



HOTĂRÂRE

privind validarea rezultatelor procedurilor de evaluare externă a calității educației

Având în vedere prevederile generale și specifice aferente proceselor sau procedurilor privind:

- **evaluarea externă a calității și validarea rezultatelor cuprinse în Rapoartele de evaluare externă:** art. 223-226, art. 229-230 și art. 249 alin. (1) lit. f), g) și h) din Legea nr. 199/2023 a învățământului superior nr. 199/2023, cu modificările și completările ulterioare, denumită în continuare Legea, precum și în Metodologia de evaluare externă a calității educației în învățământul superior, aprobată prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 962/2024, cu modificările și completările ulterioare, denumită în continuare Metodologia;
- **autorizarea de funcționare provizorie pentru programele de studii universitare din ciclul I de licență:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. a) și lit. b) pct. (ii), alin. (2)-(5) și art. 236 alin. (1)-(2) din Lege; art. 27, art. 29 și art. 32-33, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **autorizarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul II de masterat:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. a) și lit. b) pct. (iii), alin. (2)-(5) și art. 236 alin. (1)-(2) din Lege; art. 27-29 și art. 34-35, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **autorizarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul III de doctorat:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. b) pct. (iv), alin. (2)-(5) și art. 236 alin. (1) și (3) din Lege; art. 27-29 și art. 37-38, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **acreditarea pentru programele de studii universitare din ciclul I de licență:** art. 239 alin. (1) lit. b) și alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (1) din Lege; art. 39-40 și art. 42, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **acreditarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul II de masterat:** art. 239 alin. (3) și alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (1) din Lege; art. 39-40 și art. 43-44, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **acreditarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul III de doctorat:** art. 239 alin. (4) și alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (2) din Lege; art. 39-40 și art. 46-47, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **analiza și validarea în vederea verificării respectării Metodologiei, de către comisiile de experți evaluatori în cadrul rapoartelor de evaluare externă:** art. 235 alin. (4), pentru autorizare, respectiv art. 239 alin. (6) lit. d), pentru acreditare și menținerea acreditării, din Lege, precum și art. 62-63 din Metodologie.

Luând în considerare:

a. Ghidul aplicabil programelor de studii universitare de licență, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 42/06.02.2025, cu modificările și completările ulterioare;



b. Ghidul aplicabil domeniilor de studii universitare de masterat, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 83/03.04.2025;

c. Ghidul aplicabil domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 84/03.04.2025;

Întrucât Consiliul ARACIS validează, prin vot deschis și pe baza verificării respectării Metodologiei, propunerile formulate de către comisiile de experți evaluatori și poate solicita refacerea Rapoartelor de evaluare externă atunci când constată că Metodologia nu a fost respectată ori respectivele rapoarte nu cuprind suficiente date și dovezi pentru adoptarea deciziei,

Ținând seama de considerentele Consiliului aferente validării rezultatelor individualizate în procesele verbale de ședință, al căror format a fost aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului nr. 170/H/03.07.2025,

În temeiul art. 258 alin. (1) din Lege și al art. 62 alin. (1) și (2) din Metodologie, precum și al art. 7 alin. (1) și alin. (3) lit. b) și h), art. 11 alin. (1) și al art. 23 alin. (5) din Regulamentul de organizare și funcționare al ARACIS, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 188/H/27.06.2024 și completat prin Hotărârea nr. 116/H/02.04.2026,

Consiliul Agenției Române de Asigurare a Calității în Învățământul Superior HOTĂRĂȘTE:

Art. 1. (1) Se validează rezultatele procedurilor de evaluare externă a calității educației pentru programele de studii universitare de licență, domeniile de studii universitare de masterat și domeniile de studii universitare de doctorat, după caz, cuprinse în anexele 1-16, care fac parte integrantă din prezenta hotărâre.

(2) Pentru fiecare dintre programele sau domeniile de studii universitare, anexa corespunzătoare indică, conform art. 230 alin. (2) și alin. (3) lit. b), c) și d), art. 231 lit. a) și b), art. 232 lit. c), d) și e), art. 235 alin. (1) lit. b), punctele ii-iv, alin. (3)-(5), art. 239 alin. (1) lit. b), alin. (3), (4), (6) lit. a)-d) din Lege, procesul sau procedura de evaluare parcursă, rezultatele din Raportul de evaluare externă care se validează, precum și considerentele analizei de validitate și concluzia motivată a Consiliului.

(3) Rezultatele prevăzute la alin. (1) se comunică Ministerului Educației și Cercetării și instituțiilor solicitante și se publică pe site-ul ARACIS.

Art. 2. Analiza de validitate se exercită în limitele art. 235 alin. (4), respectiv ale art. 239 alin. (6) lit. d) din Lege și ale art. 62 raportat la art. 63 din Metodologie.

Art. 3. Rapoartele de evaluare externă, inclusiv numele experților, se publică integral pe site-ul ARACIS, în condițiile art. 229 alin. (2) din Lege și ale art. 62 alin. (3) din Metodologie.



Art. 4. Prezenta hotărâre intră în vigoare la data de 27.08.2026.

Art. 5. Prezenta hotărâre va fi dusă la îndeplinire de Direcția Asigurarea Calității și de Compartimentul Tehnologia Informației.

Prof. univ. dr. ing. Cristian-Vasile DOICIN
Președinte

Daniela Cristina GHIȚULICĂ

Director general

Carmen MIRIAN

Director Direcția Asigurarea Calității

Cristina-Vasilica ICOCIU

Director Direcția Juridică, Cooperare, Comunicare și Formare

Consilier juridic

NR. 260/H/27.08.2026



AGENȚIA ROMÂNĂ DE ASIGURARE A CALITĂȚII ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNTUL SUPERIOR

Membră în Asociația Europeană pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - ENQA

Înscrișă în Registrul European pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - EQAR

ANEXA NR. 5

la Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 260/H/27.08.2026

Anexa 5.1

DATE DE IDENTIFICARE		
Instituția de învățământ superior/organizația furnizoare de educație	Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca	
Școala(ile) doctorală(e)	Școala Doctorală UTCN	
Domeniul de studii universitare de doctorat (DSUD)	Calculatoare și tehnologia informației	
Procedura/procesul de evaluare externă a calității educației	Menținerea acreditării	
DECIZIA		
Descrierea pe scurt a procesului de luare a deciziei		
Raportul de evaluare externă (REE) a fost analizat în ședința Comisiei permanente de specialitate Științe Inginerești 2 (CPS_C11) din 23.07.2026. CPS_C11 a solicitat revizuirea REE, conform PV 3951/23.07.2026 REE revizuit a fost analizat în ședința CPS_C11 din 17.08.2026, propunerea de decizie fiind consemnată în PV nr.4383/17.08.2026. Propunerea de decizie a fost analizată de către Departamentul de evaluare Studii Universitare (DESU), opinia DESU fiind consemnată în PV nr. 4487/27.08.2026.		
Gradul de îndeplinire a standardelor și indicatorilor de performanță și motivarea deciziei (se indică cifrele care stau la baza luării deciziei Consiliului ARACIS)		
Domeniul	Standarde Î / N	Indicatori de performanță Î / PÎ / N
A	Î: S.A.1.1, S.A.1.2., S.A.2.1., S.A.2.2., S.A.3.1., S.A.3.2., S.A.4.1. N: -	Î: I.P.A.1.1.1, I.P.A.1.2.1, I.P.A.2.1.1, I.P.A.2.2.1, I.P.A.3.1.1, I.P.A.3.1.2, I.P.A.3.2.1, I.P.A.4.1.1 PÎ:- N: -
B	Î: S.B.1.1., S.B.2.1., S.B.3.1., S.B.3.2., S.B.4.1., S.B.5.1., S.B.7.1., S.B.7.2., S.B.8.1., S.B.9.1., S.B.9.2. N: -	Î: I.P.B.1.1.1., I.P.B.2.1.2, I.P.B.3.1.1, I.P.B.3.1.2, I.P.B.3.2.1, I.P.B.4.1.1., I.P.B.5.1.1, I.P.B.7.1.1, I.P.B.7.1.2, I.P.B.7.2.1, I.P.B.8.1.1, I.P.B.9.1.1, I.P.B.9.2.1 PÎ: I.P.B.5.1.2 N: -
C	Î: S.C.1.1, S.C.1.2, S.C.2.2., S.C.3.1, S.C.4.1., S.C.5.1., S.C.6.1., S.C.8.1 N: -	Î: I.P.C.1.1.1, I.P.C.1.2.1, I.P.C.2.2.2, I.P.C.3.1.1, I.P.C.3.1.2, I.P.C.4.1.1., I.P.C.5.1.1, I.P.C.6.1.1, I.P.C.6.1.2, I.P.C.8.1.1 PÎ:- N: -
Motivarea deciziei		
Consiliul ARACIS în ședința din 27.08.2026 analizează și validează propunerea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității, constatând că din: 32 indicatori: 31 sunt îndepliniți, 1 parțial îndeplinit și 0 neîndepliniți 26 standarde: 26 sunt îndeplinite, 0 neîndeplinite, și, astfel, prin aplicarea art. 63 din Metodologie decide că standardele sunt ÎNDEPLINITE.		
Decizia	Menținerea acreditării	





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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
Doctoral School:	UTCN Doctoral School / IOSUD-UTCN
Doctoral Domain:	Computers and Information Technology
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation of the doctoral study domain



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	PROF. DR. RUGHINIȘ RĂZVAN VICTOR	Expert evaluator	
2.	PROF. DR. KATSIKAS SOKRATIS	International Expert	
3.	ANDRON FLAVIA CĂLINA	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

This external evaluation report was prepared within the periodic procedure for maintaining the accreditation of the doctoral study domain Computers and Information Technology (CTI), organised by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTCN) within IOSUD-UTCN. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the ARACIS Methodology for external evaluation approved by Government Decision no. 962/2024, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and with the Guide for the external evaluation of doctoral study domains. It covered the period since the previous external evaluation and assessed the organisation of the domain, its educational efficacy, learning outcomes, scientific research results and internal quality assurance mechanisms against the 32 performance indicators grouped under the three evaluation domains of institutional capacity, educational efficacy and quality management.

The Technical University of Cluj-Napoca is a state, accredited higher education institution with legal personality, of public interest and non-profit character, and an integral part of the national higher education system. Founded in 1948 as the Institute of Mechanics and operating under its present name since 1992, in 2012 it incorporated the former North University of Baia Mare, now organised as the North University Centre of Baia Mare. At the 2023 institutional evaluation, UTCN was awarded the qualification “high degree of trust”. Doctoral studies have been organised in the Bologna third cycle since 2005, and following Senate Decision no. 856/2017 the ten former doctoral schools were reorganised into a single UTCN Doctoral School, with the former schools becoming coordination councils of doctoral programmes (REI, pp. 5–11). Doctoral studies are organised within IOSUD-UTCN through the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), the UTCN Doctoral School and the Office of Ethics and Academic Integrity, together with the coordination councils of the doctoral programmes and the IOSUD secretariat. The normative framework — the institutional doctoral regulations, the Doctoral School regulation and the admission and thesis-defence procedures — is published on the IOSUD and university websites and has been updated in line with Law no. 199/2023 and Order of the Minister of Education no. 3020/2024, as subsequently amended and supplemented. At the previous external evaluation, by Order no. 5500/27.10.2021 (Official Gazette no. 1067/08.11.2021), the accreditation of IOSUD-UTCN and of its doctoral fields was maintained (REI, pp. 9–16).

Within IOSUD-UTCN, the Computers and Information Technology domain belongs to the Automation and Computers doctoral programmes and is organised in the Faculty of Automation and Computer Science and the Computer Science Department. It is led by a coordination council chaired by Prof. dr. eng. Dorian Gorgan, with Prof. dr. eng. Radu Dănescu and Prof. dr. eng. Liviu Cristian Miclea as members. The domain has 15 doctoral supervisors reported in the REI for the reporting period, while 16 doctoral supervisors were listed at the time of the visit, following the affiliation of Conf. dr. ing. Bogdan Iancu in 2025; one of them is affiliated with the North University Centre of Baia Mare. The domain has active research groups in distributed systems, artificial intelligence, computer vision, cybersecurity, knowledge engineering and software technologies. At the time of the evaluation it comprised 95 doctoral students under supervision — 75 in the doctoral internship, 15 in the extension period and 5 in the grace period — and 21 doctoral theses had been publicly defended during the reporting period. The doctoral programme is structured over 180 ECTS and is offered in full-time and reduced-frequency forms (IF/IFR) (REI, pp. 13–14, 20, 36; Annex centralizer).

II. Methods used

The evaluation was based on the analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report (REI, UTCN registration no. 2802/05.02.2026) and its annexes — the centraliser of the supervisors’ and doctoral students’ assessment sheets, the list of socio-economic partners and the doctoral-student feedback annex — together with the supporting documents made available by UTCN through the ARACIS electronic evaluation platform. The panel also examined the public institutional, IOSUD, faculty and Computer Science Department websites, the doctoral regulations and procedures, the doctoral discipline contract, the public curriculum plans and

discipline sheets used for the advanced doctoral training programme (PPUA), and the research-output centraliser.

Following the observations concerning indicators I.P.B.5.1.1 and I.P.B.5.1.2, the panel also reviewed the additional institutional templates concerning participation in PPUA disciplines, certification of research activity, the scientific research programme and the evaluation of scientific research reports.

In accordance with the ARACIS Guide for the external evaluation of doctoral study domains, the evaluation followed the stages established after the signing of the evaluation contract on 2 April 2026: the panel analysed the Internal Evaluation Report, requested clarifications and additional documents from the applicant institution, and verified the availability and accuracy of the public information, including a systematic check of the curriculum and discipline-sheet hyperlinks published on the institutional pages.

During the on-site visit to UTCN, conducted on 2–3 July 2026, the panel held meetings with the university and IOSUD management, the Council for Doctoral Studies and the UTCN Doctoral School, the coordination council of the CTI doctoral domain, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates, employers and administrative and support staff. The panel also reviewed the research and educational infrastructure available to doctoral students — including laboratories, the UTCN HUB and the CloudUT computing resources — and discussed doctoral supervision, academic mobility, the monitoring of research progress and the operation of the internal quality-assurance procedures.

The judgement on each performance indicator combined document analysis, verification of public information, the meetings held during the visit and the review of the quantitative indicators recorded in the annex centraliser. The findings were established by triangulating these sources, so that the conclusions on learning outcomes, doctoral supervision, scientific research results, student support services and internal quality assurance rest on converging documentary, factual and testimonial evidence.

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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- ✓ IOSUD-UTCN has adequate organisational components for the CTI doctoral domain: CSUD, the UTCN Doctoral School, the Coordination Council for Automation and Computers doctoral programmes, the IOSUD secretariat, the ethics and academic integrity structures and the relevant faculty/department structures. Their operation is regulated by institutional regulations, doctoral school regulations, admission and thesis-defence procedures, published on the IOSUD and university websites and updated after Law 199/2023 and OM 3020/2024, as subsequently amended and supplemented, following which the duration of doctoral studies was extended from three to four years (REI, pp. 14-16; University website). The management system is functional and appropriate for the doctoral domain.

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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- ✓ UTCN uses formal consultation channels at university, faculty and doctoral-school level, including faculty council decisions, CSUD/Doctoral School procedures, the Advisory Committee and the Department for Relations with the Socio-Economic Environment. The CTI domain benefits from a broad list of industry and institutional partners, including major IT and technology companies, and the consultation framework supports the revision of methodologies and cooperation arrangements (REI, pp. 16-17; Annex IPA121). Stakeholder engagement is present and relevant to the doctoral domain.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

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

Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.
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- ✓ The CTI doctoral students have access to appropriate educational, research and administrative spaces, including laboratories and research structures in the Computer Science Department, the UTCN HUB and BT spaces, library resources, ANELIS Plus, campus services and accessibility arrangements for persons with disabilities. The annex centralizer identifies dedicated doctoral spaces and equipment by supervisor/research group, and the REI documents access to laboratories, CloudUT and specialised research infrastructure (REI, pp. 17-18, 31; Annex centralizer). The material base is adequate for doctoral training and research.

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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- ✓ UTCN manages material resources through institutional procedures, DMCDI rules, JobRouter workflows and digital platforms such as SIMAC+, CloudUT, IOSUD and SINU. Research equipment is managed through the relevant research groups, while institutional projects such as AITECH and campus modernisation projects support the maintenance and development of research infrastructure (REI, pp. 18-19). The maintenance and management mechanisms ensure appropriate conditions for study, research and work.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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 CTI doctoral domain has 15 doctoral supervisors reported in the REI for the reporting period, while 16 doctoral supervisors were listed at the time of the visit, following the affiliation of Conf. dr. ing. Bogdan Iancu in 2025. They hold the doctoral degree and habilitation and have substantial research profiles, being mainly affiliated with the Faculty of Automation and Computer Science, one of them with the North University Centre of Baia Mare. The annex centralizer records 95 doctoral students currently supervised and 21 publicly defended theses during the reporting period, while the REI documents publications, projects, habilitation status and laboratory affiliations (REI, pp. 20-21; Annex centralizer). Human resources are adequate for the domain and compatible with the supervision needs.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.
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- ✓ UTCN provides staff-development opportunities through research infrastructure, SIMAC+ monitoring, internal workshops, language and academic communication support, CloudUT tutorials, Erasmus+ and international agreements, EUT+ cooperation, Fulbright and other international opportunities, and participation in research and innovation events. The annex centralizer also records professional-development activities and international visibility indicators for supervisors (REI, pp. 21-22; Annex centralizer). Staff development is ensured at institutional and domain level.

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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- ✓ Teaching and research staff recruitment is regulated by university methodology, aligned with national legislation, published on the UTCN website and implemented through transparent competition announcements, candidate lists, results and archives. The use of JobRouter for registration and file management strengthens traceability and equal access to information (REI, p. 23; University website). Recruitment procedures are legally compliant and transparent.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation

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

Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.
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- ✓ UTCN uses IT tools in doctoral and administrative procedures, including SIS for doctoral admission, the Doctorate portal for thesis-defence information, JobRouter for teaching competitions, SIMAC+ for research-output monitoring, CloudUT for computing resources and SINU/IOSUD platforms for academic management. These tools simplify access to services and support students, supervisors and candidates (REI, pp. 23-24; University website). Digitalisation is functional and relevant for the doctoral domain.

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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- ✓ The CTI doctoral programme is structured around 180 ECTS: 30 ECTS for the advanced university training programme (PPUA), 30 ECTS for the scientific research project and 120 ECTS for the scientific research programme with progress reports and thesis development. The doctoral discipline contract is publicly available and confirms the credit structure; specialised PPUA disciplines are selected with the supervisor from relevant master-level curricula and discipline sheets in areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, software engineering and distributed systems (REI, pp. 25-26; doctoral discipline contract; University website). The curriculum is coherent and oriented toward the expected learning outcomes.

Recommendation: Correct public hyperlinks to educational plans and ensure a single stable public index for doctoral PPUA curriculum documents.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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

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

Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).
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- ✓ The programme defines expected learning outcomes at EQF level 8, covering original research, critical analysis, advanced methodological design, scientific publication, communication, ethical

* 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.

responsibility and autonomous management of the publication process. These outcomes are correlated with research and development occupations and high-level ICT roles, and they are demonstrated through the doctoral thesis, research reports, publications and participation in research projects (REI, pp. 26-28). The correlation between learning outcomes, qualification level and targeted competences is appropriate.

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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- ✓ Student-centred learning is implemented through individual doctoral study programmes, the selection of PPUA disciplines according to the thesis topic, research supervision by the doctoral supervisor and guidance committee, and progressive monitoring of research reports. The discipline contract and publicly available discipline sheets support this individualisation of the training path (REI, pp. 28-29; doctoral discipline contract; University website). The teaching and learning strategy is suitable for doctoral education.

Recommendation: Introduce a structured doctoral induction (orientation guide and/or bootcamp) covering publication strategy, funding and grant opportunities, research-integrity basics, and the student counselling services.

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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- ✓ CTI doctoral students benefit from mobility and dissemination opportunities through Erasmus+ agreements, institutional funds, research projects, summer schools, conferences and internships. The REI records dedicated allocations in 2023, 2024 and 2025, 13 doctoral students with international training/mobility experience and 14 doctoral students supported for at least six months through non-governmental or project-based funding (REI, pp. 29-30; Annex centralizer). Academic mobility opportunities are available and used by doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.

Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities
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- ✓ UTCN provides fair access to resources through institutional rules, student rights, counselling, ANELIS Plus, Microsoft 365, software access, accessibility measures in relevant buildings and the distribution of institutional funds through doctoral coordination structures. The REI recognises differences between supervisors in available infrastructure and research opportunities, but the institutional framework provides mechanisms for access and support (REI, pp. 30-31; Annex IPC411). The domain provides fair opportunities for doctoral students.

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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- ✓ Doctoral students have access to libraries, ANELIS Plus, U.T.PRESS publication support, research laboratories, UTCN HUB spaces, CloudUT computing infrastructure, counselling services and collaboration-based access to external research structures. Accessibility measures are implemented in the buildings most used by CTI doctoral students, and research infrastructure access is regulated through the supervisor and research-structure rules (REI, pp. 31-32; Annex centralizer). Learning and research resources are adequate for the doctoral cycle.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.
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- ✓ The learning outcomes are explicitly formulated at EQF level 8 in the REI and are operationalised through the individual doctoral study contract, which includes the compulsory disciplines *Ethics and Academic Integrity* and *Statistical Data Processing*, at least three disciplines selected according to the doctoral research topic, and the scientific research programme. The REI provides a direct mapping of the eight learning outcomes to the compulsory and optional training components, while the relevance of the individualised PPUA selection was confirmed during the meetings with doctoral supervisors and students. However, the reviewed discipline sheets used for part of the PPUA are master-level sheets and were not designed and approved specifically for doctoral studies; moreover, the documentation made available does not include a single formal decision or standardised procedure by which these disciplines are recognised as components of the doctoral curriculum and explicitly aligned with EQF level 8 learning outcomes. This limitation affects the doctoral specificity and documentary traceability of the curriculum, but does not invalidate the clearly defined learning-outcome framework or its individual implementation through the study contract and research programme (REI, pp. 32–34; doctoral-discipline contract; on-site meeting record).

Recommendations:

IOSUD-UTCN should either develop and approve doctoral-specific disciplines and discipline sheets for the PPUA or adopt a formal institutional/Doctoral School decision and procedure for recognising selected master-level disciplines as components of the individual doctoral curriculum. For every recognised discipline, the documentation should specify the ECTS credits, targeted EQF level 8 learning outcomes, assessment method, any additional doctoral-level requirements, the manner in which the assessment result is recorded, and its inclusion in the doctoral study contract and academic record. The approved discipline sheets and recognition decisions should be made available through a stable doctoral-domain curriculum index.

Make the learning-outcome mapping visible in a single doctoral-domain document, linking discipline sheets, research reports, publications and thesis assessment.

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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- ✓ Achievement of the learning outcomes is verified progressively through the scientific research project, the research-progress reports evaluated by the doctoral supervisor and the guidance and academic-integrity committee, periodic monitoring, thesis pre-defence, plagiarism checks, public defence and final validation. The reviewed institutional templates provide for the formal evaluation of research progress, including fields for recording qualifications or “admitted/rejected” decisions. The institutional framework also refers to examinations for the disciplines included in the advanced university training programme (PPUA). However, no completed, anonymised record was made available demonstrating consistently that each PPUA discipline is concluded through a formal assessment whose result is recorded in the doctoral student’s academic file. The form used to confirm completion of a discipline certifies participation but does not record a grade or qualification, the assessment method, the assessment date or the learning outcomes verified. Consequently, achievement of the learning outcomes is adequately assessed and documented for the research and study-completion components, but the assessment and traceability of results for the discipline-based component are not fully demonstrated.

Recommendation: Standardise the assessment and recording of results for all PPUA disciplines by introducing a discipline-completion form, transcript or equivalent academic record specifying the assessment method, date, ECTS credits, grade or qualification obtained, evaluator and learning outcomes verified. The applicable procedure should also regulate the minimum passing requirements, reassessment arrangements and the recognition of results obtained in master-level or external disciplines.

The indicator is: partially 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.

- ✓ Doctoral admission procedures are published on the IOSUD admission page and include the admission regulation, calendar, language test planning, list of supervisors, allocated places, registration platform, file composition and forms. The CTI doctoral field is represented on the IOSUD admission page and the Computer Science Department page (REI, p. 35; University website). The organisational component applies the admission procedures.

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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- ✓ Admission is organised according to published regulations and equal-access principles, with digital registration through SIS and transparent publication of results. The REI records annual admission in July and September sessions and provides CTI admission figures for 2021-2025, including budgeted and fee-paying places and reallocations where available (REI, pp. 35-36). Admission complies with fairness and equal-opportunity principles.

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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- ✓ The Coordination Council for the CTI doctoral domain applies the rules governing doctoral students' professional activity, including validation of research programmes, affiliations, extensions, grace periods, interruptions, defence committees, plagiarism checks and financial support for participation in scientific events. The REI records 84 validated research programmes, 62 extension/grace/interruption requests, 21 defended theses and Turnitin similarity values between 2% and 12% (average 6.71%) for the verified theses (REI, pp. 36-37; Annex centralizer). The academic path of doctoral students is regulated and monitored.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.

Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.
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- ✓ UTCN supports international cooperation through institutional agreements, Erasmus+ mobility, participation in the EUT+, ENIHEI and CESAER alliances, international projects, invited experts, international conferences and AITECH-funded actions. In the CTI domain, the annex records two ongoing international co-supervisions, 11 mobility agreements, 13 doctoral students with international mobility experience, 28 invited international experts and five international experts in advisory or thesis committees; international co-supervision is applied in practice, including a co-tutelle with the University of Geneva jointly funded by both universities and further co-tutelle agreements concluded through the EUT+ alliance; interest from international candidates was confirmed, although visa formalities and financial requirements limit incoming recruitment, and the REI identifies foreign-student recruitment and teacher mobility as development priorities (REI, pp. 37-39; Annex centralizer). Internationalisation actions are active and relevant.

Recommendation: Improve the public presentation of mobility opportunities, international co-supervision options and annual internationalisation targets for doctoral students and supervisors.

Recommendation: Develop clear institutional procedures for international joint supervision and double-degree (cotutelle) doctorates, and support structured mobility (e.g., stays of at least six months via the EUT+ alliance and Marie Curie funding).

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process

Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.
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- ✓ Research-based learning is central to the doctoral programme. Doctoral students are integrated into supervisors' research groups and projects, and the annex records 23 research or institutional-development grants in implementation, 41 grants obtained in the last five years, international and national projects and doctoral-student involvement in research outputs (REI, p. 39; Annex centralizer). Scientific research activities support the achievement of learning outcomes.

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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- ✓ The research results of the CTI domain are visible nationally and internationally: the REI and annex record 220 WoS-indexed journal articles, 105 WoS-indexed conference papers, 110 BDI-indexed journal papers, average Hirsch indices of 13.53 WoS, 15.40 Scopus and 20.40 Google Scholar for supervisors, and 97 published papers and 163 communicated papers by doctoral students who completed their studies (REI, pp. 39-40; Annex centralizer). Research output is strong and adequately capitalised.

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-UTCN applies self-assessment methodology for doctoral fields, covering supervisors' scientific activity, research infrastructure, logistics and doctoral procedures. The 2025 self-assessment used supervisor and doctoral-student sheets aligned with ARACIS indicators and produced field centralisers reviewed by designated commissions (REI, pp. 40-41; Annex centralizer). Quality-assurance procedures are implemented and have a direct impact on monitoring the doctoral domain.

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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- ✓ The quality-assurance system involves students, teaching staff, administrative structures, employers and ethics bodies through satisfaction questionnaires, activity reports, quality reports, stakeholder consultation, plagiarism-prevention mechanisms and institutional procedures. The doctoral-student feedback annex shows that students are asked about integration, PPUA contribution, supervision, guidance committee involvement, research conditions, mobility encouragement and ethics (REI, pp. 41-42; Annex IPC411). Stakeholder opinions are taken into account in procedure implementation.

Recommendation: Publish or adopt a concise guide on responsible AI use in doctoral research, writing and assessment, integrated with academic integrity procedures.

Recommendation: Establish a systematic, documented process for periodically collecting and analysing feedback from doctoral students and from employers/companies, building on the AI-Institute roundtables.

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 University Ethics Commission operates under Senate-approved regulations and is part of the institutional framework for ethics and deontology, together with CEAC, DAC, faculty CEAC structures and Senate commissions. Its duties include ethics policy implementation, complaint investigation, disciplinary proposals, annual reporting and preventive advice, including on plagiarism and academic integrity; no complaints concerning doctoral students and their supervisors were registered during the reporting period, and the institution was preparing an ethics strategy and a guide on the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence in research (REI, p. 42; University website). The ethics structure operates according to the law and independently within its mandate.

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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- ✓ UTCN has procedures for initiating, monitoring and periodically reviewing programmes and doctoral fields, including the UTCN Quality Assurance Code, ARACIS/ESG-based methodology and self-assessment methodologies for IOSUD and doctoral fields. These procedures define responsibilities, criteria and stages and are applied to the doctoral field through self-assessment and centralised reporting (REI, pp. 42-43). The procedures are consistently applied and support quality assurance.

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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- ✓ Members of the academic community are involved in procedure implementation: all 15 active CTI supervisors and doctoral students contributed to the 2025 self-assessment, and the coordination board and supervisors were consulted on methodologies, affiliations, habilitations, resources and doctoral-student support. Feedback from doctoral students was analysed in coordination-board meetings and used to identify improvements in the PPUA programme (REI, pp. 43-44; Annex IPC411). Community involvement is functional.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures

Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.

Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.
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- ✓ UTCN evaluates teaching staff through self-assessment, peer assessment and student assessment, with results centralised and published in summary form by DAC. For doctoral studies, feedback questionnaires in 2024 and 2025, as well as earlier field-level questionnaires, addressed supervision, PPUA disciplines, progress monitoring, research conditions and ethics; the annex includes both positive evaluations and concrete suggestions for improving progress-report monitoring (REI, pp. 44-45; Annex IPC411). The results of student evaluation are analysed.

Recommendation: Use doctoral student feedback to refine progress-report templates toward clearer objectives, milestones and KPI-based monitoring.

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-UTCN systematically collects and analyses data through internal databases and platforms used for doctoral management, institutional reporting and quality assurance, including ANS, INS, RMU and internal reports. SIMAC+ and other digital platforms support research-output monitoring and reporting (REI, p. 45). The database system supports internal quality assurance.

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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- ✓ Public information regarding doctoral studies is available through IOSUD-UTCN, the Doctoral School pages, the CTI doctoral-domain page, the Faculty of Automation and Computer Science doctoral studies page and the Computer Science Department pages. These sources publish regulations, admission information, supervisors, research interests, thesis standards, public-defence information and discipline/curriculum materials; the panel also identified technical link-correction needs on the public master-programme page used for PPUA syllabi (REI, p. 45; University website; link-check document). Public information is available and relevant.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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- ✓ Decision-making transparency is ensured through Senate, CSUD, Doctoral School and faculty structures, with relevant decisions, regulations and procedures published on institutional websites. Decisions concerning doctoral organisation, quality management, admission, monitoring and teaching-staff selection follow formal channels and are communicated through IOSUD and faculty structures (REI, pp. 45-46; University website). Decision-making processes are transparent.

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.

- ✓ UTCN participates in external evaluation processes according to the law. The CTI doctoral domain was externally evaluated in 2021, received the decision to maintain accreditation, and produced a 2024 progress report addressing the previous external evaluation recommendations and the changes introduced by Law 199/2023 and subsequent doctoral regulations (REI, pp. 46-47). The organisational component fulfils the external-evaluation obligation.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: - Strong and visible research groups and research output in the CTI domain. - Competitive demand for PhD studies in CTI field. - Qualified doctoral supervisors and active research groups. - Functional digital platforms and research infrastructure. - Clear 180 ECTS doctoral structure and research-centered training path. - Research valued and co-funded by industry, with medium-term stability (e.g., HRIA funding secured for three years and projects with international partners such as Lockheed Martin). - Research results capitalised beyond publications, including patents from industrial collaboration.	INTERNAL FACTORS ➡	Weaknesses: - Public presentation of the doctoral curriculum requires technical correction of links (curriculum plans and discipline sheets). - Feedback collection exists, but is not yet fully standardised, periodic and documented at doctoral-domain level. - The process of collecting feedback from companies, initiated through the AI Institute roundtables, should be continued and consolidated. - International recruitment and incoming doctoral mobility remain limited. - Doctoral-student feedback indicates that progress monitoring can be made more milestone-oriented. - The doctoral status of the master-level disciplines used within the PPUA is not supported by doctoral-specific discipline sheets or by a clearly documented institutional recognition procedure explicitly aligned with EQF level 8 learning outcomes. - The recording of PPUA discipline assessment is incomplete: the available discipline-completion form confirms participation but does not record consistently the assessment
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		method, date and result obtained.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: - EUT+ and international partnerships can support co-supervision and mobility. - Strong research infrastructure incentivizes high level research, also on AI-converging topics. - Strong, lasting partnerships with product-development companies offers valuable technological and financial resources to doctoral students. - Industry partnerships can support applied doctoral topics and funding. - Responsible AI guidance can strengthen academic integrity and research practice. - A doctoral orientation guide could faster integrate junior PhD students in the doctoral research community - Clearer procedures for double diploma degrees could encourage international collaboration. - Operationalising an industrial PhD programme, building on the company-funded doctoral students and on company completion incentives. - Diversifying research funding through European and national recovery (PNRR) funds, reducing dependence on public core funding. - Structured international mobility and co-supervision through the EUT+ work package on doctoral studies and Marie Curie-funded stays of at least six months in partner universities.	↓ EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: - Competition from the private IT sector for high-performing doctoral candidates makes it hard to engage and motivate students. - Dependence on public funding for research continuity. - Lack of predictability in national public funding. - Diverging incentives between academic and industry-driven research concerning timelines and publication focus. - Lack of national competitions for small grants for young researchers. - Rapid change in AI, cybersecurity and data technologies requires continuous curriculum updating. - Low overall investment in research by companies in Romania, concentrating pressure on the few research-active partners.

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

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	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.	F	
3.	I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.	F	
4.	I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	Correct public hyperlinks to educational plans and ensure a single stable public index for doctoral curriculum plan and curriculum documents.
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the	F	Introduce a structured doctoral induction (orientation guide and/or bootcamp) covering publication strategy, funding and grant

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.		opportunities, research-integrity basics, and the student counselling services.
12.	I.P.B.3.1.2 The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	
15.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	IOSUD-UTCN should either develop and approve doctoral-specific disciplines and discipline sheets for the PPUA or adopt a formal institutional/Doctoral School decision and procedure for recognising selected master-level disciplines as components of the individual doctoral curriculum. For every recognised discipline, the documentation should specify the ECTS credits, targeted EQF level 8 learning outcomes, assessment method, any additional doctoral-level requirements, the manner in which the assessment result is recorded, and its inclusion in the doctoral study contract and academic record. The approved discipline sheets and recognition decisions should be made available through a stable doctoral-domain curriculum index. Make the learning-outcome mapping visible in a single doctoral-domain document, linking discipline sheets, research reports, publications and thesis assessment.
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	PF	Standardise the assessment and recording of results for all PPUA disciplines by introducing a discipline-completion form, transcript or equivalent academic record specifying the assessment method, date, ECTS credits, grade or qualification obtained, evaluator and learning outcomes verified. The applicable procedure

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			should also regulate the minimum passing requirements, reassessment arrangements and the recognition of results obtained in master-level or external disciplines.
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	Improve the public presentation of mobility opportunities, international co-supervision options and annual internationalisation targets for doctoral students and supervisors. Develop clear institutional procedures for international joint supervision and double-degree (cotutelle) doctorates, and support structured mobility (e.g., stays of at least six months via the EUT+ alliance and Marie Curie funding).
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	Publish or adopt a concise guide on responsible AI use in doctoral research, writing and assessment, integrated with academic integrity procedures. Establish a systematic, documented process for periodically collecting and analysing feedback from doctoral students and from employers/companies, building on the AI-Institute roundtables.
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.		
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	Use doctoral student feedback to refine progress-report templates toward clearer objectives, milestones and KPI-based monitoring.
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

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

General recommendations: correct the malformed public links to curriculum plans and discipline sheets; publish a single doctoral-domain learning-outcomes map; formalise the doctoral status of the PPUA disciplines by developing doctoral-specific discipline sheets or adopting a documented procedure for recognising master-level disciplines as components of the doctoral curriculum; standardise and archive the assessment results for every PPUA discipline in the doctoral student's academic record; introduce a structured doctoral induction for first-year doctoral students; improve the public presentation of mobility opportunities and adopt clear procedures for international co-supervision and double-degree doctorates; publish a concise responsible AI-use guide for doctoral research; establish a systematic process for collecting feedback from doctoral students and employers; and refine progress-report templates so that doctoral students explicitly report objectives, milestones, outputs and next steps.

A total of 32 performance indicators were analysed. A number of 31 indicators were assessed as fulfilled. One indicator was assessed as partially fulfilled. No indicators were assessed as unfulfilled.

VI. Conclusions

The CTI doctoral domain at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca is well organised, research-oriented and supported by adequate human resources, infrastructure, digital systems and quality-assurance mechanisms. The doctoral programme has a clear 180 ECTS structure, explicit EQF level 8 learning outcomes, systematic assessment of research progress, visible research output and active links with the socio-economic environment. The panel nevertheless identified a limited but material weakness in the discipline-based component of the programme: some PPUA disciplines use master-level discipline sheets without a formalised doctoral recognition procedure, while the available discipline-completion documentation does not consistently record the assessment method and result. Consequently, I.P.B.5.1.2 was assessed as partially fulfilled, while I.P.B.5.1.1 remained fulfilled with recommendations. These shortcomings can be remedied through doctoral-specific discipline sheets or formal recognition decisions and through standardised recording of discipline-level assessment results. They do not undermine the overall institutional capacity or the favourable proposal to maintain accreditation.

The evaluation panel proposes maintaining accreditation for the doctoral study domain Computers and Information Technology.

Following the completion of the maintaining accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel is: maintaining accreditation (MAC).

VII. Annexes

Annexes: Visit schedule



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/Organizația furnizoare de educație/ Higher Education Institution / Education Provider Organization:
UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICA DIN CLUJ-NAPOCA / TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ-NAPOCA

Școala doctorală/ Doctoral School: Școala Doctorală UTCN / UTCN Doctoral School

Domeniul de doctorat/ Doctoral Domain: Calculatoare și Tehnologia Informației / Computers and Information Technology

Obiectivul evaluării externe/ The objective of the external evaluation: *(autorizare de funcționare provizorie/acreditare/menținerea acreditării domeniului de doctorat)* Menținerea acreditării domeniului de doctorat

Perioada vizitei de evaluare/ The evaluation period: 02-03.07.2026

Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/Evaluation panel:

Reprezentantul ÎÎS/OFE:

Nr./No.	IV. Numele și prenumele/ Last Name and First Name	Calitatea/Team role
1.	Prof.dr.ing. Rughiniș Răzvan	Membru - Cadru didactic RNE
2.	Prof.dr. Katsikas Sokratis	Membru - Evaluator internațional RNE-I
3.	Flavia Călina Andron	Membru - Student doctorand RNE-S

Nr./No.	Numele și prenumele/Last Name and First Name	Calitatea/Team role
1.	Prof.dr.ing. Gorgan Dorian	<i>Persoană de contact/Contact person</i>



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Intervalul orar/ Hour	Activități de evaluare/ Evaluation activities	Participanți/ Participants	Locație/Location /Listă participanți/List of Participants
Joi/ Thursday, 02.07.2026			
09:00-09:30	Discuții tehnice în cadrul comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității/ Technical discussions within the expert committee for external quality evaluation	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street
09:30-10:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanții conducerii componentei organizatorice/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the representatives of the management of the organisational component	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Reprezentanți ai conducerii componentei organizatorice aferente domeniului de studii de doctorat evaluat/ Representatives of the management of the organisational component - Persoana de contact/ Contact person	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Director CSUD/ director of the Council for Doctoral University Studies - CSUD - Director Școală Doctorală UTCN/ director of the UTCN's Doctoral School - Conducător de doctorat, Prorector – Cercetare științifică, UTCN/ PhD advisor, Vice-Rector for Scientific Research (UTCN) - Conducător de doctorat, decan – Facultatea de Automatică și Calculatoare, UTCN/ PhD advisor, dean of the Faculty of Automation and Computer Science - Conducător de doctorat, membru CSUD, coordonator al Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ PhD advisor, member of CSUD, coordinator of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science - 2 conducători de doctorat, membri ai Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ 2 PhD advisors, members of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science
10:00-10:30	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți evaluatori în evaluarea externă a calității cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă (REI)/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the team that has drafted the internal evaluation report	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Echipa care a realizat REI/ Team that has drafted the IER	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Conducător de doctorat, coordonator al Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ PhD advisor,



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			coordinator of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science - 2 conducători de doctorat, membri ai Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ 2 PhD advisors, members of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science
10:30-13:00	Vizitarea bazei materiale/ Visiting the material resources	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Reprezentanți ai instituției sau Academiei Române, după caz/ Representatives of the HEI or the Romanian Academy, as applicable	Sala, Locația/ Room, Location - Sala1, HUB UTCN, Baritiu 4-6, Etaj 2: Laborator de Sisteme de Calcul Dedicat si Incorporate/ Laboratory of Embedded and Dedicated Computing Systems - Lab DSRL - Distributed Systems Research Laboratory, Locația Hub UTCN Et 1 - Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Research Group (IPPRG) (Bosch, HRIA), Locația Hub UTCN Et 1 - Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Research Group (IPPRG), Sala 37, Locația G. Baritiu, 26-28 - Laborator de Cercetare in Retele si Protocoale de Comunicatii / Communications Networks and Protocols Research Laboratory, Sala 16B, G. Baritiu 26-28 - Centrul de Date/ Data Center, Corp D, Str. Barițiu nr. 26-28 Cluj-Napoca - Institutul de Inteligență artificială AIRI UTCN/ Artificial Intelligence Research Institute AIRi@UTCN. Observatorului 2
13:00-14:00	Pauză de prânz/ Lunch		
14:00-14:45	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare / Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the staff in charge with the research centres/laboratories	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare/ Staff in charge with research centres/laboratories	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Responsabil Laborator Sisteme de Calcul Încapsulate și Dedicat/ Head of the Laboratory of Embedded and Dedicated Computing Systems - Responsabil Laboratorul de Cercetare de Sisteme

Intervalul orar/ Hour	Activități de evaluare/ Evaluation activities	Participanți/ Participants	Locație/Location /Listă participanți/List of Participants
			Distribuite/ Head of the Distributed Systems Research Laboratory - Responsabil Laborator de Cercetare in Retele si Protocoale de Comunicatii/ Head of the Communications Networks and Protocols Research Laboratory - Responsabil Image Processing and Pattern Recognition Research Group (IPPRG)/ Head of the IPPRG - Responsabil Laboratorul Grafica pe Calculator si Sisteme Interactive/ Head of the Computer Graphics and Interactive Systems (CGIS) - Responsabil Grupul de Ingineria Cunostintelor/ Head of the Knowledge Engineering Group - Responsabil Grupul de Sisteme Inteligente/ Head of the Intelligent Systems Group
14:45-15:30	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu personalul didactic implicat în activitățile din cadrul DSUD/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with the teaching staff involved in the activities within the DSUD	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Cadre didactice conducători de doctorat/ Teaching staff who are PhD supervisors	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - 16 cadre didactice conducători de doctorat din cadrul domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat evaluat/ 16 teaching staff who are PhD advisors of the evaluated doctoral study domain
15:30-16:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu studenți doctoranzi din cadrul DSUD/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with doctoral students of the DSUD	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Studenți doctoranzi/ Doctoral students	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - 12 studenți doctoranzi din cadrul DSUD/ 12 doctoral students of the DSUD: anul I – 2 studenți / year I – 2 students anul II – 3 studenți / year II – 3 students anul III – 5 studenți / year III – 5 students anul IV – 2 studenți / year IV – 2 students
16:00-16:30	Pauză/ Break		



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16:30-17:15	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu absolvenți ai DSUD/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with alumni of the DSUD	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Absolvenți ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ Graduates	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - 18 absolvenți ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ 18 graduates of the evaluated study domain: - promoția 2021 – 3 absolvenți / class of 2021 – 3 graduates - promoția 2022 – 4 absolvenți / class of 2022 – 4 graduates - promoția 2023 – 4 absolvenți / class of 2023 – 4 graduates - promoția 2024 – 4 absolvenți / class of 2024 – 4 graduates - promoția 2025 – 3 absolvenți / class of 2025 – 3 graduates
17:15-17:30	Pauză/ Break		
17:30-18:30	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu angajatori ai absolvenților DSUD/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with employers of the DSUD alumni	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Angajatori/ Employers	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Decan al Facultății de Automatică și Calculatoare, UTCN/ Dean of the Faculty of Automation and Computer Science, UTCN - Senior Engineering Team Leader, Emerson Romania - Manager, Innovation & University Cooperation, Robert Bosch Engineering Center, Cluj - Cercetător senior, Transylvanian Institute of Neuroscience (TINS), Cluj-Napoca/ Senior Researcher, Transylvanian Institute of Neuroscience (TINS), Cluj-Napoca - Senior Manager, Bitdefender - Institutional Relations Manager, NTT Data Romania - Senior Manager, Porsche Engineering
Vineri/ Friday, 03.07.2026			



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09:00-11:00	Întâlnirea tehnică a comisiei de experți evaluatori (Activitate în colaborare pentru clarificarea aspectelor prezentate în REI)/ Technical meeting of the expert evaluation panel (Collaborative activity for clarifying the aspects presented in the Internal Evaluation Report - IER)	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street
11:00-11:30	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară/ Meeting of the experts panel with members of the University Ethics Committee	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară/ Members of the University Ethics Committee	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Membru al Comisiei de etică a UTCN din partea Facultății de Automatică și Calculatoare/ member of the Ethics Committee of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTCN), representing the Faculty of Automation and Computers
11:30-12:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității/ Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with representatives of the quality assurance organisational structures	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității/ Representatives of quality assurance organisational structures	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Prorector Management universitar și relația cu mediul socio-economic, președinte comisia CEAC/ Vice-Rector for University Management and Relations with the socio-economic environment, Chair of the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Committee (CEAC) - Director Departamentul pentru Asigurarea Calității/ director of the Quality Insurance Department - Director Compartiment Management Universitar/ Director of the University Management Compartment - Secretariat IOSUD-UTCN/ Administrative office IOSUD-UTCN - Membru CSUD, coordonator al Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ member of CSUD, coordinator of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science



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			- Conducător de doctorat, prodecan al Fac. Automatică și Calculatoare, membru al Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ PhD advisor, vice-dean of the Faculty of Automation and Computers, member of the Coordination Council
12:00-13:00	Pauză (prânz)/ Break (lunch)		
13:30-14:00	Finalizarea activităților de evaluare/ Completion of evaluation activities	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street
14:00-15:00	Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții conducerii ÎIS sau a OFE, după caz și ai conducerii componentei organizatorice pentru comunicarea concluziilor procesului de evaluare/ 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	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ Panel members - Reprezentanți ai conducerii și ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ Representatives of the management - Persoana de contact/ Contact person	Sala BT 5.01/ Locația G. Barițiu nr.8 Room BT 5.01/ Location 8 G. Barițiu street Lista participanților (funcții/categorii)/ List of participants (positions/categories): - Director CSUD/ director of the Council for Doctoral University Studies - CSUD - Director Școală Doctorală UTCN/ director of the UTCN's Doctoral School - Conducător de doctorat, membru CSUD, coordonator al Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ PhD advisor, member of CSUD, coordinator of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science - 2 conducători de doctorat, membri ai Consiliului de coordonare a programelor doctorale în Automatică și Calculatoare/ 2 PhD advisors, members of the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Automation and Computer Science

Prepared by,

Prof. dr. ing. RUGHINIȘ Răzvan Victor	
Prof. dr. ing. GORGAN Dorian	



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