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# **“MIHAI VITEAZUL” NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY**

## **REGULATION ON THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF POSTDOCTORAL ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

**BUCHAREST  
UPDATED  
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## 1. Legal basis

### Art. 1.

This Regulation is based on the following documents:

1. Law of National Education no. 1/2011, as amended and supplemented;
2. Law no. 164/2021 on the acceptance of the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education, adopted in Paris, on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2019;
3. Government Decision no. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies, as amended and supplemented;
4. Order of the Ministry of Education no. 5.360 of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 approving the Methodology for the validation and registration of the qualifications in higher education in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS);
5. Order of M.E.C no. 667 of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 on the basis of which ANIMV was accredited as an Institution Organizing Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD).

## 2. General provisions

### Art. 2.

- (1) Postdoctoral advanced research studies are postgraduate study programs related to the third cycle of university studies, the purpose of which is to develop human resources competent in the conduct of advanced scientific research, capable of highly qualified labour market insertion, involving university teaching activities, scientific research activities, research and development activities and scientific innovation activities.
- (2) Postgraduate advanced research studies represent level 8 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), the European Qualifications Framework (EQF/CEC) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF/CNC) and provide knowledge at the most advanced level in a field of work or study and knowledge at the interface between different domains; the most advanced and specialized techniques, including the ability to synthesize and evaluate, needed to solve critical research and/or innovation problems, and to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practices; demonstration of a high level of authority, innovation, autonomy, scientific and professional integrity and a sustained commitment to the development of new ideas or processes at the forefront of a work or study and research situation.

### Art. 3.

- (1) Postdoctoral advanced research studies are organized by the “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (ANIMV), as Institution Organizing of University Doctoral Studies (IOSUD), and are carried out in the framework of postdoctoral advanced research programs offered by the accredited doctoral schools of ANIMV. The doctoral schools are directly coordinated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) of ANIMV.

- (2) Postdoctoral advanced research programs aim to:
  - a) produce original scientific knowledge, based on scientific methods, of international relevance, at the interface between different domains;
  - b) produce syntheses and assessments based on the most advanced professional skills and techniques, with the aim of solving critical research and/or professional specialization problems and extending and redefining existing knowledge or professional practices.
- (3) Postdoctoral advanced research programs are building blocks for professional careers in higher education and scientific research. Upon completion of the postdoctoral advanced research programs, ANIMV confers a postdoctoral certificate. The postdoctoral certificate expressly mentions the field of doctoral studies in which the program was carried out.

**Art. 4.**

- (1) Postdoctoral advanced research programs are organized with funding from public institutions or economic operators or other legally established sources
- (2) Proposals for the organization and conduct of postdoctoral advanced research programs may be submitted to the director of the CSUD of ANIMV or by the directors of the ANIMV doctoral schools. The decision of the CSUD concerning the organization and conduct of the postdoctoral advanced research programs is submitted to the Board of Trustees of ANIMV for approval.
- (3) Financing from the state budget is provided through the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), according to the provisions of the Law of National Education no. 1/2011, as amended and supplemented.
- (4) SRI establishes a number of postdoctoral grants for postdoctoral advanced research programs annually.
- (5) A person can receive funding from the state budget for only one postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (6) The postdoctoral advanced research grant includes the amount of the individual fellowship and the costs of the individual scientific research program for a minimum of 1 university year and can be extended for a maximum of 1-2 academic semesters.
- (7) Postdoctoral advanced research grants are awarded following a competition organized by IOSUD ANIMV, through the doctoral schools, on the basis of scientific projects proposed by IOSUD ANIMV or scientific projects proposed by SRI.
- (8) The annual number of postdoctoral grants allocated to the ANIMV IOSUD, provided for in paragraph 4, is established by order of the Director of SRI, on the proposal of ANIMV, and is communicated to the Ministry of Education and Research.

**3. Organization and conduct of the postdoctoral advanced research programs**

**Art. 5.**

- (1) ANIMV IOSUD organizes and carries out postdoctoral advanced research programs in the accredited doctoral study domains.
- (2) Postdoctoral advanced research programs are organized and carried out in accredited IOSUD ANIMV doctoral schools.
- (3) The postdoctoral advanced research programs must be linked to those of other IOSUDs in which ANIMV's IOSUD doctoral study programs operate, in accordance with national interests and needs and those of the Romanian Intelligence Service.
- (4) The postdoctoral advanced research programs organized and carried out by ANIMV IOSUD are attended by the doctoral supervisors of the Doctoral School, as scientific coordinators, by the university teaching staff and by the doctoral school's full or associate scientific researchers and by the postdoctoral researchers enrolled in the doctoral school.

**Art. 6.**

- (1) The duration of the postdoctoral advanced research program is usually 1 academic year (2 academic semesters).
- (2) The duration of the postdoctoral advanced research program may be modified, in specific situations, by interrupting the program, extending the program, granting a grace period.
- (3) The interruption of the postdoctoral advanced research program is automatic, at the request of the postdoctoral researcher, in the case of suspension of the individual employment contract:
  - a) maternity leave;
  - b) leave for temporary incapacity for work;
  - c) quarantine;
  - d) holding office in an executive, legislative or judicial authority for the duration of the term of office, unless otherwise provided by the law;
  - e) force majeure;
  - f) if the postdoctoral researcher is remanded in custody under the terms of the Code of Criminal Procedure;
  - g) in other cases, expressly provided for by the law.
- (4) Interruption of the postdoctoral advanced research program may be made at the request of the postdoctoral researcher in the following situations involving suspension of employment:
  - a) child-raising leave for children up to 2 years of age or, in the case of a disabled child, until the age of 3 years;
  - b) leave for the care of a sick child up to the age of 7 or, in the case of a disabled child, for intercurrent illnesses, until the age of 18;
  - c) paternal leave;
  - d) professional formation leaves.

- (5) Discontinuation of the postdoctoral advanced research program is approved by the CSD. The duration of the postdoctoral advanced research program is extended by the cumulative duration of the approved breaks.
- (6) The extension of the postdoctoral advanced research program may be made by 1-2 academic semesters, at the proposal of the scientific coordinator and with the agreement of the postdoctoral researcher, with the endorsement of the CSD and the approval of the ANIMV Senate, without payment of the tuition fee for the extension of the postdoctoral advanced research program, in the following situations:
  - a) accessing an advanced research fellowship (a documentation program) through a special grant competition in the postdoctoral field of advanced research;
  - b) accessing an advanced research mobility fellowship (a training/doctoral internship) or a scientific internship in the postdoctoral advanced research domain;
  - c) conducting scientific laboratory experiments or applied research activities in the postdoctoral domain of advanced research;
  - d) conducting advanced research activities in postdoctoral advanced research projects in the postdoctoral domain of advanced research.
- (7) The extension of the postdoctoral advanced research program can be made with 1-2 academic semesters, at the request of the postdoctoral researcher and with the agreement of the scientific coordinator, with the endorsement of the CSD and the approval of the ANIMV Senate, with the payment of the tuition fee for the extension of the postdoctoral advanced research program, if the postdoctoral researcher has not completed the individual advanced scientific research program, but has achieved the minimum number of 30 ECTS for the promotion of the academic year.
- (8) A grace period of up to 2 academic semesters for writing and defending the scientific graduation thesis may be granted if the postdoctoral researcher fails to complete and publicly defend the scientific graduation thesis during the postdoctoral advanced research program, including interruption and/or extension periods. The granting of a grace period is made at the request of the postdoctoral researcher, with the endorsement of the scientific coordinator and the approval of the CSD.
- (9) The duration of a break, extension or grace period is one academic semester.

**Art. 7.**

- (1) The granting of interruption, extension and grace periods is done according to a procedure proposed by the director of the doctoral school in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates, endorsed by the CSD and approved by the CSUD.
- (2) The procedure is updated whenever there are any incidental legislative changes.

### **3.1. Admission to postdoctoral advanced research programs**

#### **Art. 8.**

- (1) Admission to postdoctoral advanced research programs is organized by the CSUD and the CSD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates.
- (2) The CSUD develops and updates the Methodology for the organization and conduct of admission to postdoctoral advanced research programs of ANIMV, which presents the legal framework and the general framework for the organization of admission to postdoctoral programs.
- (3) The Methodology for the organization and conduct of admission to postdoctoral advanced research programs of ANIMV is approved by the ANIMV Senate and published on the ANIMV website at least 6 months before the date of the admission competition.
- (4) The CSD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates draws up annually the Procedure for the organization and conduct of admission to postdoctoral advanced research program in the Doctoral School, which specifies the documents required for registration for the competition, information on the number and distribution of vacancies among the scientific coordinators, the conditions for admission and the competition timetable, and other specific details.
- (5) *The* Procedure for the organization and conduct of admission to postdoctoral advanced research program is approved by the CSUD and published on the ANIMV website at least 6 months before the date of the admission competition.

#### **Art. 9.**

- (1) Application for admission to the postdoctoral advanced research program can be made regardless of the domain in which the candidate has obtained the PhD degree and no later than 5 years before admission to the postdoctoral program or regardless of when the candidate has obtained the PhD degree, if he/she has obtained the certificate of excellence in the “Marie Skłodowska Curie” competitions.
- (2) Nationals of the Member States of the European Union, of countries belonging to the European Economic Area or of the Swiss Confederation have access to the postdoctoral advanced research program under the conditions laid down in the regulation in force, including in terms of specific tuition fees for the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (3) Once the admission competition is completed, successful candidates are enrolled and, after signing the postdoctoral research contract, are awarded the status of postdoctoral researcher.
- (4) The registration to the postdoctoral advanced research program is done by the SD Secretariat in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates, based on the decision of the Commandant (Rector) of ANIMV to register the

candidates declared admitted to the postdoctoral advanced research program.

**Art. 10.**

- (1) Enrolment in the postdoctoral advanced research program is done according to a procedure proposed by the Director of the SD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates, endorsed by the CSD and approved by the CSUD.
- (2) The procedure is updated whenever there are any incidental legislative changes.

**3.2. The Curriculum of the postdoctoral advanced research programs**

**Art. 11.**

- (1) The structure of the postdoctoral advanced research program is as follows:
  - a) the individual program of advanced scientific research, which usually takes place in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters of the postdoctoral advanced research program;
  - b) complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy, which is carried out modularly, each year of study, in addition to the individual program of advanced scientific research.
- (2) The postdoctoral advanced research program is carried out in the basis of the Curriculum, which is drawn up for each series of studies in the accredited doctoral domain. The details of the postdoctoral advanced research program are specified in the Curriculum.
- (3) The postdoctoral advanced research program ends with the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis.

**Art. 12.**

- (1) The Curriculum of the postdoctoral advanced research program is drawn up annually by the Doctoral School Council, at least 6 months before the start of the academic year, endorsed by the Council for Doctoral University Studies and approved by the ANIMV Senate.
- (2) The Curriculum must ensure the completion of a minimum of 60 ECTS of the individual advanced scientific research program.
- (3) The condition for promoting the postdoctoral advanced research program (in the case of program extension) is the mandatory completion of a minimum of 30 ECTS.
- (4) The condition for completing the postdoctoral advanced research program is the mandatory completion of a minimum of 60 ECTS.

**Art. 13.**

- (1) The analytical program of the postdoctoral advanced research program contains the activity outlines and module outlines specific to each program in the Curriculum.
- (2) The scientific research activity outlines of the individual advanced research program are made by the scientific coordinators. The module outlines of the



complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy are made by the coordinators of each module.

- (3) The analytical program of the postdoctoral advanced research program is endorsed by the CSD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates and approved by the CSUD.
- (4) The analytical program of the postdoctoral advanced research program is drawn up annually for each series of studies at least 3 months before the start of the academic year.

### **3.2.1 The individual program of advanced scientific research**

#### **Art. 14.**

- (1) The individual advanced scientific research program is the research component of the postdoctoral advanced research program. The individual advanced scientific research program starts in the first semester of the postdoctoral research program and ends in the last semester of the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (2) The individual advanced scientific research program is designed in the Curriculum of the postdoctoral advanced research program. It is based on the scientific activity outlines, so as to ensure the achievement of the designed components as learning outcomes.
- (3) The scientific activity outlines are drawn up by the scientific coordinators and centralized in the Analytical Program of the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (4) The scientific research activities of the individual advanced scientific research program are:
  - a) the drawing up of the postdoctoral research project (1<sup>st</sup> semester);
  - b) the participation to scientific conferences (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters);
  - c) publishing scientific articles (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters);
  - d) scientific research paper defenses (1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters);
  - e) endorsement of the scientific graduation thesis for public defense (2<sup>nd</sup> semester).
- (5) The scientific research activities of the individual advanced scientific research program are coordinated and endorsed by the scientific coordinator and evaluated by the coordinating committee.

#### **Art. 15.**

- (1) The completion of the individual advanced scientific research program ensures the achievement of a minimum of 60 ECTS. Obtaining credits is conditional upon successful completion of the scientific research activities foreseen in the Curriculum of the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (2) The supervision of the postdoctoral researcher in the individual advanced scientific research program, from the approval of the postdoctoral research project to the approval of the scientific thesis for public defense, is carried out

by a scientific supervision committee, whose composition is determined by the scientific coordinator.

- (3) The scientific coordinator is responsible for the structure, content, organisation and conduct of the postdoctoral researcher's individual advanced scientific research program.
- (4) The scientific achievements of the postdoctoral researcher in the individual advanced research program will be equated, in the ECTS system, the number of ECTS for each research activity being mentioned in the curriculum.
- (5) The postdoctoral researcher's publication activity is considered only if it takes the form of published articles or scientific communications. After the first articles or scientific communications have appeared, postdoctoral researchers are obliged to submit to the scientific coordinators the journals or volumes of the sessions in which their articles or communications have appeared.
- (6) The conclusions resulting from the scientific research, represented by accepted scientific reports, may be published by the postdoctoral researcher, with the approval of the scientific coordinator, in the form of articles or communications.
- (7) On the basis of the publication of the scientific papers, the acceptance of the scientific research papers, the approval of the scientific graduation thesis, the postdoctoral researcher completes the scientific achievements in the individual advanced scientific research program.
- (8) The postdoctoral researcher is obliged to seek advice and respond to requests from the scientific coordinator or members of the coordinating committee during the individual advanced scientific research program.

**Art. 16.**

- (1) The completion by the postdoctoral researchers of the individual advanced research program is carried out in accordance with a procedure proposed by the Director of the SD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates, endorsed by the CSD and approved by the CSUD.
- (2) The procedure is updated whenever necessary and when incidental legislative changes occur.

**3.2.2 The complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy**

**Art. 17.**

- (1) The complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy is organized in a modular format, with a module usually lasting 5 days.
- (2) The complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy is designed in the Curriculum of the postdoctoral advanced research program. It is based on the module outlines so as to complement the designed learning outcomes.
- (3) The module outlines are developed by the module coordinators and centralized in the postdoctoral advanced research program Analytical program. The

module coordinators may be scientific coordinators from ANIMV or other university professors, research scientists or experts in the field who hold the scientific title of PhD.

**Art. 18.**

- (1) The completion of the complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy ensures the achievement of a maximum of 20 ECTS. Obtaining credits is conditional on active participation in the activities of each module foreseen in the Curriculum of the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (2) The complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy does not affect the postdoctoral researcher's availability for the individual advanced scientific research program.
- (3) A postdoctoral researcher's participation in the complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy may be made during any year of study and may be repeated in order to consolidate knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy, but will be credited only once.
- (4) The results of the assessments in the complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities, autonomy are for information purposes only, do not imply mandatory promotion and do not condition the funding of postdoctoral researchers or the pathway of postdoctoral researchers in the postdoctoral advanced research program.

**Art. 19.**

- (1) The postdoctoral researchers' completion of the complementary program of knowledge, skills, responsibilities and autonomy is carried out in accordance with a procedure proposed by the SD Director, endorsed by the CSD and approved by the CSUD.
- (2) The procedure is updated whenever necessary and when incidental legislative changes occur.

**3.3. The public defense of the scientific graduation thesis****Art. 20.**

- (1) The public defense of the scientific graduation thesis is usually done in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (2) The defense of the scientific graduation thesis can take place if the postdoctoral researcher has obtained at least 60 ECTS from the sum of the ECTS specific to the two programs of the Curriculum, of which at least 50 ECTS from the individual advanced scientific research program, or 60 ECTS exclusively from the individual advanced scientific research program.
- (3) If the postdoctoral researcher has not completed a minimum of 60 ECTS in the postdoctoral advanced research program, the postdoctoral researcher will be expelled.

**Art. 21.**

- (1) The scientific graduation thesis is the thesis in which the postdoctoral researcher demonstrates the ability to deal scientifically with a problem, a scientific research topic at an advanced level. It should demonstrate the ability to work with fundamental and domain-specific theories, to operate with the most appropriate scientific research methods, to set scientific research objectives and operationalise them, to draw advanced conclusions and to offer advanced theoretical and applied solutions specific to the scientific research topic.
- (2) The graduation thesis must demonstrate the ability of the postdoctoral researcher to use the results of the research in a creative, original and innovative way so as to produce a new perspective, a new solution to the problem addressed in the thesis or, where appropriate, to demonstrate the ability to generate ideas that have not been produced in previous research. This component of the scientific graduation thesis may take the form of models, operational research, applied studies etc.

**Art. 22.**

- (1) The CSD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates proposes criteria and indicators for the evaluation of scientific graduation works, in accordance with the provisions of Law 288/2004, Chapter IV and with the specificities of the accredited fields in which the postdoctoral advanced research program is organized and carried out.
- (2) The criteria for assessing the quality of a scientific graduation thesis relate to the scientific research results obtained in the postdoctoral advanced research program.
- (3) The public defense of the scientific graduation thesis is done in order to obtain the graduation certificate in the accredited field of science in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates.
- (4) The scientific graduation thesis must be the result of the postdoctoral researcher's own scientific research activity and contain original results in the field of scientific knowledge.
- (5) The postdoctoral researcher is the author of the scientific graduation thesis and assumes the accuracy of the data and information presented in the scientific graduation thesis, as well as the opinions and positions expressed therein.
- (6) The scientific coordinators are responsible together with the authors of the specific graduation theses for the meeting of quality standards and academic ethics.

**Art. 23.**

- (1) The evaluation of the scientific graduation thesis in public defense is done by a graduation committee proposed by the scientific coordinator, endorsed by the CSD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates, approved by the CSUD and appointed by Decision of the Commandant (Rector) of ANIMV.
- (2) The Committee will be composed of at least 5 members:

1. chairman – representative of the ANIMV IOSUD management;
  2. SDISN scientific coordinator;
  3. at least 3 official referees from the country or abroad, specialists in the field in which the scientific graduation thesis was elaborated, representatives of other IOSUDs that organize postdoctoral advanced research programs in the same field of doctoral studies or in related fields.
- (3) All members of the committee for the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis must be university lecturers or scientific researchers, hold at least the position of university lecturer or scientific researcher grade II and hold the enabling certificate.
- (4) The scientific coordinators associated with the doctoral schools of IOSUD ANIMV cannot be official referees in the graduation committees of IOSUD ANIMV.

**Art. 24.**

- (1) The graduation committee has 30 days for the evaluation of the scientific graduation thesis, during which the scientific coordinator prepares the acceptance report and the official referees prepare evaluation reports, which are submitted to the SD secretariat where the postdoctoral advanced research program operates.
- (2) On the basis of the evaluation documents, the chairman of the graduation committee proposes to the director of the SD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates whether or not the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis should be held.
- (3) The scientific graduation thesis must be submitted for consultation to the ANIMV library at least 30 days before the date of its public defense.
- (4) The announcement of the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis is posted on the animv.ro website at least 20 days before the date of the public meeting, together with the abstract of the scientific graduation thesis.

**Art. 25.**

- (1) The public defense of the scientific graduation thesis can only take place in the presence of at least 4 members of the public defense committee and the participation of the committee chairman and the scientific coordinator is mandatory.
- (2) If one of the official referees cannot be present at the public defense, they can request online participation, according to the Methodology for the organization and conduct of online activities in the SD where the postdoctoral advanced research program operates.
- (3) If one of the official referees is not available for participation, they will notify the chairman of the graduation committee and the director of the SD where the postdoctoral advanced research program is operating at least 24 hours before the time of the examination and submit the vote on the award of the graduation

certificate in an envelope.

- (4) If one of the official referees is not available for participation and has not sent in a vote in an envelope, their absence will be recorded by the chairman of the evaluation committee.
- (5) The public defense of the graduation thesis consists of:
  - a) the defense by the postdoctoral researcher of the main elements of novelty and originality in the content of the scientific graduation thesis;
  - b) defense by the official referees and the scientific coordinator of the conclusions on the value of the scientific content of the scientific graduation thesis;
  - c) holding a session for questions addressed to the postdoctoral researcher by the members of the graduation committee and/or members of the public and answers given by the postdoctoral researcher. The Secretariat of the SD where the postdoctoral advanced research operates will note/record the questions and answers and prepare an annex to be program attached to the minutes of the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis.
- (6) On the basis of the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis and the reports of the official referees, the graduation committee deliberates and decides on the grade to be awarded to the scientific graduation thesis. The grades that can be awarded are: EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD, GOOD, SATISFACTORY AND UNSATISFACTORY.

**Art. 26.**

- (1) In the case of a SATISFACTORY or UNSATISFACTORY grade, the graduation committee will specify the elements of the content of the scientific graduation thesis that reworked or completed, and the thesis will be re-examined in public before the same committee within a period set by the committee, but not more than 1 semester. If the committee also gives a SATISFACTORY or UNSATISFACTORY grade at the second public defense, the postdoctoral researcher is expelled.
- (2) If the graduation committee awards the grades EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD or GOOD, the graduation committee proposes to the Commandant (Rector) of ANIMV to grant the graduation certificate in the doctoral field in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates.

**Art. 27.**

- (1) The activities of the public defense of the scientific graduation thesis are carried out according to a procedure proposed by the Director of the SD in which the postdoctoral advanced research program operates, endorsed by the CSD and approved by the CSUD.
- (2) The procedure is updated whenever necessary and when incidental legislative changes occur.

#### **4. Final provisions**

##### **Art. 28.**

- (1) This Regulation enters into force as from the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the academic year 2021-2022.
- (2) The procedure is updated whenever necessary and when incidental legislative changes occur.
- (3) On the date of entry into force of this Regulation, any regulations referring to the organization and conduct of postdoctoral advanced research programs are repealed.
- (4) This Regulation has been amended by the ANIMV Senate Decision no. 11 of March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.