



ACPUA

AGENCIA DE CALIDAD Y PROSPECTIVA
UNIVERSITARIA DE ARAGÓN

Activity Report

2023

[Approved by the ACPUA Governing Board at its meeting of 12/03/2024]

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MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

MISSION

ACPUA's mission is to guarantee and promote the quality of the University System of Aragon. This mission includes both the development of useful links between the university, the socio-productive fabric, the institutional decision-making bodies and Aragonese society as a whole, and the promotion of the exchange of experiences, not only with other national and international university systems, but also with other educational levels (secondary education, vocational training, etc.).

To achieve this mission, ACPUA mainly carries out technical tasks of evaluation, certification and accreditation. This public service activity is complemented by research and foresight work and activities to promote a culture of quality in higher education in the region.

VISION

ACPUA aims to be an agile and efficient agency; one that will become essential in the territory due to the seriousness and operability of its service activity. Providing the added value of quality assurance, we will be an indispensable reference for all institutions and agents with educational responsibilities in the region.

We aspire to become, outside Aragon, a qualified agency and a recognised interlocutor in the European area of university quality and evaluation.

In order to achieve this vision, ACPUA must be governed in all its procedures and actions by European standards and guidelines (ESG). With transparency, independence of judgement and commitment to accountability, we support reflection, continuous improvement and creativity.

VALUES

- Independence, autonomy and objectivity.
- Social accountability and transparency by ensuring public access to reliable, timely, clear and accurate information.
- The establishment of internal and external quality assurance mechanisms for the continuous improvement of processes to ensure their effectiveness and efficiency.
- The development of relations with all stakeholders (university, administration, business world, Aragonese society) through the promotion of dialogue to ensure their satisfaction.
- The promotion of student participation in the Agency's activity and quality assurance processes.
- Cooperation with national and international higher education agencies and networks.
- Commitment to a job well done by the Agency's staff and its collaborators, associated with professionalism and honesty.
- Teamwork, based on respect and collaboration to achieve the best working environment.

MAP OF PROCESSES

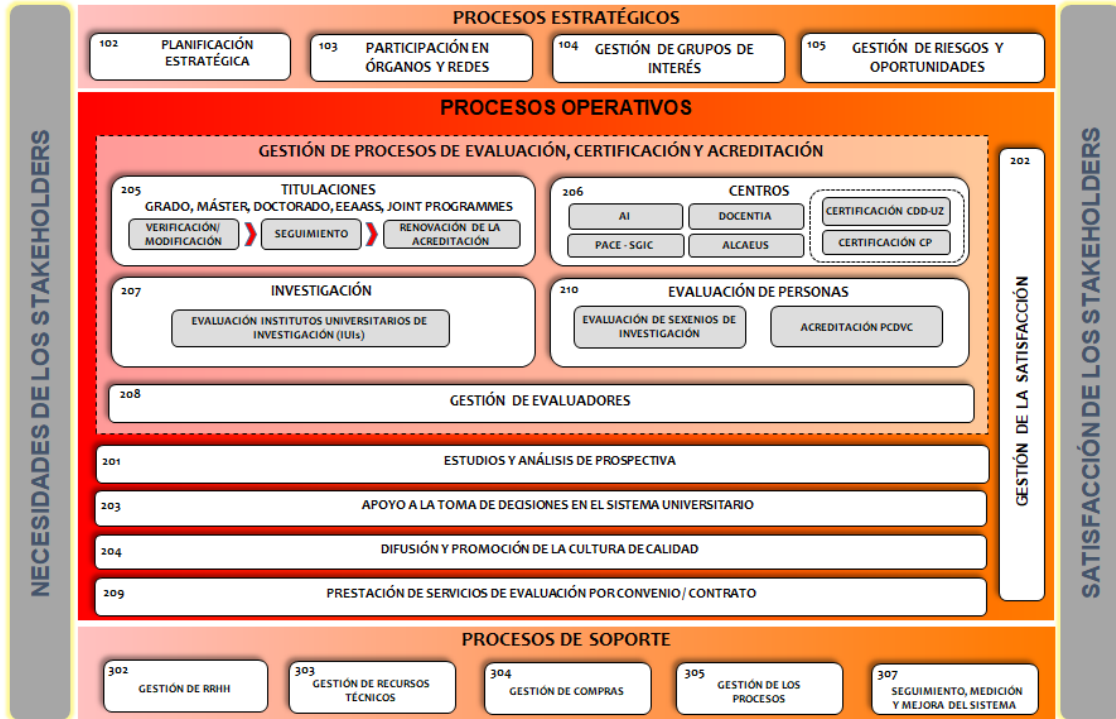


Table 1 Map of ACPUA processes.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2022

On 23 March 2023, the ACPUA Governing Board approved the plan of activities for the year 2023, which continued with the actions along the strategic lines of the 2019-2022 Plan.

NO.	Strategic line	Annual target 2019	Annual target 2020	Annual target 2021	Annual target 2022	Annual target 2023
L1	INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION AND ITS IMPACT ON UNIVERSITY QUALITY ASSURANCE	Promoting Institutional Accreditation in Aragonese Universities	Promoting Institutional Accreditation in Aragonese Universities	Advancing in the Institutional Accreditation of the University System of Aragon	Advancing the Accreditation Institutional University System of Aragon	Advancing in the Institutional Accreditation of the University System of Aragon
		Promote teacher evaluation programmes	Promote teacher evaluation programmes	Consolidate teaching evaluation programmes	Consolidating programmes of evaluation of the teaching	Consolidate teaching evaluation programmes
		Develop institutional reaccreditation protocol	Develop institutional monitoring and re-accreditation protocols	Approve institutional monitoring and re-accreditation protocols	Adapting protocols monitoring and reaccreditation institutional to the new legislation	Develop protocols for the accreditation of doctoral schools and the reaccreditation of centres.
L2	CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF LEARNING ASSESSMENT PROCESSES	Complying with degree evaluation processes	Complying with degree evaluation processes	Complying with degree evaluation processes	Comply with the evaluation processes of qualifications	Complying with degree evaluation processes
				Update assessment protocols to adapt them to new developments (COVID-19 impact).	Adapting protocols of evaluation to the new legislation	Implement the new assessment protocols
					Have a plan for action in the face of recommendations of ENQA	Implement ENQA recommendations
L3	SYSTEMISATION OF R&D&I EVALUATION ACTIVITIES	Reflect on those aspects of the Science Act that can be developed by the Agency.	Reflect on those aspects of the Science Act that can be developed by the Agency.	Reflecting on the evaluative challenges of R&D&I in Aragon	Reflect on challenges and improvements in the evaluation of the Humanities	Participating in the reform of research evaluation
		Comply with assigned evaluation processes	Comply with assigned evaluation processes	Comply with assigned evaluation processes	Comply with the evaluation processes assigned	Comply with assigned evaluation processes
		Developing the PCDVC accreditation protocol	Develop and validate PCDVC accreditation protocol	Launch PCDVC accreditation assessment	Consolidating the evaluation for the PCDVC accreditation	
L4	FORESIGHT: DRIVING EXCELLENCE, STRATEGIC EVALUATIONS AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS	Developing graduate integration studies	Developing graduate integration studies	Systematise and disseminate thematic analyses on quality and employability in the SUA.	Systematise and disseminate thematic analyses on quality and employability in the SUA.	Publishing and disseminating the alumni survey
		Promoting thematic analysis of the SUA	Promoting thematic analysis of the SUA			
			Boosting excellence and strategic evaluations	Visibilise the excellence of the SUA and its comparability with other systems.	Visibilise the excellence of the SUA and its comparability with other systems.	Systematising and disseminating thematic analysis on the quality of the SUA Visibilising the strategic strengths of the SUA
L5	DEVELOPING THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF QUALITY	Define indicators for sustainability assessment in HEIs	Development of a programme to evaluate the implementation of the 2030 agenda in the SUA.	Implementing the ALCAEUS Programme	Consolidating the ALCAEUS Programme	Disseminating the ALCAEUS Programme after the pilot evaluation
		Incorporate equality criteria in evaluation processes.	Promoting the principle of equality and respect for sexual diversity	Apply across the board the principle of real (effective, material) equality of opportunity between women and men.	Apply the principle of real (effective, material) equality of opportunity between women and men across the board in evaluation guides.	Renewing the Agency's commitment to sustainability and Agenda 2030
				Contribute to the effective respect for the sexual diversity of all persons in the SUA centres.	Launch an ACPUA seal of respect for diversity	Apply the principle of real (effective, material) equality of opportunity between women and men across the board in evaluation guides. Launch an ACPUA seal of respect for diversity

NO.	Strategic line	Annual target 2019	Annual target 2020	Annual target 2021	Annual target 2022	Annual target 2023
L6	OPENNESS TO STAKEHOLDERS	Increase stakeholder participation in all Agency processes.	Increase stakeholder participation in all Agency committees and processes. Providing information and responding to the expectations of the Aragonese society.	Strengthen stakeholder participation in all Agency committees and processes.	Ensure active stakeholder participation in all Agency committees and processes.	Consolidate the active participation of stakeholders in all Agency committees and processes.
				Providing information and responding to the expectations of the Aragonese society.	Providing information and response to the expectations of the Aragonese society	Providing information and responding to the expectations of the Aragonese society.
				Establish a stable channel of communication with SUA students in order to know their needs and expectations (impact COVID-19)	Strengthen communication with the SUA student body.	Strengthen communication with current and future SUA students.
					Analysing teaching needs and expectations (COVID Impact)	Sharing COVID Impact analysis with stakeholders
L7	INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE AGENCY AND OPENING UP TO OTHER SPACES AND CENTRES	Increasing ACPUA's involvement in the international arena Increasing ACPUA's participation outside the SUA	Increasing ACPUA's involvement in the international arena Increasing ACPUA's national outreach	Strengthen ACPUA's participation in European and international projects.	Develop ACPUA's international participation by enhancing its involvement and prestige in the EHEA and in other regions and global networks.	Consolidate ACPUA's international participation by strengthening its involvement and prestige in the EHEA and in Latin America.
				Strengthen ACPUA's national outreach and exchanges.	Continue collaboration and increase ACPUA exchanges at the national level.	Consolidating the Agency's contribution to the quality assurance of the European University Alliances (UNITA)
						Advance the Agency's recognition according to international standards (GGP/ISG).
L7 + 1	ADAPTING THE AGENCY'S STRUCTURE TO THE NEW TRENDS OF THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA	Strengthening the Agency's structure	Strengthening the agency structure	Strengthening the agency structure	Strengthen the agency's structure, based on ENQA recommendations on ESG 3.5/ 3.6	Preparing the ENQA Progress Visit (follow-up)

Table 2 ACPUA Business Plan 2019-2023.

1. EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Most of the evaluation activities carried out by ACPUA in 2023 can be broken down into two large blocks. The first of these comprises all the activities associated with the evaluation of official university degrees, i.e. Bachelor's and Master's syllabuses and Doctoral Programmes, which were carried out in accordance with Royal Decree 822/2021 of 28 September, which establishes the organisation of university education and the procedure for quality assurance. The second of these encompasses all certification and accreditation activities, together with other programmes carried out on university centres, activities carried out in accordance with Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres.

In addition, during 2023 ACPUA also carried out evaluation activities on individuals, as well as on other research structures that form part of the Aragonese R&D&I system, mainly the University Research Institutes of the University of Zaragoza, or other systems outside the Aragonese system.

1.1. Qualifications

University studies leading to official degrees awarded by universities are structured in three cycles, called Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate respectively, in accordance with the provisions of Article 9.1 of Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the University System.

In order to ensure the quality of university studies, official university degrees must undergo external assessment procedures in accordance with the *European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Higher Education* (ESG), ESG), in accordance with the provisions of Titles II and III of Organic Law 2/2023, of 22 March, on the University System, and in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September, and Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, regulating official doctoral studies. To this end, the universities must take joint responsibility for quality assurance by developing their internal quality assurance systems and promoting a culture of quality among the university community.

The quality assurance procedures, which involve all the syllabuses of official university degrees, are those of verification, monitoring and modification, as well as the renewal of degree accreditation. To this end, the quality agencies jointly establish the quality assessment protocols that underpin them.

Verification is the first step in the creation of a new degree, and firstly requires the universities to draw up a verification report containing the degree project, so that verification basically consists of the approval of the verification report and therefore of the degree project presented by the university. With this ex-ante assessment, the assessment agencies let the universities know that their degree project is adequate, that the project contains a coherent curriculum and that the resources with which the degree will be provided seem adequate. Once the quality assurance agencies have issued a favourable report (and the implementation of the degree has been authorised by the regional

government), this document becomes the "contract" that the universities sign with society and becomes the reference document for subsequent evaluations. It is in this process that the justification, the appropriateness of the degree, the syllabus, the learning outcomes to be achieved and the material and human resources to be made available for the degree are approved.

Subsequently, in the monitoring and accreditation renewal evaluations, the people who make up the degree evaluation panels analyse whether there are deviations from the verified report, propose recommendations for improvement and/or highlight good practices in an overall process of continuous quality improvement, so it is very important that the report is well thought out and that the evaluation carried out on it in the verification process is very rigorous.

In order to carry out all these activities, once the Agency had consolidated its use of collaborative ICT tools that enabled it to maintain the Agency's activity during 2020 and 2021 despite the pandemic situation generated by COVID-19, during 2023, as in the previous year, ACPUA carried out all the activities of verification, modification and/or renewal of the accreditation of the study plans virtually in accordance with the "ACPUA Guide for Virtual Visits" approved by the ECSC on 30 October 2020, in compliance with all the recommendations, rules, clarifications and information for assessment in times of pandemic established by the Spanish Network of University Quality Agencies (REACU) or from Brussels by ENQA and EQAR, as well as the requirements established in the Resolution of 6 April 2021, of the General Secretariat for Universities, approving recommendations in relation to the assessment criteria and standards for the verification, modification, monitoring and renewal of accreditation of official university degrees and Master's degrees offered in virtual and hybrid teaching modalities.

This way of working has allowed the Agency to make teamwork more profitable while at the same time helping to reduce costs by avoiding travel and reducing the carbon footprint generated by its activity.

1.1.1. Verification of curricula

The activity of verification of study plans - Bachelor's or Master's - and Doctoral Programmes carried out by ACPUA is always an open activity, which attends to all the requests that arrive from the Council of Universities once the university initiates the procedure, adjusting to the deadlines and procedures established in article 26 of Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, in article 10 of Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, for doctoral programmes and additionally in article 6 of Decree 72/2023, of 17 May, of the Government of Aragon, which approves the Regulation that regulates the procedures and measures for quality assurance of official university education in the Autonomous Community of Aragon.

The protocols followed by ACPUA in this procedure are as follows:

- ACPUA VERIFICATION PROGRAMME - Official Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Approved by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission in session of 22 November 2022.

- ACPUA VERIFICATION PROGRAMME - Official Doctoral Degrees. Approved by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission in session of 22 November 2022.
- GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION OF TEACHING MODALITIES. Document adopted by the ECSC at the meeting of 11 July 2022.

Furthermore, the document "VERIFICATION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE MEMORANDUM ITEMS AND THEIR EVALUATION", approved by the ECSC at its meeting of 11 July 2022 and revised by the SET at its meeting of 14 October 2022, was updated in July 2023.

The aforementioned regulations and protocols establish a certain timeframe for carrying out the activities associated with verification, so that depending on when the university initiates the procedure, it may begin one year and end the following year. Having made the above observation, the following table lists the official degrees whose application for verification was received by the ACPUA in 2023.

Procedure	Level	Institution	Qualification
Verification	Grade	San Jorge University	Graduate in Medicine
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Economic and Logistical Administration in the Defence Sphere
Verification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Defence and Security Studies
Verification	Grade	San Jorge University	Graduate in Medicine
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Palaeontology
Verification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Biomedical Engineering
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza, University of La Rioja, University of Lleida and Public University of Navarra.	Master's Degree in Circular Economy
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Digital Health Technologies
Verification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Information and Digital Contents Management
Verification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Geography, Territory and the Environment and Environment
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Electronic Engineering
Verification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Telecommunications Engineering

Table 2 Verification assessments of curricula.

Finally, it should be noted that, to carry out this activity, ACPUA, like other Spanish evaluation agencies, used the VSA (Verification-Monitoring-Accreditation) platform, which is the computer tool used by ANECA to evaluate the official courses taught by universities. At the beginning of the second half of the year, the Ministry implemented the modification of the SOLRUCT software application in its adaptation to RD822. This modification caused communication problems with the VSA application, which gave rise to a multitude of incidents. At the end of the year, the Ministry proposed three possible ways of communication with SOLRUCT to the agencies: through ANECA's VSA application (for which the national agency established the need to sign an agreement with the agencies concerned), direct degree-by-degree management on SOLRUCT, or communication between the Ministry's application and the agencies' management applications. Given the volume of degrees, the ACPUA opted, as of 22 December 2023, for direct management with SOLRUCT degree by degree, thus ceasing to depend on the VSA platform for the management of modification and verification evaluations.

1.1.2. Modification of curricula

Modification procedures for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes and doctoral programmes can be substantial or non-substantial, and can take place in both institutionally accredited and non-accredited institutions.

Article 30 of Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September, regulates the procedure for the non-substantial modification of syllabuses taught in non-institutionally accredited university centres, Article 31 of the aforementioned Royal Decree regulates the procedure for the non-substantial modification of syllabuses taught in institutionally accredited university centres. Articles 32 and 33 regulate the procedures for the substantial modification of syllabuses taught in non-institutionally accredited and institutionally accredited university centres, respectively. In addition, this regulation is contained in Articles 9 and 10 of Decree 72/2023, of 17 May, of the Government of Aragon.

The protocols followed by ACPUA in this procedure are as follows:

- ACPUA PROGRAMME OF MODIFICATION - Official Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Approved by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission in session of 22 November 2022.
- ACPUA MODIFICATION PROGRAMME - Official Doctoral Degrees. Approved by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission in session of 22 November 2022.

Substantial changes to curricula

Substantial modifications are those changes that improve the degree and that are also the result of monitoring or of the requirements derived from previous evaluation processes, but that go beyond the scope of the non-substantial modification, given that they alter elements of the structure, nature and/or objectives of the degree programme or other aspects of the memory.

The following table lists the official qualifications whose application for substantial modification was received by the ACPUA in 2023.

Procedure	Level	Institution	Qualification
Substantial Modification	Grade	San Jorge University	Graduate in Marketing
Substantial Modification	Grade	San Jorge University	Graduate in Nursing
Substantial Modification	Grade	San Jorge University	Graduate in Physiotherapy
Substantial Modification	Grade	San Jorge University	Graduate in Psychology
Substantial Modification	Grade	San Jorge University	Biomedicine graduate
Substantial Modification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master in Informatics Engineering / Master in Informatics Engineering
Substantial Modification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Occupational Therapy
Substantial Modification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master in Mechanical Engineering / Master in Mechanical Engineering
Substantial Modification	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Law and Public Procurement
Substantial Modification	Master's degree	San Jorge University	Master's Degree in Law and Public Prosecutions
Substantial Modification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Mathematics
Substantial Modification	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Graduate in Medicine
Substantial Modification	PhD	University of Zaragoza	Doctoral Programme in Sociology of Public and Social Policies
Substantial Modification	PhD	University of Zaragoza	Doctoral Programme in Medicine

Table 3 Substantial changes to curricula.

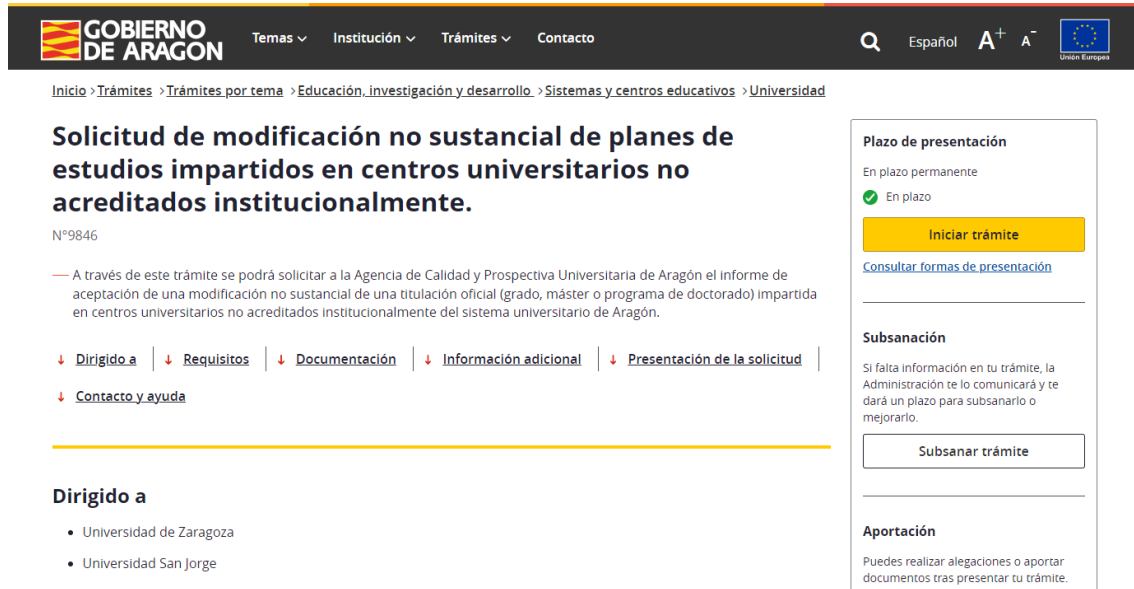
As in the case of verifications, ACPUA used the VSA (Verification-Monitoring-Accreditation) platform until 22 December 2023, from which date the Agency directly manages substantial modifications.

Non-substantial changes to curricula

Non-substantial modifications: these are minor changes that improve the degree and are the result of the monitoring that each centre carries out with the periodicity established in its internal quality assurance systems Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS).

In order to manage non-substantial modifications of study plans in non-institutionally accredited centres, ACPUA implemented a new procedure in the electronic headquarters of the Government of Aragon <https://www.aragon.es/tramites> procedure number 9846 "Application for non-substantial modification of study plans taught in non-institutionally accredited university centres".

The access address is <https://www.aragon.es/tramitador/-/tramite/informe-relativo-a-la-modificacion-no-sustancial-de-los-planes-de-estudios-impartidos-en-centros-universitarios-no-acreditados-institucionalmente> and universities can submit a permanent request for non-substantial modification. The following figure shows the initial part of this website.



The screenshot shows the website interface for the 'Solicitud de modificación no sustancial de planes de estudios impartidos en centros universitarios no acreditados institucionalmente' process. The header includes the 'GOBIERNO DE ARAGÓN' logo and navigation links. The main content area features the title, a reference number (Nº9846), and a description of the process. A sidebar on the right contains sections for 'Plazo de presentación' (indicating a permanent deadline is met), 'Subsanación' (with a 'Subsanar trámite' button), and 'Aportación'.

The following table lists the official qualifications whose request for non-substantial modification was received by the ACPUA in 2023.

Procedure	Level	Institution	Qualification
Non-Substantial Change	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Compulsory Secondary Education, Baccalaureate, Vocational Education and Training, and Language, Artistic and Sports Teaching
Non-Substantial Change	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Animal Nutrition
Non-Substantial Change	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Food Quality, Safety and Technology
Non-Substantial Change	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Degree in Early Childhood Education
Non-Substantial Change	Grade	University of Zaragoza	Degree in Teaching in Primary Education
Non-	Master's	University of	Master's Degree in Tumour Immunology and

Procedure	Level	Institution	Qualification
Substantial Change	degree	Zaragoza	Cancer Immunotherapy
Non-Substantial Change	Master's degree	University of Zaragoza	Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning: Research Initiation

Table 4 Non-substantial amendments.

1.1.3. Follow-up of degrees

The regulations governing this procedure are set out in articles 28 and 29 of Royal Decree 822/2021 of 28 September for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes and in article 10 of Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January for Doctoral Programmes.

Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September, establishes that non-institutionally accredited centres shall draw up at least one follow-up report, which is mandatory three years after the effective implementation or renewal of the accreditation of their degrees.

In the Aragon University System, all degrees are subject to annual monitoring by the IACS of the centres. These reports are made available to the ACPUA every year.

Given the change in the frequency of accreditation renewal processes for master's degrees from 4 to 6 years, and the fact that the centres with the largest number of degrees within the UZ and all the centres of the USJ are institutionally accredited, there were no degrees to be monitored in 2023.

The protocols followed by ACPUA in this procedure are as follows:

- MONITORING PROGRAMME - Procedure for the monitoring of Bachelor's and Master's degrees (non-institutionally accredited centres). Approved by the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission (CECA) at the meeting of 11 July 2022.
- ACPUA DEGREE MONITORING PROGRAMME - Doctoral Programmes - Protocol for the evaluation of Doctoral Programmes. Approved by the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission (CECA) in session of 17 July 2020.

1.1.4. Renewal of accreditation

The renewal of accreditation is another quality assurance procedure that basically consists of monitoring the development of the syllabus of the official university degree with the aim of assessing compliance with the fundamental academic criteria and approaches set out in the syllabus report (verified report). Articles 34 and 35 of Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September, regulate this procedure for degrees taught in non-institutionally accredited and institutionally accredited university centres, respectively, a regulation that is complemented by the provisions of Article 14 "Renewal of the accreditation of official university degrees taught in non-institutionally accredited centres" of Decree 72/2023, of 17 May, of the Government of Aragon.

The protocols followed by ACPUA in this procedure are as follows:

- ACPUA ACCREDITATION RENEWAL PROGRAMME - Protocol for the Evaluation of Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Approved by the ACPUA Assessment, Certification and Accreditation Commission in session of 11 July 2022.
- ACPUA ACCREDITATION RENEWAL PROGRAMME - Protocol for the Evaluation of Doctoral Programmes. Approved by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission in session of 22 November 2022.

Having made the above observation, the following table lists the official degrees whose application for renewal of accreditation was received by the ACPUA in 2023.

Institution	Centre	Level	Qualification
San Jorge University	San Jorge University	PhD	Programme of Doctorate in Health Sciences / Health Sciences

Table 5 Renewal of degree accreditation.

As in the case of the procedures for the verification and modification of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programmes, the accreditation renewal process was carried out virtually.

1.1.5. Recognition of artistic education

Royal Decree 1614/2009, of 26 October, which establishes the organisation of higher artistic education regulated by Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education, aims to develop the structure and basic aspects of the organisation of higher artistic education, in accordance with the provisions of Article 58 of Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, and in accordance with the general lines emanating from the European Higher Education Area.

Article 19 of Royal Decree 1614/2009, of 26 October, establishes that the education authorities shall promote systems and procedures for the periodic internal and external evaluation of the quality of these courses. The basic reference criteria will be those defined and regulated in the context of the European Higher Education Area. To this end, the assessment bodies determined by the education authorities, within the scope of their competences, shall design and implement the corresponding internal and external assessment plans in collaboration with the higher education institutions.

In Aragon, ACPUA is the agency responsible for the evaluation of Master's degrees submitted:

- a) The Conservatory of Music of Aragon (CSMA).
- b) The School of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage (ESCYRA).
- c) The Higher School of Design of Aragon (ESDA).
- d) HAC_R, Centro Superior de Diseño de Zaragoza (Higher Private Authorised Centre for Fashion Design).

Master's degrees in artistic education subject to pre-established titles and core content have to undergo an ex ante evaluation system called "homologation".

During the year 2023, none of the aforementioned entities initiated a procedure related to the evaluation for the recognition of a Master's degree programme.

1.1.6. Discontinuation of official university education

Article 15 of Decree 72/2023, of 17 May, of the Government of Aragon establishes that "the application for the termination of official university degrees at the initiative of a university shall not be subject to deadlines". Once the application has been received, the Directorate General responsible for universities shall require a mandatory report from the University Quality and Prospective Studies Agency of Aragon, which shall assess the reasons for the termination and the adoption of specific measures to guarantee the academic rights of the student body.

During 2023 ACPUA issued the following reports at the request of the Directorate General for Universities:

- Master's Degree in Contemporary History from the Autonomous University of Barcelona; the Autonomous University of Madrid; the Complutense University of Madrid; the University of Cantabria; the University of Santiago de Compostela; the University of Zaragoza; the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea; the Menéndez Pelayo International University and the University of Valencia (Estudi General) (RUCT registration code 4311727).
- Master's Degree in Hispanic Cultures and Identities from the University of Zaragoza (RUCT registration code 4317524).
- Master's Degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Health and Welfare Technologies from the University of Zaragoza (RUCT registration code 4317154).

1.2. Centres

1.2.1. Certification of the Centres' IQAS Implementation

After being legally introduced in Spain in 2015 (Royal Decree 420/2015 of 29 May), 2018 was finally the year in which the new institutional accreditation model was effectively implemented. The publication of the Resolution of 7 March 2018 of the General Secretariat for Universities, which issued the instructions on the procedure for the institutional accreditation of public and private university centres, enabled the procedure to be put into practice. Therefore, the ACPUA designed and approved in 2019 the PACE - SIGC Programme for the certification of the implementation of the internal quality assurance systems of university centres.

In 2021 a new regulation was published in this area, Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres, which, in its single repealing provision, abolishes the previous Decree with the exception of the second and third final provisions.

The application of the ACPUA PACE - SIGC Programme to a centre of the Aragonese university system can be requested at any time of the year by the university concerned.

In 2023, a favourable report was issued for the **certification of the Internal Quality Assurance System, according to the PACE-SIGC Programme of the ACPUA**, of the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Zaragoza.

In addition, in the last quarter of the year, two requests for evaluation were received from the Defence University Centre and the Faculty of Health Sciences, both of the University of Zaragoza, which are in the process of selecting and appointing the expert evaluators who will form part of the evaluation panels.

The following link to the ACPUA website contains information on the PACE-SIGC certified centres [PACE - SIGC Programme | ACPUA \(aragon.es\)](https://www.acpua.es)

1.2.2. Institutional Accreditation

After being legally introduced in Spain in 2015 (R.D. 420/2015), 2018 was finally the year in which the new institutional accreditation model was effectively implemented. The publication of the Resolution of 7 March 2018 of the General Secretariat for Universities, which issued the instructions on the procedure for the institutional accreditation of public and private university centres, enabled the procedure to be put into practice.

In developing and improving its evaluation protocols and activities, the ACPUA pursues effective interaction with national and international networks committed to new trends in the quality assurance of university education. In relation to the evaluation of centres, the ACPUA has been actively participating in the activities, meetings, work and projects of the Spanish network of quality agencies REACU with the aim of improving and perfecting the institutional accreditation model. Proof of this is that the ACPUA is one of the agencies that make up Working Group 4 on Institutional Accreditation, which was formed within REACU in 2019.

In 2021, a new regulation on this matter was published, Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres, which, in its single repealing provision, abolishes the previous Decree with the exception of the second and third final provisions.

This was followed by the Resolution of 3 March 2022 of the General Secretariat for Universities, which issued instructions on the procedure for the institutional accreditation of public and private university centres, and published the Protocol for the certification of internal quality assurance systems of university centres and the Protocol for the evaluation procedure for the renewal of the institutional accreditation of university centres, approved by the General Conference on University Policy.

In 2023, two centres have been institutionally accredited, both belonging to the University of Zaragoza:

- 18 July 2023: Faculty of Economics and Business (50012189)
- 24 November 2023: Escuela Universitaria Politécnica de Teruel (44004586)

1.2.3. Monitoring of Centres

In the year 2023, the certification of the IACS of various centres of the University of Zaragoza has been monitored:

- 23 November: Faculty of Philosophy and Arts (2nd monitoring report) (50008861)
- 23 November: Faculty of Health and Sports Sciences_Campus of Huesca (22006149)

In addition, on 1 December, the Polytechnic University School of La Almunia sent its application for the second consecutive year of annual monitoring, which will be evaluated by the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres in the next few days.

The reports have been carried out by the ACPUA Monitoring Committee and all have demonstrated the progress made by the centres in the consolidation of their IACS.

1.2.4. Certification of Centres according to Agenda 2030: ALCAEUS programme

In collaboration with the Andorran agency AQUA, during 2018 and 2019 the ACPUA actively participated in the international project S&QSHE (Sustainability & Quality in Higher Education). This was a pioneering initiative that received support and funding from the global network of university quality assurance agencies INQAAHE (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education).

Participation in this international project not only allowed Aragonese universities and stakeholders (organisations and companies aware of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) to work hand in hand in the promotion of the university's commitment to the SDGs. It also encouraged the agency to develop its own programme, unprecedented and pioneering both nationally and internationally, for the support and certification of university centres according to their level of commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

A major step forward in the development of this programme was taken in 2020, mainly because the evaluation protocol was designed and approved. In 2021, the pilot evaluation of the School of Engineering and Architecture of the University of Zaragoza and the Higher Polytechnic School of Huesca was carried out. In **2022**, and after the certification of both, **the Meta-evaluation was carried out**, ending with the approval by the ECSC of the **new version of the ALCAEUS Protocol**, dated 24 June 2022.

The ACPUA requested the EQAR entity, responsible for the European DEQAR Register, to introduce this new voluntary protocol for the centres and universities, obtaining its approval; as a result, the ALCAEUS Programme reports of the 2 Aragonese centres are currently available in this register, as well as the inclusion of this evaluation activity for all those centres institutionally accredited by a quality agency that is part of this register.

Access to information: [ALCAEUS: Our programme for the 2030 Certification of universities and centres | ACPUA \(aragon.es\)](#)

The ACPUA's ALCAEUS programme has continued to attract interest and the Agency has been invited to present it at various forums and occasions throughout 2023:

- 13 June: As part of the presentation of the new **Observatory for the 2030 Agenda of the Faculty of Education** of the University of Zaragoza, ACPUA participated in the round table discussion "The 2030 Agenda and its incursion into the university reality".



- 16 and 17 November: **XII Conference of Technical Quality Units**, ACPUA was invited to present the ALCAEUS programme - Commitment of the centres to the 2030 Agenda, within the round table on the integration of the SDGs.



1.2.5. DOCENTIA Programme

The DOCENTIA Programme is a programme developed by ANECA in collaboration with the other Spanish quality assurance agencies, the aim of which is to support universities in designing their own mechanisms for assessing the quality of the teaching activity of their teaching staff. In this way, it aims to meet the demands of the universities and the need of the education system to have a model and procedures to guarantee the quality of university teaching staff and to promote their development and recognition.

ACPUA's participation in the programme is twofold:

On the one hand, ACPUA is part of the DOCENTIA Commission in charge of the development and monitoring of the programme. This commission is made up of technicians from the agencies in charge of the programme and meets several times a year. During the year 2023, the DOCENTIA Commission met once, by videoconference held on 8 May to review the progress of the programme.

On the other hand, ACPUA evaluates the implementation of DOCENTIA in the universities of the Aragonese university system. During the year 2023 there has been no activity by the universities in this programme.

1.2.6. Certification of training centres

Since 2014, the ACPUA has been certifying the quality of the work placements carried out in non-university schools in Aragon by students of the Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Primary Education, as well as the Master's Degree in Teaching. This is a unique evaluation process, unprecedented in Spain, which brings together data and evaluations from the education administration with those produced by the ACPUA reports on the monitoring of these degrees and master's degrees. The educational centres that accredit the correct participation in the teaching of the internships for at least two years can apply for this ACPUA certification.

After successive improvement updates, the one applied in the 2021 call has been the "Protocol for the Certification of Training Centres" approved by the Agency's ECSC in session of 17 July 2020.

Evaluation of secondary schools

After reviewing the latest Quality Assessment Reports and the Learning Outcomes of the Master's Degree in Teaching and the practicum report provided by the DGIFP, the absence of an updated list of Secondary Education centres was detected, so the proposal is postponed to be resolved in the first quarter of 2024.

Evaluation of pre-primary and primary schools

After reviewing in 2023 the latest Quality Assessment Reports and the Learning Outcomes of the Master's Degree in Teaching and the practicum report provided by the provincial education services, no incidents were detected in any of the Early Childhood and Primary Education centres that receive students on placements and which are already certified, with students expressing a high level of satisfaction.

It should be noted that the sources of information considered by the Quality Assurance Committee of the University of Zaragoza for the preparation of the aforementioned reports include: student satisfaction surveys, meetings with lecturers and subject and speciality coordinators and lecturers' satisfaction surveys.

Results:

From the analysis of the information available to the Subcommittee on Centre Evaluations (SEC), it appears that no incidents have been reported with respect to centres certified in previous calls and, therefore, it is proposed to maintain all previous certificates still in force.

In addition, the certification of the proposed 8 new centres is proposed. All of them will be valid until 22/12/2026 ([Resolution of 22 December 2023](#)).

Eight Proposed new centres:

CERTIFICATE NO.	TYPE OF CENTRE	NAME OF THE CENTRE	Centre code	Location	Province
CEP-2023-002	Infant and Primary School	BENEDICT XIII	50002457	ILLUECA	ZARAGOZA
CEP-2023-003	Infant and Primary School	JUAN PABLO BONET	50005677	MOVERA	ZARAGOZA
CEP-2023-004	Infant and Primary School	SALVADOR MINGUIJÓN	50001088	CALATAYUD	ZARAGOZA
CEP-2023-005	Grouped Rural Centre	ALTO CAMPILLO STONE TABLE	50011185	IBDES	ZARAGOZA
CEP-2023-006	Grouped Rural Centre	JAVALAMBRE	44004483	MANZANERA	TERUEL
CEP-2023-007	Grouped Rural Centre	PABLO ANTONIO CRESPO	44004677	ALIAGA	TERUEL
CEP-2023-008	Home School	HOME SCHOOL	44003260	TERUEL	TERUEL
CEP-2023-009	Infant and Primary School	MONTANUY	22011005	MONTANUY	HUESCA

Table 6 Certified Primary and Secondary Education Centres.

Up-to-date information on the centres holding this certificate is published on the ACPUA website. Direct access on:

https://acpua.aragon.es/sites/default/files/resolucion_centros_educacion_infantil_y_primaria.pdf

Online training on ACPUA certification of pre-school, primary and secondary schools

On 14 June, ACPUA participated in the training session organised by the Innovation and Teacher Training Service of the Directorate General for Innovation and Vocational Training of the Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Government of Aragon.

Under the title: "Pre-university quality: ACPUA certification", the Agency firstly presented its mission, objectives and main activities to the training coordinators of the educational centres. Secondly, the purpose and added value of this evaluative activity, which began in 2014 and which certifies the good work of the centres that host students on work experience placements for the master's degree in teaching, was explained, underlining the prestige that this "University Work Experience Centre" seal brings to the more than 124 secondary schools that make up this network. They highlighted the high satisfaction rates (above 8'20/10) that university students reflect after their participation in the practicum of the Master's Degree in Teaching.

In particular, this activity, together with the issuing of the certification and the seal, is a pioneer among Spanish quality assurance agencies. Moreover, this activity is carried out applying European standards (ESG), so that ACPUA as a *full member* of ENQA (European Association of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) and agency registered in the European Register EQAR submits this certification activity to international evaluation every 5 years.

Finally, ACPUA informed the centres about the new infographic created on university orientation, available on the web for students, families and educators themselves.

More information available on the ACPUA website: [ACPUA \(aragon.es\)](http://ACPUA(aragon.es)).

1.2.1. Certification of the evaluation of the University of Zaragoza's dedication and teaching complements.

In early December 2018, the Government of Aragon signed both a new Agreement and a new Programme Contract with the University of Zaragoza for the allocation and funding of the additional merit-linked pay supplements for teaching and research staff at the University of Zaragoza for the period 2019-2023 ("*ORDEN IIU/2095/2018, de 27 de diciembre, por la que se publica el Acuerdo de 3 de diciembre de 2018, del Gobierno de Aragón*").



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For this reason, and within this framework of action, in 2023 the ACPUA carried out the annual certification of the results of the process followed by the University of Zaragoza for the evaluation of the merits of teaching and dedication of its teaching and research staff for the

purpose of the payment of the corresponding autonomous remuneration complements.

The corresponding Resolution of 26 July 2023, of the Directorate of the University Quality and Prospective Studies Agency of Aragon, certifying the results of the evaluation of the University of Zaragoza leading to the award of the additional salary complements for the period 2023 for dedication and teaching merit was published in the Official Gazette of Aragon on 7 August 2023.

New programme contract 2024-2026

Likewise, once the programme contract signed between the Government of Aragon and the University of Zaragoza for the period 2019-2023 has expired, the General Programme Contract between the Government of Aragon and the University of Zaragoza has been published in the Official Gazette of Aragon of 29 December 2023 by ORDER PIC/1931/2023, of 22 December, for the allocation and financing of additional salary complements linked to individual merits of the Teaching and Research Staff of the University of Zaragoza, during the period 2024-2026.

The same bulletin also published the Resolution of 12 December 2023, of the Director of the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon, by which the criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza are published, leading to the award of additional salary complements, linked to individual merits, dedication,

teaching and research established for the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2026. The new criteria were agreed with the University of Zaragoza and the trade unions.

1.3. Evaluation of persons

The evaluation activities carried out by ACPUA during the year 2023 focused, on the one hand, on evaluating the research and/or teaching activity of the people who carry out their professional activity in different centres that make up the Aragonese R&D&I system, and on the other hand, on the evaluation of the accreditation of the figure of Professor to Associate Professor with Clinical Attachment to the Public Health System of Aragon, a figure of teaching staff introduced in 2018 by the Government of Aragon.

1.3.1. Evaluation of research activity (six-year periods)

Normative framework and scope of the evaluation

Both Organic Law 2/2023, of 22 March, on the University System, and Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Organisation of the University System of Aragon, provide for the possibility of establishing salary supplements for university teaching staff.

In development of these precepts and, as in the case of the evaluation of the dedication and teaching complements of the University of Zaragoza, by Agreement of 3 December 2018, the Government of Aragon established the additional remuneration complements linked to individual merits of the teaching and research staff of the University of Zaragoza for the period 2019-2023 and approved the conclusion of the Contract - programme between the Government of Aragon and the University of Zaragoza for the allocation and financing of the aforementioned remuneration complements" published by Order IU/2095/2018, of 27 December.

As established in the aforementioned agreement, the ACPUA is responsible for the evaluation of merits for the period 2019-2023 in accordance with the assessment criteria for the aforementioned period which, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement of 3 December 2018 of the Government of Aragon and within the framework of the relations between the University of Zaragoza and the trade union representatives, will be established by the Agency itself in accordance with the provisions of Article 85.1.e) of Law 5/2005, of 14 June.

The criteria were published in the BOA by Resolution of 27 December 2018 of the Director of the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon, which published the criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, leading to the award of additional bonuses, linked to individual merits, dedication, teaching and research established for the period between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023.

In parallel, ACPUA has been carrying out the evaluation of these same merits to teaching and research staff of other entities and organisations such as the Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza, a centre attached to the University of Zaragoza since 2011, the Centre for Food Research and Technology (CITA) since 2015 and more recently since 2018 the teaching and research staff of the Polytechnic University School of La Almunia (EUPLA), the

University School of Tourism of Zaragoza (ETUZ) and the research staff of the Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences (IACS).

By decision of the ACPUA Governing Council of 22 January 2018, ACPUA proceeded to evaluate the above groups, through two different calls, one specific for the staff of the University of Zaragoza and the other for the rest of entities and organisations.

For the year 2023, the two evaluation calls were published in the BOA of 8 March 2023:

- a) Resolution of 21 February 2023, of the Director of the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon, by which the contracted teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza are called for the evaluation of their research activity in the year 2023.
- b) Resolution of 21 February 2023, of the Director of the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon, by which the teaching and research staff of the University Centre of Defence, of the Polytechnic University School of La Almunia and of the School of Tourism of Zaragoza are summoned in the year 2023, as well as the Agri-Food Research and Technology Centre of Aragon, the Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences, and the research staff contracted by the University of Zaragoza both within the Ramón y Cajal aid programme and in the "Contract for access to the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System" modality for the evaluation of their research activity.

Subsequently, in the BOA of 12 May 2023, resolutions were published extending the deadline for resolving the case.

Protocol, processes and results of evaluations

In accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions, during 2023, the evaluation of the research activity was carried out with respect to the admitted applications of the full-time contracted teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza and the staff of other entities such as the CUD, the EUPLA, the CITA, etc.

In all cases, six-year periods of research activity (sexenios) were evaluated using criteria similar to those used at national level for civil servants by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI).

The panels of experts, appointed by the Director of the Agency on the proposal of the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission (CECA) and whose composition was published on the ACPUA website, assessed the merits of the applicants in accordance with the criteria set out in the calls for proposals. The corresponding evaluation reports were then issued by the Research Evaluation Subcommittee (SEI).

The following table shows the applications admitted to the two calls for evaluation of research activity, as well as the results obtained (positive or negative evaluation) after the evaluations.

	Applications assessed	Six years of service requested	Positively evaluated six-year periods	% positive applications	Negatively assessed applications	% negative applications
UZ 2023	100	110	96	87,27	14	12,73
ENTITIES 2023	49	57	54	94,74	3	5,26
Totals	149	167	150	89,82	17	10,18

Table 6 Applications for evaluation of research activity.

The evaluation was carried out following the criteria contained in the Resolution of 21 November 2022 of the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity, which published the specific criteria approved for each of the fields of evaluation (published in the Official State Gazette of 21 December 2022).

Training session organised by CIFICE

Every year, the **Centre for Innovation, Training and Research in Educational Sciences (CIFICE)** of the University of Zaragoza invites **ACPUA** to hold a training session for contracted teaching staff on the evaluation of six-year periods. This activity was held on 11 January 2023 and was well received by the teaching staff of the three campuses.

1.3.2. Evaluation for the accreditation of the position of Professor to Associate Professor with Clinical Attachment to the Public Health System of Aragon.

Decree 206/2018, of 21 November, of the Government of Aragon, which amends Decree 84/2003, of 29 April, of the Government of Aragon, which regulates the legal and remuneration system for contracted teaching and research staff at the University of Zaragoza, introduces in Aragon the figure of Professor or Contracted Doctoral Professor with Clinical Links to the Aragonese Public Health System (PCDVC). This new type of contract establishes, among other prerequisites, the possession of a previous positive evaluation by the ACPUA.

In 2021, ACPUA carried out the first call for evaluation of this figure once the CECA approved for the first time on 14 May 2020 the "ACPUA Programme for the accreditation of the figure of Professor to Associate Professor with Clinical Links to the Public Health System of Aragon", modifying it later, on 22 February 2021.

During 2023, ACPUA:

- Resolved the second call made by Resolution of 29 September 2022, of the Director of the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon, the evaluation for the accreditation of the figure of Professor or Associate Professor with Clinical Links to the Public Health System of Aragon was called.

The deadline for applications started on 14 October 2022 and ended on 9 December 2022. The following table shows the results of the evaluation carried out.

	Accepted applications	Applications positively assessed	% positive applications	Negatively assessed applications	% negative applications
ANECA accredited persons	1	1	100	0	0,00
Persons not accredited by ANECA	43	28	65,12%	15	34,88
Totals	44	29	65,90	15	34,10

Table 7 PCDVC accreditation applications.

- It launched the third call for applications by Resolution of 22 November 2023, of the Director of the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon, by which the evaluation for the accreditation of the position of Associate Professor with clinical links to the public health system of Aragon is called for the year 2023, published in the BOA of 1 December 2023.

The deadline for applications started on 2 December 2023 and ended on 27 December 2023. The call will be resolved during 2024 and 54 applications have been received.

The evaluation is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Document "Acqua Programme for the accreditation of the position of Professor or Associate Professor with Clinical Links in the Aragon Public Health System" approved by the ACPUA Commission for Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation (CECA) at its meeting of 11 July 2022.

The evaluation process involves ACPUA with the evaluation of the teaching and research merits of the applicants and SALUD with the evaluation of the healthcare merits.

From the second call for applications (year 2022), it was made compulsory for interested parties to interact with the Administration by electronic means by virtue of Order CUS/1302/2022, of 15 September, which establishes the obligation for interested parties to interact with the Public Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon by electronic means in certain procedures related to research, innovation, development of electronic administration, the information society and universities, including the evaluation of the figure of PCDVC.

In order to facilitate the application process, interested persons have at their disposal

- a) A "Guide to help the PCDVC applicant", produced by ACPUA, accessible at the electronic headquarters of the Public Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, a guide that is complemented with the information offered by the Government of Aragon to help citizens carry out their procedures online and with the guide produced by Servicios Digitales de Aragón with information on electronic signatures.
- b) A guide developed by SALUD to help applicants when filling in part of the merits to be evaluated in the specific platform of this entity.

1.4. University Research Institutes

1.4.1. Evaluation prior to the creation of University Research Institutes

According to Article 15 of Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Organisation of the University System of Aragon (LOSUA), the Government of Aragon is responsible for the creation, suppression and assignment of the University Research Institutes, subject to a report from the ACPUA. Consequently, the Agency launches this evaluation procedure only if the Government of Aragon so requests.

During 2023 ACPUA did not receive any request for a report.

1.4.2. Periodic evaluation of University Research Institutes

The LOSUA stipulates that every 5 years the University Research Institutes operating in Aragon must undergo an ACPUA evaluation. The corresponding evaluation report is sent to the Directorate General of Universities of the Government of Aragon for its knowledge and effects.

In compliance with these forecasts, throughout 2018 the evaluation of the 9 existing University Research Institutes of the University of Zaragoza was carried out, including, at its own request, the Agri-Food Institute of Aragon (IA2) in the campaign, even though it was an Institute that had not yet completed an accreditation cycle. This second cycle of periodic evaluation of all the Institutes was completed with the issue of the last final reports in February 2019, so that in 2023 there was no activity in this section.

2. THEMATIC ANALYSES AND PROSPECTIVE STUDIES

2.1. ACPUA "Learn" Collection

In the European Higher Education Area, "thematic analysis" refers to studies carried out by the Agency in order to describe, present or systematise the results of its evaluation and quality assurance activities. These analyses, which are based on evaluations but are not in themselves evaluation reports, deserve a specific European standard (ESG 3.4. Thematic Analysis).

The development of the strategic line **L4 "Foresight: promoting excellence, strategic evaluations and thematic analysis"** of the ACPUA Strategic Plan is materialised in the studies published in the '**ACPUA Learns' Collection** (available on the ACPUA website). The studies are carried out in collaboration with external experts. This year, two new volumes have been added to the collection, bringing the number of thematic studies published in the collection to 11:

- Labour market insertion of undergraduate graduates of the University System of Aragon. Cohort 2016-2017.
- Guide to diversity terms (Final report of the ACPUA x equality and diversity programme).

Both documents are available at: <https://acpua.aragon.es/es/analisis-tematicos>.

2.2. Webinar series Agencies

Since 2017, the Spanish Network of Agencies (REACU) adopted the decision to carry out joint reports that respond to the guidelines established for ESG 3.4. To this end, a specific working group (Working Group 1) was created, coordinated by ACSUCYL and including ACPUA, UNIBASQ, ANECA and AQU. This group launched the series of webinars: "challenges of university studies according to the employer community". Although no webinar took place during 2023, the material of the previous webinars and webinars can be found on our website, following the link <https://acpua.aragon.es/es/analisis-tematicos>.

2.3. Labour market integration of SUA graduates

Among the functions of the ACPUA entrusted by Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Organisation of the University System of Aragon, is that of "Monitoring the labour market insertion of graduates". The University System of Aragon had been lacking a systematic programme for monitoring university graduates, so that the studies that were being carried out were only occasional, with the consequent loss of comparability. In order to solve this weakness, the Government of Aragon (Directorate General of Universities, ACPUA and the Aragonese Institute of Statistics) signed a Framework Agreement with the Social Council of

the University of Zaragoza, the University of Zaragoza and the San Jorge University in 2015 for the promotion and development of a project to monitor the labour market insertion of graduates of the University System of Aragon (SUA). As a result of this agreement, in 2018 a survey was conducted among graduates of the 2013-104 academic year, the results of which were published.

During 2019, the addendum to the aforementioned agreement was finalised and preparatory work was carried out for the next survey, so that in 2020 the working group responsible for the same, when it met on 25/02/20, was finalising the legal and technical tools (specifications, justification report, necessity report) in order to proceed to tender the corresponding fieldwork (carrying out the second survey). The declaration of a state of alarm a few days later led to the interruption of these tasks. On 17/11/20 a meeting was held with the President of the Social Council to coordinate the work to resume the project.

In 2021, in close collaboration with the Social Council of the University of Zaragoza (with which several meetings were held throughout the year), it was possible to resume the activity. The corresponding working group updated and completed the questionnaire, selected the new cohort, established the distribution of costs and approved the technical specifications for the tender to carry out the survey.

Once the fieldwork was tendered, the awarded company Chi-Cuadrado, S.L. carried out the survey from 31 March to 27 May 2022. After the study of the database and subsequent exploitation of the graduate survey by the Aragonese Institute of Statistics (IAEST), in mid-October a first preview of the data was available in Excel table format. During the last quarter of the year 2022, the ACPUA proceeded to review and validate the data, detecting some inconsistencies solved by the IAEST, cross-checks of variables necessary to carry out a more complete analysis of certain aspects were requested, among other tasks. A first graphic analysis of the results was also carried out, as well as a first assessment of the indicators obtained.

On 21 March 2023, the final report was presented: La inserción laboral de los egresados y egresadas de grado del Sistema Universitario de Aragón. Cohort 2016-2017. The presentation ceremony was chaired by Maru Díaz Calvo, Regional Minister of Science, University and Knowledge Society. She was accompanied at the table by Aurelio López de Hita, President of the Social Council of the UZ, Antonio Mayoral Murillo, Rector Magnificent of the UZ, Berta Sáez Gutiérrez, Rector of the USJ and Diana Monaj León, quality and university foresight technician of ACPUA.

The report, by the Agency, has been prepared by Dr. Pilar Figuera, professor at the University of Barcelona and member of the Subcommittee on Thematic Evaluations (SETE) together with the ACPUA technician, Diana Monaj. The results of the study show a satisfactory picture of the quality of teaching in the Aragonese University System (SUA) and the talent of the student body, showing high levels of employability in most areas of knowledge.

On 6 September, ACPUA participated in the III International Congress on University Guidance organised by the UNED Foundation, which took place in Madrid from 6-8 September. Under the title "Calibrating compasses in the face of uncertainty", the communication "ACPUA prospective: Is student integration in decent conditions possible?"

was presented online, thus disseminating the main conclusions of this second study on the labour market integration of SUA graduates.

The study was also disseminated in the INQAAHE Quarterly Newsletter by publishing the review: *"Is it possible for students to enter the labour market under decent conditions?"*, in the newsletter for the third quarter of 2023.

2.4. Monitoring of university programming

At the proposal of the Government of Aragon, the Directorate of ACPUA is part of this Commission, which is chaired by the head of the Directorate General for Universities. The Directorate of ACPUA participated in the virtual meeting of the Monitoring Commission of the University Programming 2021-2024, which took place on 11 December 2023, where the draft of the Annual Report of the Monitoring Commission of the University Programming 2022-2023 was presented.

3. DEVELOPING THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF QUALITY

The development of the social dimension of quality is an important strategic line (L5) of ACPUA for the period 2019-2022. In 2020, this dimension was given special attention by the Conference of Ministers of the European Higher Education Area Rome 2020, whose preparatory work and holding had the opportunity to be closely followed by ACPUA as it was represented in the ENQA Board. Annex III of the Rome Ministerial Communiqué ("Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA") published in November 2020, is expressly dedicated to this issue and guides the implementation of this strategic line of the Agency in 2021 and 2022 in the Agency's evaluation protocols and guidelines.

To this end, in 2020 the Agency incorporated an expert from social entities (Red Cross) and an expert in the study and application of the principle of real equality of opportunities between women and men into the ECSC, which is the committee responsible for the elaboration and approval of evaluation methodologies and protocols.

In 2021 and for two subsequent years, the executive nature of this strategic line was also strengthened with the creation of the Subcommittee on Thematic Evaluations (SETE), whose members have collaborated over the years in the development of the Agency's strategic lines 4, 5 and 6. In particular, activities have been carried out as part of the **ACPUA +students**, **ACPUA +society** and **ACPUA *equality and diversity** programmes.

3.1. ACPUA+STUDENTS Programme

In order to consolidate the adaptation of ACPUA to European standards and to complete the participation of students in its bodies and in the evaluation work, in 2023 student participation in the agency's activity and in quality assurance has been further promoted through this student participation programme launched in 2014.

The objectives of this programme are:

- Promotion of communication with Aragonese students, the dissemination of information relevant to them, and the effective collection of their opinions and needs.
- Student participation in the Agency's bodies, culminating in student representation in ACPUA's evaluation bodies and committees.
- To promote the training of Aragonese university students in matters of quality and continuous improvement of teaching.
- Cooperation and stable relations with the student organisations of the institutions of the University System of Aragon.
- Quality culture: student awareness of Quality Agencies.
- Common understanding of student needs (student-centred learning).
- Students' needs in their transition to university (University orientation).

- Student feedback on the impact of the pandemic (Post-COVID Strategic Forum).

Student training in quality and evaluation activities

During 2023, students have continued to be part of all the Agency's evaluation committees and have been invited to participate in the degree and centre evaluation panels that have been carried out.

On the other hand, in 2023, the dialogue with the student representatives of the two universities has continued, through the institutional life of the ACPUA (students on the Governing Council and the agency's technical committees) and through specific meetings.

Educational Cooperation

Under the agreement approved by the ACPUA's Governing Council on 30 June 2021, the ACPUA collaborates with the University of Zaragoza by hosting students from the Bachelor's Degree in Law for the development of the Practicum subject. During the year 2023, 1 student did an internship at the ACPUA.

Dissemination of the Post-COVID 19 Strategic Forum

In 2022 ACPUA, as part of its strategy to create **the post-COVID 19 Strategic Forum**, **launched a student survey with the aim of finding out about their teaching adaptations**, communication with teaching staff, socio-emotional experiences, as well as the situations generated that should be maintained after the pandemic. The results of this survey will form part of a final document that will include other types of face-to-face actions developed in the coming year within the ACPUA+Students framework.

Following the survey, **4 focus group sessions were held** (in March and April 2022) and the general objective of the activity was maintained: to gather direct feedback from students on their experience of the pandemic and its subsequent evolution in relation to teaching. At the same time, a specific objective was established: to improve the contributions issued in the survey through the students' verbalisations in a guided session. The sessions took place in: the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Zaragoza, the Faculty of Education of the University of Zaragoza, the University Campus of the University of San Jorge and the University Campus of Huesca, also belonging to the University of Zaragoza. A **final session was also organised to compare** results and approve the decalogue of recommendations.

On 23 February 2023 ACPUA disseminated its results by participating in the II International Congress on Research and Transfer in Educational Sciences with its report on covid impact. Under the title "Education, quality learning and emotional impact during the pandemic in the Aragonese University System (SUA)", Laura Peiró (member of the Subcommittee on Thematic Evaluations) and Belén Serrano (Quality and Internationalisation Technician) presented the paper.

ACPUA Covid Impact Report: [220928_informe_final_focus_groups.pdf \(aragon.es\)](https://www.acpua.es/220928_informe_final_focus_groups.pdf)

University orientation

In 2023, work has been done to detect the needs of students in their transition to university (University Orientation). On 2 March, ACPUA presented a new infographic on guidance for access to universities in Aragon. Relevant stakeholders in this field of action participated in

this Seminar on university quality: University of Zaragoza, San Jorge University, Ibercaja Orienta, Cepyme, Federation of Metal Entrepreneurs, Zaragoza City Council, Chamber of Commerce and SUA students.



Under the slogan "Inform yourself and decide your education!", both in Spanish and English, the updated links of 5 relevant topics are detailed, which have been carefully selected by some public and private interest groups from Aragon and the rest of Spain. The content focuses mainly on support for the choice of studies, the section on available degrees and degrees in transition (access, levels, institutions, satisfaction reports, scholarships and grants), resources for employability and entrepreneurship, the possibility of free counselling and other options related to professional training.

With this infographic, available on the ACPUA website and disseminated through social networks, teachers, students and families will be able to find resources to facilitate decision-making, available at the click of a button.

[Link to infographic and poster with QR code](#)

This project has been disseminated in different forums:

- 21 May: ACPUA participated in the V International Congress on Emotional Intelligence organised by the Aragonese Association of Psychopedagogy, presenting a paper entitled "University orientation in one click".
- June: Online seminar organised by the Department of Education for all schools in Aragon.
- 21 September: Publication of the ACPUA article "Orientación universitaria en un clic" in the Enlace Magazine of the Asociación Aragonesa de Psicopedagogía.
- 22nd November: The ACPUA has presented its communication entitled: "Meet the new infographic of orientation towards the university world" in the 7th Meeting of innovative centres of Aragon held in the Patio de la Infanta of Ibercaja in Zaragoza.
- December: sending of the infographic through a direct mailing to all the guidance counsellors of the educational centres of Aragon.
- December: advertising of the infographic on CAREI's website: [ACPUA - CAREI University Orientation](#)

Link to the poster: **Printable poster with QR code** Link to the Infographic: [Infographic ACPUA Orientation \(aragon.es\)](#)

3.2. ACPUA+SOCIETY Programme

The cross-cutting ACPUA + SOCIETY Programme was launched in 2018 with the intention of equipping itself with a strategic tool that will enable the Agency to take concrete and effective steps in the following directions:

- Integration of external stakeholders (professionals, social and economic actors) into the ACPUA structure.
- Involvement of external stakeholders (professionals, social and economic actors) in ACPUA evaluation activities.
- Raising awareness of the ACPUA's mission and actions among Aragonese society.
- Cooperation and stable relations with social agents, trade unions, business associations, professional associations, associations, chambers of commerce and organisations representing the social and economic sphere in Aragon.

In 2023, external stakeholders have been fully retained in all the Agency's committees and evaluation panels. In addition, collaboration with these stakeholders has been maintained, involving them in different activities:

Spanish Red Cross in Zaragoza

In 2023 the ACPUA has continued its collaboration with the Italian national agency ANVUR, with both agencies declaring their intention to collaborate in the field of evaluation, particularly with regard to the social dimension of quality, innovation and knowledge transfer (the so-called "Terza Missione of the university").

On 19 January, the ACPUA participated in the international seminar organised by the Italian agency ANVUR on the following question: "What do we talk about when we talk about social impact? ACPUA participated by presenting its social programmes and also through the coordinator of the Red Cross Employment Plan in Aragon and member of the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission of our Agency.

Direct link to the ANVUR website: [International workshop - "What do we talk about when we talk about social impact?" - ANVUR - Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca \(National Agency for the Valuation of the University and Research System\)](#)

Collaboration with the Master DirygeSS

On 9 March, the ACPUA participated with an online lecture in the Master of Continuing Education in Direction and Management of Public and Private Social Resources and Services (DIRYGESS). Among the objectives of this Master is to qualify current or future directors or managers of Social Services in Aragon from a multidisciplinary perspective, integrating competences, skills and knowledge from different areas.

The ACPUA gives its presentation on Lifelong Learning, emphasising the three types of education (formal, non-formal and informal) that generate values, skills and competences in users, also promoting the personal learning of managers of public and private entities.

Direct link to the link to the Master's Degree: [Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in Management and Administration of Resources and Social Services. IV edition. 2022-23 | Faculty of Social and Labour Sciences \(unizar.es\)](#)

Defence Delegation of Aragon

On 27 June, ACPUA was invited as a stakeholder by the Aragon Defence Delegation to participate in an information exchange session on quality systems. At the meeting, ACPUA was able to learn first-hand about the defence culture in Aragon and, more specifically, about the organisation's management system based on the EFQM procedure, which has years of experience, a powerful computer application and exhaustive document management logistics that have helped it to accumulate several awards in recent years.

Website of the Defence Delegation in Aragón: [Delegación de Defensa en Aragón Home \(administracion.gob.es\)](#)

University of Zaragoza Transfer Office

ACPUA has committed to the University of Zaragoza to collaborate with the University of Zaragoza through an OTRI Contract, supporting the Aragonese Foster Care Association (ADAFa). Under the title "Research and dissemination of the impact of foster families in the socio-educational and economic system of Aragon" 3 joint objectives have been set to improve knowledge, analysis and creation of tools or prevention programmes in this area.

With this collaboration, which will last for 3 years from the date of signing the OTRI contract, ACPUA also contributes to the joint commitment to the social dimension of quality and sustainability (achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals) present in its "Communication on Engagement" (COE) in force until March 2025.

COMMITMENT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

ACPUA joins the Aragonese Agenda 2030 Alliance

24 January: ACPUA joined the Aragonese Alliance for the 2030 Agenda organised by the Government of Aragon and coordinated by the Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda. To this end, the University Quality and Foresight Agency of Aragon committed to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals through its programmes to promote the social dimension of quality in universities. Specifically, it shared its ALCAEUS evaluation protocol and its actions of the ACPUA+Equality and Diversity Programme, which have a direct impact on SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17 (partnerships to achieve the goals).

Access to the website of the Aragonese Alliance for the 2030 Agenda: [Alianza aragonesa para la Agenda 2030. Government of Aragon](#)

ACPUA renews its commitment to the United Nations Global Compact



Pacto Mundial
Red Española

March 2023: ACPUA reaffirms its endorsement of the United Nations Global Compact for the next

two years, its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour standards, environment and anti-corruption. Any comments to enrich this contribution to these objectives from the entire university community and our stakeholders are welcome.

This Communication describes the measures taken by our organisation to support the UN Global Compact and its principles, as suggested for an organisation such as ours. As an innovative measure, we highlight the development of the social dimension of the ACPUA with the existence of a new protocol of the recently approved ALCAEUS programme, the first evaluation programme for universities within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) that assesses the degree of commitment of higher education institutions to the Sustainable Development Goals. This Certification, a pioneer in Spain, passed the pilot phase in 2022, positively completing the evaluation of two university centres of the University of Zaragoza.

ACPUA is also committed to sharing this information with our stakeholders through our main communication channels, as we have been doing for the past two years through presentations, meetings, seminars, website and social media.

This is the ACPUA's Communication on ACPUA's Engagement with the UN Global Compact: [Communication](#)

Direct link to the website of the United Nations Global Compact: [Agencia de Calidad y Prospectiva Universitaria de Aragon \(ACPUA\) - ACPUA Communication on Engagement | UN Global Compact](#)

GoODS Awards Submission

In July, ACPUA submitted its entry to the GoODS Awards with its proposal entitled "Young people have the potential to change the world: on board with the SDGs in university education".

The SDG identified is SDG 4: promoting quality education and, more specifically, ensuring inclusive, equitable and quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Our programme is aimed at educational institutions in the international higher education space and, specifically, at measuring the degree of commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The project's contribution involves the qualitative and quantitative measurement of the institution's performance in relation to the different standards that seek to verify that the people who form part of the university community are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and, therefore, are aware of and are sensitised to work with, by and for the SDGs.

Attendance of ACPUA's Director at the General Assembly

On 14 June, the General Assembly took place in Madrid. As a member organisation of the initiative since 2015, ACPUA commits to the principles of the Covenant by participating in the first Climate Positive Assembly, not only by offsetting carbon emissions, but also by committing to take additional measures to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to nature-based climate solutions.

At this Ordinary General Assembly, the 2022 annual accounts and the 2023 budget were approved. The day was rounded off with the Movers for Sustainability #moversdelasostenibilidad mass meeting.

3.3. ACPUA* EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY programme

Within its scope of action, the ACPUA has been working for the opportunity of equality between men and women, the reduction of the gender gap in higher education, the introduction of gender mainstreaming and respect for sexual diversity and gender identity.

During the years 2022 and 2023, work has been carried out on the **first phase** of the development of an **evaluation protocol on diversity for centres and universities** (Diversity Seal) which has consisted of the creation of a glossary of common terms on each of the 5 subjects envisaged in this protocol. To this end, a terminology survey was created and completed by experts in the field.

On 28 February, the report of the series ACPUA learns about Diversity was finalised. The ACPUA describes in its Strategic Planning 2019-22, strategic line 5, for the promotion of the social dimension of quality within its ACPUA Programme* Equality and Diversity. Specifically, one of its objectives for 2022 is the launch of an ACPUA seal of respect for diversity.

After defining the structure of the ACPUA Diversity Label, which completes the design of its dimensions (gender, affective-sexual, disability and SEN_Specific Educational Support Needs, culture and religion and social exclusion) and the sub-dimensions that can be evaluated within each of them (institutional strategy; transparency and communication; quality systems; training and research; university community; funding and resources), the SETE Thematic Evaluations Subcommittee strategically agreed, following the *fit for purpose* methodology (ESG2.2; Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in European Higher Education), a glossary of terms of reference was drawn up in advance for those involved in the labelling process.

Thus, ACPUA proposed the appropriate methodology to carry it out, creating a questionnaire on *ad hoc* terms. The aim of this guide is to generate a terminological ecosystem around which to articulate those reports and documents that deal with the evaluation of diversity in any of its dimensions (gender, affective-sexual orientation, educational needs, beliefs, social situation...) within the university context. This environment is diverse, heterogeneous and multicultural and the language we use to talk about this reality must be inclusive and respectful of the richness found in the university community.

This document has been edited according to the criteria that guarantee documentary accessibility. [Direct access to the Diversity Report on the ACPUA website.](#)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective and respect for sexual diversity

Within its scope of action, ACPUA has been working for the opportunity of equality between men and women, the reduction of the gender gap in higher education, the introduction of the gender perspective and respect for sexual diversity and gender identity. To this end, dialogue is maintained with associations, entities and groups such as AMIT-

Aragon (Association of Women Researchers and Technologists of Aragon), EUFEM (University Platform for Feminist and Gender Studies) or the Chair on Equality and Gender of the University of Zaragoza. Understanding that in this field of rights the notion of external stakeholder is linked to the concept of empowerment, in 2020 ACPUA extended the dialogue to LGBTIQ+ groups, in order to know their vision on action protocols in university centres, training for evaluators and implementation measures in the field of higher education of Law 4/2018, on gender identity and expression and social equality and non-discrimination of the Autonomous Community of Aragon.

In 2021, progress continued to be made in the development of the following protocols: the Agency's Equality Plan, **gender perspective indicators** (for incorporation into the ACPUA evaluation guides) and the basic portal of indicators associated with the ALCAEUS programme to make visible the commitment of the centres that make up the Aragonese University System to respect for sexual diversity and the recognition and protection of the gender identity felt by each person.

At the international level, in 2021 ACPUA continued to collaborate with the CASPER Project, an international EU project (H2020 GA 872113) coordinated by the Gender and ICT Research Group, which promotes the study and implementation of a *European award/certification system for gender equality for Research Performing Organisations*.

During 2022, it worked on **the first phase** of the development of an **evaluation protocol on diversity for centres and universities** (Diversity Seal) which consisted of the creation of a glossary of common terms on each of the 5 subjects envisaged in the protocol. To this end, a terminology survey was created and completed by experts in the field. The results were used to produce, during 2023, the document "[Guide to terms on diversity](#)", which is available on the ACPUA website, in the "[ACPUA learns](#)" series.

4. EXCHANGES WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND OPENNESS TO STAKEHOLDERS

The Aragonese legislator wants the ACPUA, through its actions, to enrich reflection on the role of the university and to encourage exchanges of experiences with other university systems (art. 84.2 of the LOSUA). In relation to this, the objective of ACPUA has been to promote exchange actions with agencies operating in other university systems, especially with quality agencies, both Spanish and international, with which institutional links have been strengthened in recent years. Equally important is the collaboration with all the interest groups of the Aragonese university system, including the economic and social agents of the Autonomous Community. This action policy reaches strategic significance with the current Strategic Plan (2019-2022), which has a specific strategic line: L6. "Openness to stakeholders".

4.1. Collaboration with other Spanish agencies

4.1.1. Spanish Network of University Quality Assurance Agencies (REACU)

One of the strategic guidelines for the development of ACPUA's activity is its incorporation into the main national and international knowledge networks in the field of Higher Education. For this reason, the Agency actively participates in the activities of the Spanish Network of University Quality Assurance Agencies (REACU, constituted on 9 October 2006) by attending regular meetings and taking part in the projects proposed within it. The objectives of REACU are:

- Promote and develop cooperation and exchange of experiences and information, especially methodologies and good practices.
- Collaborate in the promotion of quality assurance.
- Act as a forum in which standards, procedures and guidance for quality assurance are proposed and developed.
- Promote the development and implementation of quality assurance and accreditation systems for agencies.

REACU is structured into a General Assembly and a Technical Secretariat, which is exercised on a rotating basis by each of its members. Throughout 2023 the Technical Secretariat has been held by the Agència de Qualitat Universitària de les Illes Balears (AQUIB), with the ACPUA taking over in January 2024.

In 2023, REACU has continued to work on the development of protocols and guidance documents to implement the new Royal Decrees.

Date	Main issue addressed
06/02/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discussion in relation to IQAS certifications and evaluations for institutional accreditation of centres. -Update of the Protocol for the Assessment of Academic Programmes with Successive Pathways in the field of Engineering and Architecture (PARS-IA). -Proposals for changes and innovations in the DOCENTIA Programme. -Information from the REACU Working Group on National Accreditation.
27/03/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sharing of the reform of the decree on accreditation for access to university teaching bodies and the decree on competitive examinations. -Use of the REACU logo. -Upcoming performances.
05/06/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Analysis and discussion of different aspects related to the entry into force of the Organic Law of the University System, and approval of an Agreement of the agencies that make up REACU regarding the issues to be considered. -Reflection and discussion on the update of the Docentia Programme and in particular on the requirement of the Teacher Development Framework (TDFM). -Discussion and approval of the documents of guidelines and basic suggestions for the drafting of the verification reports of the Master's degrees linked to access to the regulated professions of Teacher of Compulsory Secondary Education and Baccalaureate, Vocational Training and Language Teaching. -Discussion of guidelines and orientations for institutional accreditation of doctoral schools. -Discussion on the need for REACU's approval of guidelines on how the assignment of basic training subjects to fields of knowledge should be assessed.
10/09/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Analysis and debate on teacher accreditation, as a result of the entry into force of the regulations on this issue and planning of actions and agreements. Reflection and discussion on quality assurance by agencies for own and micro-credentials. -Exchange actions of technical staff of REACU Agencies.
11/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Approval, if appropriate, of the document Guidelines and orientations for the institutional accreditation of centres offering doctoral programmes. -Reactivation of the REACU-Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities working group. -Sharing of questions on the verification of degrees. -Announcement of the replacement of the head of the REACU Secretariat by ACPUA.

Table 8 REACU: meetings and main issues discussed during 2023.

Within REACU, the following protocols and documents were approved during 2023:

- Protocol for the assessment of successive academic programmes in the field of Engineering and Architecture (PARS-IA). Approved at the REACU meeting of 6 February 2023.
- Suggestions from the Spanish Network of University Quality Assurance Agencies for the preparation of the verification reports of Master's degrees linked to access to the regulated professions of Teacher of Compulsory Secondary Education and Baccalaureate, Vocational Training and Language Teaching.
- Guidelines and Orientations for the institutional accreditation of centres offering doctoral programmes. In accordance with Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres.

4.2. Collaboration with institutions and entities in Aragon

During 2023 ACPUA has continued to strengthen institutional ties and to collaborate with institutions, entities, interest groups and agents related to university quality in Aragon.

Firstly, as mentioned above, throughout 2023 both the management and the technical team of the Agency held numerous meetings with the management teams and heads of the quality units of the Aragonese universities, as well as with the heads of the faculties and schools. The evaluation processes for the certification of centres and for institutional accreditation have been the focus of much of the attention during these meetings, but also to assist in the training and **technical advice of those responsible for drafting the verification and modification reports** that are subject to verification by the ACPUA and also of the **coordinators of the degree programmes that have undergone the evaluation processes for the renewal of accreditation**. And finally, the preparation of the assessment protocols corresponding to the new Royal Decrees approved in 2021 referring to degrees and centres.

On 24 February, at the invitation of the Executive Director of Campus Iberus, Marta de Miguel, the director of ACPUA, Antonio Serrano, participated in the meeting of the **Vice-Rectors of Academic Policy** of the universities that make up the Campus of International Excellence **Campus Iberus** (University of Zaragoza, Public University of Navarra, University of La Rioja and University of Lleida) in the auditorium of the University of Zaragoza. During the time he was present at this meeting, the director of ACPUA discussed with the vice-rectors the main advances that are taking place in terms of quality and accreditation of teaching, both nationally (mainly challenges and development of R.D. 822/2021 and accreditation of the doctorate) and internationally (international joint degrees, short learning programmes and micro-credentials).

In addition, the following **ACPUA collaborations in various actions of the Government of Aragon and other institutions and entities** should be highlighted:

- **Iberus Campus:**

In the year 2023, ACPUA's Management continued with its visits and meetings with the different stakeholders of Higher Education in Aragon. Thus, a meeting was held with the Director of Campus Iberus in Zaragoza in order to listen to proposals and possible collaborations of ACPUA with the universities of the Ebro Valley.

- **University of Zaragoza:**

As usual and as part of the communications necessary for the performance of ACPUA's competences, the Agency's Management has continued with the meetings which, either at the request of the different Vice-rectorships or at the initiative of ACPUA, have helped to further strengthen the synergies between the two parties. It is essential for ACPUA to maintain these regular or one-off meetings (depending on their purpose) in order to be an instrument for continuous improvement and advice in the Aragonese University System. The meetings with the **Vice-rectorate for Academic Policy** have been fundamental to gather all the suggestions, consultations and needs that were necessary for the elaboration of the documentation of the different processes. On the other hand, the **Vice-rectorate for Internationalisation and Cooperation** has made it even easier for the ACPUA to participate in the different Forums and Working Groups in which the University of Zaragoza participates.

- **Aragonese Agency for Research and Development Foundation (ARAID):**

Periodically and at least twice a year, the ACPUA Management and the ARAID Management hold a meeting to exchange proposals, perceptions, ideas for the future... etc. linked to the evaluation and promotion of Aragonese research groups. In 2023, these meetings were held and the collaboration provided by our Agency to this Foundation continued.

As in previous years, at the request of the ARAID Foundation, ACPUA in April 2023 provided a list of experts in the evaluation of different areas for their participation in the ARAID recruitment call directly managed by the foundation.

- **San Jorge University:**

In 2023, and at the request of San Jorge University, ACPUA provided experts from its pool of evaluators for the external evaluation process of the Degree in Biomedicine.

- **Antonio Gargallo" University Foundation (Teruel campus of the University of Zaragoza):**

As in previous years, in 2023 ACPUA provided a list of expert evaluators in the fields of chemical and environmental engineering, computer and systems engineering, fine arts, psychology, educational sciences and economics to evaluate the call for applications for grants for research projects at the Teruel Campus of the University of Zaragoza.

5. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

The internationalisation of the Agency and its increased participation in activities within the European Higher Education Area and in other regions of the higher education world is a major strategic line of ACPUA (L7).

5.1. ENQA

ACPUA has been a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) since 2016 and has been actively participating in its Forums and General Assemblies, as well as in other events, projects and seminars (ACPUA was the host agency of the 2018 ENQA Members' Forum).

On 24 June 2021, the Board of ENQA (The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), after unanimously agreeing on the Agency's compliance with European Quality Standards (ESG), renewed ACPUA as a full member of ENQA for a further 5 years.

Since 2019 the Director of the Agency is a member of the ENQA Board and in 2022 the participation of the ACPUA Director in the ENQA Board was renewed for a term of 3 years, ending this period in advance due to the termination of the Director in the ACPUA.

On 21 September 2023, **ACPUA received the letter of approval from the ENQA Committee**, stating the approval of the Follow up Report for its renewal (June 2021), following **the submission of the Follow up Report** in June 2023. In this letter, the ENQA Committee congratulates the ACPUA for following the recommendations suggested by the panel of experts and, in particular, for improving the European Monitoring Standard ESG3.4 (Agencies should regularly publish reports describing and analysing the overall results of their external quality assurance activities).

The panel's recommendations encouraged ACPUA to develop a more systematic and in-depth approach to its evaluation processes and to provide reports on trends and developments in the field of higher education in Aragon. Consequently, the ENQA Committee noted that ACPUA has invested significant resources to expand its activities in the provision of thematic analysis and in the development of related activities in the form of seminars and webinars.

Link to the ACPUA website: [ENQA evaluation : ACPUA \(aragon.es\)](https://www.aragon.es/enqa)

ACPUA has participated in the following ENQA activities:

- 26-27 October: **ENQA General Assembly in Dublin, Ireland**. The meeting was attended by 145 participants representing 44 countries and held two plenary sessions on the update on the recognition of qualifications in the European Higher Education Area of Higher Education Institutions.

At the General Assembly, different aspects were presented and approved: the agenda, the annual report for 2022-2023, the budget and the new fees foreseen for 2024, the definition of upcoming activities and plans, the members of the ENQA

committees for allegations and revisions, the new members of the organisation, and, finally, the venues of the meetings foreseen for next year, Hannover (Germany) and Valletta (Malta).

In addition, 4 participatory thematic workshops were held, dealing with update topics on: academic integrity, message for the Bologna Ministerial Conference, the future of ESG (criteria and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area) and the goal-oriented review methodology.



Link to ENQA website: [2023 ENQA General Assembly, 25-27 October 2023, Dublin, Ireland - ENQA](#)

- 4 November: ACPUA launches the subscription to the new Newsletter of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). It aims to be a useful tool for keeping in touch with ENQA's activities, improving its communication with quality assurance agencies and a wide range of partners and experts with a keen interest in this work.

First edition: [ENQA News Bulletin | September 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#) Direct subscription to the Bulletin: [Contact - ENQA](#)

5.2. CoARA

On 5 October 2022, after extensive discussion and pooling, more than 350 organisations from 40 countries published the **Agreement on Research Assessment Reform**. This group of organisations and institutions articulated their operation at the end of 2022 in a structured and open group; the Coalition for Advancement of Research (CoARA).



In order to move towards a new research evaluation system, the agreement includes some principles, commitments and timelines for reforms and lays the groundwork for a coalition of organisations willing to work together to implement the changes, ultimately building communities of practice where experience and learning can be shared. ACPUA has been willing and willing to participate in these actions from the outset.

ACPUA, through the Vice-Rectorate for Science Policy of the University of Zaragoza, was promptly informed of the start-up of the project and its significance for the research community during the year 2022, as well as the aims and objectives of this new great international coalition.

Thus, on 20 January 2023, the Directorate of ACPUA attended the presentation of the National Forum for the reform of research assessment; *Research Reform in Spain*, by Crue and the Ministry of Universities. Rianne Letschert, Rector of the University of Maastricht and Chair of the Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment (COARA) participated in the event in the Aula Magna of the University of Barcelona.

In March 2023, at the invitation of the Rector of the University of Zaragoza, the Director of ACPUA attended the informative presentation *Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment* at the University Auditorium and held a working meeting after the event with the Vice-Rector for Science Policy of this university and its Director of International Research Projects with the aim of analysing in depth the role of the assessment agencies, and more specifically that of ACPUA in this Coalition.

12 June 2023. CoARA accepts **ACPUA's** commitment **materialised in the signature of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment** recognising ACPUA as a full member of the Coalition from that moment.

ACPUA participates in the review of the **Expression of Interest (Eoi) of the National Chapter of Spain submitted to CoARA** led by Crue, the Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas) and ANECA.

23 June 2023. ACPUA Management attends the first CoARA General Assembly (online) which brings together more than 50 countries and 135 people. At this session, the CoARA Action Plan is presented and the following governance documents, among others, are approved: CoARAProfile and Rules of Procedure, CoARA Code of Conduct and CoARA Internationalisation strategy.

17 July 2023. The **National Chapter Spain** is accepted by the Steering board of CoARA and the ACPUA is now part of the Spanish Chapter within the international CoARA.

15 December 2023. The Management of ACPUA attends the second General Assembly of the year (on line). At this meeting, thanks were expressed for the work of the Board of Directors, which provisionally launched this ambitious project during the first two years, and the proposed candidates for the posts of President and two Vice-Presidents were put to the vote. In addition, the National Chapters of Poland and Italy were presented, as well as the 12 working groups opened up to that moment in CoARA.

As of 31 December 2023, CoARA had 661 signatories to the Agreement from 48 different countries.

5.3. EQAR

The ACPUA has been registered since 2016 in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), which is the official body based in Brussels that recognises university quality agencies that demonstrate compliance with the quality standards in force

in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). This means that our Autonomous Community can continue to exercise, through the ACPUA, the powers granted by Spanish legislation on quality in higher education, given that with the current university reform, only autonomous agencies with this type of European accreditation can carry out official activities recognised at national level.

After passing a demanding international evaluation conducted by ENQA and with the favourable decision of ENQA (described in the previous section), the ACPUA proceeded to register in EQAR (European Register of Agencies) in order to renew its registration in the same, also for 5 more years and on 22 October 2021 it proceeded to the same. This new accreditation is valid until June 2026.

To this effect, the ACPUA's evaluations of the Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees offered by the universities achieve European recognition and prestige, and the corresponding reports can continue to be incorporated into the large DEQAR database (launched by EQAR) on university degrees. Furthermore, since 2022 ACPUA requested a substantial modification to include the ALCAEUS Protocol which received a positive response and, therefore, since 30 September, the Register Committee noted that ACPUA has introduced the "ACPUA ALCAEUS Programme", an activity of voluntary nature that focuses on higher education institutions' commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (further SDGs). This activity will have to be fully analysed as part of the next renewal of the Agency.

DEQAR database

One of the most interesting quality initiatives within the EHEA is the creation of the European DEQAR database. This database is promoted and managed by the European EQAR Register and ACPUA was one of the first European agencies to join the initiative. DEQAR contains thousands of evaluation reports on university courses, faculties and schools.

In 2023, all the degree and centre evaluation reports issued by the Agency have been published in DEQAR, expressly pointing out this circumstance in the text of our reports and obtaining a discount on the annual invoice issued by this European body.

5.4. INQAAHE

ACPUA has been a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (INQAAHE) since 2016. INQAAHE is a global network of agencies with a presence in all major higher education regions worldwide.

The ACPUA participates in its activities, and in 2018 already received, together with the AQUA agency of Andorra, a capacity building grant from INQAAHE to develop a project on sustainability indicators for universities.

In 2022, **the ACPUA requested its alignment with the Guidelines and Good Practices to INQAAHE with the aim** that, after the renewal of the Agency for 5 years by the ENQA body for compliance with the ESG, **the homologation with these international guidelines and**

good practices can take place. In this sense, the INQAAHE Committee took a decision on 28 February 2023, extending its congratulations to the Agency for Quality and University Prospective of Aragon (ACPUA) for completing its recognition process for 3 years (until March 2026).



Due to this recognition, the ACPUA becomes the first INQAAHE membership category to be called "GGP ALIGNED MEMBERS" and is defined as "organisations responsible for ensuring the quality of external evaluation of institutions and/or programmes, which have successfully passed the INQAAHE GGP alignment procedure".

In addition, obtaining this status has more advantages than just being a Full Member, such as: access to the Best Practice Database, participation in INQAAHE review panels and priority to participate in INQAAHE's multiple projects.

Link to INQAAHE's website on GGP Aligned Agencies: [GGP Aligned Agencies | INQAAHE](#)

Participation in the General Assembly

1st June: ACPUA, as a member aligned to the Guidelines and Good Practices (GGP) of INQAAHE (the international network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education), has participated, represented by its Director and the Internationalisation Technician, in its General Assembly which took place in Astana and online. During this meeting, the diplomas of recognition of the Agencies that have achieved compliance with the Guidelines and Good Practices (GGP), including ACPUA, were awarded.

All participants were provided with a platform to ask questions related to the agenda and explained that the documents will be available for online voting in the following days.

Direct link to INQAAHE's website: [General Assembly | INQAAHE](#)

The ACPUA has participated in the following webinars organised by INQAAHE:

- 24 January: "International Standards & Guidelines" by INQAAHE. The session was attended by the different authors of the report, as well as international experts from the United States, Spain and Qatar and relevant international institutions such as UNESCO.
- 29 March: "Academic Integrity: Protecting Trust in University Education" with more than 150 participants from 50 countries. Four prestigious presenters presented different ways to combat fraud in this area, at a time when information technologies are generating applications that produce fraudulent reports and fake diplomas, as well as organisations that sell services that do not follow the necessary university quality standards.
- 8 May: "Building a global quality culture: the role of students in quality assurance". The aim of this training was to learn about different theoretical and practical approaches to student participation and engagement at university level, as well as to learn about the comparative between continents in this area, highlighting the

strong development of quality agencies in Europe in this area through compliance with the ESG (2015).

- 28 September: "Navigating the future of learning: recognising micro-credentials", highlighting the interest in lifelong learning for individuals, underlining the potential for universities to play a leading role as providers of such training and encouraging agencies to ensure the quality of such training.
- 30 November: "Unlocking the potential of quality assurance in higher education to boost employability" highlighting the role of higher education institutions in relation to employability and entrepreneurship. Four excellent international speakers discussed aspects such as the adaptation of university programmes to the changing labour market, the role of external quality assurance in this field and the synergy that should exist between internal and external quality to promote the mission of universities, ensuring students' access to the best job offers and improving their capacity for entrepreneurship.

Direct link to the INQAAHE website: [INQAAHE Talks : INQAAHE Talks | INQAAHE](#)

ACPUA in the INQAAHE Bulletin

In its latest edition, corresponding to the first quarter of 2023, the INQAAHE newsletter makes visible the activity developed by the ACPUA on university guidance. Specifically, it publicises the presentation of the new infographic that has been created in Aragon.

Direct link to the [INQAAHE newsletter](#)

5.5. ECA

ACPUA has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) since 2016, together with other European agencies particularly concerned with the recognition of joint degree accreditations and the promotion of new projects in the field of quality in higher education.

ACPUA has participated in the following ECA activities:

- 23 January: international working group on joint programmes, recognition and innovation. The Consortium's proposal was to update information among working group participants and to advance its new joint planning strategy.
- 27 March: ECA (The European Consortium on Accreditation in Higher Education) Winter Seminar held in The Hague (The Netherlands). An ECA initiative, coordinated by the NVAO Quality Agency which, after the two years of pandemic without the convening of face-to-face meetings, prepared a friendly meeting with its international members. The main objective was to share the update on inter-university partnerships and, in particular, to discuss the relevance of using the European Approach method for quality assessment, as well as to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of issuing a new European diploma or label for students.

- 22-23 June: Member's Seminar, General Assembly and 20th years celebration in Palma de Mallorca. At the General Assembly, different aspects were approved: the agenda, the annual report for 2022, the budget proposal for 2023 and the proposal for membership fees for 2024, the definition of upcoming activities and plans, the extension of the coordinator's contract, the new members of the organisation and the members of the Financial Committee and the Organising Committee. From ACPUA, we congratulate Eva Fernández de Labastida as the new head of ECA.

Link to ECA website: [Member's Seminar in Palma de Mallorca - The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education \(ecahe.eu\)](https://www.ecahe.eu)

5.6. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SUA PROJECTS

5.6.1. UNITA-UNIVERSITAS MONTIUM (Alliance of European Universities)

ACPUA is an associate partner of the UNITA alliance of European Universities of which the University of Zaragoza is initially a member together with the Universities of Torino (Italy), Vest din Timisoara (Romania), Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (France), Savoie Montblanc (France) and Beira Interior (Portugal).

ACPUA has been working closely with UNITA since 2022. As an associate partner, the Agency is a member of its Advisory Council, which is made up of external stakeholders of the alliance. In addition, the ACPUA Management chaired the Quality & Evaluation Board until March 2023, which has been a strategic commitment for the future of the Agency, in the understanding that the construction of an IQAS of the alliance is one of the main touchstones of the future model of the European University. In other words, the ACPUA is gaining valuable, first-hand and practically unprecedented experience in one of the most powerful areas of internationalisation of the European Higher Education Area.

From 1 to 4 February 2023, the University of Zaragoza hosted and organised the macro event Unita Governance Board and Connected Events. It welcomed the members of the UNITA Alliance in Zaragoza and ACPUA was invited to participate not only as a member of the Governance Board and the Quality Evaluation Board. Furthermore, ACPUA was honoured to be able to organise and coordinate the meeting of REACU-UNITA Universities Agencies within the framework of this international conference, under the theme "**Challenges and progress in Quality Assurance of European Universities**". The round table was attended not only by the directors of the REACU Agencies but also by many of the representatives of the Board of the different Universities that make up UNTA.

In 2023 ACPUA closes a stage in the first phase of UNITA and continues to collaborate with the University of Zaragoza and 11 other universities in its European University Alliance project, called UNITA. The fundamental purpose of this project is to lay the foundations for a truly European university, which contributes to the educational, scientific and cultural progress of its regions, fosters their sustainable development, strengthens local innovation ecosystems, and supports their transition towards a knowledge-based economy, while promoting and accelerating European integration within and beyond them. In the new phase, it will **continue to participate as Associate Partner and lead the working group of**

Quality Agencies from all participating countries, with the Director of **ACPUA** assuming **the Vice-Presidency of the Quality Evaluation Board (QEB)**.

Link to the UNITA project: - [UNITA \(univ-unita.eu\)](http://univ-unita.eu)

5.6.2. POCTEFA-INTERREG

The Faculty of Education requests the participation of ACPUA in the project entitled POCTEFA DUAL-Transversalis. The aim is to promote a progressive, targeted and well-founded exploration of dual university training experiences in our territory, in academic and professional degrees and domains. The project involves 9 universities from 3 countries.

The role of ACPUA is Associate Partner of the University of Zaragoza. In 2023, the provisional approval of this project is known, pending final approval in 2024. Specifically, it is assigned the promotion of the strategic actions necessary to promote a progressive, oriented and well-founded exploration of dual university training experiences in the Aragonese territory, in the degrees and academic-professional domains of the University of Zaragoza that are considered most relevant in the course of the project. Participation and use of spaces for information, training and dissemination of the results of the project with the University of Zaragoza.

Link: [LLL-transversalis - Life long learning Transversalis - LLL-transversalis \(univ-perp.fr\)](http://LLL-transversalis)

5.7. OTHER INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

ANVUR ITALIAN NATIONAL AGENCY

ACPUA has participated in this proposal promoted by ANVUR: ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE Capacity building in the field of higher education; A proposal composed of 13 participants from 7 countries (Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador and Peru).

Under the title: Valorisation of the third mission policies of universities through the modernisation of Latin American Evaluation Agencies and the acronym VALUE, the aim is to strengthen the capacity of university systems in Latin American countries to recognise, measure and evaluate the educational and social impact, as well as the economic and environmental aspects of "third mission" activities and to stimulate universities to improve "third mission" programmes.

In September we were informed of its rejection, considering again its presentation in 2024, requesting that ACPUA be listed as an Associate Partner.

THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA) TOGETHER WITH THE ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN) ASSOCIATION AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ACPUA attends on 14th September to this webinar entitled "Mid-term review of the Erasmus+ programme: universities and students perspectives on student mobility". This training is aligned with strategic lines 6 and 7 on student support and the promotion of internationalisation, interested in the actions of inclusion in mobility, sustainability and learning transversal competences, among others.

Link to the European Commission Programme Guide: [2022-erasmusplus-programme-guide_en.pdf](#)

THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA) TOGETHER WITH THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (EURASHE)

ACPUA is attending this webinar on 18 September entitled "Needs and Expectations of Higher Education Institutions", which is part of the "Quality Assurance fit for the future" project and seeks to answer three questions: What do higher education institutions want from quality assurance? Do quality assurance activities currently respond to emerging trends in higher education? Are more regulations needed to improve quality assurance processes?

ACPUA, as a member of ENQA, has already responded to the survey provided on this subject describing its relationship to quality assurance at the university level in Aragon. This forum is part of the first phase of the project funded by the European Commission (Erasmus+ programme) and is scheduled for completion in 2024. The first results have been published and are available on the website.

Link to the project coordinated by ENQA: [Quality Assurance Fit for the Future \(QA-FIT\) - ENQA](#) Link to the project on the EUA website : [Publications \(eua.eu\)](#)

VISIT OF MIGUEL ÁNGEL TAMAYO, GENERAL COORDINATOR OF THE CIIES, MEXICO

Interested in learning first-hand about the functioning of ACPUA and the virtualities of the University System of Aragon, our Agency was honoured on 8 and 9 September with the visit of Dr. Miguel Ángel Tamayo, General Coordinator of the CIIES, Inter-institutional Committees for the Evaluation of Higher Education in Mexico. Among other attributions, the CIIES, which enjoy public recognition and funding, are the evaluating body for half of the accreditations of the university degrees that apply for accreditation in Mexico and have earned international prestige, forming part of Ibero-American networks such as SIACES.

On the 8th, Miguel Ángel Tamayo explained the legal framework and the teaching accreditation system in Mexico to the technical teams of ACPUA and the Vice-Rectorate for Academic Policy of the University of Zaragoza, in an event presided over by the Vice-Rector José Ángel Castellanos. The following day, 9 September, the General Coordinator of the CIIES visited ACPUA and analysed with its director, Antonio Serrano, the current state of quality assurance in higher education in America and Europe, exploring promising formulas for joint cooperation.

6. QUALITY CULTURE: SEMINARS AND DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

6.1. ACPUA University Quality Seminars

This activity of ACPUA, an interdisciplinary place for meeting and exchange of knowledge, methods and experiences around the great issue of the quality of higher education in Aragon, is an open forum for communication with society and the participation of the entire university community.

The seminars held in 2023 were as follows:

On 1 February, Dr. Carmela Chavez, from the Peruvian National Superintendence of University Higher Education (SUNEDU), led a new session of the ACPUA Seminars on University Quality, which was devoted to the topic: **"University reform in Peru: between the transformation of the system and institutional resistance"**. Carmela Chavez holds a PhD in Sociology, having specialised in comparative university systems. Her interesting lecture took place in the Paraninfo of the University of Zaragoza, in front of an audience of directors of Spanish quality agencies, professors and quality experts from Spain and abroad. The session was chaired by José Ángel Castellanos, Vice-Rector for Academic Policy at the University of Zaragoza.



On the 2nd of March took place the presentation of the ACPUA Infographic **"The transition of the student body to the universities of Aragon"**. With the slogan "Inform yourself and decide your education!", the infographic details, both in Spanish and English, the updated links of 5 relevant topics, which have been meticulously selected by some stakeholders, public and private, from Aragon and Spain.¹

6.2. Conferences, courses and seminars

6.2.1. Lecture: "QA Agencies, Role to Support University Third Mission".

In the field of active participation with international quality assessment agencies and invited by the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE), the ACPUA

¹ See Report section 5.4 ACPUA+STUDENTS.

Directorate presented the paper "QA Agencies' Role to Support University Third Mission" at the NCEQE 2023 Annual International Conference held on 27 February 2023.

NCEQE, ACPUA's partner in ENQA and EQAR, is recognised as the only national body authorised to carry out an external system for quality assurance and quality improvement of education in Georgia and is one of the most active bodies contributing to the formulation and implementation of education policies in Georgia in the National Qualifications Framework and recognition of education.

6.2.2. Conference "The future of medical schools".

ACPUA participated as a speaker at the conference held in Palma on 16 March 2023 entitled "The future of medical faculties" organised by the Directorate General for University Policy and Research of the Department of European Funds, University and Culture and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB), with the collaboration of the University Hospital of Son Espases, the Department of Health and Consumer Affairs - IBSalut and the University Quality Agency of the Balearic Islands.

During the conference, which focused on health sciences studies, the accreditation and recruitment of teaching staff and contractual figures with clinical links, and which was attended by the Minister of Health of the Balearic Government, the Secretary General of Universities of the Ministry of Universities and the President of the National Conference of Deans of Spanish Faculties of Medicine, ACPUA presented the model of accreditation of the figure of the contracted Doctoral Professor with clinical links to the public health system of Aragon, among others.



7. CONTRACT/AGREEMENT EVALUATIONS

7.1. Certification of merits (University of Cantabria)



Under the agreement signed between the University of Cantabria and the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon, which formalises the management assignment for the assessment of individual merits of the teaching and research staff of the University of Cantabria, approved by the ACPUA Governing Council at its meeting held on 27 June 2022, ACPUA undertook to evaluate during the year 2023 the professors of the University of Cantabria who submit their teaching and research activity for assessment.

This assessment has been carried out by ACPUA in accordance with the procedure established in the Agreement between the Department of Universities and Research, Environment and Social Policy of the Government of Cantabria and the Trade Unions representing the teaching and research staff of the University of Cantabria.

The University of Cantabria itself sent on 16 March the complete information for the evaluation and ACPUA has issued 714 individual merit awards for the teaching staff of the University of Cantabria out of an initial evaluation of 729 files.

The preparation of the 729 dossiers was carried out by the Agency's Quality Technical Department, which was responsible for reviewing the dossiers and preparing the formulation of the proposal to issue the 714 individual merit awards, which were issued by the Agency's management on 28 April 2023, and received on 2 May 2023 by the University of Cantabria.

7.2. Evaluation of five-year periods (Universidad San Jorge)

Normative framework and scope of the evaluation



Inspired by state regulations on the remuneration of university teaching staff, San Jorge University has developed a procedure aimed at the recognition of its teaching staff by means of the evaluation of teaching merits in 5-year periods (five-year periods of teaching excellence).

At the request of the San Jorge University, ACPUA has been collaborating in this activity by appointing a technical committee of experts who are responsible for the evaluation of the applications for recognition of five-year periods of teaching excellence submitted annually by the teaching and research staff of this university. The San Jorge University assumes the total cost of the evaluations, as ACPUA does not make any financial commitment in relation to this evaluation.

This activity is carried out under the framework agreement between the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon and the University San Jorge, to contribute to the implementation of activities to promote the improvement of the quality of the university system of Aragon, published in the BOA by ORDER PRE/2038/2017, of 17 November.

Evaluation process and outcome

San Jorge University has published a procedure for the recognition of the Five-Year Teaching Excellence Award of San Jorge University (PR-004), approved by the Rector Magnificent of San Jorge University and modified in its latest version (revision 6) on 7 April 2022. This procedure, among other issues, includes the purpose, scope, definitions, development, complaints and responsibilities.

Subsequently, by means of Resolution 5 June 2023 of the San Jorge University, all the Research Teaching Staff of the San Jorge University were summoned for the purpose of recognition of the Specific Complement for Teaching Merits (Quinquenios).

This call defines the teaching merits to be recognised and establishes, in section 5, that the evaluation body *"will be the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres (Panel of Experts) appointed by the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon"*. Likewise, section 7 establishes the procedure and resolution.

Consequently, in accordance with this call and the procedure (pr-004) set out above, the evaluation panel was the same as the one approved by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission, in session on 19 July 2021.

Once the individual assessment had been carried out by the panel of experts using the information collected in the computer tool (QUED) of the San Jorge University, the Agency's technical team carried out a review of these assessments in accordance with the following methodology:

- a) Review of those criteria of the assessment rubric that can be assessed on the basis of concrete evidence provided by the institution itself.
- b) Review of the results of the expert panel's assessment of the criteria for which evidence is submitted by applicants. This review consists exclusively of verifying that the information has been correctly collated and that no evidence has been overlooked.

Finally, the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres reached a consensus on the results obtained by each applicant, issuing the corresponding report that includes the list of applicants and the final result for each of them, which can only be favourable or unfavourable. Of the 47 applications evaluated in 2023, 42 obtained a favourable result and 5 an unfavourable result.

Three complaints were submitted to the USJ's Personnel Department, which forwarded them to the ACPUA for review and response by the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres, all of which were resolved positively.

8. INSTITUTIONAL LIFE: MEETINGS OF ACPUA BODIES

The following is a summary of meetings of ACPUA bodies and participation in commissions or networks at national level.

8.1. Governing Council



The Governing Board is the Agency's highest governing body, chaired by the head of the department responsible for Higher Education and with representation from the Government of Aragon, the University of Zaragoza, San Jorge University, experts, trade unions, representatives of student councils and business organisations.

Meetings held and main agreements reached:

- 23 March 2023: At this session, the Governing Council unanimously approved the appointment of the Secretary of the Governing Council and his/her corresponding Substitute Secretary, the Activities Report and the Activities Plan for ACPUA 2023 and the request for the Salary Scale for the Entity's own staff. It also ratified the Budget for 2023.
- 30 May 2023: At this meeting, the Governing Board unanimously approved ACPUA's accessions to the *Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment* for the commitment to a shared vision of research assessment in Europe and to the *Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)*. At the same meeting, the Annual Accounts of the Entity for 2022 were unanimously approved.
- 7 November 2023: In this session, held telematically, the Governing Council took cognizance of the proposal for the appointment of the Director in ACPUA, in compliance with article 12.2 of Decree 239/2006 of 4 December, of the Government of Aragon, approving the Statutes of the Agency for Quality and University Prospective of Aragon.

8.2. Committee of Experts

It is the consultative body of the Agency. This body is provided for in Article 91 of LOSUA, its composition is set out in Article 14 of the ACPUA statutes and its functions, which are listed below, in Article 15.



- To report on the Agency's participation in national or international programmes for the evaluation, accreditation or prospective evaluation of the universities' teaching and research activities.
- Propose organisational innovations in the Agency's structure, based on the experiences of other advanced university systems.

- To propose the development of plans for the improvement of the quality of the university system of Aragon and to report on the development of existing plans.
- Propose to the Director the composition of the evaluation, certification and accreditation commissions to be set up within the Agency.
- Periodically evaluate the Agency's activities, proposing improvements in its functioning.
- Any other functions similar to those established in this section entrusted to it by the Governing Board in accordance with article 91.4 of the LOSUA.

During 2023, the members of the Committee of Experts were consulted on an ad hoc basis, but no face-to-face meeting was held.

8.3. Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission (ECAC)



The ECSC is the Agency's technical body responsible for the technical functions of evaluation, accreditation and certification attributed to the Agency. Since 2014, it has delegated the functions of evaluation and issuing evaluation reports to the SET, SEI, SEC and SEP sub-commissions.

Its main function is to approve the Agency's evaluation and action methodologies, guidelines and protocols.

The meetings held and main agreements reached during 2022 were as follows:

- 01 January 2023:
 - Proposed renewal of members of the REC Health.
 - Proposed panel of experts for the assessment of PCDVC.
- 27 February 2023:
 - Proposed renewal of SEC membership.
 - Proposal of experts of the panel for the 2023 sexennial evaluation.
- 14 March 2023:
 - Panel proposal for the renewal of the accreditation of the USJ Health Sciences PoD.
- 1 December 2023:
 - Proposed renewal of members of the REC Science and Engineering.
 - Panel proposal for the evaluation of the PACE programme of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Zaragoza and the University Centre of Defence.

8.4. Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Qualifications (SET)



By agreement of 20 February 2014, and in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Committee delegated the technical function of evaluation, certification and accreditation to three subcommittees set up for this

purpose: the Subcommittees for the Evaluation of Degrees, Research, and Centres (SET, SEI and SEC), with the CECA being responsible for defining the operating regime and composition of these subcommittees.

The Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Qualifications (SET) has the functions of:

- Issue evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by the ECSC (our technical body).
- To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluation activity in the following processes:
 - Process for the renewal of degree accreditation.
 - Degree monitoring process.
 - Degree verification process (after full ENQA membership).
 - Any other technical function of degree evaluation according to the protocols established by the ECSC.

Since 2018, the SET has been meeting regularly. During 2023, **this committee met by videoconference on 14 occasions.**

8.4.1. The Branch Evaluation Commissions



As a consequence of joining ENQA, ACPUA became the Agency responsible for the verification and modification of degrees. The responsibility for this evaluation lies with SET, together with the Branch Evaluation Commissions (CER).

The RECs are collegiate bodies created to assist the ACPUA's Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Qualifications. In the Agency's organisation chart, they are on a par with the panels of experts involved in many of the evaluation processes (renewal of accreditation, monitoring, etc.). There are five RECs, one for each of the main areas of knowledge.

- Arts and Humanities Commission.
- Science Branch Commission.
- Health Sciences Branch Commission.
- Social Sciences and Law Commission.
- Engineering and Architecture Branch Commission.

Each REC is made up of four people (president, academic member, professional member and student). These 4 people have different areas of knowledge within the same branch.

The main functions of the RECs are:

- Carrying out a first assessment and drafting the proposed report for the SET of the verification and modification processes of all degrees.
- Analyse and issue a first report to the SET on possible allegations by the universities on the proposed SET reports.
- Any other evaluation assignment (preliminary study or information gathering) that may be entrusted to it by the SET.

The presidents of each of the RECs are also members of the SET.

The number of RECs may be increased due to the specific needs of the degree programmes or when deemed necessary by the president of the REC.

The RECs meet at least twice per assessed title on a regular and regulated basis. The meetings are held in necessary combination with those of the SET. They also meet extraordinarily when necessary.

In 2023 there were **27 meetings of ACPUA's RECs**.

8.5. Subcommittee on Research Evaluation (SEI)



By agreement of 20 February 2014, and in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Committee delegated the technical function of evaluation, certification and accreditation to three subcommittees set up for this purpose: the Subcommittees for the Evaluation of Degrees, Research, and Centres (SET, SEI and SEC),

with the CECA being responsible for defining the operating regime and composition of these subcommittees.

The Subcommittee on Research Evaluation (SEI) has the functions of:

- Issue evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by the ECSC.
- To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluation activity in the following processes:
 - Creation of University Research Institutes (IUIs).
 - Periodic evaluation of IUIs.
 - Evaluation of six-year periods of research activity of contracted teaching staff.
 - Evaluation of research projects of university centres or institutes.
 - Any other technical function of research evaluation according to the protocols established by the ECSC.

During 2023, this committee met **twice** for the evaluation of six-year periods and the resolution of appeals.

8.6. Sub-Commission for the Evaluation of Centres (SEC)



By agreement of 20 February 2014, and in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes, the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Committee delegated the technical function of evaluation, certification and accreditation to three subcommittees set up for this purpose: the Subcommittees for the Evaluation of Degrees,

Research, and Centres (SET, SEI and SEC), with the CECA being responsible for defining the operating regime and composition of these subcommittees.

The Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres (SEC) has the functions of:

- Issue evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by the ECSC.
- To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluation activity in the following processes:
 - Creation and affiliation of university centres.
 - Viability of centres attached to universities.
 - AUDIT Programme.
 - DOCENTIA Programme.
 - Certification of schools (CEI, CEP, CES) hosting university students on work placements.
 - Certification of the results of the evaluation of the UZ dedication and teaching allowance.
 - Any other technical function of institutional evaluation according to the protocols established by the ECSC.

During 2022 this committee met **7 times**.

8.7. Subcommittee on Teacher Evaluation (SEP)

The Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Teaching Staff (SEP) is a technical committee set up in 2021 by the ACPUA's Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Committee in accordance with the provisions of article 93.3 of the LOSUA and article 17 of its statutes.

The SEP has the following functions according to its rules of procedure:

- a) Issue evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by the ECSC.
- b) To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluation activity, collecting the technical judgements established by panels of experts, in the following processes:
 - Evaluation, accreditation and certification in the field of accreditation of university teaching staff.
 - To advise, within the scope of its competencies, on any matters submitted to it for consideration by the Governing Board or the head of the Agency's Directorate

Created in 2021 in order to evaluate the first call for accreditation of the position of Professor to Associate Professor with Clinical Links to the Public Health System of Aragon, the meetings held during 2023 were 3, all of them associated with the evaluation for the accreditation of the position of Professor or Associate Professor with Clinical Links to the Public Health System of Aragon in the call for 2022.

8.8. Sub-Commission on Thematic Evaluations (SETE)

The Subcommittee on Thematic Evaluations (SETE) is a technical committee set up in 2021 by the ACPUA's Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission under the provisions of article 93.3 of the LOSUA and article 17 of its statutes.

SETE has the following functions:

- a) Adapting evaluation protocols to the new changes.
- b) To systematise and disseminate thematic analyses on quality and employability in the Aragonese University System (SUA).

- c) To develop the social dimension of quality, whose actions include the implementation of the ALCAEUS programme, the transversal application of the principle of real equality of opportunities between women and men, and to contribute to the effective respect of the sexual diversity of all people in the SUA centres.
- d) Promoting excellence and strategic evaluations, making SUA excellence visible.

During 2023, this committee met **twice** (2 February and 9 March). In addition, following a resolution by the director and at his own request, different members of the Subcommittee were dismissed and replaced.

During the rest of the year, there have been different collaborations in each of the work areas, specifically related to the presentation of the work developed in Strategic Lines 4 (graduates) and 6 (education and society).

8.9. Guarantees Committee



The Committee of Guarantees is the Agency's technical body responsible for supervising the correct processing of the Agency's evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures, reporting on appeals lodged against resolutions of the Director. Created by agreement of the Governing Board on 4 May 2015, it was constituted on 19 January 2016. It meets when complaints or appeals are lodged with the

Agency.

As part of the functions entrusted to the Guarantees Committee in 2023, it met **on 2 occasions** to deal with the appeals lodged against the calls for accreditation of the figure of PCDVC and sexenios of research.

8.10. Monitoring Committee



On 4 November 2019 the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission made a proposal for the appointment of the members of the Agency's Monitoring Committee.

This committee fits into the organisational structure of the Agency on a par with the Branch Commissions and the panels of expert evaluators. It has the status of a permanent body since its work is planned throughout the year. It is also a transversal body since its work will be reflected in all the ACPUA's monitoring evaluation processes, both in the evaluation of degrees and in the evaluation of the monitoring processes of the centres. Specifically, the Monitoring Committee (SC) is the committee in charge of monitoring all the processes, both in the evaluation of programmes and in the evaluation of teaching and research centres and institutions. The reports it generates are submitted to the corresponding Evaluation Subcommittee, either the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Degrees (SET) or the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres (SEC).

During 2023 this committee was in charge of the evaluation of the improvement plans of the centres certified by the PACE - SIGC programme. Specifically, in 2023, the following requests for monitoring of centres were made: Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Faculty of Social Sciences and Sport of the Huesca Campus and the Polytechnic University School of La Almunia.

9. COMMUNICATION, TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

9.1. ACPUA's new charter of services

The new ACPUA service charter was published in March (ORDER CUS/380/2022, of 17 March, approving the update of the service charter of the Agency for Quality and University Prospective of Aragon (ACPUA)), thus renewing ACPUA's commitments to citizens.

The outcome of the monitoring of the commitments in 20232 was satisfactory, with all but two commitments being fulfilled, the non-fulfilment of which is linked to the fact that the post of Director of the Agency was vacant from the beginning of March until November.

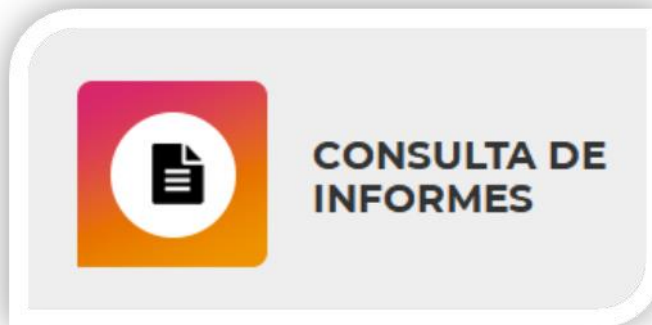
Disseminate the Annual Report of Actions in the first half of the year.	Approved the Annual Report by the ACPUA Governing Board on 23/03/2023 and published the following day, 24/03/2023. 100% compliance
Publish the Annual Action Plan in the first quarter of the year.	Approved the Annual Report by the ACPUA Governing Board on 23/03/2023 and published the following day, 24/03/2023. 100% compliance
Obtain an evaluation of more than 3 out of 4 in satisfaction surveys for all services provided annually by the Agency.	119 satisfaction surveys have been completed. The average satisfaction rating is 3.68 for all services provided annually by the Agency. 100% compliance
Ensure annually the absence of conflict of interest in the appointment of experts in the different evaluation processes.	Of the 3 panels of experts appointed in the different evaluation processes, all have been accepted by the universities. 100% compliance
Organise at least 8 events per year to promote quality culture.	A total of 4 events have been organised to promote quality culture. Compliance 50% Compliance 50% Compliance
Participate in at least 5 events per year to promote quality culture in collaboration with other entities.	9 interventions have been carried out in events to promote quality culture in collaboration with other entities. 100% compliance
Carry out at least two evaluation processes annually outside the Aragonese University System.	1 evaluation process has been carried out outside the Aragonese University System. Compliance 50% Compliance 50% Compliance
Achieve gender equality among external experts working with the Agency throughout the year.	Out of 124 external experts, 64 are women; 51.61% of the external experts collaborating with the Agency are women. 100% compliance

9.2. Policy on publication of reports and protocols

ACPUA's commitment to transparency is such that **all the results of ACPUA's evaluation reports** are published on its website.

With regard to the assessment of degree programmes, in 2023 the degree programme assessment reports were published (verification and modification of study plans,

monitoring, renewal of accreditation, etc.). On the other hand, the historical series of results by scientific field can be accessed from the section on assessment of the teaching staff's research activity on the website. Likewise, all the report templates are continuously revised with the aim of improving their clarity and accessibility for the public.



In the same way, all centre evaluation reports have been published (ACPUA PACE-SGIC programme, ACPUA ALCAEUS programme, etc.).

A report search engine is available on the website, through which the user can access all the evaluation reports on both programmes (degrees) and centres published by the agency to date. This mechanism, which can be used in both Spanish and English, is easy and simple to use for the user, allowing searches with different criteria (name of the degree, university, field, type of report, etc.) and facilitating the downloading of the files.

It should also be noted that the different evaluation protocols, the composition of the evaluation commissions, the members of **all ACPUA bodies** and the configuration of its staff are also publicly available on the website. The website also contains information on its plans and annual activity reports.

The Agency's annual accounts are published on the website of the Government of Aragon, as part of its General Account, volume VI of the annual accounts of the public law entities of the Autonomous Community of Aragon. On the other hand, this report includes a section

on resources where you can see the details of the human and economic resources of ACPUA.

9.3. Publication of news

This reporting policy is complemented by the publication of news and other content on the Agency's website. In 2023, 36 news items were published. The following table shows the headline of each of them and the corresponding link to the ACPUA website in Spanish and English if available, respectively.

Date	Holder	Link
19/01/2023	ACPUA + International: What do we talk about when we talk about social impact?	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-international-what-do-we-talk-about-when-we-talk-about-social-impact
26/01/2023	UNIVERSITY REFORM IN PERU: BETWEEN SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION AND INSTITUTIONAL RESISTANCE	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-reforma-universitaria-en-el-peru-entre-la-transformacion-del-sistema-y-la-resistencia#overlay-context=es
26/01/2023	University orientation at a click	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-orientacion-universitaria-en-un-clic
26/01/2023	ACPUA SEMINARS ON UNIVERSITY QUALITY: University reform in Peru: between system transformation and institutional resistance.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/seminario-acpua-de-calidad-universitaria
13/02/2023	Meeting with the Director of FundacARAID	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/reunion-con-el-director-de-la-fundacion-araid
17/02/2023	Announcement of the next ACPUA + Students seminar	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/proximo-seminario-acpuaestudiantes
24/02/2023	ACPUA joins the Aragonese Agenda 2030 Alliance	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-acpua-se-adhiere-la-alianza-aragonesa-de-la-agenda-2030
08/03/2023	The call for the evaluation of six-year periods for UZ contract staff has been published.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/aviso-importante-publicada-hoy-en-boa-la-convocatoria-de-evaluacion-de-la-actividad-investigadora
08/03/2023	The call for the evaluation of six-year periods for staff of institutions has been published.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/aviso-importante-publicada-hoy-en-boa-la-convocatoria-de-evaluacion-de-la-actividad-investigadora-o
08/02/2023	ACPUA renews its International Commitment Report on the 2030 Agenda (UN Global Compact)	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-renueva-su-informe-de-compromiso-internacional-con-la-agenda-2030-un-global-compact
24/03/2023	ACPUA obtains recognition from INQAAHE for its compliance with international standards and best practices.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-acpua-obtiene-un-reconocimiento-desde-inqaahe-por-su-cumplimiento-con-los-estandares-y-buenas
31/03/2023	ACPUA attends INQAAHE talk on academic integrity	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-acpua-asiste-al-inqaahe-talk-sobre-integridad-academica
10/04/2023	Partial renewal of ACPUA bodies	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/renovacion-parcial-de-organos-de-la-acpua
11/04/2023	ACPUA Governing Board meeting	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/reunion-del-consejo-rector-de-la-acpua
14/04/2023	ACPUA ATTENDS THE WEBINAR "THE NEW EUROPEAN FUNDS IN THE PERIOD 2021-2027".	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-acpua-asiste-al-seminario-web-los-nuevos-fondos-europeos-en-el-periodo-2021-2027
09/05/2023	International webinar. Building a global quality culture: the role of students in quality assurance.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/webinar-internacional-construyendo-una-cultura-mundial-de-la-calidad-el-papel-de-los-estudiantes-en
10/05/2023	ACPUA+Students Programme in the INQAAHE Newsletter	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/el-programa-acpuaestudiantes-en-el-boletin-de-inqaahe
12/05/2023	IMPORTANT NOTICE -PUBLISHED IN THE BOA THE RESOLUTION OF EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF RESOLUTION AND NOTIFICATION FORESEEN IN THE CALL OF 21 FEBRUARY 2023 OF EVALUATION	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/aviso-importante-publicada-en-el-boa-la-resolucion-de-ampliacion-del-plazo-de-resolucion-y

Date	Holder	Link
	OF THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF THE CONTRACTED PROFESSORSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA	
12/05/2023	IMPORTANT NOTICE - PUBLISHED IN THE BOA THE RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTION AND NOTIFICATION PROVIDED FOR IN THE CALL OF 21 FEBRUARY 2023 FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF OF THE ENTITIES.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/aviso-importante-publicada-en-el-boa-la-resolucion-de-ampliacion-del-plazo-de-resolucion-y-o
01/06/2023	ACPUA attends the General Assembly of INQAHE	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-asiste-la-asamblea-general-de-inqahe
16/06/2023	ACPUA Governing Board meeting	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/reunion-del-consejo-rector-de-la-acpua-o
30/06/2023	ACPUA makes a new e-processing procedure available in SEDE	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-pone-disposicion-un-nuevo-procedimiento-de-tramitacion-electronica-disponible-en-sede
30/06/2023	ACPUA, a stakeholder of the Delegation of Defence of Aragon	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-un-stakeholder-de-la-delegacion-de-defensa-de-aragon
14/07/2023	Training Pills: ACPUA News on Degree Verification/Modification Processes	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/pildoras-formativas-novedades-acpua-sobre-procesos-de-verificacion-modificacion-de-titulaciones
29/08/2023	ACPUA develops actions in favour of its commitment to the social dimension of quality.	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-desarrolla-actuaciones-favor-de-su-compromiso-por-la-dimension-social-de-la-calidad
26/09/2023	ACPUA article published in ENLACE Magazine	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/publicado-articulo-de-acpua-en-la-revista-enlace
04/10/2023	New ENQA Newsletter	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/nuevo-boletin-de-enqa
11/10/2023	ENQA approves the ACPUA Monitoring Report	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/enqa-aprueba-el-informe-de-seguimiento-de-acpua
24/10/2023	Graduate employment report in INQAHE's quarterly newsletter	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/el-informe-de-insercion-laboral-de-egresados-en-el-boletin-trimestral-de-inqahe
08/11/2023	ACPUA's participation in the European University Alliance UNITA continues	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/la-participacion-de-acpua-en-la-alianza-europea-de-universidades-unita-continua
01/12/2023	IMPORTANT NOTICE - PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF ARAGON OF THE CALL FOR THE EVALUATION FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF THE POSITION OF PROFESSOR/ CONTRACTED PROFESSOR/ DOCTOR/ DOCTOR WITH CLINICAL CONNECTION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM OF ARAGON (year 2023).	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/aviso-importante-publicada-en-el-boletin-oficial-de-aragon-la-convocatoria-de-evaluacion-para-la
04/12/2023	ACPUA's participation in the European University Alliance UNITA continues	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acpua-asiste-al-evento-online-inqahe-talks-sobre-empleabilidad
13/12/2023	University Programming Monitoring Committee	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/comision-de-seguimiento-de-programacion-universitaria
19/12/2023	General Assembly of the Coalition for the Advancement of Research Assessment (CoARA)	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/asamblea-general-de-la-coalition-advancing-research-assessment-coara
20/12/2023	Institutional Meeting with the Rector of Zaragoza University	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/encuentro-institucional-con-el-rector-de-la-universidad-de-zaragoza
27/12/2023	Institutional Visit of the Rector of the San Jorge University	https://acpua.aragon.es/es/visita-institucional-de-la-rectora-de-la-universidad-san-jorge

Table 9 News published on the ACPUA website.

9.4. ACPUA in the media

The different activities carried out by ACPUA, which contribute to promoting the improvement of the quality of the university system in Aragon, favouring its relationship with the business and labour world and society as a whole, are reflected in the media. During 2023, the different media referred to the Agency on at least 10 occasions. Specifically, the publication of the Report of the Study of Labour Market Insertion in the Aragonese University System. Cohort 2016-2017, presented at a press conference, had a very high diffusion giving rise to different interviews with the agents involved (both in the press and on the radio), with a high coverage in the written press.

Date	Holder	Medium	Mention
26/01/2023	The UZ asks for funding for 4 years of Erasmus+. The UNITA University Alliance makes the request and adds more members.	Alto Aragón Newspaper	"The alliance is also supported by several dozen partners, including, for example, the Government of Aragon, the Agency for Quality and University Prospective of Aragon (Acpua) or the Ministry of Universities".
21/03/2023	The latest study of labour market insertion in the Aragonese university system has shown an improvement in the employability of university students in the 2016-2017 academic year.	Cadena Ser	"Promoted by the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon, the coordinator of the report highlighted some of the data obtained, such as "88.1% are employed", "the percentage of students who delay the transition to the labour market is increasing", "9 out of 10 graduates have continued their education" and "7 out of 10 stay in Aragon".
21/03/2023	88% of graduates work one year later. More than half of them do so with a permanent contract.	Aragón Noticias 1 (opening news)	News - Aragón TV A la Carta (aragontelevisión.es)
21/03/2023	88% of graduates work one year after graduating from university	Aragón Noticias 2 (headline)	News - Aragón TV A la Carta (aragontelevisión.es)
21/03/2023	The Regional Minister and the Rectors of the UZ and USJ underline the university system's capacity to retain young talent		
21/03/2023	These are the most employed and best paid university areas in Aragon. 88% of 2017 graduates are currently working / There is a gender gap in both training and salaries.	El Periódico Digital	"Also present at the presentation of the study were Aurelio López de Hita, president of the Social Council of the University of Zaragoza; the coordinator of the report promoted by the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon, Diana Monaj; and the rectors of the two Aragonese universities, Berta Saez (San Jorge) and José Antonio Mayoral (Unizar), who pointed out that this study "breaks myths, such as 'why study if I am going to end up as a waiter' or that Aragon creates talent that leaves".
22/03/2023	88% of graduates work one year later. More than half of them do so with a permanent contract.	Alto Aragón Newspaper	"These are some of the conclusions of the report -The labour market insertion of university graduates in the Aragonese university system-, promoted by the Agency for Quality and Prospective University Studies of Aragon (ACPUA)".
22/03/2023	88% of graduates work one year after graduating from university	Teruel Newspaper	The study, promoted by the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon (ACPUA), has been carried out based on surveys of a sample of 1,309 students, selected from among the 4,726 who completed their degree at Unizar (4,425 people) and at USJ (301)".

Date	Holder	Medium	Mention
22/03/2023	The employment rate of university graduates rises to 88% four years after completing their degree.	Heraldo de Aragón	"The labour market insertion of Aragonese university students rises to 88% four years after completing their degree, according to the study carried out by the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon (Acpua), which depends on the DGA, and which aims to follow up on the study published in 2018."
12/04/2023	The UZ will allocate 1.5 million euros for scientific equipment.	Aragondigital .es	"Specifically, variables of scientific production of excellence, attraction of funding, transfer of knowledge and innovation, excellence of research staff, training capacity and attraction of talent, the backbone role of research, as well as a series of improvements requested by the Agency for Quality and University Foresight of Aragon (Acpua) have been examined".
07/11/2023	USJ opens the information period for applications for Medicine".	Heraldo de Aragón	"The San Jorge University (USI) has already opened the information process to attend the applications it is receiving for the future degree in Medicine, which is still pending verification by the Quality and University Prospective Agency of Aragon (Acpua) and final authorisation."
08/11/2023	Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa, new director of the University Quality and Prospective Agency of Aragon.	COPE Network	"The Government of Aragon has appointed Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa as Director of the Agency for Quality and University Prospective (ACPUA), at the proposal of the Regional Minister of Education, Science and Universities, Claudia Pérez".
28/11/2023	The EUPT achieves the quality seal awarded by the Spanish Universities Council.	Teruel Newspaper	"The internal quality system was implemented and accreditation was achieved from the Acpua (Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon), which is the official agency for the evaluation of higher education in the Autonomous Community of Aragon. Now we have gone a step further and achieved national backing from the Council of Universities, which is the body for academic coordination, as well as for cooperation, consultation and proposals in university matters".
05/12/2023	The Government of Aragon allocates 27 million euros over the next three years to improve the quality of teaching and research at the UZ.	Aragon_toda y	"Teaching and research staff must apply for assignment to the University of Zaragoza within the deadlines established by the institution and obtain the evaluation of their merits by the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon, based on the criteria published in the Official Gazette of Aragon".

Table 10 Most relevant ACPUA appearances in the media.

9.5. On-line strategy

For all the above reasons, ACPUA remains convinced that its website and social networks are fundamental tools for the dissemination of information, communication and publication of relevant content for all stakeholders, both national and international.

With the aim of developing transparency also at international level, ACPUA includes relevant documentation and information in English, as well as continuing to actively develop its social media profiles, generating content and reporting in real time on many of its main activities, as well as attending workshops, conferences, etc.

9.5.1. Website: continuous updating

ACPUA considers it crucial to keep its website up to date as it is an essential tool for communicating with stakeholders and for publishing and providing information on the evaluation processes it carries out. The access address is <https://acpua.aragon.es/>.

The ACPUA website is a key dynamic tool for communication, transparency, as well as for the publication of protocols and results of its evaluation processes. The updated content and attractive design of the website facilitate its usability.

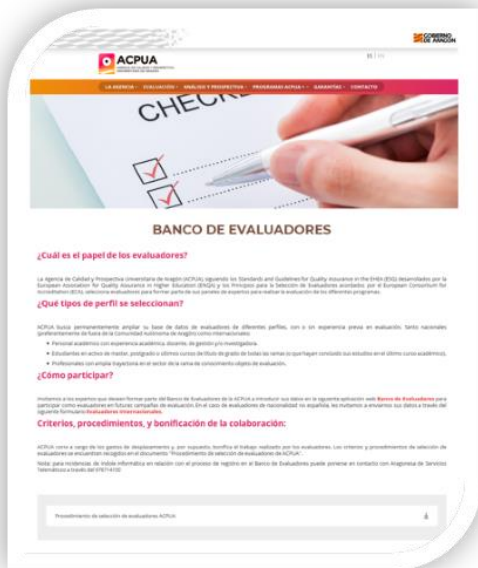
During 2023, 49 interventions were carried out on the website in order to keep the information published up to date.

9.5.2. Applications integrated into the website

ACPUA has three computer applications integrated in its website, which were developed in collaboration with the Entidad Aragonesa de Servicios Telemáticos (AST):

- The EMI platform to manage the call for evaluation applications for the research allowance,
- The BAEV platform for managing the bank of evaluators and
- The application for consulting the degree report database.

New pool of evaluators



The bank of evaluators is an essential tool for ACPUA, since all its external collaborators, both potential and current, must be registered in it.

The evaluator bank designed in 2015 was in need of renovation to improve the security of access and usability of the bank and a project for its renovation was initiated in 2022.

During the first half of 2022, the process of defining the technical-economic report for the development of the evaluators' bank application was completed, so that by Resolution of 14 June 2022 of the Director of ACPUA, it was agreed to commission the necessary work to Aragonesa De Servicios Telemáticos (AST) for the development of the evaluators' bank application and the

expenditure for its execution was approved, and it is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2023.

The new application solves the problems of the previous version, facilitating access for international evaluators and ensuring the registration of national evaluators by identifying them by means of an electronic certificate.

9.5.3. ACPUA and Social Media

The ACPUA team is firmly committed to the values of innovation, participation and creativity in the improvement of its activities. Therefore, aware of the importance of new technologies to promote the dissemination of information and participatory communication with all stakeholders, both Aragonese, national and international, ACPUA launched in 2014 its Communication Plan in Social Networks (RRSS).

The following three social media profiles, launched in mid-2014, have been gaining more and more notoriety within the agency's sectoral scope of activity year by year:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACPUA.Aragon>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ACPUAARagon>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8130734/>

ACPUA's activity on social media has continued to develop intensively since 2014, as they have continued to serve the Agency to promote communication and active participation in its field of action at national and international level.

10. HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

10.1. Human Resources

The Agency has its own staff, approved by Agreement of 18 July 2017 of the Government of Aragon² made up of labour staff governed by the Collective Agreement for the Labour Staff of the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, as well as civil servant staff.

The following table shows the list of civil servant posts and employment staff as at 31 December 2023.

Area	Post	Name	Contractual relationship
Address	Director	Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa	Senior management contract.
	Management Secretary	Raquel Gadea Mallada	Fixed-term employment.
Administration Area	Head of Administration	Rocío Pueyo Chaparro	Temporary official (from 12/12/2022).
	Administrative	María Belén Sampérez Vidal	Temporary (from 2/11/2022).
Technical Area	Quality Coordination Technician	Isabel Ortega Pardos	Fixed-term employment.
	Teaching Quality Technician	Jesús Fernando Morea Roy	Civil servant (on provisional secondment from 05/10/2021).
	Quality and Internationalisation Technician	M ^a Belén Serrano Valenzuela	Official (seconded from 05/10/2021).
	Research Quality, Innovation and Foresight Technician	Diana Monaj León	Civil servant (seconded from 18/12/2022).
	Administrative Assistant	Miriam Alda Sebastián	Permanent (from 1/09/2022).

Table 11 ACPUA staff.

With the declaration of the state of alarm due to the pandemic associated with COVID-19, from March 2020 the Agency's staff switched to a teleworking regime. This regime has been maintained after the publication of Order HAP/320/2021, of 31 March, which regulates the modality of providing teleworking services in the General Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon and its Public Bodies. At present, there are five people who are using this modality.

²<http://www.boa.aragon.es/cgi-bin/EBOA/BRSCGI?CMD=VEROBJ&MLKOB=980067224242&type=pdf>

10.2. Infrastructure

ACPUA's offices are located in the Dinamiza building, within the Expo Zaragoza Business Park (Av. de Ranillas, 5 D, first floor). Its modern facilities are located close to the Delicias inermodal (train and bus) station, which ensures quick access to the high-speed trains that connect Zaragoza with, among other cities, Madrid, Barcelona, Cordoba, Malaga, Seville, Nimes and Marseille. The Business Park also has numerous parking spaces, both paid and free.

The ACPUA offices have ten equipped workstations, nine of which are currently occupied, which more than meet both accessibility and comfort requirements. In the event that ACPUA expands its staffing levels in the future, there is capacity in the facilities to integrate an additional person.

On the other hand, ACPUA, for the holding of meetings and seminars, has its own small meeting room and the right to use larger rooms with computer equipment and videoconferencing support, in the rest of the existing rooms in the facilities of the department responsible for university education, as well as in the available spaces of the Government of Aragon.

10.3. Financial resources

	Final Budget	Executed	Implemented %
CHAPTER I STAFF COSTS			
(101000) SALARY	13.411,91	4.397,23	32,79%
(101001) DESTINATION ALLOWANCE	15.126,40	4.958,98	32,78%
(101002) SPECIFIC ALLOWANCE	37.203,53	12.196,02	32,78%
(101005) THREE YEARS	1.682,53	1.059,94	63,00%
(101006) EXTRA PAYMENTS	4.072,59	1.338,61	32,87%
(120000) SALARIES OF OFFICIALS	53.318,79	60.849,42	114,12%
(120005) THREE-YEAR ALLOWANCES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS	8.540,50	11.784,36	137,98%
(120006) EXTRA PAYMENTS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS)	19.946,62	22.762,75	114,12%
(121000) C. ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIALS	33.301,24	41.180,13	123,66%
(121001) C. SPECIFIC OFFICIALS	57.969,35	78.345,39	135,15%
(121009) OTHER RET.C. OFFICIALS	10.000,00	0,00	0,00%
(130000) BASIC SALARY FOR PERMANENT EMPLOYEES	107.242,01	81.335,43	75,84%
(130001) SENIORITY	8.588,69	4.941,83	57,54%
(130002) EXTRA PAYMENTS	26.927,89	19.679,06	73,08%
(130003) OTHER REMUNERATION	53.062,70	37.704,03	71,06%
(160000) S. S. TO BE BORNE BY THE COMPANY	105.323,93	91.220,49	86,61%
(160900) Surcharges on social security contributions	0,00	21,73	2173000%
(161003) Teleworking Expenses Civil Servant	0,00	276,00	27600000%
(162000) FCION. AND FURTHER TRAINING OF P.LAB.	5.624,24	990,00	17,60%
(162003) Labour Telework Expenses	0,00	384,00	38400000%
(165000) SOCIAL ACTION	3.936,97	726,57	18,46%
(165001) OTHER SOCIAL EXPENDITURE P.LAB.	1.687,27	0,00	0,00%
TOTAL	566.967,16	476.151,97	83,98%
CHAPTER II EXPENDITURE ON CURRENT GOODS AND SERVICES			
(202000) LEASING OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER CONS.	18.000,00	0,00	0%
(212000) BUILDINGS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTIONS	100	0,00	0%

	Final Budget	Executed	Implemented %
(216000) INFORMATION PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	100	0,00	0%
(219000) OTHER TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	200	0,00	0%
(220000) ORDINARY NON-INVENTORIABLE	1.000,00	1.485,96	149%
(220002) PRESS,MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS	600	340	57%
(220003) BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS	765	0,00	0%
(220004) COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	100	31,46	31%
(221000) ELECTRICAL ENERGY	500	0,00	0%
(222000) TELEPHONE	5.705,53	576,07	10%
(222001) POSTCARDS	750	0,00	0%
(223000) TRANSPORT	500	10,75	2%
(224003) OTHER RISKS	50	0,00	0%
(226001) PROTOCOL AND REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES	1.200,00	0,00	0%
(226002) DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION COSTS	1.000,00	145,2	15%
(226005) MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES	10.000,00	6.084,16	61%
(226008) EXPENDITURE ON EVALUATION ACTIVITIES	90.000,00	52.266,45	58%
(226009) OTHER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	0,00	212,24	21224000%
(227000) CLEANING AND CLEANING	100	0,000	0%
(227006) STUDIES AND TECHNICAL WORK	40.872,57	45.943,23	112%
(230000) PER DIEMS	1.000,00	250,65	25%
(231000) LOCOMOTION	1.000,00	0,00	0%
TOTAL	184.585,37	141.302,10	77%
CHAPTER VI REAL INVESTMENTS			
(605000) FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS	2.000,00	0	0,00%
TOTAL	2.000,00	0	0,00%
TOTAL	753.552,53	617.454,07	

Table 12 Summary of ACPUA's Financial Resources

11. ANNEX I: STRUCTURE OF ACPUA

The figure below shows the structure of ACPUA as at 31 December 2023.

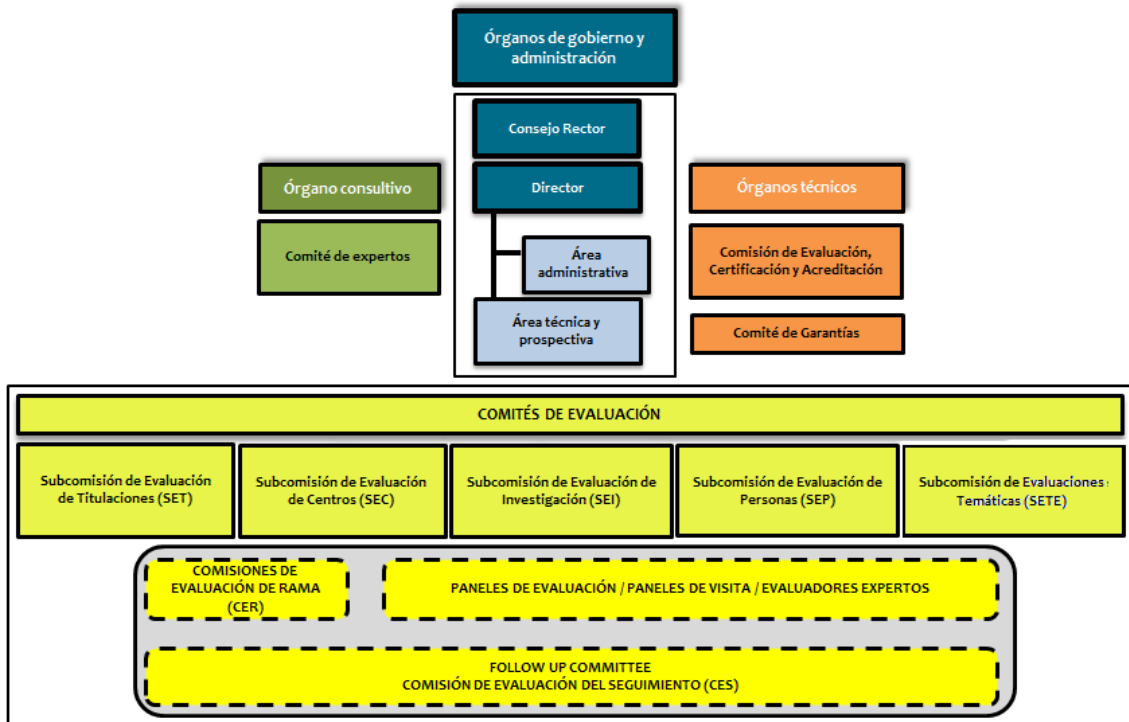


Table 13 Structure of ACPUA.

As can be seen, it consisted of:

- The Governing Board (governing body)
- The Committee of Experts (advisory body),
- The Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission (technical committee responsible for approving methodologies and protocols),
- The Guarantees Committee (body dealing with complaints and appeals)
- Five Evaluation Subcommittees (SEC, SEI, SEP, SET and SETE), responsible for issuing evaluation reports.
- The Monitoring Committee (the body that evaluates the monitoring of all processes).

In addition to these bodies, there are the Branch Evaluation Commissions (RECs) and the evaluation panels for official courses, centres, individuals and other programmes.

The composition of ACPUA bodies and committees as at 31 December 2023 is as follows:

11.1. Governing Council

Post	Name
President: Regional Minister for Education, Science and Universities of the Government of Aragon	Claudia Pérez Forniés
Vice-President: Director General of Universities of the Government of Aragon	M.ª Luisa Feijóo Bello
Secretary: Director of ACPUA	Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa
Substitute Secretary: Director General for Science and Research of the Government of Aragon	Mª Pilar Gayán Sanz
Rector of the University of Zaragoza	José Antonio Mayoral Murillo
Rector of San Jorge University	María Berta Sáez Gutiérrez
President of the Social Council of the University of Zaragoza	Aurelio López de Hita
Vice-Rector for Academic Policy of the University of Zaragoza	José Ángel Castellanos Gómez
Vice-Rector for Academic Policies and Teaching Staff at San Jorge University	Carlos Cetina Englada
Member of the ACPUA Committee of Experts	Fiona Crozier
President of the Student Council of the University of Zaragoza	Eduardo Serrano Ibáñez
Student representative of the San Jorge University	Amor Yun Bernal Cabrerizo
Representative of Comisiones Obreras (CCOO)	Ana Gargallo Castel
Representative of the General Workers' Union (UGT)	Josefina Jiménez Villar
Representative of the Confederation of Employers of Aragon (CEOE Aragon)	Juan Carlos Dehesa Conde
Representative of the Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium Enterprises of Aragón (CEPYME Aragón)	Carmelo Pérez Serrano

11.2. Director

Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa.

11.3. Committee of Experts

Composition	Name	Institution
Presidency	Vacancy	
International Member	Fiona Crozier	International expert (Ireland)
Vocal	Carlos Martín Montañés	Professor at the University of Zaragoza
Vocal	Máximo Valenciano Arranz	President of INYCOM
Vocal	Eva Ferreira García	University of the Basque Country

11.4. Guarantees Committee

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Gabriel Morales Arruga	Abogado del Estado, member of the Consejo Consultivo de Aragón (Aragon Advisory Council)
Vocal	Manuel Cachón Cadenas	Autonomous University of Barcelona
Vocal	Carmen Ocal García	Barcelona Institute of Materials Science
International Member	Cosimo Cascione	University of Naples Federico II
Student Member	Patricia Cifredo Ortiz	University of Seville
Secretary	Rocío Pueyo Chaparro	Head of Administration and General Services Section of ACPUA

11.5. Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission (ECAC)

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa	Director of ACPUA
Vocal	Patricia Espejo Megías	University of Castilla-La Mancha
Vocal	María Leonor González Menorca	University of La Rioja
Vocal	Francisco García Navarro	University of Cordoba
Student Member	Laura Peiró Márquez	University of the Basque Country
Professional Member	Teresa Sánchez Chaparro	Polytechnic University of Madrid
External Stakeholder	Luis A. Polo Rubio	Spanish Red Cross
International Member	Erika Soboleva	University Quality Agency AKKORK (Russia)
Secretary	Ana Isabel Ortega Pardos	APUA Quality Coordination Technician

11.6. Evaluation Subcommittees

The ACPUA's Assessment, Certification and Accreditation Committee (CECA) may appoint ad-hoc assessment sub-committees to assist it in the assessment, certification or accreditation programmes it deems necessary. To this end, in 2014 ACPUA proceeded to the creation of three Evaluation Subcommittees: Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Degrees (SET), Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Research (SEI) and Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Centres (SEC) and, subsequently, in 2020 it proceeded to the creation of the Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Teaching Staff (SEP) and Subcommittee for Thematic Evaluations (SETE).

The sub-committees are made up of experts of recognised prestige who meet the selection criteria imposed by CECA for each process.

The composition as at 31 December 2023 is detailed below:

Subcommittee on the Evaluation of Centres (SEC)

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Javier González Benito	University of Salamanca
Vocal	Gaspar Ros Berruezo	University of Murcia
Vocal	Gloria Zaballa Pérez	University of Deusto
Vocal Stakeholder	Sonia Corujo Capote	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
International Member	Berta Fernández Álvarez	University of Leiden (The Netherlands)
Student Member	María Luisa Blanco Sánchez	Pablo de Olavide University
Secretary	Ana Isabel Ortega Pardos	ACPUA Quality Coordination Technician

Subcommittee on Research Evaluation (SEI)

Composition	Name	Institution
Chairman (Engineering and Architecture)	Enrique Mirambell Arrizabalaga	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya)
Academic Member (Arts and Humanities)	Fernando López Alsina	University of Santiago de Compostela
Academic Member (Social and Legal Sciences)	Eloísa Carbonell Porras	University of Jaén
Academic Member (Health Sciences)	Elías Fernando Rodríguez Ferri	University of León
Academic Member (Science)	Antonia Garrido Frenich	University of Almeria
Secretary	Ana Isabel Ortega Pardos	ACPUA Quality Coordination Technician

Subcommittee on Teacher Evaluation (SEP)

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Francisco Gracia Navarro	University of Cordoba
Academic Member	Ana María Obeso Cáceres	University of Valladolid
Academic Member	Jaume Farrés Vicén	Autonomous University of Barcelona
Academic Member	Luis Grande Posa	Autonomous University of Barcelona - Hospital del Mar
Secretary	Jesús Fernando Morea Roy	ACPUA Teaching Quality Technician

Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Qualifications (SET)

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Jordi Suriñach Caralt	University of Barcelona (Social and Legal Sciences)
Academic member	Jorge Fernández López	University of La Rioja (Arts and Humanities)
Academic Member	María Teresa Flores Arias	University of Santiago de Compostela (Sciences)
Academic Member	Francisco Arnalich Fernández	Autonomous University of Madrid (Health Sciences)
Academic Member	Elena Valderrama Vallés	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Engineering and Architecture)
Member for Artistic Education	María Josefa de la Torre Molina	University of Malaga (Higher Artistic Education)
Student Member	David João Cordeiro Fernandes	University of Murcia
Professional Member	Elvira Congosto Luna	Mirabal International School
International Member	Francisco Aracena Bernal	Andrés Bello University of Chile
Secretary	Ana Isabel Ortega Pardos	ACPUA Quality Coordination Technician

Sub-Commission on Thematic Evaluations (SETE)

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Leonor González Menorca	University of La Rioja
Vocal	Pilar Figuera Gazo	University of Barcelona
Vocal	María Jesús Blanco Sánchez	Pablo de Olavide University
Vocal	Sonia Seijas Ramos	University of A Coruña
Professional Member	Irene Melchor Lacleta	Stakeholder (IES Miguel Catalán)
Student Member	Laura Peiró Márquez	University of the Basque Country
Secretary	María Belén Serrano Valenzuela	ACPUA Internationalisation Quality Technician

12. ANNEX II: EVALUATION PANELS 2023

12.1. Branch Evaluation Commissions (RECs)

The composition of the different Branch Evaluation Committees as at 31 December 2023 was as follows.

Arts and Humanities Evaluation Commission

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Jorge Fernández López	University of La Rioja
Academic Member	César Fornis Vaquero	University of Seville
Student Member	Esther Alós Ordiales	Complutense University of Madrid
Professional Member	Clara Mateo Sabadell	CREACADEMIA

Science branch evaluation committee

Composition	Name	Institution
President	María Teresa Flores Arias	University of Santiago de Compostela
Academic Member	Maria del Mar Reguero de la Poza	Rovira i Virgili University
Student Member	Diego José Sánchez Martín	Complutense University of Madrid
Professional Member	Diego Marín Sánchez	Sacred Heart School (Corazonistas La Mina)

Health Sciences Branch Evaluation Commission

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Andrés Prat Marín	University of Barcelona
Academic Member	Librado Carrasco Otero	University of Cordoba
Student Member	Beatriz Atienza Carbonell	University of Valencia
Professional Member	Agustín Acosta Gallego	International University of La Rioja

Engineering and Architecture Evaluation Commission³

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Elena Valderrama Vallés	Autonomous University of Barcelona

³ In the verification of the degrees in Cybersecurity Engineering and Artificial Intelligence, both from the University of San Jorge, the CER of Engineering and Architecture was supported by the cybersecurity expert Sergi Robles Martínez (Autonomous University of Barcelona).

Academic Member	Jesús Félez Mindán	Polytechnic University of Madrid
Student Member	Antonio Martínez Rojas	University of Seville
Professional Member	Elena de Mier Torrecilla	AECID - ACS Foundation

Social and Legal Branch Evaluation Commission

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Jordi Suriñach Caralt	University of Barcelona
Academic Member	José Antonio Caride Gómez	University of Santiago de Compostela
Student Member	Cristina Soria Gallardo	University of Valencia
Professional Member		

12.2. Renewal of accreditation

The following is a list of the composition of the Official Teaching evaluation panels appointed during the year 2023 by Resolution of the Director of ACPUA.

Panel 1.

- Doctoral Programme in Health Sciences / Health Sciences at San Jorge University (1^{era} renewal of accreditation).

Composition	Name	Institution
President	María del Mar Tavío Pérez	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Academic Member	Francisco Alburquerque Sendín	University of Cordoba
Student Member	Beatriz Atienza Carbonell	University of Valencia

12.3. ACPUA's PACE-SGIC programme.

Listed below is the composition of the institutional accreditation evaluation panels for Centres appointed during the year 2023 by Resolution of the ACPUA Directorate.

Panel 1.

- University Defence Centre of the University of Zaragoza.

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Javier González Benito	University of Salamanca
Academic Member	Henrique Lorenzo Cimadevila	University of Vigo
Student Member	Pablo Alas Tomás	Open University of Catalonia
Professional Member	Marta Aguado Tetilla	CIRCE Foundation
International Member	Lukas Jehlicka	University of Turin

Panel 2.

- Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Zaragoza.

Composition	Name	Institution
President	Javier González Benito	University of Salamanca
Academic Member	José María Morán García	University of Extremadura
Student Member	Marwane Bourqqia Ramzi	Complutense University of Madrid
Professional Member	Marta Aguado Tetilla	CIRCE Foundation
International Member	Lukas Jehlicka	University of Turin

12.4. Evaluation of research activity

The composition of the research activity evaluation panels appointed during the year 2023 by Resolution of the Director of ACPUA is listed below.

Panel 1.

- Contracted teaching staff at the University of Zaragoza.
- Teaching and research staff of the University Centre of Defence, the Polytechnic University School of La Almunia and the School of Tourism of Zaragoza, as well as the Agri-Food Research and Technology Centre of Aragon, the Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences, and the research staff contracted by the University of Zaragoza both within the Ramón y Cajal aid programme and in the "Contract for access to the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System" modality.

Committee	Name	Institution
Committee 1: MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS	Inmaculada Higuera Sanz	Public University of Navarra
Committee 2: CHEMISTRY	Manuela Hidalgo Muñoz	University of Girona
Committee 3: MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY	Irene Díaz Moreno	University of Seville
Committee 4: BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	Ana María Cameán Fernández	University of Seville
Committee 5: NATURAL SCIENCE	Jesús Damián de la Rosa Díaz	University of Huelva
Committee 6: ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE		
Sub-field 6.1: MECHANICAL AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES	María del Carmen Martín González	University of Valladolid
Subfield 6.2: COMPUTER, COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING	Isabel Barbancho Pérez	University of Malaga
Subfield 6.3: ARCHITECTURE, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND URBAN PLANNING	Estanislau Roca Blanch	Polytechnic University of Catalonia
Committee 7: SOCIAL, POLITICAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES		

Committee	Name	Institution
Subfield 7.1. SOCIAL, POLITICAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND GENDER STUDIES SCIENCES	María José Blanca Mena	University of Malaga
Subfield 7.2. EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES	Mercedes González Sanmamed	University of A Coruña
Committee 8: ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS SCIENCES	Leticia Santos Vijande	University of Oviedo
Committee 9: LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE	María Inés Olaizola Nogales	Public University of Navarra
Committee 10: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND THE ARTS	Miguel Molina Alarcón	Polytechnic University of Valencia
Committee 10: HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND THE ARTS	Pablo de la Cruz Díaz Martínez	University of Salamanca
Committee 11: PHILOSOPHY, PHILOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS	Roberto Rodríguez Aramayo	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spanish National Research Council)

12.5. Evaluation of five-year periods (Universidad San Jorge)

The composition of the evaluation panels for five-year periods of teaching excellence (University of San Jorge) appointed during the year 2023 by Resolution of the Director of ACPUA are listed below.

Composition	Name	Institution
Vocal	Agustín Acosta Gallego	International University of Catalonia
Vocal	Antonio Castillo Esparcia	University of Malaga
Vocal	Mónica Pinto Alarcón	University of Malaga

12.6. PCDVC accreditation assessment

The following is the composition of the evaluation panel for the accreditation of the position of Professor to Associate Professor with Clinical Attachment to the Public Health System of Aragon appointed during the year 2023 by Resolution of the Director of ACPUA⁴.

Composition	Name	Institution
Vocal	Jaume Farrés Vicén	Autonomous University of Barcelona
Vocal	Francisco Gracia Navarro	University of Cordoba
Vocal	Luis Grande Posa	Hospital del Mar - Autonomous University of Barcelona
Vocal	Alfonso María Lechuga Sancho	Puerta del Mar University Hospital - University of Cádiz
Vocal	Ana María de la Luz Obeso Cáceres	University of Valladolid

⁴ The appointment took place during the month of January 2023 to resolve the 2022 call.

Composition	Name	Institution
Vocal	Juan Diego Pedrera Zamorano	University of Extremadura
Vocal	Manuel Pereiro Ferreirós	Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Santiago de Compostela - University of Santiago de Compostela
Vocal	Francisco Pérez Jiménez	University of Cordoba
Vocal	Juan José Segura Egea	University of Seville
Vocal	Rosa María Solá	Sant Joan de Reus University Hospital - Universitat Rovira i Virgili

13. ANNEX III: GENDER REPORT ON THE COMPOSITION OF ACPUA

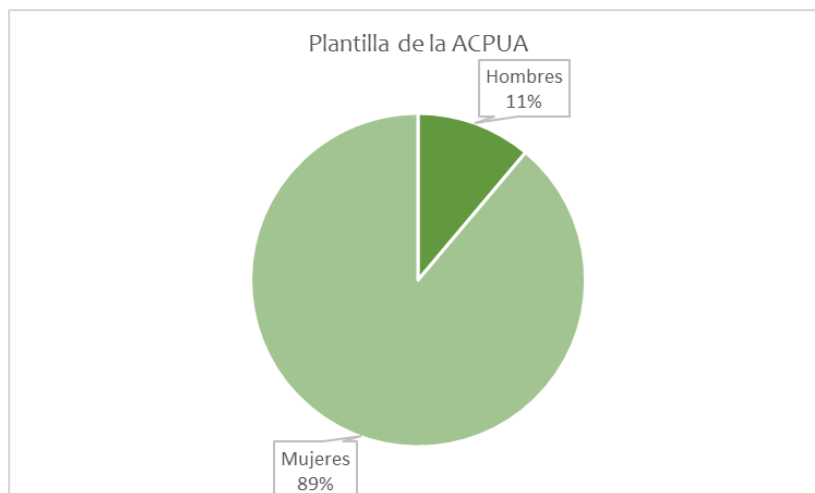
As an integral agent of the Aragonese R&D&I system, and in accordance with article 44 of Law 17/2018, of 4 December, on Research and Innovation in Aragon, it is ACPUA policy to promote a balanced presence of women and men in the composition of its bodies (governing, consultative, technical) as well as in the evaluation panels.

The methodology used in this annex is as follows. A person is counted as many times as he/she is present on different assessment bodies or panels. By way of example, if two panels have been set up to assess two degree programmes and a person has been a member of both panels, he/she is counted twice. Similarly, if the same panel has assessed more than one degree programme, each of the persons on the panel is counted only once. Likewise, in the Agency's bodies, the people who are members of the ACPUA are counted, whereas in the evaluation panels they are not.

Finally, it should be noted that all references contained in this report for which the generic masculine form is used should be understood to apply indistinctly to women and men.

13.1. Agency staff

For the exercise of its functions, ACPUA has a Director and its own staff of 8 people. As of 31 December 2023, the staff consisted of 8 women and 1 man.

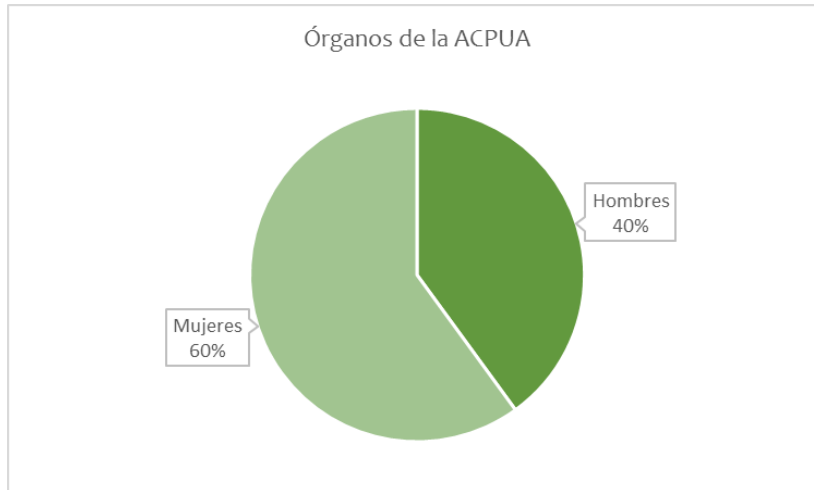


13.2. ACPUA bodies

The different bodies that make up the Agency are the Governing Board, the Committee of Experts, the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission, the Committee of Guarantees and the Evaluation Sub-Commissions (SEC, SEI, SEP, SET and SETE). The

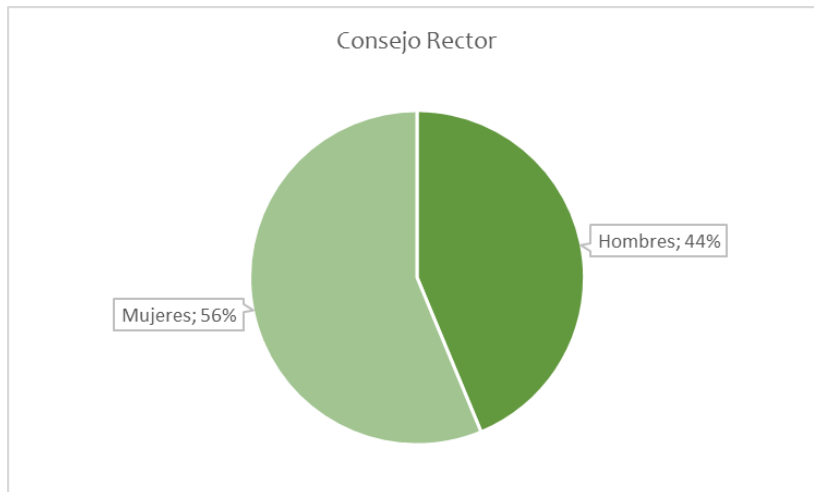
composition and functions of these bodies have been described above. Information on all of them can also be found on the ACPUA website.

Of the total membership (72 posts including chairpersons, members, secretaries) as of 31 December 2023, 42 posts were held by women, 28 by men and 2 posts were vacant.



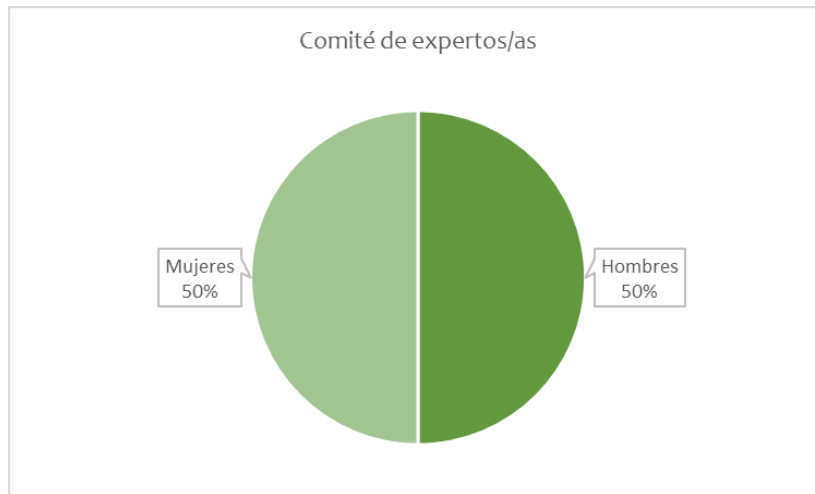
Governing Board

The Governing Board is the highest governing body of the Agency. As of 31 December 2023, it was composed of 16 persons, of whom 9 were women and 7 were men.



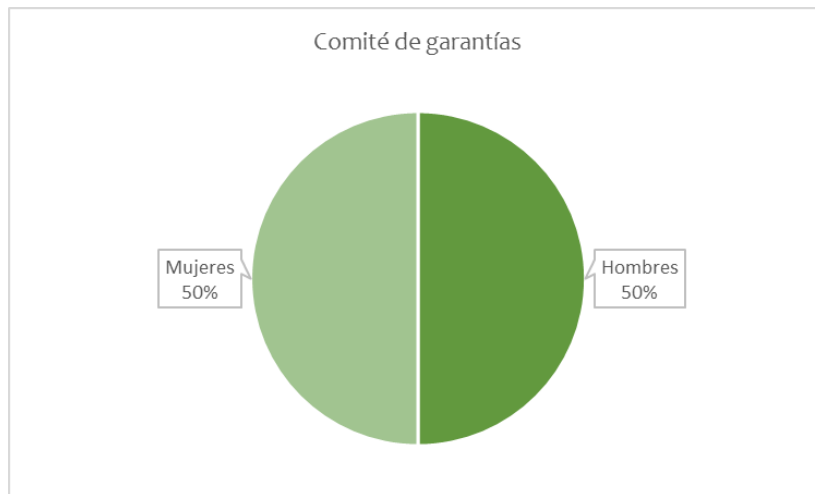
Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts is the advisory body of the Agency. Composed of 4 persons, as of 31 December 2023, 2 were women, 2 men and 2 posts were vacant.



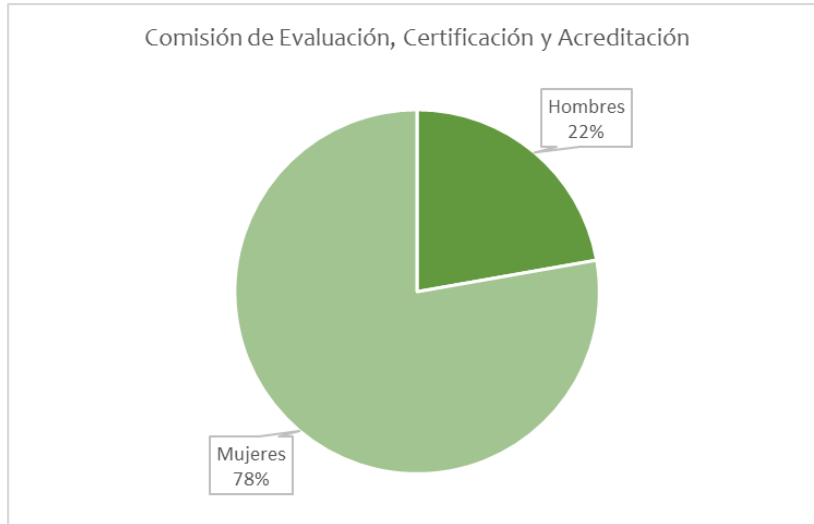
Guarantees Committee

This is the Agency's technical body responsible for supervising the correct processing of evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures, reporting on all complaints and appeals. It is made up of 7 people, 3 women and 3 men as of 31 December 2023.



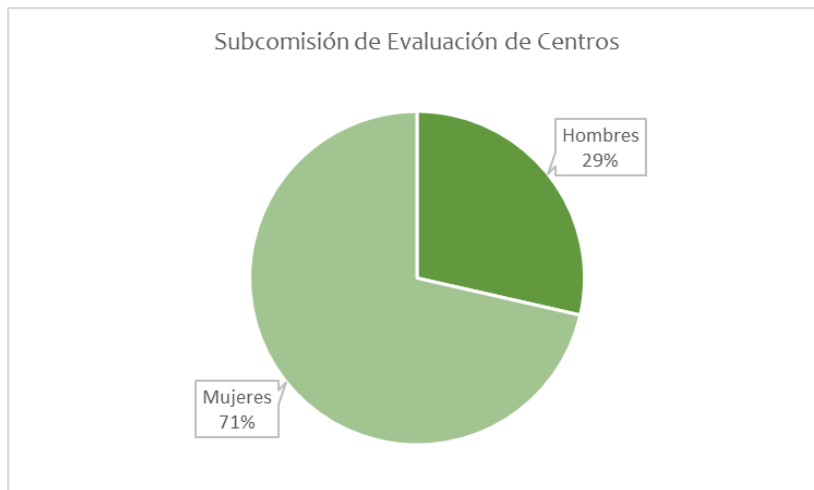
Commission for Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation (CECA)

The Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission is the technical body that develops and approves the Agency's evaluation methodologies, protocols and procedures. Composed of 9 people, as of 31 December 2023, 7 were women and 2 men.



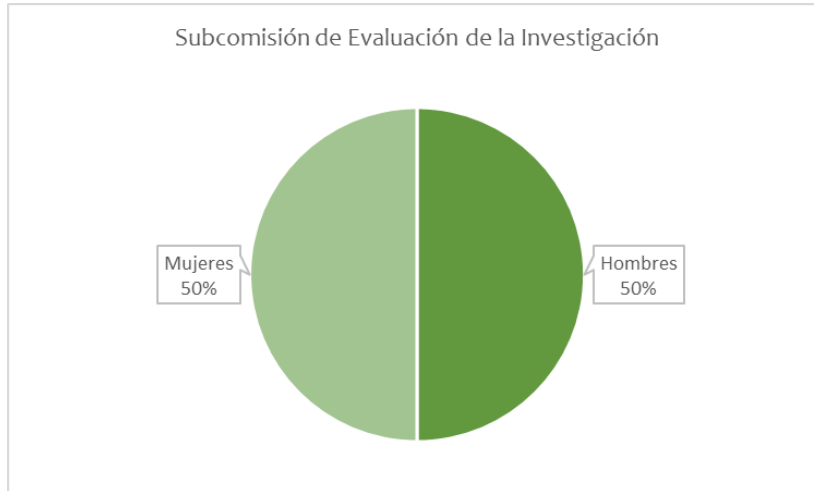
Sub-Commission on the Evaluation of Centres (SEC)

Composed of 7 people, 5 women, 2 men as of 31 December 2023.



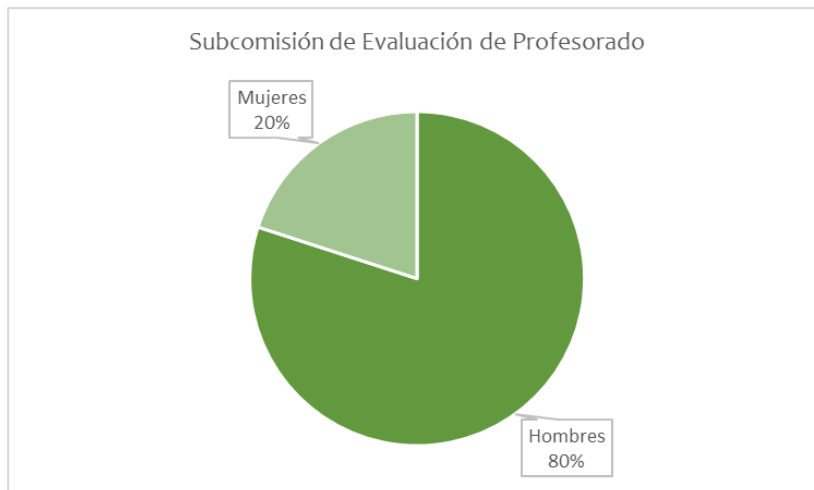
Subcommittee on Research Evaluation (SEI)

Composed of 6 persons, 3 women and 3 men as of 31 December 2023.



Subcommittee on Teacher Evaluation (SEP)

Composed of 5 persons, 1 woman and 1 man as of 31 December 2023.



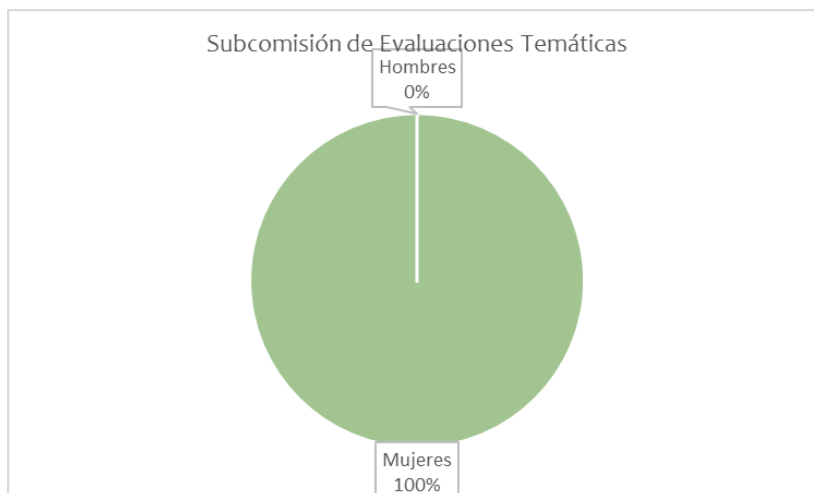
Subcommittee for the Evaluation of Qualifications (SET)

Composed of 10 people, 5 women and 5 men as of 31 December 2023.



Sub-Commission on Thematic Evaluations (SETE)

Composed of 7 persons, as of 31 December 2022, 7 were women and none were men.

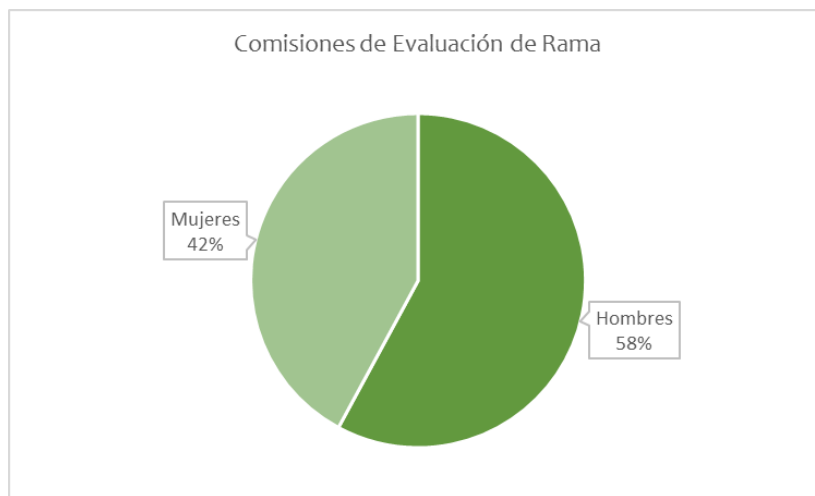


13.3. Assessment panels for official university studies

The evaluation activity of official teaching (bachelor's, master's, doctoral programmes) by means of the different quality assurance procedures (verification, modification, monitoring, accreditation) involved the intervention of the different branch evaluation commissions, as well as the ad hoc composition of different evaluation panels. Their composition, according to gender, is shown below.

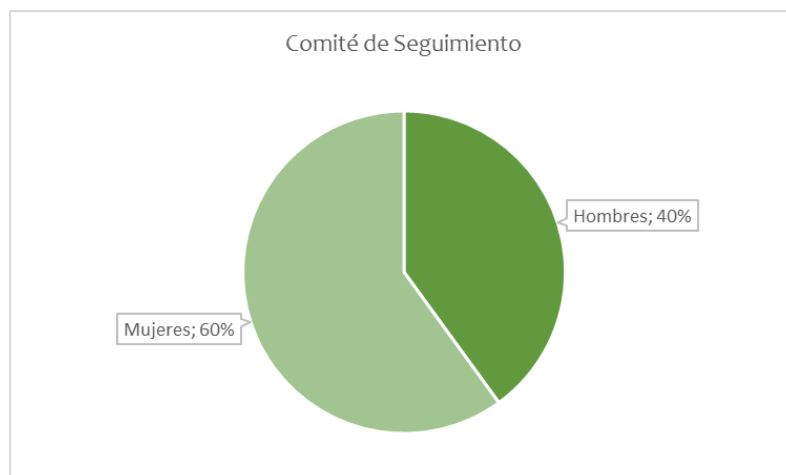
Branch Evaluation Commissions (RC)

The branch committees, the composition of which is set out in Annex II, see the verification and amendment procedures. As at 31 December 2023, 8 posts were occupied by women, 11 by men and 1 was vacant.



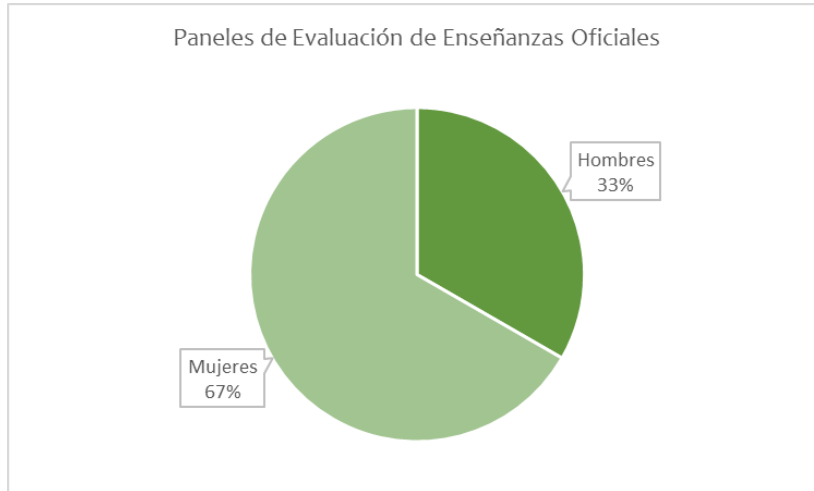
Monitoring Committee

This committee is involved in the evaluation of the monitoring of all the Agency's processes. It is composed of 10 people, 6 women and 4 men as of 31 December 2023.



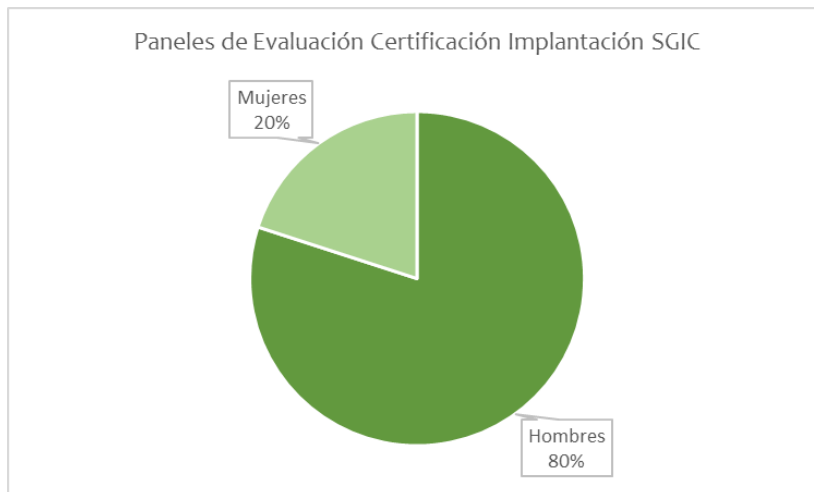
Official Education Evaluation Panels

The procedures for monitoring and renewing the accreditation of the different official teachings that were seen during the year 2023 involved the constitution of 1 evaluation panel whose composition was 2 women and 1 man⁵.



13.4. PACE Programme Evaluation Panels

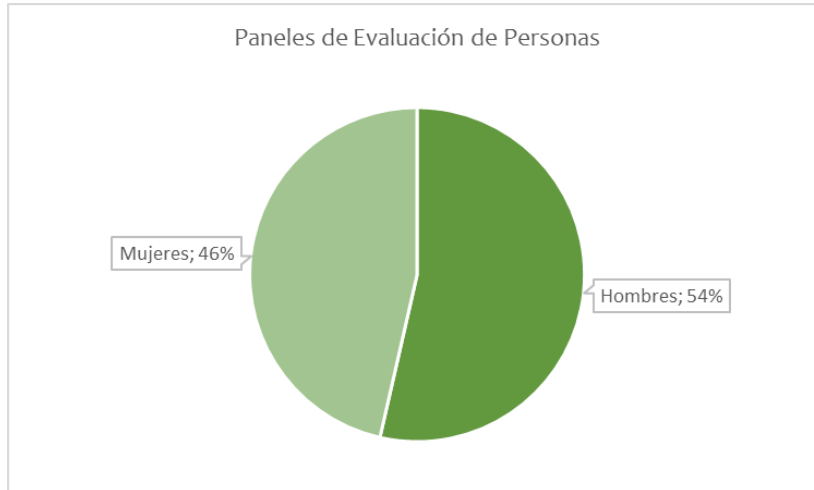
In order to certify the implementation of the quality assurance system in centres, 2 panels were set up in 2023, consisting of 2 women and 8 men.



⁵ Following the methodology used in previous years, and as stated above, if a panel has assessed more than one degree, it has been counted only once, and if a person has been a member of several panels, it has been counted as many times as the number of times he/she has participated in different panels. ACPUA staff who have been members of these panels, acting in the secretariats, have not been counted.

13.5. People Assessment Panels

The activities of evaluation of persons (research activity, five-year teaching periods and Doctorate Contracted Professor with Clinical Links to the Public Health System of Aragon) during the year 2023 involved the creation of 3 panels made up of 28 persons, of which 13 were women and 15 men.



14. ANNEX IV: ACRONYMS, CODES, ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS USED

AAC	Andalusian Knowledge Agency.
ACCUEEA	Canarian Agency for University Quality and Educational Assessment.
ACPUA	Agencia de Calidad y Prospectiva Universitaria de Aragón
ACSUG	Axencia para a Calidade do Sistema Universitario de Galicia.
AIC	Academic Information Centre (Latvia)
AKKORK	Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (Russia)
ANECA	Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation).
ANVUR	Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca
AQAS	Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes (Germany)
AQUA	Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya.
AQUIB	Agència de Qualitat Universitària de les Illes Balears
ARACIS	Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Romania)
ARAID	Aragonese Agency for Research and Development Foundation (ARAID).
AVAP	Agencia Valenciana d'Avaluació i Prospectiva.
BOA	Official Gazette of Aragon
BOE	Boletín Oficial del Estado
CECA	Commission on Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation (of ACPUA).
CEIP	Infant and Primary School
CEO	Chief Executive Officer.
CER	Branch Evaluation Commission(s) (of ACPUA).
CITA	Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Alimentaria.
CNEAI	Comisión Nacional de Evaluación de la Actividad Investigadora.
CRA	Colegio Rural Agrupado
CREUP	Coordination of Student Representatives of Public Universities.
CoARA	Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
SC	Monitoring Committee (of ACPUA).
CSMA	Conservatorio Superior de Música de Aragón.
CUD	Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza.
CURSA	Comisión Universitaria para el Seguimiento y la Acreditación (CURSA).
CUS	Science, University and Knowledge Society (department of the Government of Aragon).
DEQAR	Database of External Quality Assurance Results

ECA	European Consortium for Accreditation
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EFQM	European Foundation Quality Management
ENQA	European Network for Quality Assurance (in Higher Education).
EQAR	European Quality Assurance Register (for Higher Education).
EQAF	European Quality Assurance Forum
ESCYRA	Escuela Superior de Conservación y Restauración de Bienes Culturales
ESG	European Standards and Guidelines (for Quality Assurance of Higher Education).
ESDA	Escuela Superior de Diseño de Aragón.
ESU	European Student's Union.
ETUZ	Escuela Universitaria de Turismo de Zaragoza.
EUA	European University Association
EURASHE	European Association of Institutions in Higher Education.
EUPLA	Escuela Universitaria Politécnica de la Almunia.
EUPT	Escuela Universitaria Politécnica de Teruel
FCM	Foundation for Knowledge Madri+d.
GA	Gobierno de Aragón.
HAC_R	Centro Superior de Diseño de Zaragoza
HCERES	High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (France)
IACS	Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud.
INQAAHE	International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
R&D&I	Research, Development and Innovation
LOSU	Ley Orgánica del Sistema Universitario
LOSUA	Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Organisation of the University System of Aragon
LOU	Organic Law 6/2001 of 21 December on Universities.
MECES	Spanish Qualifications Framework for Higher Education.
NCEQE	National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (Georgia)
NEAE	Necesidades Específicas de Apoyo Educativo
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
OEI	Organisation of Ibero-American States.
PCDVC	Professor or Associate Professor with Clinical Attachment.
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (UK)
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland (Ireland).
REACU	Spanish Network of University Quality Agencies.
RIACES	Red Iberoamericana para el Aseguramiento de la Calidad en la Educación Superior (Ibero-American Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education).

RUCT	Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees
S&QSHE	Sustainability & Quality in Higher Education
SALUD	Servicio Aragonés de Salud (SALUD).
SEC	Subcommittee on the Evaluation of Centres (of ACPUA).
SEI	Subcommittee on Research Assessment (of ACPUA).
SEP	Subcommittee on Teacher Evaluation (of ACPUA).
SET	Subcommittee on Degree Evaluation (of ACPUA).
SETE	Subcommittee on Thematic Evaluations (of ACPUA).
IQAS	Internal Quality Assurance System
SIACES	Sistema Iberoamericano de Aseguramiento de la Calidad de la Educación Superior.
SUA	Aragonese University System
SUNEDU	Superintendencia Nacional de Educación Superior Universitaria.
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies.
THEQC	Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (Turkey)
UNIBASQ	Unibertsitate Sistemaren Kalitatea Ebaluatu eta Egiaztatze Agentzia
VSA	Verification-Monitoring-Accreditation (computer tool used by ANECA for the evaluation of the official courses offered by the universities).