

ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
“MIHAI VITEAZUL”
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY
Commission for Evaluation and Quality
Assurance

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**INTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT
ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION
WITHIN “MIHAI VITEAZUL”
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY
for the academic year 2021-2022**

Bucharest, 2023

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1. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Besides its scientific research activity, “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (ANIMV), a military higher education institution, essential part of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) and part of the national higher education system, organizes Master’s and Bachelor’s degree programs and Doctoral university programs, as well as postgraduate programs and professional development programs by which it provides the intelligence officers with an initial and continuing professional development, but it also enhances the security culture within the civil society.

ANIMV continues the traditions of the Higher Intelligence Institute, created in 1992 by the Government Decision no. 427 of 1992. The current institutional structure has been established by Government Decision no. 446 of 10.06.2015, and since that date within ANIMV have been operating: the Faculty of Intelligence, the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, the Doctoral School, the National Intelligence College, the Distance Education Department, the National Institute for Intelligence Studies (INSI), the National Center for Modelling and Simulation in Intelligence (CNMSI), as well as other administrative support and university management structures.

As a result of the evaluation process carried out by experts within the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), the Academy is accredited with the "High degree of confidence" qualification, according to the *ARACIS Council Report of 30.10.2015 on external evaluation of academic quality*. Against the background of the pandemic evolution, the institutional and study programs reaccreditation has been planned for 2022-2023, and ANIMV took the steps of ARACIS reaccreditation for study programs and fields, as well as for the institutional reaccreditation.

The internal evaluation report on the quality of education within “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy is carried out based on the provisions of article 12, paragraph b) of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75 of 2005 on quality assurance in education, with subsequent amendments and additions.

1.1. MANAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

From an organizational point of view, ANIMV consists of management, education and research and administrative structures.

1.1.1. Management Structures

- *The Board of Trustees* – provides the Academy’s operative management and enforces the strategic decisions of the University Senate in order to fulfill its legal duties. It consists of commandant (rector), vice-rector, deans, general administrative director and a representative of the students.
- *The Academy Senate* – represents the highest decision-making and deliberation body in ANIMV, which assures the implementation of the education strategy, based on university autonomy principles. Senate members are the representatives of the teaching and research staff and of the students, according to the law;
- *The Council for Doctoral University Studies* – insures the coordination of the Doctoral School within IOSUD;
- *The Faculty Council* – is the Faculty’s decision-making and deliberation body;

- *The Department Council* – represents the decision-making and deliberation body of the department, from a scientific point of view;
- *The Council of the Doctoral School* – is the decision-making and deliberation body of the Doctoral School;
- *The Scientific Council* – is a consultative and decision-making body with the role of orienting, coordinating and monitoring the scientific research activity carried out within the Academy.

1.1.2. Educational, Scientific Research and Administrative Structures

- *Faculty of Intelligence* – is the functional unit that draws up and manages study development programs for operations officers;
- *Faculty of Intelligence Studies* – is a functional unit that draws up and manages study development programs for intelligence analysts;
- *Doctoral School* - is organized and functions as a structure equal in rank to a department; the doctoral supervisors acquired this right according to the law and have an employment contract concluded with IOSUD – “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy;
- *National Intelligence College* – the College’s activity is currently suspended;
- *Distance Education Department* – has the task to develop the distance learning within the Academy;
- *National Institute for Intelligence Studies* – carries out basic and applied scientific research in the reference fields, in order to support the educational process within ANIMV and to capitalize on the results in the national and European research and development programs or within partnership actions. It provides consulting and expertise in the field of security intelligence, it organizes and carries out scientific events with national and international attendance;
- *National Center for Modelling and Simulation in Intelligence* – addresses the need to increase the role played by the scientific interdisciplinary research and the use of information technology in understanding today’s security environment;
- *Academy Secretariat* – carries out secretariat activities characteristic to the university and post-university education.
- *Office for Study Documents* – maintains the relation with the Ministry of Education on issuing study documents for graduates of university, post-university and continuing professional development programs run by ANIMV;
- *Quality Assurance Office* – supports the internal evaluation activity and assures the quality within ANIMV;
- Administrative Support Structures on logistics, information technology, communication, finances, public procurement, medical assistance, psychological assistance, and religious assistance.

1.2. MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ACADEMIC DEONTOLOGY

With an evolution closely linked to that of SRI, ANIMV has an educational offer based on education programs oriented primarily towards the initial and continuing development of intelligence officers, and complementarily towards enhancing the security culture within the civil society.

ANIMV’s **mission**, stipulated both in the *Government Decision no. 206/1995 on the reorganization of the National Intelligence Institute as “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence*

Academy, with subsequent amendments and additions, and in the University Charter, is to generate and transfer knowledge by:

- a) Training and further training officers and military and civil experts in the field of “Military Science, Intelligence, and Public Order”;
- b) Organizing and carrying out university scientific research activity in the field of “Military Science, Intelligence and Public Order”;
- c) Enhancing the security culture within the civil society by training and improving programs for specialists from civil environment in the field of “Military Science, Intelligence, and Public Order” and “International Relations and European Studies”.

ANIMV has the following **main objectives**:

- a) Preparing students with the purpose to occupy the first position in the structures of the defense, public order, and national security system (SAOPSN);
- b) Further training the staff selected from the SAOPSN structures to occupy management and expertise positions, in the field of intelligence and national security;
- c) Further training the students and trainees with the purpose to occupy the expertise positions both within SAOPSN, and in the civil environment;
- d) Conceptual developing of the security and intelligence studies with the purpose to define the identity of a Romanian thinking school in this field;
- e) Running research activities as part of national and international partnerships with results for the benefit of teaching activity;
- f) Projecting the teaching logistics for its own needs, as well as for those of other beneficiaries.

In order to fulfill Academy’s mission, at the level of the Commandant (Rector) ’s Office have been drafted the *strategic plan* and *the operational plans*. *The ANIMV Strategic Plan 2022-2025* expresses an overview of the university management on the institution’s evolution in academic national and European contexts, taking into consideration possible challenges and opportunities generated by the labor market dynamics, by the economic, financial, social, cultural, educational, scientific and military environments. *The Operational Plan for 2022* includes the main annual measures, for activity fields, resulted from the directions of action set by the strategic plan.

ANIMV has continuously updated its educational offer, depending on the beneficiaries’ requests in the labor market dynamics, and on the international developments in the *intelligence* field. Adapting the teaching processes to the on-line challenges, acquiring and using the latest technological innovations in education, higher understanding by means of an advanced research, teaching staff’s passion and professional dedication are instruments used to train honest intelligence officers, who are confident in their own potential, performant and endowed with decision making ability. At the same time, Master’s degree programs for enhancing security culture within the civil society aim to raise the level of security education and that of intelligence culture horizon within the public space.

Within ANIMV operates the University Ethics Commission, with the main task of analyzing university ethics misconducts committed by ANIMV university community members and solving their misconducts. The University Ethics Commission enforces the provisions of ANIMV Code of

Ethics that consists of a set of conduct principles and behavior rules that must govern the activity of the academic community within ANIMV.

1.3. PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSABILITY

ANIMV has audit practices internally regulated at the institution level, as per national law issued at national and SRI levels. *The Financial Control Activity* is run within ANIMV in two directions, respectively: its own preventive financial control and the internal financial-accounting audit. Moreover, the *Internal Audit Committee* carried out the academic audit for the academic year 2021-2022, activity which concludes with a *Report of the Internal Audit Committee* and, according to the normative provisions, with an *improvement plan*.

Every academic year, verifications are run concerning the compliance with the planned activities for the study programs, the subjects carried out according to the curricula and subject outlines, the schedule, and not lastly, the compliance with the alignment between the way the students are examined as per the analytical program and their actual conduct.

In March 2022, ANIMV's Commandant (Rector) presented the *2021 ANIMV Status Report*, published on www.animv.ro, and the *2022 ANIMV Status Report* is being prepared.

ANIMV permanently adapted to the legislative updates its University Charter, its regulations, methodologies and procedures, and at the beginning of 2022 the last update of the University Charter was done, integrating premises and objectives of the ANIMV Commandant (Rector)'s new management mandate for the term 2021-2025.

In 2022, ANIMV completed proceedings for the reaccreditation of the Master's degree field of study "*Intelligence and National Security*", received a "Trust" qualification and the accreditation was maintained.

At the same time, a temporary authorization has been issued by ARACIS for running the new Bachelor's degree program ("*Intelligence Operations*"), that replaces the specialization "*Psychology – Intelligence*", beginning with the academic year 2023-2024. Trying to adapt the training process to the new realities of the security environment, ANIMV sent ARACIS demands to redefine the Bachelor's degree standards. The new standards for Bachelor's degree study programs "*Security and Intelligence Studies*" and "*Intelligence Operations*" have been approved by ARACIS.

Furthermore, ANIMV accomplished the evaluation of the study programs according to the *National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech for the 2021-2023 period and the accompanying Action Plan*, approved by Government Decision no. 539/2021. The current Bachelor's degree study programs (2020-2023, 2021-2024 series) and Master's degree study program (2020-2022 and 2021-2023) have been evaluated, as well as of the ongoing postgraduate study programs, in the curricula of which there have been introduced subjects relevant to the strategy mention before.

The Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance in ANIMV elaborates every year an internal evaluation report on the assurance of quality in education, based on the findings of the Internal Audit Committee.

During the evaluated period, a documentation for the ANIMV external evaluation process was drafted, and there had been carried out the organizing proceedings.

1.4. TRANSPARENCY OF PUBLIC INTEREST INFORMATION

ANIMV has an official website, <https://www.animv.ro/> , and on the official website of SRI (<https://www.sri.ro>) there is a link to ANIMV homepage and there are displayed details on the educational offer <https://www.sri.ro/intrebari-frecvente>. The *Applicant's Guide* contains useful information including for the ones who intend to apply for a job in SRI through the educational portfolio of ANIMV (https://www.sri.ro/fisiere/ghidul_candidatului_2022.pdf).

The contact details of the Academy are public, being published even a form to request data of public interest, on the dedicated webpage <https://www.animv.ro/contact/> .

On www.animv.ro and www.sri.ro three are provided data on the educational offer, for each academic year and for all types of academic programs organized by the Academy (details on the conditions of enrollment, admission tests and the conduct of the admission competitions/ colloquiums), as well as data about the academic community and its activity, underlining the facilities and resources offered to students.

At the same time, anyone may submit requests for information on educational programs at ANIMV e-mail address (ani@sri.ro).

1.5. UNIVERSITY ETHICS

As per the Law of National Education no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, the *ANIMV Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology* is part of the University Charter, supporting the development of an institutional culture based on respect for the autonomy and liberty of everyone in the university community, as well as on individual responsibility improvement. This completes purely contractual relations with the necessity of taking a personal and professional behavior in accordance with the values of SAOPSN institutions and with the academic ethics and deontology.

The ANIMV Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology includes sections aiming to identify academic ethic misconducts, and sanctions, as well as sanctions related to the non-compliance of academic ethics.

The structure and membership of the University Ethics Commission is proposed by ANIMV Board of Trustees, endorsed by the Academy Senate and approved by the Commandant (Rector). The Ethics Commission operates alongside the Board of Trustees. The membership of the University Ethics Commission was established in 2022, following the Commandant (Rector)'s Decision no. 117609 of November 5th 2022 and updated in December 2022.

The University Ethics Commission receives, analyses, and resolves deviations from academic ethics made by members of ANIMV community, on the basis of complaints or by an ex-officio action, in accordance with the Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology.

The Ethics Commission consists of 5 members, people with professional prestige and moral authority, tenured teachers holding a minimum teaching degree of lecturer or third-degree scientific researcher, as well as a student representative. The decisions of the Commission are made by open vote. The Commission shall draw up an annual report on compliance with the provisions of the Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology. The report shall be presented to the Academy Senate and shall be made public, on www.animv.ro.

Under the provisions of the Order of the Minister of National Education no. 3131 of 2018, on *the inclusion of academic ethics and deontology classes* in the curricula for all academic study programs organized in higher education institutions of the national education system, the curricula of all three study cycles include the subject of "Academic Ethics and Deontology", and

each dissertation is introduced in the system application sistemantiplagiat.ro to check the similarity coefficients.

Under the aegis of the Code of Ethics and Deontology and under the provisions of the Order of the Minister of Education no. 5255 of 2021 on the verification of the observance of the academic ethics and deontology in the elaboration of the dissertations from the period 1990 - 2016, the Strategy for Preventing and Combating the Plagiarism Phenomenon within ANIMV, approved by the Academy Senate on December 15th 2021, is in force.

During 2022, the ANIMV University Ethics Commission did not issue decisions.

1.6. MATERIAL RESOURCES, PATRIMONY, EQUIPMENTS

The Academy owns material resources, consisting of land and buildings, along with all the necessary equipment, patrimony which is managed under the law and meets the current requirements for academic teaching and scientific research.

1.6.1. Spaces used for teaching and research

These are placed in building belonging to the SRI's patrimony base and are intended for its own academic community. The facilities are located in buildings with central heating, air conditioning, lighting and plumbing. ANIMV has over 80 teaching spaces, of which we mention 60 seminar classrooms, as well as 13 IT, foreign languages or specialized laboratories, 2 lecture halls, 4 amphitheatres, 4 reading rooms. The spaces are calculated at the maximum number of students.

Each auditorium in ANIMV is equipped with a computer connected to the network, video-projector, interactive whiteboard or projection screen, as well as other image and sound processing equipment necessary for teaching. The number of places in the lecture and seminar rooms and in the laboratories is correlated with the study groups (series, groups, sub-groups) for each ongoing academic study program.

The *"Intelligent" building*, a large-scale project carried out with external funding, has rooms endowed with the necessary equipment to carry out teaching and research activities at European quality standards – smart boards, projection screens, video projectors, microphone stations, laptops and loudspeaker systems.

The study labs allow the IT resource distribution so that a computer is used by maximum two students for the Bachelor's and Master's degree study programs.

At ANIMV, laboratories related to specific subjects or to the intelligence-operation area, intelligence analysis, open-source analysis, and the study of foreign languages and civilizations are organized and equipped according to the needs listed in the curricula.

ANIMV has purchased software tools with the necessary user licenses corresponding to the training needs of the subjects listed in the curricula.

1.6.2. IT&C Services/ Network

They are kept up to date in accordance with the identified needs and the technological updates on the private market, and students have access to them as required by the study programs.

The university's computer system is made up of databases, set up at the level of structures, which facilitate the collection, processing, and analysis of data on the quality of education and student life in the university area. These data are regularly analyzed by the management of the

Academy, both in terms of content, and in order to determine the relevance and the need to adapt the metered parameters.

For teaching activities ANIMV uses two e-learning platforms which were used during the Covid-19 pandemic (an SRI classified, internal platform, and the Google G-Suite platform for unclassified activities).

ANIMV's computer network allows students access to the IT&C network in teaching spaces and other areas in accordance with specific regulations.

1.6.3. ANIMV Central Library and ANIMV Publishing House

The ANIMV Central Library manages a total area of 369,35 sqm, laptops, desktop computers, WI-FI access and 3 smart boards connected to the Internet. In the ANIMV Library there are subscriptions to online international specialized publications. Among these subscriptions, we mention: *Harvard Business Review*, *Journal for the Study of Radicalism, Intelligence and National Security*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *International Journal of Intelligence and Counter-intelligence*, *Culture, Theory and Critique*, *Security Studies*, *Critical Studies on Security*, *Defense and Security Analysis*, *Democracy and Security*, *Journal of Applied Security Research*, *Journal of Intelligence History*.

At the same time, the databases to which ANIMV has a subscription may be accessed in support of the teaching and research processes in the Academy, and we can list here: *Clarivate Analytics (WoS, Journal Citation Reports, Derwent Innovation Index)*, *ProQuest Central Journals*, *Scopus*.

As a member of the Association of Universities, Research and Development Institutes, and the Central University Libraries in Romania – “ANELIS PLUS” (<http://www.anelisplus.ro>), as of September 2020, ANIMV has access to internal and international databases, such as: *Scopus*, *Clarivate Analytics*, *Clarivate Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics archive)*, *De Gruyter*.

At the ANIMV Central Library there is a database where are registered the titles of the Bachelor's theses, Master's theses, and dissertations for the last five years are registered, with the names of the graduates and the scientific supervisors.

The ANIMV Publishing House is a prestigious one in the field of military science, intelligence, and public order and plays an important role in supporting the teaching and research process, making a significant contribution to security education through the topics it makes available to the readers, being an interface for the Academy in relation to the civil society.

1.6.4. Sports facilities

ANIMV has sports facilities on both university campuses, that include multi-purpose football pitches, a 300m long slag running track, field tennis courts, table tennis rooms, fitness and bodybuilding gyms. The sports facility allows the simultaneous training of 100 students for the spring-autumn period and 80 students during the winter, ensuring the meeting of legal standards of physical training for both students and trainees, as well as for the university staff, through intensive use of its spaces.

The University has realistic development and investment plans, dependent on projected income that aim to complete and modernize the research and learning facilities (lecture halls, amphitheatres, laboratories, specialized classrooms, classrooms) as well as the university's IT system.

Medical assistance of the entire staff is ensured by the university's medical practice.

1.7. FINANCIAL ACTIVITY. BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

ANIMV, whose Commandant (Rector) is a third-party authorizing officer, is financed from its own revenue, based on Government Ordinance no. 27 of 2014 on the financing of military, intelligence, public order and national security higher education institutions.

Thus, the Academy has its own revenue and expenditure budget, within the SRI budget, and is financed under the budget chapter 65.10.06 “Higher Education” (source “F”) and chapter 65.08.06 “Higher Education” (source “D”). The Academy’s own revenues consist of earnings from providing education services, research and development services, fees, funds obtained through international partnerships for organizing educational and vocational programs, earnings from providing services, the sale of goods, funding from the state budget through the budget of the institutions under which it operates, and external non-refundable funds.

ANIMV’s financial resources are planned on an annual basis, according to the Academy’s needs and amended whenever necessary, so that the strategic objectives can be achieved and continuity of mission is ensured. The revenue and expenditure budget for the year 2022 has been approved by Senate decision.

The planning, organization and management of financial and accounting activities have been carried out in accordance with the internal rules in force, in compliance with legality and regularity provisions as well as the institution’s specific planning documents. The allocation of funds for the achievement of goals at the appropriate quality level has been made with respect for the principles of economy and efficiency, by minimizing the cost of resources and maximizing the results of activities in relation to the used resources.

During the reviewed period, ANIMV had a revenue and expenditure budget approved by the Board of Trustees and the Senate, which provided the amounts necessary for carrying out the educational activity in good conditions.

1.7.1. Revenue and expenditure budget

In accordance with Government Ordinance no. 27 of 2014, ANIMV shall bear from its own budget the costs of education, professional and cultural training of students/ personnel of the public institutions within the National Security, Public Order and Defense System, for the state budget financed places, regardless of the institution of origin.

The ANIMV budgeting is based on cost estimates of the activities foreseen in the Academy’s Strategic Plan and the Academy’s Annual Operational Plan, approved by the ANIMV Senate. The drawing up of the Academy budget is based on physical indicators of the internally identified necessities (number of staff members, number of students, staff categories according to gender and professional category, list of inventory items and fixed assets needed for the teaching activities, number of scholarships awarded etc.). The planning of the financial resources is carried out through the resource management software developed by the SRI, according to the physical indicators entered for each structure within ANIMV.

The Academy’s own revenues consist of earnings from providing educational services, research and development, fees, funds provided under international partnerships for organizing educational and vocational programs, earnings from providing services, the sale of goods, funding from the state budget through the budget of the institutions under which it operates and external non-refundable funds.

Expenditure at ANIMV level is financed by subsidies from the state budget received from the Chief Authorizing Officer, ANIMV’s own revenues made up of receipts, with the exception

of subsidies from the state budget and non-refundable external funds.

Bachelor's and Master's degree study programs for officer training have only state funded, tuition-free places. The fees for the Master's degree programs aiming to enhance the security culture within the civil society (*International Relations and Intelligence Studies, Management of National Security Intelligence, Management of Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism*) have been approved by the Senate's Decision no. 12 of March 31st 2022. Fees for doctoral and postdoctoral studies were also approved by Senate Decision no. 14 of April 28th, 2022. These fees are established based on average tuition costs per academic year (teaching and administrative staff expenses, maintenance expenses, associate professors, mobility expenses) and are brought to the attention of the students through their representatives in the Board of Trustees and the Academy Senate, as well as through publication on www.animv.ro.

Through the implementation of the approved budget for 2022, the financial-accounting structure has undertaken specific steps in order to ensure full financing of educational and research programs, organizational and logistics activities, as well as grant funded projects.

1.8. THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDING SYSTEM AND OTHER FORMS OF MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

According to ANIMV *Regulation on awarding scholarships*, students of the Bachelor's and Master's programs may be awarded the following types of scholarships: merit and performance scholarships (for boosting the academic performance); occasional social and/ or social scholarship (for financial support of the students); special scholarships; scholarships for university and postgraduate studies placements; scholarships, mobilities and other financial rights, financed through other non-refundable external funds, won by ANIMV in national and international competitions, according to the amounts specified in these contracts.

Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the academic year, regardless of their type, based on the academic criterion of promotability. Scholarships cannot be awarded based on age, sex, religion, race, number of years spent in other education institutions, studies completed abroad or access to scholarships from other sources or any other discriminatory criteria laid down by the existing legal framework.

In order to award scholarships, ANIMV sets up, by Senate's decision, The Scholarship Awarding Commission. The Commission is made up by the vice-rector for education – as chairman of the Commission, the deans of the faculties, an appointed member of the Academy Secretariat, the chief of Financial-Accounting Department, the legal counselor, three student representatives – as members, as well as other people appointed by the Academy Senate.

Regarding doctoral and post-doctoral studies, ANIMV may award doctoral and post-doctoral advanced research scholarships, research and mobility studies scholarships, home or abroad, conference participation or article publishing scholarships, home or abroad. Doctoral students may receive academic performance boosting scholarships, social or occasional social scholarships, special scholarships. Award of doctoral and advanced postdoctoral research scholarships (the latter starting with academic year 2022-2023) is carried out based on competitions in admission sessions organized at ANIMV.

The amount of the scholarships, except in the case of the social scholarships, is determined by the Board of Trustees and approved by decision of the Academy Senate. The amount of the social scholarships shall be determined on the basis of the minimum amount proposed annually by The National Council for the Financing of Higher Education (CNFIS). The ANIMV Scholarship Awarding Commission for academical year 2021-2022 was set up by

Senate Decision of October 28th 2021 and the amount of the scholarships was decided by Senate Decision of December 15th 2021.

2. EDUCATIONAL EFFICIENCY

2.1. STUDY PROGRAMS QUALITY

In order to maintain and continuously improve the quality of the study programs, ANIMV monitors learning outcomes and their determining factors. Monitoring is carried out in a systematic and planned manner and involves activity control, in order to timely detect shortcomings and initiate corrective and preventive measures. Study programs coordinators are responsible for monitoring and continuously improving the study programs.

The monitoring is carried out by the teachers, the chiefs of the departments and faculties, and the members the ANIMV Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance.

The periodic evaluation of study programs is based on external evaluation procedures and standards developed by ARACIS and is carried out for accreditation and periodical certification of the study programs quality purposes. The process is finalized through the drafting of the *Internal Evaluation Report* of the study programs, which presents the quality of the educational services provided and of the resource used.

2.1.1. Content of Bachelor's and Master's degree study programs

The curricula of ANIMV university study programs is drawn up and endorsed in accordance with internal procedures and legal framework in place and in compliance with the ARACIS standards. Bachelor's study programs allow graduates to achieve a level 6 EQF/ CEC and National Qualification Framework qualification. Master's study programs provide basic compulsory training for doctoral studies, graduation of which allows students to acquire a level 7 EQF/ CEC and National Qualification Framework qualification. Student-centered teaching methods have been a permanent concern that translates in: enforcement of ECTS transfer credits, with result and work-load oriented learning, supporting interactive teaching techniques instead of unidirectional ones, generating educational situations in which the students can boost their problem-solving capacity and practice their critical thinking, learning through role-play and simulation, team learning and individual study opportunities. All these methods are presented in the educational activities planning documents.

During the period under review, the open source expert occupational standard is being drafted as well as acknowledging ANIMV as professional adult training provider for this standard.

2.1.2. Admission practices

Admission policy complies with transparency and document availability requirements with the Academy doing its utmost to ensure predictability in the organization and conduct of the admission examination, so that all potential candidates are informed on the recruitment and admission policies for students at least six months in advance. Admission examination policy is transparent and strictly complies with the applicable regulatory provisions and the *Methodology for the organization and conduct of admission examinations* for each study cycle, with ANIMV taking on their qualitative development. For the study programs dedicated to training officers, ANIMV selects candidates based on a profile required by the beneficiaries within the national defense, public order and national security system. The selection process also includes other

phases and tests, prior to the exam itself.

Information on the educational offer, topics and bibliography, enrollment requirements and other information necessary for the candidates is also posted on www.animv.ro.

During academic year 2021-2022, admission to advanced research postdoctoral programs has also been regulated. First postdoctoral program admission session has been conducted for academical year 2022-2023.

2.1.3. Study credits system enforcement

In planning and assessing students' activity, ANIMV enforces the *European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System* (ECTS), which aims to realistically assess the work-load of the study plan for each and every subject and to match ANIMV curricula with other similar education institutions, national or foreign, and boosting student's interest for research and professional training.

Measurement of the learning activity through the transfer credits system allows: recognition of study periods, diploma recognition, students' mobility, diverse range of options for the students, more flexible curricula and study programs, European education standards integration, introducing new subjects in the curricula, recognition and equivalence of subjects studied in other higher education institutions.

Credit transfer can only be performed within the same study cycle, and credits once obtained are permanent. They are recognized throughout the entire study period and their recognition is not influenced by alterations of the curricula. Transfer credits are awarded to all the subjects included in the curricula (mandatory, non-mandatory, optional), including the internships.

Student transfers from other universities are not possible for the bachelor and master's study programs for officer training, given the fact that the ANIMV admission process which is preceded by the beneficiary institutions specific selection process is complex and includes eliminatory stages that need to be completed before the beginning of studies. ANIMV is the only Romanian institution that provides study programs for the training of intelligence officers. That is why its study programs are unique and student transfers are not possible.

ANIMV ensures academic mobility with regards to Master's study programs that aim to enhance the security culture within the civil society and doctoral studies, and therefore recognizes transfer credits legally obtained by the students within other accredited/ authorized higher education institutions, at home or abroad, according to the Order of the Ministry of National Education no. 5140/2019 for the approval of the Methodology for academic mobility of the students. Students have also the possibility to participate in the *Erasmus+ Program* without interrupting their studies, by implementing the provisions on the transfer credits system. Through the management of the faculties in which the students are enrolled, ANIMV automatically recognizes the period of study through the Erasmus+ Program, by the total number of transfer credits accumulated during the mobility period.

2.1.4. Teaching and research staff

ANIMV has university teaching staff (both military and civilian), according to the Law of National Education no. 1 / 2011 and intelligence instructors, according to Article 177 paragraphs

(4) and (5) of the Law of National Education no. 1 / 2011, with subsequent amendments and additions.

The teaching staff of the Academy meets the legal requirements for filling teaching positions, according to the *Methodology for filling teaching positions in "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy*.

Teaching and research staff organization charts in ANIMV were drafted before the beginning of academic year 2021-2022 and involve setting university norms, endorsed by the faculties' councils and the doctoral school council and approved by the University Senate. All teachers – professor, associate professor and lecturers hold a doctoral scientific title and are appointed according to the legal framework in place.

2.1.5. Completion of studies and awarding of degrees

ANIMV awards Bachelor's degrees, Master's and doctoral degrees, according to the specifics and the level of the university study programs graduated, under the legal provisions in force. The diplomas awarded are in accordance with the qualifications obtained in the specializations graduated, for Bachelor and Master's degree programs, respectively with the fields of study, for doctoral studies. The Academy also awards graduation certificates for the graduates of the postgraduate training and continuing professional development programs. The curricula are designed and developed depending on the requirements of the university qualification. Qualifications are endorsed by the National Qualifications Authority, and specializations are registered with the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education or the National Register of Postgraduate Programs, depending on the situation.

Thus, ANIMV's Bachelor and Master's degree programs have qualifications endorsed by the National Qualifications Authority and are registered with the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education. There is an ongoing approach on the *International Relations and Intelligence Studies* specialization, which has an ANC endorsed qualification and is on course of being registered with the RNCIS, at the completion of the re-accreditation process for the Master's program *International Relations and European Studies*. Also, a part of the postgraduate study programs is already registered with the RNPP, the rest of the programs being on course of registration.

ANIMV awards Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees and doctoral degrees according to the particularity and level of the graduated study programs, according to the legal provisions in force. Graduates from Bachelor and Master's programs for the training of intelligence officers are employed, at the completion of their studies, in SRI units or in the SAOPSN institutions for which they have been trained for. The Master's study programs that aim to enhance the security culture within the civil society, the postgraduate study programs for permanent education and the study programs for continuing professional development are being designed by ANIMV in order to be as useful as possible and to meet professional training needs.

2.1.6. Organization of continuing professional development

In the field of continuing professional development, ANIMV organizes a series of postgraduate programs dedicated to improving knowledge and techniques specific to intelligence activities or to promoting democratic and inclusive values. At present, there are seven postgraduate programs conducted by ANIMV included in the RNPP: *Democracy and Totalitarianism, Professional Training of Mentors within the Romanian Intelligence Service,*

Introduction to Intelligence Analysis, Senior Leadership, Introduction to Intelligence Activity for National Security, Management, The Formation of Psycho-behavioral Skills in the Process of Training/Continuing Professional Development Specific to the Military Organization. Steps have also been initiated to include two other postgraduate programs in the RNPP: *Holocaust, Diversity and Inclusion in Intelligence Organizations, Academic Management.*

Postgraduate programs for the fields of leadership, management, mentoring, and training of trainers are organized under the POCA project – *Intelligence for citizens.*

Furthermore, in order to improve the professional training of the SRI employees, as well as those from other institutions in SAOPSN, ANIMV organizes non-university training programs based on the orders of the SRI Director, as well as Article 10, paragraph 3. (b) of the Government Ordinance no. 129 of 2000 on adult vocational training, respectively, as “courses organized by employers in their own establishments.”

Postgraduate continuing professional training and development constitute the educational offer for upgrading/developing new occupational/ professional skills in the field the student graduates from and are professional specialization courses. Students who have graduated from at least a Bachelor’s degree study program or and equivalent may register with the postgraduate continuing professional training and development study programs.

Curricula for all postgraduate and continuing professional development study programs have been updated and reapproved for academic year 2021-2022.

2.1.7. Knowledge and skills assessment forms

Examination and grading of students is carried out according to the provisions of the *Methodology for the evaluation of students and trainees in “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy*, throughout all the period of the studies, through current and periodic testing, final tests, research projects, oral examinations, exams – by the appointed teaching staff and committees. Subjects under evaluation as well as the manner in which the evaluation is achieved are specified in the curricula and analytical programs of the education units.

The forms of examination aim to evaluate and assess the level of training of the students, according to the objectives set out in the subject outline and the methodological instructions of the head of subjects. The volume and level of knowledge required at exams and other evaluation forms, as well as the examination form – written, spoken, written and spoken – are laid down in the subject sheet.

The exams (colloquia, verifications) are held in front of the tenured teacher, assisted by the teacher who led the seminars and/ or practical work (laboratory) for that group. If a subject has been taught by several teachers, the examination is held before them or a commission, at the proposal of the department director, with the endorsement of the dean of the competent faculty.

The procedure for appeal of an assessment by the students of the “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy describes the algorithm through which the ANIMV students may appeal the results obtained in a written examination.

The final evaluation – summative (exam or colloquium, on a case-by-case basis) takes into consideration the results of the ongoing evaluation forms. Students’ examination and evaluation procedures are focused on the results of learning and notified in detail to the students during the opening lecture/ seminar, in order to ensure the continuity and the consistency of the learning process. The evaluation stimulates students for a creative learning,

expressed by preparing independent works based on rigorously achieved knowledge and drafted according to the academic standards, even if not necessarily in electronic form.

The Procedure for the evaluation of the activities and performances of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in the doctoral university study program (www.animv.ro/documente-utile-2) provides that the evaluation of doctoral students is done every semester and annually and that it monitors the degree of fulfillment of the objectives for the individual scientific research program. The evaluation of doctoral students' performance is based on self-assessment or on their doctoral supervisors' evaluation.

2.1.8. Students and teachers' mobility support

The transfer of students from other universities for the Bachelor and Master's study programs for the training of officers is not possible, because the admission process in ANIMV, preceded by specific selections of the beneficiary institutions, is complex and involves elimination stages that must be completed exclusively prior to the beginning of studies. ANIMV is the only institution in Romania that offers study programs that aim to train intelligence officers. In this regard, its programs are unique and from this perspective transfer is impossible.

In the area of Master's study programs for the enhancement of security culture within the civil society as well as doctoral studies, ANIMV provides academic mobility through recognition of transfer credits earned by students, according to the regulatory framework in force, at other accredited/authorized higher education institutions home or abroad, under the Order of the Ministry of National Education no. 5140 of 2019 for the approval of the Methodology for the academic mobility of students.

Following the acquisition of the Erasmus Charter, according to the recommendations of the National Agency for Community Programs in the Field of Vocational Education and Training and of the European Commission, ANIMV runs the Erasmus+ Program. Erasmus+ mobility supports the mobility of participants registered or employed within ANIMV and helps participants to acquire key competences and to develop professionally. Students have the possibility to participate in the Erasmus+ Program without interrupting their studies by implementing the provisions on the transfer credits system. Through the management of the faculties in which the students are enrolled, ANIMV automatically recognizes the period of study through the Erasmus+ Program, by the total number of transfer credits accumulated during the mobility period, according to the *Methodology for the equivalence and recognition of study periods abroad through the Erasmus+ program*, in accordance with the principles of the Erasmus Charter.

The equivalence of qualifications/grades obtained in the subjects studied during the internship is carried out according to Annex no. 1 – the Grade Equivalence Grid from the Minister of Education, Research and Sport Order no. 3223 of 2012, in accordance with the principles of the *Erasmus Charter for Higher Education* approved by the European Commission. Students are informed about transfers within faculties according to the Regulations on Students' Professional Activity.

2.1.9. Study programs update

During the academic year 2020-2021 a vast study program benchmarking project has laid down the ANIMV strategic approach of the Bachelor's and Master's degree studies on short and medium term. The project had two main guidelines. First and foremost, the project aimed to

enhance the competitiveness of the programs through the ARACIS specific standards update and the update of the curricula for the Bachelor's and Master's study programs. Secondly, the project aimed to identify the programs that are no longer interesting or productive for the university and to remove them. Therefore, on January 17th 2022, ANIMV has registered a request with the Ministry of Education to remove seven Master's programs in the field of "*Intelligence and National Security*" (*Integrated Intelligence Analysis, Communication and Public Relations, Competitive Intelligence, Intelligence and Public Administration, Intelligence for National Security Decision, Educational Management in the Security Culture, Psychology-Intelligence*) and a Master's program in the field of *International Relations and European Studies* (*International Relations and Intelligence Studies* – study language: English).

Therefore, university study programs are revised and updated as per quality management activities, according to ARACIS quality standards (C4 Committee Standards), as well as to professional training needs dynamics.

Also, all curricula for the postgraduate and continuing professional development study programs for the academic year 2021-2022 have been revised and updated. ANIMV has specifically carried out an evaluation of the current study programs in accordance with the actions of the *National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech for the 2021-2023 period and the accompanying Action Plan, approved by Government Decision no. 539 of 2021*.

Feedback questionnaires filled out by graduates and staff are being analyzed at university level, at faculty level, as well as at the Commissions for Evaluation and Quality Assurance level and results are taking into consideration for the curricula and analytical programs updates.

2.1.10. Modern communication practices in the learning process

For each study program, the materials related to the bibliographic references in the subject outlines are available in printed and/ or digital form.

ANIMV uses two *e-learning* platforms in order to carry out teaching activities, which were used during the Covid-19 pandemic (a SRI internal classified platform, and the Google G-Suite platform for unclassified activities).

Alternative digital learning resources are implemented on *Google Workspace for Education Plus*. The teaching staff provides alternative resources to supplement the learning process (video materials, case studies, other digital resources) and uses, where appropriate, other communication or academic activity platforms, considering the working procedures with classified information.

ANIMV has purchased a university management software that will contribute to the efficient management of the students' academic pathway upon implementation.

ANIMV has information and communication systems, such as the Internet, Intranet, electronic board, etc. It involves all members of the academic community, including students, and responds to public interests. The IT&C Services/ Network are kept up to date in accordance with identified needs and technological updates in the private market, and students have access to it either individually or in organized groups, as required by the study programs, in teaching facilities and elsewhere under the specific regulations.

The university's computer system is made up of databases, set up at the level of structures, which facilitate the collection, processing, and analysis of data on the quality of

education and student life in the university area.

At ANIMV Central Library level, there is a database with the titles of the Bachelor's theses, Master's theses, and dissertations for the last five years, giving the name of the graduate and of the scientific advisor.

The Distance Education Department (DID) provides technical assistance for the accessing of the e-learning system. Thus, the DID has contributed to the increase of the continuing development efficiency, the diversification of ANIMV study programs and also to each and every student's access to real time learning process.

2.1.11. Relevance of study programs

Study programs that are part of the ANIMV offer relate to the SRI training needs and to those of the institutions for which the Academy provides training for the beneficiaries, they relate to the study and scientific research objectives established for the analyzed period and they respect the principle of quality and student-centered training as for the planning and the organization of teaching, studying and research processes (in terms of content, methods and techniques).

Study fields for the initial and continuous development programs accredited within the ANIMV portfolio – the field of Bachelor's degree studies "*Military Science, Intelligence and Public Order*", the field of Master's degree studies "*Intelligence and National Security*", as well as the field of Master's degree studies "*International Relations and European Studies*" – are in line with the Academy's mission and include specific and opportune elements, being in accordance with the needs of labor market.

According to *Government Decision no. 1352 of 2010 on the approval of the Structure of Occupations Classification in Romania – ISCO 08*, these fields are circumscribed to specific occupations for major group 0, called "Army forces", occupations that are approved by the institutions belonging to the defense and public order and safety system in compliance with the provisions of Law no. 182 of 2002 on the Protection of Classified Information, with subsequent amendments and additions.

ANIMV manages three programs for Bachelor's degree studies in the field of "*Military Science, Intelligence and Public Order*". One of these is subject to re-accreditation in the context of institutional evaluation (*Intelligence and Security Studies*), the second program is accredited (*Psychology - Intelligence*) and the third program is temporarily authorized (*Intelligence Operations*).

As an Institution Organizing Master's Degree Studies, ANIMV manages two fields of Master's degree studies: (a) *Intelligence and National Security* (four study programs, re-accredited in 2022) and (b) *International Relations and European Studies* (one study program under re-accreditation). ANIMV also includes the Doctoral School, in the field of doctoral studies *Intelligence and National Security*, re-accredited in 2022.

The study programs are elaborated and developed according to the requirements of the academic qualification. The qualifications are validated by the National Authority for Qualifications. Bachelor's degree and Master's degree Study Programs at ANIMV are registered with the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education, and the postgraduate programs are registered with the National Register of Postgraduate Program.

In addition, ANIMV organizes non-university programs for initial and continuous training

for the needs of SRI and for those of the SAOPSN institutions, programs carried out according to Government Emergency Ordinance 129 of 2000 on adult professional training, under Art. 30 Paragraph 3. (b) and Art. 21 Paragraph (3).

Data collected from the feedback belonging to the ANIMV students and trainees regarding the training process are analyzed by the Academy management also from the point of view of the relevance the course syllabus has for the training needs. In addition, in order to continuously improve the quality of education, the benchmarking is used within the Academy, and data about the way in which the provisions of the quality management are being implemented are collected, mainly through the Internet.

2.2. THE QUALITY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

2.2.1. Objectives for the scientific research

At ANIMV, academic activity is based on the principle of integrating education with research, as per SRI and other beneficiaries' requirements, resulted from enforcing the demands of the European higher education and from preserving the traditions of the Romanian intelligence training. Scientific research is conducted under the provisions of existing national legal rules and those developed for their application within SRI, as well as under the *Strategy for Research, Development and Scientific Innovation within ANIMV*. Established research areas aim to converge with the teaching activities and the activity carried out for the national security.

According to the Strategy, the research system within ANIMV consists of three functional pillars: the work carried out through the two research centers, the National Institute for Intelligence Studies (INSI) and the National Center for Modelling and Simulation in Intelligence; the work carried out by the departments of the two faculties, Faculty of Intelligence Studies and Faculty of Intelligence; the work carried out by both students and academic teaching staff within the Doctoral School. At the same time, the research activity at ANIMV is legitimized through the needs of its organization. The strategic document is made operational in the *Annual Research Plans*, drawn up in a collaborative process by the ANIMV research structures. The research activities and projects, as well as the verification and evaluation activities are covered by the *ANIMV Operational Plan for 2022*.

The research objectives set up for the reference period took into consideration:

- Research excellence level and producing academic knowledge that will contribute to raising the SRI level of anticipation concerning national security and to the scientific justification of the endeavors for institutional transformation and adaptation;
- Achieving the education-research-profession trinoma by including research into the educational processes and by the synergistic and integrated approach to the security and intelligence studies in order to scientifically substantiate the educational content and to connect training programs to the requirements of the intelligence expert profession;
- Recognizing ANIMV as a networking platform and a knowledge hub when it comes to connecting with the academic environment and the civil society by creating a national and regional creativity and dialogue climate as for security and intelligence studies.

During the analyzed period of time, research activity took place by capitalizing on the research potency of the students and the academic training staff, in order to elevate the degree of inter-conditioning between the research and the training process, within a

seamless space for teaching – research, within a seamless view agreed upon through the strategic plan approved by the University Senate.

2.2.2. Resources involved in achieving the results and capitalizing on the research products

The Strategy for Research, Development and Scientific Innovation within ANIMV guides the scientific research approaches of ANIMV by pragmatically and judiciously adapting it to the national security missions, based on a systematic “cost-benefit” analysis.

ANIMV is making efforts to develop and diversify research resources by mixing its own investments and external financial resources, implementing research-development projects with European funds for the following aspects:

- Space – for facilities that are necessary to a modern research-development-innovation infrastructure in the field of Intelligence systems for security (library, working spaces, laboratories);
- Research equipment – maintaining a modern IT infrastructure that would allow research work with a high level of performance, purchasing and using in the research work software solutions for analysis and for interlinking the research staff through collaborative working platforms, purchasing and training for using software components in the field of security and intelligence studies, that would allow the development of research methods specific to this field of study;
- Data resources – the expansion of available academic resources (book fund and virtual data bases) and their updating, so that researchers might have access in real time to the latest academic developments in the field of security and intelligence studies;
- Technical support – as there is a growth of the offer for support technical solutions on the knowledge market, that may be used for research, it is necessary to integrate technical and informational components in order to optimize work flows and to connect national and international research networks, as well as to train research staff to use new technical instruments.

Some of the results achieved during the reporting period are:

- ✚ Successfully ending a European funded project:
 - *THESEUS project (Connect the disconnections - from disparate data to insightful analysis);*
- ✚ Four European funded projects implemented:
 - *EUSEGOV project in the Erasmus +Jean Monnet competition (results in 2022 – the second edition of the Summer School);*
 - *EU-HYBNET project (Empowering a Pan-European Network Against Hybrid Threats) - Orizont 2020;*
 - *DOMINOES Digital Competences Information Ecosystems project - ID: 2021-1-RO01-KA220-HED-000031158;*
 - *INSET project – Critical Studies in Intelligence, Technologies, and SEcuriTy Governance, code 101081354;*
- ✚ A project submitted to European and national competitions:
 - *ARGONAUTS project - Augmenting Resilience Against Online Gaming Culture Abuse HORIZON-CL3-2022-FCT-01-03;*
- ✚ Romanian Intelligence Studies Review (RRSI) has been published and the development strategy has been implemented (there have been published and promoted 2 editions of the

review; it has been added to 2 international data bases; it has been sent for ISI assessment and indexing).

- ✚ Articles and scientific studies published in national and international scientific magazines, as well as reviews and exercises published in RRSI as authors or coauthors;
- ✚ The following books published at ANIMV Publishing House:
 - *Evoluții contemporane în studii de intelligence: între nevoia de securitate și protejarea dreptului la viața privată*, study, ANIMV Publishing House;
 - *Roumanie – France: le partenariat stratégiques et la coopération des services de renseignement (1918-1939)*, ANIMV Publishing House;
 - *O abordare sociologică asupra proceselor de comunicare: concepte teoretice și studii practice. Îndrumar didactic*, “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy Publishing House, 2022;
 - *Femei, Pace, Securitate: construcția vizuală a participării României în Afganistan*, “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy Publishing House, sent for publication in 2022;
 - *Comunicarea strategică în era dezinformării - Suport de curs (autor colectiv)*, “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy Publishing House, 2022;
- ✚ Two scientific events organized in Romania:
 - *Cyber Intelligence Analysis - Executive Course Module*, organized at ANIMV during 14-18.03.2022, through the academic mobility program of Intelligence College in Europe;
 - *Summer School Strategic communication in EU Security Governance, second edition*, organized hybridlike as part of the EUSEGOV European funded project;
- ✚ ERASMUS mobilities and postdoctoral grants:
 - *Participation to the Creative Thinking training course, Prague, June 2022 by means of Erasmus+ Mobility Program*;
 - *Application submitted to Postdoctoral Advanced Research Program organized by ANIMV in September*;
- ✚ Representation at *Intelligence College in Europe*, a platform for academic cooperation for the European intelligence community that aims to develop and reinforce a mutual strategic culture in the field of intelligence studies and some outreach academic programs on national and European level;
- ✚ Research projects on the history of intelligence services, that included identifying valuable information sources in the Archives and drafting complex research reports;
- ✚ A new interactive online course (THESEUS project) dedicated to Big Data analysis, graduated by students from Romania, Malta and Norway who rated it very highly.

In order to promote current topics of interest, the team of OSINT Centre of Excellence (in cooperation with other OSINT specialists within the Service) writes articles on relevant topics for national security issues under the SRI responsibility, using techniques particular to open source analysis. Afterwards, these are published as brochures which come out periodically and may be checked out on www.animv.ro.

2.2.3. The capitalization on the implementation of scientific research projects

The organized manner of work in scientific research is the "research project", a tool that allows increasing performance, monitoring the stages completed and the resources used in research and development. The projects promote the cognitive values resulting from the integration of academic knowledge and practical expertise. The results of the scientific research activity, transformed into books, studies, papers, monographs, articles indexed in international databases, ISI indexed articles, are capitalized on according to the methods set out in the

Scientific Research Plan and are mainly achieved through: 1) the introduction of research results into computerized documentary information systems; 2) the development of studies into papers published in volumes and shared both within the SRI, and to intelligence and security institutions, educational and research institutions, military and civilian scientific figures in the country and abroad; 3) the drafting of scientific communications presented at national scientific events or events with international participation; 4) the publication of various studies, materials, articles in its own specialized publications or in those belonging to other institutions; 5) the inclusion of issues resulting from scientific research into doctrines, regulations and course books; 6) forwarding the developed studies to those who requested them, as well as to other possible beneficiaries – political-military policy-makers, SRI units or structures.

2.2.4. Evaluation of Doctoral School

The Intelligence and National Security Doctoral School of IOSUD ANIMV is established and operates in the field of "Intelligence and National Security" doctoral studies, according to the OMEN 667 of 2007, reconfirmed in Government Decree no. 446 of 2015.

In 2022, the Intelligence and National Security Doctoral School (SDISN) operated with 4 doctoral supervisors, out of which 3 ANIMV holders and 1 AFAHC Brasov holder. All 4 SDISN doctoral supervisors meet the minimum and mandatory national criteria developed by the CNATDCU, specified in OMEN 5229 of August 17th 2020 and in the *Regulation for the organization and conduct of SDISN* for awarding the doctoral supervisor degree. During 2022, no university teaching staff or scientific researcher has been qualified to supervise a PhD in the field of Intelligence and National Security.

The scientific research development directions of the doctoral supervisors are: *Security Studies, Intelligence Systems; Intelligence Culture, Intelligence Analysis; National Identity and Security, Intercultural Communication; Strategic Communication, Security Culture*. During 2022, until September 30th 2022, SDISN operated with 16 doctoral students, out of which 16 found themselves in various stages of the doctoral research program and 0 in the grace period for the public defense. Following October 1st 2022, SDISN operated with 17 doctoral students, out of which 15 found themselves in various stages of the doctoral research program and 2 in the grace period for the public defense of their dissertation, as well as 1 postdoctoral researcher.

For each doctoral student and postdoctoral researcher there is a training program established, developed, monitored and completed/ in the process of completion. Throughout their doctoral and postdoctoral studies, doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers benefit from the support of the tutoring committees, in addition to that provided by the doctoral supervisor. The committees are approved by the SDISN Council, and their tutoring activity is recorded in the documents for the scientific research activity of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers. As an IOSUD, ANIMV provides the necessary infrastructure for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to complete the advanced studies training program, as well as the individual research program.

In this regard, doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers have access to the documentary base belonging to the ANIMV Central Library, as well as to the online version of foreign periodicals. The program used at IOSUD ANIMV to check similarity coefficients is sistemantiplagiat.ro, validated by the *Order of the Minister of Education and Research no. 5229 of August 17th 2020 on the approval of the methodologies for the granting of the habilitation certificate, the awarding of the doctoral degree, as well as the resolution of complaints regarding non-compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including the existence of*

plagiarism, in a dissertation. Through this program the similarity percentages are checked for all works drafted by doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers. The similarity reports are submitted to the Scientific Research Advisory Board prior to the submission of the dissertation or the scientific graduation thesis, and are attached to the dissertation file or to the scientific graduation thesis file. The SDISN Board has established the minimum accepted values for the similarity coefficients for doctoral students' works.

In 2022, 3 doctoral students publicly defended their dissertation.

The premises and material equipment of the IOSUD/ Doctoral School allow for research activities to be carried out, in the evaluated field, in accordance with the mission and the objectives undertaken (computers, particular software, apparatus, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The INTELLIGENT research infrastructure and the offer of research services are presented to the public via a profile platform.

ANIMV IOSUD applies the procedure for periodic evaluation and monitoring of the Doctoral School, as set out in the *Regulation on the organization and conduct of the Intelligence and National Security Doctoral School*. Doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers do their self-evaluation and are evaluated every semester. Annually, the doctoral students carry out an evaluation of the advanced university studies program and the individual scientific research program.

The Doctoral School is coordinated by the CSUD of ANIMV IOSUD and is managed by the SDISN Board and the SDISN Director. The involvement and participation of doctoral students in the decision-making processes related to the doctoral degree programs is made through elected doctoral student representatives in the ANIMV Senate, in the CSUD and in the CSD, in accordance with the regulations in force at ANIMV.

Information on admission is published on www.animv.ro, usually 6 months prior to admission, including the admission calendar, the documents required for application, the doctoral supervisors and the vacancies, the conditions for application, the criteria for the evaluation of applicants.

On the ANIMV IOSUD website, are made public data on the collective governing bodies of IOSUD and SDISN, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, the advanced academic studies program offered by the Doctoral School, the doctoral contract, the public defending of the dissertations, the habilitation process of some teaching staff, as well as on internal regulation. During 2022, new methodologies and procedures were reviewed, debated, analyzed, endorsed and approved, in order to ensure the implementation of legal provisions within the work of the Doctoral School and the CSUD.

IOSUD has mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, companies working in the field of study, aiming for the mobility of doctoral students and teaching staff. One doctoral student is under joint supervision of the European Security and Defense College Doctoral School. Each doctoral student and postdoctoral researcher have participated in international scientific conferences, have carried out a training period abroad or another form of mobility, such as participation in international scientific conferences.

3. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Within ANIMV, quality assurance of education is achieved through a set of actions to develop institutional capacity to draft, plan and implement study programs, meeting the quality

standards set by the legislation in force. Improving the quality of education within ANIMV involves continuous evaluation, analysis and corrective action, based on the selection and enactment of the most appropriate procedures, as well as on the choice and enforcement of reference standards.

The framework document guiding the whole quality assurance process is the *Strategy for the Evaluation and Quality Assurance*. From a legal point of view, the Strategy is drafted on the basis of *Law no. 87 of 2006 on the approval of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75 of 2005 on the quality assurance in education*, with subsequent amendments and additions. From a procedural point of view, the Strategy describes the principles, priorities and main organizational aspects which define the issue of quality assurance in ANIMV.

3.1. QUALITY ASSURANCE AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL AND STUDY PROGRAMS LEVEL

Within ANIMV, quality assurance of education is achieved through a set of actions to develop the institutional capacity for drafting, planning and implementation of study programs, building the confidence of beneficiaries that the organization providing the education meets quality standards according to the legislation in force. Improving the quality of education within ANIMV involves continuous evaluation, analysis and corrective action, based on the selection and enactment of the most appropriate procedures, as well as on the choice and enforcement of reference standards.

ANIMV has a *Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC)* which operates on the basis of its own *Regulations on the organization and conduct*, approved by the University Senate.

During 2021-2022 academic year, there were validated qualifications for 6 Master's degree study programs and 1 Bachelor's degree study program.

For the Master's degree programs that aim to train officers and those that aim to enhance the security culture within civil society, the documentation has been drafted and their registration with the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) has been achieved. The documentation for the registration with the National Register of Postgraduate Programs (RNPP) of 7 postgraduate programs run by ANIMV has been prepared.

Regulations, methodologies, procedures governing the activity of ANIMV have been updated by implementing the legal provisions and orders of the Ministry of Education.

There have been drafted *feedback reports of the students/ trainees* from Bachelor's degree study programs, Master's degree study programs, as well as postgraduate officers training programs. The reports have been made for the subjects of the study years, for each semester/ module and have been sent to the departments of the faculties for possible adjustments regarding the teaching activities and for the evaluation of the teaching staff. The overall feedback report belonging to the students shall be sent to ARACIS in the external audit process.

The documents required by the national legislation have been drafted: *Operational Plan, Status Report, Internal Self-evaluation Report on the Quality of Education within ANIMV*.

3.1.1. Policies and strategies for quality assurance

The body set up within the university, with the task of monitoring and evaluating study

programs, is the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC) and the committees organized at the level of the faculty and of each study program.

The internal monitoring and evaluation system of the study programs also includes the students/ trainees of the university, the graduates of different study programs of the institution, as well as representatives of the beneficiaries of the study programs at SRI, as employers.

The departments maintain ongoing communication with the beneficiaries of student/trainee training in order to incorporate the requirements resulting from the practice of specialist training into the teaching process. At the same time, it centralizes and analyses the conclusions and proposals for the study programs, made by students/trainees, as well as those received from beneficiaries and graduates during the annual evaluations. On the basis of the data received from employers, students and graduates, as well as the conclusions drawn from their own monitoring activities, the departments draw up and present to the Faculty Board proposals for the improvement of study programs. The decision of the Faculty Council on the improvement of study programs is submitted to the University Senate for approval. The most recent *benchmarking* project, carried out in support of the strategic orientation process of ANIMV Bachelor's degree and Master's degree study programs, was conducted during October 2021 – February 2022.

The Quality Assurance Office supports the internal evaluation and quality assurance of the educational processes carried out at the level of the Academy, through administrative support to the CEAC activity of ANIMV. The staff of the structure carries out student feedback reports, endorses the curricula, including the way transfer credits are awarded, develops or endorses, as appropriate, the regulations, methodologies and procedures governing the activity of ANIMV in order to receive the expert opinion of the Legal Department of SRI, cooperates with the faculties in order to register the study programs with the RNCIS and RNPP.

3.1.2. Procedures for regular evaluation of the quality of teaching and research staff

At ANIMV, the evaluation of teaching staff is carried out, according to the legal framework, pursuing four components: evaluation made by students, peer evaluation, evaluation made by the management of the institution and self-evaluation. The teaching staff evaluation is carried out on the basis of the *Methodology for evaluating the individual performance of the teaching staff within "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy and the Operational Procedure on collecting and evaluating feedback within ANIMV*.

Thus, each professor is evaluated in order to know his/ her teaching performance, as perceived by the students enrolled in teaching activities such as courses, seminars, laboratories, projects, etc. During the process of evaluating the teaching staff by students and trainees, the information collected refers to the issues of professional ethics and those relating to the continuous improvement of the quality of the teaching activity of the person that is being evaluated.

The frequency for collecting and evaluating the three types of feedback is as follows: a) semesterly – collecting and evaluating feedback on the quality of teaching activities; b) at the end of the study program – collecting and evaluating feedback on the study program; c) yearly – collecting and evaluating feedback on the services offered. The evaluation of doctoral supervisors based on the evaluation made by doctoral students is carried out according to the *Procedure on Evaluating of Activities and Performance of Doctoral Supervisors and Doctoral Students in the Doctoral University Study Program*, and twice a year the doctoral students enrolled in the training program based on advanced university studies fill in *Evaluation Sheets*.

3.1.3. Analysis of the results of university professors' evaluation

Data analysis, drafting of student feedback reports and sending the results to the heads of department is carried out by the Quality Assurance Office, and is reviewed by the CEAC, and the result of the evaluation is sent in confidence, being accessible to the head of department, the dean, the Commandant (Rector) and the person that is being evaluated. Each university professor is informed by the head of department about the results of the evaluation for each subject, thus aiming at a permanent improvement of the teaching process.

Whenever he/ she considers it necessary, each professor has also the possibility to ask students to assess the quality of their own teaching activity, by filling in individual questionnaires whose content is determined by the university management. Only the professor requesting the evaluation has access to these questionnaires, in order to use the tool to improve the content and make the educational process more efficient.

3.1.4. Analysis of the results of students' evaluation of the learning environment

For the academic year 2021-2022, according to the analysis of the responses to the feedback questionnaire administered to the students from the Bachelor's degree programs, Master's degrees programs for officer training and Master's degree program for enhancing security culture within civil society, at the end of the academic year 2021-2022, the average participation rate of ANIMV students in the Teaching Evaluation and Feedback Questionnaire was 55.8%, and the weighted average satisfaction rate was 87.7%.

The results of the evaluation are used by the Academy management to improve the quality of the study programs, and the quality of the services offered.

The average scores per subject and the average individual scores of the teaching staff were made available to the deans and department directors and were considered in the teaching staff's evaluation process for the academic year 2021-2022, as well as in the drafting and adjustment of the curricula and the subject sheets for the following academic years.

3.1.5. Peer evaluation

The peer evaluation is organized in accordance with the Methodology for evaluating the individual performance of the teaching staff within "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy. As a component of the system of evaluation of the work carried out by each professor, the peer evaluation has become part of the current practice of each department. The department directors show a proactive attitude in order to enforce the provisions of the Methodology within the structures they coordinate. Each professor is obliged to evaluate the work of his/ her colleagues, to assess or make recommendations that aim to improve the quality of the teaching process.

3.1.6. Evaluation by the management of the institution

According to the internal regulatory framework, university professors have gone through the annual self-evaluation processes and evaluation processes conducted by the heads of structures. To this end, the Academy has self-evaluation forms and forms for annual multi-criteria evaluation of each professors, which are filled in periodically, according to the internal procedures drawn up. In this context, the heads of structures have drawn up assessments for teaching and research staff, which have included proposals for further training, rewards/career

advancement. The evaluations carried out by the Academy's management have had an impact on the promotion and financial rewards of the teaching staff, and on the proposals made for enrolment in further training or specialization courses.

3.1.7. The ratio of university professors to students

The employment degree of teaching staff members had ensured the coverage of the activities foreseen in a student training cycle, complying with a ratio of 1/14. In relation to its own academic needs, the University Senate has approved to invite to ANIMV some teaching staff and other renowned specialists in the field, in the country and from abroad, as invited associates.

3.1.8. Resources for quality assurance of distance education and part-time education

Within ANIMV, the Distance Education Department (DID) provides support for designing and implementing distance education. It has offered the technical support to access the e-learning system.

ANIMV uses two e-learning platforms for teaching activities, which were used during the Covid-19 pandemics (an SRI classified internal platform, as well as the G-Suite platform from Google for unclassified activities).

3.2. QUALITY OF THE SUPPORT OFFERED TO THE STUDENTS – FOCUSING ON THE STUDENT

3.2.1. Regulations on non-discrimination

In compliance with the provisions of the *Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology*, any discrimination based on age, ethnic or social origin, gender, political opinion, religion or belief are not allowed at ANIMV, within the limitations of the military regulation for each study programs.

3.2.2. Students' professional and scientific activity

The in force and updated *Regulations on the professional activity of students* for both Bachelor's degree and Master's degree programs at ANIMV are approved by the University Senate. Together with the military regulation concerning the military student status, the provisions of the regulations are based on the legislation in force on education, organization of academic studies, quality in education, organization of admission and completion of studies in higher education, of internships, and issuing study papers.

Therefore, the Regulations on the professional activity of students are published on www.animv.ro and they include the principles established through the ANIMV University Charter on recruiting and selecting students, organizing and conducting the admission, documents necessary to applying for the admission competition, requirements for graduating each study year, according to the study credits (ECTS) earned, as well as the students mobility, provided that this cannot happen during the academic study year.

The research activity during the ANIMV Bachelor's degree and Master's degree programs also include the students' contribution, which means that students' individual initiative and continuous involvement are encouraged with the purpose of achieving training programs based on research activities in both national and international teams. For this purpose, students have been involved in research products (specialized studies and scientific papers), as well as

academic debates. ANIMV also holds the annual scientific communications session for the students, and ANIMV students attend other students' scientific communication sessions.

According to the contents of the curricula, during the period under review the students' professional activity included participation to internships. These activities were meant to facilitate the students' professional integration, and took place mostly within the structures where they would eventually work.

3.2.3. Students' career guidance

At ANIMV, there are four specific mechanisms that provide career guidance:

- (1) Evaluation and career orientation before the admission. For the candidates selected for SRI, the employer develops a career orientation mechanism with the help of the recruitment teams. This consists of a complex set of evaluations specific to the selection of candidates before the academic admission competitions. Its purpose is to identify matches between a candidate's profile and the activity requirements of the employer. This mechanism identifies a series of career patterns and maximizes the good use of students' qualities and features.
- (2) Evaluation and career counseling through tutors. Tutorship is consistent and highly efficient when it comes to career counseling. Students truly appreciate the importance of a tutor in their professional activity, including from the career orientation point of view.
- (3) Evaluation and career counseling through consultancy. Another way to offer students career counseling is through consultancy sessions held by each faculty, either jointly established by each member of the teaching staff, or by publishing them on the ANIMV's internal network, which offers access for all students and trainees.
- (4) Evaluation and career counseling through the Career Guidance and Counseling Centre. ANIMV has established the Career Guidance and Counseling Centre, which includes enough specialized staff, according to the number of enrolled students. The center benefits from proper resources for its activities. The Career Guidance and Counseling Centre ensures the connection between employers and ANIMV graduates in order to optimize the transition from training to employment on a certain position, either in an institution of the national defense, public order and national security system, or in other institutions.

3.2.4. Extracurricular activities

The Intelligence and National Security Doctoral School annually hosts the "Bralnt" thematic schools' cycle. Extracurricular activities complete the doctoral training program and support the doctoral students of ANIMV IOSUD who wish to validate and improve their advanced training, improve their research skills and abilities, confront their ideas, their research directions or the conclusions of their doctoral research with other colleagues that are doctoral students. For doctoral supervisors, this activity aims for the experience exchange in doctoral supervision, alignment and diversification of supervision methods and practices.

3.2.5. Informing students about the teaching activity

In ANIMV central campus, students are permanently informed about various organizational matters (daily class schedule, daily meal plan etc.), general activities (such as elections for naming a student in the Academy's structures), events held by the Academy (conferences), and other matters concerning the teaching activity.

For this purpose, the Academy has two online communication means, the electronic news board and a separate online partition for students, that allow each student to find the

information and data they need. There is also a communication structure in the Academy which manages the electronic news board tool located in five buildings of the central campus.

3.2.6. Tutoring teaching activities

At ANIMV tutoring activities have the fundamental purpose of accommodating students with the requirements of the academic life and building the moral character of the students. Academic tutoring implies the opportunity and the right of a student to benefit from the academic guidance of a teacher during his study years.

At the beginning of the academic year, the Academy decides the teaching staff assigned as tutor for each study group, and the Faculty Council assigns a coordinator for each study year, making this teacher responsible for maintaining the connection between tutors and managing the entire tutoring activity.

The tutoring system in the Academy encourages the inter-connection between teachers and students and aims to optimize the training process, including extracurricular activities. It also intends to increase both professional and personal responsibility of the student and to develop his ability to find his own path in the academic and campus life.

The tutor ensures guidance so as to develop student's evaluation and self-evaluation ability, for the student to choose his future studies and professional path, to consider the decisions that may impact his military student status. Therefore, the student can develop a distinct behavior defined by military prestige, moral character and counter-intelligence conduct. Equally, the tutor supports the student's academic activity, but also in situations concerning his integration and accommodation in campus, so that his quality life in the Academy and his level of satisfaction continually improves.

3.2.7. Students' representation structures

According to the provisions of Law no. 1 of 2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, and the University Charter, students are represented in consultative, decisional and executive structures of the Academy.

In the Academy students participate in decision making and have the right to elect and be elected, to be represented in the Academy Senate and in the Faculty Councils by no less than 25%, to be represented in the Academy's structures that manage social services, to be informed and to be consulted by the students' representatives on decisions passed by the management of the institution they are part of. Students' representatives of Faculty Councils, Academy Senate, Board of Trustees and CEAC are elected by direct voting of the students.

The appointing process for the member students in any other consultative, deliberative and executive structures than those under the Law no.1 of 2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, may be carried out on the basis of academic autonomy.

3.2.8. Opportunities for educational needs

For its own Bachelor's degree graduates, the Academy provides the opportunity to continue studying in Master's degree programs. Furthermore, in order to support students to continue their studies, for those who meet the legal terms, ANIMV offers doctoral and postdoctoral studies in the *Intelligence and national security* field.

Depending on the chosen career path, ANIMV graduates may pursue postgraduate programs or professional development programs offered by ANIMV in order to gather the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill their work duties, either full time or through distance

education programs.

3.2.9. Means to stimulate academic performance

In order to stimulate academic performance, merit and performance scholarships are awarded, according to specific criteria according to the ANIMV methodology. These are awarded in relation to the scholarships fund and the amount is established for each of the specializations of the full-time academic study programs, budget funded, for the Bachelor's degree and Master's degree study programs.

According to the achieved performance and with the study program attended, stimulating benefits can extend to participating in funded research programs or to study facilities.

3.2.10. Students' evaluation of the teaching staff

In ANIMV it has become mandatory for the students to assess the teaching staff, the results of the process are centralized at the department level, under the coordination of the head of the department and with the endorsement of the dean of the faculty and that of the CEAC chairman.

The information gathered from the students' assessment of the teaching staff should highlight matters of professional deontology and matters that involve the continuous improvement of the teaching activity of the person under assessment. Actions that may directly or indirectly manipulate, condition or influence the students own opinion are completely forbidden.

The head of the department informs each member of the teaching staff about the assessment results for each subject, with the purpose of improving the teaching act. The assessment results shall also be used by the faculties management in grounding decisions on management of the teaching staff performance.

4. CONCLUSIONS

ANIMV has the institutional capacity to organize and conduct study programs for all three cycles of university studies, for the postgraduate programs and for the continuing professional development programs requested by the beneficiaries at a high-quality level, according to the reference standards.

Educational efficiency is ensured both through achieving the skills and abilities established for the students by means of the curricula and the analytical programs, according to the beneficiaries' requirements, and through graduates being hired immediately after graduation.

Quality management is organized and operates according to clear regulations and ensures a high-quality level academic education.

Scientific research is an important part of the activities conducted by the teaching staff, researchers, students, Master's degree students and doctoral students. The amount of time to be spent for scientific research is proportional with the particularities and the level of the study programs, its ratio growing from the Bachelor's degree study program to the Master's degree study program, and having the longest allotted time during the doctoral program.

5. PROPOSALS

In order to improve the quality of the education offered at ANIMV, we suggest prioritizing the following activities in 2023:

- a) Closing the ANIMV's process of institutional re-accreditation and receiving the "high confidence degree" qualification, according to the ARACIS procedures;
- b) Re-accrediting the Master's degree study domain *International Relations and European Studies*;
- c) Re-accrediting the Bachelor's degree program *Security and Intelligence Studies*;
- d) When appropriate, updating the information on study programs enrolled in RNCIS and RNPP;
- e) Receiving constant feedback from the beneficiaries for the practice activities organized, as well as for the professional integration of the Academy's graduates;
- f) Continuing the academic *benchmarking* process in order to identify best practice in the intelligence education field;
- g) Linking the conclusions of the feedback reports by adapting the curricula;
- h) Developing ways to monitor the professional evolution, that would allow a better correlation between the training programs and the requests and expectations that the beneficiaries of the educational activities have.