



THE ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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ANALYSIS OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

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CONTENT:

External evaluation activities in
the ARACIS portfolio

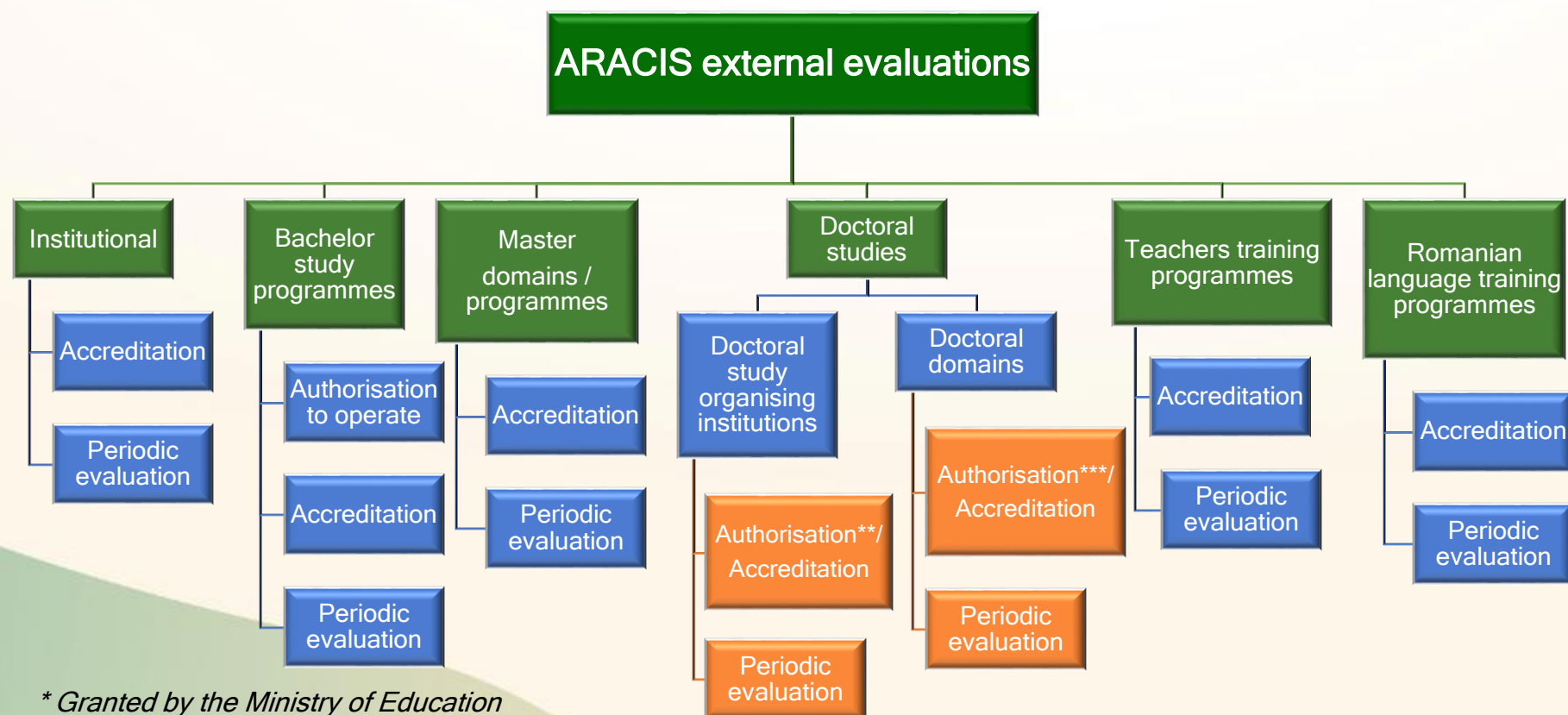


Human resources involved



Evaluation of doctoral studies.
Analysis of results. SWOT analysis

External evaluation activities in the ARACIS portfolio



* Granted by the Ministry of Education

** For recognition of IOSUD capacity

*** When the doctoral study programmes promoted by the IOSUD are not organised in the same domains as the Master study domains



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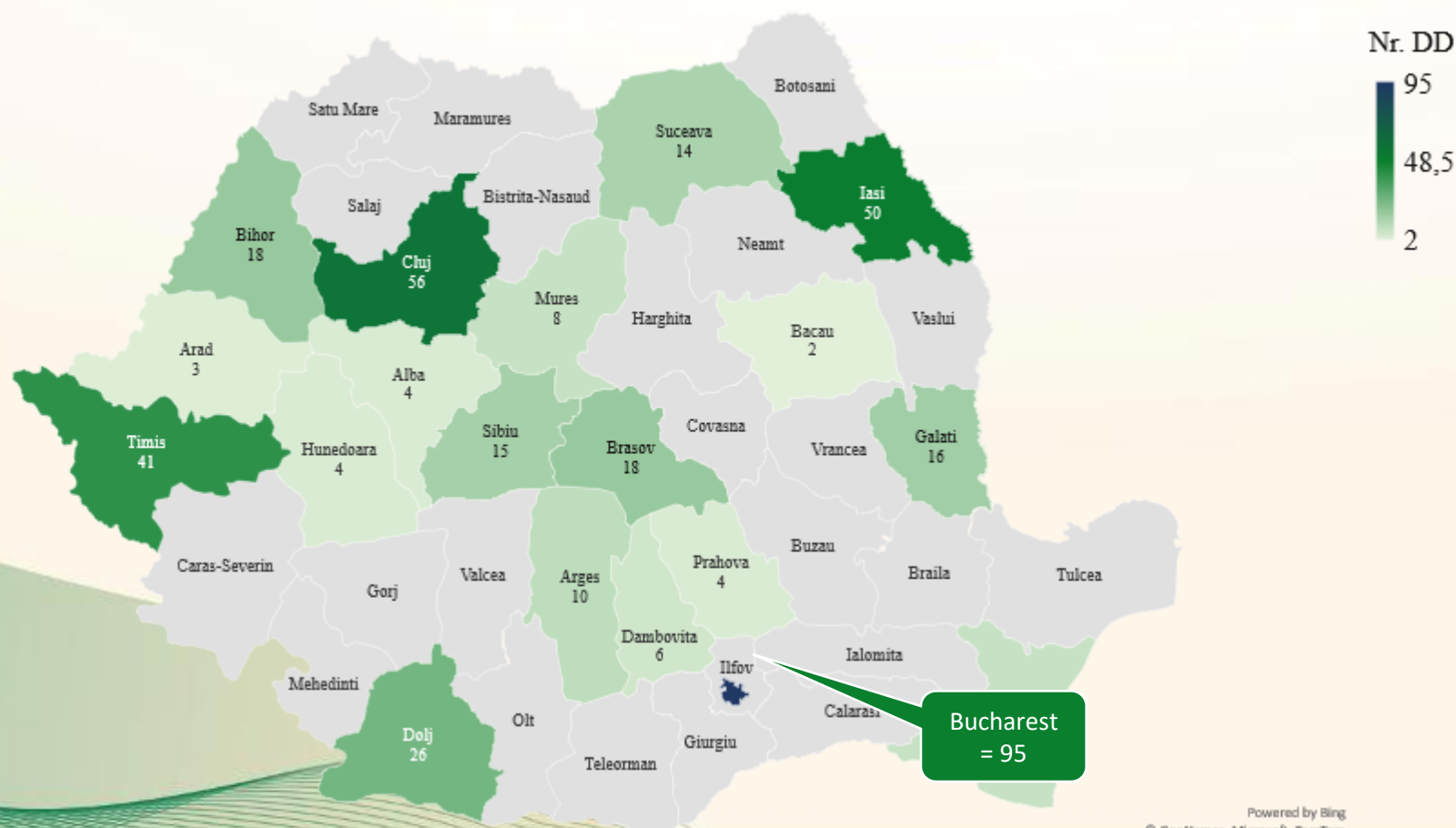
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External evaluation activities conducted by ARACIS in 2021

TYPE OF EVALUATION	No. of evaluations
Institutional evaluations (EI)	23
Bachelor programmes	360
Master programmes	68
Master domains (DM)	111
Romanian language training programmes	1
Teachers training programme	15
Higher education institutions organising doctoral studies (IOSUD)	50
Doctoral domains (DD)	398
Total evaluations	1026

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

Geographic distribution of the evaluated doctoral domains





Human resources involved in the evaluation of doctoral studies

Main objective: to assess the human resources involved in the external evaluation of IOSUD and DD, considering the educational offer for doctoral studies at national level and ARACIS's capacity.

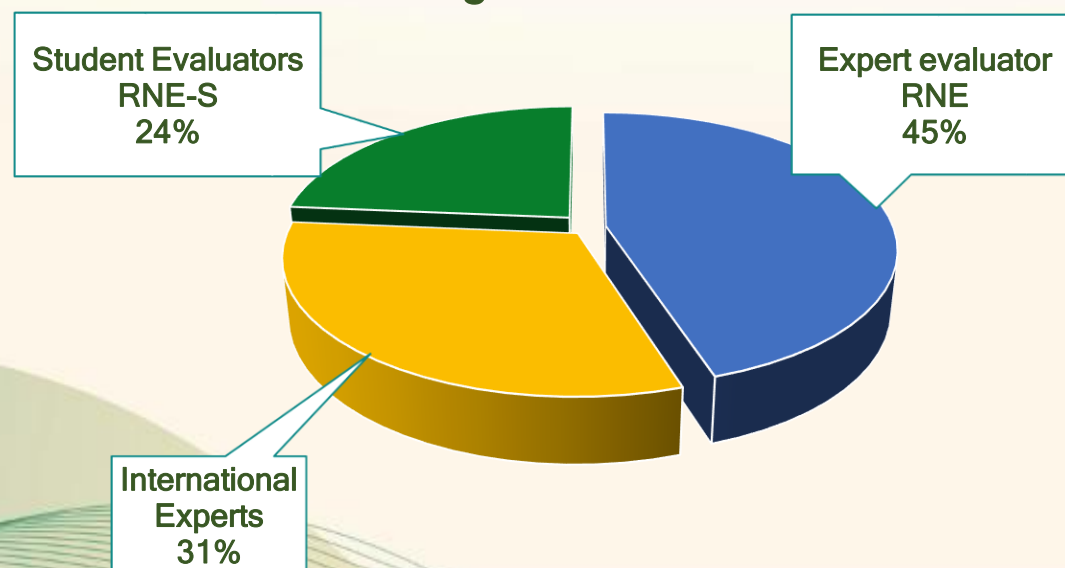
Aim of the study:

- a)** To increase the effectiveness of the evaluation process of doctoral studies, by identifying and training the human resources;
- b)** To optimally determine the need for expert evaluators.

Human resources involved in the IOSUD and DD evaluation

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

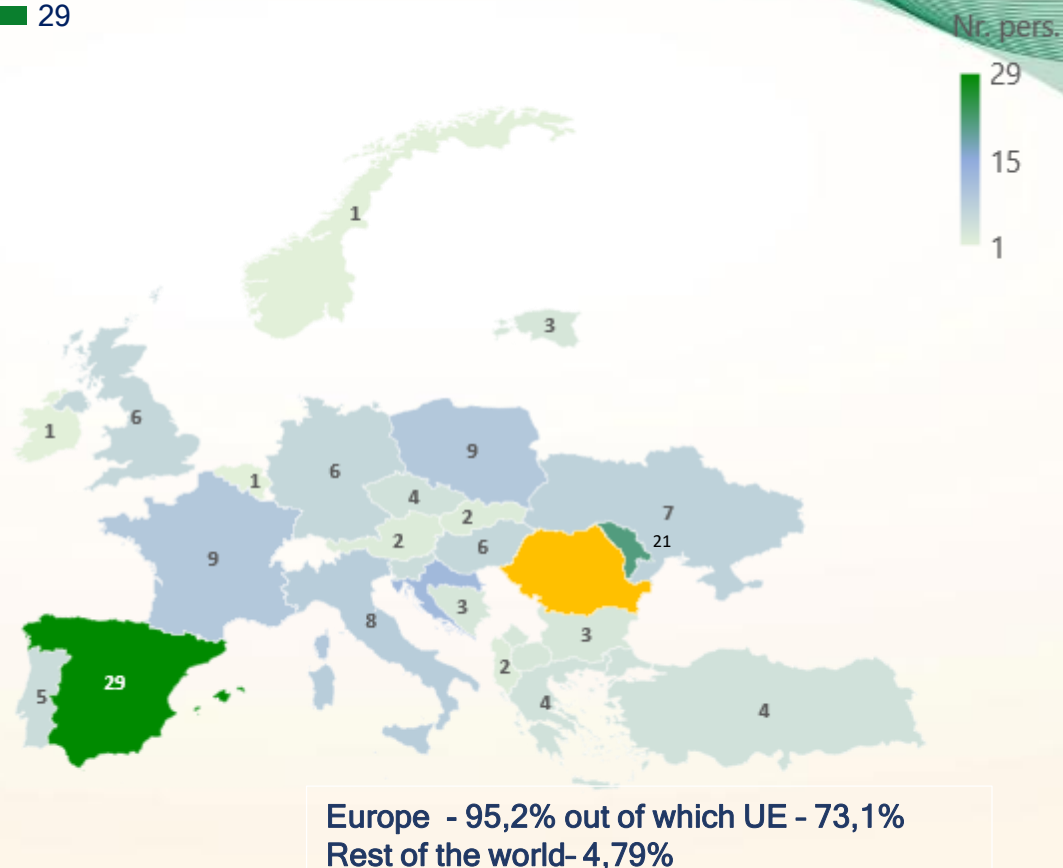


Number of international experts by country of residence



167 - international experts
 31 - countries
 121 - universities from abroad
 448 - evaluations IOSUD+DD

Geographical distribution of international evaluators



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

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In conclusion, the ANALYSIS fo humar resources regarding involved in the evaluation of doctoral studies allowed ARACIS to:

Identify the active potential of ARACIS evaluation experts;

Establish *the need for expert evaluators in order to optimize the external evaluation processes* coordinated by ARACIS;

Identify the less covered *areas with RNE evaluators*, and with doctorate supervisors at the level of each IOSUD;

Identify *the source of potential evaluators*, in order to train them for external evaluation of IOSUD and DD.

Evaluation of doctoral studies. Analysis of results. SWOT Analysis

Main objective: to analyze the indicators, respectively the ratings and the recommendations of the experts at the level of each IOSUD and evaluation criterion.

The scope of the analysis:

- a) To get a general overview of the quality of the activity of the doctoral studies at the IOSUD level
- b) To develop and provide a useful tool for decision-makers to review /adjust certain indicators and, where appropriate, the evaluation methodology/ guidelines.

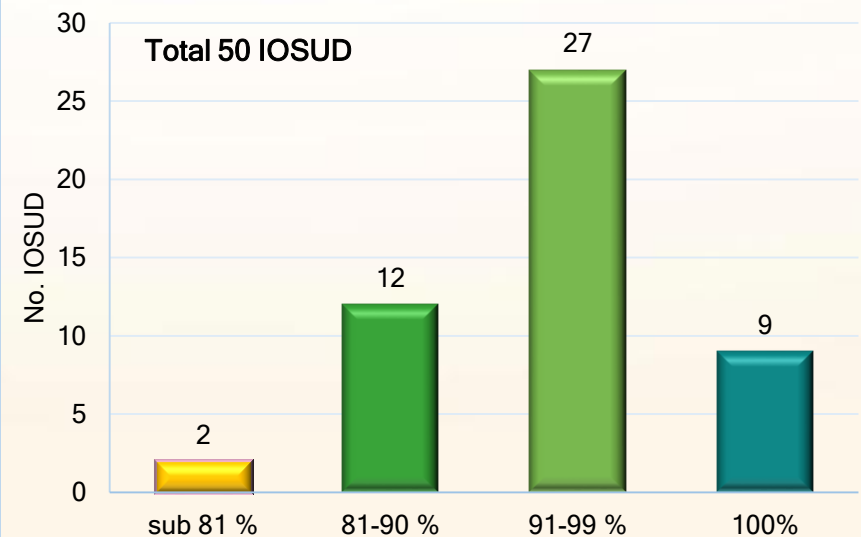
Typology of indicators by domains

Domain/Criterion	Indicator type			Total
	IP	IP*	IPC	
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 who submitted for the admission contest	1	1		2
Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programmes	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

Nr .	Institution organizing doctoral studies - IOSUD	Weight of ratings %		
		Fulfilled	Partially Fulfilled	Unfulfilled
1	IOSUD X	83,3	16,7	0,0
2	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
3	IOSUD X	86,1	13,9	0,0
4	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
5	IOSUD X	94,4	5,6	0,0
6	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
7	IOSUD X	86,1	13,9	0,0
8	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
9	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
10	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
11	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
12	IOSUD X	83,3	13,9	2,8
13	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
14	IOSUD X	94,4	2,8	2,8
15	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
16	IOSUD X	94,4	5,6	0,0
17	IOSUD X	80,6	19,4	0,0
18	IOSUD X	86,1	13,9	0,0
19	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
20	IOSUD X	72,2	27,8	0,0
21	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
22	IOSUD X	88,9	11,1	0,0
23	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
24	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
25	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
26	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
27	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
28	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
29	IOSUD X	86,1	13,9	0,0
30	IOSUD X	94,4	5,6	0,0
31	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
32	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
33	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
34	IOSUD X	86,1	13,9	0,0
35	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
36	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
37	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
38	IOSUD X	88,9	11,1	0,0
39	IOSUD X	86,1	13,9	0,0
40	IOSUD X	88,9	11,1	0,0
41	IOSUD X	83,3	13,9	2,8
42	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
43	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
44	IOSUD X	88,9	11,1	0,0
45	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
46	IOSUD X	94,4	5,6	0,0
47	IOSUD X	100,0	0,0	0,0
48	IOSUD X	91,7	8,3	0,0
49	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
50	IOSUD X	97,2	2,8	0,0
TOTAL		92,66	7,17	0,17

Degree of fulfillment of indicators by IOSUD

Distribution no. IOSUD according to the degree of fulfillment of the indicators



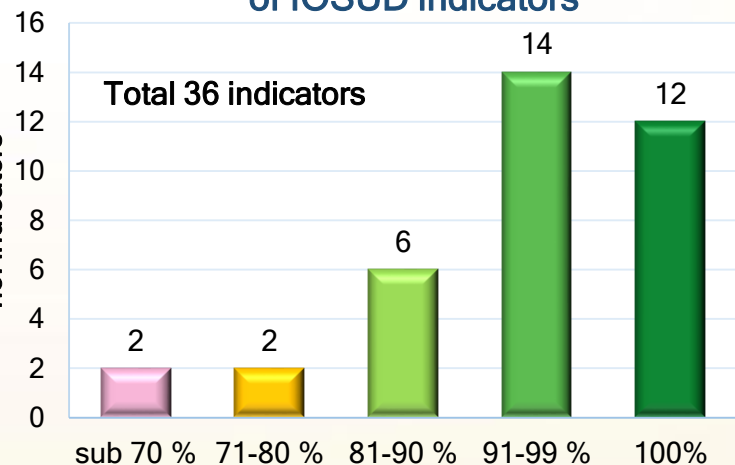
Doctoral activity statistics at the level of fundamental fields

Fundamental field	No. DD	No. PhD supervisors	No. students	Ratio No. CD/DD	Ratio No. PhD stud. /CD
DF 10. Mathematics and natural sciences	55	632	1679	11,5	2,7
DF 20. Engineering sciences	135	1332	6716	9,9	5,0
DF 30. Biological and biomedical sciences	39	1046	4763	26,8	4,6
DF 40. Social sciences	94	835	4773	8,9	5,7
DF 50. Humanities and arts	67	755	4416	11,3	5,8
DF 60. Sports' science and physical education	8	42	262	5,3	6,2
Total	398	4.642	22.609	11,7	4,9

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	0,0
	A.3.1.2. IPC	100	0,0	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	0,0
	B.1.1.2. IP	90	10,0	0,0
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.2.1.1. IP	94	6,0	0,0
	B.2.1.2. IP	98	2,0	0,0
	B.2.1.3. IP	92	8,0	0,0
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	0,0
B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards	B.4.1.1. IPC	100	0,0	0,0
C.1.1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.	C.1.1.1. IP	90	10,0	0,0
	C.1.1.2. IP	86	14,0	0,0
	C.1.1.3. IP	92	8,0	0,0
	C.1.1.4. IP *	86	14,0	0,0
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	0,0
C.2.2. The IOSUD/The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies.	C.2.2.1. IPC	100	0,0	0,0
	C.2.2.2. IP	100	0,0	0,0
	C.2.2.3. IP	98	2,0	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. IP *	78	22,0	0,0
	C.3.1.2. IP	76	24,0	0,0
	C.3.1.3. IP *	38	56,0	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

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
IP	23	94,3	5,7	0,0
IP *	7	80,9	18,3	0,8
IPC	6	100,0	0,0	0,0
Total	36	92,66	7,17	0,17

Indicators with performance weights below 80%. CAUSES

Standard/indicator		Ind. type	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	unfulfilled	Causes
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	Natural causes (retirement, death); Institutional autonomy of registrations
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 *	78,0	24,0	0,0	The pandemic situation has limited the international mobility
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	Some areas have difficulty applying co-tutelage The financial situation limits such actions
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 *	38,0	56,0	6,0	Romanian students mainly enroll in Romanian language programmes. International students funded by the state of origin who are enrolled in the programme in Romanian (including the preparatory year) must take doctoral studies in Romanian.

Analiza SWOT

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Well-qualified PhD supervisors with extensive experience and national and international recognition; ✎ Human resource development by encouraging empowerment and affiliation processes; ✎ Curriculum in accordance with the short and medium-term needs of PhD students; ✎ Free access to modern information infrastructure, and international databases; ✎ Ability to obtain research projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Relatively high average age of PhD supervisors; ✎ There are PhD supervisors who exceed the number of 8 PhD students; ✎ Relatively low retention rate of doctors in research or teaching positions; ✎ Excessive bureaucratization that demobilizes PhD students; ✎ Reduced financial support for students.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Development of a long-term joint doctoral programmes; ✎ Co-tutelle. Increasing the number of doctoral supervisors from abroad; ✎ Publication of doctoral theses in foreign languages for increased visibility; ✎ Development of international research teams; ✎ Inter-university collaboration at national and European level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Decreased interest of university graduates for doctoral studies; ✎ Reduced research duration to 3 years; ✎ Small number of funded positions; ✎ Massive retirement of PhD supervisors; ✎ Overloading doctoral supervisors with administrative tasks.



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