



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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	University of Life Science „King Mihai I” from Timișoara (USVT)
Doctoral School:	Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA)
Doctoral Domain:	FOOD ENGINEERING
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation



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I. Introduction

This report refers to the external evaluation of the doctoral study field FOOD ENGINEERING organized by University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara, as a result of the evaluation carried out during the period 6-7 July 2026 by the ARACIS panel of expert evaluation, composed of:

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UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "King Mihai I" FROM TIMIȘOARA (USVT) is a state higher education university that has been operating since 1945. By the Order of the Minister of Education and Science no. 4894 of 22.03.1991, the name of the institution was changed to the University of Agricultural Sciences of Banat Timisoara (USABT), and in 1995, by the Decision of the Romanian Government no. 568, to the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat in Timisoara (USAMVBT). Pursuant to G.D. no.93/17.07.2013 (Official Gazette of Romania no. 447/22 July 2013), the institution changed its name again to UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE OF BANAT "KING MIHAI I OF ROMANIA" IN TIMIȘOARA (USAMVBT). In 2004, USAMVBT organizes higher education into 3 learning cycles: cycle I – bachelor's degree, cycle II – master's degree and cycle III – doctoral studies.

In 2010, within the Doctoral School of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat in Timisoara, the doctoral field in "Food Products Engineering" was established and accredited. Since 2012 the university has organized IOSUD-USAMVBT, structured on 2 doctoral schools: the Doctoral School in the field of Veterinary Medicine (SD-MV) and the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) with the following fields: Agronomy, Horticulture, Food Products Engineering and Animal Husbandry.

In 2022, the field of Biotechnologies was established by the ARACIS Council Decision no. 65/H/01.07.2022, and in 2024 the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development (IMADR) by the ARACIS Council Decision no. 79/H/29.02.2024, both areas being included in the SD-IRVA within IOSUD-USVT.

As of 2022, the current name of the university is the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara (USVT), modified according to Government Decision no. 976 of 3.08.2022 and published in the Official Gazette of Romania no. 775 of 3.08.2022.

The declared mission of the university is education and advanced research in order to generate, certify and transfer knowledge as well as economic and technological development of society. The mission of advanced research involves fundamental and applied research, development, innovation and technology transfer, through individual and collective creation, in the field of engineering sciences, biomedical sciences and other fields. USVT is actively involved, through its human resources, in local, regional and national development, through the creation and improvement of institutional practices, through technological innovation and through national and international public communication.

The composition of the University's faculties has frequently evolved in response to the demands of the national economy. Currently USVT has 6 faculties: Faculty of Agriculture; Faculty of Engineering and Applied Technologies; Faculty of Food Engineering; Faculty of Bioengineering of Animal Resources; Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and 2 doctoral schools: Doctoral School in the field of Veterinary Medicine (SD-MV) and the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA). PhD students can apply in various fields of study: Agronomy, Horticulture, Food Products Engineering and Animal Husbandry. (Table I.1.). IOSUD-USVT was evaluated by ARACIS in 2021, ARACIS Council decision nr 99/25.11.2021 IOSUD USVT obtaining the



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qualification “maintaining of accreditation”. Within SD-IRVA there are following field of doctoral studies: Agronomy, Horticulture, Animal husbandry, Food products Engineering, Biotechnologies and Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development; within SD-MV there is the doctoral field in Veterinary Medicine.

The doctoral program of IOSUD-USVT includes a number of 77 doctoral supervisors, of whom 55 are qualified, and coordinates over 254 doctoral students in internship. Between 2021 and 2025, 127 doctoral theses were defended within IOSUD-USVT. Over time, the doctoral program has trained over 1,400 doctors, the first doctoral degree being awarded in 1969 in the field of Agronomy and, subsequently, in 1971 in the field of Veterinary Medicine.

At DSUD-IPA currently at the moment of ARACIS visit there are 11 doctoral supervisors (Anexa 07). 4 doctoral supervisors obtained the habilitation certificate in the last four years. 7 doctoral supervisors are full members of USVT and 4 are associated doctoral supervisors, 1 from the University of Craiova, 1 from the University Constantin Brâncoveanu Pitești, 1 from Polytechnical University of Timișoara and 1 from National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest. All supervisors meet the minimum CNADTCU standards and maintain international scientific activity demonstrated by publications in Web of Science journals from quartile Q1 and Q2 most of the manuscripts, their high Hirsch index values and membership in the scientific committees of international journals and conferences are notable. Collaborations between doctoral supervisors and the economic sector are highly valuable. These collaborations aim to provide scientific and applied solutions to technological challenges, as well as develop innovative products and services.

From 2021 to 2025, 38 doctoral students were enrolled at DSUD-IPA. In academic year 2024-2025 32 doctoral students were enrolled 29 are actively in them internship phase and 3 doctoral students as part of the extended doctoral program. All the doctoral students follow a training program Doctoral students follow a rigorous training program that builds upon their advanced university studies. This program included various disciplines related to scientific research, including research methodology, ethics in scientific research, and other related subjects.

II. Methods used

For the external quality evaluation aimed at maintaining the accreditation of the doctoral study field Food Engineering, organized by USVT - Timișoara, both the Internal Evaluation Report and all its related annexes were thoroughly reviewed. Furthermore, all relevant data available on the university's website was examined to provide insights into the internal evaluation report for this study program.

During the external evaluation visit of the doctoral study program Food Engineering, held by University of Life Science “King Mihai I” from Timișoara (USVT), meetings were conducted according to the established schedule (annexed to this report). These meetings provided comprehensive information that contributed to the preparation of the external evaluation report. Discussions were held with the directors of research centers, and the facilities within these centers were visited. Additionally, the pilot production and research stations available to the faculty were also visited. On-site data certifying the employment insertion of graduates was requested. Among other aspects discussed included the organization and functioning of the doctoral school.

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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The IER Internal Evaluation Report (p.17) present:" The general framework of organization and functioning of the activity within the DSUD is carried out in accordance with the regulations, methodologies and procedures developed at the level of the USVT, periodically updated and approved by the University Senate, in compliance with the legislation in force" The specific strategy of USVT is corelated with the National Strategy for Research and Innovation 2022-2027 in life sciences fields and have in view a strategy for the regional RDI capacity, increasing the competitiveness of enterprise through innovation, supporting the digitalization for economy an society, supporting the digitalization of the economy and society, increasing the competitiveness of smart specialization sectors. All the USVT internal procedures and regulations are approved by the University Senate, are reviewed periodically and are available in digital format for all the academic members. <https://usab-tm.ro/ro/documente-usvt-80/proceduri-11209>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/documente-usvt-80/regulamente-11210>

The activity within IOSUD-USVT will continue to be carried out within the existing institutional framework, through the systematic application of quality assurance and evaluation mechanisms, in compliance with the internal regulations, methodologies and procedures approved by the University Senate. The self evaluation reports for each Doctoral School SD-IRVA and SD-MV are available at <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/raport-autoevaluare-iosud-11889>

Evaluation, writing and defense of doctoral theses as well as the completion of doctoral studies, is carried out based on the Operational Procedure regarding the evaluation, defense of the doctoral thesis and completion of doctoral studies within IOSUD-USVT. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339/legislatie-sustinere-teze-doctorat>

The scientific activities of doctoral supervisors are evaluated annually using a procedure developed by IOSUD-USVT. On the other hand, the scientific activities of doctoral students are monitored through self-evaluation procedures and the Doctoral Students' Self-Evaluation Forms.

Recommendations – Not applicable.

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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Analyses of the evaluation program DSUD IPA confirms that: "Participation of the academic community and the approval process: In the structure of CSUD-USVT and CSD-IRVA/MV there are representatives of both doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, who actively participate in the process of developing, adopting and reviewing internal regulations, methodologies and procedures, through their presence and involvement in the meetings of these structures. The documents are submitted for approval by the CSUD and the competent academic structures, subsequently approved by the University Senate and revised whenever necessary, depending on legislative changes and quality assurance requirements (Decisions of the Board of Directors, Decisions of the University Senate). IOSUD-USVT ensures the active involvement of all stakeholders relevant to the field of doctoral studies. The representatives of the doctoral students are part of the management and decision-making structures, including the CSUD, the University Senate and other deliberative bodies, benefiting from the right of opinion and vote, in accordance with the legal provisions in force."

The members of the relevant management and decision-making structures (CSD-IRVA/MV, CSUD-USVT, the Board of Directors- USVT and the University Senate - USVT) are actively and systematically involved in the process of developing, adopting and reviewing internal methodologies, regulations and procedures, ensuring a participatory and transparent decision-making framework at IOSUD-USVT level.
<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/undefined-5934/hotarari-ale-consiliului-de-administratie-11404>
<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/undefined-5934/hotarari-ale-senatului-10064>

Recommendations Not applicable

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources	
The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to 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.

The University has teaching and research facilities that comply with DSUD-IPA requirements, including lecture halls, laboratories, seminar rooms, and spaces for practical activities. The facilities have been modernized and comply with current standards and regulations. This infrastructure provides an integrated academic environment that facilitates high-quality education, scientific research, and professional development for doctoral students and doctoral candidates. These facilities are designed and organized to meet the specific requirements of the study programs and to ensure the effective delivery of educational and research activities. Comprehensive information regarding the University's educational and research infrastructure is available on the institutional website, particularly in the sections presenting the University's

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



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academic facilities and research resources. <https://eertis.eu/erio-2300-000s-4333>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/en>

The teaching and research laboratories are properly equipped with modern equipment, in accordance with national standards and international trends in the fields of study, including computerized workstations, where the specificity of teaching and research activities requires it. The existing facilities are functional and are subject to a process of periodic modernization, depending on the needs identified at the level of the academic structures. The library provides access to scientific databases with full-text access, virtual libraries, and specialized journals, as well as to a computerized system for managing documentary resources. In addition, the USVT library has 40 databases with free "FullText" access from the university campus, 27 virtual libraries, and 285 journals. <http://biblio.usab-tm.ro/>.

Practical and research activities are also supported through the USVT Teaching and Experimental Station, which provides the technical and material resources necessary for various types of research conducted by students—including doctoral candidates—as well as for carrying out research projects and writing doctoral dissertations. USVT provides appropriate support services for students, including: accommodation in modernized student dormitories; a university cafeteria operating in accordance with current national regulations; sports facilities accessible to students; a university health clinic; and career counseling and guidance services. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro//ccoc-fmv-centru-consiliere-si-orientare-in-cariera-8403> <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro//ccoc-fmv-centru-consiliere-si-orientare-in-cariera-8403> <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/studenti-20>

USVT consistently focuses on ensuring appropriate working conditions for its teaching, research, and administrative staff. USVT organizes events dedicated to the social inclusion of students with disabilities, to raise awareness and foster open dialogue about the role of accessibility and equal opportunities in the academic environment.

Recommendations Not applicable

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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The teaching and research facilities used at IOSUD-USVT (lecture halls, classrooms, and seminar rooms, as well as laboratories), along with the administrative offices, are continuously maintained through periodic repairs, technical inspections, and cleaning activities, in order to ensure optimal conditions for study, research, and daily life, as well as adequate working conditions for teaching, research, and administrative staff. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R019.pdf>

The teaching and research laboratories are adequately equipped with modern equipment, in accordance with national standards and international trends in the respective fields of study, including computer workstations where the nature of teaching and research activities requires them. IT equipment, laboratory equipment, and other portable equipment are regularly inspected and updated to support teaching and research activities, ensuring their functionality, safety, and efficient use. Research activities in the field of Food Engineering are supported by the infrastructure of the Faculty of Food Engineering and the university's research platforms, which include modern laboratories dedicated to food technologies, quality control and food safety, food microbiology, technologies in the dairy and meat industries, baking and flour-based products, food additives, preservation techniques, as well as ecology and environmental protection. Furniture and teaching materials are kept in good working order, and replacements and additions are made



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as needed. Relevant information regarding the institutional infrastructure is available on the university's official website (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro>).

Doctoral students have access to the Bakery and Flour-Based Foods Laboratory, the Meat and Meat Products Laboratory, the Microbiology Laboratory, the Dairy Industry Technologies Laboratory, the Ecology and Environmental Protection – Food Analysis Laboratory, the Food Additives and Preservation Techniques Laboratory, and the Quality Control Laboratory for Plant-Based Food Products. Experimental activities are complemented by the use of pilot plants and modern equipment for food processing and characterization, which enable research into functional and personalized foods, the valorisation of agri-food byproducts, food safety and authenticity, modern preservation and processing technologies, as well as environmental protection and the sustainability of agri-food systems.

IOSUD-USVT manages its material base efficiently and responsibly, with a focus on the maintenance, continuous modernization, and sustainable use of available spaces and equipment—aspects that are also reflected in the feedback regularly collected from doctoral students. The immovable and movable property are properly maintained, ensuring optimal conditions for study, research, and work activities, in accordance with applicable national and international requirements and standards.

In conclusion, the higher institution has established a coherent and sustainable system for the management and maintenance of its movable and immovable assets, ensuring optimal conditions for teaching, learning, research, student life, and administrative activities, in accordance with ARACIS standards.

Recommendations – Not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

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

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources

The HEI has the required human resources to 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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The IPA doctoral field within IOSUD–USVT benefits adequate human resources to ensure the effective implementation of the evaluated doctoral study program, both in terms of the number of staff and the qualifications, professional expertise, and scientific competence of its academic and research personnel. The evaluated doctoral field is supported by full-time and affiliated doctoral supervisors who comply with the minimum national standards established by the National Council for the Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) for habilitation and for occupying teaching and research appointments. Supervisors are employed either on a full-time or affiliated basis and carry out teaching, supervision, and research activities within their areas of expertise. (Annex 4).

An analysis of the verification sheets for the minimum standards confirms that all doctoral supervisors satisfy the required eligibility criteria. Their academic profiles demonstrate sustained scientific productivity and international visibility, as reflected by publications indexed in internationally recognized databases such as Web of Science, competitive Hirsch index values, and active participation in international scientific committees and professional organizations.

The structure of the teaching staff is stable and balanced, the tenured teachers having the teaching degrees of university professor and associate professor, which ensures the continuity of the educational process and the maintenance of academic quality standards. The involvement of doctoral supervisors in the



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teaching of specialized disciplines and the coordination of research projects ensures the coherence of doctoral training and the scientific relevance of the activities carried out. The institution implements coherent human resource policies that promote the transparent recruitment and selection of academic staff while supporting their continuous professional development. These policies encourage participation in academic mobility programmes, lifelong learning initiatives, and scientific research activities, thereby fostering academic excellence and institutional development. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/legislatie/concursuri-11881>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66>
In conclusion, the human resources related to the IPA doctoral field are adequate in terms of numbers, quality and professional skills, fully meeting the requirements of the ARACIS standards and the requirements of national qualifications framework.

Recommendations – Not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled.**

Indicator
I.P.A.3.1.2

The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.

IOSUD-USVT ensures, in a systematic and coherent manner, the professional and personal development of doctoral supervisors, teachers and researchers, by facilitating access to institutionalized programs of continuous training and academic mobility. Academic staff are encouraged to participate in European academic cooperation programs, academic mobility schemes, research projects, scientific conferences, thus they contribute to the continuous development of their professional profiles. The institution implements policies that promote lifelong learning and academic excellence by encouraging the active involvement of academic staff in research, innovation, and technology transfer activities. Participation in national and international research projects, together with collaboration with industry and other socio-economic partners, contributes to the continuous enhancement of professional competencies and supports the personal and career development of academic staff.

USVT has supported the professional and personal development of doctoral advisors and doctoral students through professional development courses in academic ethics and integrity, as well as through activities aimed at developing digital skills.

The institution organized by dedicated structures: workshops and events, educational programs in order to development doctoral advisors and doctoral students, legislative news, norms and standards in food safety, new regulations in the field of food safety. <https://news.usab-tm.ro/2025/12/07/scoala-doctorala-de-iarna-iosud-usvt-editia-2025/> <http://coifa.it/itss2025/sc.html>

The doctoral supervisors of DSUD - IPA benefit from internal performance incentive and reward programs, as well as financial support for the publication of articles in ISI/Clarivate Analytics indexed journals and free access to high-quality scientific literature through recognized databases.

Furthermore, the institution fosters an academic environment that supports professional and personal development, grounded in the principles of academic integrity, ethical conduct, and active engagement within the university community. Academic staff are encouraged to participate in institutional decision-making bodies, interdisciplinary research teams, and collaborative academic initiatives, thereby contributing to the continuous development and governance of the institution.

Recommendations: Not applicable

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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The procedures for recruiting teaching staff and research staff affiliated with IOSUD–USVT are established at the institutional level and are carried out in accordance with the legal provisions in force, ensuring transparency, competitiveness, and equal opportunity. Teaching and research positions are filled through a public competition organized in accordance with national legislation. At the institutional level USVT applies a clear regulatory framework regarding recruitment, staff promotion, selection in accordance with Higher Education Law and internal regulations approved in University Senate. These procedures are publicly available, transparent, and applied consistently across all academic and research units of the institution.

[https://www.usab-](https://www.usab-tm.ro/utlizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/r061/USVT_R061_ed%205%20rev%201_17_03_2025.pdf)

[tm.ro/utlizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/r061/USVT_R061_ed%205%20rev%201_17_03_2025.pdf](https://www.usab-tm.ro/utlizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/r061/USVT_R061_ed%205%20rev%201_17_03_2025.pdf)

Academic and research positions are filled through open public competitions conducted on the basis of clear and transparent criteria, ensuring equal opportunities and fair competition for all candidates. The status of doctoral supervisor may be acquired only after obtaining the habilitation qualification and completing the affiliation procedure with a doctoral school, in accordance with the applicable institutional regulations and methodologies. Furthermore, IOSUD–USVT recognizes the status of doctoral supervisor obtained at higher education institutions abroad, based on legal recognition procedures and international conventions, ensuring transparency and compliance of the recruitment process.

Through the consistent application of these procedures and mechanisms, the University ensures that the recruitment and appointment of academic staff are conducted in a lawful, transparent, and merit-based manner. This approach contributes to the development of a highly qualified academic community capable of delivering teaching and research activities at the highest standards, in full compliance with ARACIS quality assurance requirements.

Recommendations: Not applicable

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.

The digital transformation strategy implemented within the organizational component of USVT is focused on streamlining administrative processes, improving operational efficiency, and enhancing the quality of services provided to members of the academic community and other stakeholders. This approach is aligned with national and European strategies for the digitalization of higher education. The implemented IT platforms support the management of teaching, research and administrative activities, contributing to reducing bureaucracy, optimizing workflows and increasing user satisfaction.

At the institutional level, various IT platforms have been implemented to manage the academic process, notably:

- ✓ SUMS platform for integrated management of the educational path of doctoral students, from admission to the completion of doctoral studies, including administrative aspects such as payment of fees, accommodation and other related services (<https://intranet.usab-tm.ro/>);
- ✓ Online Admission Platform – USVT (<https://institut.webtm.ro/admitere-doctorat/>)



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- ✓ Erasmus Platform for participation of the USVT in the Erasmus+ Programme (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/european-student-card-initiative/ewp>);
- ✓ ACADEMICS IT platform manage the results of scientific research and teaching activity (<https://academics.usvt.ro/>);
- ✓ USVT Excelsior Alumni Foundation platform dedicated to the alumni community (<https://excelsioralumni.ro/>).

To support teaching and research activities, the university provides doctoral supervisors and PhD students with specialized software for statistical analyses, interpretation of research results (e.g. SAS Academic Program, Office 365, MATLAB). By implementing and coherently using IT tools within its own procedures, USVT providing quality services, adapted to the needs of the academic community and indirect beneficiaries of education, in a modern, efficient and digitally oriented institutional framework.

In the same time USVT implements "Open Digital Learning Campus in Life Sciences" project, funded by PNRR as well as the launch of the "LearnX Lab" initiative confirm USVT's strategic orientation towards innovation, digitalization and sustainable institutional development.

Through these measures, the university demonstrates its ongoing to improve access to education, enhance the quality of the services provided, and support a modern, efficient, and student-centered academic environment.

Recommendations: Not applicable

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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DSUD - IPA is organized in accordance with national and European standards, complying with the European Transferable Credit System (ECTS). The structure of the program comprises 240 ECTS credits, distributed over four years of study, with 60 ECTS/year, corresponding to a balanced and transparent workload, integrating teaching activities, scientific research and supervised independent activities. The study programme is designed and structured in accordance with the principles of the National Qualifications Framework, based on national regulations available on the National Authority for Qualifications (<https://www.anc.edu.ro>) and European Commission regarding the European Higher Education Area (<https://education.ec.europa.eu>).

The analysis of the correlation between disciplines, research activities and expected learning outcomes highlights a coherent curricular structure, appropriate to level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework. The program ensures the development of advanced research skills, transversal skills and the ability to capitalize on scientific results, being aligned with the ARACIS requirements regarding the quality and relevance of doctoral training.

* 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.



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The institutional regulation on the initiation, approval, monitoring and periodic evaluation of study programs (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R015.pdf>) stipulated that distribution of credits reflects the balance between theoretical, applied and research training activities, in accordance with ARACIS standards and the requirements of the European Higher Education Area. The PhD programme is correlated with learning outcomes, defined in terms of transversal knowledge, skills and competences, specific to EQF level 8.

The program is supported by publicly available institutional regulations, including the regulations governing the organization of doctoral studies, assessment methodologies, and the student handbook, all of which are accessible through the IOSUD or university website.

Based on the information presented, the program ensures its ongoing alignment with ARACIS standards and those of the European Higher Education Area

Recommendations Not applicable

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).

Alignment with the qualification level and competencies targeted in the DSUD-IPA curriculum design and development process aims to ensure alignment with Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), corresponding to the qualification required to receive a doctoral degree. (<https://education.ec.europa.eu>). The program structure, course content, and research activities are designed to support the development of the advanced skills required for scientific research, innovation, and higher education.

The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the professional and transversal competences established in Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral degree programs. https://institut.webtm.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Rezultatele-invatarii_IRVA.pdf <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf>

Knowledge, skills and competences, and are also correlated with the requirements of the specific occupations of doctoral graduates, in accordance with the European Classification of Occupations (ESCO) and the relevant national occupational standards. The program aims to prepare doctoral students for positions such as scientific researcher, university professor, expert in the field of plant and animal resources, specialist in innovation and technology transfer. (<https://esco.ec.europa.eu/ro/classification>)

This correlation ensures the consistency of the program with the level of qualification and the relevance of the acquired skills for the professional and academic insertion of graduates, in accordance with ARACIS standards. The process is supported by the periodic consultation of the economic environment and the updating of curricula and discipline sheets. <https://institut.webtm.ro/documente-desfasurare-doctorat/>

The study program demonstrates a coherent and sustainable alignment between the qualification level, learning outcomes, and the competencies required for the targeted occupations, in accordance with applicable national and European standards.

Recommendations: Strengthen the development of transferable skills by offering additional training in leadership, languages and communication competences, project management, legislation related to the agri-food sector, intellectual property and innovation management.



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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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The organizational structure of the DSUD-IPA is designed to facilitate the implementation of student-centred learning principles through a flexible curriculum focused primarily on scientific research and the development of doctoral students' autonomy. The program's structure allows the training path to be tailored to the research topic and the individual needs of the doctoral students, under the coordination of the doctoral advisor and within the research team. <https://institut.webtm.ro/en/doctoral-program-documents/> Within the doctoral programmes, student-centred learning is reinforced through a range of institutional support mechanisms, including supervisory committees and academic integrity bodies that provide continuous mentoring, academic guidance, and individualized assistance throughout the doctoral journey. Regular interaction between doctoral students and their supervisors, combined with active collaboration in research projects and scientific publications, fosters a personalized, research-driven learning environment that supports both academic and professional development.

The evaluation of doctoral students is carried out on the basis of criteria established at the beginning of the academic year, in accordance with the activities carried out, their weight being specified in the curricula and subject sheets (Annex 9) and in the institutional examination methodology it is made according to the regulation on the professional activity of students in USVT. (<https://institut.webtm.ro/en/doctoral-program-documents/>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/r040/R040.pdf>)

According with IER "The existence of guidance and academic integrity committees, functional throughout the duration of the doctoral internship, as well as the favourable ratio of doctoral students to supervisors (0.52), ensures individualized support and a personalized doctoral path, demonstrating the effective application of the principles of student-cantered learning, with a focus on autonomy, responsibility and active involvement."

Overall, DSUD IPA programme demonstrating the effective application of the principles of student-centred learning in line with national and European best practices.

Recommendations Not applicable

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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DSUD-IPA provides a functional institutional framework for doctoral student's participation in different type of mobilities: in-person, virtual, and blended academic mobility programs, supported by clear procedures and flexible curriculum plans, which allow for the integration of the results obtained without extending the duration of their studies.

The curricula are designed to provide curricular flexibility, facilitating the integration of academic results obtained within the mobilities without extending the duration of studies. Also, in the annual report, ERASMUS mobility is credited. (<https://institut.webtm.ro/documente-desfasurare-doctorat/>)

Also, the internationalization activity of doctoral students is also supported by constant participation in conferences, scientific events, internships and scientific events during internship. (Annex 6.1).

During the evaluated period, the doctoral students from DSUD – IPA benefited from institution the support to participation in international mobility programmes, training mobilities, international conferences,



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international research placements and other academic events at universities from abroad, contribute to the development of professional and intercultural competencies, as well as the enhancement of the international visibility of their research activities.

In conclusion constant participation of doctoral students in international scientific events, along with the existence of Erasmus+ agreements, CEEPUS networks, the strategic internationalization plan, and institutional support mechanisms, creates favourable conditions for expanding mobility opportunities and developing professional and intercultural competencies, in accordance with ARACIS requirements.

Recommendations: Not applicable

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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USVT ensures fair opportunities for all doctoral students, in accordance with their potential and aspirations, in accordance with the provisions of the USVT Charter, the Regulation on the Professional Activity of Students (USVT –R040), the Institutional Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of Doctoral Studies (USVT –R075) and of its own Methodology on the organization and functioning of the CCOC-USVT. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/universitate/file/Carta%20Universitara%20USV%20Timisoara.pdf>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/r040/R040.pdf>, <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf>

All doctoral students benefit from equal opportunities, including based on the Gender Equality Plan, having non-discriminatory access to education, regardless of the social, economic or geographical environment of origin.

(https://usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/universitate/file/inf-leg-per/Plan%20privind%20egalitatea%20de%20gen_USVT.pdf)

They have equal access to quality educational resources and opportunities, developed within the SD-IRVA / SD-MV doctoral schools, including curricula, discipline sheets and the organization of the individual study program (timetable). These measures contribute to the creation of a university environment that promotes equal opportunities, inclusion and individual development of each doctoral student. Also, the regulation stipulated the procedure the interruption of studies for a maximum period of two academic years by CSD and CSUD regulation.

In conclusion USVT, through the structure and regulations applicable to doctoral studies, ensures a coherent institutional framework that promotes equity, equal opportunities and inclusion in doctoral training. Non-discriminatory access to educational resources, flexibility of the doctoral path through the possibility of interrupting studies for justified reasons and adapting the individual research program contribute to capitalizing on the potential and aspirations of each doctoral student.

Recommendations: Not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

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

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

The 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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IOSUD–USVT ensures equitable access to educational resources and services for all students, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, in accordance with applicable laws and specific institutional procedures. The organizational component focuses on adapting educational resources to individual learning needs, the field of study, the level of study, and the structure of doctoral programs, through the use of appropriate teaching materials, flexible teaching methods, and digital platforms that support the learning process. (Annex 9).

The implementation of this indicator is supported by following evidence:

- ✓ The implementation of *the Procedure for Providing Support to Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)* ensures a coherent institutional framework for adapting the educational process to individual needs, demonstrating IOSUD–USVT's according with ARACIS requirements regarding access to appropriate resources and support services.
- ✓ The Faculty of Food Engineering infrastructure is adapted to ensure accessibility, with specific facilities being made available to students with disabilities, such as available lifts and access ramps. Students with disabilities also benefit from personal car access to the USVT campus.
- ✓ Students from all educational cycles benefit free access to scientific literature (Springer, Web of Science, SCOPUS) by USVT library (Enformation/ANELIS) platform.
- ✓ Access to modern educational and research infrastructure - The university provides doctoral students with adequate facilities for teaching and research activities, including modern classrooms, seminar rooms, specialised laboratories, computing centres, and advanced research infrastructure.
- ✓ Adaptation of resources to individual needs and doctoral programme specifics - Educational resources and support services are aligned with the study domain and the individual doctoral study programme, established together with the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee, ensuring a personalised academic pathway.

Furthermore academic counselling and guidance services, as well as specific institutional procedures for individualized support, contribute to creating an inclusive educational environment and supporting academic performance, in accordance with ARACIS requirements.

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

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

Learning outcomes are adequately defined, in accordance with the doctoral level and the requirements of the field of study, being explicitly described in the curricula and in the subject sheets.
https://institut.webtm.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Rezultatele-invatarii_IRVA.pdf
<https://institut.webtm.ro/en/doctoral-program-documents/>



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Learning outcomes are formulated in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy reflecting the expectations regarding the training path and research activities of the doctoral student, as well as the responsibilities of the doctoral supervisor involved in the teaching and evaluation process.

Learning outcomes are aligned with the objectives of the National Qualifications Framework and with requirements of qualification level 8 contributing to the advancement of research, innovation, and technology transfer.

The learning outcomes are correlated with the competencies and content of the disciplines, teaching methods and assessment strategies, being communicated to doctoral students at the beginning of each teaching activity and available through curricular documents and institutional platforms. This approach supports a clear understanding of educational objectives and assessment criteria, contributing to the transparency of the learning process and ensuring the quality of doctoral training, in line with ARACIS requirements.

Learning outcomes are integrated into institutional documents and individual doctoral study programs. These results are supported by the IOSUD regulations, which are publicly available on the university's website (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro>), and by internal quality assurance procedures.

PhD students can provide feedback regarding learning outcomes based on questionnaire. The existence of institutional feedback mechanisms and the platform for evaluating teachers and the curriculum contributes to the transparency and continuous improvement of the educational process, in line with the requirements of ARACIS.

Recommendations not applicable

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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The verification of the achievement of the learning outcomes within the doctoral studies in the field of IPA is carried out in a systematic and coherent way, both during the studies and at their completion. The annual periodic evaluations, based on research reports, specialized reports and monitoring of individual progress, ensure the continuous monitoring of the doctoral path, and the final evaluation through the public defense of the doctoral thesis, preceded by the verification of similarities and public consultation, guarantees the validation of the acquired skills and compliance with the standards of quality and academic ethics, in accordance with the requirements of ARACIS.

The final verification of the achievement of the learning outcomes consists of the public defense of the doctoral thesis, according to the operational procedure regarding the evaluation, defense of the doctoral thesis and completion of the doctoral studies within IOSUD-USVT regulation, in front of a specialized commission, according to the methodologies and regulations of IOSUD-USVT. Prior to the public defense, the doctoral thesis is subject to verification by means of a similarity detection software (www.sistemantiplagiat.ro), and the thesis and its annexes are made available to the public for 90 calendar days on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI, in accordance with the legal provisions on copyright.

<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339/sustinere-teze-doctorat>

https://usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/proceduri/csud-po-001/USVT_CSUD_PO%20001%20ed%203%20rev%204_%2026_09_2025.pdf

The public defense takes place after the evaluation of the thesis by all the reviewers and the submission of the papers at least 15 days before the date of the defense, the procedures ensuring the monitoring of scientific progress, the validation of the acquired skills and the confirmation of the level of academic excellence achieved by the doctoral student, in compliance with the regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in USVT (USVT – R075).

<https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf>

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

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

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

IOSUD-USVT applies clear, transparent and unitary admission procedures for doctoral studies, regulated by public methodologies and regulations, which ensure the objectivity of the selection process and compliance with the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The information of candidates is carried out through official institutional channels, and the correlation between the general regulations and those specific to doctoral schools contributes to the coherent application of the admission procedures, in accordance with the requirements of ARACIS.

The implementation of this indicator is supported by the following mechanisms and evidence:

- ✓ *Clear institutional methodology for admission* at the third cycle of universities study, approved by Senate of USVT, All information regarding admission to doctoral studies is published and updated on the official website of the university (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/admitere-doctorat>), ensuring transparency and correct information for candidates.
- ✓ *Organization and conduct of doctoral studies* All relevant information for organization, conduct and admission of doctoral studies is published and annually updated in online format on the IOSUD webpage. All the candidates benefit by equal access to the information.
- ✓ *Admission calendar* is early publication related to the annual sessions, all the information regarding admission is made public with 6 months before the admission competition. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/admitere-doctorat>
- ✓ *Conduct of admission examinations under regulated* is carried out on the basis of clear, transparent and unitary procedures <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R030.pdf>
- ✓ *Eligibility criteria, the stages of the admission competition and the methods of evaluating candidates*, ensuring the objectivity of the selection process and compliance with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities.
- ✓ *Admission is carried out* without discrimination, guaranteeing free access to doctoral studies for all eligible candidates, regardless of social background, ethnicity, gender or religion.

Recommendations not applicable

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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IOSUD-USVT ensures an admission process for doctoral studies based on principles of equity and equal opportunities, through transparent and non-discriminatory procedures. The existing regulatory framework, complemented by institutional support measures for candidates from vulnerable groups, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, supports equitable access to doctoral programs and compliance with ARACIS requirements. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/admitere-doctorat>

Institutional regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in USVT establish the institutional framework, eligibility criteria and stages of the admission competition. Graduates with a bachelor's degree



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(long-term studies) and a master's degree can register for the competition, with a total of at least 300 ECTS credits accumulated, admission not being conditioned by the field in which the diplomas were obtained. USVT ensures the necessary conditions for affirming equal opportunities in the admission process, including by implementing support measures adapted for people with disabilities, specific learning disabilities or special educational needs, in accordance with the legislation in force on people with SEN. (<https://usab-tm.ro>).

The university has implemented: a Gender Equality Plan; policies promoting equal opportunities and preventing discrimination; ethical and deontological regulations applicable to all academic processes. https://usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/universitate/file/inf-leg-per/Plan%20privind%20egalitatea%20de%20gen_USVT.pdf

Recommendations Not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students

The organisational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.

Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.
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IOSUD-USVT has a coherent and transparent institutional framework for the management of the academic path of doctoral students, through the unitary application of the regulations on professional activity, evaluation of progress and completion of doctoral studies. The flexibility of the doctoral path, including through the possibility of carrying out studies under co-supervision and their temporary interruption, contributes to adapting the academic path to the individual needs of doctoral students and to supporting the continuity of training, in accordance with the requirements of ARACIS.

The professional activity of doctoral students is regulated by official documents that clearly establish their rights and obligations (the doctoral student guide), as well as the modalities of periodic and final evaluation of the doctoral path, ensuring the coherence and predictability of the educational process. <https://institut.webtm.ro/ghidul-studentului-doctorand/>

Registration for the admission competition, defending the admission, enrolment, signing the doctoral study contract, establishing the research topic together with the doctoral supervisor, developing the scientific research program and the advanced training program, in accordance with the curriculum, as well as establishing the work program and observing the timetable, all the documents are published on the USVT- IOSUD website <https://institut.webtm.ro/en/doctoral-program-documents/>

The academic pathway of students is regulated through promotion and evaluation criteria; procedures regarding the public defense of the doctoral thesis; mechanisms for extension, interruption, or completion of studies. The completion of studies involves the evaluation of the thesis by internal and external committees, as well as the validation of results in accordance with national regulations.

https://usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/proceduri/csud-po-001/USVT_CSUD_PO%20001%20ed%203%20rev%204_%2026_09_2025.pdf

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.



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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.

The international mobility of teachers and doctoral students is supported through Erasmus+ programmes, international projects won through competition, bilateral agreements and international quotas, as well as through constant participation in conferences and training placements abroad. These actions contribute to increasing the quality of doctoral training, modernising the curriculum and integrating DSUD-IPA into relevant academic and research networks at European and international level.

The high scientific performance of doctoral supervisors, reflected by Hirsch WoS index values significantly above the CNATDCU minimum thresholds, as well as their involvement in professional associations, scientific committees and international editorial structures, gives international visibility and credibility to doctoral programs.

The doctoral supervisors of DSUD-IPA are members of more than 40 prestigious professional associations, councils and organizations in the field of education and research, both nationally and internationally. The doctoral supervisors of DSUD-IPA have been members of scientific committees of international publications and conferences and have worked as reviewers in over 50 such positions.

The doctoral supervisors of DSUD-IPA gave invited presentations in the plenary session of national and international scientific events. They are also part of editorial collectives or scientific committees of scientific journals and events organized at international and national level. They served as Guest Editor in over 10 journals.

PhD supervisors (Annex 7) and doctoral students (Annex 6) participate in Erasmus+ teaching and training mobilities. Also, within the international projects won through the competition, external trips were made for meetings of the project consortia and for the establishment of future collaborations in the research activity. DSUD-IPA doctoral students in international activities, participation in international conferences held in various countries predominates, as well as professional training internships. PhD students have participated with papers at numerous international conferences abroad. <https://news.usab-tm.ro/2025/12/07/scoala-doctorala-de-iarna-iosud-usvt-editia-2025/> <http://coifa.it/itss2025/schedule.html>

In conclusion DSUD-IPA meets and exceeds the requirements of the Indicator Internationalization.

Recommendations not applicable

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.

The scientific research activities carried out within DSUD-IPA are systematically integrated into the doctoral educational process and directly support the acquisition of the learning outcomes assumed through the study program. The research activity is carried out in accordance with the institutional strategy of IOSUD-USVT on research, innovation and technology transfer for the period 2021–2027, being coordinated at institutional level.

Inquiry-based learning is the foundation of doctoral training, with doctoral students being actively involved in designing, conducting, and building upon original research. The integration of doctoral students into research groups and projects coordinated by their supervisors, the alignment of research topics with teaching activities, and the dissemination of results through scientific publications and conference presentations ensure the acquisition of advanced research skills, critical thinking abilities, and scientific communication competences. The available research infrastructure, together with the participation of



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doctoral students in national and international projects, supports the conduct of research in appropriate conditions and increases its impact.

In DSUD-IPA, doctoral research contributes to the development and optimization of experimentally validated technologies and technological flows, with potential for industrial application. Obtaining innovative food products, evaluated through functional prototypes and quantifiable improvements in nutritional and functional quality, supports technology transfer, innovation and increasing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector. (Annex 6).

The full and affiliated doctoral supervisors of DSUD-IPA coordinate or participate in the teams for the implementation of research projects funded by national and international contracts. During the evaluation period 2021-2025 doctoral students and doctoral supervisors was involved into the research teams of 41 projects.

[https://www.usab-](https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/universitate/file/cercetare/2025/USVT_ENG_International_projects_completat.pdf)

[tm.ro/utilizatori/universitate/file/cercetare/2025/USVT_ENG_International_projects_completat.pdf](https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/universitate/file/cercetare/2025/USVT_ENG_International_projects_completat.pdf)

Faculty of Food Engineering offer an adequate material base, logistical resources and human resources that allow scientific research activities to be carried out in optimal conditions. PhD students carry out their research activity in the SDE-USVT spaces and within the "Ecological, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Safety" Platform, while also having the opportunity to carry out research activities in research institutes and production units, based on existing institutional agreements.

Recommendations not applicable

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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Scientific research within the IOSUD-USVT / DSUD-IPA framework is characterized by strong performance and global visibility. This impact is clearly demonstrated by a consistent record of publications and citations in major international databases, active participation in key scientific events, and successful engagement in research projects. Furthermore, the close alignment between research outcomes and doctoral specializations underscores the direct relevance of these academic activities to both student training and the advancement of the evaluated scientific fields.

The international visibility of the research is supported by the significant number of publications produced in collaboration with external partners, by the participation in research projects with national and international funding and by the dissemination of the results in the volumes of international scientific conferences. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/relatii-internationale-6486/acorduri-institutionale-1790>

The national visibility is ensured by publishing in recognized specialized journals, own scientific journals/events (e.g. Journal of Agroalimentary Processes and Technologies), participation in national conferences and involvement in scientific networks and communities (Annex 6). <https://journal-of-agroalimentary.ro/>

The dissemination of the results is achieved through scientific articles, specialized volumes, communications at conferences, as well as through other forms of scientific valorisation (Annex 3).

The capitalization of the research results is also achieved through the transfer of knowledge to the academic and socio-economic environment (Annex 10), materialized through specialized consultancy activities, participation in application projects, submission of patent applications and obtaining scientific awards and recognitions.

Quality of research results - The results of the research are capitalized by publishing scientific articles in specialized journals indexed in recognized international databases (Web of Science, Scopus, Annex 1 and



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Annex 3), as well as by participating in national and international scientific conferences and events (Annex 6 and Annex 7, Annex 8) relevant to the doctoral fields.

Recommendations – Promote a wider dissemination of research outcomes to society through outreach activities, science communication initiatives and collaboration with schools, professional organisations and public institutions, highlighting the impact of doctoral research on the agri-food sector.

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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IOSUD–USVT has a functional and coherent internal quality assurance and evaluation system. Supported by dedicated organizational structures and clearly defined regulations that are accessible to the public, this system ensures the consistent monitoring and continuous improvement of doctoral training and research activities. An essential element of this framework is the Code of Academic Ethics and Professional Conduct, together with the Ethics Committee, which reinforces the ethical dimension of academic activities and promotes institutional trust. In addition, the quality assurance system is strategically aligned with international standards, as IOSUD–USVT actively strives to adhere to the principles of the European Charter for Researchers.

At the institutional level USVT implemented a quality assurance strategy and a set of operational procedures aimed at the periodic evaluation of study programmes, teaching staff, and learning outcomes, in accordance with ARACIS standards. These procedures include: the methodology for the self-evaluation of IOSUD activities (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66>), procedures for the initiation, monitoring, and periodic evaluation of study programmes, as well as mechanisms for the annual evaluation of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students.

The executive activity of developing, implementing and updating the regulations, procedures and evaluation criteria is ensured by the Quality Management Service (QMS), which operates according to the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the quality management department.(<https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R026.pdf>) These mechanisms establish the methodology for organizing and conducting quality assessment and assurance activities at the institutional level, ensuring the consistent and transparent application of quality mechanisms. In addition, the ethical and professional aspects of all academic and research activities are strictly governed by the USVT Code of Ethics and University Deontology , which is fully integrated into the USVT Charter. These regulations promote the values of academic freedom, academic autonomy, integrity and professional responsibility, helping to maintain an institutional climate based on respect for ethical norms in accordance with the ARACIS requirements.

Recommendations – Consider establishing an independent University Ombudsperson (or strengthening an existing impartial mediation mechanism) to provide confidential advice and support for doctoral students and staff when independent guidance or conflict resolution is needed, thus further reinforcing transparency, trust and institutional wellbeing.

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

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

Indicator I.P.C.1.2.1	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.
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USVT actively engages all stakeholders in its institutional processes. Through elected representatives, students participate directly in the Senate, Doctoral School councils, and various institutional commissions, exercising their legal rights to voice opinions and vote. Furthermore, the institution regularly consults with alumni, employers, socio-economic partners, and industry representatives—particularly during reviews of study program methodologies, learning outcome assessments, professional internships, and graduate labour market integration. This external feedback is systematically gathered through questionnaires, focus groups, consultative meetings, and employment tracking analyses.

The involvement of stakeholders in the evaluation and quality assurance process is carried out through the structure of the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC), approved by the University Senate.

The structure and operations of the CEAC demonstrate the existence of formal institutional mechanisms that successfully integrate the perspectives of the academic community, students, and socio-economic partners into quality assurance procedures. The active inclusion of student and employer representatives fosters a highly collaborative approach to quality management, ensuring that institutional processes remain adapted to the practical needs of the educational system's beneficiaries. Furthermore, institutional documentation and the active role of these quality commissions underscore IOSUD-USVT's ongoing commitment to stakeholder consultation. This proactive feedback loop drives the continuous quality improvement of doctoral study programs and overall academic operations.

Recommendations No applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

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

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation

Quality assurance and academic ethics 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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The operation of the University Ethics Committee within IOSUD-USVT is supported by a clear regulatory framework and institutional procedures that ensure it carries out its duties independently and in accordance with legal provisions. The publication of the committee's membership and activity reports reflects an appropriate level of transparency and institutional accountability. Through its activities, the Ethics Committee contributes to fostering an academic environment based on adherence to ethical standards, integrity, and professional responsibility, playing an essential role in preventing and managing situations that violate the principles of academic ethics.

At the level of IOSUD-USVT the University Ethics Commission operates based on the Ethics Commission Regulation (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R021.pdf>) approved by the University Senate, in accordance with the national legislation.



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The Commission operates independently of the other organisational structures of the university, in compliance with the principles of university autonomy, impartiality and confidentiality. The Code of University Ethics and Deontology is an integral part of the USVT Charter.

The composition of the ethics committee is public and is displayed on the official website of the university, ensuring the transparency of the functioning process. The University Ethics Commission prepares an annual activity report. (<https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/legislatie/comisia-de-etica-universitara-11141>)

The university consistently enforces academic integrity, plagiarism prevention, and ethical standards in both teaching and research. These policies are explicitly detailed in institutional documents approved by the Senate and implemented across the IOSUD.

Based on these mechanisms, IOSUD-USVT demonstrates a functional, effective framework for ethical governance that aligns with ARACIS requirements and current legislation, ensuring academic integrity is upheld across all university activities.

Recommendations : Not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

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

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

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

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.
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USVT manages its study programs and fields through a coherent, structured, and sustainable approach guided by clear, actively monitored, and periodically reviewed procedures. This consistent application allows the university to adapt its educational offerings to socio-economic demands and scientific advancements.

As a result, these procedures maintain and improve academic quality, boost labour market relevance, and increase student satisfaction. Furthermore, active stakeholder involvement ensures that review decisions are well-substantiated and that the curricula remain both practical and competitive.

Within IOSUD-USVT there is and applies the Regulation on the initiation, approval, monitoring and evaluation of study programs. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/regulamente/R015.pdf>. The Regulation establishes the procedural framework for the design, implementation and periodic review of programs and fields of study. This regulation is systematically applied at institutional level and ensures compliance with legal requirements and quality standards in force. In order to achieve the objectives related to the quality of the study programs.

Also, students, graduates, and employers are actively involved in these processes, and their feedback is integrated into the design, monitoring, and review stages of the study programs. Study programs are monitored for quality and efficiency to ensure they align with evolving labour market demands and shifting technological and scientific developments at both national and international levels. https://usab-tm.ro/utilizatori/calitate/file/proceduri/ifr/PEC_PO009/USVT_PEC_PO%20009.pdf

Commissions on study programs, at the level of faculties apply a system of continuous monitoring and, in collaboration with the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance.

All procedures and evaluation results are publicly available and accessible at <https://usvt.ro/documente-si-rapoarte>; <https://usvt.ro>; <https://institut.webtm.ro>

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: **Fulfilled**

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.
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The institutional mechanisms at the IOSUD-USVT level actively support collaboration among academic staff, students, and both internal and external stakeholders when implementing procedures. This participatory approach ensures that everyone involved takes ownership of these processes, making it easier to continuously adapt them to the actual needs of the institution and its students.

Members of the academic community and key stakeholders actively drive the implementation of institutional procedures. By participating in evaluation committees, quality assurance structures, and regular feedback consultations, they directly contribute to the ongoing application and improvement of these processes.

Institutional Mechanisms for Academic Community Involvement: Academic staff, doctoral supervisors, and doctoral students actively drive the implementation and continuous improvement of institutional procedures. They engage directly by serving on decision-making bodies—such as the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) and the Council of the Doctoral School (CSD)—participating in evaluation and quality assurance committees, and contributing to self-evaluation and reporting processes. Furthermore, doctoral students hold formal representation within these governance structures, ensuring their voice shapes both strategic decisions and study program evaluations. <https://usab-tm.ro/ro/documente-usvt-80/proceduri-11209>

Participatory Instruments in Procedural Execution: Procedural implementation is supported by a robust suite of participatory tools. These include academic staff and study program evaluation questionnaires, doctoral student and supervisor self-evaluation instruments, periodic consultative forums (workshops and roundtables), and comprehensive internal evaluation reports analysed at the institutional level. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/departamentul-pentru-calitate>

Feedback Integration and Optimization: Consultation and evaluation data are centralized and processed by quality assurance structures. The resulting insights are systematically integrated into institutional frameworks—including curricula, regulations, and methodologies—to formulate proactive corrective and preventive strategies. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/departamentul-pentru-calitate>

Transparency and Dissemination: To ensure comprehensive transparency, all institutional procedures, operational methodologies, and evaluation metrics are hosted publicly on accessible institutional platforms. www.usvt.ro, internal platforms, <https://usab-tm.ro/ro/documente-usvt-80/proceduri-11209>

Recommendations not applicable.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

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

The organisational component IOSUD-USVT implements the semester evaluation of teachers' performance by students, carried out in electronic format, based on coherent, systematic and standardized institutional procedures and tools. The evaluation process is supported by dedicated IT platforms, which allow the systematic collection of student feedback on the teaching activity, teaching and evaluation methods, as well as the learning environment. Through the INTRANET/SUMS computer platform used at institutional level, synthetic and detailed reports are generated, at the level of university, faculty, study program, discipline and teacher. These reports form the basis for the analysis of the results of the semester evaluation



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and allow the identification of strengths, as well as aspects that need improvement in the teaching activity.
<https://usvt.ro/documente-si-rapoarte>

On the other hand students assess the level of satisfaction with the learning environment by filling in online questionnaires. USVT uses specific procedures and forms for the periodic evaluation of the staff's activity, implemented through institutional IT platforms.

According to the institutional practices described in internal evaluation report, through the INTRANET/SUMS-USVT platform, various reports can be generated (at the level of university, faculty, study program, discipline and teacher), necessary to assess the quality of the work of teachers, research and administrative staff. These reports, analysed by the CEAC-USVT, allow a rigorous evaluation of the feedback resulting from the evaluation process. The level of satisfaction with the learning environment is also carried out during doctoral studies, by filling in online questionnaires by doctoral students, as well as through dedicated online questionnaires completed by doctoral supervisors.

In conclusion analysis of the semester student evaluations highlights that IOSUD-USVT has successfully implemented functional and coherent institutional procedures within its internal quality assurance system. Conducted electronically using standardized tools, the evaluation generates detailed reports at the university, faculty, study program, discipline, and individual teacher levels. These reports allow management structures to periodically analyse results, pinpointing both institutional strengths and areas for teaching improvement. Overall, the evaluation results reflect a strong alignment between educational objectives, course content, and teaching methodologies.

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: Fulfilled

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

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases

The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.

Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.
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IOSUD-USVT systematically collects and analyses key institutional data. Data are collected through multiple institutional tools and mechanisms such as:

- ✓ doctoral student progress is tracked via SUMS-USVT,
- ✓ research performance through ACADEMICS,
- ✓ internal evaluation results through the INTRANET,
- ✓ institutional quality assurance process is supported by the SUMS-USVT and INTRANET platforms,
- ✓ Institutional educational platforms (eg Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.) are used to carry out teaching activities.

These databases allow the centralization and periodic reporting of indicators, substantiating managerial decisions and improvement measures. By centralizing these indicators, these databases facilitate periodic reporting, well-informed managerial decisions, and targeted improvement measures.

They drive continuous study program improvements, curriculum updates, and the optimization of teaching and research activities, while guiding necessary corrective and preventive measures. Additionally, these findings are integrated into annual internal evaluation reports and the institution's core strategic documents.

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: Fulfilled

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

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency

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

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.
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IOSUD-USVT maintains high transparency by providing easy access to public information regarding its doctoral fields, organization of the teaching process, student facilities, and institutional regulations. The university's official website (<https://usvt.ro/>) serves as the primary communication channel, ensuring accurate and comprehensive information is readily available to both direct and indirect stakeholders.

The transparency of the services offered by the university is also supported by the use of complementary communication channels, such as the media and social networks.

The Doctoral School provides students and the general public with detailed information regarding the doctoral study programs, the structure of the academic year, the curriculum, the timetables, the research topics, the admission to doctoral studies, the student guide, the research activity, the educational projects and programs, nationally funded projects, as well as the support services offered. Additionally, the university provides public access to announcements about admission competitions, proposed research topics, and data on awarded qualifications and diplomas. <https://institut.webtm.ro/documente-desfasurare-doctorat/> <https://institut.webtm.ro/en/doctoral-program-documents/> <https://institut.webtm.ro/en/doctoral-admission/> <https://institut.webtm.ro/ghidul-studentului-doctorand/> <https://usvt.ro/publicatii>

Also IOSUD-USVT ensures the publication and access to information of public interest through the official website of the university, where updated information on the institutional structure, strategic documents, regulations, methodologies, procedures, reports and other information of general interest is available.

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: Fulfilled

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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IOSUD-USVT ensures the transparency of decision-making processes by applying clear information and consultation mechanisms, which guarantee access to relevant information for all stakeholders. The decisions of the University Senate and the Board of Directors, as well as the regulations, methodologies, procedures, strategic documents and annual activity reports are published on the official website of the university, ensuring the visibility of the substantiation and decision-making stages. <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/undefined-5934/hotarari-ale-senatului-10064> <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/documente-usvt-80/regulamante-11210> <https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/rapoarte-senat-11879>

According to the internal evaluation report, decisions are adopted transparently, based on clearly defined procedures, and are systematically published and communicated to the academic community through official channels. These decisions address essential aspects such as the organization of doctoral study programmes, admission, resource allocation, evaluation of academic performance, and research activities. The transparency of the decision-making process is strengthened through regular consultations with doctoral students and doctoral supervisors (online questionnaires), carried out during the meetings of the specific structures (CSD and CSUD), fostering a participatory and responsible decision-making framework. In conclusion: IOSUD-USVT has digital communication mechanisms in place and uses them to increase the transparency of the decision-making process. These mechanisms make it possible to expand regular consultations with doctoral students, advisors, and socio-economic partners, while also optimizing access to strategic information, official reports, and documents. Ultimately, these efforts will strengthen the academic community's participation and improve the effectiveness of educational and administrative decisions.

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

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

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

Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The 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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IOSUD-USVT systematically and in accordance with the legal provisions carries out the procedures related to the external quality assessment process, ensuring participation in ARACIS evaluations and compliance with the methodological requirements regarding the organization and functioning of DSUD-IPA.

External evaluation activities are integrated into a well-defined institutional framework governed by regulations, methodologies, and operational procedures approved by the University Senate. These resources are publicly accessible on institutional platforms, including the main university, IOSUD, and quality assurance websites.

The last institutional evaluation carried out by ARACIS took place at the level of IOSUD-USVT, university was accredited and received the qualification "High degree of trust". DSUD-IPA was subjected to periodic evaluation in accordance with the legislation in force, the last ARACIS evaluation being carried out in 2021. Also, in 2025, the Progress Report was submitted, in which the implemented improvement measures were presented, noting the fulfillment of all the recommendations made following the previous evaluation.

Finally, the transparency and accessibility of information relevant to external evaluations are maintained by publishing regulations, methodologies, reports, and program data on the institutional websites (). This open practice facilitates compliance verification and strengthens overall confidence in the internal quality assurance system. <https://usvt.ro> <https://institut.webtm.ro> <https://usvt-public-assets.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/media/legacy/unassigned/Raportul%20privind%20evaluarea%20internă%20SD%20-%20IRVA.pdf>

Recommendations not applicable

The indicator is: Fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:		Weaknesses:
✓ DSUD-IPA 11 Within supervisors are actively engaged. Of these, 7 are full members of IOSUD-USVT holding full-time, permanent employment contracts at USVT, while 3 are affiliated doctoral supervisors. All 11 meet the criteria set out in Order No. 6129/20.12.2016. ✓ DSUD-IPA USVT is integrated into SD-IRVA supported by a stable and operational institutional framework.	INTERNAL FACTORS ↑	✓ Participation of PhD students in competition to achieved international projects. ✓ Involved of PhD students in interdisciplinary activities ✓ Additional training in leadership, languages, project management and agri-food legislation would further enhance doctoral students' transferable skills. ✓ Science outreach and public dissemination activities could better showcase the

✓ The research and study infrastructure provides very good conditions for achieving the objectives assumed in doctoral theses. ✓ Very good dissemination of the research results by publication in high impact factor journals, both among doctoral students and among doctoral advisors. ✓ During the evaluation period doctoral supervisor and PhD students was involved in 40 research projects. ✓ The existence of clear procedures for quality assurance, evaluation and monitoring of the doctoral path, in accordance with ARACIS standards. ✓ Integration of doctoral activity in the university's strategic research directions, aligned with national and European priorities on food safety, sustainability and bioeconomy. ✓ Strong collaboration with local and national companies, resulting in highly applied research, technology transfer and patents with a clear socio-economic impact. ✓ Excellent research environment, including accredited laboratories, modern research infrastructure and strong support for publications in high-impact journals. ✓ Extensive collaboration with universities, research institutes, professional associations and industrial partners at both national and international levels. ✓ High level of interdisciplinarity, allowing doctoral research to address complex challenges in Food Engineering and related fields.		programme's significant impact on society. ✓ The establishment of an independent mediation or ombudsperson mechanism could further strengthen transparency and institutional support for doctoral students and staff.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Modern infrastructure at DSUD-IPA that enables the implementation of research, innovation, development and technology transfer activities of the doctoral students. ✓ Doctoral supervisors have a strong potential for developing	 EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: ✓ Decreased interest in doctoral studies in the field of engineering of food products. ✓ Increased vulnerability of research funding streams within unfavourable economic contexts. ✓ Increased competitiveness at

research topics with high scientific impact. ✓ Possibility to developing partnerships with the agri-food industry sector, research institutes and other universities for internships, co-ops and projects. ✓ Integration of doctoral activity in the university's strategic research directions, aligned with national and European priorities on food safety, sustainability and bioeconomy. ✓ Strengthening interdisciplinary approaches (food engineering – _biotechnologies – _nutrition – _environment), in line with European trends. ✓ Strengthen international visibility through greater participation in European projects, research networks and joint supervision initiatives. ✓ Expand collaboration with industry through new industrial doctoral projects and innovation partnerships. ✓ Further integrate Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies into doctoral research. ✓ Increase the societal impact of the programme through science communication and outreach activities.		national and international level for financial resources, projects and high-performance academic staff. ✓ Rapid technological developments requiring continuous investment in research infrastructure and staff development.
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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	Fulfilled	

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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.		
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	Fulfilled	
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	Fulfilled	
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).	Fulfilled	Strengthen the development of transferable skills by offering additional training in leadership, languages and communication competences, project management, legislation related to the

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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			agri-food sector, intellectual property and innovation management.
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	Fulfilled	
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and	Fulfilled	

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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.		
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	Fulfilled	Promote a wider dissemination of research outcomes to society through outreach activities, science communication initiatives and collaboration with schools, professional organisations and public institutions, highlighting the impact of doctoral research on the agri-food sector.
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.	Fulfilled	Consider establishing an independent University Ombudsperson (or strengthening an existing impartial mediation mechanism) to provide confidential advice and support for doctoral students and staff when independent guidance or conflict resolution is needed, thus further reinforcing transparency, trust and institutional wellbeing.
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.	Fulfilled	
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.	Fulfilled	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	Fulfilled	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	Fulfilled	
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	Fulfilled	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	Fulfilled	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	Fulfilled	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	Fulfilled	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
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.	Fulfilled	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

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

A total of 32 performance indicators are fulfilled, 0 performance indicators are partially fulfilled, and 0 performance indicators are unfulfilled. There are no unfulfilled performance indicators.

VI. Conclusions

The decision to **Maintain accreditation** is proposed, considering that all 32 performance indicators are fulfilled and the Institution's point of view regarding the content of the REE

VII. Annexes

- Visit schedule
- Minutes of the meetings
- The institution's point of view regarding the content of the REE



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Calendarul vizitei de evaluare externă a calității
domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat/ The timetable for the evaluation of the external quality evaluation visit
for the doctoral university study domain

Instituția de învățământ superior/Higher Education Institution University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara

Școala doctorală/ Doctoral School: Ingineria resurselor vegetale si animale/ Plant and animal resources engineering

Domeniul de doctorat/ Doctoral Domain: Ingineria produselor alimentare / Food Engineering

Obiectivul evaluării externe/ The objective of the external evaluation: menținerea acreditării domeniului de doctorat/ maintaining the accreditation of the doctoral field

Perioada vizitei de evaluare/ The evaluation period: 6-7 July 2026.

Reprezentantul ÎS/OFE:

Nr./No.	III.1 Numele și prenumele/ Last Name and First Name	Calitatea/Team role
1.	Prof. univ. dr.ing Nicoleta Gabriela HĂDĂRUGĂ	III.1.1.1 Persoană de contact/Contact person

Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/Evaluation panel:

Nr./No.	III.2 Numele și prenumele/ Last Name and First Name	Calitatea/Team role
1.	Prof.univ.dr.ing. Liviu-Laurențiu GIURGIULESCU	Membru - Cadru didactic RNE
2.	Prof. dr. Alberto COZ FERNANDEZ	Membru - Evaluator internațional RNE-I



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3.	Student Sânziana- Maria VARODI	Membru - Student doctorand RNE-S
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Pentru evaluarea externă a calității în scopul menținerii acreditării domeniului de studii doctorale Inginerie Alimentară organizat de **Universitatea de Științele Vieții “Regele Mihai I” din Timișoara** comisia de evaluare aprobată de Consiliul ARACIS prin Hotărârea nr. 152/H/07.05.2026 și acceptată de Instituția Solicitantă (IA) are următoarea componență:

1. Prof. Dr. **Liviu-Laurențiu Giurgiulescu** - Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca
2. Prof. Dr. **Alberto Coz Fernandez** - University of Cantabria, Spain
3. Student **Varodi Sânziana- Maria** - Universitatea „Babeș-Bolyai” din Cluj-Napoca

Intervalul orar/ <i>Hour</i>	Activități de evaluare/ <i>Evaluation activities</i>	Participanți/ <i>Participants</i>	Locație/ <i>Location</i> /Listă participanți/ <i>List of Participants</i>
Luni / <i>Monday</i> , 6.07.2026			
9:00-9:30	Discuții tehnice în cadrul comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității/ <i>Technical discussions within the expert committee for external quality evaluation</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i>	USVT/ <i>ULST</i> /Sala de conferințe/ <i>Conference Hall</i> Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>)
9:30-10:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanții conducerii componentei organizatorice/ <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the representatives of</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Reprezentanți ai conducerii componentei organizatorice aferente	USVT/ <i>ULST</i> /Sala de conferințe/ <i>Conference Hall</i> Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ <i>List of participants attending the meeting:</i>



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	<i>the management of the organisational component</i>	domeniului de studii de doctorat evaluat/ <i>Representatives of the management of the organisational component</i> - Persoana de contact/ <i>Contact person</i>	Prof. univ. dr. Hădărugă Nicoleta Prof. univ. dr. Riviș Adrian Prof. univ. dr. Poiană Mariana Atena Prof. univ. dr. Romeo Cristina
10:20-10:30	Pauză/ <i>Break</i>		
10:30-11:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți evaluatori în evaluarea externă a calității cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă (REI) / <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the team that has drafted the internal evaluation report</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Echipa care a realizat REI/ <i>Team that has drafted the IER</i>	USVT/ ULST/Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ <i>List of participants attending the meeting:</i> Prof. univ. dr. Hădărugă Nicoleta Prof. univ. dr. Riviș Adrian Prof. univ. dr. Poiană Mariana Atena
11:20-11:30	Pauză/ <i>Break</i>		
11:30-14:00	Vizitarea bazei materiale/ <i>Visiting the material resources</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i>	Platforma de cercetare interdisciplinară: „Agricultură ecologică, durabilă și siguranță alimentară” / Samfira Ionel



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		- Reprezentanți ai instituției sau Academiei Române, după caz/ <i>Representatives of the HEI or the Romanian Academy, as applicable</i>	Laborator de panificație și patiserie/Alexa Ersilia Laboratorul de carne și produse din carne / Cocan Ileana Laboratorul pentru ecologie și industrie alimentară / Bordean Despina Laboratorul de Informatică aplicată în inginerie alimentară/Hegedus-Mîndru Gabriel
14:00-15:00	Pauză de prânz/ <i>Lunch</i>		
15:00-15:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu personalul didactic implicat în activitățile din cadrul DSUD/ <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the teaching staff involved in the activities within the DSUD</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Cadre didactice conducători de doctorat/ <i>Teaching staff who are PhD supervisors</i>	USVT/ ULST/Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ <i>List of participants attending the meeting:</i> Prof. univ. dr. Hădărugă Nicoleta Prof. univ. dr. Adrian Riviș Prof. univ. dr.Alexa Ersilia Călina Prof. univ. dr.Poiană Mariana Atena Prof. univ. dr.Bordean Despina Prof. univ. dr.Raba Diana Conf. univ. dr.David Ioan



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15:50-16:00	Pauză/ <i>Break</i>		
16:00 - 16:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare / <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the staff in charge with the research centres/laboratories</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare/ <i>Staff in charge with research centres/laboratories</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ List of participants attending the meeting: Prof. dr. Samfira Ionel Prof. univ. dr.Alexa Ersilia Călina Ș.l.univ.dr.ing. Cocan Ileana Prof. univ. dr.Bordean Despina Conf. univ. dr.Heghedus-Mîndru Gabriel
16:50-17:00	Pauză/ <i>Break</i>		
17:00-17:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu angajatori ai absolvenților DSUD/ <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with employers* of the DSUD alumni</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Angajatori/ <i>Employers</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>)

* Avoid inviting employers who are also staff of the HEI or members of the Romanian Academy, as applicable.



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			Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ List of participants attending the meeting: S.C. AGIL S.R.L. – Ing. Bordea Adrian S.C.MONTEBANATO S.R.L. – Ing. Vladu Elena S.C.PROSPERO S.R.L. – Ing. Ruxandra Monica S.C.PRONAT S.R.L. – Ing. Petcu Codruta S.C.SOLINA S.R.L.- Ing. Florea Lucian S.C.ARDELEAN COMPANY – Ing. Ardelean Adrian S.C. INFINITY S.R.L. – Ing. Ciucur Radu SC. Comtin SRL - Doruț Dinu Cerna
Marți/ Tuesday, 7.06.2026			
9:00 -9:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității/ <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with representatives of the quality assurance organisational structures</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității/ <i>Representatives of quality assurance organisational structures</i>	USVT/ULST/Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ Rectorate Building) Prof. univ. dr.Iancu Tiberiu Prof. univ. dr. Riviș Adrian Jurist Șerban Andrei Robert Expert calitate Predeștean Mădălina



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9:50-10:00	Pauză / <i>Break</i>		
10:00-10:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanți ai conducerii componentei organizatorice/persoana de contact/reprezentanți ai CEAC/reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității* / <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with representatives of the organisational component / contact person / representatives of the CEAC / representatives of quality assurance organisational structures</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Reprezentanți ai conducerii / reprezentanți ai CEAC / reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității/ <i>Representatives of the management / representatives of the CEAC / representatives of the quality assurance organisational structures</i> - Persoana de contact/ <i>Contact person</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ Rectorate Building) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ List of participants attending the meeting: Prof. univ. dr.Iancu Tiberiu Prof. univ. dr.Imbrea Ilinca Prof. univ. dr. Riviș Adrian Jurist Șerban Andrei Robert Expert calitate Predeștean Mădălina
10:50-11:00	Pauză / <i>Break</i>		
11:00-11:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară / <i>Meeting of the experts</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ Rectorate Building)

* Clarificarea unor aspecte rezultate din activitățile și discuțiile desfășurate pe parcursul efectuării vizitei, dacă se impune



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	<i>panel with members of the University Ethics Committee</i>	- Membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară/ <i>Members of the University Ethics Committee</i>	Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ List of participants attending the meeting: Prof.univ.dr. Borcean Adrian Eugen - Președinte Prof.univ.dr. Riviș Adrian - Vicepreședinte Prof.univ.dr. Grozea Adrian – Membru Prof.univ. dr. David Gheorghe Conf. univ. dr. Milin Anda Student Ciup Miruna
11:50-12:00	Pauză / <i>Break</i>		
12:00-12:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu studenți * doctoranzi din cadrul DSUD/ <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with doctoral students of the DSUD</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Studenți doctoranzi/ <i>Doctoral students</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ List of participants attending the meeting: Studenți doctoranzi: Student drd. Ilie Maria-Simona, an IV Student drd. Argylean Cristian, an III Student drd. Calotă Florina-Mădălina, an III Student drd. Enache Vlad Alexandru, an III Student drd. Ghițulescu Andreea, an II

* Nu este obligatorie în cazul autorizării domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat/ It is not mandatory in the case of authorization of doctoral university study domain.



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			Student drd. Poja Roxana-Liliana, an IV Student drd. Tarkany Patricia, an III Student drd. Cupin Agnes, an II Student drd. Neagu Robert-Daniel, an II
12:50-13:00	Pauză / <i>Break</i>		
13:00-13:50	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu absolvenți*,† ai DSUD/ <i>Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with alumni‡ of the DSUD</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Absolvenți ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ <i>Graduates</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ Conference Hall Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ <i>List of participants attending the meeting:</i> Dr.ing. Radulescu Laura Dr.ing. Mitroi Cristina Dr.ing. Dossa Sylvestre Dr.ing. Pluștea Loredana Dr.ing. Abraham Tiberiu Dr.ing. Bordea Nicoleta Dr. ing. Romînescu Ramona

* Se va evita invitarea absolvenților care sunt angajați ai ÎIS sau ai OFE, după caz.

† Nu este obligatorie în cazul autorizării domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat

‡ Avoid inviting alumni who are also staff of the HEI or members of the Romanian Academy, as applicable.



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			Dr.ing.Chirilă Cosmina Dr.ing.Petruț Darius Dr. ing. Bogdănescu Dana
13:50-15:00	Pauză de prânz / <i>Lunch</i>		
15:00-15.30	Finalizarea activităților de evaluare/ <i>Completion of evaluation activities</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ <i>Conference Hall</i> Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>)
15:30-16:00	Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții conducerii ÎS sau a OFE, după caz și ai conducerii componentei organizatorice pentru comunicarea concluziilor procesului de evaluare/ <i>Meeting of the members of the expert evaluators' panel with representatives of the management of the HEI or the EP, as applicable, and management of the organisational component, to communicate the conclusions of the evaluation process</i>	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ <i>Panel members</i> - Reprezentanți ai conducerii și ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ <i>Representatives of the management</i> - Persoana de contact/ <i>Contact person</i>	USVT/ ULST /Sala de conferințe/ <i>Conference Hall</i> Calea Aradului, nr.119 (Clădirea Rectoratului/ <i>Rectorate Building</i>) Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ <i>List of participants attending the meeting:</i> Prof. univ. dr.Hădărugă Nicoleta Prof. univ. dr.Riviș Adrian Prof. univ. dr.Poiană Mariana Atena

If deemed necessary, and depending on the type of doctoral program being evaluated, additional meetings may also take place, for example with representatives of:

- departments providing IT support, for instance regarding the organization of online activities
- departments for international relations and student mobility



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- the Counseling and Career Guidance Center, etc.

Prepared by,
Prof. univ. dr.ing. *Pavlu-Laurentiu* GIURGIULESCU



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