



UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST
"VASILE GOLDIȘ"
din ARAD

ROMANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
"VASILE GOLDIȘ" WESTERN UNIVERSITY of ARAD
310025, ARAD, ROMANIA, . 94-96Revolutiei Bd., tel./fax: 0040 257 280 260
email: rectorat@uvvg.ro, web: www.uvvg.ro

DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY

RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

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CHAPTER I. General provisions

Art. 1. This Regulation is based on the following documents:

- Higher Education Law no. 199/2023;
- Code of doctoral academic studies, approved by Romanian Government Decision no. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and completions;
- Regulation of Vasile Goldiș Western University of Arad for organizing and conducting doctoral academic studies;
- MEN Order No. 4982 of September 5, 2013, on doctoral management activity;
- MENCȘ Order nr. 3482/2016 on the Organization and Functioning Regulation of the National Council for Attestation of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates;
- MENCȘ Order no. 3485/2016 regarding the list of programs recognized by the National Council for Attestation of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates and used at the level of higher education institutions organizing doctoral academic studies and of the Romanian Academy, in order to establish the degree of similarity for scientific papers;
- MEN Order nr. 651/19.11. 2014 for the approval of the Methodology on academic mobility of students
- University Charter and other normative documents of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research and UVVG.

CHAPTER II. Structure of the Doctoral School of Biology

Art. 2. Doctoral School in IOSUD - UVVG

(1) The Doctoral School of Biology, hereinafter referred to as SDB, is part of IOSUD – UVVG, as a distinct doctoral school, established by Order of the Minister of Education No. 6255 / 13.09.2023.

(2) *SDB mission.* Training doctoral students by acquiring advanced knowledge, skills and abilities of scientific research in the field of biological sciences, leading to the building of successful careers in scientific research specific to the field nationally and internationally.

(3) *The specificity of the doctoral school.* SDB brings together various subfields/specialties of biological sciences as well as multidisciplinary approaches in bio-medical and other interdisciplinary fields. The specific research topics in SDB are formulated according to the expertise of the doctoral supervisors and the ongoing projects and are posted in the doctoral section of the UVVG website annually, 2 months before admission to doctoral academic studies.

(4) SDB is led by a Director of the Doctoral School and by the Council of the Doctoral School. The director of the doctoral school is assimilated to the head of department. The council of the doctoral school is assimilated to the council of the department.

(5) SDB is subordinated to the Council for Doctoral Academic Studies (CSUD) of the Institution organizing Doctoral Academic Studies (IOSUD) within "Vasile Goldiș" Western University of Arad.

(6) SDB organizes doctoral studies in the field of "Biology" on a full-time and part-time basis. The doctoral study program offered by SDB is finalized by a scientific doctorate and the award of the title of Doctor of Biology (qualification of level 8 according to the European Qualifications Framework -EQF and the National Qualifications Framework) based on the doctoral thesis defended in public session.

(7) The part-time study applies only to topics that allow a reduced research program in the laboratory or clinic and it is up to the doctoral supervisor to undertake together with the doctoral student the fulfillment of the minimum performance standards established by SDB.

(8) The doctoral studies organized by SDB are carried out in Romanian or an international language, agreed by the doctoral supervisor with the doctoral student at the conclusion of

the registration documents of the doctoral student in the first year of doctoral studies concluded between IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student.

(9) Doctoral studies may also be organized jointly, in which case the doctoral student carries out his/her activity under the simultaneous guidance of a doctoral supervisor from Romania and a doctoral supervisor from another country or under the concomitant guidance of two doctoral supervisors from different institutions in Romania, based on a written agreement between the organizing institutions involved. The joint doctorate can also be organized if the doctoral supervisors are from other doctoral fields included in doctoral schools of IOSUD-UVVG

(10) IOSUD may employ, on a contractual basis, specialists from abroad who have the legal right to conduct doctoral studies.

(11) The financing of doctoral studies organized by SDB is carried out mainly on a fee basis, but also by granting scholarships / grants from public funds, European funds, institutional own funds or from other legally constituted sources.

Art 3. Director of the Doctoral School of Biology

(1) The Doctoral School of Biology is headed by a director assimilated to the Head of Department. The SDB Director is an ex officio member, without voting rights, of the Professorial Council of the Faculty of Medicine, where the Department of Biology and Life Sciences is part of.

(2) The Director of the Doctoral School represents the Doctoral School in relations with IOSUD.

(3) The Director of the Doctoral School is appointed by CSUD from among the doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school and is a rightful member of the Doctoral School Council, according to the "Methodology for designating management structures and occupying management positions within IOSUD-UVVG" in force and approved by the University Senate.

(4) The Director of the Doctoral School is responsible for the quality of the doctoral education process and for the administrative aspects of the Doctoral School before the Director of CSUD.

(5) The duties of the Director of the Doctoral School of Biology (SDB) are as follows:

- a) establishes the strategic plan of the Doctoral School of Biology;
- b) organizes and monitors the development of the doctoral admission competition;
- c) organizes and monitors the development of activities within the two doctoral training programs;
- d) ensures the link between the doctoral school and the management of I.O.S.U.D. - UVVG
- e) establishes the curriculum for the field of Biology in collaboration with the other doctoral supervisors within the Doctoral School;
- f) draws up the Jobs descriptions sheet of doctoral study programs;
- g) controls and approves the monthly report and timesheets of doctoral scholarship students, after the prior opinion of the doctoral supervisor;
- h) organizes and leads the meetings of the Doctoral School Council;
- i) applies the decisions of the University Senate regarding the Doctoral School;
- j) sign the documents issued by the Doctoral School.

Art 4. Council of the Doctoral School of Biology

(1) The collective governing body of the Doctoral School of Biology is the Council of the Doctoral School, assimilated to the Council of the Department.

(2) The SDB Council of IOSUD-UVVG is composed of 5 members, of which:

1. The director of the doctoral school, appointed by CSUD from among the doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school, is a member of law;
2. 2 doctoral supervisors from the doctoral school;
3. 1 doctoral student;

4. 1 member from outside the doctoral school, chosen from scientific personalities whose professional activity has a significant international recognition and/or personalities from the relevant industrial and socio-economic sectors.
- (3) The number and structure of the SDB Board may not be changed within the same mandate.
- (4) The doctoral student, member of the SDB council, loses this quality on the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis.
- (5) The SDB Council meets at least 3 times a year. Meetings may be convened whenever necessary, at the request of the SDB director or at least 2 board members. They are always headed by the SDB director.
- (6) The meetings of the SDB Council may be attended (invited or on their own initiative), without voting rights, by the director of CSUD-UVVG, the dean, the vice-deans and the heads of departments within the Faculty of Medicine.
- (7) The SDB Council shall have the following duties:
- a) *Implementation of the SDB Regulation:*
 - elaborates the Regulation, in accordance with the regulations of the Code of doctoral studies;
 - organizes the endorsement of the Regulation by universal, direct and equal suffrage of the absolute majority of doctoral supervisors, members of the respective school;
 - submits the Regulation for approval to the CSUD;
 - proposes amending the regulation, if necessary, to ensure the increase of the quality of the work carried out within the SDB and submits the proposed amendments for approval by the CSUD.
 - b) *Organization of admission to doctoral academic studies:*
 - develops, based on the proposals received from the doctoral supervisors, the admission methodology, and submits it for CSUD approval;
 - approves and submits for approval to CSUD the commissions for the doctoral admission competition;
 - organizes an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position at the request of doctoral supervisors;
 - elaborates the model of the framework contract for doctoral studies, and submits it to the approval of CSUD and the Board of Directors;
 - approves the enrollment or expulsion of doctoral students.
 - c) *Organization and development of doctoral academic study programs:*
 - organizes and coordinates the training program based on advanced academic studies;
 - monitors the individual scientific research program coordinated by doctoral supervisors;
 - approves the individual doctoral academic study plans of doctoral students;
 - organizes research master's degree programs;
 - performs and approves the Job descriptions of the teaching and research staff affiliated to the doctoral school, based on a fixed-term or indefinite employment contract (teaching staff, researchers, doctoral students), and submits it to CSUD approval.
 - d) *Organization of the public defense of the doctoral thesis:*
 - approves the composition of the commission for public defense of the thesis proposed by the doctoral supervisor and submits it for validation to the CSUD director.
 - e) *Implementation of scientific performance standards:*
 - establishes minimum standards of scientific performance to ensure quality in the activity of the Doctoral School;
 - implements procedures for highlighting the results of doctoral research in order to evaluate doctoral theses and their approval for public defense;

f) Granting/withdrawing the quality of tenured doctoral supervisor:

- decides to grant/withdraw the quality of tenured doctoral supervisor, respectively of the quality of affiliated university professor or affiliated researcher, taking into account the provisions of the regulation of the doctoral school, in accordance with the legislation in force on habilitation.

g. Quality assurance of doctoral study programs, through internal and external evaluation process:

- elaborates the methodology specific to the internal evaluation process, focused mainly on the quality of the scientific results of the group led by the doctoral supervisor, mainly the impact and relevance of the scientific activity of this group at international level;
- performs annually the internal evaluation of doctoral academic study programs, based on which the doctoral school will review, modify and adapt the structure of doctoral academic study programs;
- prepares self-evaluation reports for re-accreditation or, in the case of a new doctoral school, for obtaining provisional authorization for operation/accreditation;
- assists the external evaluator in the evaluation process for accreditation/re-accreditation or provisional authorization of the doctoral school.

h) The relationship between doctoral student and doctoral supervisor:

- researches, analyzes the change of doctoral supervisor, at the reasoned request of the doctoral student, if it was found that the legal or contractual obligations undertaken by him/ her have not been fulfilled, or for other reasons related to the guidance report and designates another doctoral supervisor in this case or if the doctoral supervisor is found to be unavailable;
- mediates conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor; in case of non-resolution of the conflict at this level, it is mediated by CSUD;
- reassigns the management of an ongoing doctoral supervisor to another doctoral supervisor if the doctoral supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not want to continue his/her doctoral management activity;

i) Obtaining funds for financing doctoral studies:

- promotes application to doctoral grants or research and development projects financed from public or private sources;
- drafts and carries out projects to attract external financing.

j) Development of scientific partnership relations :

- initiates and promotes scientific partnerships with higher education and research institutions in the country and abroad;
- supports the mobility of doctoral students within partnership relations (joint doctoral research, exchanges of doctoral students).

k) Compliance with ethical principles:

- follows the observance of the norms of scientific, professional and academic ethics, according to the code of ethics and professional deontology of UVVG, the Code of Doctoral Academic Studies and the operational procedures adopted by UVVG.

Art 5. Secretariat of the Doctoral School of Biology

(1) The Secretariat of the Doctoral School shall include at least one secretary who has at least medium knowledge of English, knowledge of administration and computer use.

(2) The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:

- a. ensures the nominal record of doctoral students
- b. ensures the record of the school situation of each doctoral student
- c. ensures the receipt, registration, distribution and dispatch of correspondence
- d. provides the secretariat of the Doctoral School Council

- e. ensures the management and maintenance of all documents regarding the record of students, their school situations, the work of the Council and other specific documents.
- f. updates the information on the Doctoral School website and ensures the publication of doctoral thesis summaries;
- g. responsible for the existence of all documents in student files;
- h. keeps track of doctoral supervisors and the number of doctoral students enrolled in each of them, their course in the training program, reports, etc.
- i. ensures the necessary documents for the Research Master program hosted by the Doctoral School.
- j. perform any other duties entrusted to it by the Director.

Art 6. Website of the Doctoral School of Biology

(1) The Secretariat of the Doctoral School of Biology, with the logistical support of UVVG, ensures the publication and updating of all necessary information regarding doctoral studies, as follows:

- Doctoral School Regulation;
- information on places for doctoral students;
- information on doctoral supervisors and the students they coordinate;
- information on how to organize and conduct doctoral programs;
- information on the content of doctoral academic study programs;
- information on how to finance/fees;
- model of the framework contract for doctoral academic studies and other forms;
- information on doctoral theses, respectively development standards, procedures and criteria for their evaluation;
- information on the results and professional performances of doctoral supervisors;
- summaries of doctoral theses to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time and location of the public defense, at least 20 days before their defense;
- addresses where completed doctoral theses published on a website administered by the Ministry can be accessed;
- useful forms for students;
- other useful data that ensures transparency of information in SDB

CHAPTER III. Organization of doctoral academic studies in the Doctoral School of Biology

Art 7. Duration of doctoral academic studies

(1) The degree of doctoral academic studies in the field of Biology lasts 8 semesters (4 years) and has 2 components: *the advanced academic study program* lasting one year (2 semesters) and *the individual scientific research program* lasting 6 semesters. The two programs are mandatory.

(2) In special situations, the duration of the doctoral academic study program may be extended by 1 - 2 years, with the approval of the university senate, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, or reduced by one year, at the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor, of the doctoral school, CSUD and with the approval of the university senate.

(3) Doctoral academic studies may be interrupted at the request of the doctoral student, for good reasons, with the opinion of SDB, CSUD and the approval of the Senate. In this case, the duration of doctoral studies is increased by the cumulative periods of interruptions, which may not exceed two years. The interruptions of the doctoral academic study program will be made on the basis of an addendum to the doctoral study contract.

- (4) Any interruption of the doctorate must begin on the first day of an academic semester and end on the last day of an academic semester, in order for that interruption period to comprise a whole number of academic semesters;
- (5) If the doctoral student fails to complete the thesis within the term established according to the doctoral academic study contract and any addenda thereto, the doctoral student has a grace period of maximum 2 years to finalize and publicly defend the thesis, exceeding this term automatically leading to his/ her expulsion.

Art. 8. Admission to doctoral academic studies

- (1) The admission of candidates to doctoral studies in SDB is made through a competition organized annually by the SDB of IOSUD-UVVG in September.
- (2) The SDB director is responsible for the proper conduct of the admission competition, for observing the quality norms, academic ethics and the legislation in force.
- (3) The registration for the competition is not subjected to the field in which the candidate obtained the bachelor's and master's level diplomas, nor by citizenship, provided that the legal provisions in force regarding the equivalence of studies are observed. Foreign citizens from non-EU countries must comply with the Methodological Norms of doctoral studies sent annually by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.
- (4) It is forbidden, under sanction of law, to promote any form of direct or indirect discrimination between candidates for doctoral academic studies through the criteria for evaluating candidates and those for selecting candidates.
- (5) The candidate must total, for the bachelor's and master's degrees of academic education, at least 300 European transfer credit points (ECTS).
- (6) The candidate must have a minimum average of 8.00 at the bachelor's exam and a minimum average of 8.00 at the dissertation exam (master's degree) or equivalent if the education system he /she comes from has another grading system.
- (7) The candidate has the obligation to submit the receipt for payment of the admission fee to IOSUD, fee established by the UVVG Board of Directors for the respective academic year, the amount of which is published on the university's website before enrollment.
- (8) The candidate has the obligation to submit a declaration of responsibility that he/ she had no disciplinary deviations during the years of study that were sanctioned by the Ethics Commission of the university.
- (9) Admission to SDB is based on the topics and research projects carried out by the doctoral supervisors. The doctoral supervisors have the obligation to communicate no later than June to the SDB secretariat the ongoing and future research topics, as well as the bibliography required to prepare the candidates for the written test.
- (10) The SDB Secretariat will publish on the Doctoral School website all available data regarding the research topics carried out by the doctoral supervisors, the number of available places approved by the Senate for that academic year and the bibliography.
- (11) In the application for registration in the competition, each candidate shall indicate a doctoral supervisor and shall run for one of the seats approved by the Senate in the respective session. In case of success, that doctoral supervisor will coordinate the doctoral studies of the concerned candidate.
- (12) The doctoral supervisors, in collaboration with the SDB Council, establish in detail the date on which the admission competition will take place, the criteria for evaluating and selecting candidates and other conditions that they consider necessary to fill the places offered at the admission competition and which will be approved by CSUD before being made public.
- (13) All information (calendar, bibliography, methodology, doctoral supervisors, available places, etc.) will be made public on the university's website at least 2 months before the date of the admission competition.
- (14) The admission committees are made up of the doctoral supervisor (chairperson, by law) who offered the place of doctoral student for admission and at least two other

specialists (members) of UVVG, who have at least the position of associate professor or scientific researcher grade II.

(15) The admission committees are proposed by the SDB Council, endorsed by CSUD and approved by the University Senate.

(16) The admission shall be organized in the September session, according to a planning contained in the "Regulation on the organization and conduct of admission to the bachelor's, master's and doctoral academic studies" approved by the Senate for the academic year for which admission is organized.

(17) The doctoral admission competition includes a language proficiency test for an international language and a specialized examination.

(18) Language certificates, level B2, issued by other competent institutions, previously approved by the relevant structures, within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and Physical Education and Sport (FSSUEFS) of UVVG are recognized.

For candidates who hold a certificate of language proficiency valid on the date of the competition, it will be subject to endorsement by the aforementioned structures.

The language proficiency test can be taken at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and Physical Education and Sports of UVVG Arad.

The certificate of language proficiency is part of the candidate's file, without which he/she cannot sit the specialist examination.

(19) The specialist examination consists of two tests:

- a) *a specialized written test*, based on a topic announced by the doctoral supervisor and bibliography;
- b) *an interview* in which the candidate's scientific interests in the field, his/her research skills, the topic proposed for the doctoral thesis and the candidate's previous results are analyzed, as evidenced by the documents submitted when registering for the admission competition;

(20) At the request of the doctoral supervisor and with the agreement of the SDB council, other tests may be provided in the doctoral admission competition.

(21) The marking of the specialized examination tests shall be done individually by each member of the competition commission with marks from 1 to 10. On the candidate's competition form, the average of each test and the average of the specialty exam are entered, as arithmetic average of the marks from the two tests.

(22) The validation of the results of the admission competition shall be done by the Senate, after prior approval by the CSD and CSUD. The registration of admitted candidates is made by decision of the UVVG Rector.

(23) If, after the admission exam, there are several candidates who have opted for full-time tuition and scholarship, the allocation of funding will be made through competition, which will be organized in the first two weeks after the validation of admission to doctoral studies, according to a methodology previously approved by CSUD and the Board of Directors.

(24) The number of scholarships and their amount will be determined each year by the Board of Directors and will be made public at least one month before admission on the university's website.

(25) The Director of the Doctoral School is responsible for the proper conduct of the admission competition, in compliance with the quality norms, university ethics and the legislation in force.

Art 9. Contract for doctoral academic studies.

(1) The rights and duties of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, as well as IOSUD, through doctoral schools, shall be established by the doctoral academic study contract.

(2) The model of the framework contract for doctoral academic studies is approved by CSUD, the Board of Directors and the Senate and made public on the website at least 2 months before admission.

(3) The doctoral academic study contract is concluded with each doctoral student, and is signed by the doctoral student, doctoral supervisor and Rector.

(4) The doctoral academic study contract shall contain at least the following information:

- a. identification data of the doctoral student and doctoral supervisor;
- b. data about IOSUD and doctoral school;
- c. chosen research topic;
- d. the monthly amount of the scholarship, as appropriate;
- e. the amount of the tuition fee, if applicable;
- f. the language in which the doctoral thesis is written and defended - Romanian or English;
- g. the term of completion of the doctoral thesis;
- h. conditions for extending the term of completion of the doctoral thesis;
- i. The volume of teaching activities that the doctoral student undertakes to carry out and the period during which they are carried out, according to art. 164 para. (3) of Law nr. 1/2011.
- j. Form of registration – full-time with scholarship or fee and part-time with fee
- k. working hours;
- l. minimum indicators at the end of the thesis;

(5) The individual doctoral study plan is an integral part of the Contract of Doctoral Academic Studies. It also contains the nominal composition of the guidance commission that changes during doctoral academic studies, only for good reasons.

(6) The doctoral academic study contract may be amended by addenda in the following situations:

- extension of doctoral studies;
- transfer of the doctoral student from one doctoral supervisor to another;
- interruption of doctoral academic studies;
- grace period;
- other justified situations.

Art.10. Doctoral student's training program

The cycle of doctoral academic studies is composed of the "*Advanced Training Program*", credited with 30 ECTS credit points, lasting one semesters and the "*Scientific Research Program*" with a duration of 5 semesters, completed with the defense of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 11. Advanced Academic Training Program

(1) The advanced training program is carried out in SDB based on a curriculum approved by CSUD and approved by the Senate. Completing this program must ensure obtaining 30 ECTS credit points. The curriculum includes one semester in which compulsory subjects are studied, which provide all doctoral students with a unitary vision in approaching scientific research in the doctoral field and, respectively, management skills of scientific research projects, capitalization of scientific results, ethics of scientific research and notions of biostatistics. Compulsory subjects are planned modularly. The evaluation is made by the course holder with the grades "Very good", "Good", "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory".

(2) If the doctoral supervisor considers it necessary for the doctoral student to acquire basic knowledge that is taught within the Research Master's Programs hosted by the Doctoral Schools, or within other bachelor's or master's programs, he/ she may request the student to attend certain courses, in any semester of doctoral training, without taking an exam, with the consent of the holder of the respective course and of the management of the faculty in which they are taught.

(3) For each subject taught within the doctoral school, max. 6 physical hours per week are provided.

(4) Course, seminar and applicative/research activities may be provided by doctoral supervisors or academics who have at least the title of associate professor or scientific researcher degree II.

(5) The 1st semester ends with the elaboration of the *Scientific Research Program Project*, which has the role of defining the doctoral theme, the general framework of the studies and their conduct, the objectives of the study, the research methodology concerned, the schedule of the planned activities, etc. The doctoral supervisor establishes the doctoral topic together with the doctoral student, correlated with the field of expertise of the doctoral supervisor, with UVVG topics and strategy.

(6) The evaluation of the research project, including the doctoral topic, is made by an evaluation committee consisting of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance commission.

(7) The results of the evaluation shall be expressed by one of the qualifiers "Very good", "Good", "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory". Admission to the research program is conditioned by obtaining one of the grades "Very good", "Good", "Satisfactory".

(8) If, following the evaluation, the grade is "Unsatisfactory", the doctoral student will propose a new research project that includes the observations and suggestions of the members of the evaluation committee consisting of at least the doctoral supervisor and the guidance commission. The presentation of the new research project is done in a special session.

(9) For doctoral students benefiting from scholarships-grants co-financed from European programs or from other sources, other forms of interdisciplinary and specialized training may be organized by the Doctoral School, based on a specific program.

(10) The Council of the Doctoral School may modify the structure of the advanced academic training program, with the endorsement of CSUD and the Senate's approval.

(11) Doctoral students have the right to obtain information on the results of the examinations and to appeal in writing against the received grade, within 5 days of the examination. The Doctoral School has the obligation to analyze appeals and propose solutions within 5 days.

(12) During the advanced training program, the secretariat of the Doctoral School centralizes the attendance sheets of doctoral students that the teacher submits after each taught module; based on the attendance list, the doctoral student must indicate a minimum attendance of 80% at the full-time program and 50% at part-time.

(13) Graduates of Research Master study programs hosted by the Doctoral Schools may have the compulsory subjects included in the Advanced Training Program equated. In this regard, Master graduates will submit a request to the Doctoral School Council, which will analyze the equivalence of subjects and grant the right of equivalence. The application will also be accompanied by the description of the studied subjects within the Master programs proposed for equivalence.

Art 12. Scientific Research Program

(1) The scientific research program is organized individually for each doctoral student by the doctoral supervisor together with the doctoral student and is credited with 210ECTS credit points. The responsibility for carrying out the scientific research program belongs first of all to the doctoral student and secondly to the doctoral supervisor, both being signatories of the doctoral academic study contract.

(2) The scientific research program begins after the admission of the scientific research project, which thus becomes a program for the doctoral thesis.

(3) The research activity of the doctoral student is evaluated through three progress reports of the doctoral research presented before the guidance commission and the doctoral supervisor, as follows:

- in the second semester of the first year, the doctoral student will present: *Specific training module I - scientific report (theoretical knowledge)* and *Specific training module II - scientific report (theoretical knowledge)*, reports that are evaluated by the doctoral supervisor, Communication scientific in the session dedicated to

doctoral students within the Arad Academic Days. Each is credited with 10 ECTS credit points.

- *Research report 1 and 2* in the second year of the doctoral studies which will include the state-of-the-art related to the subject of the thesis; each doctoral supervisor will decide on the content of these reports (60 ECTS credit points);
- *Research report 3 and 4* in the third year of doctoral studies that will include research results; each doctoral supervisor will decide on the content of these reports (60 ECTS credit points);
- *Research report 5 and 6* in the fourth year of doctoral studies which will include research results; each doctoral supervisor will decide on the content of these reports (60 ECTS credit points);

Research reports are evaluated by the guidance commission.

(4) The deadlines for defending the research reports are stipulated in the individual scientific research plan. The deadlines for defending the three reports may be extended at the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and with the approval of the director of the doctoral school.

(5) The presentations of the reports are evaluated by a grade: "very good", "good", "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory", by a committee consisting of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance commission. The comments and suggestions of the members of the evaluation committee, as well as of the invited members of the department are noted in the minutes, and the doctoral student must take them into account for the completion of the thesis.

(6) In case of rejection of a report (which obtained the grade "unsatisfactory"), the doctoral student shall defend it again in front of the same committee.

(7) The effective date of each oral presentation (presentation of the report) is established by the doctoral supervisor, following receipt of a written request from the doctoral student. The interval between two consecutive exposures shall not exceed 12 months. The doctoral supervisor cannot miss any presentation, and at least 2 members must be present from the guidance commission at each presentation.

(8) The report on the progress of doctoral research shall be submitted to the CSD, together with the minute signed by the doctoral supervisor and the members of the guidance commission who were present, within 3 working days from the date of presenting the report. The minutes are included in the doctoral student's file.

(9) The scientific research program and, implicitly, the doctoral studies end with the elaboration and public defense of the doctoral thesis.

(10) SDB periodically organizes specialized conferences held by UVVG collaborators with international visibility in the field of the Doctoral School, to which all doctoral students are invited, regardless of the stage of the training program, in order to provide them with access to topical specialized information at national and international level. These optional trainings will be explicitly mentioned in the individual training plan of the doctoral student.

Art.13. Doctoral thesis and completion of doctoral academic studies

(1) The completion of doctoral studies is achieved by elaborating and publicly defending, in front of the doctoral committee, a doctoral thesis. The doctoral thesis is elaborated according to the requirements established by the thesis writing guide established at the level of the doctoral school, endorsed by the CSD and approved by CSUD.

(2) As a rule, the thesis includes parts of the research reports elaborated by the doctoral student and is completed with the synthesis of research results, discussions and conclusions, highlighting his/her own contributions and novelty elements included in the thesis.

(3) The thesis must reflect the doctoral student's detailed knowledge of the addressed topic, relate to the stage of research in the field internationally, contain original results validated in experimental research/own studies.

(4) The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and undertakes the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as of the opinions and demonstrations expressed in the thesis.

(5) The doctoral supervisor is responsible, together with the author of the thesis, for compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including for ensuring the originality of the content.

(6) The commission for public defense of the doctoral thesis, hereinafter referred to as *doctoral committee*, is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the IOSUD management. The doctoral committee consists of at least 5 members: the president, as representative of IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and at least 3 reviewers from the country or abroad, specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was elaborated and of which at least 2 carry out their activity outside the respective IOSUD. The members of the doctoral committee have a doctoral degree and have at least the didactic position of associate professor or scientific researcher degree II or have the quality of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad.

(7) The thesis may be written in an international language in the following situations:

- a. the doctoral academic studies were organized in international joint doctoral study and the co-ordination agreement established the language in which the thesis is written;
- b. the student has obtained approval for the doctoral academic study program to be held in an international language;
- c. at the request of the doctoral student, with the consent of the doctoral supervisor and of the Doctoral School Council.

(8) If the thesis is written in an international language, the summary of the doctoral thesis must also be written in Romanian.

(9) In the case of joint doctoral studies, the doctoral thesis shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the joint doctoral agreement.

(10) Before the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral thesis is verified by means of a similarity detection software. The verification is carried out based on the standards contained in the National Guide on drafting doctoral theses, developed by CNATDCU and the Regulation for anti-plagiarism verification of doctoral theses from IOSUD-UVVG. The results of the analysis will be made available to the doctoral student and to the doctoral committee.

(11) The structure of the "doctoral file" will comply with the following rules:

- (a) the abstract of the thesis is published on the website of the university, or, as the case may be, of the Romanian Academy and can be consulted publicly after issuing the order appointing the support committee;
- (b) the thesis in printed format can be consulted at the library of the university or, as the case may be, of the Romanian Academy, at least 20 days before the date set for public defense;
- (c) if the doctoral student does not opt for the distinct publication of the thesis or of some chapters thereof, the digital form of the thesis is made public and will be freely accessible on the national platform after issuing the provision for granting the doctoral title; the thesis will be assigned a copyright protection license;
- (d) if the doctoral student opts for the distinct publication of the doctoral thesis or of some chapters thereof, he/she receives a grace period of maximum 24 months for this publication; after the expiration of the grace period, if no notification regarding the separate publication of the thesis has been received at IOSUD, the document in digital format becomes freely accessible on the national platform with the assignment of a copyright protection license;
- (e) after publishing the thesis or chapters thereof, the author has the obligation to notify IOSUD of this fact and to send the bibliographic indication and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform;
- (f) after granting the doctoral degree, within maximum 30 days IOSUD has the obligation to send a printed copy of the doctoral thesis to the National Library of Romania, where it can be accessed upon request;

- (12) The "doctoral file" is archived by IOSUD on a permanent basis;
- (13) The exploitation of copyright and/or industrial property rights over the original product or creation made within the doctoral academic study program shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in the field.
- (14) Doctoral academic studies are completed by defending in public session the doctoral thesis in front of the commission for public defense of the doctoral thesis, hereinafter referred to as "Doctoral Committee".
- (15) Public defense may take place only after the following steps have been taken:
- the doctoral student submits the thesis in electronic format and, as the case may be, in printed format at the secretariat of the doctoral school;
 - the doctoral school performs the similarity analysis using a program recognized by CNATDCU according to MENCŞ Order 3485/2016; The doctoral school may additionally request the use of a program developed at national level regarding the detection of similarities; similarity reports are included in the "doctoral file"; the verification period cannot exceed 30 days from the date of submission of the doctoral thesis to IOSUD;
 - the doctoral thesis is presented in the guidance commission; After this pre-defense, which can be public, the doctoral supervisor and the guidance commission decide on the official submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defense; the acceptance report of the doctoral supervisor and the agreement of the members of the guidance commission are included in the "doctoral file"; the duration of the thesis evaluation process in the guidance and control committee is maximum 30 days;
 - The doctoral thesis is officially submitted to the secretariat of the doctoral school, in printed and electronic format, together with the summary of the doctoral thesis and the doctoral student's CV and the list of works; the secretariat of the doctoral school certifies the fulfillment by the doctoral student of all obligations within the doctoral study program. The public defense of the doctoral thesis may take place within a maximum of one year from the date of official submission of the thesis, except for the cases in which the doctoral student benefits from the grace period according to GD no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions, art. 40 and/or postponement of public defense according to Law no. 49/2013.
 - the request for setting the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and the president of the defense committee, is submitted to the secretariat of the doctoral school at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date of defense;
 - The doctoral school prepares and displays the announcement for public defense at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date of defense. It will necessarily include the date, location and time of defense, the doctoral supervisor(s), as well as the place where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed format. The announcement of the public defense, the abstract of the thesis in electronic format, the CV of the doctoral student, the CVs of the members of the public defense committee of the doctoral thesis or links to them are displayed on the IOSUD website."
 - The doctoral committee must meet the provisions of Article 76 of the Code of doctoral academic studies, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions.
- (16) Following the identification of violations of good conduct in research and development, including plagiarism of the results or publications of other authors, fabrication of results or replacement of results with fictitious data, during the evaluation of the thesis by the doctoral supervisor or the guidance committee, the public support agreement does not is obtained.
- (17) The doctoral commission is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the doctoral school council. The doctoral committee is made up of at least 5 members: the

president, as a representative of IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and at least 3 official referees, from the country or abroad, specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was developed and of which at least 2 carry out their activity outside the respective IOSUD. The members of the doctorate commission have the title of doctor and have at least the didactic position of university lecturer or scientific researcher, degree II, or have the capacity of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad.

(18) The members of the doctoral committee must meet the minimum standards of scientific performance established by the CSD and approved by the CSUD in order to be part of the respective committee.

(19) In the case of joint doctoral studies, by agreement between UVVG and another university, the doctoral committee also includes representatives of UVVG, of the partner university, as well as two members who carry out their activity outside the partner universities, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisors. The president of the doctoral committee is a representative of the Doctoral School where the doctoral student is enrolled, and the main doctoral supervisor is tenured.

(20) The doctoral thesis is defended in public session before the doctoral committee, after evaluation by all reviewers and submission of their reports at least 15 days before defending the thesis. The defense of the doctoral thesis can take place in the presence of at least 4 of the members of the doctoral committee, with the mandatory physical participation of the president of the commission and of the doctoral supervisor, the other members of the committee can also participate in the synchronous online system. The public defense must include a session of questions from the members of the doctoral committee and the public.

(21) Based on the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the referees' reports, the statement on the originality of the work and the analysis on the degree of similarity, the doctoral committee evaluates and deliberates on the award of the doctoral degree, in compliance with the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU for awarding the doctoral degree.

(22) If the doctoral student has fulfilled all the requirements stipulated in the scientific research program, as well as the minimum standards related to the field, the doctoral committee proposes the granting of the doctoral degree, a proposal that is submitted together with the doctoral file, within maximum 30 calendar days, to CNATDCU.

(23) The doctoral file will contain the following:

- a) scanned copy of the identity card of the doctoral student;
- b) scanned copy of the birth certificate of the doctoral student;
- c) scanned copy of the marriage certificate, if applicable;
- d) CV of the doctoral student;
- e) decision on admission to the doctoral academic study program;
- f) the doctoral academic study contract and the addenda, as appropriate. Personal data, except for name, will not be publicly visible;
- g) request signed by the doctoral student, registered with the doctoral school, regarding the initiation of the thesis evaluation procedures by the guidance commission, approved by the doctoral supervisor, for pre-defense;
- h) Scanned copy of the statement signed by the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor regarding the responsibility for ensuring the originality of the content of the doctoral thesis, as well as compliance with quality standards and professional ethics, according to art. 143 para. (4) and Art. 170 of the National Education Law nr. 1/2011, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and art. 65 para. (5) - (7) of the Code of doctoral academic studies, approved by Government Decision nr. 681/2011, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- i) at least one similarity report that will include the resolution of the doctoral supervisor and, where appropriate, of other persons who analyzed the report;
- j) report prepared by the doctoral school, preliminary to the public defense of the thesis, and documents certifying the course of the study program;
- k) proposition of the composition of the public defense committee, formulated by the doctoral supervisor and approved by CSUD;

- l) CVs of members of the public defense committee;
- m) decision appointing the public defense committee;
- n) request for setting the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and the president of the defense committee, submitted to the secretariat of the doctoral school at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date of defense;
- o) announcement for public defense, drawn up by the doctoral school at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date for defense;
- p) certificate regarding the submission of a printed copy of the doctoral thesis to the library;
- q) reports of official reviewers, members of the doctoral committee, signed by them, in the form of scanned copies or electronically signed documents;
- r) acceptance report from the doctoral supervisor;
- s) the opinion of the guidance commission in order to submit the doctoral thesis to the secretariat of the doctoral school;
- t) the minutes of the public defense of the doctoral thesis and the annex with questions and answers, containing the proposal for granting the doctoral title, signed by all members of the doctoral committee, in the form of a scanned copy or an electronically signed document or, as the case may be, the full audio recording of the public defense of the doctoral thesis, which must be accompanied by an address certifying the duration of the registration and its good preservation (optional);
- u) summary of the doctoral thesis;
- v) doctoral thesis and its annexes, in electronic format;
- w) list of publications resulting from scientific research in the doctoral study program, published or accepted for publication, if applicable, and scanned copies of those publications;
- x) statement of the doctoral student regarding his/her options regarding the publication of the doctoral thesis;
- y) IOSUD's request to enter the evaluation procedure at CNATDCU level of the doctoral thesis, registered at MENÇS.

(27) In order to carry out the evaluation procedures of doctoral theses, IOSUD have the obligation to constitute the file of each doctoral student in electronic format. The file is submitted to CNATDCU through the national platform. The file is uploaded to the platform within a maximum of 30 days from the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis.

(28) The file uploaded to the national platform shall be electronically signed by the legal representative of IOSUD or by a person delegated by him/ her.

(29) By the signature provided for in para. 1, the signatory undertakes responsibility for the compliance with the original of the documents included in the dossier, as well as for ensuring that the information uploaded to the national platform is correct and complete. public of the doctoral thesis and is part of the doctoral file.

(30) Within 90 calendar days from the receipt of the doctoral file, CNATDCU issues a compliant opinion regarding the observance of the administrative procedure carried out at IOSUD level and the observance of the minimum criteria for awarding the doctoral degree. The administrative procedure includes as a distinct step the verification of the declaration of originality of the work and the analysis of the degree of similarity.

(31) Within 30 calendar days from receipt of the assent, the higher education institution shall issue the decision on granting the doctoral degree, signed by the rector, shall draw up and issue the doctoral diploma.

(32) If CNATDCU invalidate the process of validation of the doctoral thesis, IOSUD receives from CNATDCU a written motivation for invalidation, and the file may be resubmitted to CNATDCU for reevaluation after remedying the reasons underlying the invalidation, according to the procedure provided in para. (7).

(33) In case of failure to meet the minimum standards necessary for granting the doctoral degree, the doctoral committee will specify the elements to be reworked or completed in the doctoral

thesis and will request a new public defense of the thesis. The second public defense of the thesis takes place in front of the same doctoral committee as in the case of the first defense. If the minimum standards are not met at the second public defense, the doctoral diploma will not be awarded, and the doctoral student will be expelled.

(34) If CNATDCU decides that the administrative procedure carried out at IOSUD level did not comply with the provisions of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, the doctoral file will be sent back to IOSUD for reanalysis and completion. It can be resubmitted to CNATDCU for a new analysis.

(35) The name and surname of the doctoral thesis holder, the name and surname of the doctoral supervisor, respectively the name and surname of the members of the doctoral committee are made public. The doctoral thesis is a public document. It shall also be written in digital format. In the field of arts, the doctoral thesis may be accompanied by the digital recording of the original artistic creation. The doctoral thesis and its annexes will be available for consultation for 90 calendar days, before public defense, on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI, in accordance with the legal provisions in force in the field of copyright. After the issuance of the doctoral degree, the doctoral thesis, in printed format, is archived at the library of the higher education institution, with a permanent term.

(36) During the period when the doctoral thesis is in transparency, before the public defense, any natural or legal person may comment on the existence of deviations from the standards of ethics and professional deontology, including from the perspective of plagiarism. Observations can be submitted online or at the registry of the higher education institution where the presentation takes place. The observations are recorded in a report that will be sent to IOSUD for analysis and decision in order to validate the support of UEFISCDI, including after issuing the decision to award the doctoral degree. The thesis will be awarded a copyright protection license.

(37) If the doctoral student opts for the distinct publication of the doctoral thesis or of some chapters thereof, he/she receives a grace period of maximum 24 months for this publication, during which the doctoral thesis, in digital format, becomes inaccessible to the public. After the expiration of the grace period, if no notification regarding the distinct publication of the thesis has been uploaded to the platform managed by UEFISCDI, the document in digital format automatically becomes freely accessible, with the assignment of a copyright protection license.

(38) After publishing the thesis or some chapters thereof, the author has the obligation to notify IOSUD of this fact and to send the bibliographic indication and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI.

(39) After the decision to award the doctoral degree, within maximum 180 days, IOSUD has the obligation to transmit to the National Library of Romania a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes, according to Law no. 111/1995 on the Legal Deposit of Documents, republished, copy for the Intangible Fund, as well as a digital copy thereof, on electronic support, intended for consultation on request, at the headquarters of the National Library of Romania, by any interested person, in compliance with the legal regulations in force.

(40) IOSUD has the obligation to develop and adopt regulations regarding the quality standards to be observed in the elaboration of the doctoral thesis.

(41) Non-compliance with the rules of professional ethics or for the existence of plagiarism may entail public liability of IOSUD.

ART 14. DRAFTING OF DOCTORAL THESIS

(1) The doctoral thesis must be the result of one's own scientific research activity and contain original results in the field of scientific knowledge.

(2) The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and undertakes the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as the opinions and demonstrations expressed in the thesis. It is mandatory to mention the source for any taken material.

(3) The doctoral supervisors are responsible, together with the doctoral students, for observing the quality standards and professional ethics, including ensuring the originality of the content.

(4) In order to standardize the institution, the Doctoral School elaborates a guide for drafting the doctoral thesis, specifying elements such as: the formal structure of the thesis, the minimum number of pages, referrals to bibliographic references, formal editing requirements, etc.

(5) The thesis writing guide is an integral part of the Doctoral School Regulation (Annex 1. Guide for writing and presenting the doctoral thesis).

(6) Doctoral theses (including annexes) and their abstracts shall also be written in digital format.

(7) The title of the doctoral thesis may be modified at the free choice of the doctoral student until the moment of handing over the doctoral thesis for the specialized evaluation provided

After the agreements for the public defense of the doctoral thesis (in which the title of the doctoral thesis is mandatory) have been given by the doctoral supervisor and the members of the guidance commission, the title of the doctoral thesis can no longer be modified

Art. 14. Conferring the title of doctor

(1) The conferring of the doctorate title is done by order of the Minister of Education and Research, after the validation of the thesis by CNATDCU.

(2) The specialized department of MENCŞ submits the approval order to IOSUD, accompanied by the summary evaluation report of the thesis, within 15 working days from the issuance of the order.

(3) If the evaluation committee has established the invalidation of the doctoral thesis, the president of CNATDCU issues the decision to invalidate the thesis. The invalidation decision, accompanied by the synthetic evaluation report, is sent to MENCŞ in order to communicate it to IOSUD/IOD, according to art. 168 para. (8) from Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions.

(4) If the CNATDCU issues a decision of invalidation after the evaluation of a thesis retransmitted to the CNATDCU according to the provisions of art. 168 para. (8) from Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, CNATDCU proposes to the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research not to award the doctorate. In this case, the minister of national education and scientific research issues an order not to grant the title.

(5) The awarding order, respectively the non-granting of the doctorate, as well as the decision to invalidate the thesis can be challenged within 15 working days from the date of communication to IOSUD/IOD. The appeal is officially registered at MENCŞ and forwarded to UEFISCDI, in order to carry out the appeals procedure, provided by this methodology.

(6) The doctor's diploma is drawn up by the UVVG at the diploma issuing office, based on the Minister's Order. The date of acquiring the doctorate, written on the diploma, is the date of the public defense of the doctoral thesis.

(7) The qualification obtained by the doctoral student, namely "Excellent", "Very good", "Good" or "Satisfactory", will be written on the doctor's diploma. Also, a mention in Latin will be written on the doctor's diploma, as follows:

- for the qualification "Excellent" the mention "Summa cum laude" is entered;
- for the qualification "Very good" enter the mention "Magna cum laude";
- for the qualification "Good" enter the mention "Cum laude".

(8) The handing over of the doctorate degree is done by the Rector of the University and the Director of the CSUD in a public meeting of the UVVG Senate, to which both the doctoral supervisors of the doctoral students who receive the diploma and the doctoral title, as well as the other doctoral supervisors of the School, are invited.

Art.15. Organization of joint doctoral studies

(1) Doctoral studies may also be organized jointly at national or international levels. In this case, the doctoral student carries out his/her activity under the concomitant guidance of a UVVG doctoral supervisor.

(2) Two doctoral supervisors may simultaneously guide the activity of the same doctoral student only within joint doctoral supervision, a situation regulated by normative acts in force.

(3) The second doctoral supervisor may be tenured at a UVVG doctoral school or at any IOSUD in the country or abroad. If it is from UVVG, the doctoral conducting field of the second must have a specialization different from that of the main supervisor.

(4) If both doctoral supervisors work in UVVG, a joint doctoral agreement shall be concluded between them, with the approval of the two doctoral schools, which shall be approved by the CSUD director. This agreement establishes the responsibilities of each doctoral supervisor.

(5) The agreement on joint organization of doctoral studies at different universities includes the requirements/responsibilities of organizing and conducting doctoral academic studies in each of the two doctoral institutions/schools involved, including their financial obligations, in accordance with their joint role in the advanced academic training program and the scientific research program of the joint doctoral student.

(6) The doctoral student is fully accounted for by the main doctoral supervisor, including the norming of the guidance/research activity of this supervisor in the job description.

(7) The agreements shall stipulate the mutual recognition of the doctoral title by the competent authorities in Romania and in the country of the partner university, in accordance with the legal provisions of each country.

Art 16. Competences provided by doctoral academic studies

(1) The doctoral academic study programs ensure the formation of professional skills (content, cognitive and research) in specialized fields, as well as transversal skills.

2. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following field-specific skills shall be qualified as professional skills:

- advanced knowledge in the field;
- the ability to identify, formulate and solve research problems;
- mastering methods and advanced research techniques;
- knowledge of research project management;
- mastering new procedures and solutions in research;
- documentation skills, elaboration and valorization of scientific works;
- language skills at an academic level in international languages necessary for the documentation and elaboration of scientific papers;
- understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics in the respective field.

3. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following shall be considered as transversal competences:

- written and oral communication skills in science and culture;
- advanced language skills in international languages;
- the use of information and communication technology;
- interpersonal and teamwork skills;
- knowledge of human, material and financial resource management;
- leadership qualities;
- knowledge regarding career management, as well as the acquisition of techniques regarding job search and job creation for others;
- knowledge of risk, crisis and failure management;
- knowledge regarding the use of legislation in the field of intellectual property rights;
- economic, technological and social entrepreneurship capacities.

CHAPTER IV. Doctoral supervisor and guidance commission

Art.17. Doctoral supervisor

(1) Persons who obtained the right of doctoral supervision prior to the date of entry into force of Law 199/2023, as well as persons who obtain the habilitation certificate and become members of an SDB of IOSUD-UVVG, based on an individual employment contract, after the opinion of CSD and CSUD and decisions of the UVVG Senate and the Board of Directors, may be doctoral supervisors in SDB.

(2) The doctoral supervisor holding SDB does not have the right to simultaneously conduct doctorates at other IOSUD in Romania, except for joint doctorates.

(3) The right to carry out the activity of doctoral management may be realized only in the field for which this quality was conferred and may simultaneously guide doctoral students only in one IOSUD, except for doctorates conducted jointly.

(4) A doctoral supervisor may simultaneously guide 8 doctoral students in SDB. Exceptionally, up to a maximum of 12 doctoral students/ supervisor may be guided only with the approval of the university senate, but not for more than 20% of doctoral supervisors in a doctoral school.

(5) For the activity they carry out in this capacity, doctoral supervisors are remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force.

(6) If the doctoral supervisor wishes to carry out his/her doctoral management activity within another IOSUD/IOD that organizes doctoral studies in the respective field, this can be done with the approval of the two university senates/Presidium of the Romanian Academy. The application is addressed to the rector of the university / president of the Romanian Academy and must be endorsed by the director of the Council for Doctoral Academic Studies (CSUD). The agreement of the two institutions (IOSUD/IOD) is expressed on the application submitted by the doctoral supervisor, through the approval of the CSUD director and with the approval of the rector of the university/president of the Romanian Academy.

(7) The approval regarding the carrying out of the doctoral management activity within another IOSUD/IOD than the one in which he/she was conferred the quality of doctoral supervisor requires clarification of the situation of doctoral students between the two institutions involved (IOSUD/IOD) and the conclusion of an individual employment contract with IOSUD/IOD where he/she will carry out his/her activity.

(8) The Senate's decision approving the doctoral management activity within another IOSUD/IOD shall be officially communicated to the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.

(9) The doctoral supervisor has the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. is responsible for the professional path of the doctoral student and for the success of the doctoral program carried out by him;
- b. performs doctoral supervision tasks, as well as scientific research activities associated with doctoral programs, at the highest quality level;
- c. signs the doctoral academic study contract and undertakes the rights and responsibilities deriving from it;
- d. signs the monthly report and timesheet for full-time doctoral students on scholarship, under his/her responsibility during his/her entire doctoral program;
- e. supervises scientific research programs, topics and bibliographies for all teaching activities included in the job structure;
- f. responds to doctoral students' requests for guidance during the doctoral program;
- g. ensures compliance with methodological and deontological requirements regarding the evaluation of doctoral students;

- h. participates in the scientific research activity carried out by doctoral students;
- i. ensures the involvement of doctoral students in research projects which he is responsible for;
- j. report to the secretariat the results obtained by doctoral students in examinations and research reports;
- k. participates in the defense of research reports and doctoral thesis in the department;
- l. proposes the expulsion of doctoral students who do not fulfill their professional obligations or who do not comply with the ethics and deontology criteria corresponding to doctoral academic studies;
- m. complies with all other obligations stipulated in the internal regulations of the university related to doctoral studies.

(10) The doctoral supervisor has the right to declare unadmitted to the competition organized by SDB, on the places allocated to him, the candidate who proposes a topic of the doctoral thesis that is not included in his/ her current research program, that is not of interest and importance from a scientific point of view and/or for which the necessary material conditions are not constituted in SDB, adequate to the completion of the research program. For the same reasons, the doctoral supervisor has the right to refuse to take over a doctoral student from another doctoral supervisor. The exercise of these rights may not be censored by any academic authority.

Art. 18. Guidance commission

(1) In order to carry out the doctoral degree, the doctoral student is supported by a guidance commission, consisting of 3 other members who may be part of the research team of the doctoral supervisor, of other persons affiliated to the doctoral school or of teaching and research staff not affiliated to it, who have the scientific title of doctor and at least the position of university lecturer or scientific researcher degree III.

(2) The composition of the guidance commission is established by the doctoral supervisor following consultation with the doctoral student and is mentioned in the Individual Doctoral Study Plan, an integral part of the Doctoral Academic Study Contract.

(3) The activity of doctoral supervisors, members of the guidance commission and members of doctoral committees shall be regulated according to the job descriptions.

(4) The nominal composition of the guidance commission may change during doctoral studies, only for good reasons.

Art. 19. Acceptance of new scientific supervisors

(1) The acceptance of new doctoral supervisors is made by order of the Minister of Education and Scientific Research, at the proposal of CNATDCU to grant the habilitation certificate, in accordance with the legal provisions in force.

(2) The new doctoral supervisors within SDB automatically become members of SDB. The UVVG Senate confers membership of SDB and consequently establishes the right to conduct doctoral supervision activity within SDB.

(3) In order to conduct doctorates at UVVG, persons who have acquired this right must have an employment contract for an indefinite or determined period with UVVG. Upon termination of the employment contract between the doctoral supervisor and UVVG, he/she loses his/her quality of doctoral supervisor. The doctoral students of the respective supervisor are reassigned to other doctoral supervisors from SDB.

Art. 20. Number of guided students

(1) A doctoral supervisor may simultaneously guide doctoral students only in one IOSUD, except for joint doctoral studies.

- (2) A doctoral supervisor may simultaneously guide 8 doctoral students. Exceptionally, up to a maximum of 12 doctoral students/ supervisor may be guided only with the approval of the university senate, but not for more than 20% of doctoral supervisors in a doctoral school.
- (3) For the activity they carry out in this capacity, doctoral supervisors are remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force.

Art. 21. Withdrawal of the quality of doctoral supervisor

- (1) The withdrawal of the quality of doctoral supervisor can be made only by the bodies that granted this quality to the respective doctoral supervisor.
- (2) The withdrawal of the quality of doctoral supervisor entails the withdrawal of the membership of the Doctoral School by the UVVG Senate.
- (3) The withdrawal of the membership of SDB doctoral supervisors may be triggered at the initiative of the doctoral supervisor or at the initiative of the SDB council. The doctoral supervisor may ask by written request, addressed to the SDB Council, the withdrawal from the Doctoral School on his/her own initiative.
- (4) The SDB Council may initiate the procedure for withdrawing the full membership of a doctoral supervisor, as a result of the following situations: a. results below the minimum standards of his/her activity in the doctoral school, ascertained through internal or external evaluation procedures b. at the written request of the doctoral supervisor by which he/she renounces this quality for good reasons (retirement, age, illness, etc.) c. identification of situations of incompatibility provided by law c. plagiarism or committing other serious deviations sanctioned by the legislation in force.
- (5) SDB has the responsibility of reassigning the supervision of the ongoing doctorates under the coordination of the doctoral supervisor who has been withdrawn from tenure, so that the doctoral theses are completed in optimal conditions.

CHAPTER V. Doctoral students

Art. 22. Rights and duties of doctoral students

- (1) The person admitted to a doctoral academic study program has the quality of doctoral student throughout the period of his/her presence in that program, from enrollment to graduation of the study program or to expulsion, except during periods of interruption of studies, but including any extensions granted by the university senate.
- (2) Doctoral students may be employed by the higher education institution as research assistants or university assistants for a fixed term.
- (3) Throughout the activity, the doctoral student shall benefit from the recognition of seniority in work and specialty, as well as from free biological and dental assistance under the conditions provided by Law no. 95/2006 on health reform, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions, and by the framework contract, without payment of mandatory social contributions regulated by Law no. 227/2015 regarding the Fiscal Code, with subsequent amendments and completions.
- (4) The doctoral student may carry out paid teaching activities, within the limit of the norm of university assistant, in accordance with the legislation in force.
- (5) The period of doctoral studies is assimilated, according to the legislation in the field of pensions, for establishing the contribution period.
- (6) The quality of doctoral student ceases upon granting the title of doctor or upon issuing the expulsion order.
- (7) Doctoral students are enrolled in the doctoral program on a fee or scholarship basis and on a part-time fee basis.

(8) Throughout the activity, the doctoral student from the form of full-time education benefits from the recognition of seniority in work and specialty and free biological assistance, without payment of contributions to state social insurance, unemployment insurance, social health insurance and for accidents at work and occupational diseases (art. 164 of LEN no.1/2011).

(9) The doctoral student is under the authority of the doctoral supervisor (or of both doctoral supervisors, in case of joint doctoral supervisors) - assisted by the guidance commission - as well as of the SDB board and director, throughout the doctoral research stage.

(10) The didactic activity in the doctoral student's advanced study program is under the authority of the course / discipline holder, as well as of the SDB board and director.

(11) The doctoral student must achieve at least 60 transferable credit points / year, as a result of attending the program based on SDB advanced academic studies and the research program. In case of transfer, recognition of the activities of the Scientific Master's Degree affiliated to SDB or other justified cases, the credit points obtained within other doctoral programs, in the country or abroad, can be equated, with the approval of the SDB council.

(12) Doctoral students enrolled in the full-time form on a fee basis or scholarships may carry out teaching activities (laboratory work and seminars, bachelor's or master's level), within the limit of 4-6 teaching hours per week, according to the doctoral academic study contract, to the extent that there are hours available, and they are requested in this regard. Teaching activities exceeding this level will be remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force, falling under the incidence of the Labor Code, in compliance with the rights and duties of the employee and with the payment of due contributions, according to the law, to state social insurance, unemployment insurance, social health insurance and for accidents at work and occupational diseases.

(13) At the written proposal of the doctoral supervisor, the change of doctoral topic shall be endorsed by the CSD, CSUD and approved by the Senate.

(14) In the case of inter-university joint doctoral studies, the change of the title of the doctoral thesis is made with the approval of the partner universities, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement on joint organization of doctoral academic studies.

(15) The title of the doctoral thesis may be modified by the doctoral student (with the approval of the doctoral supervisor) until the public defense agreement given by the doctoral supervisor and the members of the guidance commission is obtained. After their written agreement, the title of the doctoral thesis can no longer be modified.

(16) The doctoral student may request that the activities of the doctoral study program be carried out in an international language if the doctoral student is not a Romanian citizen, is not a Romanian speaker and has not participated in studies conducted in Romanian. This must constitute a separate clause of the doctoral academic study contract.

(17) The activity program of the doctoral student in full-time regime within SDB is at least 4 hours / day or 20 hours cumulative / week in the department / laboratory / research unit which the doctoral supervisor belongs to, with the mention that in the first year the presence in the training program based on advanced university studies is at least 80%, detailed in agreement with the doctoral supervisor. In the case of part-time doctoral students and fee-paying education: 10 hours cumulatively/week in the department/laboratory/research unit to which the doctoral supervisor belongs, with the mention that in the first year the presence in the training program based on advanced university studies is at least 50%; depending on the specifics of the topic addressed, the doctoral supervisor may develop a flexible program for the doctoral student, which includes activities in other laboratories / centers / institutes of UVVG or outside it, study in libraries, training stages in other research institutes in the country or abroad, trips for field investigations, trips to scientific events in the country or abroad, etc.

(18) The doctoral supervisor has the obligation to confirm the daily presence of doctoral students in the full-time form and scholarship by approving the monthly report and timesheet. If the doctoral student does not fulfill the frequency obligations, the doctoral

supervisor may notify the doctoral school and may propose the penalty of the doctoral student by interrupting the granting of the scholarship for a determined period, written warning or may propose his/her expulsion.

(19) The publication obligations are contained in the criteria developed by the CSD and approved by CSUD and condition the award of the final grade when defending the thesis. These obligations are contained in the research plan, an integral part of the doctoral study contract.

(20) During doctoral studies (less any interruption periods and possible grace period), the doctoral student has the right to:

- a) to be informed about the doctoral academic study program in which he/she was enrolled;
- b) to participate in drawing up the individual plan of doctoral academic studies;
- c) to benefit from the support, guidance and coordination of the doctoral supervisor and of the guidance commission;
- d) request the CSD, on duly justified grounds, to change his/ her doctoral supervisor;
- e) to participate in the meetings or seminars of the department / research team, to which his/her doctoral supervisor belongs, when topics relevant to doctoral academic studies are discussed;
- f) to be represented in the decision-making bodies of the doctoral school and in the CSUD, according to the provisions of the doctoral school regulation and the CSUD regulation;
- g) to benefit from UVVG logistic, documentation centers, libraries and equipment for its preparation and for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis;
- h) to work, with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor, in research teams within UVVG or within research and development units that have concluded agreements or institutional partnerships with UVVG;
- i) to carry out joint doctoral training, based on an agreement concluded and signed by the involved parties;
- j) to benefit from national or international mobility;
- k) to benefit from institutional support to participate, in the country or abroad, in scientific events, workshops and summer/winter schools in the doctoral field in which he/she chose the topic of his/her doctoral thesis;
- l) to get involved in any other professional activities, at the request of the doctoral supervisor or doctoral school;
- m) to carry out didactic activities

(21) After defending the doctoral thesis, IOSUD issues a certificate attesting the period during which the doctoral student attended doctoral studies.

Art. 23. Extension and interruption of the doctoral program

(1) The extension of the doctoral program by 1-2 years will be granted based on an application submitted by the doctoral student with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor, endorsed by the SDB Director and CSUD and approved by the Senate, when the topic addressed requires a longer period of study or experimentation. The extension of the doctoral study program will be achieved by drawing up an addendum to the doctoral study contract, based on the Senate Decision.

(2) Any interruption of the doctoral studies must begin on the first day of an academic semester and end on the last day of an academic semester, in order for that interruption period to comprise a whole number of academic semesters;

(3) During the extension period of the doctoral program, doctoral students on a full-time and scholarship basis will no longer benefit from this facility, this being granted only during the four years of doctoral studies.

(4) Doctoral studies may be interrupted at the request of the doctoral student, for good reasons, with the approval of the Doctoral School, CSUD and the Senate. In this case, the duration of doctoral studies is increased by the cumulative periods of interruptions, which may not exceed two years. The interruptions of the doctoral academic study program will be made on the basis of an addendum to the doctoral academic study contract.

(5) Starting with the 2019-2020 academic year, applications for the granting of interruption periods can be submitted and approved before the start of the academic year, between September 1-30, the interruption starting on October 1 of the respective year. In exceptional circumstances, these interruptions can be approved during the academic year

(6) The exceptional reasons for which the interruption of the doctoral program may be requested during the academic year may be:

- a. the death of the doctoral supervisor or his/her impossibility to conduct doctoral studies and the impossibility of the Doctoral School to replace the supervisor;
- b. prenatal and postnatal leave;
- c. case of illness or accident, confirmed by documents certifying hospitalization or biological exemption;

(7) If the doctoral student fails to complete the thesis within the term established according to the doctoral study contract and any addenda thereto, the doctoral student has a grace period of maximum 2 years to finalize and publicly defend the thesis, exceeding this term automatically leading to his expulsion.

(8) The submission to the IOSUD secretariat of any request related to the situation of the doctoral student (interruption of the doctorate, extension of the doctorate, change of doctoral supervisor, change of a subject in the training program based on advanced academic studies) shall be made at least 10 days before the date from which, in case of approval, the respective request would take effect.

Art.24. Expulsion from doctoral studies

(1) Doctoral students may be expelled by decision of the Rector, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, with the approval of the Doctoral School, in the following situations:

- a. for failure to fulfil professional obligations for more than 12 months;
- b. for infrequency for more than 6 months, excluding periods of interruption;
- c. for serious violations of the code of professional ethics, including plagiarism;
- d. for damage to UVVG infrastructure, especially research equipment;
- e. for non-payment of the doctoral fee if this obligation is stipulated in the contract of doctoral academic studies signed by the doctoral student;
- f. for non-compliance with the clauses of the doctoral academic study contract.

(2) The Secretariat of the Doctoral School has the obligation to issue a written warning, signed by the Director of the Doctoral School, which will be sent to the doctoral student and to the doctoral supervisor.

Art 25. Mobility and change of doctoral supervisor

(1) If the student requests to change of doctoral supervisor within the same doctoral school of IOSUD-UVVG, this will be done with the agreement of both doctoral supervisors, without affecting the research program. The change of doctoral supervisor is endorsed by the Doctoral School and CSUD and approved by the Senate.

(2) The doctoral supervisor who accepts the reassignment of a doctoral student in internship has the responsibility to establish the composition of the new doctoral student's guidance commission within 30 days from the CSUD decision.

(3) In case **of death of the doctoral supervisor, withdrawal of the right to lead doctoral students or if it is unavailable for more than one year** corroborated with the impossibility of the Doctoral School to provide another doctoral supervisor in the respective field, doctoral students may request the change of doctoral supervisor to another Doctoral School within another IOSUD, who has a doctoral supervisor available in the field approached by the doctoral student.

(4) The change of doctoral supervisor from one IOSUD to another can be done only within the same doctoral field, with the consent of the management/rectors of the two institutions, after obtaining the opinion of the doctoral supervisor, the director of the doctoral schools involved and the director of the CSUD of the two institutions.

(5) The mobility of doctoral students can be facilitated by the SDB also through:

a) conclusion of institutional agreements or partnerships, approved by the doctoral school council;

b) joint doctoral research;

c) exchanges of doctoral students and teaching and research staff with internationally recognized universities;

d) participation in international consortia, aiming to include doctoral research topics in international scientific projects.

(6) The quality of doctoral student is maintained during internal and international mobility.

(7) The mobility of doctoral students will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Order no. 651/2014 approving the Methodology on academic mobility of students.

CHAPTER VI. Standardization of activities within the doctoral program

Art.26. SDB staff structure

(1) SDB consists of the following categories of personnel: a. doctoral supervisors, b. affiliated academics and affiliated researchers, c. doctoral students, d. guidance commissions and e. secretariat of the doctoral school.

(2) Affiliated teachers or researchers affiliated to SDB do not conduct doctorates in this school but carry out teaching and research activities provided for in the doctoral academic study program and the Scientific Master's Degree affiliated to SDB.

(3) The teaching and research staff affiliated to the doctoral school carry out teaching and research activities provided for in the study program of the doctoral and master school. Courses can be held only by university professors or CS I, seminars and laboratory works can be led by associate professors and CS II and lecturers can be co-opted in guidance commissions.

(4) The co-optation of affiliated teachers and researchers shall be carried out at the proposition of the doctoral supervisors, with the consent of those concerned, with the endorsement of the SDB Council, CSUD, the approval of the Senate and the Board of Directors.

(5) The SDB Council may withdraw the quality of affiliated instructor or researcher following the request by written request of the concerned person, retirement, failure to fulfill the assumed obligations or as a result of misconduct.

(6) SDB may employ, for a fixed period, auxiliary teaching staff, research staff and technical/administrative staff, if the funding corresponding to the positions is ensured.

Art 27. Standardization of the activity of doctoral supervisors and affiliated academics or researchers

(1) The tenured doctoral supervisor of SDB is standardized according to the didactic / scientific degree, the minimum amount of conventional hours of the norm being 7 hours (professor / CS I), 8 hours (associate professor / CS II) and 10 hours (lecturer / CS III).

(2) The doctoral management is standardized with 0.5 conventional hours (average weekly norm) for each doctoral student who drafts the thesis in Romanian and with 0.75 hours

(0.5 x 1.5) for each doctoral student who drafts the thesis in an international language, during the entire doctoral internship.

(3) The courses and laboratory/seminar works, provided for in the advanced academic study program, shall be standardized with 2.5 conventional hours of physical class in Romanian and with 3.75 conventional hours (2.5 x 1.5) hour of course in an international language, respectively 1.5 conventional hours one physical hour of laboratory work/seminar in Romanian and 2.25 conventional hours of papers/seminar in an international language.

Art 28. Standardization of the activity of the guidance commission

(1) The members of the guidance commissions are standardized with 0.2 conventional hours (weekly average time) / guided doctoral student, for the II-IV years of the doctoral program, for each doctoral student guided during the internship period and are remunerated accordingly, in accordance with the provisions of the law. During legally approved interruption periods, but also outside the doctoral program internship, the activity of the guidance commission is not standardized.

Art 29. Standardization of the activity of the doctoral committee

(1) The members of the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses, appointed by order of the director of CSUD of UVVG, are remunerated for the performed activity, on an hourly basis and at the level of the didactic / scientific degree, as follows: president – 4 conventional hours, doctoral supervisor – 12 conventional hours, reviewers – 10 conventional hours.

Art.30. Standardization of the activity of doctoral students

(1) The teaching activity of doctoral students admitted to the full-time may be standardized in the job descriptions, similar to the norming of university assistants with up to 6 conventional hours per week. Hours exceeding this amount are passed in the job description of the faculty department.

(2) Doctoral students admitted to the full-time and scholarship form have the obligation to carry out teaching and / or research activities indicated by the doctoral supervisor in the amount of up to 6 conventional hours per week in the account of the scholarship granted by UVVG. Additional teaching activities exceeding 6 conventional hours will be remunerated accordingly on an hourly basis.

(3) IOSUD UVVG is not obliged to employ doctoral students from part-time education as research assistants or university assistants, for a fixed term.

Art 31. Jobs descriptions

(1) The Director of the Doctoral School shall draw up the Jobs descriptions sheet.

(2) The standardization of activities in the Jobs descriptions sheet is based on the number of active doctoral students (excluding doctoral students in legal interruption of doctoral internship, expelled, etc.), evaluated at the beginning of October of each academic year.

(3) In the case of joint doctorates, regardless of the type and basis of the joint doctoral studies, only the activity of the main doctoral supervisor shall be standardized.

(4) The activities normed in the SDB Jobs descriptions sheet are remunerated on an hourly basis, except for the situation when the tenured doctoral supervisor has the full time within the doctoral school.

(5) The Jobs descriptions sheet shall be signed by the Director of SDB and endorsed at a meeting by the Council.

(6) Extracts from the Jobs descriptions sheet are transmitted to UVVG departments that are composed of doctoral supervisors and guidance commissions before the beginning of the academic year.

CHAPTER VII. Financing

Art.32. Types of financing

(1) At SDB - IOSUD UVVG, the financing of doctoral studies is carried out mainly on a fee basis or other legally constituted fees. The financing of doctoral studies can also be carried out by private or public legal entities, based on a contract. The model contract is drawn up by the doctoral school and is endorsed by CSD and CSUD and approved by the Board of Directors.

Art 33. Scholarships

(1) At IOSUD – UVVG, the financing of doctoral studies is also achieved by granting scholarships granted by UVVG to doctoral students enrolled full-time, on a competitive basis.

(2) UVVG scholarships are awarded following a selection process coordinated by CSUD and endorsed by the Board of Directors, which establishes in advance the number and amount of scholarships awarded;

(3) The grant requirements and the evaluation methodology and the selection results for the UVVG scholarship competition are approved by the Senate and the Board of Directors; The scholarship is granted only during the doctoral program, not during the extension or grace periods.

(4) In order to participate in the UVVG grant competition, doctoral supervisors will send project proposals to CSUD that will contain at least the following types of information:

- a) curriculum vitae and list of scientific works of the doctoral supervisor;
 - b) specific information regarding the number, stage and research topics of doctoral students under the coordination of the doctoral supervisor at the date of submission of the project;
 - c) the topic of the doctoral student for each individual doctoral grant requested or for a set of requested doctoral grants, in the form of a description of the scientific project in which the doctoral student or doctoral students will be involved; the scientific project may be part of a research project that the doctoral supervisor has in progress;
- (5) Doctoral grants may also be financed from public funds, within a program of the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation, or other national programs, as well as from European funds within international competitions, according to the methodologies specific to these competitions.

CHAPTER VIII. Conflict mediation

Art.34. Commission for conflict mediation

(1) The Conflict Mediation Commission is normally composed of the members of the Doctoral School Council. To the extent that the Doctoral School Council deems it necessary, it may invite external members to be part of the mediation commission.

(2) If a member of the Doctoral School Council is involved in a conflict, he/she cannot be part of the mediation commission of that conflict.

(3) Conflict mediation is done through dialogue, usually by inviting the parties before the Doctoral School Council.

(4) The disagreements between the doctoral student and SDB shall be mediated by CSUD.

CHAPTER IX

Solving complaints regarding non-compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including the existence of plagiarism, within a doctoral thesis

Art. 35.

(1) Deviations from the norms of ethics and deontology in teaching and university research include:

a) manufacturing results or data and presenting them as experimental data, as data obtained by numerical calculations or simulations on the computer or as data or results obtained by analytical calculations or deductive reasoning;

b) falsification of experimental data, data obtained by numerical calculations or simulations on computer or data or results obtained by analytical calculations or deductive reasoning;

c) deliberately hindering, preventing or sabotaging the teaching or research activity of other persons, including by unjustifiably blocking access to university research areas, by damaging, destroying or manipulating experimental equipment, machines, documents, computer programs, data in electronic format, organic or inorganic substances or living matter necessary for other persons to carry out, carrying out or completing teaching or research activities;

d) violation of the legal regime of conflict of interests and incompatibilities provided for in Article 170 and non-disclosure of situations of conflicts of interest or incompatibilities in the evaluation activity;

e) non-observance of confidentiality in the assessment;

f) discrimination, in assessments, on the criteria referred to in Article 2 para. (1) of Government Ordinance nr. 137/2000, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions;

g) evaluation fraud;

h) plagiarism;

i) failure to comply with the legal provisions and procedures regarding academic ethics and deontology provided for in this law and in the codes of ethics and academic deontology, which are part of the university charter, as the case may be, including failure to implement sanctions established by university ethics commissions, CNATDCU or CNEMU;

(2) Deviations from the norms of ethics and deontology in the activity of communication, publication, dissemination and scientific popularization include:

a) inclusion in the list of authors of a scientific publication of a person without his/her consent;

b) unauthorized publication or dissemination by authors of unpublished results, hypotheses, theories or scientific methods;

c) introducing false information in grant or funding applications, in application files for habilitation, for teaching or research positions.

(3) Deviations from the norms of ethics and deontology in the exercise of duties related to management positions include:

a) violation of the legal regime of public liability;

b) abusive use of office to obtain the quality of author or co-author of publications of subordinate persons;

c) abuse of authority to obtain payroll, remuneration or other material benefits from research and development projects led or coordinated by subordinated persons;

d) abuse of authority to obtain the quality of author or co-author of publications of subordinated persons or to obtain salary, remuneration or other material benefits for spouses, relatives up to and including the third degree;

e) obstructing the activity of a university ethics commission or an analysis commission during the investigation of deviations from academic ethics and deontology;

f) failure to comply with the legal provisions and procedures regarding academic ethics and deontology provided for in this law and in the codes of ethics and university deontology, which

are part of the university charter, as the case may be, including the failure to implement the sanctions established by the university ethics commissions, CNATDCU or CNEMU.

(4) Deviations from the norms of ethics and deontology regarding respect for human beings and dignity are the following and may be supplemented by codes of ethics and academic deontology, which are part of the university charter and include:

a) deviations that harm the protection of the rights of direct beneficiaries of the right to education;

b) deviations that undermine the dignity of the direct beneficiaries of the right to education and the prestige of the profession;

c) irregularities that prejudice the recognition of the profession, of the responsibility and trust conferred by society, as well as of the internal obligations deriving from such trust.

Art. 36

For the purposes of the law, the following terms and expressions shall have the following meaning:

a) *co-author of a publication* - any person nominated in the list of authors of a scientific publication;

b) *production of results or data* - reporting fictitious results or data, which are not the real result of a research and development activity;

c) *falsification of results or data* - selective reporting or rejection of unwanted data or results, manipulation of representations or illustrations, alteration of the experimental or numerical apparatus to obtain the desired data, without reporting the alterations made, in order to distort scientific truth;

d) *plagiarism* - presenting as an allegedly personal creation or scientific contribution in a written work, including in electronic format, texts, ideas, demonstrations, data, theories, results or scientific methods taken from written works, including in electronic format, of other authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources;

e) *self-plagiarism* - republication of substantial parts of one's own previous publications, including translations, without properly indicating or quoting the original.

Art 37

(1) For the purposes of the law, the following situations shall constitute conflict of interest:

a) simultaneous occupation of positions by persons who are in a relationship of spouses, relatives up to and including the third degree, so that each is in a direct position of leadership, control, authority or institutional evaluation at any level in the same higher education institution;

b) participation as a member in doctoral committees, evaluation commissions or competition committees, if the decision affects spouses, relatives or relatives up to and including the third degree;

c) participation in the same commission, established according to the law, of persons who have the status of spouse, relative or affinity up to and including the third degree;

d) participation of a person, who is a member of committees of the Ministry of Education, in analyzing a situation related to the institution to which he belongs as a member of the university community.

(2) In case of a conflict of interests, the teaching or research staff is obliged to cease carrying out any activity provided for in para. (1) letters a) to c) and immediately inform the hierarchical head to whom he/she reports directly. He/ she has to take the necessary measures for the impartial exercise of specific activities, within 3 days from the date of acknowledgment.

(3) In the cases referred to in paragraph 3, (2), at the proposal of the hierarchical head to whom the teaching or research staff is directly subordinated, another person shall be appointed, who has the same training and level of experience.

(4) In case of conflict of interest referred to in para. 1 (d), the person concerned shall be obliged to refrain from taking part in the Commission's decisions on the case concerned by the conflict of interest.

(5) For the purposes of the law, the following situations shall constitute incompatibility:

a) the situation in which a person holds or exercises in cumulation the management positions of rector, vice-rector, dean, vice-dean, head of department or director of research-development,

design or micro-production unit, director of university branch / extension or the position of president of the university senate and a management position provided for in art. 131 para. (2);

b) the situation in which a person holds or exercises one of the leading positions of rector, vice-rector, dean, vice-dean, head of department or director of university branch / extension and is appointed or elected as minister, secretary of state, mayor, deputy mayor or president of the county council;

c) the situation where an authorizing officer of a higher education institution holds or exercises, in parallel, another function as authorizing officer of a central or local public institution;

d) the situation in which a person holds in cumulation the quality of member in the board of directors of the state higher education institution and the quality of associate or shareholder in a commercial company established by the state higher education institution under the conditions of Article 16 para. (1).

(6) The persons in the situation of incompatibility referred to in para. (5) have 15 days to eliminate the situation of incompatibility, including suspension from one of the functions.

Art. 38

(1) Violations of Article 35 of this Regulation shall be verified by university ethics commissions.

(2) Any person may notify the university ethics commission of the higher education institution regarding the commission of an act that may constitute a deviation from academic ethics and deontology. The notification is made in writing or online and is registered at the registry of the educational institution.

(3) All complaints received by the university ethics commission at the level of the higher education institution shall be registered, regardless of whether they are admissible or inadmissible. The registration number will be sent to the petitioners at the mentioned contact address.

(4) Any complaint received by the university ethics commission shall be subject to an admissibility control, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology. All complaints necessarily include a reasoned motivation regarding the non-observance of the rules of ethics and professional deontology, with concrete examples and indicating the supporting considerations and sources of documentation. Other admissibility conditions are established by the Code of Ethics and Professional Deontology. If the complaint does not meet the admissibility criteria, the ethics committee adopts a decision rejecting the complaint as inadmissible.

(5) The University Ethics Commission, at the level of the higher education institution, shall keep confidential the identity of the author of the complaint.

(6) As part of the enquiry procedure provided for in para. (2), the investigated person shall be summoned in writing by the president of the university ethics commission, specifying the object, place, date and time of the meeting. The failure of the investigated person to appear at the convocation made, without an objective reason, communicated in writing, entitles the university ethics commission to continue the investigation in order to solve the complaint.

(7) The members of the university ethics commission have the obligation to analyze objectively, impartially, the notified facts. It is forbidden to express in the university area or outside it any opinion prior to the final resolution establishing the existence of misconduct, regarding the guilt of the investigated person.

(8) The university ethics committees analyze the complaints regarding plagiarism, taking into account the legality conditions in force at the time of drafting the doctoral thesis that was the basis for issuing and awarding the doctoral title, respectively the doctoral degree, without being able to reassess the scientific background of the doctoral thesis.

(9) The verification procedure ends with the adoption of a decision of admission or rejection regarding the substance of the complaint, motivated in fact and in law.

(10) The decision of the university ethics commission represents an administrative act and must explicitly include in its text the facts that led to the sanctioning of the data subject, the legal basis, respectively the considerations for which the university ethics commission rejected the arguments formulated by the author of the complaint.

Art. 39

(1) Based on the decisions of the university ethics commissions, higher education institutions shall apply sanctions to the teaching, auxiliary teaching and research staff, including those with management positions.

(2) The sanctions shall be implemented by decision of the rector.

(3) The types of sanctions provided for violation of the norms of academic ethics and deontology are:

- a) written warning;
- b) withdrawal and/or correction of all published works in violation of the norms of ethics and university deontology;
- c) dismissal from the management position;
- d) prohibition, for a determined period, of access to financing from competitive public funds;
- e) suspension, for a determined period of time between one and 5 years of the right to enroll in a competition for occupying a higher position or a management position or as a member of competition committees;
- f) dismissal from teaching or research positions.

(4) The university ethics commissions, at the level of higher education institutions, shall investigate the existence of deviations from the norms of academic ethics and deontology and shall pronounce within 45 calendar days from the receipt of the notification, by reasoned decision based on a report, which shall be communicated to the investigated person and to the person who formulated the complaint. The decisions of the ethics committees shall be published on the website of the institution within which the ethics committee operates.

(5) Within 30 days of notification, the decision of admission or rejection provided for in Article 38 para. (9) may be challenged before CNATDCU, CNEMU or the National Council for Ethics of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation, as appropriate. CNATDCU or CNEMU, as the case may be, shall pronounce by reasoned decision within 45 calendar days, which shall be communicated to the higher education institution, to the university ethics commission. The National Council for Ethics of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation pronounces itself in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 206/2004 on good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation, with subsequent amendments and completions.

(6) If the decision of CNATDCU or CNEMU, as the case may be, is different from that of the ethics commissions at the level of higher education institutions, it shall be implemented by the higher education institution within 30 calendar days from communication. Failure to implement CNATDCU or CNEMU decisions, as the case may be, represents a violation of public responsibility, sanctioned according to Article 38 para. (5). The final decision shall be communicated to the investigated person and to the person who filed the complaint by CNATDCU or CNEMU, as the case may be, within 10 calendar days from the issuance of the decision. The right to go to court is guaranteed.

(7) If the decision of the university ethics commission is not challenged within the term stipulated in para. (5), this becomes mandatory for the investigated person and for the higher education institution. Within 30 days from the final and mandatory decision of the university ethics commission, it is implemented at the level of the higher education institution, with the opinion provided I. This shall be communicated to the parties concerned.

(8) If the university ethics commission finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis and the decision has not been challenged within the term stipulated in para. (5) or if CNATDCU finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis or no action has been formulated according to para. (6) Within 10 days from the date of communication of the CNADTCU decision, it shall be communicated to the rector who, within maximum 30 days, has the obligation to file administrative litigation action for the annulment of the doctoral diploma for the diplomas awarded by the higher education institution, if the doctoral diploma entered the civil circuit and gave rise to subjective rights guaranteed by law. If the rector does not initiate the action to annul the doctoral diploma, the Ministry of Education formulates its own action in administrative litigation, in order to annul the doctoral diploma and notifies CNEMU.

(9) If the university ethics commission finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis and the decision has not been challenged within the term stipulated in para. (5) or if CNATDCU finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis or no action has been formulated according to para. (6) Within 10 days from the date of communication of the CNATDCU decision, it shall be communicated to the Minister of Education if the doctoral title has been confirmed by order of the Minister. The Ministry of Education shall, within maximum 30 days, file an administrative action to annul the minister's order confirming the doctoral degree, if the order entered the civil circuit and gave rise to subjective rights guaranteed by law.

(10) If the university ethics commission finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis and the decision has not been challenged within the term stipulated in para. (5) or if CNATDCU finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis or no action has been formulated according to para. (6) Within 10 days from the date of communication of the CNATDCU decision, it shall be communicated to the rector, who, within maximum 30 days, shall order the revocation of the doctoral diploma for the diplomas awarded by the higher education institution, if the doctoral diploma did not enter the civil circuit and did not give rise to subjective rights guaranteed by law.

(11) If the university ethics commission finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis and the decision has not been challenged within the term stipulated in para. (5) or if CNATDCU finds the existence of plagiarism within a doctoral thesis or no action has been formulated according to para. (6), it shall be communicated to the Minister of Education if the title of doctor has been confirmed by order of the Minister. The Minister of Education shall, within maximum 30 days, order the revocation of the minister's order confirming the doctoral degree, if he has not entered the civil circuit and has not given rise to subjective rights guaranteed by law.

(12) In case of revocation or annulment of the doctoral degree, within 30 days, the higher education institution shall make the changes in the RUNIDAS platform and in the doctoral thesis administration platform managed by UEFISCDI.

Art.40

Verification and analysis procedures, as well as all referrals and actions brought under this section, shall be subject to the limiting, limitation or prescription periods provided by the law and by the applicable legislation in the matter.

Art. 41

(1) Based on the decisions of the university ethics commissions, higher education institutions shall apply sanctions to students, doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers or other categories of students.

(2) The sanctions shall be implemented by decision of the rector.

(3) The types of sanctions provided for violation of the norms of university ethics and deontology are:

a) written warning;

b) cancellation of evaluation results;

c) expulsion;

d) other sanctions provided by the Code of ethics and deontology of the higher education institution.

(4) In case of non-compliance by the educational institution with the national minimum standards established according to art. 156 para. (1) letter a) provided in Law 199/2023 of the administrative procedures provided for in art. 69 and 71 or the norms of ethics and university deontology in obtaining university documents and titles, the Ministry of Education, based on a report prepared by CNATDCU, may take one or more of the following measures:

a) public warning of the higher education institution on the aspects found;

b) notification to the competent court in order to annul the results of the competition, respectively to cancel the habilitation certificate;

c) notification of the university ethics commission in order to analyze how the employees of the educational institution fulfilled their legal obligations, including reviewers or doctoral supervisors who coordinated the elaboration of doctoral theses proven to be plagiarized, the staff

involved in organizing competitions in the higher education institution or the procedure for granting the habilitation certificate;

CHAPTER X. Internal and external evaluation and monitoring

Art. 42. Internal evaluation

(1) The internal evaluation of the quality of the doctoral study program takes place periodically (annually) and is carried out by the SDB Council, based on the procedures and criteria developed by CSUD-UVVG.

(2) The procedures for internal evaluation of the quality of a doctoral study program are elaborated by CSUD. They will aim to:

- a. mission and objectives of the doctoral academic study program;
- b. content and curriculum of the doctoral academic study program;
- c. compatibility of the doctoral study program with the description of the qualification;
- d. research results undertaken by doctoral students and their doctoral supervisors, materialized through publications, patents, participation in scientific events;
- e. cooperation relations with other institutions;
- f. the existence of means of documentation, learning and research, as well as logistic for doctoral students;
- g. staff involved in carrying out the doctoral study program;
- h. ways of assessing knowledge and testing the skills of doctoral students, as well as tracking progress during training;
- i. the degree of involvement of doctoral students in ensuring the quality of the doctoral academic study program;
- j. the existence of a code of ethics with clear provisions regarding the definition and sanctioning of various academic and professional frauds, including plagiarism;
- k. fulfillment of specific requirements for external evaluation indicators of doctoral academic study programs.

(3) The evaluation of the activity of doctoral students is predominantly oriented towards the results of the research activity. Results are considered – (i) publications, (ii) participation in conferences, (iii) patents and patents and their quality, estimated by integrating publications into the international stream, citations, awards, etc.

(4) The internal evaluation of the tenured doctoral supervisors takes into account especially the quality of the results obtained by them in research and in the supervision of doctoral students, aiming at:

- a) the results of the scientific research of the doctoral supervisor (publications, patents and other ways of capitalizing on his/her own research activity);
- b) results of scientific research of doctoral students led by the doctoral supervisor (publications, patents and other ways of capitalizing on the research activity of doctoral students);
- c) other indicators of the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisor (participation in research projects, participation in national and international conferences, membership in professional organizations);
- d) other indicators of scientific activity of doctoral students led by the doctoral supervisor (participation in research projects, participation in national and international conferences, membership in professional organizations).

Art. 43. External evaluation. SDB is evaluated externally, at intervals of 5 years, by ARACIS or by another quality assurance agency in the country or abroad, based on a system of criteria and a methodology approved by HG, at the proposal of the Ministry of Education.

CHAPTER XI. Final provisions

(1) The provisions of Article 67 para. (2) of the Code of doctoral academic studies, approved by Government Decision nr. 681/2011 and amended by GD 134/2016 applies to all doctoral students who submit their thesis to the secretariat of the doctoral school after the date of entry into force of DECISION no. 134 of March 2, 2016, and March 10, 2016, respectively.

(2) The SDB Regulation shall be supplemented, whenever necessary, with new legal regulations concerning aspects of the MDS activity.

*Director of the Doctoral School of Biology,
Prof. Istvan KRIZBAL, MD PhD*

