Annex 3

Nr. Inregsistrare ARACIS 822/ 22.02.2024

External evaluation report for the setting up (establishment) of a doctoral study domain

Contents

I. Introduction
II. Methods used
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I. Introduction[1]

This chapter will contain a brief presentation of:

- the context in which this external evaluation report was drafted (the type of evaluation, the period of the evaluation visit, the composition of the Experts Panel etc.);
- details about the doctoral school(s) of which the doctoral domain under review will be part (number of doctoral advisors, number of students, institutional context, short history etc.);
- details about the doctoral study domain under review (institutional context);

Type of the evaluation: external evaluation of the doctoral university studies in the field doctoral university studies Doctoral School – Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (IRVA) IOSUD – University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara (IOSUD-USVT). Fundamental Field (DFI Cod:20): Engineering Sciences (RSI Code: 50), Field of doctoral university studies: Code DSU_D/M: 50 – Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.

[1] When applicable, gendered information will be presented as well.

Period of ther evaluation: 19-21 February 2024 Composition of the Experts Committee:

Coordinator: Prof.dr. Camelia SAVA - "Lucian Blaga" University from Sibiu

Prof.dr. Valentina TUDOR - USAMV Bucureşti

Phd. Stud. Adriana TRANDAF - USV Iaşi

National expert: Prof. Judit OLÁH, University of Debrecen, Faculty of Economics and Business

1.1. Details about the doctoral school(s) of which the doctoral domain under review is part

IOSUD is legally represented by the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (USVT), and the head of the institution (USVT) that legally represents IOSUD is the Rector of USVT (HG 621/2011);

The existence of the UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "King Mihai I" IN TIMISOARA (USVT) is linked to the establishment of the Faculty of Agronomy, within the Polytechnic Institute of Timişoara, on July 30, 1945, by Decree 2394 of King Mihai I of Romania and Law no. 617/01.08.1945, published in the Official Gazette of Romania (Annex 1).

In 1987, the Timişoara Agronomic Institute was reorganized, functioning as a single faculty with three departments: (1) Agriculture, (2) Animal Husbandry and (3) Veterinary Medicine. After 1989, USAMVBT's educational offer diversified, with 6 faculties currently operating within the university: (1) Faculty of Agriculture, (2) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Technologies, (3) Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, (4) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, (5) Faculty of Food Engineering and (6) Faculty of Bioengineering of Animal Resources.

By Order of the Ministry of Education and Science no. 4894 of 22.03.1991, the name of the institution was changed to the University of Agricultural Sciences of Banat - Timişoara (USABT), and in 1995, by the Decision of the Government of Romania no. 568, in the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat in Timisoara (USAMVBT) (Annex 2). Pursuant to GD no. 493/17.07.2013 (Annex 3) (Monitorul Oficial al României no. 447/July 22, 2013) the institution changed its name again, to the Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "King Mihai I of Romania" from Timişoara (Acronym: USAMVBT).

In 2022, the name of the university underwent a new change, by the government decision HG 976/2022, the new name being the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (Acronym: USVT) (Annex 4)

Currently, the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (USVT) is a public higher education institution with legal personality, which operates on the basis of university autonomy, according to the University Charter and in accordance with the national legislation in force. Also, USVT is certified by the Romanian Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (ARACIS) with the qualification "High degree of trust" (December 2021).

As a result of the implementation of the "Bologna Process", in 2004, USVT organizes higher education in 3 learning cycles: cycle I - bachelor's, cycle II - master's and cycle III - doctoral studies. The institutional regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral

university study programs at USV Timisoara, as an institution organizing doctoral university studies, is based on the provisions of the National Education Law no. 1/2011 (Law 1/2011), Government Decision 681/2011 regarding the Code of Doctoral University Studies (HG 681/2011), with the subsequent amendments and additions, of the University Charter approved by the Senate, as well as of other normative acts concerning the field regulated.

Since 2012, according to USVT Senate Decision no. 3210 of 18.05.2012, the university organized IOSUD USAMVBT structured on 2 doctoral schools: Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine (SD-MV) and Doctoral School on Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) with the following fields: Agronomy, Horticulture, Engineering of Food Products, Animal Husbandry and Biotechnologies.

The legislative framework for the organization and operation of the doctoral school:

- The institutional regulation for the organization and implementation of doctoral university study programs at the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" in Timisoara, as an institution organizing doctoral university studies, is based on the provisions of the National Education Law no. 1/2011 (Law 1/2011), Government Decision 681/2011 regarding the Code of Doctoral University Studies (HG 681/2011), with the subsequent amendments and additions, of the University Charter approved by the Senate, as well as of other normative acts aimed at the regulated field.
- *Doctoral School-Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA)* was established according to Senate Decision no. 3210 of 18.05.2012 (Annex 5).
- The IOSUD-USVT doctoral university studies are reorganized according to Art. 6. of Senate DECISION no. 3210 of 18.05.2012 in two parts, as follows: Doctoral School in the field of Veterinary Medicine (SD-MV) and Doctoral School in Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) in the fields of Agronomy, Horticulture, Engineering of Food Products, Animal Husbandry, Biotechnologies.
- Order of the Minister of National Education no. 5403 of November 1, 2018 regarding the establishment of the Evaluation Methodology for doctoral university studies and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation, published in the Official Monitor of Romania, Part I, no. 962 of November 14, 2018 (Annex 11).
- HG 134 of 02.03.2016 regarding the modification of the Code of doctoral university studies (Annex 14). (in accordance with *HG No. 681/2011, regarding the approval of the Code of doctoral university studies, published in MO no. 551 of August 3, 2011 –(Annex 7)*

The two doctoral schools within IOSUD-USVT are organized as departments, comprising, at the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year, a total number of 60 active doctoral supervisors to which 8 retirees are added, according to the table below.

Table 1. Organization of Doctoral Schools within IOSUD USV-Timişoara (Internal evaluation report)

Management:
Director of CSUD IOSUD-USVT: Univ. Prof. Dr. Sorin Morariu
Director SD-IRVA: Univ. Prof. Dr. Olimpia Alina Iordănescu
SD-MV directory: Univ. Prof. Dr. Romeo Teodor Cristina
Fields of university doctoral studies within IOSUD-USVT
Agronomy: 20 active PhD supervisors (3 retired)
Horticulture: 5 active doctoral supervisors (2 retired)
Engineering of Food Products: 10 active PhD supervisors
Livestock: 7 active doctoral supervisors (1 retired)
Biotechnologies: 4 active PhD supervisors
Veterinary medicine: 14 active doctoral supervisors (2 retired)

Among them, a number of 30 teaching staff obtained the qualification certificate in the field in which they carry out their doctoral management activity, in the last 5 years. In 2022, 5 habilitation theses were defended (16.67%).

1.2. Details about the doctoral study domain under review (institutional context)

University doctoral studies (doctorate) – the third cycle of university studies, whose finality consists in the development of human resources competent in carrying out scientific research, capable of insertion on the highly qualified labor market. They assume training through research for research-development and innovation and constitute a professional research experience, completed by the defense of the doctoral thesis and the awarding of the doctorate title;

Institution for Organizing Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD) – the institution that has the right to organize doctoral university studies (eg: USVT Timişoara);

Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) – the administrative management structure of IOSUD;

Doctoral School (SD) – organizational and administrative structure within IOSUD that provides the necessary support for conducting doctoral studies in a certain discipline or disciplinary or interdisciplinary topic;

PhD supervisor – the teaching staff or the researcher with experience in the field of scientific research, who coordinates the activity of the doctoral student, after obtaining this right according to the provisions of art. 166 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011;

Doctoral student – the student enrolled in the doctorate university study program.

Doctoral field – group of related scientific disciplines, with similar working methods and specific materials;

Doctoral specialization –1-2 scientific disciplines / disciplinary or interdisciplinary themes for which a specific doctoral program is established; it can be specific to one or more doctoral supervisors;

Thesis – original scientific work developed by a doctoral student within the doctoral university studies, mandatory for obtaining the title of doctor;

Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC) – the agency that coordinates the application of the evaluation and quality assurance procedures and activities in USVT;

In accordance with the USVT CHARTER and the Strategic Plan of USVT 2020-2024, the mission of IOSUD-USVT is to generate and transfer knowledge to society in the following fundamental areas of university doctoral studies: Engineering Sciences and Biological and Biomedical Sciences, as well as in other fields that the University Senate will consider appropriate in the future.

Through its doctoral and postdoctoral study programs, USVT actively participates in lifelong learning and the professional retraining of the workforce.

University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (USVT) organizes doctoral university studies within the Institution for Organizing University Doctoral Studies - "King Mihai I" University of Life Sciences from Timişoara (IOSUD-USVT). The rector of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara is the legal representative of IOSUD-USVT. IOSUD-USVT is managed by the Council for Doctoral University Studies, hereinafter referred to as CSUD - USVT. In USVT, doctoral university studies are carried out on the basis of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, of Law no. 49/2013, of the Code of University Doctorate Studies HG 681/2011, consolidated form by including and adding additions brought by HG no. 134/2016, valid from 10.03.2016, of the USVT Charter, of the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies, as well as subsequent amendments to these regulations.

CSUD-USVT is led by a director, assimilated to the position of vice-rector, and the doctorate university study programs are organized and carried out within IOSUD-USVT, within the two doctoral schools: Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) and the Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine (SD-MV). Each Doctoral School is led by a Doctoral School Director and a Doctoral School Council. IOSUD and the two doctoral schools operate based on their own organizational and operating regulations.

Doctoral supervisors within IOSUD-USVT guide doctoral students only in the field for which they obtained this right. Doctoral supervisors within the domains managed by IOSUD-USVT are persons who have obtained the right to supervise doctorates (by order of the minister or authorisation), are holders within USVT or affiliated to the doctoral school.

The director of the doctoral school is assimilated to the director of the department, and the Council of the doctoral school is assimilated to the Department Council. Currently,

Doctoral School Council of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources is made up of three doctoral supervisors: Prof. Dr. Dumitrescu Gabi, Prof. Dr. Traşcă Teodor-Ioan, Prof. Dr. Peţ Ioan, 2 external members: Prof. Dr. Vidican Roxana, Prof.dr. Mihalache Mircea and two doctoral students: Zoican Ştefana and Ferencz Maria-Alexandra (https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/consilii-scoli-doctorale-11559.

In each field of SD-IRVA there are several specializations (areas of expertise) (https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/conducatori-doctorat-10995/scoala-doctorala-irva-11999), according to the concerns of the doctoral supervisors.

Doctoral schools are organized and operate within IOSUD with specialists who have acquired the title of doctoral supervisor, according to the law. Doctoral university studies of a doctoral student within IOSUD-USVT are planned for a period of: 4 university years, for Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources studies and 4 university years, for veterinary medical studies.

Mission. The Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) is to develop educational activities at doctoral level, as well as research activities in specific fields. The SD-IRVA strategy is oriented towards the application of the EUA recommendations from the Salzburg Conference (2005, 2010), in which the basic principles regarding doctoral schools. These principles have already been implemented in doctoral studies, by orienting research towards current topics at an international level, increasing research capacity and capability for knowledge generation, optimizing institutional structures dedicated to doctoral studies, stimulating mobilities and attracting funding through research grants, of human resources or through collaboration with the economic environment.

The University complies with the legal provisions regarding external evaluation by ARACIS, both at the level of study programs and at the institutional level, demonstrating a continuous concern in improving internal quality standards.

USV-Timişoara was institutionally evaluated once every 5 years by ARACIS, and following the last accreditation, from the year 2021, our university received the qualification "high degree of trust", according to the report of the ARACIS council of 16.12.2021. The report states strong points are the fact that USVT offers the entire line of study, including a doctorate, in the branches of specific sciences and that the study programs and doctoral fields are "with themes oriented towards sustainable development".

USVT certified "higher education activities for bachelor's, master's and doctorate, postgraduate studies and lifelong education in the fields of: fundamental, agricultural and forestry sciences, engineering sciences, veterinary medicine, including clinical activity in the field of veterinary medicine and of natural sciences. Research-development and consulting activities, innovation and academic transfer.

In USVT and implicitly within IOSUD-IRVA (the III cycle of learning according to the Bologna process) a quality management system according to ISO 9001:2015 was implemented and quality assurance activities were promoted for all processes and activities organized at the level of university, in accordance with the requirements of Law no. 87/2006 regarding quality assurance in education.

The doctoral study program in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development, to be established, will be included in the Doctoral School Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (IRVA) within IOSUD USV Timişoara.

The objectives of the doctoral study program in the field of IMADR:

Doctoral university studies represent the 3rd cycle of studies according to the Bologna process and aim to train and develop competent human resources at a higher level in the field of engineering and management in agriculture and rural development.

The doctoral university study program in the field of IMADR within the IRVA doctoral school completes the educational offer of the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism in such a way as to ensure the continuity of training programs and the acquisition of professional and research skills both for the graduates of the bachelor's and master's cycle in the field of IMADR as well as for graduates from other bachelor's or master's fields.

The mission of the doctoral university study program in the field of IMADR is part of the general mission of the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism as well as SD IRVA and has in mind the professional and scientific training of doctoral students in the field.

The mission of the PhD field Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development is to develop research in topics specific to agriculture and rural development, through the use of scientific methodology and interconnection with other related sciences. Thus, the works developed within the field aim to contribute to the scientific and technological progress of agriculture, the agri-food industry, the environment and the Romanian rural space. To ensure the mission, it is aimed at: the assurance by the doctoral supervisors of an adequate curriculum project for the education and training of the doctoral student and the assurance of a competent didactic performance in relation to the students; maintaining a high standard of scientific activity, material base and human resources.

General objectives of the IMADR doctoral field are:

- Knowledge of field-specific concepts, research methods, controversies and hypotheses;
- The use of advanced principles and methods for the explanation and interpretation of theoretical and practical phenomena specific to the field;
- Promoting interdisciplinary approaches to identify practical solutions to new and complex phenomena in the field;
- The identification of priority knowledge elements that allow the realization of original research and contribute to the development of knowledge in the field.

The specific objectives the IMADR domain pursue:

- Acquiring the necessary knowledge to use experimental data in order to develop a scientific work;
- Acquiring the research methods necessary to model the phenomena specific to the field;
- Learning the principles of organization, execution and exploitation of scientific research;
- Ensuring the necessary knowledge in the field of ethics and academic integrity to

allow doctoral students to assume correct behavior from a deontological point of view and to understand various aspects regarding intellectual property;

- Ensuring the theoretical and practical knowledge specific to the specialized disciplines compatible with the experience of the doctoral supervisors and the topic chosen by the doctoral student.

Scientific and research mission of the doctoral field IMADR within the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources is that of USVT that, based on a scientific strategy and its own research programs, to contribute, through the results obtained, to the scientific and technological progress of management, of the environment surrounding and the Romanian rural space and, in this way, to the sustainable development of Romania in the European and international space.

Table 2. List of doctoral supervisors from the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources – USV Timişoara, IMADR Domain (proposed for establishment)

No.	The field of university doctoral studies	Teaching/ research function	Surname and First name	OM by which he/she was conferred the title of leader of doctorate/ qualification/ recognition decision	Holder
1.	IMADR	Prof. dr.	Popescu Gabriela	3940/14.06.2021	USVT
2.	IMADR	Prof. dr.	Adamov Tabita	4852/21.06.2023	USVT
3.	IMADR	Prof. dr.	Feher Andrea	6488/29.12.2022	USVT

For the first year, the educational plan of the doctoral school contains a series of courses with an appropriate content from a scientific point of view, updated according to the novelty of research in each field. The feedback of doctoral students is very important in improving the educational process of the doctoral school, this being mandatory, according to the new study contract.

The training program based on advanced university studies lasts 14 weeks and provides 30 ECTS. The training plan based on advanced university studies includes disciplines that ensure the training of doctoral students regarding research methodology in the doctoral fields, ethics and academic integrity and the specialized discipline in the IMADR doctoral field. The scientific training program aims to prepare the doctoral student in the IMADR doctoral field and the research area of the doctoral thesis, is materialized in the support of three research reports and provides 150 ECTS.

The quality of the IMADR doctoral university study program is based on content, scientific level and topicality, being a coherent program, compatible with similar programs in Romania and the European Union. The program is centered on an active learning model oriented towards the acquisition by the doctoral student of the skills necessary for the academic level of specialization through the doctorate.

The curriculum of the doctoral school is a synthesis of mandatory, fundamental, specialized and optional subjects.

II. Methods used

This chapter will cover the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process before and during the evaluation visit, including at least:

- Review of the Internal evaluation report for the doctoral study domain under review and its annexes;
- Review of the documents provided by the IOSUD in physical format during the evaluation visit (if such documents were requested);
- Review of the documents, data and information available on the website of the IOSUD/the Doctoral School(s), in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings of the institution, including (an indicative and non-exhaustive list, may change according to the context): classrooms; laboratories; the institution's library; the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre; lecture halls for students; student residences; student cafeteria; sports facilities, etc.;
- Meeting/discussions with members of the management of the Doctoral School where the doctoral study domain under review will operate;
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School where the doctoral study domain under review is operating: the Council of the Doctoral School, the University Senate, the Board of Directors, the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures); the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre; student organizations; secretariats; various departments / administrative offices (Social/Student residences-Cafeterias etc.), etc.;

Procedures for internal evaluation of the quality of doctoral study programs mainly follow the following aspects: the mission and objectives of the doctoral studies program; the content and curriculum of the doctoral studies program; the results of research carried out by doctoral students and doctoral supervisors (articles, patents, books/chapters, etc.); the means of documentation (books, magazines, audio video material, etc.), the research and learning infrastructure (hardware and software) available to doctoral students; ensuring doctoral study programs with quality human resources (doctoral supervisors, teaching and research staff); the methods of evaluating the progress of doctoral study programs and monitoring the progress of doctoral students; compliance with the provisions of the university code of ethics and professional deontology by all persons involved in the doctoral university study programs within the USVT.

The activity of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors from SD-IRVA is carried out on the basis of its own regulation R093-Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of university doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources, permanently updated in accordance with legislative changes regarding doctoral studies. The last update was approved in the Senate meeting of 23.11.2022. The Regulations of the Doctoral School include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for the aspects specified in art. 17, para. 5 of HG 681 / 2011. Among other things, the criteria for accepting/co-opting doctoral supervisors and

continuing the activity by supervisors who have reached retirement age, the conditions under which the position of doctoral supervisor can be withdrawn, the criteria for admission to the doctorate, the standards regarding the publications that the doctoral students must produce in order to support the doctoral thesis (higher than the national standards stipulated in OM 5110/2018). Also, the management structures (CSD), their responsibilities and functioning, the rights and obligations of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors are described. (Annex 16).

Human resource and research infrastructure.

- number of doctoral supervisors: within SD-IRVA/IOSUD-USVT, 46 active doctoral supervisors and 5 retired ones work. (Agronomy - 20 active and 2 ASAS members, Horticulture - 5 active and 2 retired, Engineering of Food Products - 10, Animal Husbandry - 7 active and 1 retired, Biotechnologies - 4 active);
- number of students: 158 doctoral students, of which a number of 111 doctoral students are in internship, a number of 47 doctoral students in extension and in the grace period.

The Biosafety and Bioengineering Research Institute (ICBB) represents a research and technological transfer structure, designed to generate and promote excellence in research, being an intrinsic part of the economic cycle, capable of becoming a Euroregional operator and responding to the demands of the economic environment and fields of intelligent specialization. According to the organization chart, ICBB is structured in the following research-development-innovation departments: Environment, Energy and Climate Change Department; Food Biosecurity Department; Department of Health; Plant Resources Department; Department of Animal Resources.(Annex 19).

The research infrastructure of USVT includes Research Laboratories registered on the ERRIS platform https://eeris.eu/erio-2000-000p-0077), related to the fields of intelligent specialization Bioeconomy, Biosecurity and food safety, Energy, environment and climate change, Eco-nanotechnologies and advanced materials, Smart agriculture, Smart technologies, Management of critical infrastructure elements, Management of emergency situations. The university owns an authorized sanitary-veterinary biobase, which has the role of ensuring the necessary animals, used for didactic and experimental purposes, in optimal conditions of growth, hygiene and nutrition, according to specific technological norms. Also, within the ICBB there is a Department of Biostatistics involved in the elaboration of the experimental design and in the statistical evaluation of the experimental results, as well as a Technology Transfer Center (CTT) that makes the technological transfer connections for the research activity- development that takes place in accordance with the university's strategy. CTT is responsible for managing USVT's intellectual property assets, transferring knowledge to society (especially through innovative services) and generating revenue to further support research and education. The center is structured in four departments: the Consultancy and Technology Transfer Department, the Intellectual Property Department, the Marketing-Licensing Department and the Research-Development-Innovation Partnerships development department.

In recent years, research laboratories have been modernized, both through the acquisition of modern, high-performance equipment, specialized human resources, and through access to specialized scientific literature, for example, "E-nformation"/ANELiS plus (https:// www. usabtm. ro/ USAMVBT_ANELIS-PLUS-_ro_2029.html) or through

licensed software (doctoral, master's and undergraduate students having free access (free of charge) to scientific literature through the USAMVBT library).

In addition to the units available in the institution's library, within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-USVT, each discipline with doctoral supervisors has an appropriate library, with documentary materials that can be consulted by doctoral students. Also, the faculties in which the doctoral supervisors work make available their own libraries for scientific documentation useful to doctoral students (http://biblio.usabtm.ro/).

The university has a policy of informing potential candidates about all relevant data regarding admission, doctoral fields and the graduate's relationship with the labor market. SD-IRVA is concerned with attracting good quality PhD students, imposing selection criteria right from admission. The doctoral admission competition, regardless of the field, consists of two tests: a written test based on a topic announced by the doctoral supervisor before the date of the admission competition and an interview, which analyzes: the proposed research topic for the thesis doctorate as well as the way in which research funding is ensured within the theme proposed for the doctoral thesis, the candidate's scientific concerns and his research skills. Depending on the specifics of the field, in each admission session other tests (even eliminatory ones) may be provided in the doctoral admission competition, at the request of the titular doctoral supervisors and with the agreement of the Council of Doctoral Schools.

The university owns an authorized sanitary-veterinary biobase, which has the role of ensuring the necessary animals, used for didactic and experimental purposes, in optimal conditions of growth, hygiene and nutrition, according to specific technological norms. Also, within the ICBB there is a Department of Biostatistics involved in the elaboration of the experimental design and in the statistical evaluation of the experimental results, as well as a Technology Transfer Center (CTT) that makes the technological transfer connections for the research activity- development that takes place in accordance with the university's strategy. CTT is responsible for managing USVT's intellectual property assets, transferring knowledge to society (especially through innovative services) and generating revenue to further support research and education. The center is structured in four departments: the Consultancy and Technology Transfer Department, the Intellectual Property Department, the Marketing-Licensing Department and the Research-Development-Innovation Partnerships development department.

The existing research infrastructure (research centers, centers of excellence, the "Horia Cernescu" research laboratory complex, the interdisciplinary research platform), the operation within the University of the University Extension Unit and the Project Management Unit favor the development of innovative, creative activities added value through research teams.

In USVT, the main organizational entity with direct responsibilities in the field of quality is the Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission (CEAC-U), established based on the decision of the Senate. The Commission is constituted in accordance with the legal provisions, it operates based on its own regulation: USVT-R044- Regulation of the Commission for the Evaluation and Assurance of Quality - CEAC, and its current structure is in accordance with the legal provisions regarding the assurance of the quality of education (Annex15). CEAC-U is subordinate to the Rector, who is directly responsible for the quality of education provided by USVT. The operational management of CEAC-U is

ensured by a coordinator appointed by the Rector. CEAC-U is subordinated to the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Committees at faculty level (CEAC-F).

Also, within the USVT, the Department for Quality Management (DMC) was established, organized and functional in accordance with the regulations of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, the University Charter, the ISO 9001:2015 standard and SR ISO CEI 17025:2018 and the university's internal regulations. DMC operates based on its own regulation in collaboration with CEAC-U for the implementation, planning, organization and control of the quality management system, at the level of each organizational subdivision of USVT. The Quality Management Department is a specialized structure in the implementation and coordination of the activities regulated by the quality management specific documentation, having as support elements the criteria, standards and performance indicators for quality assessment, corresponding to the strategy for quality adopted by the Senate and the quality management system, implemented and certified in accordance with SR ISO 9001:2015 (Annex C 1.1.1_01) https://usab-tm.ro/ro/dmc-77.

Intranet platform, in which the annual self-evaluation form of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors is created, is a complete database, extremely useful for extracting the necessary data for the reports carried out for the external evaluations of the doctoral schools and the university, as well as for the evaluation by the director SD of the PhD supervisor.

In order to stimulate the participation of doctoral students in international scientific events,from the budgetary allowance/doctoral student grant, 1,500 lei are allocated to students to cover the need for consumables in order to carry out the research. Also, the WOS works of the doctoral students are fully supported by the university.

The results obtained by the doctoral supervisors and by the doctoral students they guide are used in the methodology for distributing doctoral places, representing an important component of the process of ensuring the quality of doctoral studies in USVT. Also, both doctoral supervisors and doctoral students are awarded annually according to their achievements in publishing and research.

USVT is constantly concerned with the quality evaluation and monitoring process, a fact proven by participating in external evaluation/accreditation processes (national and international) or by enrolling in university ranking systems, at national and international level. Our university constantly evaluates its own performances, by comparison with other universities of the same profile in the country as well as with universities with a similar profile in Europe, establishing benchmarks for the evaluation and monitoring of quality.

Also, following a rigorous external evaluation, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine from USVT obtained in 2022 the European accreditation for veterinary education, EAEVE until 2027. (Annex 28)

USVT demonstrated a continuous concern in the field of quality, through the implementation of the management system certification. Currently, the university holds the ISO 9001:2015 Certificate valid until 2024.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara (USVT) is a public institution of higher education, with legal personality and owner of its own patrimony and operates in accordance with the provisions of specific laws. USVT is an academic educational institution, characterized by excellence in the educational process and academic research, covering a wide spectrum of specializations in fields specific to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, biotechnologies, the food industry and veterinary medicine, culture and technology transfer for the fields specific, in the south-eastern and central European space.

Criterion A.1. Administrative and managerial institutional structures, and financial resources

Standard A.1.1. The institution organising doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organisation of doctoral studies.

The general framework for the organization and functioning of IOSUD-USVT is established by the provisions of HG 681/2011 regarding the approval of the Code of doctoral university studies, with subsequent amendments and additions and the IOSUD regulation of SD-IRVA (Annex A.1.1.1_01) in compliance with the law.

Within IOSUD-USVT there are specific regulations and they apply at the level of IOSUD, respectively of the Doctoral School. The Regulations of the Doctoral School include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for the aspects specified in art. 17, para. 5 of HG 681 / 2011.

USVT organizes doctoral studies in the fundamental field (DFI): Engineering Sciences (RSI Code: 50), Doctoral School- Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA), the field of doctoral university studies: Code DSU_D/M: 50/ Code DL 10 – ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Annex 33).

Table 1.1 The field of doctoral university studies CNATDCU Commission

No. No.	CNATDCU Commission	The field of university doctoral studies	Faculty
1	Commission 14: Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources	Agronomy	Faculty of Agriculture
2		Engineering of Food Products	Faculty of Food Engineering
3		Horticulture	Faculty of Engineering and Applied Technologies
4		Biotechnology	Faculty of Bioengineering of Animal Resources
5		Zootechnics	

Performance indicator A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the doctoral school that the doctoral domain is a part of:

a) the internal regulations of the doctoral school;

b) the methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in the CSD, and evidence that such elections were conducted;
c) methodologies for organising and conducting doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies);
d) existence of mechanisms for recognising the status of a doctoral advisor and the equivalence of a doctoral degree obtained abroad;
e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), including proof of the regular frequency of convening their meetings;
f) the contract for doctoral studies;
g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

1. the regulations of the doctoral school;

- USVT - R075 - *Regulationsregarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara* (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utositori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf) (Annex A 1.1.1_01).
- USVT - R093 - Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies within the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utosizi/calitate/file/regulamente/R093.pdf) (Annex A 1.1.1_02).
- USAMVBT - PG 001 – R046- Internal regulation (Annex A 1.1.1_03). (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utosizi/calitate/file/regulamente/R046.pdf)

2. the methodology for conducting the elections for the position of director of the Doctoral School Council (CSD), as well as the students' choice of the representative in the CSD and evidence of their progress;

- USVT - M059 -*The methodology for conducting the competition for the post of director of the Council of Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) from IOSUD – USVT* https://www.usab-tm.ro/utosizi/calitate/file/regulamente/m059/M059.pdf (Annex A 1.1.1_04). Evidence regarding the elections within the IOSUD-USVT and SD-IRVA (minutes regarding the recording of the results of the CSUD elections Annex A 1.1.1_04a and minutes regarding the election of doctoral students in CSUD (Annex A 1.1.1_04b).

3. methodologies for organizing and conducting university doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of university doctoral studies);

- *Admission to the doctorate* in USVT it is done according to the provisions of the Regulation on the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral university studies - IOSUD, within University of Life Sciences the "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, which isupdated every academic year.
- USVT – R030 -*Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral university studies - IOSUD, within the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, in the academic year 2023-2024* (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utosizi/calitate/file/regulamente/R030.pdf) (Annex A 1.1.1_05).

- USVT-PEC – *Operational procedure for analyzing and approving proposals regarding the subject of doctoral study programs* (https://usab-tm.ro/ro/documente-usamvbt-80/proceduri-11209) (Annex A 1.1.1_06).
- Regulations for the completion of doctoral university studies in the USVT it is developed by the doctoral schools and approved by the CSUD, the Administration Council and the Senate of the USVT
- USVT-CSUD - PO-001 – Operational procedure regarding the evaluation, defense of the doctoral thesis and the completion of the doctoral university studies within the IOSUD - USVT (https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339/legislatie-sustinere-teze-doctorat) (Annex A 1.1.1_07a).
- USAMVBT-CSUD-PO-002 – Operational procedure regarding the online support of doctoral theses and habilitation theses (https://www.usab-tm.ro/users/calitate/file/proceduri/USAMVBT_CSUD_PO002%20%20ed%201%20rev%201%20Procedura%20sustinere%20online%20teza.pdf) (Annex A 1.1.1_07b).

4.the existence of mechanisms for the recognition of the quality of doctoral supervisor and for the equivalence of the doctorate obtained in other states;

In IOSUD-USVT, the procedures are approved and are made public on the CEAC website by which the quality of doctoral supervisor or the qualification obtained abroad and the recognition of the doctoral degree obtained in other countries are recognized. They can be accessed directly from the university page, in the Documents section, under Regulations, Procedures.

4. *functional management structures (Council of the Doctoral School), proving including the regularity of convening meetings;*
   - *Council for Doctoral University Studies* (https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/csud-12038) (Annex A 1.1.1_12)
   - *PhD supervisors* for the field of ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
     - Univ. Prof. Dr. Popescu Gabriela – doctoral supervisor, member (Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, USVT);
     - Univ. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adamov Tabita – doctoral supervisor, member Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, USVT);
     - Univ. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Feher Andrea – doctoral supervisor, member (Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, USVT).

5 *the doctorate university studies contract;*

- USVT – PG 001- R075 – REGULATION regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utositori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf) (Annex A 1.1.1_01).

The doctoral university studies contract contains the rights and obligations of the doctoral students, the doctoral supervisors, as well as IOSUD-USVT. The contract is concluded with each doctoral student separately, after the admission competition has been validated, for the entire duration of the doctoral student's training and includes the clauses specified in the Code of

University Doctoral Studies.

Models for study contracts within SD-IRVA:

- Contract for doctoral university studies financed from the budget (Annex_A 1.1.1_14a);
- Contract for doctoral university studies with a fee (Annex A 1.1.1_14b);
- Contract for doctoral university studies financed from the budget for the form of part-time education (Annex A 1.1.1_14c);

6. *internal procedures for analysis and approval of proposals regarding the subject of the training program based on advanced university studies.*

Within the SD councils, the education plan, the advanced training plan, the scientific research program are approved annually and changes are made to the D1, D3 subject sheets and, if necessary, to the scientific research project.Annex 24, Annex_A 3.1.3d, Annex_A 3.1.3e).

Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue the permanent updating of the Doctoral School website so that PhD supervisors, PhD students and candidates for admission can find all the necessary information on the website.

It is recommended that all decisions of the Doctoral School Council be published on the Doctoral School website.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator A.1.1.2. The doctoral school's Regulations include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards concerning the aspects specified in art. 17, para. (5) of Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, as further amended and supplemented.

Regulations of the doctoral school (R075) was drawn up according to the legal provisions, by consulting all affiliated active doctoral supervisors and was voted by the absolute majority of them, by universal, direct, secret and equal vote. The last update was approved in the Senate meeting of 02.11.2022. The Regulations of the Doctoral School include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for the aspects specified in art. 17, para. 5 of HG 681 / 2011, with subsequent amendments and additions.

a) the acceptance of new doctoral supervisor members, as well as regulations regarding the manner in which a doctoral supervisor can be withdrawn from the doctoral school membership (see art. 26 and 27 of R 075); (Annex A 1.1.1 01)

b) the mechanisms by which decisions are made regarding the appropriateness, structure and content of the training program based on advanced university studies (see art. 24, art. 32(3), art. 48 and art. 49 of R 075);

c) the procedures for changing the doctoral supervisor of a certain doctoral student and the procedures for mediating conflicts (Art. 8(9) lit. h, Art. 12 lit. c, art. 17, art. 24(2) letter c., art. 24(3) lit. g, art. 26 of R 075);

d) the conditions under which the doctoral program can be interrupted (Art. 30(1) lit. I, art. 32(4, 5 and 6) of R 075);

e) ways to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism (Art. 39(2) from R 075). To prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism, doctoral students follow the course "Ethics and academic integrity in the field of IOSUD-USVT". The discipline of "Ethics and academic integrity" can be found in the Advanced University Training Program, which is approved by the USVT Senate.

f) ensuring access to research resources (Art. 44(2) and art. 48(4) from R 075).

Also, within the USVT there is the procedure USVT-PCIT-PO001 Procedure operational regarding the access of teaching staff, researchers and students within the research infrastructure of USVT (Annex A 1.1.1_15).

g) the attendance obligations of doctoral students, according to a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education National (Art. 15, art. 24(3) lit. m and n, art. 30(2) and art. 50(3) of R 075).

Recommendations:

To continuously update the regulations of the doctoral school be in accordance with existing legislation.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.1.2. The IOSUD has the necessary logistic resources to carry out the mission of the doctoral studies.

IOSUD-USVT has an INTRANET type computer system for the record of doctoral students and the course of doctoral studies. The doctoral school secretariat uploads documents (doctoral data: CVs, advanced training program, etc.) with access only to the local network, these documents can only be accessed by users (secretary, doctoral supervisors or doctoral students) from the respective network (Intranet).

Performance indicator A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.

At the SD-IRVA level, there is an appropriate computer system for the record of doctoral students from the time they are admitted to the university doctoral studies until their completion. This system includes individualized data for each doctoral student: personal data, data regarding schooling, form of study, field, doctoral supervisor, funding method, previously completed studies, photo, etc. Each doctoral student has access to personal data with his own password (the field of doctoral studies Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development that will be included in the IT system of IOSUD along with Agronomy, Horticulture, Engineering of Food Products, Animal Husbandry and Biotechnologies).

Information security measures, available within the INTRANET program, are also ensuredplays a significant role in the security management of an INTRANET. In general, for protection, a device or an application is used that controls the flow of communication between the internal network and an external network such as the INTERNET. Securing the information is done by operating an input filter for INTERNET traffic to the

organization's servers and a system to prevent/stop unauthorized "packets" from entering the web and application servers. It provides connections to the INTERNET, maintaining internal user authentication and logging traffic, providing support for auditing, reporting, as well as planning (https://intranet.usab-tm.ro/).

Recommendations:

The publication on the website of the doctoral school related to each field of performance and quality information from the student management system.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an appropriate software and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.

IOSUD-USVT uses the computer program "Sistemantiplagiat.ro" since 2016. All completed doctoral theses are checked by the SD director and result in a "Similarity Report" which is submitted together with all documents to the Secretariat of the doctoral school.

"Sistemantiplagiat.ro" is a computer program for comparing documents in text format. It was created in 2002 by the company Plagiat.pl from Poland, and in 2012 it was launched in Romania" (the computer program being approved by the MEN).

The Sistemantiplagiat.ro platform generates the "Similarity Report", which will be sent electronically to each scientific leader.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

Standard A.2.1. The IOSUD has a modern research infrastructure to support the performance of specific doctoral study activities.

USVT has a high-performance infrastructure that supports research activity, as well as its efficient use, and which represents premises for the development of new research opportunities, having the role of catalyzing the transfer of knowledge to the economic environment. Ensuring the sustainability of the R&D infrastructure in order to create high-performance research environments oriented towards innovation services and technology transfer, was one of the university's objectives in 2022.

Performance indicator A.2.1.1. The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.

The University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara established in 2021 the Research Institute for Biosafety and Bioengineering (ICBB). The ICBB's research-development and technology transfer activity is carried out in accordance with the USVT strategy and is oriented towards fundamental and applied research activities, in the following fundamental areas - "Research Areas" and "Research Departments": Annex A 2.1.1a

1. Biosecurity Field with 3 Research Departments: Environment, Food Biosecurity and Health.

2. Bioengineering Field with 3 Research Departments: Agricultural Plant Resources, Horticultural and Forestry Plant Resources and Animal Resources.

3. Sustainable Development Field with 3 Research Departments: Entrepreneurship and Business Administration, Tourism and Quality of Life and Geomatics.

In recent years, research laboratories (Annex A 2.1.1b) have been modernized, both through the acquisition of modern, high-performance equipment, as well as through the specialization of human resources and by increasing the degree of access to specialized scientific literature, for example, E-nformation/ANELIS plus (https://www.usab-tm.ro/USAMVBT_ANELIS-PLUS-_ro_2029.html) or through licensed software (doctoral, master's and undergraduate students having free access (free of charge) to scientific literature through the USVT library.

All computers connected to the USVT server can access a number of platforms and collections of journals and scientific research literature, in full text format.

Library university active since 1949, with a documentary collection of 2670 books. Over time, the book fund developed as a result of the acquisition policy, through internal and external exchange, but also through donations. The book collection of the USV "King Mihai I" in Timişoara is made up of 389,598 book volumes, i.e. 60,433 titles, of which 55,109 are specialist titles and 5,324 fiction titles.

In addition to the units available in the institution's library, within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-USVT, each discipline with doctoral supervisors has an appropriate library, with documentary materials that can be consulted by doctoral students (http://biblio.usab-tm.ro/).

Recommendations:

It is recommended to continue investing in equipment and especially in new data processing and analysis software.

It is recommended to set up a mechanism to attract resources / funds from the private environment.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of human resources

Standard A.3.1. For each domain, there is qualified staff having the experience required for carrying out the doctoral program.

At the level of the assessed field, there are qualified staff with the necessary experience to carry out the doctoral university study program - doctoral supervisors, holders within the IOSUD and who meet the minimum CNATDCU standards in force, but also professors/associate professors who have the quality of doctoral supervisor/ability to support subjects from the training program based on advanced university studies related to the field.

Performance indicator A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors work within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.

In the field of IMADR doctoral university studies, 3 supervisors will initially carry out their activities PhD and all (100%)meet the CNATDCU minimum standards (Annex A 3.1.1a) in force at the time of writing this report, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the qualification certificate (according to the Standards Compliance Check Sheet, undertaken by each doctoral supervisor, Annex A 3.1.1b and Annex A 3.1.1c).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator* A.3.1.2. At least 50% of the doctoral advisors in the doctoral domain under review are tenured professors within the IOSUD and have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period.

At the time of the internal evaluation report, all 3 PhD supervisorsare full members of USVT, employed with the conclusion of an employment contract for an indefinite period. (Prof. dr. habil. Popescu Gabriela, Assoc. Prof. dr. habil. Adamov Tabita, Assoc. Prof. dr. habil. Feher Andrea) (Annex_A 3.1.2a, Annex_A 3.1.2b)

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or associate professors / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.

The subjects in the advanced training program are supported by teaching staff who hold the title of supervisor of a doctorate/qualification within the USVT, with proven expertise in the field of taught subjects, according to the CVs that can be viewed on the website of the doctoral school, and they can be the PhD supervisor or other qualified professors, professor/CS I or university lecturer/CS II depending on the research field.

From 2019, the advanced university training program at the Doctoral School of Engineering of Vegetal and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students, of which at least one discipline is intended for the study of statistical processing of research results, D1: Statistical interpretation of research results (Discipline sheet – Annex A 3.1.3a), the second discipline is D2: Specialized discipline Annex A 3.1.3b and the third discipline is D3: Ethics and academic integrity (Discipline Sheet Annex A 3.1.3c , D1 and D3 are supported at the level of IOSUD-USVT, and the specialized discipline is supported by the doctoral supervisor.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.3.2. The doctoral advisors within the doctoral domain are carrying out a scientific activity that is visible at international level.

Doctoral supervisors in the field carry out an internationally visible scientific activity - proven by articles/studies published in prestigious international journals, participation in international scientific conferences, the capacity of reviewer and/or member in the scientific/editorial committees of some international journals and conferences, Google Hirsh indexes.

Performance indicator A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international visibility within the past 5 years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past 5 years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organising committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.

All PhD supervisors within the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development (field subject to evaluation) carry out internationally visible scientific activity; a list of the most relevant publications as well as a list of 5 publications indexed in Web of Science (minimum 5) in journals with an impact factor or other achievements with relevant significance for the field in which find international level contributions that reveal a progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the field of IMADR (Annex A 3.2.1a and Annex A 3.2.1b).

PhD supervisors within the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development have international visibility, consisting of:

- the list of 5 publications indexed in Web of Science (minimum 5) (Annex A 3.2.1b)
- membership in scientific committees of publications and national/international conferences (Annex A 3.2.1c);
- membership in national/international professional associations (Annex A 3.2.1d);
- guest status at conferences or expert groups held abroad (Annex A 3.2.1e);
- other achievements - books and book chapters published in national and international publishing houses, with relevant significance for the doctoral field under evaluation, respectively, invention patents and participation in various invention and innovation salons at national and international level in which contributions can be found reveals an advance in scientific research (Annex A 3.2.1f; Annex A 3.2.1g; Annex A 3.2.1h).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator * A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past 5 years.

The doctoral supervisors subject to the evaluation for the field of doctoral studies Engineering and management in agriculture and rural development are active scientifically, obtaining at least 25% of the score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards in force on the date of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the qualification certificate , based on the scientific results of the last five years.

All doctoral supervisors meet the required indicator, exceeding the percentage of 25% of the minimum score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards (420 points) (Annex A 3.2.2).

Recommendations:

Continue monitoring the performance of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students with international visibility.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS.

With regard to the educational effectiveness of the field of doctoral university studies it is estimated that the legal regulations in force and the IOSUD-USVT regulations will be respected in terms of the ability to attract high-performing candidates (including from outside the higher education institution) - reflected in the number, quality and diversity of candidates who will appear at the admissions competition; the suitability of the training program based on advanced university studies and the functionality of the guidance committee – which impacts the content of doctoral university study programs; the valorisation of doctoral students' research and the diversity of external scientific referees from the commissions for public support of theses - as indicators of the results of doctoral studies and their evaluation procedures.

Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of the candidates enrolled for the admission contest

Standard B.1.2. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.

The candidates registered for the doctoral admission exam within the SD-IRVA were graduates of the various master's degrees organized within the USVT but also came from other universities in the country, both universities with an agronomic profile, as well as technical or even medical universities, depending on the field in which the entrance exam was held.

For the diversity of candidates, within SD-IRVA, an attempt is being made to develop a strategy to attract national talents to doctoral programs and to expand the recruitment of doctoral students from developing countries or from developed countries where Romania is internationally competitive. It is also aimed at organizing excellent doctoral studies in languages of international circulation (English, French).

Performance indicator* B.1.2.1. Admission in the doctoral study programmes is based on selection criteria including the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates; their interest for scientific or artistic/sports research; publications in the domain, and a proposal of a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is mandatory as part of the admission procedure.

The doctoral admission competition, regardless of field, consists of two tests:

- written test based on a topic announced by the doctoral supervisor before the date of the admission competition;
- interview, during which the following are analyzed: the research topic proposed for the doctoral thesis as well as the way in which research funding is ensured within the topic proposed for the doctoral thesis, the candidate's scientific concerns and his research skills. Depending on the specifics of the field, in each admission session other tests (even eliminatory ones) may be provided in the doctoral admission competition, at the request of the titular doctoral supervisors and with the agreement of the Council of Doctoral Schools. The minimum general

average for admission to doctoral university studies is 7;

- the competition tests are given in front of a doctorate admission committee made up of the doctorate supervisor, who offered the doctoral student place for admission;
- 3 other recognized specialists from USVT, who have at least the position of head of works/qualified lecturer;
- the president of the admission committee who is the director of CSUD-USVT or one of the directors of the doctoral schools within IOSUD-USVT.

After evaluating each test with grades from 1 (one) to 10 (ten) and establishing the final grade as the arithmetic mean of the two tests, the Admission Committees rank the candidates in order of the averages obtained at the admission test and nominate the candidates who will occupy the places of doctoral students put out to competition.

PhD admission results (Annex_B_1.2.1_03), are displayed at the USVT headquarters and on the website of the doctoral school: https://usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/admitere-doctorat.

Recommendations:

Continuation of the policy of attracting graduates at master's level from other higher education institutions, especially from abroad.

Continuous publishing relevant information on the web page of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, including in English language.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. The content of the doctoral programs

Standard B.2.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies is appropriate to improve the doctoral students' research skills and strengthen ethical behaviour in science.

The advanced training program and subject sheets included in the educational plan at the Doctoral School - Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development (SD-IRVA) are adequate to improve the research skills of doctoral students and to strengthen ethical behavior in the life sciences, https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66.

The directors of the doctoral schools lead the activities of organization, development and administration of university doctoral study programs within their sphere of competence, in accordance with the regulations for the organization and development of university doctoral studies of IOSUD-USVT and with the legal provisions in force.

Performance indicator B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant for the scientific research training of doctoral students, out of which at least one discipline focuses on the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing.

The advanced training program at the Doctoral School - Engineering of Vegetal and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students, of which at least one discipline is intended for the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical processing of the data. Also, the scientific research program includes 3 reports on the subject of the doctoral thesis (literature study and scientific results).

Approval of courses (disciplines) from the advanced training program Annex B 2.1.1_01 and the scientific training program Annex B 2.1.1_02 of the doctoral student is based on the proposals of the scientific supervisor, in connection with the research topic and in accordance with the legal regulations in force. These are quantified differently for each doctoral school, at SD-IRVA/IMADR they will be 30 credits/year.

Recommendations:

To permanently update the content of relevant subjects for the scientific research training of doctoral students in the field of Business Administration.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.

From the academic year 2019-2020 until now, the discipline Ethics and academic integrity has been introduced in the advanced training program (Annex B 2.1.1_04).

The sheets of subjects dedicated to ethics in scientific research and academic integrity provided in the advanced training program within SD-IRVA, IMADR field, can be consulted in the internal evaluation report. https://usab-tm.ro/users/universitate/file/doctorat/raport/sd-irva/2019/Raport_Intern_SD-IRVA.pdf

Recommendations:

Continuing to promote ethics in research.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has the mechanisms in place to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced higher education studies related to the evaluated domain addresses the "learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, and the responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities[2].

[2] Or by what the graduate should know, understand and be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology for the listing and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order of the Minister of National Education no.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.

IOSUD - USVT and implicitly the Doctoral School - Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) have created the mechanisms that ensure that the training program based on advanced university studies, related to the evaluated field, aims at "learning outcomes", specifying the competencies, skills and the attitudes that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline in the training program and the scientific research program related to the research topics.

The subject sheets of the advanced training program specify the professional and transversal skills, the specific objectives, the content and bibliographic sources, the responsibility and autonomy acquired by the doctoral students following the completion of the related training program. The content of the subjects is in accordance with the level of expectations and current research in the field of IMADR and evaluation methods, both of the international scientific community, as well as of professional associations and representative employers Annex B 2.1.1_03, Annex B 2.1.1_04, Annex B 2.1.1_05.

Internal quality assurance mechanisms are carried out through actions at the level of IOSUD-USVT and the Doctoral School - Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA), which is also applied in the field of evaluated doctoral studies: ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Doctoral students enrolled in the first year are required to complete the advanced university training and documentation program. The advanced university training program is carried out on the basis of a program specific to each doctoral school, approved by the Council of IOSUD – USVT and approved by the Decision of the University Senate, available on the website of IOSUD. Students enrolled in the budget education form with a scholarship can also carry out teaching activities (4-6 hours/week).

Doctoral students enrolled at the Doctoral School - Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) can also take courses from the advanced training program of the other fields in the doctoral school or even from another doctoral school.

After admission, the Advanced Training Program and the individual scientific research program are completed for each PhD student separately and approved by the Doctoral School Council.

The indicator is fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

From the visit and from the analysis internal quality assurance system was analysed - the institutional framework, the policies and procedures applied for internal quality assurance; Transparency of information and accessibility to learning resources - the availability for consultation of information of interest in electronic format, the assurance for doctoral students of access to resources; and Degree of internationalization – the existence and application of a strategy to increase the degree of internationalization.

Criterion C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system

Standard C.1.1. The institutional framework is in place, and policies and procedures are applied for the internal assurance of the relevant quality.

In IOSUD-USVT (3rd learning cycle according to the Bologna process) a quality management system according to ISO 9001:2015 was implemented and quality assurance activities were promoted for all processes and activities organized at the university level, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Performance indicator C.1.1.1. The doctoral school to which the doctoral study domain belongs demonstrates that the internal evaluation and quality assurance process of the study domain is carried out constantly, according to a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, including an evaluation of the following mandatory criteria:

a) the scientific work of doctoral advisors;

b) the infrastructure and logistics needed for carrying out the research activity;

c) the regulations and procedures based on which doctoral studies are organised;

d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;

e) the training program based on advanced higher education studies of doctoral students;

f) social and academic support services (including for participation in various events, publishing papers, etc.) and counselling services available for the doctoral students.

In IOSUD-USVT and implicitly within IOSUD-IRVA (the III cycle of learning according to the Bologna process) a quality management system according to ISO 9001:2015 was implemented and quality assurance activities were promoted for all processes and activities organized at university level, in accordance with the requirements of Law no. 87/2006 regarding quality assurance in education (USVT_PG001_R026: ROF of the Quality Management Department, DMC) (Annex C 1.1.1_01) and works according to the organizational chart (Annex C 1.1.1_02).

Quality Management Department (QMD), which is assisted by evaluation and quality assurance committees at the level of IOSUD-USVT and implicitly at the level of Doctoral School - Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) and Doctoral School - Veterinary Medicine (SD-MV) (Annex C.1.1.1_05). The Commission for the Evaluation and Quality Assurance carries out its activity according to R044 of the Regulation of the Commission for the Evaluation and Quality Assurance CEAC. (Annex C.1.1.1_06).

(a) the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors

Doctoral School - Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) is part of IOSUD - University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (USVT) and has implemented internal monitoring mechanisms regarding the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors.

The information is available on the website of IOSUD https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66 and information (CNATDCU check sheet, activity structure and Hirsh indexes) about the PhD supervisors from the field under analysis, IMADR, are attached to this report in the file (Annex C 1.1.1_25, Annex C 1.1.1_26, Annex C 1.1.1_27).

(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity

IOSUD - USVT and, respectively, the Doctoral School - Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA), have a research infrastructure that very well supports the specific activities of doctoral university studies.

Also, within USVT there is USAMVBT-PCIT-PO001 Procedure regardingaccess for teaching staff, researchers and students within the research infrastructure of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (Annex C 1.1.1_28).

In addition, the research centers and USVT laboratories with the specific equipment and facilities can be consulted on the website of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara, which presents all the research units (https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/cercetare-16/centre-si-laboratoare-de-cercetare-10067). The research units have a modern infrastructure for advanced, frontier, fundamental and applied research.

(c) the regulations and procedures based on which doctoral studies are organized

There is an operational procedure at the level of IOSUD - University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (IOSUD-USVT) which aims to present the organizational framework, stages, criteria and responsibilities on the basis of which the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the topic of doctoral study programs:

- USVT–CSUD – PO-004 – Operational procedure for distribution of doctoral grants within IOSUD-USVT (Annex C 1.1.1_29);
- USVT-CSUD - PO-001 – Operational procedure regarding the evaluation, defense of the doctoral thesis and the completion of doctoral university studies within the IOSUD - USV "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (Annex C 1.1.1_30);
- USAMVBT-CSUD-PO-002 – Operational procedure regarding the online support of doctoral theses and habilitation theses (Annex A 1.1.1_07b);
- Unique instructions and standards for the development of doctoral theses within IOSUD-USAMVB TIMIŞOARA (Annex C 1.1.1_31).

(d) the scientific activity of doctoral students

The scientific activity of each doctoral student is monitored by the annual activity report of the doctoral student,preparing minutes for exams and reports according to the calendar established by the advanced training programs and the scientific training program (taught in original at the IOSUD-USVT secretariat).

At the end of the doctoral studies, the doctoral student presents the list of works to the doctoral supervisor, who verifies the fulfillment of the standards required by the doctoral studies contract signed and assumed by both the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor, the director of the doctoral school and the director of IOSUD-USVT.

(e) the training program based on advanced university studies of doctoral students

The advanced training program at the Doctoral School - Engineering of Vegetal and Animal Resources (SD-IRVA) includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students, of which at least one discipline is intended for the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical processing of data, according to the advanced training and scientific research program (Annex C 1.1.1_33).

f) social and academic support services (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counseling provided to doctoral students.

The social service of USVT manages the process of accommodation of doctoral students in dormitories and ensures the maintenance of accommodation spaces. Career

Counseling and Guidance Center (https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro//consiliere-11695) of USVT offers guidance and vocational counseling services to students, as well as psychological counseling. The participation in local, national, international scientific events and the publication of articles is financially supported by the doctoral grant funds from the funds of the faculties/fields and from national or international research-development grants.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator* C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented during the doctoral study program to enable identification of the doctoral students' needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.

SD-IRVA is currently implementing a questionnaire, in Romanian and English, aimed at the degree of satisfaction of doctoral students in relation to the activity carried out within it (Annex C 1.1.2_01, Annex C 1.1.2_02). This questionnaire covers, among others: the profile of the respondents, the admission decision, the fulfillment of expectations, opinions about admission, the relationship with the doctoral supervisor, available resources, other professional activities.
The opinions of the doctoral students from SD-IRVA / USVT regarding the doctoral activity were collected, based on a questionnaire with 27 questions grouped into seven sections related to the profile of the respondents, the decision to admit to the doctorate, the fulfillment of expectations regarding doctoral studies in the field elected, the opinions about admission, the relationship with the PhD supervisor, the available resources and other professional activities.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources

At the level of IOSUD-USVT, transparency and accessibility to learning resources is ensured by publishing information on the USVT website, in compliance with the legal regulations in force regarding data protection.

Standard C.2.1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates, and information of public relevance is available for consultation in electronic format.

An empirical analysis of the information available on the websites of the host university or other universities in the country shows that certain types of information, predominantly those related to the admission procedures and calendar (e.g. https://usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/admitere-doctorat), are easily accessible. There is a Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral university

studies - IOSUD, within the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara, in the academic year 2023-2024 USVT - RO30 (https://usab-tm.ro/uzotari/calitate/file/regulamente/R030.pdf). On the other hand, there is information regarding the courses offered during the training period; the titles and summaries of the defended theses; the legislation regarding the support of doctoral theses; unique instructions and standards for the development of doctoral theses within IOSUD-USVT (https://usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339), as well as the information regarding the research activity of the doctoral supervisors.

Performance indicator C.2.1.1. Subject to compliance with the data protection regulations in force, the IOSUD publishes the following types of information on the website of the higher education institution:

a) the regulations of the doctoral school;

b) the admission regulations;

c) the doctoral study contract;

d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;

e) the content of the training programs based on advanced academic studies;

f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;

g) the list of doctoral students in the domain concerned, with basic information (year of enrolment; advisor);

h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;

i) links to the summaries of the doctoral theses to be presented publicly, as well as the day, time and place where they will be presented, at least 20 days before the presentation.

(a) regulations of the doctoral school

- USVT - R075 – Regulationsregarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utositori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf) (Annex C 2.1.1_01).
- USVT - R093 – Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies within the Doctoral School of Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utosizi/calitate/file/regulamente/R093.pdf) (Annex C 2.1.1_02).
- USAMVBT-PG001-R046 – Internal regulation (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utosizi/calitate/file/regulamente/R046.pdf) (Annex C 2.1.1_03).
- USVT - M059 – The methodology for conducting the competition for the post of director of the Doctoral University Studies Council (CSUD) from IOSUD – USVT (https://usab-tm.ro/uzotari/calitate/file/regulamente/m059/M059.pdf)(Annex C 2.1.1_04).

(b) admission regulations

- USVT – R030 – Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of admission

to doctoral university studies - IOSUD, within the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara, in the academic year 2023-2024 (https://usab-tm.ro/users/calitate/ file/regulamente/R030.pdf) (Annex C 2.1.1_05)

(c) the doctoral studies contract

➢ The Contract for Doctoral University Studies can be found in USVT - R075: Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies in the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara (https://www.usab-tm.ro/utositori/calitate/file/regulamente/R075.pdf) (Annex C 2.1.1_01)

Model for study contracts within SD-IRVA/IMADR can be found on the institution's website. https://usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/desfasurare-doctorat-9130

- Contract for doctoral university studies financed from the budget for the form of part-time education (Annex C 2.1.1_06)
- Contract for doctoral university studies financed from the budget (Annex C 2.1.1_07)
- Contract for doctoral university studies with a fee (Annex C 2.1.1_08)

(d) the regulations for the completion of the studies, which also include the procedure for the public defense of the thesis

➢ USVT-CSUD - PO-001 – Operational procedure regarding the evaluation, the defense of the doctoral thesis and the completion of doctoral university studies within IOSUD - USVT as well as the documents necessary for the defense of the doctoral thesis can be found on https://usab-tm.ro/ro/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339/legislatie-sustinere-teze-doctorat (Annex C 1.1.1_30)

(e) the content of study programs

Disciplines that develop transversal skills with the advanced university training program and scientific research program - Model advanced training program/scientific research program (Annex C 1.1.1_33) they may contain strictly specialized chapters on the topic studied by the doctoral student and may be taught by the course holder/doctorate supervisor who may also invite other tenured teaching staff or specialists from outside the higher education and research systems

(f) the scientific profile and thematic areas / research themes of the PhD supervisors in the field, as well as their institutional contact details

The scientific profile and thematic areas / research topics of the doctoral supervisors in the field, as well as their institutional contact data, can be found on the university website https://usab-tm.ro/ro/scoli-doctorale-66/conducatori-doctorat-10995

(g) list of doctoral students in the field with basic information (year of enrollment; supervisor)

At the doctoral school level, there is an updated database with basic information about the doctoral student, such as: doctoral supervisor, doctoral student registration number, date of enrollment, form of education. (Annex C 2.1.1_09)

(h) information on the standards for the preparation of the doctoral thesis

Unique instructions and standards for the development of doctoral theses within IOSUD-USVT https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339/legislatie-sustinere-teze-doctorat (Annex C 1.1.1_31)

(i) links to the summaries of the doctoral theses to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time, place where they will be defended, at least 20 days before the defense.

The links to the summaries of the doctoral theses to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time, place where they will be defended, at least 20 days before the defense, can be found on the website of the university/SD-IRVA: https://www.usab-tm.ro/ro/sustineri-publice-teze-doctorat-1339/sustinere-teze-doctorat

Recommendations:

Continuous updating of the web pages of IOSUD, including with more detailed information in English Language if the university is looking to attract international PhD students.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard C.2.2. The IOSUD / Doctoral School provides doctoral students with access to the resources needed for conducting doctoral studies.

IOSUD provides doctoral students with access to the resources necessary to carry out their doctoral studies. Thus, access to international databases is ensured, free online scientific documentation resources are provided, scientific research is published in its own journals.

Performance indicator 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.

IOSUD will prove the contracting and implementation of services of the type offered through the ANELiS Plus program during the entire evaluated period (for periodic evaluations). All PhD students have free access to a database platform through the USVT library (http://biblio.usab-tm.ro/).

Web of Science - *Core Collection, InCites Journal Citation Reports, Derwent Innovations Index, Clarivate Analytics* – is one of the most important sources of scientific documentation worldwide. The purpose of this database is to provide information on the scientific recognition of scientific articles and to identify new trends and technologies worldwide. Web of Knowledge is the recognized authority for the ISI evaluation of scientific journals, created in collaboration with the prestigious Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia, USA; https://clarivate.com/products.

Recommendations:

Permanent information of doctoral students regarding free access to platforms with academic databases relevant to the field of field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student, upon request, has access to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.

On each field of SD-IRVA, there is a person designated for each field (the vice-deans responsible for scientific research) who checks the scientific achievements (reports, scientific works, as well as the doctoral thesis) (www.sistemantiplagiat.ro).

Recommendations:

It is recommended to support doctoral students and for the verification of scientific works.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain / domains within the doctoral school, according to a set of internal regulations.

All doctoral students have free access to the field-specific scientific research laboratories within the Doctoral School. The access of doctoral students to the research laboratories is recorded in the Internal Register of the respective laboratory, which will later issue the Analysis Bulletin for the samples studied by the doctoral student. The procedure regarding *the access of teaching staff, researchers and students within the research infrastructure of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timişoara* (Annex C 1.1.1_28). (https://www.usab-tm.ro/users/calitate/file/proceduri/USAMVBT%20PCIT%20PO001.pdf

Recommendations:

Supporting new doctoral students admitted to the PhD so that they have access to the existing research infrastructure.

The indicator is fulfilled.

SWOT analysis

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
• Appropriate coordination of doctoral programmes. • Quality assurance approach. • High quality human resources. • Culture of innovation and self-reflection • PhD supervisors in the field off Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development. • Structures, procedures and policies for ensuring the quality of doctoral studies. • Modern research infrastructure. • Current and sufficient logistical resources for the advanced training of doctoral students. • Access to scientific resources in international databases.	• At the level of IOSUD, a small number of doctoral students from abroad.
Opportunities:	**Threats:**
• Attracting new intenational PhD supervisors/experts who are recognised in their field of research and can be involved in co-tutelage and/or guidance committees or doctoral committees. • The increasing need from the business environment for specialists with a doctorate in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development. • The digitization of education and its move mainly to the online environment facilitates the participation of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in prestigious international conferences or provides access to different "networks", for the exchange of best practices, the formation of research clusters.	• Decreasing domografical figures/number of graduates in master programmes/pontential candidates. • Decrease in the number of places with funding from the state budget.

• Cooperation with companies could result in joint projects funded by the companies.	

Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the doctoral school that the doctoral domain is a part of: a) the internal regulations of the doctoral school; b) the methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in the CSD, and evidence that such elections were conducted; c) methodologies for organising and conducting doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies); d) existence of mechanisms for recognising the status of a doctoral advisor and the equivalence of a doctoral degree obtained abroad; e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), including proof of the regular frequency of convening their meetings; f) the contract for doctoral studies; g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.	Fulfilled	It is recommended to continue the permanent updating of the Doctoral School website so that PhD supervisors, PhD students and candidates for admission can find all the necessary information on the website. It is recommended that all decisions of the Doctoral School Council be published on the Doctoral School website.
2.	PI	A.1.1.2. The doctoral school's Regulations include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards concerning the aspects specified in art. 17, para. (5) of Government Decision no. 681/2011, as further amended and supplemented.	Fulfilled	To continuously update the regulations of the doctoral school be in accordance with existing legislation.
3.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	Fulfilled	The publication on the website of the doctoral school related to each field of performance and quality information from the student management system.
4.	PI	A.1.2.2. The existence and use of an	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		appropriate software and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.		
5.	CPI	A.2.1.1. The venues and the material equipment available to the IOSUD/the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.	Fulfilled	It is recommended to continue investing in equipment and especially in new data processing and analysis software. It is recommended to set up a mechanism to attract resources / funds from the private environment.
6.	CPI	A.3.1.1. Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors work within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.	Fulfilled	
7.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of the doctoral advisors in the doctoral domain under review are tenured professors within the IOSUD and have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period.	Fulfilled	
8.	PI	A.3.1.3. The study subjects in the education programme based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or associate professors / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.		
9.	CPI	A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organising committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.	Fulfilled	
10.	PI *	A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.	Fulfilled	Continue monitoring the performance of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students with international visibility.
11.	PI *	B.1.2.1. Admission in the doctoral study programmes is based on selection criteria including the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates; their interest for scientific or artistic/sports research; publications in the domain, and a proposal of a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is mandatory as part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
12.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant for the scientific research training of doctoral students, out of which at least one discipline focuses on the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing.	Fulfilled	To permanently update the content of relevant subjects for the scientific research training of doctoral students in the field of Business Administration.
13.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to ethics and intellectual property in scientific research, or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	Continuing to promote ethics in research.
14.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has the mechanisms in place to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced higher education studies related to the evaluated domain addresses the "learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, and the responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	Fulfilled	
15.	PI	C.1.1.1. The doctoral school to which the doctoral study domain belongs demonstrates that the internal evaluation and quality assurance process of the study domain is carried out constantly, according to a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, including an evaluation of the following mandatory criteria: a) the scientific work of doctoral advisors; b) the infrastructure and logistics needed for carrying out the research activity; c) the regulations and procedures based on which doctoral studies are organised; d) the scientific activity of doctoral students; e) the training program based on advanced higher education studies of doctoral students; f) social and academic support services (including for participation in various events, publishing papers, etc.) and counseling services available for the doctoral students.	Fulfilled	
16.	PI *	C.1.1.2. Mechanisms are implemented		

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		during the doctoral study program to enable identification of the doctoral students' needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.		
17.	CPI	**C.2.1.1.** Subject to compliance with the data protection regulations in force, the IOSUD publishes the following types of information on the website of the higher education institution: a) the internal regulations of the doctoral school; b) the admission regulations; c) the doctoral study contract; d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis; e) the content of the training programs based on advanced academic studies; f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data; g) the list of doctoral students in the domain concerned, with basic information (year of enrolment; advisor); h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis; i) links to the summaries of the doctoral theses to be presented publicly, as well as the day, time and place where they will be presented, at least 20 days before the presentation.	Fulfilled	Continuous updating of the web pages of IOSUD, including with more detailed information in English Language if the university is looking to attract international PhD students.
18.	PI	**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.	Fulfilled	Permanent information of doctoral students regarding free access to platforms with academic databases relevant to the field of field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development.
19.	PI	**C.2.2.2.** Each doctoral student, upon request, has access to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	Fulfilled	It is recommended to support doctoral students and for the verification of scientific works.
20.	PI	**C.2.2.3.** All doctoral students have access to the scientific research laboratories or to other facilities depending on the specific domain / domains within the doctoral school,	Fulfilled	Supporting new doctoral students admitted to the PhD so that they have access to the existing research infrastructure.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI*, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		according to a set of internal regulations.		

Conclusions and general recommendations

The organization and the definition of the set of indicators is well suited to establish the quality of the doctoral studies. Following them, my global conclusion about the doctoral studies in the field of Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development attain the adequate level of international quality.

I recommend providing of the doctoral university studies in the field doctoral university studies Doctoral School – Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development - with „high trust" accreditation.

International expert:
Prof. Dr. Oláh Judit

Timişoara, 21th of February 2024