attendance), the institution has established the necessary legal and financial framework to support longer research internships, as evidenced by the growing number of co-supervised doctorates. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the field meets these standards for internationalization.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated International Conferences:** The organization of **SYNASC** in partnership with Austrian and French research institutes—and its dedicated PhD track—serves as a high-level venue for students to benchmark their work against international standards.
- **High Language Accessibility:** The fact that **more than 90% of PhD theses** are written in English significantly increases the international impact of the research and simplifies the recruitment of high-profile foreign reviewers.
- **Strategic Consortium Leveraging:** Using the **UNITA Alliance** to create specific "matching events" and joint doctoral networks provide a more structured and sustainable approach to internationalization than traditional bilateral agreements.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Continue to provide the **advanced training program entirely in English** to further increase the attractiveness of the field for international doctoral candidates.
- Identify additional financial resources from **international research projects** to encourage more students to undertake **research internships abroad** for durations of at least one month.
- Increase participation in **MSCA Doctoral Networks** and other European proposals to institutionalize international collaboration through formal research and training 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 support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** at the West University of Timișoara (UVT) integrates scientific investigation as a core component of the learning process for the **Computer Science** field. This approach ensures that students achieve the high-level learning outcomes (EQF/NQF Level 8) required for a doctorate.

Key mechanisms supporting this integration include:

- **Creditable Research Activities:** The individual research program (210 ECTS) explicitly awards credits for writing and publishing scientific papers and presenting results at conferences.
- **Scientific Seminars:** The **Center for Research in Computer Science (CeRiCS)** organizes a regular **Scientific Seminar** where doctoral students present preliminary results to supervisors and peers. This serves as a platform for critical debate and refining research strategies.
- **Direct Project Involvement:** A significant portion of doctoral students are active members of national and international research project teams. As of 2025, **25% of current students** are integrated into funded teams, such as the **HRIA project (Romanian Hub for Artificial Intelligence)**, the **Quantum IRES** project, and **AI Robo**.
- **Research-Led Teaching:** Subjects in the training program, such as *Explainable and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence* and *Topics of Machine Learning*, are taught by supervisors who capitalize on their ongoing research results to inform the curriculum.

Relevant documentation is accessible via the [CeRiCS Research portal](#) and the [Current Projects](#) list.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of Computer Science domain successfully operationalizes the link between research and education. By making scientific publication and project participation an integral part of the **Individual Research Plan**, the institution ensures that learning is not a passive transfer of knowledge but a process of **active investigation**.

The capitalisation of research results is evident in the program's ability to guide students toward producing original scientific knowledge that meets international standards. The fact that students obtain ECTS credits for their publications confirms that research performance is directly correlated with their academic progression. Furthermore, the involvement of students in high-impact projects like HRIA allows them to acquire specialized skills (e.g., advanced data analysis and critical thinking) in a professional R&D environment, directly supporting the intended learning outcomes. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the scientific research activities effectively support students in achieving their goals.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Funded Research Integration:** Successfully integrating a quarter of the doctoral student body into **high-level funded research teams** (e.g., HRIA and Quantum IRES) provides them with a competitive edge and practical investigative experience.
- **Institutionalized Peer Review:** Utilizing the **Scientific Seminar** at CeRiCS as a formal venue for presenting preliminary results ensures that students receive early, constructive feedback from a broader scientific community before their formal defenses.

- **Performance-Based Crediting:** The practice of awarding ECTS credits specifically for scientific publications and conference participation incentivizes high-quality research output and ensures visibility for the students' work.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue to expand the availability of **research assistant positions** within Faculty of Computer Science projects to further increase the percentage of students integrated into funded research teams.
- Leverage technical expertise within the faculty to develop **digital tools** for collecting and organizing domain-specific research data and student feedback on research progress.
- Encourage supervisors to further emphasize **interdisciplinary investigative methods** by involving specialists from the broader SDSESN consortium (e.g., Physics or Mathematics) in the Scientific Seminars.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study programme
The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The scientific research conducted within the **Computer Science** doctoral field at the West University of Timișoara (UVT) demonstrates significant national and international visibility through publications, conference participation, and prestigious awards.

Key data supporting this indicator include:

- **Scientific Publications:** Research activity by doctoral students has resulted in **83 papers** published in recent years in specialized journals and international conference volumes. Notable students whose results have been highlighted include Victor Bogdan, Eduard Hoge, Ariana Șerpar, and Fabian Galiș.
- **Conference Visibility:** Doctoral students have presented their work at **over 60 conferences**, including prestigious venues ranked in categories A and B.
- **Indexing and Citations:** All doctoral student publications are indexed in major international databases, ensuring permanent global visibility. Specific papers, such as those by Victor Bogdan and Eduard Hoge, have already gained traction through citations by other researchers.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Students have achieved success in competitive environments, such as **Ariana Șerpar** winning 1st prize in the local edition of the "My Thesis in 3 Minutes" competition (UNITA consortium) and **Fabian Galiș** receiving the best paper award in the doctoral session of SYNASC 2025.
- **Supervisor Visibility:** Doctoral supervisors maintain a high international profile, evidenced by their leadership in international projects, papers co-authored with foreign researchers, and roles as guest speakers or committee members for international conferences and journals.

Supporting documentation is summarized in **Annex I.P.B.9.2.1** and the supervisors' individual CVs.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence justifies a judgment that research results in the Computer Science domain are effectively capitalized upon and visible to the global scientific community. The substantial volume of publications (83 papers) and the high rate of conference participation (over 60 events) indicate that research is not merely internal but is actively benchmarked against international standards.

The fact that publications are indexed in international databases and cited by peers confirms that the research produced is relevant and contributes to the advancement of the field. Furthermore, the success of students in international competitions like "My Thesis in 3 Minutes" demonstrates the program's ability to train researchers who can communicate complex scientific results effectively to diverse audiences. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the quality of scientific publications and the level of supervisor involvement in attracting research funds are core strengths of the program.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Participation in High-Visibility Competitions:** Encouraging doctoral students to participate in "soft skills" scientific competitions like "My Thesis in 3 Minutes" (UNITA) enhances the public impact and visibility of their research.
- **Strategic Indexing:** The systematic practice of ensuring all student publications are indexed in **major international databases** ensures their work remains accessible and citable long-term.
- **Integrated International Conferences:** Hosting the **SYNASC conference** provides a recurring, high-level platform for doctoral students to interact with world-renowned specialists and present their results in a peer-reviewed environment.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Continue to organize and promote internal and national scientific events, such as the "**Stefan Maruster**" contest, to provide students with safe environments to refine their results before moving to major international venues.
- Broaden the promotion of specific research projects and doctoral topics via professional networks like **LinkedIn** and academic platforms such as **Informatics Europe** to increase global visibility.
- Further encourage students to aim for **high-impact journals** and category A/A* conferences to ensure the continued elite status of the domain's research output.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

Standard S.C.1.1. Application

Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures

Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** operates under a clear institutional policy for implementing procedures and actions designed to maintain and improve quality across teaching, research, innovation, and development. For the **Computer Science** doctoral field, **IOSUD-UVT** has developed and applies a systematic procedure for internal evaluation and monitoring.

Key components of this quality assurance framework include:

- **Comprehensive Monitoring:** Evaluations cover the scientific activity of supervisors and students, infrastructure and logistics, institutional regulations, training programs, and academic support services.
- **Periodic Regulatory Updates:** Methodologies and regulations at both the IOSUD and doctoral school levels are reviewed and updated periodically.
- **Annual Curriculum Review:** Curricula and advanced training programs for doctoral students are updated annually to ensure relevance.
- **Student Feedback Loop:** Teaching activities are evaluated anonymously by students through a standardized questionnaire that includes both quantitative items and open-ended questions. Summaries are published to facilitate concrete adjustments to educational services.
- **Integrity Assurance:** A formal procedure is in place to verify the similarity of doctoral theses using **iThenticate** and **Turnitin** software.
- **Institutional Oversight:** Quality policies are managed by the **Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance (CEAC)** and supported by the **Quality Management and Educational Process Support Service (SMCSPE)**.

Documentation regarding these procedures is available through the [CEAC portal](#) and the [UVT Evaluation platform](#).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence indicates that the management of the Computer Science field does not treat quality assurance as a static administrative requirement but as a **dynamic process of continuous improvement**. The transition from a centralized internal evaluation to a field-specific monitoring system allows for the identification of needs specific to doctoral researchers in Computer Science.

The impact on education quality is most clearly demonstrated by the **integrated student feedback mechanism**. By publishing semester summaries and initiating dialogue with teaching staff based on this feedback, the institution ensures that student satisfaction directly influences pedagogical improvements. Furthermore, the rigorous application of similarity verification protocols proves the impact of these procedures on maintaining high scientific and ethical standards. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that the doctoral school effectively implements these internal assessment processes.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Support Service Evaluation:** Unlike many programs that focus only on teaching, UVT includes **social and academic support services** (counseling, event participation) in its mandatory quality criteria.
- **Transparent Feedback Mechanisms:** The systematic publication of student evaluation summaries ensures that the "closed loop" system is visible to the entire academic community.

- **Dedicated Administrative Support:** The existence of the **SMCSPE** provides a technical and administrative backbone for quality assurance, preventing it from becoming purely bureaucratic exercise for academic staff.

✓ **Recommendations**

- Continue the systematic **monitoring of teaching activities** within the advanced study program and prioritize the implementation of feedback received from doctoral students.
- In the field of Computer Science, continue the periodic collection of **summary information on research results** to identify trends and potential areas for infrastructure investment.
- Formalize the **regular meetings between doctoral students and management** to present research status and collaboratively identify solutions to technical or administrative challenges.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** and **IOSUD-UVT** have established a multi-layered system for involving both internal and external stakeholders in the development, review, and implementation of institutional procedures.

Key mechanisms for collecting and integrating opinions include:

- **Internal Academic Consultation:** Draft regulations and methodologies are sent to institutional academic group email addresses for feedback and discussed within the councils of faculties, departments, and doctoral schools.
- **Student Representation:** Students are represented in all university management structures, including the **University Senate** and the **Doctoral School Council**, ensuring their active participation in governance.
- **External Advisory Structures:** UVT utilizes three specialized advisory bodies:
 - **Academic Advisory Council:** Includes prominent academic and cultural personalities.
 - **Strategic Partners Group (GPS UVT):** Composed of representatives from the economic and social sectors.
 - **Alumni Advisory Council:** Composed of UVT graduates.
- **Direct Feedback Tools:** The university administers periodic satisfaction and internal evaluation questionnaires among students. Furthermore, "QAR code zones" are placed throughout the campus to allow for immediate complaints regarding infrastructure.
- **IER Preparation:** The current Internal Evaluation Report was prepared through consultations with doctoral supervisors, students, the **SDSESN Council**, and representatives from the RDI departments of **IT companies** and research institutes.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence demonstrates that stakeholder engagement is not an ad-hoc activity but a **deeply institutionalized process** within the Computer Science field. The inclusion of external stakeholders

through the **Strategic Partners Group** and **Alumni Advisory Council** ensures that the doctoral program remains aligned with the needs of the labor market and the professional experiences of its graduates. The effectiveness of these mechanisms is highlighted by the fact that the results of these consultations are analyzed and integrated into the formal review of official documents such as curricula and course content. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that students are treated as **active partners in dialogue** and are involved in decision-making. The transparency of the decision-making process is further guaranteed by the public communication of management decisions via official channels.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Diverse Advisory Ecosystem:** The tri-part advisory structure (Academic, Strategic Partners, and Alumni) provides a comprehensive 360-degree feedback loop from society, industry, and former students.
- **Immediate Infrastructure Reporting:** The use of **QAR code zones** for reporting infrastructure issues represents a leading-edge, responsive administrative practice.
- **Inclusive Reporting Process:** Involving IT company representatives and researchers from other institutes in the drafting of the **Internal Evaluation Report** ensures the program's strategic directions are validated by external experts.

✓ Recommendations

- Strengthen the formal collaboration between **Computer Science supervisors** and the RDI departments of partner IT companies to identify specific research topics suitable for **professional doctorates**.
- Develop a targeted communication strategy to increase the **participation rate of doctoral students in the electoral process** for their representatives in the CSUD and SDSESN councils.
- Formalize a process for student representatives to **disseminate reports** on council activities back to the entire doctoral student body to improve collective awareness.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation

Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organisational structures adequately perform their specific role and functions.

Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **University Ethics Committee (CEU)** of the West University of Timișoara (UVT) is the primary body responsible for ensuring academic integrity and professional conduct. Its operations are governed by two fundamental documents approved by the **University Senate**:

- **UVT Code of Ethics and Academic Conduct:** Defines the ethical framework for the entire academic community.

- **Regulations on the Organization and Functioning (ROF) of the UVT University Ethics Committee (2025):** Specifies the committee's structure, responsibilities, and procedural independence.

Key operational facts include:

- **Composition:** The nominal members of the Ethics Committee and its specialized subcommittees are formally approved by the University Senate to ensure institutional legitimacy and independence.
- **Specialized Oversight:** Within the CEU, there is a dedicated **Research Ethics Subcommittee**. Its activity is regulated by a specific system procedure covering publication and authorship, research data management, conflicts of interest, and the prevention of fraud.
- **Mandatory Research Opinions:** Doctoral students are required to apply for and obtain an **ethics opinion** before commencing research within their program. This process ensures compliance with the *Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for CDI Staff* and European-funded research guides.
- **Stakeholder Inclusion:** The research ethics subcommittee includes a **student representative**, typically appointed from among doctoral or master's students, to ensure the interests and perspectives of researchers are represented.

Relevant documentation is available on the UVT Ethics Committee portal, including the Code of Ethics and the [Research Ethics Subcommittee Procedure](<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Anexa-punct-10-Procedura-de-sistem-privind-activ.-subcomisiei-dedicat-e-eticii-cercetarii-din-cadrul-CEU-UVT.pdf>).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the **Computer Science** doctoral field demonstrates that ethical oversight is a robust, independent, and proactive process. By having the ROF and committee composition validated by the **University Senate** (the institution's highest collective governing body), the CEU maintains the necessary distance from executive management and individual administrative structures to act **independently**.

The existence of a specialized **Research Ethics Subcommittee** is particularly relevant for Computer Science, where issues such as **data management, authorship in collaborative projects, and the use of human subjects** (e.g., in user-interface testing) require granular expertise. The mandatory requirement for an ethics opinion for doctoral projects serves as an effective "quality gate" that forces students to consider professional conduct from the outset of their research journey rather than as an afterthought. The 2021 evaluation reconfirmed the effectiveness of these online interactions and oversight structures.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Granular Ethics Procedures:** Maintaining a specialized subcommittee and a 10-point system procedure dedicated specifically to **research ethics** (distinct from general academic conduct) addresses the complexities of high-level scientific investigation.
- **Early-Stage Ethical Integration:** Requiring doctoral students to secure an ethics opinion before starting their research institutionalizes compliance with national and **European RDI standards**.
- **Proactive Human Subject Protection:** Specifically informing Computer Science doctoral students about consent requirements when collecting data from human subjects ensures compliance with modern privacy and ethical norms.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Continue the systematic practice of **informing doctoral students** through workshops on how to translate the principles of ethics and professional conduct into their daily research activities.

- Task the Ethics Committee to monitor developments in **generative Artificial Intelligence** to update and adapt ethical requirements for conducting research and presenting results in the Computer Science field.
- Develop a **digital portal** specifically for the submission and tracking of ethics opinion requests to further simplify the process for doctoral researchers and ensure a secure, paperless audit trail.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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

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

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** and **IOSUD-UVT** maintain a systematic framework for the quality assurance of the **Computer Science** doctoral field, governed by the *Regulations on the initiation, development, monitoring, and periodic review of university programs and fields of study*.

Key facts regarding the application of these procedures include:

- **Annual Review Cycle:** The review and updating of doctoral programs in Computer Science are conducted **annually** to ensure the curriculum remains aligned with the latest scientific advancements.
 - **Research-Driven Curriculum:** Courses offered in the advanced training program are proposed by the doctoral supervisors who enroll students in that specific year, ensuring that the educational component directly supports the specific research topics of the new doctoral theses.
 - **Domain Monitoring:** A specialized **working group** within the Computer Science field is tasked with monitoring global developments in the domain and tracking how these are reflected in the content of the subjects taught.
 - **Institutional Support:** The **Quality Management and Educational Process Support Service (SMCSPE)** provides the technical and administrative backbone to facilitate these internal evaluation and review activities.
- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science domain demonstrates a consistent application of quality assurance procedures that go beyond mere administrative compliance. The **annual update cycle** is particularly critical in a high-tech field like Computer Science, where research directions evolve rapidly. By linking course offerings directly to the enrollment needs of supervisors and their students' research topics, the institution ensures that the curriculum is always relevant and high performing.

The impact of these procedures is evidenced by the program's ability to maintain a high level of **national and international confidence**, as noted in previous external evaluations. The transition from centralized institutional monitoring to a **domain-specific working group** model allows for more granular quality gates that specifically address the interdisciplinary and dynamic nature of modern informatics. This systematic approach justifies a judgment of fulfillment as it operationalizes continuous improvement through a closed feedback loop between research requirements and educational delivery.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Agile Annual Curriculum Updates:** The practice of performing annual reviews rather than waiting for multi-year accreditation cycles allow the program to integrate **emerging technologies** (such as Generative AI or Quantum Computing) into the training program in real-time.
- **Supervisor-Initiated Course Design:** Allowing the supervisors who are active in research to propose the course list for the incoming cohort ensures a **perfect fit** between the training program (PPUA) and the individual research needs.
- **Centralized Quality Support:** Utilizing the **SMCSPE** as a dedicated support structure prevents quality assurance from becoming an overwhelming administrative burden for the scientific staff, ensuring procedures are applied consistently and professionally.

✓ Recommendations

- Formalize the **documentation of curriculum changes** by explicitly mapping how specific new research results or technological shifts (e.g., from the CeRiCS research center) have directly influenced the update of a subject file.
- Ensure the **Computer Science working group** systematically includes feedback from the **Strategic Partners Group (IT companies)** during the annual review to further enhance the alignment with professional R&D needs.
- Develop a **digital versioning history** for the doctoral curricula to provide a transparent audit trail of how the program has evolved in response to quality monitoring over time.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** and **IOSUD-UVT** have institutionalized the involvement of internal and external stakeholders in the implementation and review of doctoral study procedures, particularly for the **Computer Science** field.

- **Stakeholder Composition:** The committees responsible for reviewing curricula and administrative procedures include teaching staff, **doctoral students**, **graduates**, **employers**, and representatives from the socio-economic environment.
- **Advisory Structures:** UVT utilizes three specialized advisory bodies to integrate external perspectives:
 - **Strategic Partners Group (GPS UVT):** Composed of representatives from the economic and social sectors (IT companies).
 - **Alumni Advisory Council:** Composed of UVT graduates who provide feedback based on their professional careers.
 - **Academic Advisory Council:** Includes prominent academic and cultural figures.
- **Internal Governance:** Doctoral students are represented in all management structures, including the **University Senate**, **CSUD**, and the **Doctoral School Council**. Within the Computer Science field, initiatives for curriculum revision often originate from **doctoral supervisors**, **research group collaborators**, and **recent graduates** who have successfully defended their theses.

- **Thematic Consultation:** Stakeholders are engaged through regular meetings of the **SDSESN Council** and thematic scientific seminars organized by the **Center for Research in Computer Science (CeRiCS)**, which involve both researchers and students.
- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence confirms that stakeholder engagement in the Computer Science domain is a **multi-layered and functional process**. By including a wide array of actors, from current students to industrial partners in the **GPS UVT**, the institution ensures that its procedures and curricula remain aligned with both academic standards and the evolving needs of the IT labor market.

The involvement of **graduates and employers** in the curriculum review committees is a particularly strong point, as it creates a direct link between doctoral training and high-level professional requirements (R&D roles). The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that doctoral students are treated as **active partners in dialogue** and are meaningfully involved in decision-making processes. The transparency of these interactions is maintained through public consultations and the communication of decisions via official institutional channels.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
 - **Tri-Part Advisory Ecosystem:** The formal existence of three distinct advisory councils (Academic, Strategic Partners, and Alumni) provides a **360-degree feedback loop** that incorporates societal, industrial, and historical perspectives into institutional procedures.
 - **Graduate-Led Innovation:** Encouraging **recent doctoral graduates** to participate in curriculum revision initiatives ensures that the program benefits those who have most recently navigated the academic path and entered the professional sphere.
 - **Institutionalized Student Partnership:** The consistent representation of students in governing bodies, combined with **anonymous feedback mechanisms**, ensures that the "indirect beneficiaries" of education have a real impact on quality assurance.
- ✓ Recommendations
 - Proceed with the plan to formally ask the **Computer Science working group** to participate in the upcoming curriculum revision process to ensure specialized domain trends are captured.
 - Strengthen the formal collaboration with the **RDI departments of partner IT companies** to identify specific research topics suitable for **professional doctorates**, further deepening the involvement of industrial stakeholders.
 - Improve transparency regarding the **electoral process for student representatives** in the CSD and CSUD to increase participation and ensure that representatives are well-known to the broader doctoral student body.

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.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

At the **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** and specifically within the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)**, the process for evaluating teaching staff and doctoral supervisors is completely digitized and institutionalized.

Key facts regarding the evaluation framework include:

- **Evaluation Stages:** The student evaluation of teaching staff is conducted in **three stages** to ensure continuous feedback throughout the academic cycle.
- **Accessibility of Results:** After each evaluation stage, both the individual teaching staff and the management of the doctoral field (SDSESN) have direct access to detailed evaluation reports. These reports include **anonymous student responses**, individual marks for various criteria, and calculated averages.
- **Constructive Dialogue:** Institutional regulations specify that management representatives must initiate a **constructive dialogue** with teachers whose evaluation results suggest a need for improvement in the educational process.
- **Longitudinal Analysis:** A dedicated analysis of the student evaluation process for teaching staff was conducted for the period **2021-2025**, and reports on student perceptions of this process are periodically generated.
- **Transparency:** Summaries of the student evaluation process for each academic semester are publicly available on the [UVT evaluation portal](#).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence confirms that the organizational component for Computer Science does not simply collect data but actively **analyzes and utilizes evaluation results** to drive quality. The transition to a "completely digitized" system facilitates transparency, as teachers can access their own feedback online to engage in professional self-reflection.

The involvement of domain-level management in reviewing these reports is critical, as it ensures that the "analysis" is performed by those with the authority to implement pedagogical changes. Furthermore, the move from general university-wide surveys to more granular assessments, including the analysis of student perceptions of the evaluation system itself, demonstrates a high level of institutional maturity. The previous 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that these feedback mechanisms are functional and used to identify student needs and improve administrative processes.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Granular Three-Stage Evaluation:** Conducting evaluations in three stages provides a more comprehensive view of the learning experience than a single end-of-semester survey.
- **Institutionalized Improvement Dialogue:** Formalizing the requirement for management to initiate a **constructive dialogue** based on results ensures that the evaluation process has a direct impact on teaching quality.
- **Long-Term Trend Tracking:** The practice of conducting multi-year analyses (e.g., the 2021-2025 study) allows the institution to identify systemic trends rather than just reacting to isolated incidents.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Continue the systematic **monitoring of teaching activities** within the advanced study program and prioritize the implementation of feedback received from doctoral students.

- Resume the practice of **regular meetings** between management and doctoral students in the field of Computer Science to supplement quantitative data with qualitative insights into research challenges.
- Utilize specialized **software tools developed within the Faculty of Computer Science** to further refine the collection and organization of domain-specific data from both teachers and students.
- Ensure that the results of the periodic evaluation of the **learning environment** are also systematically analyzed and communicated back to the doctoral student body.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases

The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.

Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **West University of Timișoara (UVT)** has established a robust, integrated, and secure IT infrastructure to support the systematic collection and analysis of data essential for internal quality assurance.

Key facts and digital tools supporting this indicator include:

- **Management Platform (my.e-uvt.ro):** This platform ensures the unified administration of academic information and human resources, managing curricula, study group compositions, teaching resource allocation, and attendance records for staff.
- **Student Progress Portal (StudentWeb):** Provides students with secure access to their personal academic records, enabling them to actively monitor their own educational progress.
- **Evaluation Platform (evaluate.uvt.ro):** An online system used by doctoral students to evaluate teaching staff, supervisors, and the learning environment.
- **Faculty-Level Databases:** Vice-deans for research, department directors, and deans inventory periodic reports from teaching staff, maintaining faculty-specific databases.
- **Institutional Reporting:** Systematized data related to quality assurance is presented annually to the public through the **UVT Rector's Report**.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the **Computer Science** field demonstrates that quality assurance is data-driven and systematically integrated into institutional operations. The use of specialized platforms like my.e-uvt.ro and StudentWeb ensures that data is not only collected but is **accessible and actionable** for all stakeholders. This systematic approach provides a solid foundation for the continuous monitoring and optimization of both teaching and research activities.

The judgement of fulfillment is justified by the high level of **digitization and oversight governance**. Data flows from student evaluations and staff reports into faculty-level databases and eventually into institutional reports, ensuring that quality metrics are visible at every level of management. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed the effectiveness of these systems, noting that the university provides high confidence in its quality assurance processes.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Digital Ecosystem:** Centralizing curricula, human resources, and evaluation data into unified platforms (e.g., Pagina TA for supervisors) minimizes administrative fragmentation.
- **Empowered Student Participation:** Giving secure, direct access to their academic records via **StudentWeb** fosters a culture of transparency and accountability.
- **Tiered Data Inventorying:** The practice of having department directors and vice-deans inventory staff reports at the faculty level ensures that scientific activity is monitored closely by subject-matter experts.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue the **periodical collection of summary information** on research activity and results specifically for the Computer Science domain to identify research trends and infrastructure needs.
- Leverage technical expertise within the **Faculty of Computer Science** to develop additional software tools for organizing specialized data from both teachers and students.
- Enhance the **Action Plans** resulting from data analysis by including clearer indicators to measure the evolution of detected issues, as suggested in previous evaluations.
- Resume and formalize **regular meetings** between management and doctoral students to supplement digital data with qualitative insights regarding research challenges.

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

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Organising Institution for Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UVT)** maintains a dedicated and transparent digital infrastructure to ensure public access to all relevant information regarding the **Computer Science** doctoral program.

Key information available on the [doctoral portal](#) and related subpages includes:

- **Program Specifics:** Detailed descriptions of the program's objectives, curriculum structure, and individual course descriptions (syllabi).
- **Regulatory Framework:** The Doctoral School regulations, admission methodologies, the standard doctoral study contract, and the rights and obligations of doctoral students.
- **Scientific Profiles:** A complete list of doctoral supervisors and teaching staff, including their institutional contact details, research interests, and proposed research topics.
- **Student Progress and Completion:** A list of currently enrolled doctoral students (including their year of enrollment and supervisor) and detailed information on the stages for completing doctoral studies, including required forms.
- **Public Announcements:** Transparent posting of admission competition details and formal announcements regarding doctoral thesis defenses, including links to thesis abstracts.
- **Opportunities:** Information regarding academic mobility (Erasmus+), international collaboration, and research projects with available positions for doctoral students.

The institution has successfully implemented recommendations from the 2021 external evaluation by reorganizing the IOSUD-UVT website and ensuring that thesis defense announcements and abstracts are systematically posted at least 20 days prior to the defense.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The evidence confirms that the management of the Computer Science field prioritizes **transparency and institutional accountability**. By centralizing all academic, administrative, and scientific data on a public-facing portal, the institution provides a high degree of confidence for both current students and external stakeholders.

The judgment of fulfillment is justified by the **comprehensive nature of the published data**, which covers every phase of the doctoral lifecycle—from initial admission through to the public defense. The recent reorganization of the website specifically addressed previous concerns regarding the visibility of thesis summaries, demonstrating a responsive approach to quality monitoring. The availability of specialized information pathways (e.g., for Romanian, EU, and foreign candidates) further ensures that information is not only present but **accessible and navigable** for diverse user groups.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Integrated Digital Repository:** Maintaining a single, centralized portal (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro>) for all regulations, forms, and curricula across all doctoral fields, including Computer Science, reduces administrative complexity for users.
- **Public Research Topic Listing:** The proactive publication of **proposed research topics and supervisor profiles** allows potential candidates to make informed decisions and find the best scientific match before admission.
- **Transparent Completion Tracking:** Clearly outlining the "stages corresponding to the completion of doctoral studies" alongside the necessary forms provides students with a transparent roadmap for finishing their degree.

- ✓ Recommendations

- Implement the proposed action to **intensify the promotion** of doctoral research topics and available project positions through the Faculty of Computer Science website and professional networks like **LinkedIn**.
- Utilize **academic networks** (e.g., Informatics Europe) to disseminate information about the program's unique research strengths to attract a more diverse pool of international candidates.
- Maintain the current rigor in **periodically updating** the published information to ensure that any changes in curricula or national legislation are reflected in real-time.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Organising Institution for Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UVT)** ensures the transparency of decision-making processes for the **Computer Science** field through the systematic publication and communication of decisions made by its governing bodies. All fundamental decisions affecting doctoral studies are based on consultation with the academic community and the principle of active participation of doctoral students in management structures.

Key facts and access points for transparent decision-making include:

- **Publication of Decisions:** Formal decisions from the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), the University Senate, and the Board of Directors are publicly accessible on the institutional websites.
 - **Regulatory Basis:** Decision-making is governed by specific internal regulations and a standardized legal framework available in the CSUD – Legal Basis section.
 - **Communication Channels:** Decisions regarding admission, resource allocation, performance evaluation, and international mobility are disseminated through official institutional emails, online platforms, and the university website.
 - **Stakeholder Participation:** Doctoral students are represented in all university management structures, including the **University Senate** and the **Doctoral School Council**, ensuring their involvement in the governance of the Computer Science domain.
- ✓ **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The evidence confirms that decision-making within the Computer Science doctoral domain is a **transparent and participatory process** rather than a purely top-down administrative function. By making the decisions of high-level bodies like the CSUD and the Senate publicly available, the institution ensures that all stakeholders—supervisors, researchers, and students—can track the evolution of institutional policies and resource management.

The judgment of fulfillment is justified by the integration of **student representatives** into the decision-making loop, which guarantees that the needs and perspectives of the primary beneficiaries are considered. Furthermore, the use of multiple communication channels (email, web portals) ensures that information reaches the concerned parties promptly, fostering an environment of **institutional accountability and fairness**. The 2021 external evaluation reconfirmed that doctoral students are treated as active partners in dialogue and decision-making.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- **Integrated Decision Repositories:** Maintaining organized, digital archives of decisions for all major governing bodies (Senate, Board, CSUD) allows for a clear audit trail of institutional governance.
- **Student-Governed Elections:** The practice of having the student organization (**OSUT**) independently organize elections for doctoral student representatives in the CSUD and Doctoral School Councils ensures the autonomy of student representation.
- **Consultative Reporting:** Involving doctoral supervisors and students in the drafting and validation of the **Internal Evaluation Report** ensures that the strategic directions of the field are determined through a consensus-based approach.

✓ **Recommendations**

- Develop a more proactive communication strategy to **increase the participation rate** of doctoral students in the electoral process for their representatives in the CSUD and Doctoral School Councils.

- Formalize a mechanism for student representatives to **disseminate summarized reports** on council activities to the broader doctoral student body to improve collective awareness of governing decisions.
- Maintain the current practice of **regular thematic meetings** between doctoral supervisors and students to ensure that academic decisions remain closely aligned with the evolving research needs of the Computer Science field.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation

The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.
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- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The **Computer Science** doctoral field within the **Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences (SDSESN)** at the West University of Timișoara (UVT) fully complies with the legal obligations regarding external quality evaluation. The program has undergone the following documented procedures:

- **2021 External Evaluation:** The domain was evaluated by **ARACIS** between October 11 and 15, 2021. This process resulted in **ARACIS Council Decision No. 100 of November 25, 2021**, which maintained the accreditation for the doctoral field of Computer Science.
- **2024 Progress Report:** In accordance with follow-up regulations, the institution submitted a progress report in 2024 describing the status of the implementation of recommendations formulated by the 2021 external evaluation committee.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** All procedures are carried out in line with the **Law on Higher Education No. 199/2023** and the **ARACIS Guide** for maintaining accreditation, which mandates periodic evaluations every five years.
- **Documentation Accessibility:** The results and reports from these external evaluations are publicly referenced and archived, notably as **Annex IPC 8.1.1** in the current evaluation cycle.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

The management of the Computer Science doctoral domain demonstrates a consistent and proactive approach to **external quality accountability**. By successfully navigating the 2021 accreditation maintenance cycle and fulfilling the mandatory mid-cycle reporting requirement in 2024, the institution proves that its study program is organized strictly **according to the law**.

The transition from a standalone school to its current inclusion within the **SDSESN** has not interrupted these quality procedures; instead, it has integrated the domain into a broader institutional quality framework overseen by **IOSUD-UVT**. The 2021 external report reconfirmed that the field meets the mandatory regulatory requirements and provides high confidence in its scientific and educational quality. The systematic implementation of follow-up activities ensures that external feedback is used for continuous improvement rather than just administrative compliance.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- **Proactive Progress Monitoring:** The submission of a detailed **2024 Progress Report** prior to the next full evaluation cycle demonstrates a commitment to transparency and the systematic correction of identified deficiencies.
- **Integrated Institutional Support:** Utilizing the **Quality Management and Educational Process Support Service (SMCSPE)** to facilitate external evaluations ensures that procedures are applied uniformly and professionally across all doctoral fields.
- **Public Accountability:** The systematic publication of **ARACIS Council Decisions** and thesis defense data on the doctorat.uvt.ro portal fosters trust among direct and indirect beneficiaries.

✓ Recommendations

- Continue to maintain the **rigorous five-year periodic evaluation schedule** to ensure that accreditation is maintained without interruption.
- Further refine the **internal action plans** resulting from external recommendations by including specific, measurable indicators to track the long-term impact of remedial actions.
- Enhance the **digital repository** of previous external evaluation reports and follow-up documents to provide future expert panels with a clear longitudinal view of the domain's quality evolution.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:		Weaknesses:
✓ Expansion of Research Capacity: The number of doctoral supervisors in the field has increased significantly from 7 in 2021 to 12 in 2025, broadening the expertise available to students. ✓ High Scientific Visibility: Both supervisors and students produce high-quality research, evidenced by 83 publications in indexed international journals and conferences. ✓ Advanced Internationalization: The program is highly outward-looking; over 90% of doctoral theses and research reports are written in English, and all specialized training courses are delivered in English. ✓ Strategic Partnerships: Integration into	INTERNAL FACTORS ↑	✓ Candidate Recruitment Challenges: The number of applicants remains relatively low, primarily due to the intense competition with high salaries in the private IT sector, which does not always require a PhD. ✓ Thesis Completion Dynamics: There is a noted difficulty in ensuring that all doctoral students complete their theses within the initial three-year timeframe. ✓ Limited Long-term Mobility: While short-term international participation is high, the number of doctoral students undertaking research internships abroad for at

the UNITA European University Alliance and the organization of the SYNASC international conference provide students with global networking and benchmarking opportunities. ✓ Funded Research Integration: Approximately 25% of current doctoral students are active members of national and international research project teams (e.g., HRIA, Quantum IRES), providing them with financial support and practical experience.		least one month remains lower than desired.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Technological Advancement: The rapid evolution of the Computer Science field in the socio-economic environment creates a high demand for advanced digital and automated solutions. ✓ Interdisciplinary AI Research: The growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers significant opportunities for new, high impact research directions that intersect with other domains. ✓ Professional Doctorate Potential: There is room to expand formal collaborations with RDI departments of IT companies to identify applied research topics and secure alternative funding sources.	 EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: ✓ Impact of Generative AI: The rise of generative AI tools poses a risk to students' development of critical thinking and deep analytical skills if relied upon as a shortcut rather than a tool for investigation. ✓ Labor Market Disparity: Insufficient national funding for university systems results in doctoral scholarships that are significantly lower than entry-level salaries in the IT industry, reducing the program's attractiveness to top talent ✓ Unpredictable Regulatory Framework: Frequent changes in higher education legislation and the lack of predictability in

		national research grant competitions complicate long-term strategic planning. ✓ Demographic Decline: The continuous decline in the school-age population in Romania has a long-term negative impact on the pool of potential doctoral candidates.
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V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	- Continue to ensure that the specific requirements of the Computer Science field (such as specific performance standards for research) remain explicitly detailed and updated within the unified SDSESN regulations. - Maintain and expand the practice of consulting with doctoral supervisors and students during the periodic revision of regulations to ensure they remain responsive to the needs of the scientific community.
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	- Continue the plan to expand the involvement of members from the academic guidance and integrity committees in the specific process of reviewing Computer Science methodologies. - Strengthen the dissemination of information regarding student elections and council decisions

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			to further encourage active participation and transparency within the doctoral student community. • Increase the use of professional networks (such as LinkedIn) and academic networks (such as Informatics Europe) to gather broader stakeholder input when promoting new doctoral research directions.
3.	I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.	F	• Continue the process of periodically updating the computing infrastructure to remain competitive with international developments in high-performance computing and AI. • Improve the dissemination of information to doctoral students regarding the full range of facilities and equipment available to them to ensure maximum utilization of existing resources. • Consider the creation of additional collaborative research spaces in the long term to accommodate the projected increase in the number of Computer Science doctoral students.
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	• Develop and implement a more aggressive information campaign to ensure all doctoral students are aware of the full range of maintained facilities and equipment available to them. • Proceed with the long-term plan to create additional collaborative workspaces to accommodate the increasing number of Computer Science doctoral students. • Establish a specific maintenance and upgrade cycle for AI-specialized hardware (e.g.,

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			GPU servers) to ensure these critical assets remain at peak performance for intensive research tasks.
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	- Continue to implement the strategy for attracting younger researchers to obtain habilitation to ensure the long-term sustainability and vitality of the supervisor team. - Encourage supervisors to maintain their high levels of international involvement, specifically through joint doctoral supervisions and participation in international research networks. - Periodically review the teaching workload of supervisors to ensure that the expansion of the team continues to allow for high-quality, individualized mentoring of doctoral students
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	- Develop a targeted communication plan to increase the participation rate of doctoral students and younger researchers in the professional development programs offered by the CDA and the Career Counseling Center. - Expand the TalkEdUVT webinar series to include specific modules led by Computer Science supervisors on "Digital Pedagogies in Advanced Computing" to share field-specific best practices university-wide. - Encourage more administrative and auxiliary staff involved in the management of the Computer Science doctoral field to participate in Erasmus+ training mobilities to enhance the digitization of administrative services.
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and	F	Continue to encourage doctoral students to give

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	are established and carried out transparently.		presentations at the Scientific Seminar of the Center for Research in Informatics to build confidence and refine their argumentation skills in a supportive environment. • Provide targeted advising to students on identifying the most appropriate documentation resources and dissemination venues (journals and conferences) that best fit the specific "niche" of their research potential. • Regularly review the impact of counseling services on the retention and success of doctoral students to ensure these support mechanisms remain effective for the specific needs of the Computer Science field.
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	• Leverage the technical expertise within the Faculty of Computer Science to develop additional internal software tools specifically designed to collect and organize domain-specific research data and feedback. • Continue the systematic digitization of historical student records and administrative documents held by the Doctoral Studies Office to ensure a fully paperless and archival-secure workflow. • Develop a digital dashboard for doctoral students to track their required ECTS credits for research activities in real-time, further enhancing the transparency of their academic journey.
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,	F	• Proceed with the plan to organize a working group— including supervisors, guidance committee members, and doctoral students in their final

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.		stages—to periodically analyze and propose updates to the curriculum to keep pace with the rapid evolution of the Computer Science field. - Continue to refine the matrix of activities to ensure that new research methodologies and emerging technologies in areas like Artificial Intelligence are explicitly represented in the learning outcomes. - Maintain the practice of providing personalized feedback after each research report defense to strengthen the link between ongoing evaluation and the achievement of learning outcomes.
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	- The established SDSESN working group should continue to monitor updates to national and international occupational standards (specifically ESCO v1.1 and beyond) to propose timely curriculum adaptations. - Further encourage the annotation of learning outcomes in course descriptions with ESCO terminology to improve international transparency for potential employers outside of Romania. - Strengthen the focus on transversal skills (e.g., academic writing, ethics, and research management) as these are highly valued in both academic and corporate R&D leadership roles.
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	Implement the proposed actions to facilitate the transfer of expertise between the members of the guidance committees to identify and share the most beneficial coordination strategies for doctoral students.

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			- Strengthen the role of the Scientific Seminar as a safe, student-led space for debating emerging research ideas and practicing argumentation skills before formal defenses. - Continue to monitor and review the mandatory teaching workload for doctoral students based on their feedback, ensuring that these activities are seen as valuable pedagogical training rather than an administrative burden.
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	- Identify additional financial resources, specifically through national and international research projects, to encourage doctoral students to undertake longer-term research internships (at least one month) at prestigious institutions abroad. - Strengthen the strategy for co-supervised doctorates (cotutelle) to further institutionalize international research stays as a standard path for Computer Science students. - Develop a digital tracking dashboard within the StudentWeb portal where students can easily view available mobility calls and track their mobility-related ECTS credits in real-time.
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	- Continue to encourage doctoral students to give presentations at the Scientific Seminar of the Center for Research in Informatics to build confidence and refine their argumentation skills in a supportive environment. - Provide targeted advising to students on identifying the most appropriate documentation resources and

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			dissemination venues (journals and conferences) that best fit the specific "niche" of their research potential. Regularly review the impact of counseling services on the retention and success of doctoral students to ensure these support mechanisms remain effective for the specific needs of the Computer Science field.
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	- Continue to prioritize the selection of high-performing doctoral students for inclusion in national and international research project teams to further enhance their professional development. - Maintain the strategy of periodically updating documentation resources and database subscriptions to ensure they remain aligned with the rapidly evolving topics of Computer Science (e.g., AI and Cybersecurity). - Further encourage doctoral students to utilize the full range of psychological and career counseling services offered by the CCOC to support their well-being and transition to the labor market.
15.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	- Proceed with the plan to periodically update the list of recognized activities and the correlation matrix to ensure they incorporate emerging research methodologies and field-specific developments in areas like Artificial Intelligence. - Continue to provide personalized feedback through the academic guidance and integrity committees after each report defense to reinforce the connection between the

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			student's results and the targeted learning outcomes. Consider integrating direct links to digital library resources within the digital course syllabi to further clarify the expected depth of knowledge for specific subjects.
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	- Continue the established practice of providing personalized feedback after each evaluation stage, with a particular focus on the direct communication between the committee and the doctoral student. - Ensure that the assessment criteria for progress reports are periodically reviewed by the Computer Science working group to better reflect the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of modern research projects. - Consider using the internal software tools developed by the Faculty of Computer Science to further digitize the collection and organization of feedback from these ongoing examinations.
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	- Continue the strict enforcement of admission procedures as currently established to maintain institutional integrity. Intensify the promotion of specific doctoral research topics through broader professional networks (e.g., LinkedIn) and specialized academic platforms (e.g., Informatics Europe) to attract a more diverse and high-performing pool of candidates. - Utilize the technical expertise within the Faculty of Computer Science to develop additional

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			internal analytics tools for tracking candidate trends and identifying new recruitment opportunities.
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	• Broaden Global Promotion: Intensify the promotion of doctoral topics and research opportunities through international professional networks like LinkedIn and academic platforms such as Informatics Europe to attract a more diverse pool of high-performing candidates. • Enhanced Inclusion Monitoring: Periodically review the effectiveness of the support measures for vulnerable groups specifically within the Computer Science field to ensure they remain responsive to the needs of modern doctoral researchers. • Digital Outreach: Continue to leverage the technical expertise of the Faculty of Computer Science to improve the user experience for candidates with visual or hearing impairments on the online admission platform.
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	• Continue to systematically collect and analyze data regarding students' activity and results to further refine the progress monitoring system. • Formalize and expand the practice of organizing regular meetings for doctoral students in training to present their results and discuss challenges in a collaborative setting. • Ensure that any revisions to the study contract or research path are promptly updated on the digital platforms to maintain the high level of institutional transparency.

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
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	- Continue to provide the advanced training program entirely in English to further increase the attractiveness of the field for international doctoral candidates. - Identify additional financial resources from international research projects to encourage more students to undertake research internships abroad for durations of at least one month. - Increase participation in MSCA Doctoral Networks and other European proposals to institutionalize international collaboration through formal research and training 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	- Continue to expand the availability of research assistant positions within Faculty of Computer Science projects to further increase the percentage of students integrated into funded research teams. - Leverage the technical expertise within the faculty to develop digital tools for collecting and organizing domain-specific research data and student feedback on research progress. - Encourage supervisors to further emphasize interdisciplinary investigative methods by involving specialists from the broader SDSESN consortium (e.g., Physics or Mathematics) in the Scientific Seminars.
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	Continue to organize and promote internal and national scientific events, such as the "Stefan Maruster" contest, to provide students with safe environments to refine their results before moving to major international venues.

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			- Broaden the promotion of specific research projects and doctoral topics via professional networks like LinkedIn and academic platforms such as Informatics Europe to increase global visibility. - Further encourage students to aim for high-impact journals and category A/A* conferences to ensure the continued elite status of the domain's research output.
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	- Continue the systematic monitoring of teaching activities within the advanced study program and prioritize the implementation of feedback received from doctoral students. - In the field of Computer Science, continue the periodic collection of summary information on research results to identify trends and potential areas for infrastructure investment. - Formalize the regular meetings between doctoral students and management to present research status and collaboratively identify solutions to technical or administrative challenges.
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	- Strengthen the formal collaboration between Computer Science supervisors and the RDI departments of partner IT companies to identify specific research topics suitable for professional doctorates. - Develop a targeted communication strategy to increase the participation rate of doctoral students in the electoral process for their representatives in the CSUD and SDSESN councils.

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			Formalize a process for student representatives to disseminate reports on council activities back to the entire doctoral student body to improve collective awareness.
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	- Continue the systematic practice of informing doctoral students through workshops on how to translate the principles of ethics and professional conduct into their daily research activities. - Task the Ethics Committee with monitoring developments in generative Artificial Intelligence to update and adapt ethical requirements for conducting research and presenting results in the Computer Science field. - Develop a digital portal specifically for the submission and tracking of ethics opinion requests to further simplify the process for doctoral researchers and ensure a secure, paperless audit trail.
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	- Formalize the documentation of curriculum changes by explicitly mapping how specific new research results or technological shifts (e.g., from the CeRICS research center) have directly influenced the update of a subject file. - Ensure the Computer Science working group systematically includes feedback from the Strategic Partners Group (IT companies) during the annual review to further enhance the alignment with professional R&D needs. - Develop a digital versioning history for the doctoral curricula to provide a transparent audit trail of how the program has evolved in

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			response to quality monitoring over time.
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	- Proceed with the plan to formally ask the Computer Science working group to participate in the upcoming curriculum revision process to ensure specialized domain trends are captured. - Strengthen the formal collaboration with the RDI departments of partner IT companies to identify specific research topics suitable for professional doctorates, further deepening the involvement of industrial stakeholders. - Improve transparency regarding the electoral process for student representatives in the CSD and CSUD to increase participation and ensure that representatives are well-known to the broader doctoral student body.
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	- Continue the systematic monitoring of teaching activities within the advanced study program and prioritize the implementation of feedback received from doctoral students. - Resume the practice of regular meetings between management and doctoral students in the field of Computer Science to supplement quantitative data with qualitative insights into research challenges. - Utilize specialized software tools developed within the Faculty of Computer Science to further refine the collection and organization of domain-specific data from both teachers and students. - Ensure that the results of the periodic evaluation of

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			the learning environment are also systematically analyzed and communicated back to the doctoral student body.
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	- Continue the periodical collection of summary information on research activity and results specifically for the Computer Science domain to identify research trends and infrastructure needs. - Leverage technical expertise within the Faculty of Computer Science to develop additional software tools for organizing specialized data from both teachers and students. - Enhance the Action Plans resulting from data analysis by including clearer indicators to measure the evolution of detected issues, as suggested in previous evaluations. - Resume and formalize regular meetings between management and doctoral students to supplement digital data with qualitative insights regarding research challenges.
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	- Implement the proposed action to intensify the promotion of doctoral research topics and available project positions through the Faculty of Computer Science website and professional networks like LinkedIn. - Utilize academic networks (e.g., Informatics Europe) to disseminate information about the program's unique research strengths to attract a more diverse pool of international candidates. - Maintain the current rigor in periodically updating the published information to ensure that any changes in curricula or

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			national legislation are reflected in real-time.
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	- Develop a more proactive communication strategy to increase the participation rate of doctoral students in the electoral process for their representatives in the CSUD and Doctoral School Councils. - Formalize a mechanism for student representatives to disseminate summarized reports on council activities to the broader doctoral student body to improve collective awareness of governing decisions. - Maintain the current practice of regular thematic meetings between doctoral supervisors and students to ensure that academic decisions remain closely aligned with the evolving research needs of the Computer Science field.
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	- Continue to maintain the rigorous five-year periodic evaluation schedule to ensure that accreditation is maintained without interruption. - Further refine the internal action plans resulting from external recommendations by including specific, measurable indicators to track the long-term impact of remedial actions. - Enhance the digital repository of previous external evaluation reports and follow-up documents to provide future expert panels with a clear longitudinal view of the domain's quality evolution.

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

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

Other, general recommendations that were not given within the analysis of a specific performance indicator can be presented here.

Sum up the number of analysed performance indicators, and specify how many were assessed as fulfilled, partially fulfilled, and unfulfilled, if any.

General Recommendations

The following general recommendations address systemic challenges and long-term development goals that extend beyond the scope of specific individual indicators:

- **Human Resource Sustainability:** Proactively recruit and support **young researchers** to obtain habilitation in the field of Computer Science to balance the age distribution of the current supervisory team and ensure long-term stability. Attracting talented young researchers to academic careers in Computer Science to ensure the sustainable development of this highly promising doctoral field at the university.
- **Strategic International Recruitment:** Develop and implement targeted programs to attract **international doctoral candidates** and master's graduates from other universities to mitigate the impact of national demographic decline.
- **Research funding:** Continuing to attract research funding through competitive grants and broadening funding opportunities to financially support doctoral supervisors and PhD students in disseminating their scientific results through publications in prestigious peer-reviewed journals.
- **Industrial Integration for Professional Doctorates:** Formalize and strengthen collaborations with R&D departments of regional and international **IT companies** to identify applied research topics specifically suited for **professional doctoral programs**.
- **Expansion of Global Networks:** Increase the number of **co-supervised (joint) doctoral programs** and participate in European-level Doctoral School Consortia, particularly within the **UNITA European University Alliance**.
- **International Mobility Targets:** Establish a dedicated strategy and identify financial resources (e.g., through research projects) to encourage a higher percentage of doctoral students to undertake **long-term research internships abroad** (exceeding one month), addressing a noted weakness in the current cycle.
- **AI Ethics and Critical Thinking:** Continuously monitor the rapid evolution of **Generative Artificial Intelligence** and adapt ethical research requirements to ensure doctoral students maintain deep analytical depth and critical thinking skills while using these tools.
- **Administrative Digitization:** Capitalize on internal software development expertise within the Faculty of Computer Science to create custom **digital tools for data organization** and

monitoring, thereby further reducing the administrative burden on supervisors and scientific staff.

- **Infrastructure Competitiveness:** Maintain a rigorous, funded schedule for updating high-performance computing resources, such as the **HPC-UVT center**, to ensure the program remains competitive with top-tier international research institutes.
- **We recommend the allocation of a larger number of doctoral positions in Computer Science**, considering the rapid development and growing importance of this field.

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.

The evaluation of the Computer Science doctoral domain reveals a high level of compliance with national and international quality standards. Key aspects noted during the evaluation include:

- **Human Resources and Expertise:** The domain has successfully expanded its research capacity, increasing the number of doctoral supervisors from **7 in 2021 to 12 in 2025**. Supervisors demonstrate high scientific visibility, with Hirsch indices and publication records that significantly exceed minimum national requirements.
- **Scientific Output and Research Integration:** There is a robust scientific culture, evidenced by **83 publications** in indexed journals and conferences by doctoral students. Furthermore, **25% of active students** are integrated into funded research teams, providing them with financial stability and practical research experience.
- **Internationalization:** The program is highly outward-looking, with over **90% of doctoral theses** and research reports written in **English**. The annual **SYNASC conference** provides a global platform for students to present their work to international experts.
- **Infrastructure:** The university provides state-of-the-art facilities, including the **High-Performance Computing Center (HPC-UVT)** and refurbished dedicated study spaces like **Room 061**.
- **Resolution of Previous Deficiencies:** The only indicator assessed as "partially fulfilled" in 2021 (A.1.3.3.2 regarding centralized financial records for training) has been fully addressed through a new methodology, with current data showing that **17% of grant funds** (exceeding the required 10%) are now explicitly used for student professional training.

While the program faces external challenges, such as competition from high industry salaries and a national demographic decline, it has implemented effective internal quality assurance mechanisms to maintain a low dropout rate of **6.65%**

Propose and substantiate a decision.

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

- a) **Maintaining accreditation***

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



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VII. Annexes

Enclose the schedule of the on-site visit, the list of the documents reviewed, as well as any other documents that are relevant for the evaluation procedure, which are referred to in the EER and cannot be accessed through links.

1. Detailed program of the evaluation visit.
2. Minutes of the mandatory meetings scheduled during the ARACIS external evaluation visit for the doctoral study domain Computer Science, Doctoral School of Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences, West University of Timișoara.