HOTĂRÂRE

privind validarea rezultatelor procedurilor de evaluare externă a calității educației

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

- **evaluarea externă a calităţii şi validarea rezultatelor cuprinse în Rapoartele de evaluare externă:** art. 223-226, art. 229-230 şi art. 249 alin. (1) lit. f), g) şi h) din Legea nr. 199/2023 a învățământului superior nr. 199/2023, cu modificările şi completările ulterioare, denumită în continuare Legea, precum şi în Metodologia de evaluare externă a calității educației în învățământul superior, aprobată prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 962/2024, cu modificările şi completările ulterioare, denumită în continuare Metodologia;

- **autorizarea** de funcţionare provizorie **pentru programele de studii universitare din ciclul I de licenţă:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. a) şi lit. b) pct. (ii), alin. (2)-(5) şi art. 236 alin. (1)-(2) din Lege;

art. 27, art. 29 şi art. 32-33, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 şi art. 63 din Metodologie;

- **autorizarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul II de masterat:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. a) şi lit. b) pct. (iii), alin. (2)-(5) şi art. 236 alin. (1)-(2) din Lege; art. 27-29 şi art. 34-35, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 şi 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) şi art. 236 alin. (1) şi (3) din Lege; art. 27-29 şi art. 37-38, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 şi art. 63 din Metodologie;

- **acreditarea pentru programele de studii universitare din ciclul I de licenţă:** art. 239 alin. (1) lit. b) şi alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (1) din Lege; art. 39-40 şi art. 42, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 şi art. 63 din Metodologie;

- **acreditarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul II de masterat:** art. 239 alin. (3) şi alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (1) din Lege; art. 39-40 şi art. 43-44, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 şi art. 63 din Metodologie;

- **acreditarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul III de doctorat:** art. 239 alin. (4) şi alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (2) din Lege; art. 39-40 şi art. 46-47, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 şi art. 63 din Metodologie;

- **analiza şi validarea în vederea verificării respectării Metodologiei, de către comisiile de experţi evaluatori în cadrul rapoartelor de evaluare externă:** art. 235 alin. (4), pentru autorizare, respectiv art. 239 alin. (6) lit. d), pentru acreditare şi menținerea acreditării, din Lege, precum şi 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 şi 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 şi pe baza verificării respectării Metodologiei, propunerile formulate de către comisiile de experți evaluatori şi poate solicita refacerea Rapoartelor de evaluare externă atunci când constată că Metodologia nu a fost respectată ori respectivele rapoarte nu cuprind suficiente date şi dovezi pentru adoptarea deciziei,

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

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

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

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 şi de doctorat, precum şi pentru programul universitar de formare psihopedagogică pentru învăţământul preuniversitar, după caz, cuprinse în anexele nr. 1-23 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) şi alin.(3) lit. b), c) şi d), art. 231 lit. a) şi b), art. 232 lit. c), d) şi 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 şi considerentele analizei de validitate şi concluzia motivată a Consiliului.

(3) Rezultatele prevăzute la alin. (1) se comunică Ministerului Educației şi Cercetării şi instituțiilor solicitante şi 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 şi 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 şi ale art. 62 alin. (3) din Metodologie.

Art. 4. Prezenta hotărâre intră în vigoare la data de 22.10.2026.

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

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

Daniela Cristina GHIȚULICĂ
Director general

Carmen MIRIAN
Director Direcţia Asigurarea Calităţii

Cristina-Vasilica ICOCIU
Director Direcția Juridică, Cooperare, Comunicare şi Formare

Consilier juridic

NR. 318/H/22.10.2026

ANEXA NR. 15
la Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 318/H/22.10.2026

Anexa 15.2

DATE DE IDENTIFICARE	
Instituţia de învăţământ superior/organizaţia furnizoare de educaţie	Universitatea Petrol-Gaze din Ploieşti
Şcoala(ile) doctorală(e)	Școala Doctorală a Universității „Petrol-Gaze“ din Ploieşti
Domeniul de studii universitare de doctorat (DSUD)	*Inginerie mecanică*
Procedura/procesul de evaluare externă a calităţii educaţiei	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 1 (CPS_C10) din 02.10.2026, propunerea de decizie fiind consemnată în PV nr. 5030/02.10.2026. Propunerea de decizie a fost analizată de către Departamentul de evaluare Studii Universitare (DESU), opinia DESU fiind consemnată în PV nr. 5321/ 20.10.2026.

Gradul de îndeplinire a standardelor şi indicatorilor de performanţă şi motivarea deciziei

Domeniul	Standarde Î / N	Indicatori de performanţă 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.5.1.2, 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: - 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 22.10.2026 analizează și validează propunerea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității, constatând că din: • *32 indicatori: 32 sunt îndepliniți, 0 parțial îndepliniți și 0 neîndepliniți* • *26 standarde: 26 sunt îndeplinite, 0 neîndeplinite* *și, astfel, prin aplicarea art. 63 din Metodologie decide că* ***standardele sunt ÎNDEPLINITE.***	
Decizia	Menţinerea acreditării

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești
Doctoral School:	Doctoral School
Doctoral Domain:	Mechanical Engineering
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)

Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	MEREUȚĂ ELENA	Expert evaluator	
2.	DULGHERU VALERIU	International Expert	
3.	CHIRIAC GABRIEL-ADRIAN	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

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

The External Evaluation Report (EER) was prepared at the request of Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești (UPG), multidisciplinary Doctoral School, as part of the procedure for maintaining accreditation of the doctoral university study field in Mechanical Engineering. The external evaluation visit took place between 1st-2nd of September 2026, with the physical participation of the evaluation committee members. The Internal Evaluation Report (REI) for the doctoral field in Mechanical Engineering was developed under the coordination of Prof. univ. habil. dr. eng. Răzvan George RIPEANU, coordinator of the Mechanical Engineering Doctoral Field, in collaboration with other doctoral supervisors in the same field, with the support of a PhD graduate and two doctoral students.

The Internal Evaluation Report (IER) for the periodic accreditation of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral study field was prepared systematically, following ARACIS standards and performance indicators. The process involved the following stages:

Stage 1. Planning the evaluation process. The doctoral field coordinator established the evaluation schedule and assigned responsibilities for data collection, report preparation, verification of compliance with ARACIS requirements, and submission of the final documentation.

Stage 2. Collection of documentation and data. The evaluation team collected and reviewed relevant documentation, including the curriculum, course descriptions, institutional regulations, annual Doctoral School reports, quality audit results, and feedback from doctoral students, graduates, and employers.

Stage 3. Data analysis and compliance assessment. The collected information was analyzed to demonstrate compliance with ARACIS standards and performance indicators, assess programme relevance to labour market needs, and consider recommendations from previous evaluations and quality audits.

Stage 4. Stakeholder consultation. External experts, employers, doctoral students, and graduates provided feedback and recommendations to enhance the quality and relevance of the doctoral programme.

Stage 5. Drafting the Internal Evaluation Report. Team members prepared report sections based on the collected evidence, while the doctoral field coordinator ensured consistency and compliance with ARACIS requirements.

Stage 6. Review and approval. Following verification of compliance, the report was reviewed by the University's Quality Management Office, endorsed by the Doctoral School Council (CSD), the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), and the Administrative Council, and finally approved by the Senate of the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești.

Stage 7. Continuous monitoring and quality improvement. The report was supported by continuous monitoring over the previous five years, incorporating annual reports, interim evaluations, quality audits, and implementation of recommendations from ARACIS and AEROQ to ensure ongoing programme improvement.

This internal evaluation report was developed in accordance with the Methodology for the External Evaluation of the Quality of Education in Higher Education, approved by Government Decision. The report complies with the provisions of the Law on Higher Education No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and the Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies, approved by OME No. 3020/2024, as subsequently amended and supplemented. The structure of the report follows the Guide 2025 for conducting external quality evaluation procedures for maintenance of accreditation of doctoral study fields, as developed by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS). Following the verification of compliance with the minimum standards established by ARACIS, a copy of the Internal Evaluation Report was submitted to the University's Quality Management Office for compliance review. The report was subsequently endorsed by the Doctoral School Council (CSD), the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), and the Administrative Council, and was finally approved by the Senate of the Petroleum–Gas University of Ploiești (Decision No. 05 of 26 March 2026).

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

The Petroleum–Gas University of Ploiești (UPG) is a public higher education institution possessing a long academic tradition and acts as the Institution Organising Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UPG Ploiești). It was founded in 1948 as the Institute of Petroleum and Gas in Bucharest and has since gone through a number of organisational changes before taking on its present name, that of Petroleum–Gas University of Ploiești, in 2001. The university offers education at undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels and carries out scientific research in a wide variety of fields, such as engineering, economic sciences, the humanities, the arts, medical sciences, legal sciences and sports sciences. Its aim is to produce, spread and transfer knowledge by means of education, scientific research, innovation and technology transfer in order to promote individual development and meet the needs of society and the labour market.

The University has been awarded the "High Degree of Confidence" institutional quality rating by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and has successfully retained its institutional accreditation after the 2025 external evaluation. Furthermore, UPG Ploieşti has a Quality Management System that is certified in accordance with SR EN ISO 9001:2015 / EN ISO 9001:2015, the certification having been issued by AEROQ and remaining valid until July 2028. The University's institutional development is guided by the Strategic Plan 2024–2029, which establishes strategic objectives that are fully aligned with its educational, research, and societal missions.

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

The doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering within IOSUD–UPG Ploieşti maintained its accreditation following the ARACIS external evaluation conducted between 20 and 24 September 2021, with the outcome validated by ARACIS Council Decision No. 97/25 November 2021. Subsequently, the external institutional evaluation of UPG Ploieşti, carried out between 5 and 7 March 2025, also resulted in the maintenance of IOSUD accreditation. Following the submission of the internal progress report in October 2024, the interim external evaluation report for the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering was prepared on 23 July 2025 and validated by ARACIS Council Decision No. 193/H/7 August 2025. The period under review shows a positive development of the doctoral field. In the 2025–2026 academic year, the field includes 8 doctoral supervisors, of whom 5 are full-time academic staff members (62.5%), and 28 doctoral students. At the time of the visit, another colleague was waiting for the habilitation document. Furthermore, the number of doctoral theses defended increased from 7 theses during the five-year period preceding the external evaluation to 15 theses over the most recent five academic years, indicating an increase in doctoral activity and a strengthening of the education and research capacity of the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering.

II. Methods used

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

Before the on-site visit, the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) of the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti (UPG Ploieşti), together with the relevant annexes and supplementary documents, was carefully reviewed. In addition, the information available on the official website of UPG Ploieşti concerning the Doctoral School and the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering was examined. The on-site visit provided a valuable opportunity to supplement and clarify information on the organisation, implementation, and development of doctoral studies in Mechanical Engineering within IOSUD–UPG Ploieşti. The evaluation committee analyzed the documentation provided by the institution, including the internal evaluation report, its annexes, supporting documents, and links to relevant official documents available on the University's website. The committee also held the meetings included in the evaluation visit program, during which key aspects relevant to the doctoral field under evaluation were discussed. The committee paid particular attention to the institutional and Doctoral School development strategy, the evolution and sustainability of the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering, the involvement of doctoral supervisors in the development and continuous improvement of the doctoral program, and feedback from PhD students on their doctoral studies and research activities. The discussions also addressed the implementation of institutional regulations, methodologies, and quality assurance procedures, as well as the mechanisms used for monitoring and improving the quality of doctoral education. Furthermore, the evaluation covered issues related to academic ethics and integrity, the activities and responsibilities of the University Ethics Committee, the research infrastructure available to doctoral students and supervisors, and the functioning of the research laboratories supporting doctoral research in Mechanical Engineering. The meetings and review of the supporting documentation enabled the evaluation committee to gain a comprehensive view of the status, progress, and quality assurance mechanisms of the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering at IOSUD–UPG Ploieşti.

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

During September 1–2, 2026, the members of the external evaluation committee conducted the on-site visit to the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti (UPG Ploieşti), within IOSUD–UPG Ploieşti. The visit schedule included meetings with the team responsible for preparing the Internal Evaluation Report (IER); representatives of the IOSUD, Doctoral School, and University management; doctoral supervisors involved in the activities of the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering; PhD students; graduates of the doctoral field; representatives of employers of doctoral graduates; directors and representatives of the research centres and laboratories where PhD students conduct their research

activities; members of the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC); and members of the University Ethics Committee. The meetings provided the external evaluation committee with the opportunity to discuss the organisation and management of doctoral studies, the involvement of doctoral supervisors in the development of the doctoral field, the academic and research activities of PhD students, the professional integration of graduates, cooperation with the socio-economic environment, quality assurance mechanisms, and compliance with the principles of academic ethics and integrity. To assess the research infrastructure, its adequacy for doctoral research, and its capacity to support current and advanced research activities in Mechanical Engineering, the members of the external evaluation committee visited the relevant research centres and laboratories available to PhD students and doctoral supervisors, including:

A. ED 03 Laboratory – Materials Technology 1. Plastics
B. EP 04 Laboratory – OMV PETROM
C. Tribology Laboratory – EP 8
D. Laboratories of the Research Center for the Assessment of Industrial Structures and the Physical-Mechanical Properties of Metallic and Non-Metallic Materials – LED (Destructive Testing) – Rooms C II 4–C II 9
E. AT Laboratory of the Regional Center for Performance Assessment and Technical Condition Monitoring of Tubular Materials Used in the Petroleum Industry

Within the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti (UPG), doctoral students have access to 31 laboratories where they can conduct research. The equipment, simulators, and specialised instrumentation used for measurements and experimental investigations in the doctoral field of Mechanical Engineering come from internationally renowned manufacturers. The laboratories also include test rigs and devices designed and developed by doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, covering a wide range of experimental investigations and measurements. All 31 laboratories are located at the University's main campus; access to laboratories located on upper floors is facilitated by elevators. Accessibility for person with disabilities is also ensured through automatically operated systems for lifting wheelchairs over stairs, as well as through access ramps. The laboratories and all the equipment they contain are the property of the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti.

- Other relevant methods or aspects.

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

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

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

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1	For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti (UPG Ploieşti) has an appropriate organisational and management framework for organising and delivering doctoral studies, including the doctoral study field of Mechanical Engineering. The institutional framework is established through the Regulation on the Organisation and Functioning of the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti. At IOSUD–UPG Ploieşti level, doctoral studies are organised within a Doctoral School. Information concerning the Doctoral School, its organisation, and doctoral study fields is publicly available on the IOSUD website. The management structure includes the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), the Doctoral School Council (CSD) and the Director of the Doctoral School. CSUD ensures the operational management of IOSUD, while the CSD and its Director carry out the operational management of the Doctoral School. Doctoral

students are represented in both management structures, with two representatives in CSUD and four representatives in CSD. At the doctoral-field level, a field coordinator ensures the interface between the doctoral field and the CSD and has responsibilities concerning the affiliation of doctoral supervisors, reallocation of supervision when required, mediation between doctoral students and supervisors, proposal of the curriculum for the advanced university training programme, and proposal of minimum scientific performance standards. The organisation and conduct of doctoral studies are regulated by the Regulation on the Organisation and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești. This regulatory framework is periodically reviewed and updated in accordance with changes in national legislation, including the requirements of Law No. 199/2023 on Higher Education and Ministerial Order No. 3020/2024. The Doctoral School operates according to its own Regulation on the Organisation and Functioning of the Doctoral School within IOSUD–UPG Ploiești, adopted by the University Senate. The election and appointment of the management structures are based on institutional methodologies. The management structures of the Doctoral School were established according to the Methodology for the Organisation and Conduct of the Process for Establishing and Electing Management Structures and Positions at UPG.

The CSD and CSUD meet whenever necessary and exercise their responsibilities through formal decision-making processes. Matters such as curricula, regulations, doctoral thesis defence committees, applications for affiliation to IOSUD, extensions of doctoral studies and elections for vacant or temporarily vacant positions are discussed and approved within CSD and CSUD meetings. The regulatory framework covers the entire doctoral study cycle, including admission, doctoral study contracts, the advanced university training programme (PPUA), the individual scientific research programme (PCS), supervision, monitoring of doctoral progress, interruption or extension of studies, change of doctoral supervisor, academic integrity, similarity checks, pre-defence and public defence of doctoral theses. Admission to doctoral studies is governed by a methodology that is updated annually. Information concerning admission—including the admission methodology and calendar, available doctoral positions and supervisors, required documents, admission topics, results and tuition fees—is publicly available on the Doctoral School website: https://doctorat.upg-ploiesti.ro/. Specific information concerning the Mechanical Engineering doctoral study field, including the study programme and information relevant to doctoral students, is available at: https://doctorat.upg-ploiesti.ro/doctorat/domeniul-inginerie-mecanica.

Each doctoral student concludes a doctoral study contract and follows an individual academic and research programme. The advanced university training programme (PPUA) and the individual scientific research programme (PCS) constitute annexes to the doctoral study contract. Doctoral students have unrestricted access to the research infrastructure available within the University, irrespective of the administrative unit managing it. Quality assurance and academic integrity are integrated into the management of doctoral studies. Doctoral supervisors are required to ensure compliance with quality and professional ethics standards, including the originality of doctoral theses. These requirements are also supported by the UPG Code of Ethics and University Professional Deontology.

Each doctoral student is supported by a Supervision and Academic Integrity Committee, consisting of the doctoral supervisor and three additional academic staff members. In accordance with Ministerial Order No. 3020/2024, at least one member of this committee is external to IOSUD. Scientific research reports and doctoral theses are subject to similarity checks, while the procedures for thesis pre-defence and public defence include specific mechanisms for assessing originality, academic integrity and compliance with applicable quality standards. A dedicated operational procedure governs the completion of doctoral studies and the public defence of doctoral theses.

UPG Ploiești has also established mechanisms for the recognition of doctoral supervision qualifications obtained abroad. The affiliation of doctoral supervisors to IOSUD–UPG Ploiești is governed by the Regulation on the Public Defence of Habilitation Theses and the Affiliation of Doctoral Supervisors to the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești. Doctoral supervisors are also subject to periodic internal and external evaluation at intervals not exceeding five years, in accordance with the applicable institutional regulations.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The evidence demonstrates that IOSUD–UPG Ploiești has clearly defined organisational structures and a functional management system for the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. Institutional regulations, methodologies, and procedures establish responsibilities, while the composition of the main management structures is publicly available on the CSUD webpage (https://doctorat.upg-ploiesti.ro/iosud/csud) and the CSD webpage (https://doctorat.upg-ploiesti.ro/iosud/csd). Doctoral students are represented in both structures.

The regulatory framework covers the main stages of doctoral education, from admission and research activities to supervision, academic integrity and thesis defence. Regulations and methodologies are periodically reviewed and updated in accordance with legislative changes. Their publication on the University and Doctoral School websites

ensures transparency and access to relevant information. These organisational structures, clearly assigned responsibilities, doctoral-student representation and mechanisms for periodic regulatory review provide evidence of compliance with the legal requirements.

✓ Recommendations:-

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

All regulations, methodologies and procedures of the Doctoral School are reviewed and endorsed by the CSD and CSUD, verified by the Quality Management Committee, submitted for consultation to the academic community via the UPG Intranet, endorsed by the Administrative Council and finally approved by the University Senate. Throughout this process, proposals from doctoral supervisors and doctoral students are collected and considered. Doctoral supervisors and doctoral students are represented within the relevant management structures. The final approved documents are published on the UPG website and communicated by e-mail to doctoral supervisors and students.

UPG also applies an Operational Procedure for Assessing the Satisfaction of Students and Other Stakeholders, approved by the University Senate on 28 November 2024. The procedure assesses satisfaction with academic and administrative services. An important component is the anonymous evaluation of doctoral supervisors by doctoral students, allowing them to assess the supervision and mentoring received and to propose improvements to academic and administrative services. Furthermore, the Doctoral School, including the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, monitors the scientific and professional activity of doctoral students through Individual Activity Reports.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The mechanisms implemented by UPG ensure the systematic involvement of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in the development and improvement of regulations, procedures and academic services. Their representation in management structures and participation in consultation and evaluation processes support transparent, participatory decision-making. Periodic assessments of doctoral-student satisfaction, including evaluations of doctoral supervision, along with monitoring of individual scientific and professional activity, provide relevant feedback for continuous quality improvement within the Doctoral School and the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. Information on the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field is publicly available.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

Public consultation on all draft regulations, methodologies, procedures, and other related documents.

✓ Recommendations:-

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The doctoral study field of Mechanical Engineering has adequate material and research infrastructure, including specialised facilities and equipment aligned with its mission and objectives. Doctoral students have access to the University's research infrastructure according to a schedule that ensures the proper conduct of other laboratory activities. IOSUD–UPG Ploiești has cooperation agreements for study and research activities with several academic institutions and industrial partners, including Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, Valahia University of Târgoviște, the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, the University of Petroşani and Timken România S.A. Ploiești. Within the UPG Mechanical Engineering Department, doctoral students have access to 31 research laboratories. The laboratories include specialised equipment, simulators, experimental devices and test rigs, including systems developed by doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, covering a wide range of experimental investigations. Accessibility is ensured through elevators, access ramps and automated systems for wheelchair users. Doctoral students also have dedicated office/workspaces in rooms EP9, EP4, ED3 and E303. The amount of investments in equipment for the Mechanical Engineering field during 2020–2025 is of RON 4,791,734.2.

The research infrastructure includes advanced equipment for materials characterisation, mechanical testing, manufacturing, tribology and corrosion research, such as the Walter Bai LF300 Universal Static and Dynamic Testing Machine, Hitachi Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), FOUNDRY MASTER PRO Optical Emission Spectrometer, DURASCAN 20 Microhardness Tester, Festo Didactic MT2R5 Flexible Manufacturing System, EMCO CNC machine tools, AGMA VMC-137G CNC Vertical Machining Centre, CSM Microtribometer, Pin-on-Disc Tribometer, High-Temperature and High-Pressure CO_2 Corrosion Testing System, 4 MN Tensile/Compression Testing System (IIT.400), and External Pressure (Collapse) Testing System. The UPG Ploiești Library provides important support for doctoral students, with over 290,000 library units representing approximately 80,500 titles, including textbooks, reference works, Romanian and international books, scientific journals and patents. It also provides access to a significant collection of full-text e-books through the integrated ALICE library system. UPG Ploiești also publishes its own peer-reviewed, open-access international journal, the Romanian Journal of Petroleum & Gas Technology, providing an additional resource for scientific research and dissemination.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The available infrastructure demonstrates that the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field has an adequate material base for doctoral education and research, supported by 31 laboratories, specialised equipment and dedicated workspaces for doctoral students. The diversity of experimental equipment and test facilities enables doctoral students to conduct research activities relevant to their doctoral projects. At the same time, cooperation agreements with other universities and industrial partners extend the research opportunities available to them. The documented investment of RON 4,791,734.2 during 2020–2025 demonstrates the continued development and renewal of the research infrastructure. Moreover, the accessibility measures implemented in the laboratories ensure appropriate access for persons with disabilities. Overall, the available laboratories, specialised research equipment, recent investments, accessibility measures, and access to the wider University research infrastructure provide evidence that the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field is adequately equipped to support doctoral research activities and achieve its assumed mission and objectives.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The core research infrastructure supporting the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field is publicly presented on the UPG Doctoral School website and is also registered on the ERRIS platform through several research infrastructure and equipment records. The research infrastructure is managed by technical staff responsible for equipment operation and maintenance, while some specialised equipment is operated by engineers or academic staff. Before participating in experimental activities, doctoral students receive occupational health and safety training from the laboratory supervisor. The maintenance and development of the research infrastructure are also supported through doctoral

grants. Doctoral students funded through doctoral grants may purchase materials or equipment worth up to RON 7,000 per year, while fee-paying doctoral students may benefit from purchases of up to RON 2,500 per year, in accordance with the annual CSUD decision.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The management of research equipment by dedicated technical, engineering and academic staff, together with regular maintenance and mandatory safety training, supports the appropriate operation and use of the infrastructure. The annual financial allocations available for purchasing research materials and equipment further contribute to maintaining and developing the resources required for doctoral research. These measures provide evidence that the movable assets and research infrastructure supporting the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field are appropriately managed and maintained, contributing to suitable conditions for study, research and work.

✓ Recommendations: -

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

At the time of the evaluation visit, the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field was supported by 8 habilitated doctoral supervisors, all of whom hold habilitation certificates obtained in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Their CVs and publication lists are publicly available on the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field webpage. Of the eight doctoral supervisors, five are permanent academic staff members, and three are affiliated supervisors; permanent staff therefore represent 62.5% of the total number of supervisors. Furthermore, four of the eight supervisors obtained their habilitation certificates within the last five years.

The distribution of doctoral students among supervisors ensures an appropriate supervision capacity. For the 2025–2026 academic year, the University Senate sets the maximum at 12 doctoral students per supervisor, and none of the supervisors in the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field exceeds this limit. Considering the doctoral students who had already entered the thesis consultation procedure, no supervisor had more than eight doctoral students under active supervision. UPG Senate Decision of 30 October 2025. In addition to individual supervision, each doctoral student benefits from a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, consisting of the doctoral supervisor and three academic staff members or researchers, including one member from outside UPG Ploiești. During 2020–2025, more than 20 additional academic staff members and researchers, in addition to the doctoral supervisors in Mechanical Engineering, served on these committees, broadening the academic and research expertise available to doctoral students. The teaching activities included in the advanced university training programme are carried out by professors who are doctoral supervisors, as well as by professors and associate professors with extensive expertise in the subjects they teach. The relevant course descriptions are available through the Mechanical Engineering section of the Doctoral School website. The doctoral supervisors also demonstrate sustained scientific activity. According to their publication lists, all supervisors have published more than five Web of Science-indexed papers during the last five years. Their scientific visibility and impact are additionally documented through citation and H-index data in Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar, presented for each supervisor. Beyond scientific publications, the professional and research activity of the doctoral supervisors includes patents, technical standards and work undertaken in cooperation with industry, including organisations such as PETROM/OMV and TRANSGAZ. The supervisors are also involved in national and international professional associations, editorial and scientific committees, doctoral and habilitation committees, peer-review activities and other academic structures, contributing to the integration of the doctoral field into the wider academic, scientific and professional community.

Profesor dr.ing.habil Răzvan George Rîpeanu https://publons.com/researcher/2825454/razvan-george-d-ripeanu/
Profesor dr.ing.habil Ion Nae https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/3875389

Profesor dr.ing.habil. George Dorin Bădoiu	Badoiu, Dorin - Web of Science Researcher Profile
Prof.dr.ing.habil. Liviu Sevastian Bocîi	https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/C-8796-2011
Profesor dr.ing.habil Mihail Minescu	https://publons.com/researcher/2508516/mihail-n-minescu/
Profesor dr.ing.habil Marius Gabriel Petrescu	https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/2913791
Profesor dr.ing.habil. Dragoș Gabriel Zisopol	Dragos Gabriel ZISOPOL - Web of Science Researcher Profile
Conferențiar dr.ing.habil. Maria Tănase	Maria Tănase - Web of Science Researcher Profile

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The available evidence indicates that the human resources are adequate for the organisation and delivery of doctoral studies in Mechanical Engineering. All doctoral supervisors hold the required habilitation qualification, supervision loads remain within the institutional limit, and doctoral students benefit from broader academic expertise through the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees. The supervisors' recent publications, citation records and involvement in professional organisations, scientific committees and editorial activities further demonstrate sustained scientific and professional activity. Overall, the qualifications, scientific activity, teaching expertise and supervision capacity of the academic staff provide evidence of compliance with the specific requirements.

✓ Recommendations:

Initiating habilitation procedures for eligible academic staff who meet the minimum CNATDCU standards in order to increase the number of full-time doctoral supervisors within the doctoral study domain of Mechanical Engineering.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești (UPG), through IOSUD-UPG and the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, supports the professional development of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students by encouraging publication in high-impact scientific journals. In particular, the University covers publication fees for papers published by doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in Web of Science-indexed Q1 and Q2 journals. According to the supervisors' publication lists more than 70 papers indexed in Web of Science were published over the last five years, of which more than 55 appeared in Q1 and Q2 journals. The University also supports participation in prestigious international scientific events held in Romania and abroad. documents the papers presented by doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies during the last five years. The ratio between the number of presentations—including poster presentations and exhibitions—at prestigious international events and the number of doctoral students who completed their studies during the evaluated period is greater than 1. The University covered conference registration fees, as well as travel and accommodation expenses, through the Doctoral School. The University further promotes and recognises research excellence through the annual Research Gala (Gala Cercetării). During 2023, 2024 and 2025, awards were granted both to academic staff with notable scientific achievements and to outstanding doctoral students from each accredited doctoral field.

UPG also supports the professional advancement of its academic staff by waiving the habilitation fee for University employees, in accordance with the Regulation on the Public Defence of Habilitation Theses.

Additional financial support is provided for doctoral research activities. Doctoral students funded through doctoral grants may purchase research materials or equipment worth up to RON 7,000 per year during their doctoral training period, while fee-paying doctoral students may benefit from purchases of up to RON 2,500 per year, in accordance with the annual CSUD decision.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The measures implemented by UPG demonstrate institutional support for the continuous professional development of academic staff and doctoral students. Financial support for Q1 and Q2 publications, participation in international conferences, research materials and equipment, recognition of scientific performance through the annual Research Gala, and support for academic career development through habilitation contribute to strengthening research performance, scientific visibility, and professional development within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field.

The substantial number of Web of Science-indexed publications, particularly Q1 and Q2 papers, and the participation of doctoral students in prestigious international scientific events provide evidence of the effectiveness of these support mechanisms and of compliance with the requirements.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Within IOSUD–UPG Ploieşti, the recruitment, recognition and affiliation of doctoral supervisors are carried out according to formally established and publicly available regulations. The recognition of doctoral supervision qualifications obtained at higher education or research institutions abroad is governed by the Methodology for the Automatic Recognition of the Status of Doctoral Supervisor. The Regulation on the Public Defence of Habilitation Theses and the Recruitment of Doctoral Supervisors at UPG Ploieşti regulates the affiliation process and the granting of membership in the Doctoral School.

For transparency, announcements concerning the public defence of habilitation theses are published on the Doctoral School website at least 15 days before the defence. The publicly available information includes the candidate's Curriculum Vitae, a verification sheet demonstrating compliance with the minimum standards, a list of publications, a proposal for the appointment of the habilitation evaluation committee, and a summary of the habilitation thesis. After the defence, the habilitation committee's report is also published.

After obtaining the habilitation certificate, affiliation follows a formal procedure involving CSD assessment, CSUD validation and UPG Senate approval. Doctoral supervisors are evaluated internally and externally at least once every five years, while termination of affiliation may occur upon request, for breaches of academic ethics, or for failure to meet the applicable minimum CNATDCU standards.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The documented procedures demonstrate that the recruitment, affiliation, evaluation and, where applicable, termination of affiliation of doctoral supervisors are governed by clear and transparent institutional rules. Public disclosure of habilitation documentation, multi-stage institutional approval of affiliation and periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors provide mechanisms for transparency, quality assurance and continued compliance with the required academic standards, supporting the specific requirements.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti (UPG) uses several digital tools to support the administration of doctoral studies and improve access to academic services. The project "Digitalisation of Student-Related Activities at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti" (Code 330917348), implemented under Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), Component 15 – Education, further supports digitalisation by strengthening digital education and university services. UPG operates an information system for managing doctoral students and monitoring their academic progress. The system records doctoral supervisors and their students, Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees, examinations, research reports and related deadlines. The Didactic Information System (SID) also allows doctoral supervisors to record annual purchases allocated to individual doctoral students. The system supports data entry and updating and can generate reports in RTF and Excel formats. In addition, the University is implementing ACADEMICS – Centralised Application for Educational Data Administration, Integrated Management and Scientific Research, aimed at further integrating the management of educational and research data.

UPG also uses Sistemantiplagiat.ro for similarity checking of doctoral theses. Before the public defence procedure, each thesis's final electronic version is submitted for similarity analysis, and the doctoral supervisor evaluates the resulting report. All doctoral theses have been subject to plagiarism/similarity checking since April 2016, and the relevant reports are uploaded to the Ministry of Education and Research's REI platform. Doctoral students may request two similarity checks during their doctoral studies and additional checks for a nominal fee. Since the 2022–2023 academic year, doctoral research reports have also been subject to similarity checks. The University retains similarity reports in both doctoral students' files and electronic records.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The use of dedicated information systems for doctoral-student records, academic-progress monitoring, resource management and similarity checking, together with the ongoing implementation of the ACADEMICS platform, demonstrates the systematic integration of digital tools into the administration of doctoral education. These instruments improve data management, accessibility, transparency and academic-integrity monitoring, supporting the provision of quality services.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

Doctoral students' research reports are systematically subject to similarity checks, strengthening academic integrity throughout doctoral training.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue and further develop the digital transformation process, with a focus on integrating IT tools and improving the accessibility, efficiency and quality of services provided to the academic community.

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme is structured around expected learning outcomes and the ECTS system. The Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA) develops theoretical, applied and methodological knowledge through three courses: Ethics and Academic Integrity, an advanced specialised course related to the doctoral topic, and a complementary research-oriented course, for a total of 30 ECTS credits. Academic integrity is further supported through similarity checks applied to both doctoral theses and research reports.

The doctoral programme combines the PPUA with the Scientific Research Programme (PCS), which includes three research reports related to the thesis topic, each awarded 30 ECTS credits. Mechanical Engineering doctoral students must also publish at least three scientific articles, including two indexed in Web of Science or Scopus as first author, and prepare annual activity reports to document their progress and learning outcomes.

The programme is subject to institutional monitoring and quality assurance, including annual audits and periodic self-evaluation. Throughout their studies, doctoral students receive continuous support from a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, consisting of three members in addition to the supervisor, with at least one member from outside IOSUD-UPG. The committee provides guidance, feedback and monitoring of the doctoral student's scientific progress.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme demonstrates a coherent relationship between expected learning outcomes, advanced academic training, scientific research activities, ECTS credits and assessment mechanisms. The combination of specialised coursework, research reports, scientific publication requirements, annual activity reporting and similarity checks provides multiple instruments for assessing the progressive acquisition of doctoral-level knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy.

Moreover, continuous supervision by the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, together with institutional monitoring, annual quality audits and periodic self-evaluation, provides a structured framework for monitoring both individual doctoral progress and the overall quality of the programme. These elements

* 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.

demonstrate that teaching, research, assessment and academic-integrity activities are integrated within a learning-outcomes-based framework.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to periodically review the course syllabi to ensure that the intended learning outcomes are clearly articulated and aligned with the competencies demanded by the labor market. In addition, the course content should be regularly updated by incorporating recent topics and current bibliographic resources, reflecting developments in the field, while ensuring consistency with the curriculum, including the distribution of teaching hours as defined in the doctoral programme PPUA.

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).

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The expected learning outcomes of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme are defined in accordance with the requirements for Level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework and the relevant ARACIS standards. The course descriptions and curriculum are designed to develop advanced knowledge, specialised research and innovation skills, synthesis and evaluation abilities, as well as a high degree of autonomy, responsibility and scientific and professional integrity. These learning outcomes correspond to the competencies expected at the highest qualification level. The Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA) is complemented by the Scientific Research Programme (PCS) and by the doctoral students' scientific publications, creating an integrated framework for acquiring the competencies required to conduct advanced research and complete the doctoral thesis. In line with the profile and tradition of UPG Ploiești, several advanced specialised courses focus on mechanical equipment and technologies used in the oil, gas, and energy industries. This strengthens the relationship between doctoral learning outcomes, advanced engineering competencies and relevant professional and research activities.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The structure and content of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme demonstrate that the expected learning outcomes are aligned with Level 8 qualification requirements and with advanced competencies relevant to mechanical engineering occupations. The integration of specialised coursework, research activities and scientific publications, including topics related to energy, oil and gas technologies, supports the development of competencies required for advanced research, innovation and highly specialised professional activities.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The existence of a publicly available document demonstrating the curricular coherence of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme, by mapping the curriculum to programme-specific competencies, expected learning outcomes, and the courses contributing to their achievement.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme implements a student-centred learning approach through both its curriculum and the organisation of doctoral training. The course descriptions, publicly available on the Doctoral School website, are structured in accordance with Bloom's taxonomy, addressing the acquisition of knowledge and skills as

well as the development of responsibility and autonomy. Each doctoral student benefits from individualised supervision, provided by a doctoral supervisor and a dedicated Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, whose members have expertise relevant to the doctoral research topic. Each student follows an individual study and research plan, defined through the Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA) and the Scientific Research Programme (PCS), which form part of the doctoral study contract. The organisation of assessment activities also reflects student-centred principles. Doctoral students participate in establishing the dates of their examinations and research report presentations, in agreement with the supervisor and the relevant committees. During examinations, research report presentations, annual activity assessments and the pre-defence of the doctoral thesis, students receive personalised recommendations and feedback from their Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and other academic staff participating in these activities. Throughout the doctoral programme, the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee provides continuous scientific and methodological support, contributing to the individual development and progress of each doctoral student.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

Individual study and research plans, personalised supervision, flexible scheduling of assessment activities, and systematic feedback demonstrate the implementation of student-centred learning principles. These mechanisms allow doctoral training to be adapted to each student's research topic and individual progress while supporting the development of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral field provides doctoral students with opportunities for academic mobility, international cooperation and training activities through several partnership frameworks. UPG Ploieşti has Erasmus+ agreements, including cooperation in Mechanical Engineering with the University of Oklahoma, as well as partnerships within the CEEPUS network "Modern Trends in Education and Research on Mechanical Systems – Bridging Reliability, Quality and Tribology." Cooperation established through Norwegian-funded projects also includes the University of Stavanger and NORCE Institute (Norway) and Reykjavik University (Iceland). The international dimension of doctoral training is also reflected in participation in Erasmus+ and CEEPUS mobility activities, international conferences, symposia, workshops and lectures delivered by international experts. During the last five years, Mechanical Engineering doctoral students recorded 48 participations as authors or co-authors at international conferences, according to IER, p 34. Doctoral students also have access to documentation and research placements and to equipment and resources available at partner institutions and companies. UPG has partnerships with 67 universities in Romania and abroad and 62 companies, providing a broad framework for academic, scientific and professional cooperation. Examples of doctoral mobility and training activities include placements at POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Transilvania University of Braşov, Timken Romania, Termoklima and STRABENBAU Logistic. Among the 15 doctoral students who completed their theses during the evaluated period, five were involved in partnership agreements (30%).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The range of Erasmus+, CEEPUS and other international agreements, together with partnerships with universities, research organisations and companies, provides Mechanical Engineering doctoral students with opportunities for physical and/or international academic mobility, research placements, scientific networking and access to complementary research infrastructure. Participation in international conferences and specialised events further strengthens doctoral students' international exposure.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue expanding and promoting academic mobility opportunities for doctoral students, particularly through Erasmus+, CEEPUS and other international partnerships.

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UPG promotes equal access to education, non-discrimination, academic freedom and respect for cultural diversity, in accordance with the principles reflected in the UPG University Charter. Admission policies include dedicated doctoral places for Romanians living abroad, Roma candidates, while international doctoral students may study and defend their theses in English. The presence of international students also reflects the diversity of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, including female doctoral students and students of different ages. The organisation of doctoral studies offers flexibility based on individual circumstances. The standard duration is four years, with the possibility of a one- or two-year extension, while studies may be interrupted for justified reasons. Of the 28 Mechanical Engineering doctoral students, one is currently in an approved interruption period for medical reasons, and seven are benefiting from approved extensions without additional tuition fees, in accordance with relevant institutional regulations. In addition, each doctoral student follows an individual study and research plan (PPUA and PCS) and benefits from personalised supervision by the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, allowing the doctoral pathway to adapt to individual research interests, progress, and needs.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The admission framework, international accessibility, flexible study arrangements and individualised research pathways demonstrate that the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field provides equitable opportunities adapted to students' potential, aspirations and individual circumstances. These mechanisms support diversity and different learning trajectories.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue developing flexible and inclusive support measures, further adapting doctoral pathways to students' individual needs, potential and academic aspirations.

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești (UPG) provides measures to support students with disabilities or special educational needs, in accordance with the Code of Students' Rights and Obligations. These include dedicated admission places, adapted access to university buildings and accommodation, and access to online learning resources. Within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, no candidates with disabilities applied for admission during the evaluated period.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The existing measures concerning inclusive admission, physical accessibility and digital learning resources provide appropriate support for students with individual educational needs and contribute to meeting the requirements.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The learning outcomes are clearly defined in the course descriptions of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme, in accordance with Bloom's Taxonomy and the University's Operational Procedure for Writing Learning Outcomes. They describe the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy expected from doctoral students and clarify the expectations associated with each course.
In addition to the Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA), doctoral students complete the Scientific Research Programme (PCS), which includes research reports aligned with the doctoral thesis topic and the publication of at least three scientific articles disseminating their research results.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The clear formulation of learning outcomes, together with their integration into coursework, research reports and scientific publications, ensures a transparent understanding of the expected learning achievements for both doctoral students and academic staff.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The achievement of learning outcomes is assessed throughout the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme through several complementary evaluation stages. During the Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA), each examination is conducted before a committee consisting of the doctoral supervisor, the course coordinator and another academic staff member specialised in the relevant field. The evaluation procedures are clearly described in the course syllabi, ensuring transparency regarding assessment methods and requirements.
The Scientific Research Programme (PCS) includes three research reports, publicly presented before the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee. Doctoral students also submit annual activity reports, which the supervisor and the committee review.
Before completion of the programme, the doctoral thesis undergoes a public pre-defence, during which the committee also verifies compliance with the scientific publication requirements. The final doctoral thesis is publicly defended before a five-member doctoral committee, including at least two members from outside UPG Ploieşti, in accordance with the applicable institutional regulations and procedures.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The combination of course examinations, research report assessments, annual progress reviews, thesis pre-defence and final public defence provides a continuous and structured mechanism for verifying the achievement of learning outcomes throughout the doctoral programme.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to periodically review the course syllabi to ensure that the intended learning outcomes are clearly articulated and aligned with the competencies demanded by the labor market. In addition, the course content should be regularly updated by incorporating recent topics and current bibliographic resources, reflecting developments in the field, while ensuring consistency with the curriculum, including the distribution of teaching hours as defined in the doctoral programme PPUA.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Admission to doctoral studies at UPG Ploieşti is organised according to the Methodology for the Organisation and Conduct of Admission to Doctoral Studies, which is updated annually. Information on the admission methodology, calendar, available places and doctoral supervisors, required documents, admission topics, results and fees is publicly available on the University and Doctoral School websites.
Candidates must have completed Bachelor's and/or Master's studies totalling at least 300 ECTS credits. For each available doctoral position, an admission committee is proposed by the doctoral field coordinator, endorsed by the

CSD, approved by the CSUD, and formally appointed by the Rector. The admission process includes an evaluation of the candidate's application file and the presentation of an essay based on the proposed research topic, followed by questions, recommendations and grading by the committee. Admission results are communicated to candidates and published on the Doctoral School website, while the Doctoral School archives the related documentation.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The annually updated methodology, publicly available admission information, formally appointed evaluation committees and transparent publication of results demonstrate the consistent application of established admission procedures.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

IOSUD-UPG applies the principles of equity and equal opportunities in doctoral admission and provides support measures for students from vulnerable groups. Dedicated admission places are available for roma candidates, while institutional provisions also address candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Doctoral students have access to several forms of financial and social support. These include university accommodation, partial or full fee exemptions in justified cases, financial support for research-related purchases of up to RON 7,000 for state-funded students and RON 2,500 for fee-paying students, and funding for conference participation and scientific publication fees. According to IER, p. 37, 37.95% of the collected funds were allocated to research purchases, publication fees and conference participation. The institutional framework also provides flexibility for doctoral students facing particular personal circumstances. Doctoral studies may be temporarily interrupted for justified reasons, such as health issues, maternity or childcare, without payment of tuition fees during the interruption. Students who have completed the requirements of their individual doctoral programme but have not yet finalised their thesis may receive an extension of up to two years without additional tuition fees. In Mechanical Engineering, 28 doctoral students are enrolled; seven are currently in an extension period, and one has interrupted his studies.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The combination of inclusive admission measures, financial and social support, research funding, and flexible provisions for interruption and extension of studies demonstrates institutional commitment to equity and equal opportunities. These mechanisms facilitate access to and continuation of doctoral studies for students with different social, financial or personal circumstances.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue and further develop financial, social and academic support measures for doctoral students, with particular attention to students from vulnerable groups or facing special circumstances.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The professional activity of Mechanical Engineering doctoral students is organised according to the institutional regulations and their individual doctoral training plans. Within the Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA), each doctoral student must pass three courses—Ethics and Academic Integrity, an advanced specialised course related to the doctoral topic, and a complementary research-oriented course—and accumulate 30 ECTS credits. The curriculum is publicly available on the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field website.

After admission, an individual PPUA is established for each doctoral student by the supervisor, approved by the CSD Director and signed by the doctoral student. The examinations are adapted to the specific doctoral research topic and are assessed by three-member academic committees. Following completion of the examinations, doctoral students undertake the Scientific Research Programme (PCS), which includes three research reports assessed by the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee. The first research report also establishes the research activities, publication plan, experimental programme and timetable for subsequent stages of the doctoral programme.

Each doctoral student's academic and research progress is therefore systematically monitored through examinations, research reports and annual activity reports, ensuring compliance with the individual training and research programme. A particular feature of the assessment process is that doctoral students formally submit a request to take each examination included in the Advanced University Training Programme (PPA), ensuring that each assessment is documented and formally scheduled.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The use of individual training plans, specialised examinations, research reports and annual progress monitoring demonstrates the consistent application of institutional regulations concerning doctoral students' professional and academic activity. These mechanisms also allow the training pathway to be aligned with each doctoral student's research topic and progress.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to introduce centralised planning and scheduling of examinations, in order to streamline the assessment process and reduce the administrative burden on doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral field supports international cooperation and mobility through Erasmus+, CEEPUS and other international partnerships. Cooperation agreements include the University of Oklahoma (USA), partners within the CEEPUS network "Modern Trends in Education and Research on Mechanical Systems – Bridging Reliability, Quality and Tribology", as well as the University of Stavanger, NORCE Institute and Reykjavik University within Norwegian-funded projects.

Internationalisation is also reflected in the scientific activity of doctoral students and supervisors. During the last five years, Mechanical Engineering doctoral students recorded 48 participations as authors or co-authors at international conferences, while 17 scientific papers were published with international collaborators. More than 70 Web of Science-indexed papers were published by doctoral students and supervisors, including over 55 Q1–Q2 papers, with UPG providing financial support for publication fees. Doctoral supervisors are also involved in international scientific committees and academic networks. Academic mobility has included Erasmus+ and CEEPUS teaching, training and research activities in Spain, Italy, Jordan, Türkiye, Albania, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova and Poland. The international profile is further strengthened by the presence of five international doctoral students in Mechanical Engineering during the evaluated period (Coreea de Nord, 2 Siria, Iran, Liban). The cooperation framework includes agreements with 67 universities in Romania and abroad and 62 companies, providing opportunities for research and documentation placements, access to complementary research infrastructure and collaboration with academic and industrial partners, according to IER p. 40.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The diversity of international agreements, academic mobility activities, international conference participation and joint scientific publications demonstrates an active framework for international cooperation in education and research. The involvement of both doctoral students and supervisors in international networks contributes to knowledge exchange, scientific visibility and the internationalisation of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Scientific research represents a core component of the mission of the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești (UPG) and is fully integrated into the doctoral education process. Within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, research activities address topics relevant to mechanical engineering, including mechanical equipment and technologies for the oil, gas and energy industries, tribology, corrosion, materials, manufacturing technologies and energy efficiency, contributing both to scientific knowledge and to the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. Research activities are supported by the research infrastructure and laboratories available at UPG, as well as through cooperation with academic, research and industrial partners. Doctoral students are involved in research projects and contracts and have access to specialised equipment and complementary infrastructure provided by partner institutions and companies. Research outcomes are also integrated into doctoral training through specialised courses and current scientific literature used within the Advanced University Training Programme (PPUA) and through the Scientific Research Programme (PCS). The scientific performance of doctoral supervisors demonstrates sustained research activity through scientific publications, research projects and contracts, patents, international cooperation and participation in scientific events. The research activity of doctoral students is further demonstrated through their involvement in research projects, participation in national and international scientific conferences, and publication of research results in Web of Science-indexed journals. These achievements confirm the effective integration of scientific research into doctoral training, as well as the national and international visibility of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

At UPG Ploiești, learning within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme is strongly based on scientific investigation and research results. Doctoral students are actively involved in research projects, scientific publications and conferences, benefiting from specialised infrastructure and cooperation with academic and industrial partners. Research results are integrated and capitalised upon throughout doctoral training, directly supporting the achievement of the intended learning outcomes and enhancing the scientific relevance and visibility of the doctoral field.

✓ Recommendations:

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral field demonstrates significant scientific research, development and innovation activity, supported by the involvement of doctoral supervisors and students in national and international research projects, institutional development grants and industry-funded contracts. During the last five years, research activities have included projects financed through EEA and Norway Grants, national institutional development programmes and contracts with major industrial partners, covering areas such as geothermal energy, corrosion engineering, pipeline durability, mechanical testing, industrial equipment reliability and engineering design.

The visibility of research results is demonstrated by the publication, during the last five years, of more than 70 papers in Web of Science-indexed journals, of which 55 were published in Q1 and Q2 journals. 12 published patent applications further support research valorisation. UPG encourages high-quality scientific dissemination by covering publication fees for Q1 and Q2 Web of Science journals for both doctoral supervisors and doctoral students. Doctoral students who completed their theses during the evaluated period also disseminated their research results at prestigious international scientific conferences in Romania and abroad. The involvement of doctoral students in research projects and contracts with industrial partners further contributes to the practical valorisation and transfer of research results.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The substantial number of Web of Science publications, particularly Q1–Q2 papers, patent applications, international conference contributions and externally funded research projects demonstrates the national and international visibility of research conducted within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. Cooperation with industrial partners also supports the practical application and valorisation of research results, while institutional financial support for high-quality publications increases scientific impact and international visibility.

✓ Recommendations

It is recommended to continue supporting internal research grants and to increase the involvement of doctoral students in research projects, particularly those developed in cooperation with industry and economic partners.

The indicator is: fulfilled

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UPG Ploieşti has established an internal quality assurance system for the initiation, approval, monitoring and periodic evaluation of study programmes, including doctoral programmes. The system is governed by the UPG Quality Assurance Code, the Quality Manual, the University's organisational regulations and the regulations governing doctoral studies, which define the responsibilities of CSUD, the Doctoral School and the institutional quality assurance structures. The implementation of these mechanisms is demonstrated through annual internal audits of the Doctoral School, carried out by the University's Quality Management structures. According to the 2026 Internal Audit Programme, the Doctoral School was audited on 10 February 2026. Furthermore, IOSUD-UPG and the Doctoral School were included in the AEROQ external audits conducted in 2020 and 2025.

Quality monitoring is also supported by the preparation of annual activity, progress and self-evaluation reports of the Doctoral School, which are analysed and approved by the relevant institutional structures, including CSUD and/or the University Senate. In addition, CEACU annual reports provide institution-wide monitoring of quality assurance activities. The results of audits, self-evaluations, and annual monitoring are used to identify areas for improvement and to support the updating of doctoral regulations, procedures, and organisational practices.

These mechanisms ensure that the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field is periodically monitored within the institutional quality assurance system, providing concrete evidence of the systematic application of quality procedures and of their use in supporting the continuous improvement of doctoral education.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The consistent application of internal audits, periodic external evaluations, annual reporting and self-evaluation procedures demonstrates that quality assurance is systematically integrated into the management of doctoral education. The regular monitoring and review of activities provide a framework for identifying areas for improvement and implementing corrective or development measures, thereby contributing to the continuous improvement of the quality of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue the systematic application of quality assurance, audit and self-evaluation procedures, using their results to support the continuous improvement of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

UPG Ploieşti has implemented mechanisms for systematically collecting the opinions of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and other relevant stakeholders, including economic partners. An important component of the internal evaluation process is the anonymous evaluation of doctoral supervisors by doctoral students, aimed at assessing their level of satisfaction with the academic support, supervision and mentoring provided throughout doctoral studies.

The Procedure for evaluating the Satisfaction of Students and Other Stakeholders is also applicable to doctoral education. Through anonymous questionnaires, doctoral students can evaluate academic and administrative services

and recommend improvements. Feedback is also collected from doctoral supervisors and economic partners, providing different perspectives on the quality and relevance of doctoral education.
The implementation of this mechanism is documented in **Evaluation Questionnaires and Responses: Students, Academic Staff and Economic Partners**, which include responses collected in 2026.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

The systematic collection of feedback from doctoral students, supervisors and economic partners provides a relevant basis for identifying expectations and areas for improvement. The use of anonymous questionnaires and the possibility of submitting recommendations demonstrate the involvement of the academic community and external stakeholders in the quality assurance and continuous improvement of doctoral education.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UPG Ploieşti has established an institutional framework to promote academic integrity and research ethics, applicable also to the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. The University Ethics Committee operates independently in accordance with its Regulation on Organisation and Functioning and the UPG Code of University Ethics and Professional Conduct. It is responsible for analysing and addressing matters related to academic ethics and professional conduct. Academic integrity is also supported through the institutional use of the Sistemantiplagiat.ro similarity detection system. Doctoral theses are subject to mandatory similarity checks before the public defence procedure. In addition, within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, doctoral research reports are also subject to similarity checks, extending plagiarism-prevention measures throughout the doctoral training process. These mechanisms are complemented by the activities of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees, which continuously support and monitor doctoral students throughout their research and thesis preparation.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

UPG Ploieşti has an appropriate institutional framework for promoting academic integrity and research ethics within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. The independent activity of the University Ethics Committee, together with systematic similarity checks of doctoral theses and research reports and continuous monitoring by the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees, contributes to the prevention of academic misconduct and supports the integrity of doctoral research throughout the doctoral education process.

✓ Recommendations:-

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

As presented under Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1, IOSUD-UPG, the Doctoral School and the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field consistently apply the institutional procedures and regulations governing doctoral education and quality assurance. These documents are periodically reviewed and updated in accordance with legislative changes, ensuring alignment with the current national regulatory framework. Compliance and implementation are monitored through annual internal audits, periodic external evaluations, self-evaluation and annual activity reports, as well as through the institutional quality assurance structures. The results of these processes support the identification of areas for

improvement and the updating of doctoral practices and procedures. Within UPG Ploieşti, quality assurance procedures are translated into concrete actions at the level of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. Their implementation is reflected in the formal documentation and monitoring of the main stages of each doctoral pathway, from the approval of the individual PPUA and PCS plans to examinations, research reports, annual activity reports, thesis pre-defence and public defence. Quality assurance is also supported by the involvement of several institutional and academic structures at different stages of doctoral training, including the CSD, CSUD, doctoral supervisors and Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees. This provides successive levels of academic review and contributes to the consistent application of requirements concerning scientific progress, publication activity and academic integrity. The procedures and related documentation are adapted whenever necessary to reflect changes in the applicable legislation and institutional requirements.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The consistent application and periodic updating of regulations and procedures, together with systematic auditing, monitoring and self-evaluation, demonstrate the effective functioning of the quality assurance system. These mechanisms contribute to maintaining regulatory compliance and to the continuous improvement of the quality of doctoral education in Mechanical Engineering.

✓ Recommendations:-

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Implementing institutional procedures in the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field involves both doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, who must comply with regulations and complete the documentation required at each stage of doctoral training. The UPG Quality Management Service (SMQ) supports the standardisation of these activities by providing standardised forms and documents through the University Intranet. The Doctoral School section of the UPG Intranet contains 59 standardised document templates that cover the main administrative and academic activities associated with doctoral studies. These documents establish a clear sequence for completing and documenting procedures and are used by doctoral students, supervisors and the responsible institutional structures. This system supports consistent implementation of procedures and traceability of doctoral activities.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The direct involvement of doctoral students, supervisors and institutional structures, together with the extensive use of standardised documentation, demonstrates a structured and participatory approach to implementing doctoral procedures. The availability of common templates also contributes to consistency, transparency and traceability within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field.

✓ Recommendations:-

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UPG Ploieşti applies the Methodology for the Evaluation of the Professional Results and Performance of Teaching and Research Staff, which provides the institutional framework for evaluating academic staff performance, including feedback from students. Within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, doctoral students' opinions are collected through the Customer Satisfaction Evaluation Questionnaire. The questionnaire addresses aspects related to the quality of doctoral training, supervision and academic services and allows doctoral students to express their level of satisfaction and provide feedback. In 2026, responses were collected from doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and economic partners, providing complementary perspectives on the quality of the educational process. The results are documented in Annex – Evaluation Questionnaires and Responses: Students, Academic Staff and Economic Partners.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The collection and analysis of feedback from doctoral students, complemented by the views of supervisors and economic partners, provides a useful mechanism for monitoring teaching, supervision and the quality of doctoral training. The results can support the identification of areas for improvement and contribute to the continuous enhancement of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue the biannual evaluation of teaching and supervision activities by doctoral students and to systematically use the feedback received to support the continuous improvement of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UPG Ploieşti has established institutional structures and mechanisms for the systematic collection, monitoring and analysis of data relevant to internal quality assurance. The main structures involved are the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEACU), the Quality Management Department (DMCU), and the Internal Monitoring Commission (CMI), which monitor and evaluate activities carried out across the University, including doctoral studies. Data relevant to the quality of doctoral education are collected through annual activity and self-evaluation reports, internal audits, student and stakeholder satisfaction questionnaires, doctoral progress monitoring, and information concerning scientific research and publications. At the level of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, these mechanisms provide information on doctoral students' academic progress, research performance, supervision and stakeholder satisfaction, supporting evidence-based quality monitoring. The quality of the research environment is also monitored through access to scientific information resources. Through ANELIS PLUS, UPG provides access to major scientific databases and resources, including ScienceDirect, Scopus, SpringerLink, Web of Science, Journal Citation Reports, Derwent Innovations Index, OnePetro and Wiley Online Library, as well as approximately 2,000 full-text e-books available through the ANELIS PLUS National Repository.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

Dedicated quality assurance structures and the systematic collection of data from academic, research, and stakeholder-related activities provide an appropriate basis for monitoring the quality of doctoral education. The analysis of these data supports informed decision-making and the identification of improvement needs within the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field.

✓ Recommendations:-

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The UPG Doctoral School ensures public access to information concerning doctoral studies through its dedicated website. For the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, relevant information is publicly available on doctoral supervisors, curriculum and course descriptions, admission procedures, regulations and methodologies, doctoral study requirements, research activities, and thesis-related procedures. The dedicated Mechanical Engineering doctoral field webpage provides direct access to field-specific academic information.

The Doctoral School website also provides access to institutional regulations, methodologies, announcements and other documents relevant to current and prospective doctoral students, thereby supporting transparency and access to information of public interest.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The availability of institutional and programme-specific information through the Doctoral School website ensures transparency and facilitates access to relevant information for doctoral students, candidates and other stakeholders. The information made publicly available supports informed participation in doctoral education.

✓ Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue regularly updating and improving the accessibility of public information concerning the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme, ensuring that information remains complete, clear and easily accessible to all stakeholders.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UPG Ploiești ensures the transparency of decision-making processes by publicly providing access to the decisions and regulatory documents adopted by its main governance structures. University Senate decisions are published on the University website, while CSUD decisions are available through the Doctoral School website.
In addition, the Doctoral School provides public access to the methodologies, regulations and relevant legislation governing doctoral studies. This allows doctoral students, supervisors and other stakeholders to access the rules and decisions affecting the organisation and conduct of doctoral education, including the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The public availability of Senate and CSUD decisions, regulations and methodologies supports transparency and accountability in institutional decision-making. These mechanisms enable members of the academic community and other stakeholders to remain informed about decisions relevant to doctoral education.

✓ Recommendations:-

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Mechanical Engineering doctoral field at UPG Ploiești follows the institutional procedures required for external quality assurance and accreditation. Internal evaluation reports undergo a multi-stage institutional review process, are endorsed by the CSD, CSUD, the Quality Management structures, and the Administrative Council, are approved by the University Senate, and are subsequently submitted to ARACIS in accordance with applicable legal requirements. Following the ARACIS external evaluation conducted between 20–24 September 2021, the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field obtained maintenance of accreditation, confirmed by ARACIS Council Decision No. 97/25.11.2021.
The external quality assurance process was subsequently continued through periodic monitoring. An internal progress report was submitted in October 2024, followed by the intermediate external evaluation report issued on 23 July 2025 and validated through ARACIS Council Decision No. 193/H/07.08.2025. In addition, IOSUD-UPG maintained its accreditation following the institutional external evaluation of UPG conducted between 5–7 March 2025.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The successive external evaluations and progress monitoring demonstrate the consistent application of external quality assurance procedures and the continuity of the accreditation process. The maintenance of accreditation and the subsequent validation of the progress evaluation confirm that the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field is periodically assessed and monitored in accordance with the applicable quality assurance framework.

✓ Recommendations:-

The indicator is: fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: ✓ Strong research infrastructure supporting doctoral studies. ✓ High scientific performance and international visibility of doctoral supervisors. ✓ Strong cooperation with industry through research projects and contracts. ✓ Active involvement of doctoral students in research projects and scientific publications. ✓ Consistent financial support for Q1–Q2 publications, conferences and research activities. ✓ Extensive international cooperation and mobility opportunities through Erasmus+, CEEPUS and other partnerships. ✓ Individualised doctoral training and systematic monitoring of students' progress. ✓ Strong academic integrity and quality assurance mechanisms. ✓ Low doctoral dropout rate.	INTERNAL FACTORS	**Weaknesses:** ✓ Lack of industry-funded scholarships for doctoral students. ✓ Relatively low retention of PhD graduates in academic and research positions. ✓ Limited promotion and international visibility of the research capabilities of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field. ✓ Limited number of research projects involving doctoral students. ✓ Insufficient use of Erasmus+ and international mobility opportunities. ✓ Limited involvement of industry and international experts in doctoral training. ✓ Limited tracking of PhD graduates' career paths. ✓ Administrative burden related to individual scheduling of PPA examinations. ✓ Incomplete English-language information on the University and Doctoral School websites.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Growing labour-market demand for PhD-level specialists in research, innovation and advanced engineering. ✓ Development of emerging research directions, particularly in renewable energy, green technologies, digitalisation and advanced manufacturing. ✓ Access to international scientific databases and dissemination platforms supporting high-quality research. ✓ Expansion of cooperation with industry, including joint research projects, technology transfer and industry-funded doctoral scholarships. ✓ Opportunities arising from Green Deal and sustainable energy projects, including green hydrogen technologies. ✓ Greater participation in national and European research projects involving doctoral students. ✓ Expansion of international partnerships, cotutelle programmes and doctoral mobility through Erasmus+, CEEPUS and other programmes. ✓ Attracting more international doctoral students and researchers. ✓ Increasing patenting and technology-	EXTERNAL FACTORS	**Threats:** ✓ Declining interest in doctoral studies due to more financially attractive career opportunities in industry. ✓ Potential reduction in state-funded doctoral places and public research funding. ✓ Increasing competition from national and international doctoral programmes for attracting high-performing candidates. ✓ Limited English-language promotion, affecting the recruitment of international doctoral students. ✓ Difficulty in attracting and retaining young researchers and academic staff. ✓ Dependence on competitive external funding for developing research activities and infrastructure. ✓ Rapid technological change, requiring continuous updating of research infrastructure and competencies. ✓ Limited doctoral alumni engagement, reducing opportunities for feedback, networking and cooperation. ✓ Risk of insufficient doctoral student participation in international mobility and research projects.

transfer activities in cooperation with industry. ✓ Increasing the number of habilitated doctoral supervisors by encouraging eligible academic staff to obtain habilitation.		

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

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	I.P.A.1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.	F	
3.	I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.	F	
4.	I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	Initiating habilitation procedures for eligible academic staff who meet the minimum CNATDCU standards in order to increase the number of full-time doctoral supervisors within the doctoral study domain of Mechanical Engineering.
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	F	It is recommended to continue and further develop the digital transformation process, with a focus on integrating IT tools and improving the accessibility,

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.		efficiency and quality of services provided to the academic community.
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	It is recommended to periodically review the course syllabi to ensure that the intended learning outcomes are clearly articulated and aligned with the competencies demanded by the labor market. In addition, the course content should be regularly updated by incorporating recent topics and current bibliographic resources, reflecting developments in the field, while ensuring consistency with the curriculum, including the distribution of teaching hours as defined in the doctoral programme PPUA.
10.	**I.P.B.2.1.2** The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	**I.P.B.3.1.1** The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
12.	**I.P.B.3.1.2** The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	It is recommended to continue expanding and promoting academic mobility opportunities for doctoral students, particularly through Erasmus+, CEEPUS and other international partnerships.
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	It is recommended to continue developing flexible and inclusive support measures, further adapting doctoral pathways to students' individual needs, potential and academic aspirations.
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	
16.	**I.P.B.5.1.2** Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	It is recommended to periodically review the course syllabi to ensure that the intended learning outcomes are clearly

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			articulated and aligned with the competencies demanded by the labor market. In addition, the course content should be regularly updated by incorporating recent topics and current bibliographic resources, reflecting developments in the field, while ensuring consistency with the curriculum, including the distribution of teaching hours as defined in the doctoral programme PPUA.
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	It is recommended to continue and further develop financial, social and academic support measures for doctoral students, with particular attention to students from vulnerable groups or facing special circumstances.
19.	**I.P.B.7.2.1** The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	It is recommended to introduce centralised planning and scheduling of examinations, in order to streamline the assessment process and reduce the administrative burden on doctoral students.
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	
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	It is recommended to continue supporting internal research grants and to increase the involvement of doctoral students in research projects, particularly those developed in cooperation with industry and economic partners.
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	It is recommended to continue the systematic application of quality assurance, audit and self-evaluation procedures, using their results to support the continuous improvement of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme.
24.	**I.P.C.1.2.1** The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	taken into account in the procedure implementation process.		
25.	**I.P.C.2.2.2.** The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
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	It is recommended to continue the biannual evaluation of teaching and supervision activities by doctoral students and to systematically use the feedback received to support the continuous improvement of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme.
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	It is recommended to continue regularly updating and improving the accessibility of public information concerning the Mechanical Engineering doctoral programme, ensuring that information remains complete, clear and easily accessible to all stakeholders.
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	-	-
Domain B. Educational efficacy	14	-	-
Domain C. Quality management	10	-	-
Total	32		

From the summary table presented above, it can be observed that the 32 performance indicators analysed by the members of the external evaluation committee, based on the information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report

(IER) and the evidence collected during the evaluation visit to the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti (UPG), for the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field, were assessed as fully accomplished.

General recommendation:

It is recommended that future Internal Evaluation Reports of UPG and its doctoral fields follow the structure recommended by ARACIS more closely, clearly distinguishing, for each standard and performance indicator, between the presentation of the current state of facts, its critical analysis, and the proposed directions for future development and improvement.

VI. Conclusions

The external evaluation demonstrates that the **Mechanical Engineering doctoral field at IOSUD – UPG Ploieşti** provides high-quality doctoral education supported by an appropriate institutional framework, effective governance and a well-established quality assurance system. The organisational structures, regulatory framework, qualified human resources, research infrastructure and support services provide appropriate conditions for doctoral studies and comply with national legislation and ARACIS standards. Transparent decision-making, stakeholder involvement, periodic evaluation and internal quality assurance mechanisms contribute to the continuous development and sustainability of the doctoral field.

The doctoral programme provides an appropriate educational and research environment supporting the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. Doctoral training combines advanced academic education with scientific research and is adapted to the individual research topics of doctoral students. Doctoral candidates benefit from qualified supervisors, specialised research infrastructure, personalised guidance through the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees, opportunities for international mobility and cooperation, and financial support for research, scientific publications and conference participation. Strong cooperation with the economic environment, together with participation in research projects and international scientific activities, contributes to the relevance and practical valorisation of doctoral research.

The scientific performance and visibility of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field are supported by publications in internationally indexed journals, including a significant number of Q1–Q2 publications, patent applications, international conference participation and cooperation with academic and industrial partners. The integration of research into doctoral education, combined with systematic monitoring of doctoral progress and mechanisms promoting academic integrity, creates favourable conditions for developing advanced research, innovation, responsibility and autonomy.

In conclusion, the evaluated Mechanical Engineering doctoral field demonstrates a high level of compliance with the evaluated standards and performance indicators, with all 32 performance indicators being assessed as fulfilled. The recommendations formulated during the evaluation are primarily aimed at supporting further development, including increasing doctoral students' involvement in research projects and international mobility, strengthening cooperation with industry, continuing the development of research infrastructure and internationalisation, and further improving quality monitoring and public information. It is also recommended that future Internal Evaluation Reports follow more closely the ARACIS structure, clearly distinguishing the current state of facts, its analysis, and future development and improvement directions.

Following the completion of the external evaluation procedure for the purpose of maintaining the accreditation of the Mechanical Engineering doctoral field at IOSUD – Petroleum-Gas University of Ploieşti, and considering that all 32 performance indicators analysed according to the applicable ARACIS standards were assessed as fulfilled, the external evaluation committee decided:

Maintaining accreditation (MAC);

VII. Annexes

1. Calendarul vizitei
2. Supplementary annexes
    a) Gradul de indeplinire a criteriilor minimale de catre conducatorii de doctorat din domeniul Inginerie Mecanica_V2
    b) Matricea de corelare a disciplinelor cu competentele si rezultatele invatarii
    c) Raport de progres - evaluare intermediara DSUD_UPG_Ploiesti_Ing mecanica
    d) Situatie studenti doctoranzi IM
    e) TEME_ Domeniul Inginerie Mecanica_2026

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

Instituţia de învăţământ superior/Organizaţia furnizoare de educaţie/ Higher Education Institution / Education Provider Organization: *Universitatea Petrol-Gaze din Ploieşti*
Şcoala doctorală/ Doctoral School: *Școala doctorală pluridisciplinară – IOSUD Universitatea Petrol-Gaze din Ploieşti*
Domeniul de doctorat/ Doctoral Domain: *Inginerie mecanică/Mechanical Engineering*
Obiectivul evaluării externe/ The objective of the external evaluation: *(autorizare de funcționare provizorie/acreditare/menținerea acreditării domeniului de doctorat) Menținerea acreditării/ Mentaining accreditation*
Perioada vizitei de evaluare/ The evaluation period: *1-2 septembrie 2026*

Comisia de experţi evaluatori ai ARACIS/Evaluation panel:

Nr./No.	III.1 Numele şi prenumele/ Last Name and First Name	Calitatea/Team role
1.	*Mereuta Elena*	*Membru - Cadru didactic RNE*
2.	*Dulgheru Valeriu*	*Membru - Evaluator internațional RNE-I*
3.	*Chiriac Gabriel-Adrian*	*Membru - Student doctorand RNE-S*

Reprezentantul ÎÎS/OFE:

Nr./No.	Numele şi prenumele/ Last Name and First Name	Calitatea/Team role
1.		*Persoană de contact/Contact person*

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activități de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanți/ *Participants*	Locație/*Location* /Listă participanți/*List of Participants*
Marti/ *Tuesday*, 1.09.2026			
8:30-9:20	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/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Conf.univ.dr.ing. -Rector - Prof.univ.dr.ing. - Pro-Rector - Conf.univ.dr.ec. - Pro-Rector - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - Președinte Senat - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. -Director CSUD - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - Director CSD - Conf.dr.ing. - Decan IME - Ing. -Director general adminstrativ - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - Membru CSUD/CSD - Drd.Ing. - Membru CSUD - Drd.Ing. - Membru CSD
9:30-10:20	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/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**:

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activități de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanți/ *Participants*	Locație/*Location* /Listă participanți/*List of Participants*
			- Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. -Director CSUD - 5 Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - 1 Conf.univ.habil.dr.ing. - 1 Șef lucr.dr.ing.
10:20-10:30	Pauză/ Break		
10:30-12:30	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*	Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. -Director CSUD - Conf.univ.dr.ing. -Decan IME - Conf.univ.dr.ing. -Rector - Șef lucr.dr.ing -Director departament IM - Conf.univ.dr.ing. -Pro-Decan IME
12:30-13:30	Pauză de prânz/ *Lunch*		
13:30-14:20	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/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. -Director CSUD - 5 Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing.

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activități de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanți/ *Participants*	Locație/*Location* /Listă participanți/*List of Participants*
			- 2 Conf.univ.habil.dr.ing.
14:30-15:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu **studenți**[3] **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/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - 9 Drd.Ing. - 1 Asist.Drd.Ing
15:30-16:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu **absolvenți**[4],[5] ai DSUD/ *Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with alumni*[6] *of the DSUD*	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ *Panel members* - Absolvenți ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ *Graduates*	Sala/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Șef lucr.dr.ing. - Asist.dr.ing. - 9 Dr.ing.

[3] 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.
[4] Se va evita invitarea absolvenților care sunt angajați ai IÎS sau ai OFE, după caz.
[5] Nu este obligatorie în cazul autorizării domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat

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

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activități de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanți/ *Participants*	Locație/*Location* /Listă participanți/*List of Participants*
16:30-17:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu **angajatori** ai absolvenților DSUD/ *Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with employers*[7] *of the DSUD alumni*	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ *Panel members* - Angajatori/ *Employers*	Sala/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - CEO S.C.Termoklima S.R.L-Dr.Ing. - CEO S.C. IA Project S.R.L.-Dr.Ing. - General manager Technical Lead&Development-Dr.Ing - CEO S.C. STRABENBAU LOGISTIC S.R.L.-Dr.Ing. - Rector UPG-Conf.univ.dr.ing.
17:30-18:20	**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/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter
Miercuri/Wednesday, 2.09.2026			
8:30 - 9:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanți ai	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ *Panel members*	Sala/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter

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

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activităţi de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanţi/ *Participants*	Locaţie/*Location* /Listă participanţi/*List of Participants*
	structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calităţii/ *Meeting of the external quality evaluation experts' panel with representatives of the quality assurance organisational structures*	- Reprezentanţi ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calităţii/ *Representatives of quality assurance organisational structures*	Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**:: - Coordonator Compartiment Managementul Calităţii- Conf.univ.dr.ing.
9:30 - 10:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experţi în evaluarea externă a calităţii 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 experţi evaluatori ai ARACIS/ *Panel members* - Responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare/ *Staff in charge with research centres/laboratories*	Sala/Locaţia/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Conf.univ.dr.ing. – director Centru regional de determinare a performanţelor şi monitorizare a stării tehnice a materialului tubular utilizat în industria petrolieră - Conf.univ.dr.ing. – director Centrul de cercetare pentru evaluarea structurilor industriale şi a caracteristicilor fizico-mecanice ale materialelor metalice şi nemetalice LED (examinări distructive) - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. responsabil laborator Tehnologia materialelor 1. Mase Plastice - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. responsabil laborator Tribologie şi coroziune

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activităţi de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanţi/ *Participants*	Locaţie/*Location* /Listă participanţi/*List of Participants*
10:20 - 10:30	Pauză/ *Break*		
10:30 - 11:20	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/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Prof.dr.ing. Dorin -Președinte Comisia de Etică -Sef lucr.dr.ing. - Membru Comisia de Etică
11:20-12:30	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu **reprezentanţi ai conducerii componentei organizatorice/persoana de contact/reprezentanţi ai CEAC/reprezentanţi ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calităţii** [8] / *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*	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS/ *Panel members* - Reprezentanți ai conducerii / reprezentanți ai CEAC / reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității/ *Representatives of the management / representatives of the CEAC / representatives of the quality assurance organisational structures* - Persoana de contact/ *Contact person*	Sala/Locația/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Prof.univ.dr. -Președinte CEACU - Asist.drd.ing. -Membru CEACU - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - Director CSUD

[8] Clarificarea unor aspecte rezultate din activităţile şi discuţiile desfăşurate pe parcursul efectuării vizitei, dacă se impune

Intervalul orar/ *Hour*	Activităţi de evaluare/ *Evaluation activities*	Participanţi/ *Participants*	Locaţie/*Location* /Listă participanţi/*List of Participants*
12:30-13:00	Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experţi evaluatori cu reprezentanţii conducerii IÎS sau a OFE, după caz şi 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 experţi evaluatori ai ARACIS/ *Panel members* - Reprezentanţi ai conducerii şi ai domeniului de studii evaluat/ *Representatives of the management* - Persoana de contact/ *Contact person*	Sala/Locaţia/ **Room/Location** Ap10/corp A parter Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire/ **List of participants attending the meeting**: - Conf.univ.dr.ing. -Rector - Prof.univ.dr.ing. - Pro-Rector - Conf.univ.dr.ec. - Pro-Rector - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - Preşedinte Senat - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. -Director CSUD - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. - Director CSD - Conf.dr.ing. - Decan IME - Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing - Membru CSUD - Drd.Ing. - Membru CSD - 3 Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing.

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
• the Counseling and Career Guidance Center, etc.

Prof. Dr. Eng. ***Mereuta Elena***