



THE ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
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ANALYSIS OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Octavian Mădălin BUNOIU
President ARACIS

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Legal framework

□ According to the law, the evaluation of doctoral university studies involves:

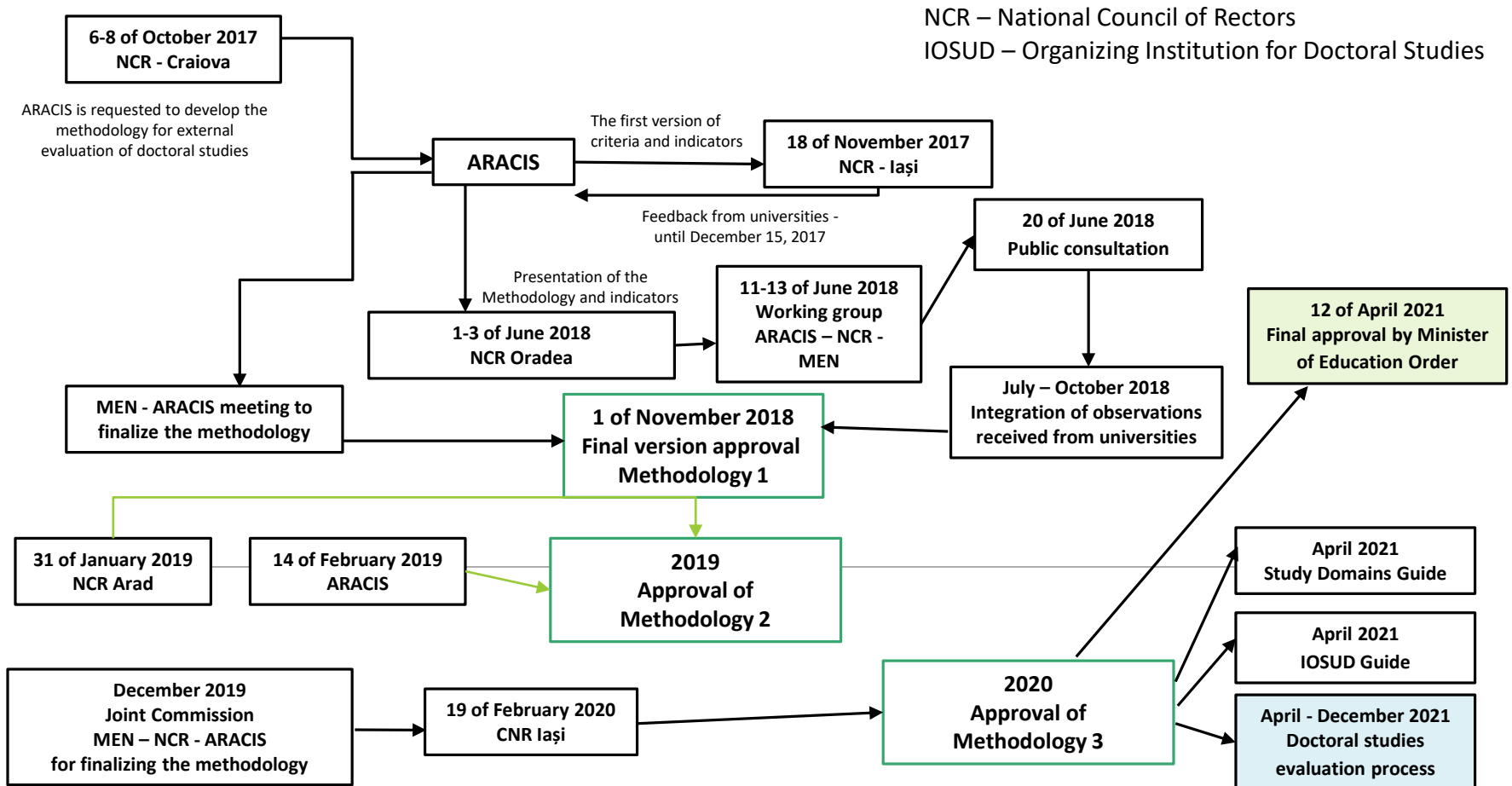
- The evaluation of the organization framework, named **IOSUD**;
- The evaluation of the **doctoral study domains (DD)** in which the doctoral degree programs are organized.

□ And is based on:

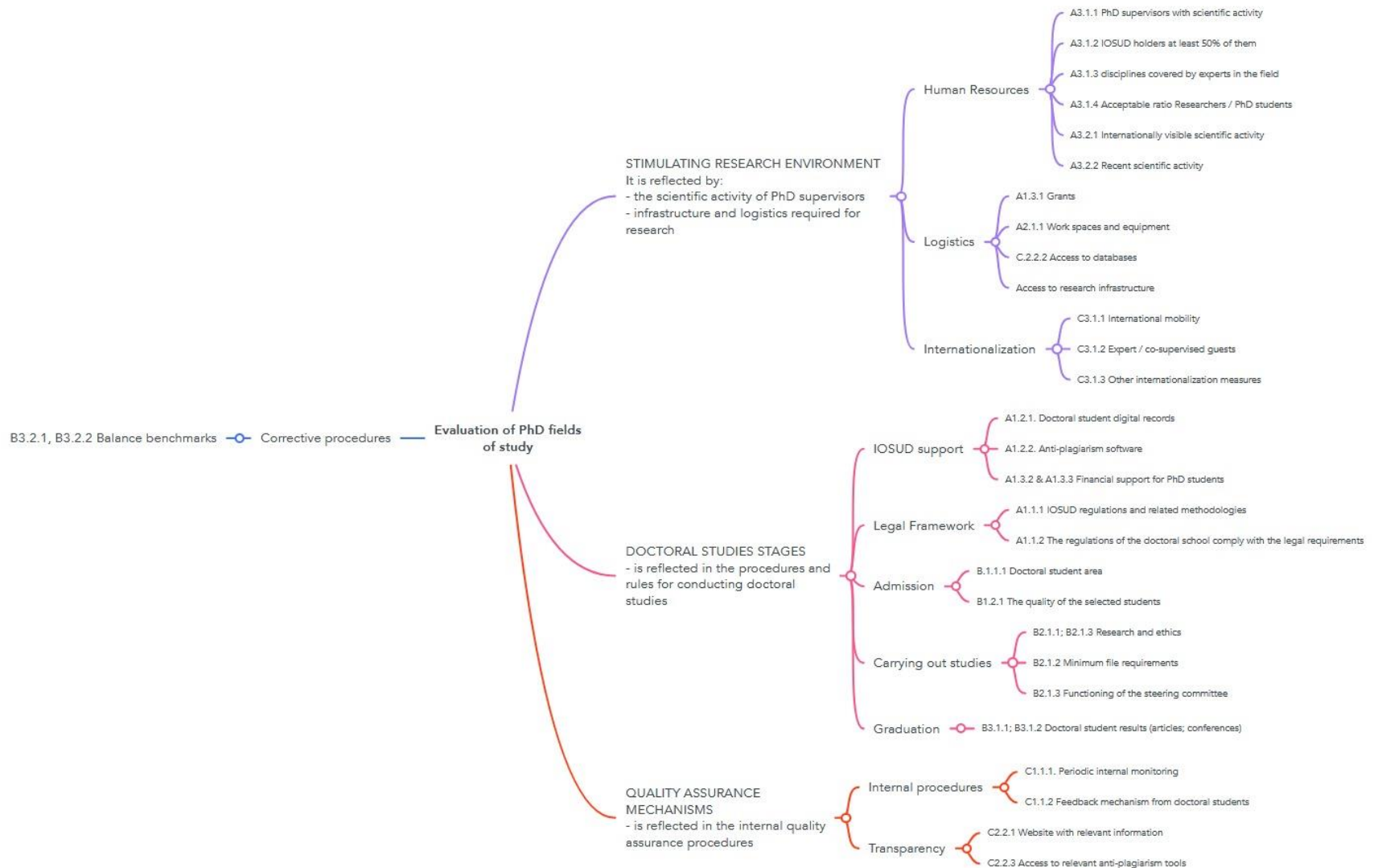
- Law of National Education No 1/2011
- Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 on Quality Assurance of Education
- Romanian Government Decision No. 681 of 29 June 2011 on the approval of *the Code of Doctoral Studies*
- Order 3651 of 12.04.2021 of the Minister of Education *to approve the Methodology for evaluation of doctoral studies and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation.*



Consultation process



The methodology design



Typology of indicators by domains



Domain/Criteria	Indicator type			Total
	PI	PI *	C-PI	
DOMAIN A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY	6	2	2	10
Criterion. A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources	3	1	1	5
Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure	3			3
Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resource		1	1	2
DOMAIN B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS	5	1	1	7
Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest	1	1		2
Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs	3			3
Criterion B.3. The results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation	1			1
Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses			1	1
DOMAIN C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT	12	4	3	19
Criterion C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system	3	1		4
Criterion C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources	2		2	4
Criterion C.3. Internationalization	2	2		4
Criterion C.4. System for assurance of ethical and academic integrity	5	1	1	7
Total	23	7	6	36

Critical Performance Indicators

List of critical performance indicators (CPI) - IOSUD

Indicator	Description
A.1.2.2.	The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.
A.3.1.2.	At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.
B.4.1.1.	At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non - validated, at the level of General Council of CNADTCU, without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.



Critical Performance Indicators

List of critical performance indicators (CPI) - IOSUD

Indicator	Description
C.2.1.1.	<p>The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation;(b) the admission regulation;(c) the doctoral studies contract;(d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;(e) the content of the study programs, based on advanced academic studies;(f) the academic and scientific profile and thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;

Critical Performance Indicators

List of critical performance indicators (CPI) - IOSUD

Indicator	Description
C.2.1.1.	<p>The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(g) the list of doctoral students within the school, with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor);(h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;(i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.(j) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.

Critical Performance Indicators

List of critical performance indicators (CPI) - IOSUD

Indicator	Description
C.2.2.1	All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis.
C.4.1.4.	The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of “doctor” following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU’s decision and in the current legislation.



+ specialty inspector
for technical
assistance!

Experts panel

IOSUD

- a **mission director** – member of the ARACIS Council – coordinates also the DD evaluations;
- a **coordinator** at IOSUD level of the Experts' Panel - member of the academic staff listed in the National Register of Evaluators (RNE), having the status of doctoral advisor;
- one doctoral **student**, member of the National Register of Student Evaluators (RNE-S), designated by the student members in the ARACIS Council;
- one member **expert evaluator for each fundamental science domain** included in the university doctoral studies domains managed by the doctoral school/schools of the IOSUD, academic member of the National Evaluators' Register (RNE), doctoral advisor in a university doctoral studies domain belonging to the fundamental science domain of the doctoral school/schools of the IOSUD;
- an **international expert** – preferably a doctoral advisor in one of university doctoral studies domains managed by the doctoral school/schools of the IOSUD, member of the International Evaluators' Register of ARACIS.

DOCTORAL STUDY DOMAIN (DD)

- an expert evaluator – member of the academic staff listed in the National Register of Evaluators (RNE) having the status of doctoral advisor; in the same doctoral study domain as the one undergoing evaluation – who is also a **Coordinator** of the Experts Panel;
- an **international expert** – preferably a doctoral advisor in the same university doctoral study domain as the one under review, member of the ARACIS International Evaluators' Register, operating outside Romania;
- one doctoral **student** (preferably), member of the National Register of Student Evaluators (RNE-S), designated by the student members in the ARACIS Council, preferably having studied in the doctoral study domain undergoing evaluation

Evaluation process - steps

Step	Deadline
Review the documents setting the evaluation framework	
Analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report \Rightarrow <i>first draft external evaluation report</i>	15 days
Request for clarifications/additional information	15 days
Answer from the HEI	15 days

Steps – evaluation visit

☐ Hybrid mode ☒ on-site visit and online meetings (ZOOM)

- online meetings with all IOSUD and DD teams
- online meetings at IOSUD level
- online meetings at doctoral school level / domain level
- on-site visit

- Different categories of university staff
- Stakeholders

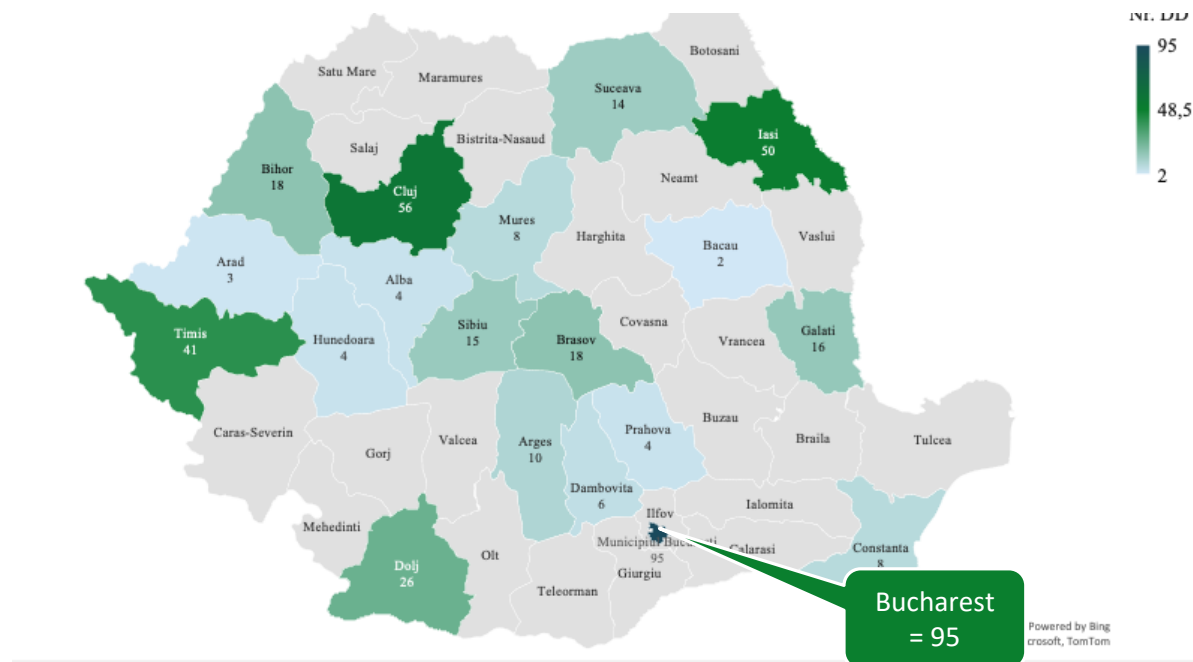
IOSUD	DD
mission director / coordinator	coordinator

- online meetings between experts panel members
- individual evaluation activities

Additional
meetings!
Additional
documents!

2. AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

- Human resources involved -



The overview over the human resources involved in the external evaluation processes of IOSUD and DD, in association with the educational offer of doctoral studies at the level of all higher education institutions.



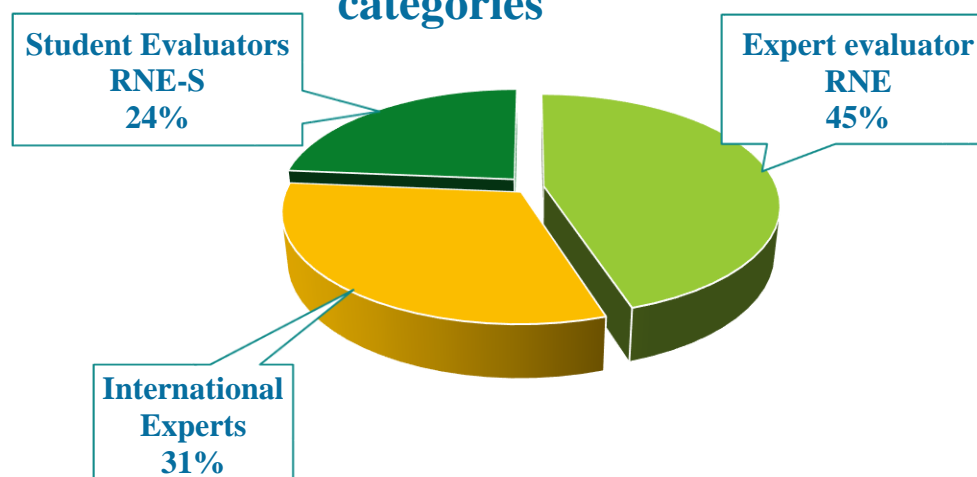
	Total SNIS offer	Evaluated in 2021	Weight %
Number of IOSUD	55	50	90,9%
Number of DD	425	398	93,65%

Human resources involved in the IOSUD and DD evaluation process

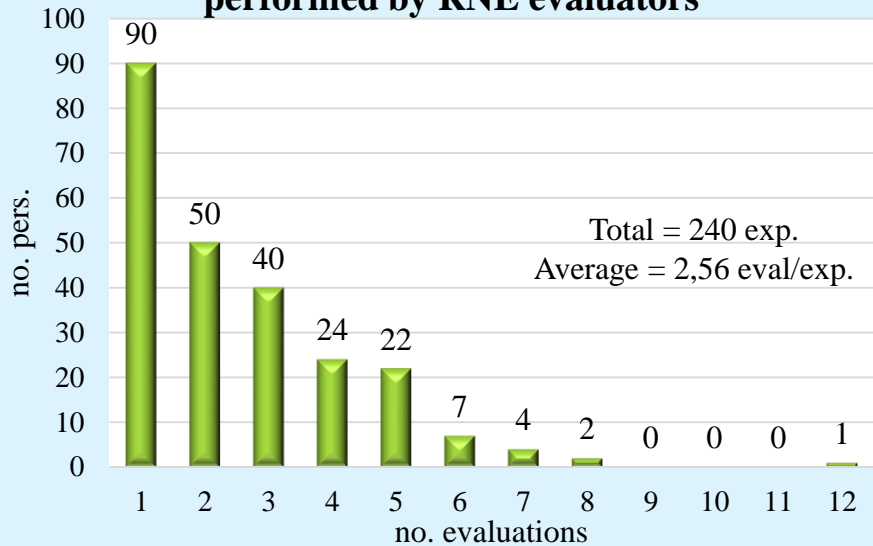


Indicator	Nr. of pers.	Nr. Of evaluations	Average (no. eval./pers.)
TOTAL RESURSES			
out of which:	552	1514	2,74
Expert evaluator RNE	240	614	2,56
International experts	167	448	2,68
Students RNE-S member	126	452	3,59
Technical secretaries	21		

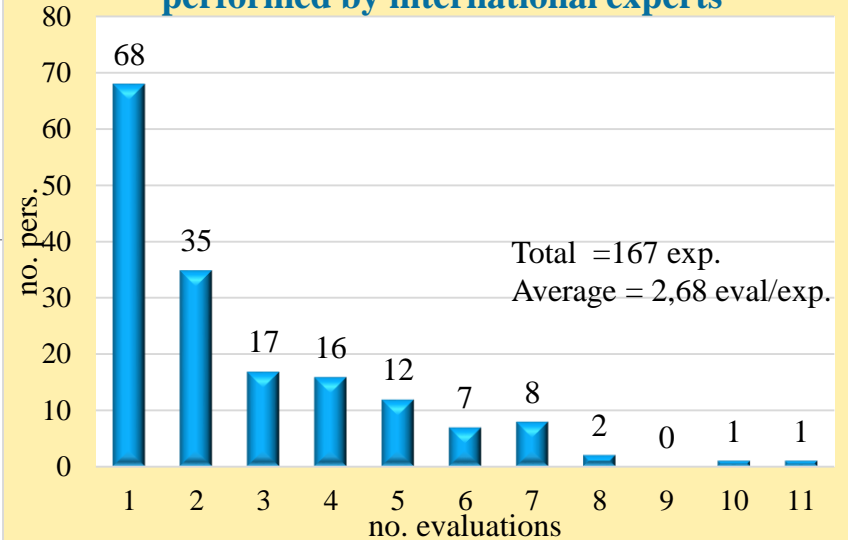
The structure of the expert evaluators by categories



Distribution of the number of evaluations performed by RNE evaluators

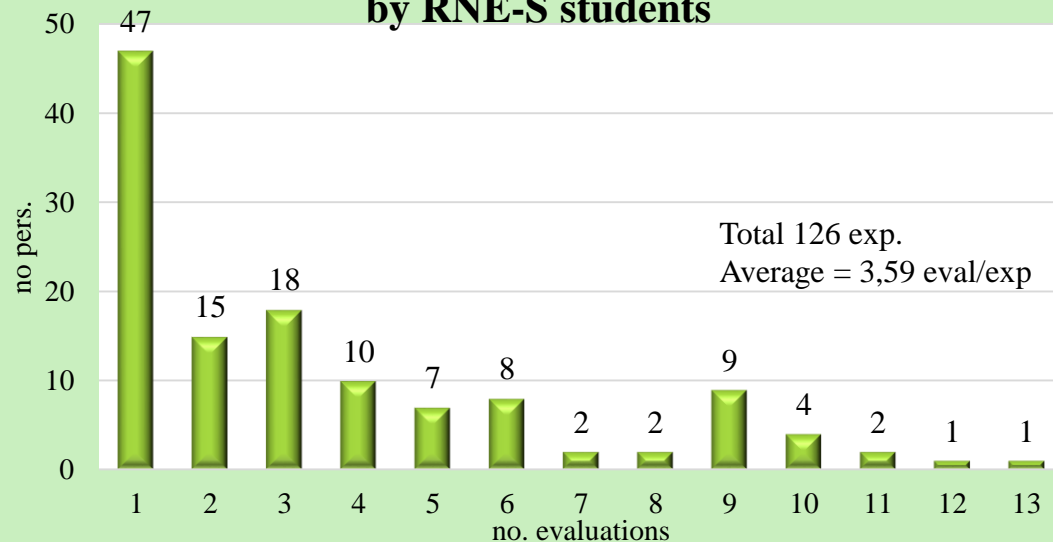


Distribution of the number of evaluations performed by international experts

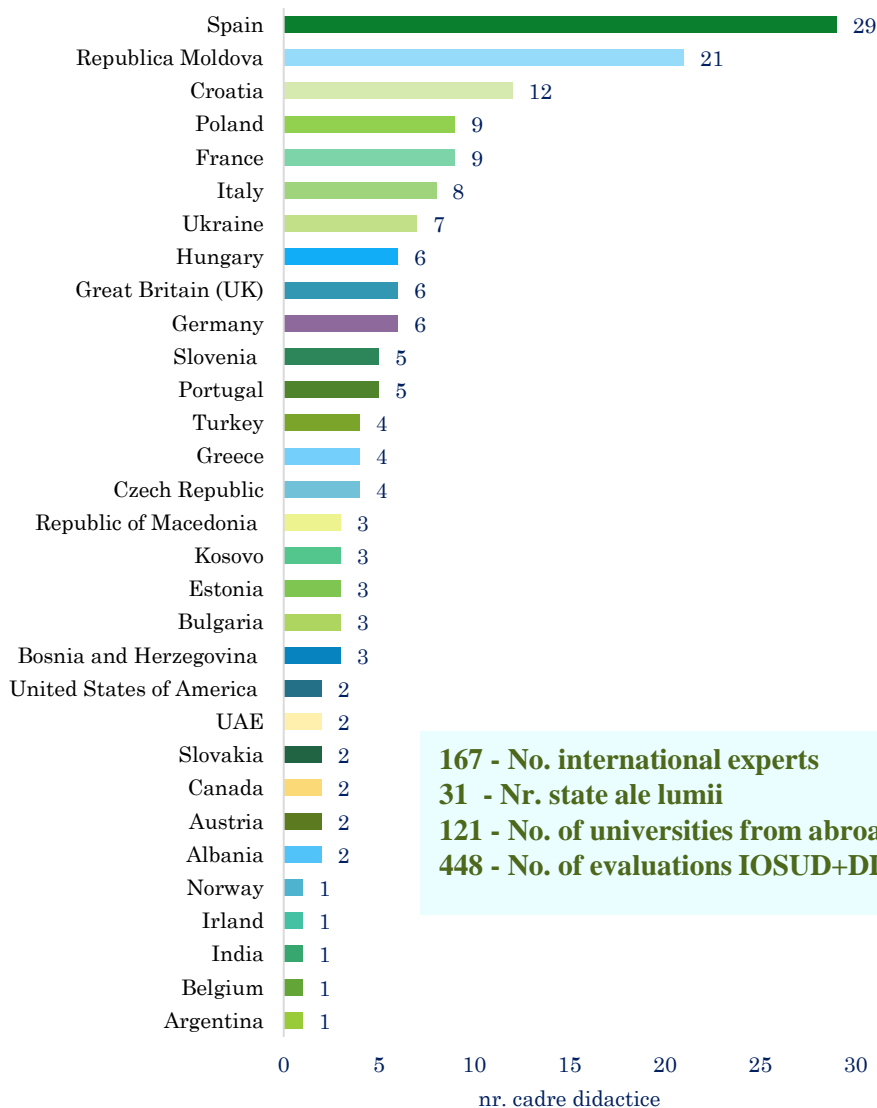


Degree of loads of expert evaluators

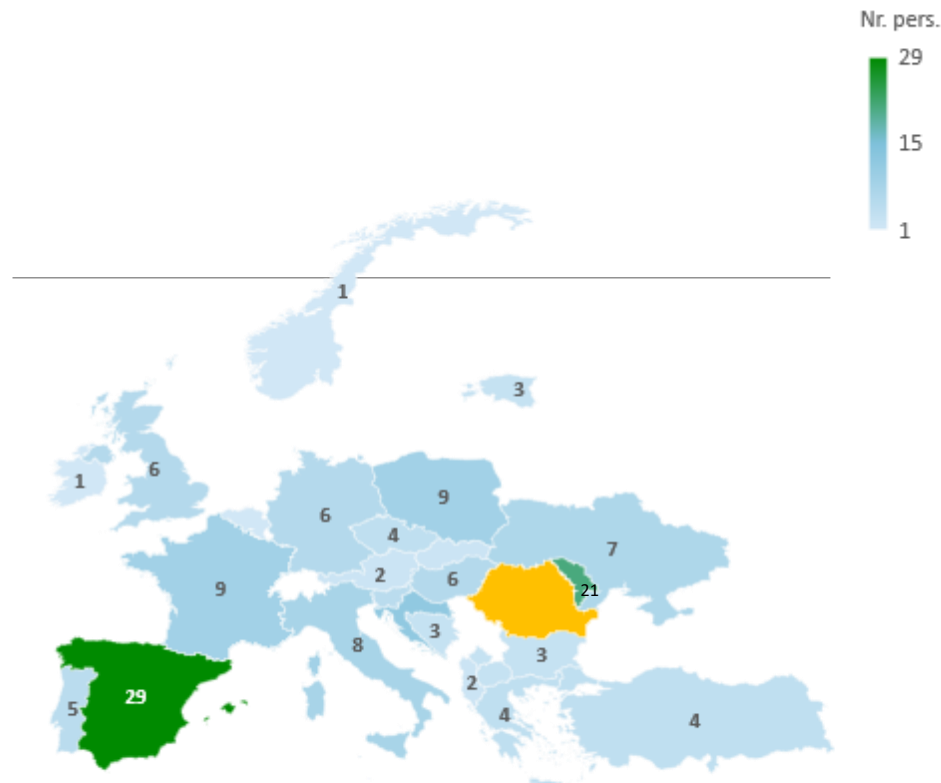
Distribution of the number of assessments made by RNE-S students



Number of international experts by country of residence



167 - No. international experts
 31 - Nr. state ale lumii
 121 - No. of universities from abroad
 448 - No. of evaluations IOSUD+DD



Europe - 95,2% out of which UE – 73,1%
 Rest of the world– 4,79%

Rest of the world	Nr.eval.
Argentina	1
Canada	2
India	1
United Arab Emirates	2
United States of America	2

3. ANALYSIS OF IOSUD RESULTS

Indicators. Ratings. The SWOT analysis

The objectives of the studies:

- analyzing the indicators, respectively their ratings;
- analyzing the recommendations of the experts at the level of each IOSUD and criteria (and the same for DD).

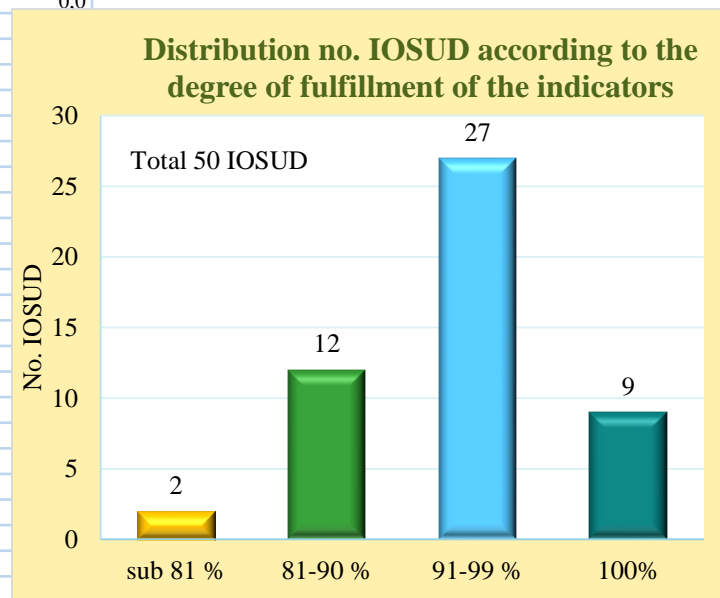
The goal of the analysis:

- a) Presentation of an overview of the quality of the activity of the doctoral studies at the IOSUD level (*conf. LEN*)
- b) developing and providing a useful tool for decision-makers to review/adjust certain indicators and, where appropriate, the evaluation methodology/guidelines.

Nr .	Institution organizing doctoral studies - IOSUD	Weight of ratings %		
		Fulfilled	Partially Fulfilled	Unfulfilled
1	Academia Română	83,3	16,7	0,0
2	Academia de Studii Economice din București	97,2	2,8	0,0
3	Academia Națională de Informații "Mihai Viteazul" din București	86,1	13,9	0,0
4	Academia Tehnică Militară din București	100,0	0,0	0,0
5	Școala Națională de Studii Politice și Administrative din București	94,4	5,6	0,0
6	Universitatea "Politehnica" din București	100,0	0,0	0,0
7	Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism "Ion Mincu" din București	86,1	13,9	0,0
8	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Carol Davila" din București	97,2	2,8	0,0
9	Universitatea de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară din București	100,0	0,0	0,0
10	Universitatea din București	97,2	2,8	0,0
11	Universitatea Națională de Apărare "Carol I" din București	91,7	8,3	0,0
12	Universitatea Națională de Artă Teatrală și Cinematografică "I.L. Caragiale" București	83,3	13,9	2,8
13	Universitatea Națională de Arte din București	91,7	8,3	0,0
14	Universitatea Națională de Educație Fizică și Sport din București	94,4	2,8	2,8
15	Universitatea Națională de Muzică din București	91,7	8,3	0,0
16	Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții din București	94,4	5,6	
17	Universitatea "Nicolae Titulescu" din București	80,6	19,4	
18	Universitatea "Titu Maiorescu" din București	86,1	13,9	
19	Universitatea "1 Decembrie 1918" din Alba Iulia	91,7	8,3	
20	Universitatea "Aurel Vlaicu" din Arad	72,2	27,8	
21	Universitatea "Vasile Alecsandri" din Bacău	91,7	8,3	
22	Universitatea "Transilvania" din Brașov	88,9	11,1	
23	Academia de Muzică "Gheorghe Dima" din Cluj-Napoca	91,7	8,3	
24	Universitatea "Babeș- Bolyai" din Cluj-Napoca	100,0	0,0	
25	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Iuliu Hațieganu" din Cluj-Napoca	97,2	2,8	
26	Universitatea de Științe Agricole și Medicină Veterinară din Cluj-Napoca	100,0	0,0	
27	Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca	100,0	0,0	
28	Universitatea "Ovidius" din Constanța	91,7	8,3	
29	Universitatea de Artă și Design din Cluj- Napoca	86,1	13,9	
30	Universitatea din Craiova	94,4	5,6	
31	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie din Craiova	91,7	8,3	
32	Universitatea "Dunărea de Jos" din Galați	100,0	0,0	
33	Universitatea "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" din Iași	97,2	2,8	
34	Universitatea de Arte "George Enescu" din Iași	86,1	13,9	
35	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Grigore T. Popa" din Iași	97,2	2,8	
36	Universitatea de Științe Agricole și Medicină Veterinară "Ion Ionescu de la Brad" Iași	97,2	2,8	
37	Universitatea Tehnică "Gheorghe Asachi" din Iași	97,2	2,8	
38	Universitatea din Oradea	88,9	11,1	
39	Universitatea din Petroșani	86,1	13,9	0,0
40	Universitatea din Pitești	88,9	11,1	0,0
41	Universitatea "Petrol- Gaze" din Ploiești	83,3	13,9	2,8
42	Universitatea "Lucian Blaga" din Sibiu	97,2	2,8	0,0
43	Universitatea "Ștefan cel Mare" din Suceava	91,7	8,3	0,0
44	Universitatea "Valahia" din Târgoviște	88,9	11,1	0,0
45	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie, științe și Tehnologie G. E. Palade Târgu Mureș	100,0	0,0	0,0
46	Universitatea de Arte din Târgu Mureș	94,4	5,6	0,0
47	Universitatea "Politehnica" Timișoara	100,0	0,0	0,0
48	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Victor Babeș" din Timișoara	91,7	8,3	0,0
49	Universitatea de Științe Agricole și Medicină Veterinară "Regele Mihai I" Timișoara	97,2	2,8	0,0
50	Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara	97,2	2,8	0,0
	TOTAL	92,66	7,17	0,17

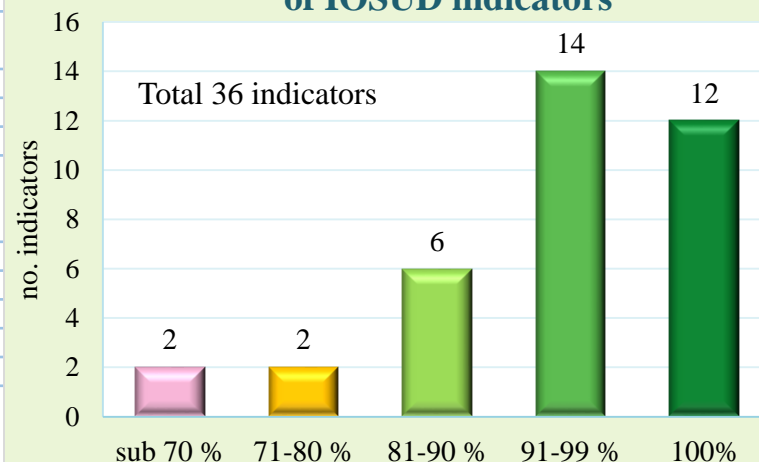


Degree of fulfillment of indicators by IOSUD



Degree of fulfillment of indicators by standards

Distribution of the degree of fulfillment of IOSUD indicators



Indicator type	No. Ind.	Weight of ratings %		
		Fulfilled	Partially Fulfilled	Unfulfilled
PI	23	94,3	5,7	0,0
PI*	7	80,9	18,3	0,8
C-PI	6	100,0	0,0	0,0
Total	36	92,66	7,17	0,17

Standard	Indicator type	Weight of ratings %		
		Fulfilled	Partially Fulfilled	Unfulfilled
A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.	A.1.1.1. IP	90	10,0	0,0
	A.1.1.2. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	A.1.1.3. IP *	100	0,0	0,0
A.1.2. The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to carry out the doctoral studies' mission.	A.1.2.1. IP	94	6,0	0,0
	A.1.2.2. IPC	100	0,0	0,0
A.2.1. The IOSUD/doctoral schools have a modern research infrastructure to support the conduct of doctoral studies' specific activities.	A.2.1.1. IP	100	0,0	0,0
	A.2.1.2. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	A.2.1.3. IP	100	0,0	0,0
A.3.1. At the level of each Doctoral School there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure a quality educational process.	A.3.1.1. IP *	66	34,0	
	A.3.1.2. IPC	100	0,0	
B.1.1. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender.	B.1.1.1. IP *	98	2,0	
	B.1.1.2. IP	90	10,0	
	B.2.1.1. IP	94	6,0	
B.2.1. The training program based on advanced university studies is appropriate to improve doctoral students' research skills and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.	B.2.1.2. IP	98	2,0	
	B.2.1.3. IP	92	8,0	
B.3.1. Doctoral students capitalize on the research through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, technological transfer, patents, products and service orders	B.3.1.1. IP	98	2,0	
	B.4.1.1. IPC	100	0,0	
B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards	C.1.1.1. IP	90	10,0	
	C.1.1.2. IP	86	14,0	
	C.1.1.3. IP	92	8,0	
	C.1.1.4. IP *	86	14,0	
C.2.1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information is available for electronic format consultation.	C.2.1.1. IPC	100	0,0	
	C.2.2.1. IPC	100	0,0	0,0
C.2.2. The IOSUD/The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies.	C.2.2.2. IP	100	0,0	0,0
	C.2.2.3. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	C.3.1.1. IP *	76	24,0	0,0
C.3.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.	C.3.1.2. IP	76	24,0	0,0
	C.3.1.3. IP *	40	54,0	6,0
	C.3.1.4. IP	84	16,0	0,0
C.4.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms.	C.4.1.1. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	C.4.1.2. IP	100	0,0	0,0
	C.4.1.3. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	C.4.1.4. IPC	100	0,0	0,0
	C.4.1.5. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	C.4.1.6. IP *	100	0,0	0,0
	C.4.1.7. IP	98	2,0	0,0
TOTAL		92,66	7,17	0,17

Indicators with performance weights below 80%

Standard/indicator		Ind. type	<i>Fulfilled</i>	<i>Partially fulfilled</i>	<i>unfulfilled</i>
A.3.1. At the level of each Doctoral School there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure a quality educational process.					
A.3.1.1	The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.	IP *	66,0	34,0	0,0
C.3.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.					
C.3.1.1	IOSUD, for every doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	IP *	76,0	24,0	0,0
C.3.1.2	IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	IP	76,0	24,0	0,0
C.3.1.3	At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organized in international co-tutelage.	IP *	40,0	54,0	6,0

Partial conclusion (SWOT analysis)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✎ Qualified PhD supervisors with important experience at national and international level;✎ Curriculum in accordance with the short and medium-term needs of PhD students;✎ Free and easy access to modern research infrastructure and international databases;✎ ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✎ Relatively high average age of PhD supervisors;✎ An important number of PhD supervisors who coordinate more than 8 PhD students;✎ Reduced financial support for students.✎ ...
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✎ Co-tutele theses by increasing the number of international collaborations and the number of international PhD supervisors;✎ Publication of doctoral theses in a language of international circulation;✎ ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✎ Decreased interest in doctoral studies;✎ Reduced research duration to 3 years;✎ Massive retirement of PhD supervisors;✎ ...



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Thank you for your attention!

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