



ACPUA

AGENCIA DE CALIDAD Y PROSPECTIVA
UNIVERSITARIA DE ARAGÓN

Activity Report 2017

GOVERNING BOARD OF 29 JUNE 2018

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MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

MISSION

The ACPUA has the aim of guaranteeing and promoting the quality of the university system of Aragon. The development of useful links between the university, the socio-productive fabric, the institutional decision-making bodies and the whole of the society of Aragon, as well as 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.) are part of this task.

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

VISSION

The ACPUA intends to be an agile and efficient agency; to become essential in the area thanks to the seriousness and good operation of its 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 a qualified agency outside Aragon and a recognised interlocutor in the European scene on university quality and assessment.

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

VALUES

- Independence, autonomy and objectivity.
- Social responsibility and transparency assuring public access to reliable, timely, clear and precise information.
- The establishment of internal and external quality assurance mechanisms for the continuous improvement of the processes in order to ensure their effectiveness and efficiency.
- The development of relations with all the stakeholders (university, administration, business world, society of Aragón) by promoting dialogue to ensure their satisfaction.
- The promotion of the students' participation in the Agency's activity and in the quality assurance processes.
- The cooperation with agencies and national and international higher education networks.
- The commitment to a high quality work on behalf of the Agency's staff and its collaborators, associated to professionalism and honesty.
- Teamwork based on respect and cooperation to achieve the best work environment.

1. INTRODUCTION: 2017, YEAR OF THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF ACPUA AND OTHER NOVELTIES

1.1. Application and follow up of the recommendations by ENQA

ENQA's mission is to significantly contribute to the collaboration and promotion of the quality of higher education in Europe acting as a motor for development of the quality assurance policies through the different countries signatories of the Bologna process. In this sense, and as an association of quality assurance agencies, ENQA contributes to the promotion of inter-agency cooperation and the exchange of good practices.

Following the successful international evaluation of the ACPUA and its subsequent admission as a full member in ENQA (in June 2016), plus registration in the European Register EQAR (in December 2016), ACPUA has been working on the following recommendations and **suggestions for improvement included in ENQA's external evaluation report:**

"All recommendations and the entire report have been written in order to help the Agency consolidate the significant progress it has made in recent years and to help it design its strategy for future improvement.

3.1. The panel recommends **continuing to increase the participation of stakeholders** in its work, especially by involving representatives of the labour market and society in the evaluation panels and subcommittees, where relevant.

3.4. The panel encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to generate different **thematic analyses** and to dedicate resources to these activities, as they can help to underline the relevance and legitimacy of its role as a promoter of awareness raising and informed quality assurance policies.

3.5. The panel recommends that the ACPUA reflect on **the resources needed to achieve its strategic objectives and the expansion of its activities in the long term**. The panel therefore recommends that the agency should try to anticipate the impact of these activities on the staff, not only in quantitative terms, but also in terms of training needs and staff preparation in order to manage the transition effectively.

Also in relation to the resources, the panel recommends that the ACPUA takes into account the impact of the achievement of its strategic objectives on current activities and processes, to ensure that it is able to adapt to working with possibly more stakeholders, and also to the needs of the systems outside Aragon and Spain.

3.6. The panel recommends the ACPUA to strengthen its **collaboration** with other agencies in order to consolidate its achievements and promote continued awareness of possible constraints, areas for improvement and necessary changes.

2.1. The panel recommends that the ACPUA continues to work with the university system to further develop the relationship between ESG 2.1 and the development of effective internal quality assurance processes at centres level. Among the possible areas that require more attention, the panel would like to highlight the following:

- Reinforce the **coherence** between different evaluation procedures;
- Centres and institutions should be further encouraged to strengthen their **internal quality systems** through external evaluations such as AUDIT;
- More attention should be paid to **student-centred learning** and assessment practices.

2.2. The panel recommends that the ACPUA continues its efforts to explore the possibilities of **adapting procedures to the size and priorities of the autonomous university system**, which will also have the advantage of intensifying the participation of external stakeholders in the design and evaluation of the present and future quality assurance mechanisms.

2.3. The panel considers that ACPUA should reflect the possibility of involving **stakeholders other than universities** in the evaluation committees.

2.4. The panel recommends that the ACPUA considers involving **representatives of the labour market and the general public** in the expert panels. The panel believes that this would help the Agency to develop thematic evaluations and to meet the society's expectations and demand for information. In addition, the panel recommends reviewing the mechanism for selecting **international experts** to facilitate their participation in the evaluation panels.

2.6. The panel considers that ACPUA should continue to be attentive to the need for **consistency in reporting**, especially in view of the expected growth in the number and type of activities.

2.7. The panel recommends that ACPUA pay attention to the current implementation of the **appeals and guarantees mechanism**, its adequacy and effectiveness, in particular with regard to the time to analyse the processes and the formal and substantive clean-up that is achieved.

The panel recommends that the ACPUA encourages as far as possible the use of internal appeal procedures and recourses before external judicial proceedings can begin, in the interests of the speed and greater collaboration among higher education institutions.

Throughout 2017, the ACPUA has been working on the recommendations and suggestions of ENQA's external evaluation report that led to our agency being admitted as a full member of ENQA in June 2016. The agency has designed key actions for each of these recommendations, introducing changes both in its structure (in 2017, the new ACPUA Job List was drafted and approved) and in its procedure.

In relation to all this work that ACPUA carried out in 2017, ACPUA passed the follow-up visit that ENQA made on March 15, 2018.

1.2. Reflection on the future Strategic Plan

Once the structure and functioning of the ACPUA had been brought into line with these European standards, the recommendations included in the ENQA evaluation report should also be taken up again in order to refresh ACPUA's strategy, refining the Plan's objectives and enriching them so that ACPUA does not stabilise but continues to grow with a new impetus as a European Agency.

The ACPUA has already begun to **reflect on its future Strategic Plan** in the second half of 2017, through **three sessions prepared to gather feedback from the main stakeholders** (management teams, quality units, coordinators, teachers and students) in the quality assessment of the University System of Aragon.

In the sessions held, the focus group methodology was used to discuss, in groups of 4-5 people, each of the items proposed by ACPUA's technical staff:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the Verification/modification of degree processes.
- Strengths and Weaknesses of the Degree Follow-up Process.
- Strengths and Weaknesses of the Degree accreditation renewal.
- How to promote "Student Centered Learning"?
- How to promote "Excellence"? (this topic was only proposed in the Zaragoza session because it was the one with the most attendees)

The three sessions carried out, gathered between 20-30 people in each session, and were carried out in the following dates and places:

- Zaragoza, 1 June. Sala Polivalente, Expo Empresarial.
- Teruel, 6 June. Teruel rectory building.
- Huesca, 11 June. Huesca rectory building.

1.3. Follow-up to the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan: degree of achievement of the objectives in 2017

The revision of the Strategic Plan in accordance with the recommendations made by the 2016 ENQA panel and the reflection on the future Strategic Plan requires adequate annual follow-up. The ACPUA Strategic Plan was drawn up in 2015 as a result of the reform of the LOSUA to give force of law to some of the mandatory European standards (ESG); and, in effect, a good number of its strategic objectives then turned these ESGs into goals to be achieved. One of the keys to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, also for reflecting on and starting to draw up the future Plan, is the analysis of the degree of achievement of the objectives planned for 2017. A summary table of this annual follow-up is presented below:

AXES	Strategic objective	Action	Indicator	Value 2015	Target 2018	Target 2016	Status
AXIS A. Structure	A.1: Strengthen the agency's	A.1.1 Reform the ACPUA Statutes in line with the reform of the LOSUA and the new ESG.		No	Yes	Prepare Draft	Pending

and people	organisational and operational independence.	A.1.2 Establish a multi-annual budgetary planning of the evaluation campaigns by submitting it to the Governing Council and to the appropriate bodies.	No	Yes	Pending approval budget	Pending	
		A.1.3 Approve the public price policy for the provision of non-compulsory services within the framework of the mandate of the Governing Council and aimed at increasing the financial autonomy.	No	Yes	Yes	Performed	
	A.2: Adaptation of the structure and resources to the new needs.	A.2.1 Increase ACPUA's budget, adapting it to the needs of the new evaluation processes, as well as to the different campaigns.	Absolute value of the increase	127.438	Pending approval budget	Performed	
		A.2.1 Increase ACPUA's human resources, adapting them to the needs of the new evaluation processes, as well as to the different campaigns.	No. of incorporations	7	Pending approval budget	Pending	
		A.2.3 Adherence to the Luxembourg Declaration	No	Yes	Achieved 2015	Achieved 2015	
	AXIS B. Evaluation	B.1. Continuous improvement of the evaluation processes.	B.1.1 Conduct a thorough review of all processes to verify that they comply with the European standards and that there is evidence of all the reviewable activities.	Yes	Yes	Achieved 2015	Achieved 2015
B.1.2 Incorporate new evaluation processes: institutional evaluation, verification and modification of university teaching, evaluation of higher artistic teaching.			Assumption of verification competences	No	Yes	Yes	Pending
			Assumption of modification competences	No	Yes	Yes	Pending
			Evaluation of artistic teachings	Yes	Yes	Achieved 2015	Achieved 2015
			Evaluation of institutional IQAS	No	Yes	Ultimate Protocol and guides	Pending
B.1.3 Incorporate recognitions of excellence according to the ACPUA program for the promotion of excellence to be established.		Number of programmes developed	0	2	-	!	
Bo.2. Improve the effectiveness of the management of evaluators		B.2.1 Improve the usability and ease of management of the online platform Bank of Evaluators.	Modification of the application	No	Yes	Pending approval budget	Pending
		B.2.2. To promote the updating of the curricula vitae of the evaluators and the number of external candidates to the University System of Aragon.	% of curricula updated in the last two years	25%	50%	30%	In progress
			No. of AUS external candidates.	122	200	150	In progress
		B.2.3 Consolidate and extend the exchange agreements of evaluators with other national and international agencies, favouring the action of Aragon evaluators outside the territory.	No. of national agreements	3	5	5	In progress (3 agreements and 3 pending signature (AVAP, R&D&I Madrid or DEVA))
	No. of international agreements		0	2	1	In progress	
B.2.4 Improve the effectiveness of evaluator training processes by making use of new ICTs.	No. of tutorials/new tools	6	20	10	In progress		

AXIS C. Foresight	C.1. Generate information for decision making	C.1.1 Issue annual reports on the situation of the University System of Aragon.	No. Reports/year	0	1	1	Pending
		C.1.2 Generate spaces for debate among stakeholders on different aspects of the model of the University System of Aragon.	No. Forums/year	-	1	1	Pending
		C.1.3 Develop, in collaboration with other institutions, a systematic follow-up programme for the graduates of the University System of Aragon.	Yes/No	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
		C.1.4 To contribute to the identification of the higher education training needs in Aragon, with special attention to the transition to university, employability and the needs of institutions and the business fabric.	No. of meetings and/or workshops/year	4	4	4	In progress
		C.1.5 Consolidate an active policy of attendance and presentation of papers in the most representative forums of debate on higher education.	Number of presentations/attendances to forums/year	5	5	5	In progress
		C.1.6 To continue with the organisation of quality monthly seminars that contribute value to the University System of Aragon through the creation of spaces for encounter and dialogue.	Number of seminars/year	8	8	8	In progress
AXIS D. Transparency, communication and accountability	D.1. Improve ACPUA's online information	D.1.1 Carry out maintenance and continuous improvement of the website aimed at achieving maximum accessibility and usability of the same for the user with the best available technologies.	Number of visits	313.912 (2014)	400.000	320.000	In progress
		D.1.2 Include a suggestion box on the website.		No	Yes	Yes	Pending
		D.1.3 Create and manage on the website a repository and search engine of Resources of interest that becomes an active forum for information and reflection on educational quality.		No	Yes	-	-
		D.1.4 Complete the English translation of the most relevant public information.		No	Yes	Yes	Performed
		D.1.5. Explore new formats to reach new audiences and broaden the dissemination of Agency information (streaming, recording of activities or seminars, Google Hangouts, etc.).		No	Yes	Yes	In progress
		D.1.6. Develop a Marketing Plan that analyses the positioning of the Agency and the identification of actions that improve its image and independence.		No	Yes	-	-
	D.2 Reinforcement of the 360° communication/dissemination policy for the Agency	D.2.1 To advance in the continuous improvement of the information published by the Agency (both evaluation reports and documentation, web information, etc.) ensuring its appropriate style, clarity and usefulness so that the relevant information reaches all its addressees.		No	Yes	Yes	In progress
D.2.2 Consolidate an active policy of disseminating quality materials and information to all stakeholders through all available channels: website, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube.		Number of followers on Twitter	212 (January)	400	350	In progress	
		No. of "likes" on Facebook	40 (January)	100	80	In progress	
	Videos uploaded on You Tube	8	20	12	In progress		

		Number of views on YouTube	222 (January)	1.000	700	In progress	
	D.2.3 Develop stable contacts and relationships with the media to enhance the visibility and image of independence of ACPUA.	No. of media appearances	20	24	24	In progress	
	D.3. Continued strengthening of accountability to society	D.3.1 Develop and disseminate a Sustainability Project.	Develop and disseminate a Sustainability Project.	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
		D.3.2 Prepare an annual Sustainability Report	Prepare an annual Sustainability Report	No	Yes	Yes	Pending
		D.3.3 Be an active part and collaborate in the dissemination of the 10 Principles and activities of the Spanish Global Compact Network.	No. of attendances to events/activities related to the Global Compact	1	1	1	Pending
		D.3.4 Prepare a biannual Involvement Communication (COE) detailing ACPUA's progress in implementing social responsibility.	Elaborate a biannual COE	No	Yes	-	!
D.3.5 Make progress on the internal complaints and claims management system.		Defining an Internal Process	No	Yes	Achieved 2015	Achieved 2015	
AXIX E. Cooperation and internationalisation	E.1: Obtain Agency recognition according to international standards and access to the main international quality assurance associations and networks.	E.1.1 Integrate ACPUA as a full member of ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education).	ENQA affiliation (full member)	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
		E.1.2 Register ACPUA in EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register).	Registration in EQAR register	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
		E.1.3 Register the ACPUA in INQHAAE (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education).	INQHAAE affiliation (full member)	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
	E.2: Promote contact and cooperation with other national and international agencies	E.2.1 Continue to promote cooperation and collaboration with Spanish and foreign agencies, prioritising those areas that present problems and family university systems (such as the Mediterranean and Latin American).	No. of meetings/workshops	-	2	1	In progress
		E.2.2 Participate in national and international projects, working groups and workshops.	Number of actions	6	6	6	In progress
		E.2.3 Generate staff exchanges with other agencies.	Stays outside ACPUA	1	1	1	Pending
			Stays at ACPUA	-	1	1	Pending
		E.2.4 Establish cooperation agreements with other national, European and international agencies.	No. of new cooperation agreements	5	7	6	In progress
	E.2.5 Collaborate in the consolidation from the point of view of the quality of the international and cross-border initiatives of the University System of Aragon.	No. of collaborative actions	-	1	-	!	
	E.3: Intensify the internationalisation of ACPUA's quality	E.3.1 Increase the participation of international experts and students in the activity of ACPUA.	No. of experts	3 (2014)	5	4	In progress

	assurance activities.	E.3.2 Participate in cross-border or joint degree assessments.	No. of evaluations	-	1	-	1
		E.3.3 Strengthen the training of technical staff (quality seals, languages, etc.).	Language courses	4	4	4	In progress
AXIS F. Stakeholders	F.1: Strengthen the relationship and participation of students in the Agency and its processes	F.1.1 Consolidate the ACPUA + Students programme by incorporating new activities, especially in the field of training (seminars, discussion and dialogue forums, consultations, surveys, focus groups, etc.).	No. of "likes" ACPUA+Students channel			60	In progress
			Number of students trained/year	-	15 per year	15 year	In progress
		F.1.2 Strengthen student participation in the structure of the Agency.	No. Commissions/processes with participation	1	4	4	In progress
		F.1.3 Increase contacts with student associations and dissemination actions among students.	Number of contacts/actions with student associations per year	-	2	1	In progress
		F.1.4 Maintain an active policy of hosting university students for internships.	Number of stays / per year	2	2	3	In progress
	F.2 Encourage and coordinate the active participation of students in activities aimed at ensuring the quality of university teaching.	F.2.1 Promote the participation of Aragonese students in evaluation processes outside Aragon.	Number of Aragonese students participating in evaluation processes outside Aragon (cumulative)	-	5	3	In progress
		F.2.2 Ensure student participation in internal university quality assurance activities by establishing specific evaluation criteria in the corresponding protocols.	Development of specific criteria	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
		F.2.3 Include criteria in degree evaluation protocols to review how institutions are concerned that students take an active role in their learning process.	Development of student-friendly criteria	No	Yes	Yes	In progress
	F.3 Promote the agency's interaction with different stakeholders.	F.3.1. To know and satisfy the needs of all stakeholders groups in terms of educational quality.	Number of actions carried out at the proposal of stakeholders	-	5	2	In progress
		F.3.2 Involve its diverse visions in the design of the agency's different evaluation methodologies and processes.	% of procedures with prior stakeholder consultation	75%	100%	Achieved in 2015	Achieved in 2015

* The value of these indicators will be determined after assessing the expected costs of assuming the responsibilities for verifying and modifying curricula.

1.4. Regulatory novelties

The Government of Aragon, through the Department of Innovation, Research and University, proposed in 2017 two important legislative processes that directly affect the design of the structure and functions of the Agency:

- the updating of the LOSUA
- the creation of an Aragonese Law on Research, Development and Innovation.

The agency has participated in the corresponding preparatory work for both legal reforms, logically subordinating the task of updating its Statutes (necessary, following the adaptation of ACPUA procedures to European standards, ESG, which has been carried out in recent years) to the outcome of these reforms. In particular, the ACPUA carried out the following activities:

- It worked on a draft reform of the ACPUA legal precepts contemplated in the LOSUA.
- It actively participated in the process of citizen participation on the Draft Law of Research and Innovation of the Government of Aragon (Workshops of Group A of the process of citizen participation, held on 18 and 25 April 2017) and also informed in writing to the Directorate General of Research and Innovation competent on this Draft Aragonese Law of Research, Development and Innovation.

In the event that these legal reforms are submitted and approved by the Courts of Aragón, they will affect the activity of the agency in the exercise of powers and functions conferred by the Aragonese legislator. Therefore, possible new developments and regulatory changes will frame the reflection and elaboration of the future Strategic Plan of the ACPUA.

2. EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

2.1. Degrees

2.1.1. Framework Programme for the Evaluation of Degrees in Aragon: The new META Programme

Once the ACPUA has achieved, with the registration in the European Register EQAR, all the competences in the field of degree evaluation, **which means covering the entire life cycle of any official degree of an Aragonese university, it has to start to provide itself with a general framework for degree evaluation.** The design of this complete evaluation programme, which we call META, should be developed in the first quarter of the year, always starting from a period of reflection in which not only all the bodies and technical committees of ACPUA should be involved, but also naturally the universities, the Administration responsible for higher education in Aragon and other stakeholders or interest groups.

The META programme will review the combined objectives of each of the processes (verification, modification, follow-up and accreditation) taking into account both current legislation and new normative and methodological developments at national and international level (institutional accreditation, voluntary programmes of excellence, etc.) in a scenario that in Aragon is almost post-accredited: we have two universities with internal quality assurance systems in place, which have been shown to be effective in the management of degrees and which have subjected virtually all of their degree and master's degrees to accreditation renewal process.

Also in this respect, three sessions were held in 2017 to collect feedback from universities and students, which should serve as a starting point for this reflection, under the Focus Group methodology. As explained in previous sections, the three sessions were held at the following dates and locations:

- Zaragoza, 1 June. Sala Polivalente, Expo Empresarial.
- Teruel, 6 June. Teruel rectory building.
- Huesca, 11 June. Huesca rectory building.

2.1.2. "Verification" Programme

Curriculum verification is a very important evaluation process in the current system of degree evaluation in Spain. This process is the first step in the creation of a new degree, and requires universities to draw up a verification report which includes the project of a degree. It appears for the first time in a Plan of Activities of ACPUA because the registration last December of the agency in the European Registry enables it to assume this process of evaluation that during all these years has been carried out for Aragon by the ANECA.

The verification basically consists of the approval of the verification report and therefore of the degree project presented by the university. With this ex ante evaluation, the agencies inform the universities that their degree project is appropriate, that it contains a coherent curriculum and that the resources provided for the degree seem adequate. Once the verification report has been approved (and the implementation of the degree has been authorised by the regional government), this document becomes the "contract" that the universities sign with the society and becomes the reference document for subsequent evaluations.

It is in this process that the justification, the opportunity of the degree, the curriculum, the learning results to be achieved, and the material and human resources to be provided for the degree are approved. In the follow-up evaluations and accreditation renewal, the evaluators analyse if there are

deviations with respect to the verification report, so it is very important for this report to be well approached and that the evaluation that is made on it in the VERIFICATION process is very rigorous.

The implementation of these verification and modification processes in ACPUA is somewhat complex and, in agreement with ANECA, it has been advisable to establish a transitional phase in the effective transfer of the competence. This transition phase is characterised by the following milestones:

- 1.- Design of the new verification commissions (differing in their composition from the accreditation renewal panels, in that they obligatorily incorporate a professional).
2. - Strengthening of bodies (CECA) and evaluation committees (SET) through the incorporation of members with experience in verification.
- 3.- Specific training for new members of these bodies and committees, as well as members of the new verification commissions.
- 4.- Preparation of programme documentation: adaptation of the VERIFICA programme, comparison with the documentation developed by the verifying autonomous agencies (given that the ACPUA lacks experience in this field) and therefore, generation of the documents specific to the ACPUA programme.
- 5.- Approval by CECA of this proposed evaluation structure.

- 6.- Connection with the ANECA computer application - Council of Universities
 - - Training for ACPUA technicians
 - -Parameterisation of the application

In 2017, we worked closely with ANECA technicians on the parameterisation of the ACPUA's implementation of the verification activity. In this way, the process of transferring the competence from ANECA to ACPUA was completed, and ACPUA began to carry out the verification of degrees **fully and materially, and has since then taken on the evaluation of the applications that have been submitted.**

Following the design and configuration of the different branch committees for the evaluation of the study plans, CECA appointed its components, which included a professional as a novelty. A training session for experts from the different commissions was also held on 13 July 2017.

The Verification - Modification reports carried out in 2017 were those relating to the following degrees:

- Degree in Psychology from the University of Zaragoza. Teruel Campus, linked to the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences.
- Degree in Management and Administration from the University of Zaragoza. Faculty of Business and Public Management.
- Degree in Translation and Intercultural Communication from San Jorge University.
- Degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of Zaragoza. Faculty of Philosophy and Arts.
- Degree in Technology Engineering and Telecommunication Services from the University of Zaragoza.

2.1.3. "Follow-up" Programme

The follow-up programme was reviewed at national level within REACU. The reason for this review operation lies in the understanding that the nature and scope of the follow-up of a degree vary logically depending on whether this degree has already been accredited or if, on the contrary, it has not yet been submitted for accreditation evaluation. Most of the Spanish agencies, and of course the ACPUA among them, now only face the first of these scenarios. That is, the scenario of a follow-up process for degrees that have already been accredited, therefore, degrees that have already been satisfactorily accounted for.

The ACPUA will therefore closely follow the progress made within REACU when designing an efficient, light but effective post-accreditation degree follow-up model. In the meantime, from the current ACPUA protocol for this programme, the following is derived:

In 2017, specific follow-up was carried out on the degrees that have been accredited following the obligatory presentation of an Improvement Plan. In addition, this follow-up entailed a **visit to** the Master's Degree of Teaching Staff of the University of Zaragoza, which was carried out on 15 June 2017.

On the other hand, at the end of 2017, it became necessary to start planning the follow-up of doctoral programmes. Therefore, work on an evaluation guide and a "pilot" 18e programme finally started in 2018.

2.1.4. "Accreditation Renewal" Programme

During the first months of 2017 (under the protection of the extension of the deadline for resolving the procedure introduced by R.D. 420/2015 and in any case always before the expiry of the 4 or 6-year period for the degree accreditation renewal), the evaluation for the renewal of the accreditation of the 9 degrees that were included, with the agreement of the Government of Aragon and the universities, in the second evaluation campaign corresponding to the year 2016 was completed. They are as follows:

University	Degree	Accredit before	CU	Visit - approx-
2nd CAMPAIGN: reports as of 30 September 2016 - reports CU 30 May 2017 (8 months)				
Health Science: Zaragoza Panel				
UZ	Veterinary	02-May-17	02- Apr-17	November 16
UZ	Medicine	12-May-17	12- Apr-17	November 16
Sciences				
UZ	Geology	12-May-17	12- Apr-17	December 16
UZ	Optics and Optometry	12-May-17	12- Apr-17	December 16
Health Science: USJ Panel				
USJ	UM in Health Sciences Research	24-Sep-17	24-Aug-17	January 17
USJ	Nursing	09-Jun-17	09-May-17	January 17
USJ	Physiotherapy	09-Jun-17	09-May-17	January 17
Architecture				
UZ	UM in Architecture	25-Sep-17	25-Aug-17	February 17
USJ	Architecture	09-Jun-17	09-May-17	February 17

Once the evaluation of these degrees had been completed in the first quarter of 2017, the following campaign was opened, covering 16 master's degrees, all from the University of Zaragoza. Given that these degrees, as can be seen in the table below, did not have to be accredited by the Council of Universities until well into 2018, their evaluation has been developed in a staggered manner during the academic year 2017-2018.

For the 2017-2018 campaign, 6 visiting panels were planned for October 2017:

Octubre 2017: 16 Titulos de máster de la Universidad de Zaragoza (6 paneles)

				Verificación	Acreditación	CU
ESCUELA DE INGENIERÍA Y ARQUITECTURA						
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería de Telecomunicación	4314706	Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	23-jul-14	22-jul-18	22-jun-18
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Industrial	4314892	Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	23-jul-14	22-jul-18	22-jun-18
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Informática	4314889	Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	23-jul-14	22-jul-18	22-jun-18
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Química	4314890	Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	23-jul-14	22-jul-18	22-jun-18
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Mecánica	4314891	Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
ESCUELA POLITÉCNICA SUPERIOR DE HUESCA						
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería Agronómica	4314899	Escuela Politécnica Superior	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
Máster Universitario en Investigación en Ciencias Agrarias y Ambientales	4314987	Escuela Politécnica Superior	Ingeniería y Arquitectura	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
FACULTAD DE FILOSOFÍA Y LETRAS						
Máster Universitario en Estudios Avanzados de Literatura y Cine en Lengua Inglesa	4314698	Facultad de Filosofía y Letras	Artes y Humanidades	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
Máster Universitario en Mundo Antiguo y Patrimonio Arqueológico	4314969	Facultad de Filosofía y Letras	Artes y Humanidades	01-dic-14	30-nov-18	31-oct-18
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS DE LA SALUD Y DEL DEPORTE						
Máster Universitario en Evaluación y Entrenamiento Físico para la Salud	4314917	Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud y del Deporte	Ciencias de la Salud	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18

FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS						
Máster Universitario en Geología: Técnicas y Aplicaciones	4314898	Facultad de Ciencias	Ciencias	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
Máster Universitario en Investigación Química	4314906	Facultad de Ciencias	Ciencias	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
Máster Universitario en Nanotecnología Medioambiental (Environmental Nanotechnology)	4314719	Facultad de Ciencias	Ciencias	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
Máster Universitario en Química Industrial	4314895	Facultad de Ciencias	Ciencias	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
Máster Universitario en Química Molecular y Catálisis Homogénea	4314657	Facultad de Ciencias	Ciencias	07-oct-14	06-oct-18	06-sep-18
FACULTAD DE ECONOMÍA Y EMPRESA						
Máster Universitario en Dirección, Estrategia y Marketing	4314999	Facultad de Economía y Empresa	Ciencias Sociales y Jurídicas	01-dic-14	30-nov-18	31-oct-18

It can be advanced that the visits to the degrees of the tables above, where finally carried out in 2018, with the exception of those extinguished that were:

- Master's Degree in Research in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Higher Polytechnic School of Huesca.
- Master's Degree in Ancient World and Archaeological Heritage, Faculty of Philosophy and Arts
- Master's Degree in Chemical Research, Faculty of Sciences

2.2. Centres

2.2.1. "Institutional Evaluation" Programme

In 2015, the institutional accreditation was introduced in Spain (R.D. 420/2015). However, neither that year nor the following year did the necessary regulatory steps take place (fundamentally, the approval of the corresponding national protocol by CGPU) that would allow its effective implementation by the authorized agencies (the ENQA/EQAR). This circumstance did not discourage REACU, which throughout 2016 and in successive meetings has taken steps in the elaboration of a basic procedure of institutional accreditation and common criteria and guidelines to guide the agencies in the task of certifying the IQAS of the centres.

Logically, between 2017, there have been significant advances towards the institutional or centre accreditation. The REACU approved a protocol of certification of the IQAS of the centres, for institutional accreditation purposes, in its session of 6 June 2017, which was sent by ANECA to the Ministry for submission to the General Conference on University Policy.

As a result, the ACPUA has been developing its evaluation tools in this field, especially when the universities of Aragon have built robust IQAS, which has allowed the centres of the two universities to already have the design or implementation of their IQAS certified by the AUDIT programme.

2.3. Research

2.3.1. Evaluation of Research Activity (Sexennia):

Regulatory framework and scope of the evaluation

Both the Organic Law on Universities and the Law on the Organisation of the University System of Aragon establish the possibility of establishing salary complements for the university teaching staff. In development of these precepts and by Agreement of the Government of Aragon, of 27 March 2007, the additional salary supplements linked to individual merits of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza during the period between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012 (extended for 2013 by Agreement of the Government Council of Aragon of 31 July 2012) were established, signing, on 24 January 2008, the corresponding Contract-programme between the Government of Aragon and the University of Zaragoza for the assignment and financing of these complements. Said text includes the intervention of the ACPUA in the evaluation of three types of additional salary supplements considered in the agreement: Research, dedication and teaching supplement.

At the end of said period, the government of Aragón established once again, by means of Agreement on 19 November 2013, the additional salary supplements associated to individual merits of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza during the period between the 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2018. In this Agreement, the ACPUA Governing Council was requested to establish the criteria for establishing the procedure for the evaluation of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, leading to the assignment of the aforementioned salary supplements.

The Board of Directors of the ACPUA, in compliance with that set force in the Agreement of Government Council of Aragón of 19 November 2013, agreed in the session of 22 November 2013, the approval of the evaluation criteria of said supplements, subsequently publishing them on the ACPUA's website. Based on the foregoing by Resolution of 25 November 2013 of the Management of the ACPUA (Aragón Official Gazette of e December of 2013) the procedures to follow in the evaluation of said supplements were determined.

On the other hand, the Board of Trustees of the University Defence Centre of Zaragoza, a centre attached to the University of Zaragoza created by Royal Decree 1723/2008 of 24 October (BOE of 17 November 2008), which created the system of university defence centres, in order to provide the official university education agreed by the Ministry of Defence in accordance with the needs of national defence and the requirements of professional practice in the Armed Forces, approved, in its session of 10 March 2010, a remuneration scheme for teachers that includes recognition of a supplement based on the number of six-year research periods positively evaluated, charged to their own budgets. In this sense, and to these effects, since 2011 the ACPUA also evaluates the teaching staff hired from this centre.

In 2015, the Governing Council of the ACPUA, in its session of 9 March 2015, approved the request for evaluation of the non-permanent researchers of the Agrofood Research and Technology Centre of Aragon (hereinafter CITA), which has since been incorporated into this evaluation.

Evaluation process and results in 2017:

The evaluation of the research activity during 2017 was conducted both on the full-time teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, on the teaching staff of the Defence University Centre, and on the non-permanent research staff of CITA, evaluating six-year periods of research activity with criteria similar to those used at national level for civil servants by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI).

By Resolution of the Directorate of the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education of 30 January 2017 (BOA dated 16 February 2017), the faculty of the University of

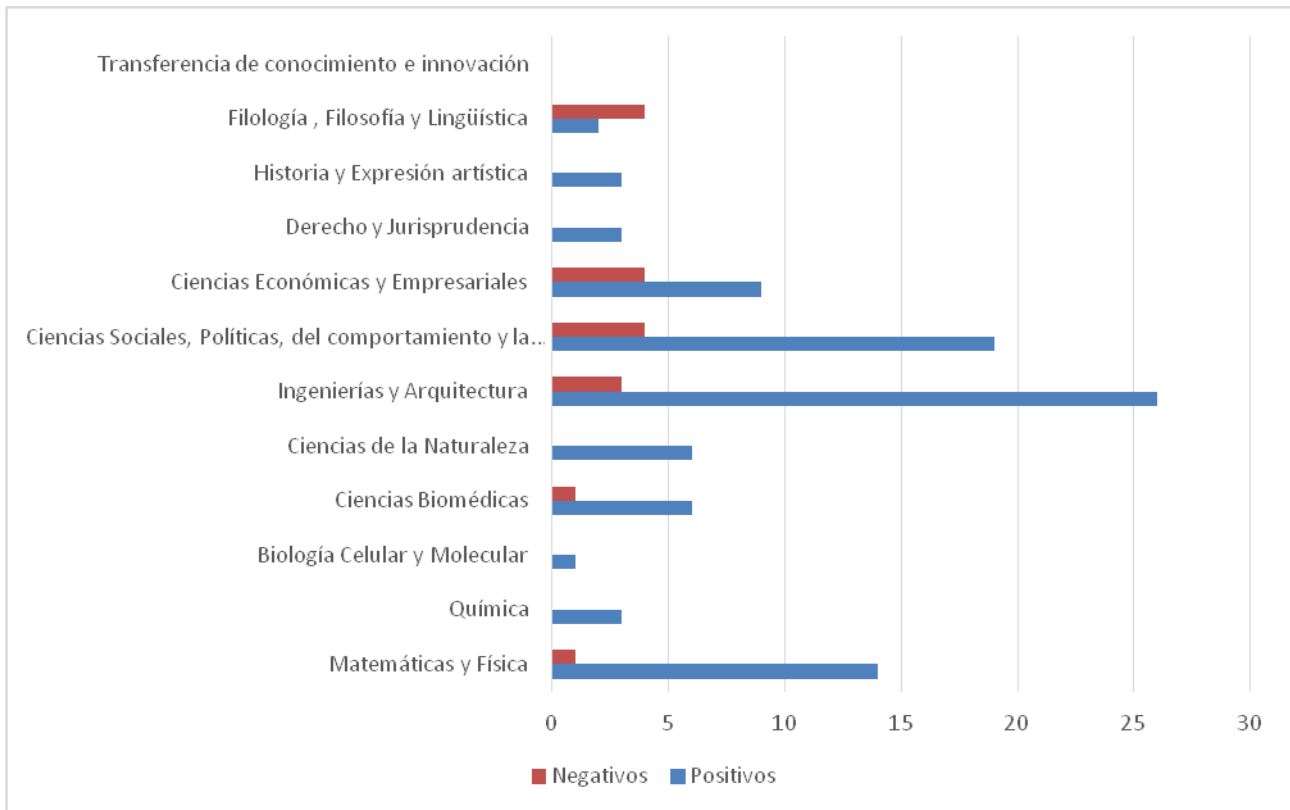
Zaragoza, the University Defence Centre and the non-permanent CITA research staff were invited to submit applications for the evaluation of their research activity.

At the end of the call deadline and following the remedial process, the total number of applications was 101 (109 sexennia). 80 applications corresponding to professors of the University of Zaragoza, 19 to professors of the Defence University Centre and 2 to researchers of the Agrofood Research and Technology Centre of Aragon.

The panel of experts appointed by the Director of the Agency as proposed by the Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission, the composition of which was published on the ACPUA's website, carried out the assessment of the merits of the applicants according to the criteria established in section five of the summon.

The evaluation provided results of: 72 favourable sexennia (82.8%) versus 15 unfavourable ones at the University of Zaragoza; 18 positives and 2 negative ones at the CUD; and 2 positive CITA requests.

Sexennia evaluated by scientific field



Sexennia periods evaluated by institution, scientific field and results 2017

Areas of knowledge	UZ			CUD			CITA			TOTAL			
	No.	+	-	No.	+	-	No.	+	-	No.	+	-	% positives
Mathematics and Physics	7	7	0	8	7	1	0	0	0	15	14	1	93%
Chemistry	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	100%
Molecular and Cellular Biology	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	100%
Biomedical Science	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	1	86%
Natural Science	4	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	6	6	0	100%
Engineering and Architecture	24	21	3	5	5	0	0	0	0	29	26	3	90%
Social, Political, Behaviour and Education Science	19	16	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	23	19	4	83%
Economic and Business Science	12	8	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	13	9	4	69%
Law and Jurisprudence	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	100%
History and Artistic expression	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	100%
Philology, Philosophy and Linguistics	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	4	33%
Transfer of knowledge and innovation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTALS	87	72	15	20	18	2	2	2	0	109	92	17	
Positive evaluations	72			18			2			92			
Negative evaluations	15			2			0			17			

2.4. Other certification and evaluation activities

2.4.1. “DOCENTIA” Programme

With the Support Programme for the Evaluation of Teaching Activity (DOCENTIA), ANECA and the autonomous agencies aim to satisfy the demands of universities and the need of the educational system to have a model and procedures to guarantee the quality of university teaching staff and to favour their development and recognition.

The San Jorge University has a verified and implanted model. In 2017 the University of Zaragoza presented its evaluation model DOCENTIA. Having issued the proposed evaluation report of the ACPUA, on 7 December the University of Zaragoza presented allegations. The final ACPUA report is currently pending.

2.4.2. Certification of the Evaluation of the Dedication and Teaching Supplements of the Evaluation of the Dedication and Teaching Supplements of the University of Zaragoza.

Regulatory framework

Within the framework of the Agreement of the Government of Aragón of 19 November 2013, establishing the additional salary supplements associated to individual merits of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza during the period between the 1 January 2014 and the 31 December 2018 the ACPUA must carry out the certification of the dedication and teaching of the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza.

The University of Zaragoza annually publishes the call for the certification of the dedication and teaching merits, together with the period to present the applications and their instructions. Once the applications have been presented, it certifies the compliance of the objectives of these supplements and sends to the ACPUA the results obtained and the procedures followed for it to proceed to the evaluation and certification of the results.

The schedule of activities for the process in 2017 was the following:

- Resolutions of 13.01.2017 of the Dean of the University of Zaragoza, publishing the summon for its teaching staff to perform the application/commitment for the evaluation and certification of its merits and the possible assignment of the supplements for dedication and teaching to which the Agreement of the Government of Aragón refers to of 19 November 2013, for 2014- -2018.
- Certification of the Secretary General of the University, dated 31 October 2017, with the contents of the Agreement of the Board of Directors of the same, constituted as an Evaluation Committee in application of the provisions of the bases of the resolution of the University of Zaragoza of 20 December 2013.
- Meeting of 29 November 2017 of the Sub-Commission for the Evaluation of ACPUA Centres in order to evaluate and propose the certification of individual results.
- Resolution of 05.12.2017, of the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education, certifying the evaluation results of the University of Zaragoza leading to obtaining the additional salary supplement for dedication and teaching in 2017.

Results in 2017:

- **Existing applications in the process with validity in 2017: 1.979**
 - Applications in force and with right presented in previous calls: 1.929
 - New applications without entitlement filed in 2017: 3
 - New applications with entitlement filed in 2017: 50
- **Teaching supplement:**
 - Applications with favourable evaluation: 1.965
 - Applications with unfavourable evaluation (for not having achieved both merits): 14
- **Dedication supplement:**
 - Applications with favourable evaluation: 1.978
 - Applications with an unfavourable evaluation (due to the existence of a firm sanction during the 2016-2017 academic year): 1

2.5. Specific reports

These are specific reports that are carried out occasionally, at the request of the Government of Aragon or entities dependent on it, as well as institutions of the university system of Aragon. In 2017, the following reports were made:

- Modification of the Degree in Business Administration and Management of the University of Zaragoza.
- Authorisation of the Master in Research in Philosophy by the University of La Laguna, the University of Murcia and the University of Zaragoza.
- Modification of the Law Degree of the University San Jorge.
- Modification of the Degree in Business Administration and Management of the University San Jorge.

3. PROJECT TO FOLLOW UP THE GRADUATES OF THE SUA

To date, the University System of Aragon has lacked a systematic follow-up programme for university graduates. In this field, the ACPUA has carried out different actions, such as carrying out a survey, in collaboration with the University of Zaragoza, to university graduates in the academic year 2008/09 or the coordination of a group from the Network of University Quality Agencies (REACU) that defined a basic set of indicators of labour insertion and developed a questionnaire model.

2015 brought very important advances in this field, when the Social Council of the University of Zaragoza coordinated a Project for the Monitoring of Graduates of the University System of Aragon and a Framework Agreement was signed last 21 October between the Department of Innovation, Research and University of the Government of Aragon, ACPUA, the Aragon Institute of Statistics, the University of Zaragoza, the University of San Jorge and the Social Council of the University of Zaragoza to carry out a survey on the insertion of graduates of the University System of Aragon.

In the application of this Agreement, and already operating the corresponding Working group, chaired by the Agency, actively participated in the conduct during 2016 of a pilot survey of 2,285 graduates (Bachelor and Master) from universities in Aragon during the academic year 2012-2013. ACPUA participated in the design of the questionnaire for undergraduate degrees that was launched via e-mail during the month of May 2016. However, due to the low response rate (237 graduates), the working group opted for a personal telephone survey through the hiring of a specialised company.

This task began at the end of 2017 (November/December), with ACPUA acting as the contracting body, taking charge of the processing of this contract and participating in the financing of the field work that was finally awarded to the company Chi Cuadrado S.L. in 2018.

4. EXCHANGE, COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

The Aragon legislator wants the ACPUA with its action to enrich the reflection on the role of the university and favour the exchange of experiences with other university systems (art. 84.2). In this connection, ACPUA's objective has been to promote exchange actions with agencies operating in other university systems, especially with both international and national agencies, with which institutional ties have been strengthened in recent years.

4.1. International activities

With 2017 being our first year of activity as an accredited European agency, ACPUA's active participation in European projects and international networks was of the utmost interest. This international strategic collaboration logically began with actions within the associations and networks of which ACPUA is a member. They also focused on strengthening the international and advanced training of their technical personnel, the internationalisation of the SUA and the establishment of formulas for joint assessment and reciprocal recognition of evaluation activities.

The double membership of ENQA and ECA (European Consortium for Accreditation), worked as a suitable springboard for launching and integration into European and international projects and working groups.

In the choice of projects to add to, priority will be given to those that are in progress on cross-border quality assurance activities, social dimension of learning, e-learning and in general to those proposed on the basis of the key considerations formulated within the recently constituted Working Group E4 (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) + EQAR.

4.1.1. Participation in European projects and international networks

Activities and events

During 2017, the agency continued to ensure its participation and active presence in the projects and workshops organised by ENQA and ECA, as well as in other international conferences and forums (it refers to the event by date, place and agency or entity with which it has collaborated):

ENQA:

- Annual Forum (4-5 May), Oslo (Norway)
- General Assembly (26-27 October), Sèvres (France)

ECA:

- Seminar “Institutional Accreditations in Europe – 2 cases” (CNE - National Council of Education, Lisbon, 31 January-1 February)
- Seminar on institutional accreditation and recognition of accreditations (Paris, 22-23 June, at the headquarters of the French Agency HCERES)

In addition, the ACPUA has participated in two activities of the European Accreditation Consortium (ECA):

- Meeting of the Working Group 2 (Vitoria, 3/04/17).
- Assessing Joint Programmes Training (Cologne, 8-9/06/17).

4.1.2. Preparation of the ENQA Members Forum

The ENQA General Assembly held in October 2016 in Gloucester (United Kingdom) chose Zaragoza as the venue for the ENQA 2018 Annual Forum. This great event of the quality of higher education in Europe took place in April (19 and 20 April) 2018. To this end, throughout 2017, several internal preparatory meetings were held.

4.1.3. Collaboration with other international agencies

Evaluation for the National Agency of Andorra ACQUA:

In 2017, at the request of the Andorran agency AQUA, the ACPUA was in charge of the evaluation for the accreditation, both in its face-to-face and online modality, of the following degrees from the University of Andorra:

- Bachelor in Computer Science.
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor in Nursing.

The provision of ACPUA services included the visit to the degrees by the ACPUA panels and the issuance of the corresponding visit reports. The actual accreditation of diplomas is the responsibility of the AQUA. After the visits to the degrees carried out by the three panels appointed by ENQA (with the participation of international evaluators), the corresponding accreditation reports were drawn up. They were sent to Andorra on 20/04/2017.

4.2. National activities

4.2.1. Participation in Networks and National Commissions

Spanish Network of University Quality Agencies (REACU)

One of the strategic guidelines for the ACPUA to develop its activity is its incorporation to the main national and international knowledge networks in the field of Higher Education, so it therefore actively participates in the activities by the REACU (established on 9 October 2006) attending regular meetings and taking part in the projects proposed therein. The objectives of the REACU are:

- Promote and develop the cooperation and exchange of experiences and information, specially 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.
- Foster the development and implementation of quality assurance systems and agency accreditation.

The REACU is structured in a General Assembly and a Technical Secretariat, which is exercised on a rotational basis by each of its members. In 2017, the REACU has held the following meetings:

- 6 June 2017
- 13 November 2017

University Commission for Follow-up and Accreditation (CURSA)

The University Commission for Monitoring and Accreditation is a mixed commission with representatives from the Ministry of Education, Universities, Autonomous Communities and University Quality Agencies. The ACPUA forms part of this commission as representative of the Autonomous Community of Aragón and the university quality agencies. The functions of the CURSA are the following:

Agree the guidelines and protocol for the follow-up process of degrees and accreditation renewal.

To prepare general or particular reports on the process of implementation of the EEES that will be submitted to the Council of Universities and the General Conference on University Policy.

Agree solutions for the interpretation problems and conflicts emerging in the follow-up procedures and accreditation renewals.

Debate and propose any other aspect related to the follow-up, accreditation renewal and implementation of the EEES, not previously considered.

This Commission is convened by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, and two meetings have been held throughout 2017:

- 18 April 2017
- 12 July 2017

Programming Follow-up Commission

At the proposal of the Government of Aragón, the Management of the ACPUA forms part of this Committee, which is chaired by the Director General of Universities. During 2017, the agency continued to provide technical support for its work and the following meetings were held:

- 31 May 2017
- 20 December 2017

4.2.2. Collaboration with other Agencies, Regional Governments and other entities

Evaluation for AQU Catalunya

In 2017, and following an agreement with the agency AQU Catalunya, which is the competent entity for the verification of official teaching of Catalan universities, the ACPUA prepared a report prior to the verification of the curriculum of a **new degree from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya** (Open University of Catalonia, UOC): The **Master's degree in evaluation and quality management in higher education** (in which the Catalan agency itself collaborates).

The provision of ACPUA services consisted, in this case, in the issuance of a report by an ACPUA committee on the compliance by the aforementioned degree with the provisions of Annex I of Royal Decree 1393/2007, as well as the REACU evaluation protocol for the verification of official university degree and master's degrees.

The corresponding ACPUA evaluation panel report was forwarded on 4 April 2017 to the AQU Commission responsible for issuing the verification report. Allegations were subsequently received and referred back to the panel for study.

Evaluation for the Government of the Principality of Asturias

At the request of the Government of the Principality of Asturias, in 2017, the applications for Predoctoral Grants granted by the Government within its "Severo Ochoa" Programme corresponding to the 2016 call were evaluated. The provision of services consisted of the evaluation of 224 dossiers carried out by a panel of ACPUA experts made up of 20 evaluators from both outside and inside Aragon.

The results of the evaluation were sent to the competent body in Asturias for the granting and resolution of the grants. These findings were the subject of 40 claims by the applicants. Responses to these were sent on 4/05/17, thus concluding this evaluation.

Evaluation for the Danone Institute

The ACPUA collaborated with the Danone Institute in the evaluation related to the XXIV Call for the Prize to the Scientific Trajectory Dr. Carles Martí Henneberg. Applications could be submitted to this call, by persons or entities of recognised prestige, working or having worked, preferably in Spain, on Food, Nutrition and Health in its basic, clinical and applied aspects, in public or private organisations, and in any of the following fields of activity: clinical nutrition, metabolism, epidemiology, genetics and molecular biology, and food science and technology.

ACPUA carried out the qualitative and quantitative evaluation of two different calls in the following aspects:

- 10 files relating to the candidatures for the Scientific Career Award
- 18 dossiers concerning applications for grants for scientific research projects

4.2.3. Participation in ENQA interviews for the evaluation of ANECA

ACPUA with ANECA participated in the ANECA evaluation process, which was carried out by the panel of experts appointed by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), based on the Criteria and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015). ACPUA's collaboration was limited to the participation of the Director of the ACPUA in the session held on 8 June 2017.

4.2.4. Agreements

In 2017, the ACPUA not only continued to strengthen ties and collaborate in various SUA activities, but also with other Spanish agencies and universities outside Aragon, in order to generate its own income, to be able to count on evaluators from universities in Aragon and also to increase its prestige at a national level.

This spirit of cooperation has been reflected in 2017 in the preparation and signing of new Agreements:

- Collaboration agreement between the University of Zaragoza and ACPUA, to contribute to the carrying out of activities to promote the improvement of the quality of the university system of Aragon (9 January 2017).
- Collaboration agreement between the ACPUA and AQU Catalunya for advice on the Verification of the Study Plan of the Master's Degree in Evaluation and Quality Management of Higher Education by the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (20 March 2017).

- Framework collaboration agreement between the University of Zaragoza and the ACPUA, to contribute to the carrying out of activities to promote the improvement of the quality of the university system of Aragon (18 October 2017).

4.2.5. Meetings and actions with universities of Aragon

Throughout 2017, the Agency's management and technical team held numerous meetings with other evaluation agencies (for example, with the Andalusian agency -AAC-DEVA, on 28 March 2017 in Zaragoza), government teams and centre management teams from universities of Aragon. They have basically served to transmit or gather information on the different activities of evaluation or dissemination of the university quality carried out by the ACPUA. In addition, two specific collaborations can be highlighted in the following projects of the University of Zaragoza and the University of San Jorge:

- **Collaboration with Unizar: Teaching innovation projects:** At the request of the Vice-rectorate for Academic Policy of the University of Zaragoza, the ACPUA has collaborated for the first time in the Call made by this university for Teaching Innovation Projects for the academic year 2017/2018, through the transfer of external evaluators. All the details of the call and its resolution are available at <http://innovaciondocente.unizar.es/convocatoria2017/>.
- **Collaboration with USJ: Voluntary evaluation process on the Degree of Pharmacy and Pharmacology:** At the request of the Quality Control Department of the University San Jorge, contact with ECA members was facilitated in order to facilitate the contact of an international expert/evaluator, with knowledge of Pharmacy and quality systems, and capacity to understand documentation in Spanish. This evaluation, with the aim of improving and not of achieving a certification or quality seal, led to a visit to the campus of the University San Jorge to provide an external view on the Degree of Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

4.2.6. Accountability: appearance in the Courts of Aragon

The Director of the ACPUA appeared before the Courts of Aragon on February 16, 2017, at the request of the Minister of Innovation, Research and University of the Government of Aragon, Ms. Pilar Alegría, who is also the President of the Governing Council of ACPUA. In this appearance, information was given on the current and future activities carried out by the Agency, paying special attention to the recent registration of the ACPUA in the European Register of ENQA agencies and its beneficial and interesting consequences for Aragon and its university system. Among them, the assumption of all the competences in matters of evaluation of university teaching (including the verification of new curricula and the future institutional accreditation of centres) and the beginning of evaluation activities outside our Autonomous Community, with the consequent generation of our own income.

During the course of this appearance, the Director also had the opportunity to announce that Zaragoza has been chosen by ENQA to host its 2018 Annual Forum. He concluded by underlining the ACPUA's need for resources, especially human resources. This sentiment was shared by the parliamentary groups throughout their interventions, which also addressed the immediate future of ACPUA's activities and other issues related to the quality of teaching and research in our university system.

5. Exchange and dissemination actions.

5.1. Activities organized by the ACPUA

5.1.1 ACPUA Seminars on University Quality:

This ACPUA activity began in 2012, and currently constitutes a fundamental piece of the work of disseminating quality within the university system of Aragon, as well as a forum for discussion and exchange open to the participation of the entire university community.

The seminars carried out throughout the year 2016 were the following:

26 January / ACPUA headquarters. Videoconference room

Agenda 2030: University Quality as an Objective of Sustainable Development (ODS): a programme for agencies:

Presented by: Juan José Cubero Marín, expert in quality and former member of the CECA.

23 February / Sala Jerónimo Zurita. Edificio Pignatelli

Measuring the labour insertion of the graduates: a colloquium on good practices

Presented by: Francisco Michavila, Director UNESCO Chair. UPM.

9 March / Sala Pilar Sinués, UZ auditorium

Evaluation of internationalisation and other excellent dimensions of the degrees

Presented by: Martí Casadesús, Director of AQU Catalunya. Jordi Riera, Vice-rector of Academic Policy, Ramon Llull University.

23 May / ACPUA headquarters. Videoconference room

European quality criteria and standards (ESG) in a diverse university environment. Its usefulness and application as seen from Brussels

Presented by: Teresa Sánchez Chaparro, Member of the Board of the European Association of Agencies (ENQA, Brussels) and International Expert of the Commission des Titres d'Ingénierus (CTI, Paris).

23 November / Sala Bayeu, Pignatelli Building

The technical development of the organisation of university teaching in Spain.

Presented by: Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa, Deputy Director General for Academic Planning, MECD

5.1.2 Other workshops

1 June / Sala Polivalente, Business Expo. Zaragoza.

6 June / Teruel rectory building.

11 July / Huesca rectory building.

Focus Group: “Dialogues with ACPUA”

Coordination and promotion of the sessions: Isabel Ortega and Irene Melchor, ACPUA Quality Techniques

24 November / University of La Rioja

The evaluation of the research activity. Sexennia

By: Antonio Serrano ACPUA Director, Isabel Ortega ACPUA Quality Technician, M^aJesús Yagüe Guillén, member of the ACPUA Guarantee Committee

5.2. Conferences and seminars with ACPUA participation

DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER/PARTICIPANTS	ORGANISER	LOCATION
03/05/2017	NOKUT workshop, pre-event ENQA Member's Forum	Irene Melchor, Quality Technician		Oslo
04/05/2017	ENQA MEMBERS' FORUM 2017	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	ENQA	Oslo
04/05/2017	EQUIP focus groups: ESG 2015 impact, challenges and solutions	Irene Melchor, Quality technician	ACPUA	Multipurpose room, Business Expo.
20/04/2017	Legal challenges in Spain and Korea	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	UZ FACULTY OF LAW / SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Sala Bayeu, Pignatelli Building
01/06/2017	II Internationalisation Seminar. Multilingual policies and practices.	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	UZ, VICE-RECTORATE FOR ACADEMIC POLICY	Auditorium, University of Zaragoza
04/10/2017	IV International Congress on Learning, Innovation and Competitiveness (CINAIC,2017)	Roundtable Moderated by Antonio Serrano, Director of ACPUA with participation of the quality agencies of Andalusia, Castilla y León, Catalonia and Madrid.	UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA	Zaragoza Chamber of Commerce
12/10/2017	ENQA Seminar for recently reviewed Agencies	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	ENQA & NVAO	The Hague
29/11/2017	Presentation of the Universal Design Project for all people at the University	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND EQUALITY, CRUE, ANECA, ONCE FUNDATION	Madrid
01/12/2017	IV AVAP Forum on University Quality. Agencies round table: The role of students in the processes of external evaluation of university quality".	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	Valencian Assessment and Prospective Agency	Valencia
14/12/2017	Participation in the Homage to Prof. José Ángel Villar Rivacoba	Antonio Serrano, Director ACPUA	UZ SCIENCE FACULTY	Sala Bayeu, Pignatelli Building

5.3. Days and events attended by ACPUA

date	TITLE	ORGANISER	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
10/03/2017	Conference on the certification of internal university quality assurance systems	Unibasq	Donostia	Antonio Serrano and Isabel Ortega
26/10/2017	ENQA General Assembly	European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)	Sèvres, France	Antonio Serrano
10/03/2017	Workshop on EURACE Seal: reflections and new challenges	ANECA y European Accreditation of Engineering Programmes	Madrid	Antonio Serrano and Isabel Ortega
13/09/2017	XI Workshop on Teaching Innovation and Educational Management	University of Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
11/09/2017	ANECA in the 2020 horizon: an evaluation agency at the service of the Spanish University Community	ANECA	Madrid	Antonio Serrano
06/09/2017	Semi-presence attendance in the Catalan University System: beyond blended learning	University of Barcelona	Barcelona	Antonio Serrano
24/04/2017	Institutional accreditation, a challenge for the Spanish university system	Menéndez Pelayo International University	Santander	Irene Melchor
05/07/2017	Analysis and evaluation of the cycle of verification, follow-up and accreditation of official university degrees in Andalusia.	Andalusian Knowledge Agency (AAC-DEVA)	Córdoba	Antonio Serrano
22/06/2017	ECA Workshop	ECA	Paris	Antonio Serrano
01/06/2017	II Internationalisation Seminar. Multilingual policies and practices.	University of Zaragoza, Vice-rectorate for Academic Policy	Zaragoza	Irene Melchor
15/06/2017	ENQA Seminar – Quality Assurance in the European Context	ENQA	Brussels	Antonio Serrano
08/06/2017	ECA Training "Assessing Joint Programmes"	ECA	Cologne	Irene Melchor
11/05/2017	I Meeting: "Learning with a Gender Perspective in Aragon"	Instituto Aragonés de la Mujer, University of Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Raquel Gadea
12/06/2017	"Workshops on equal treatment and non-discrimination from the Public Administrations"	Government of Aragon	Zaragoza	Irene Melchor
15/12/2017	Webinar: Database of External Quality Assurance Results - DEQAR	EQAR	Videoconf	Isabel Ortega
15/03/2017	10th Anniversary of the European Research Council	Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. University of Zaragoza, Vice-rectorate for Scientific Policy	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
16/03/2017	Commemorative act of the 50th Anniversary of the Polytechnic University School of Almunia	EUPLA	La Almunia de Doña Godina	Antonio Serrano
04/04/2017	Participation process for the preparation of the Draft Law on Research and Innovation of Aragon	Department of Innovation, Research and University and Aragon Participa	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
31/03/2017	Solemn Academic Act in Honour of San Braulio	University of Zaragoza:	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
12/05/2017	3 rd Solemn Act of investiture of new Doctors of the University of Zaragoza	University of Zaragoza, Doctorate School	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
27/05/2017	End of Career Academic Act for students of the Degree in Sciences of Physical Activity and Sport, Degree in Dentistry and Master in Evaluation and Physical Training for Health.	University of Zaragoza, Faculty of Health and Sports Sciences	Huesca	Antonio Serrano
07/06/2017	Solemn Inauguration of the Confucius Institute	University of Zaragoza,	Zaragoza	Antonio

		Confucius Institute		Serrano
25/09/2017	Inauguration of Academic Year 2017-2018	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
20/10/2017	Academic event celebrating the patron saint of the Faculty of Medicine, Saint Lucas	University of Zaragoza, Faculty of Medicine	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
24/11/2017	Graduation Ceremony of the 2017-2018 Promotion of the ESIC Business & Marketing School	ESIC	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
27/11/2017	José María Savirón Award for Scientific Dissemination	University of Zaragoza, Faculty of Science	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
04/12/2017	"The Constitution today" at the 15th Workshop of the Constitution	University of Zaragoza, Faculty of Law. Justice of Aragon	Zaragoza	Antonio Serrano
05/07/2017	Analysis and evaluation of the cycle of verification, follow-up and accreditation of official university degrees in Andalusia.	Andalusian Knowledge Agency (AAC-DEVA)	Córdoba	Antonio Serrano

6. INSTITUTIONAL LIFE. MEETINGS OF THE ACPUA BODIES

Below is the summary of the meetings carried out by the ACPUA bodies and the participation in commissions and national networks.

6.1.1. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the Agency's highest governance body, it is chaired by the head of the competent departments in Higher Education issues and is representation from the Government of Aragón, University of Zaragoza, University San Jorge, trade unions and business organisations.

Meetings held:

- 22 February 2017.
 - This session approved, among other agreements, the Annual Report, the 2017 Activity Plan and three collaboration agreements with: the Agència de Qualitat de l'Ensenyament Superior d'Andorra (AQUA) for the evaluation of teaching at the University of Andorra; the Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (AQU) for advice on the verification of the curriculum of the Master's Degree in Evaluation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education by the UOC; the University San Jorge to contribute to the implementation of activities to promote the improvement of the university system in Aragon.
- 29 March 2017
 - On 29 November, in addition to the reading and approval of the previous minutes, the Board of Directors approved the proposal for the professional classification of ACPUA's staff.
- 12 June 2017
 - On June 12, it was a Board of Directors in which a number of agreements were reached, among which the following stand out: The annual accounts corresponding to 2016 and the certification of the budget for 2017; the proposal of the list of jobs (RPT) of the ACPUA; the approval of the Addendum to the Agreement for the promotion and carrying out of a periodic survey aimed at the assessment and analysis of university graduates of the University System of Aragon, as well as the application for ACPUA to join the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAAHE).
- 18 October 2017
 - This last annual meeting of the Governing Council approved an amendment to the ACPUA RPT (Annex I),

6.1.2. Experts Committee

It is the Agency's advisory body. Its members are appointed by the President of the Agency, on a proposal from the Director and after hearing the Board of Directors. It is currently made up of 4 experts, two national and two international.

It met virtually on 17 June 2017 on the occasion of the appointment of new members to the Commission for Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation (CECA).

6.1.3. Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Committee (CECA)

The CECA is the Agency's technical body in charge of the technical functions of evaluation, accreditation and certification.

Meetings held and agreements adopted:

- 14 February 2017 (on-line)
 - Appointment sexennia panel call 2017
- 11 May 2017 (in person):
 - Approval of previous report
 - Ratification of agreements
 - Approval Evaluation manuals for the verification and modification of degrees
 - Approval of branch evaluation commissions
- 16 June 2017 (on-line)
 - Appointment of Branch Committees, changes in SEC and SET
- 20 November 2017 (in person):
 - Approval of previous report.
 - Ratification of agreements
 - On-line work on the proposal of the Evaluation Manual for the certification of IQAS.
 - On-line work on degree follow-up: Modifications to the protocol and pilot evaluation of doctoral programmes

6.1.4. Subcommittee on Evaluation of Degrees (SET)

The Sub-Commission for the Evaluation of Degrees (SET) has the functions of:

- Issuing evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by CECA (our technical body).
- To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluative activity in the following processes:
 - Process of degree accreditation renewal.
 - Process of degree follow-up.
 - Degree verification process (after joining ENQA as a full member).
 - Any other technical function for evaluating degrees in accordance with the protocols established by CECA.

Meetings held:

- 12 January 2017
- 13 March 2017
- 07 April 2017
- 16 May 2017
- 10 July 2017
- 21 September 2017
- 10 October 2017
- 15 November 2017
- 20 December 2017

6.1.5. Research Evaluation subcommittee (SEI)

The Sub-Commission for Research Evaluation (SET) has the functions of:

- Issuing evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by CECA.
- To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluative activity in the following processes:

- Creation of University Research Institutes (hereinafter URIs).
- Periodic evaluation of URIs. Evaluation of sexennia of research activity of contracted teaching staff.
- Evaluation of research projects of university centres or institutes
- Any other technical function for evaluating research in accordance with the protocols established by CECA.

Meetings held:

- 17 July 2017

6.1.6. Subcommittee on Evaluation of Centres (SEC)

The Sub-Commission for the Evaluation of Centres (SEC) has the functions of:

- Issuing evaluation reports in accordance with the protocols established by CECA.
- To carry out by its members the exercise of the evaluative activity in the following processes:
 - Creation and affiliation of university centres.
 - Feasibility of centres attached to universities.
 - AUDIT Programme.
 - DOCENTIA Programme.
 - Certification of schools (CEI, CEP, CES) that host university students on internships.
 - Certification of evaluation results of the dedication and teaching supplement of the UZ.
 - Any other institutional evaluation technical function in accordance with the protocols established by CECA.

Meetings held:

- 04 October 2017
- 29 November 2017

6.1.7. Guarantee Committee

The Guarantee Committee is the technical body of the Agency which will be responsible for supervising the correct processing of the evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures of the Agency, informing of appeals against resolutions of the Director. Created by agreement of the Board of Directors of 4 May 2015, it was constituted on 19 January 2016.

On 21 September 2017, through a face-to-face meeting of the Guarantee Committee, the resource review process of the 2017 sexennia evaluation process was closed.

7. QUALITY AND OTHER INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

7.1. Improving the application of the bank of evaluators

At the end of 2016, AST was contracted to improve the Bank of Evaluators application in order to include profiles of international and professional evaluators. The project was carried out during 2017 and then proceeded with the request to update data to all persons registered in it.

Once this first improvement was made, a second version of the Bank of Evaluators was launched in order to make it an essential management tool for evaluators at this time to ensure the activity of the Agency. **The implementation of this update was delayed several times but finally took place during the summer of 2017.**

7.2. Improvement of tools and protocols

In 2017, a number of modifications and improvements foreseen in **various specific ACPUA evaluation protocols** were also carried out as part of a more comprehensive reflection on the set of tools and protocols for the evaluation of the research activity. To this end, a process of updating all these protocols was opened in 2017, for which consultations on the design of these methodologies began with the Directorate General for Research and all stakeholders or interest groups.

7.3. "ACPUA + Students" Programme

In order to consolidate the adaptation of the ACPUA to European standards and to culminate the participation of students in its bodies and in evaluation tasks, in 2015, 2016 and 2017 the participation of students in the agency's activity and in quality assurance has continued to be promoted through this student participation programme launched in 2014. The objectives of this programme are:



- To promote communication with the students of Aragon, the dissemination of information relevant to them, and the effective collection of their opinions and needs.
- The participation of students in the bodies of the Agency, culminating in the representation of the collective in ACPUA's evaluation committees and bodies.
- To promote training for university students of Aragon in quality and continuous improvement of teaching.

8. TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION

8.1 Publication of Reports and Protocols Policy

As an example of ACPUA's commitment to transparency, all the results of ACPUA's evaluation reports are published on its website acpua.aragon.es.

Thus, with regard to the evaluation of degrees, during 2017 the follow-up reports for the academic year 2015/16 and the analysis of publicly available information for the academic year 2015/16 have been published. On the other hand, the historical series of results by scientific field can be accessed from the evaluation section of the teachings staff's research activity on the website. The results of the evaluation of Research University Institutes (creation and or periodic evaluation) carried out are also published on the website. On the other hand, all the model reports are continuously reviewed with the aim of improving their clarity and accessibility for citizens.

Type of report	<input type="text"/>
Higher Ed Institution	<input type="text"/>
Faculties, Colleges and Schools	<input type="text"/>
Category	<input type="text"/>
Study programme type	<input type="text"/>
Release year	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>

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

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

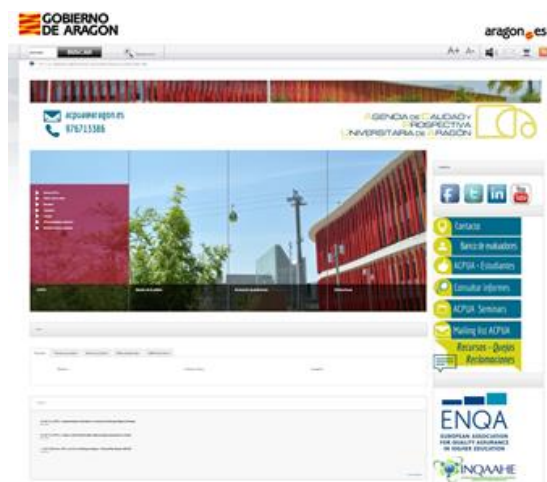
In relation to the annual accounts of the Agency, these are published on the website of the Government of Aragon, integrated in its General Account, volume VI of annual accounts of public law entities of the Autonomous Community of Aragon. Moreover, this report includes a resources heading with the detail of the ACPUA's human and economic resources.

8.214 On-line strategy

The ACPUA is firmly convinced that the Internet is a fundamental tool for the dissemination of information, communication and publication of relevant content for all stakeholders, both national and international.

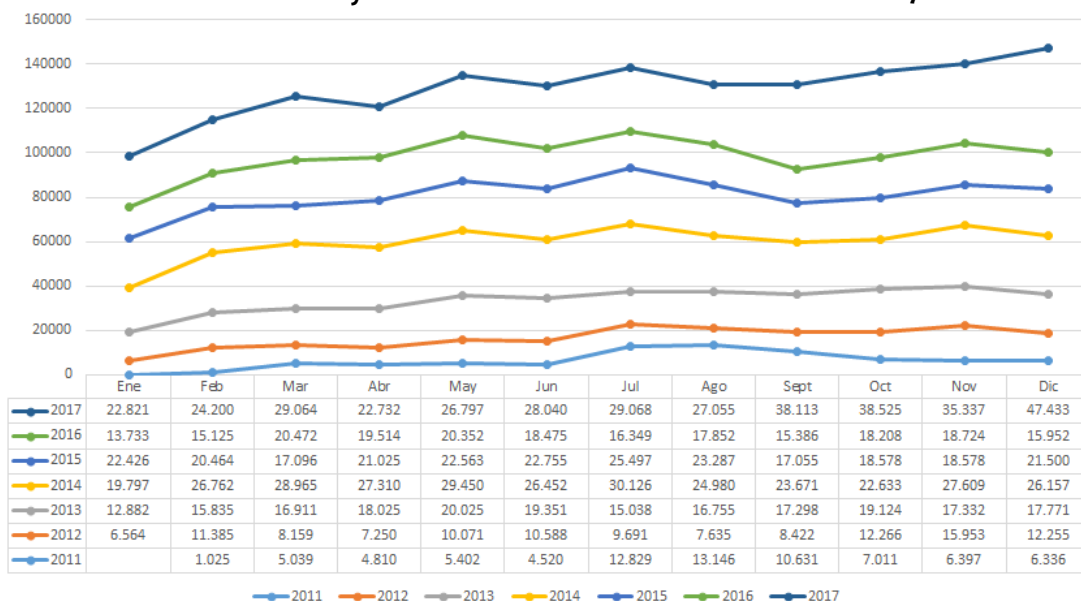
In order to develop transparency also at international level, ACPUA includes documentation and relevant information in English, in addition to continuing to apply its communication plan in Social Networks using actively its Facebook and Twitter profiles, generating content and reporting in real time on many of its main activities, as well as attendance to workshops, conferences, etc.

The ACPUA website (acpua.aragon.es) has been hosted within the corporate portal of the Government of Aragon (www.aragon.es), developed with its own resources, using the same corporate tool Vignette.



In 2017, a cumulative total of 369,185 visits to ACPUA's website were recorded, representing an increase of 75.7% over 2016, compensated, however, by the agency's dissemination of information through social networks (see info on these Social Networks).

No. of monthly visits to ACPUA's website. Years 2011 to 2017



La ACPUA has also three computer applications integrated on its website and developed in collaboration with the Telematic Services Entity of Aragón (AST); the EMI platform to manage the summon of request for evaluation for the research additional salary payment; the BEAV platform to manage the bank of evaluators, and the newly launched consultation application of the database of degree reports.

However, work on the renewal of the Agency's website started at the end of 2017. For the ACPUA, it was necessary to update the contents of the website (modify texts, change some images and/or logos, renew documents in pdf format, etc.) as a basic communication tool for the evaluation processes that it develops. This activity began with technical meetings with:

- Carmen Lozano, Head of section of information and administrative documentation, try to renew contents of the current website, within the framework of the website of the Government of Aragon.
- María José Salvatierra, AST, in relation to the possibility of designing a new website, companies specialised in the subject and the possible tools to be used: WordPress or Drupal.

Finally, the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA), evaluating the different possibilities of action, adopted the decision to outsource the design of a new website (in WordPress or Drupal format), which is expected to be launched in 2018. The objectives that were set were:

- To facilitate the updating the contents of the website by the ACPUA's technical staff.
- Update the ACPUA's corporate image.
- Better visibility of certain elements which are of strategic importance to the ACPAU: access to protocols and evaluation results Bank of evaluators, ACPUA Seminars, Social Networks, etc.

8.3 One year of activities on the website

ACPUA has also maintained its communication policy with the publication of **46 news items on its website** throughout 2017:

DATE	HEADDING
13/01/2017	Meeting of the management of the agencies of Aragon and Catalonia in Barcelona
20/01/2017	Meeting with the Vice-rector of the Faculty of the University of Zaragoza
02/03/2017	Meeting with the new management of the Castilla y León Agency (ACSUCYL)
09/03/2017	Appearance of the Director of the ACPUA before the Courts of Aragon
09/03/2017	Visit of the CSIC Delegate in Aragon
09/03/2017	Students Andrés Llena (Unizar) and María del Mar Zamorano (USJ), new members of the Board Of Directors
17/03/2017	Unibasq workshop on the certification of SGIC university students
30/03/2017	Visit of the evaluation agency of Andalusia
10/04/2017	Gabriel Morales Arruga, new member of the Consultative Council of Aragon
12/04/2017	Extraordinary Board of Directors
03/05/2017	Meeting of the University Commission for the Regulation of the Follow-up and Accreditation (CURSA)
07/06/2017	The European Quality Standards (ESG), a reading between the lines
14/06/2017	Board of Directors 12 June
20/06/2017	Training of the ACPUA technical staff in the evaluation of joint programmes
20/06/2017	Meetings with ENQA in Brussels
21/06/2017	The ACPUA participates in the Workshop on the Internationalisation of Higher Education at the University of Zaragoza

27/06/2017	VI Workshop on Teaching Innovation University San Jorge
30/06/2017	Fourth Assembly of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA)
18/07/2017	Analysis workshop of the education evaluation cycle in Andalusia
18/07/2017	CURSA approves the national protocol for the certification of the university centres SGIC
18/07/2017	We gather our new branch commissions for curriculum evaluation
18/07/2017	Focus Group sessions in Zaragoza, Teruel and Huesca: Dialogues with ACPUA
19/07/2017	New Aragonese regulations on the life cycle of university degrees
25/07/2017	Visit of the management team of the University of La Rioja
07/08/2017	José Ángel Villar, President of the Committee of Experts and member of the Board of Directors of ACPUA, has passed away.
07/08/2017	Institutional accreditation, a challenge for the Spanish university system
25/08/2017	Upcoming evaluation campaign for the renewal of official education accreditation
29/08/2017	ENQA 2017 Member's Forum was held in Oslo
21/09/2017	Visit to the ETUZ
21/09/2017	Meeting with the Vice-rector of Academic Policy of the University of Zaragoza
05/10/2017	A major debate took place in Zaragoza: the evaluation of online lessons
12/10/2017	Agencies assessed by ENQA meet in The Hague
26/10/2017	ENQA General Assembly
22/11/2017	REACU meeting in Barcelona
29/11/2017	The European Union launches a database on the quality of university education
07/12/2017	Laura Peiró Márquez, student at the University of Zaragoza, new member of the Board of Directors
07/12/2017	ACPUA, AQU, AQUIB and DEVA-AAC converse with Valencian students
07/12/2017	Certification of the results to obtain supplements for dedication and improvement 2017
11/12/2017	ACPUA Seminar with Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa: 10 years of Royal Decree 1393/2007
12/12/2017	ACPUA gives a training seminar on sexennia evaluation in La Rioja
13/12/2017	The ACPUA, committed to university training in Design for All
26/12/2017	Salary supplements for dedication and teaching 2017
09/03/2017	ACPUA Board of Directors
18/12/2017	Remembering José Ángel Villar: tribute ceremony at the University of Zaragoza
22/09/2017	ANECA reflected on its present and future in Santander
28/08/2017	A debate with Seoul National University on the quality of law teaching

8.4 ACPUA on Social Networks

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 from Aragon, as well as national and international, the ACPUA launched in 2014 its Social Network Communication Plan (SN), which has continued to develop intensely in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The SN have continued to serve ACPUA to promote communication and active participation in its national and international sphere of action.

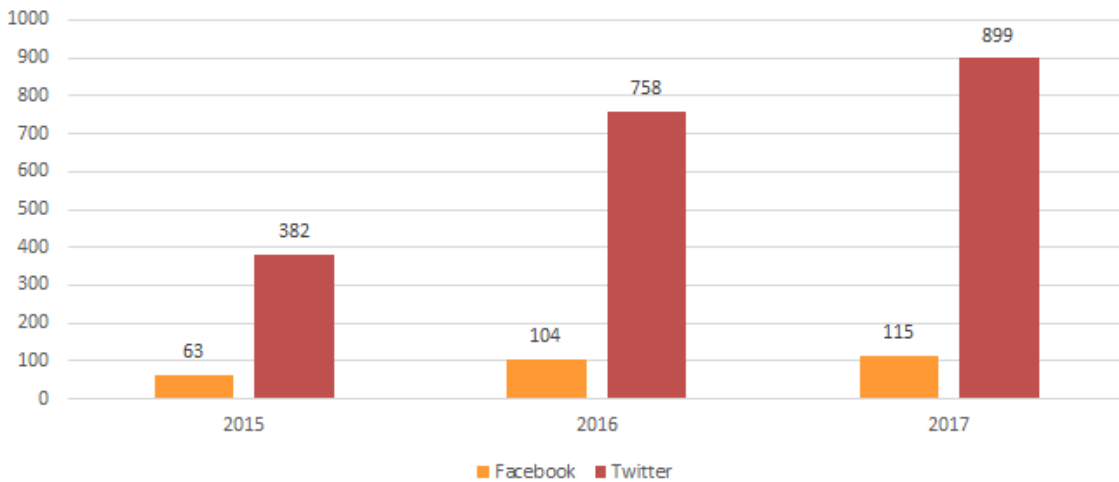
Facebook and Twitter

The following two social network profiles, launched in mid-2014, have become increasingly visible within the agency's sectorial scope of activity:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACPUA.Aragon>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ACPUAAragon>

On the other hand, the LinkedIn group continues to operate: www.linkedin.com Group "ACPUA / Aragon Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation", with a more limited scope when used as an alternative way of contact with the Agency's collaborators and evaluators. The ACPUA technical team makes a very positive assessment of the evolution of followers through social networks.

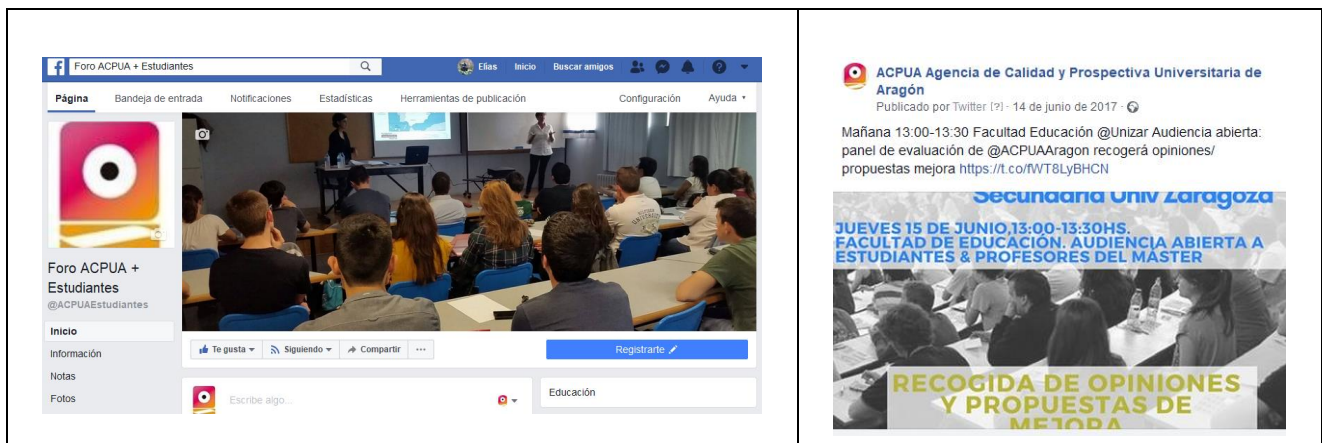
Seguidores Redes Sociales



ACPUA + Students Forum

Since the launch of the ACPUA + Students programme at the end of November 2014, the ACPUA has been managing a Facebook forum dedicated exclusively to the communication with students: <https://www.facebook.com/ACPUAEstudiantes>

In 2017, this forum continued to be a valuable tool for maintaining direct communication with this group, both to disseminate training in evaluation by promoting and answering questions about training workshops in collaboration with other agencies, to encourage participation in evaluation processes, and to disseminate calls for seminars or news of interest to this group.



8.5ACPUA in the Media

In 2017 the ACPUA was visible 27 times in the media, highlighting the wide coverage given to the activities of the agency:

DATE	TYPE OF NEWS	DISSEMINATION	TYPE OF MEDIA	SOURCE	PAGE	HEADING	EXTRACT OF THE CONTENT AND LITERAL MENTION OF ACPUA
17/02/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	HERALDO DE ARAGÓN	7	"The ACPUA will evaluate six degrees from Andorra."	The director of the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education , Antonio Serrano, reported yesterday in the Courts of the activity of this body since it achieved European accreditation and, with it, extend its radius of action and obtain its own resources. Serrano said that the ACPUA will soon evaluate six degrees from the Principality of Andorra, the research work of some professionals from the Basque Country and a master's degree from a Catalan university. Serrano congratulated himself on the growth of his activity, but regretted that his staff is only seven people. He also announced that Zaragoza will host an international forum on university quality in 2018.
17/02/2018	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	CortesAragon.es		"The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education obtains its European accreditation and begins to generate its own income thanks to agreements between universities".	Dissemination of the appearance of the Director of ACPUA in the Innovation, Research and University Commission in the Courts of Aragon . "This public body has achieved accreditation in the European System of Higher Education and poses new challenges for 2017 such as the institutional accreditation of centres, to continue with their first self-financing agreements, or increase their human and financial resources, according to its director, Antonio Serrano".
17/02/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	HERALDO DE ARAGÓN	17	"Seminar on labour market insertion."	Information of the ACPUA Seminar in AGENDA Heraldo. The ACPUA (Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education) organises a seminar aimed at measuring the labour insertion of university graduates.
17/02/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	EFE_EL PERIODICO DE ARAGÓN	8	"Zaragoza will be the European capital of university quality by 2018".	Zaragoza will be, in 2018, the European capital of university quality, as announced yesterday in the Parliament by the director of the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) , Antonio Serrano.
23/02/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON		"ACPUA Seminar on Labour Insertion of University Students"	The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) organised the workshop "Measuring the labour insertion of university graduates: a colloquium on good practices", one of the most important issues currently affecting higher education in our country.
23/02/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	Aragondigital.es		"USJ recent graduates have an employment rate of 86% according to a study."	The University San Jorge has presented this Thursday, in a seminar organised by the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA), the study of labour market insertion for the promotion 2015, year in which 348 undergraduate students completed 10 degrees: Business Administration and Management (ADE), Architecture, Audiovisual Communication, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Computer Engineering, Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations and Translation and Intercultural Communication.

28/02/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	CortesAragon.es	2 pages	"The conversion of the ACPUA into a European agency for the quality of higher education will give important returns to the university system of Aragon, according to its director".	Antonio Serrano explained in the Courts the qualitative change that this leap to the "emancipation and internationalisation" of the Aragonese Agency's evaluation competences represents for the Aragonese Agency , since "it means the end of the ANECA's tutelage" for the verification and modification of degrees, as well as "the obtaining of own resources".
03/03/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	ARAGÓN UNIVERSITY	4	"The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education starts to generate its own resources"	Dissemination summary of the appearance of the Director of ACPUA in the Innovation, Research and University Commission in the Courts of Aragon.
10/03/2017	MENTION	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	HERALDO DE ARAGÓN	7	"USJ recent graduates have an employment rate of 86% according to a study."	The University San Jorge (USJ) presented last month in a seminar organised by the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education the study of labour insertion corresponding to the promotion of 2015, year in which 348 students of 10 degrees finished their studies, who were asked about their labour situation more than 12 months after the completion of their university studies.
14/03/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON		"New labour agreements for the ACPUA following its European accreditation"	The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) continues its evaluation work for other agencies such as the European Evaluation Agency. The Governing Council has authorised two new agreements, one of them of an international nature, the first carried out by the agency. (Allusion to agreements with the Principality of Andorra and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)
14/03/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON		"ACPUA, the best rated university quality agency in Europe in 2016."	The Aragonese agency is the one that has obtained the best results to date in the demanding international evaluation to which university quality agencies from all over Europe are submitted. The evaluation is carried out by the European Association of Agencies ENQA based in Brussels to check that the agencies operating in the EEES comply with the 14 quality standards approved in 2015 by the Conference of Ministers of Education of the EEES.
15/03/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	EFE_EL PERIODICO DE ARAGÓN	12	"The ACPUA will evaluate six degrees in Andorra."	The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) continues with its evaluation work for other entities after being accredited as a European Evaluation Agency and will now evaluate six degrees from the University of Andorra. One was also approved with the Catalan agency AQU to advise on the evaluation of the Master's Degree in Evaluation and Quality Management of Higher Education.
24/03/2017	MENTION	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON		"Innovation, Research and University increases its budget by almost 9% with R&D&I grants, scholarships and a plan for young talent."	The money destined to the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education, which will have 666,000 euros, also increased. The ACPUA was accredited this year as a European evaluation agency and has achieved the best marks in the recent international evaluation carried out, surpassing national agencies throughout Europe.

25/03/2017	MENTION	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	Aragondigital.es		"The budget for Innovation and Research grows by 64% and exceeds 23 million".	The money destined to the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education, ACPUA , which will have 666,000 euros, also increased.
25/03/2017	MENTION	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	HERALDO DE ARAGÓN	5	"University grants the first funds for the reform of Philosophy"	P. Alegría, Minister of Innovation, Research and University: Also within the university sphere, noteworthy is the growth for the ACPUA or EUPLA, or the scholarship program, divided into four: for Erasmus, for mobility, for strategic master's degrees and complementary aids.
07/04/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	CortesAragon.es		"The Director General of Universities highlights the "consolidated" academic offer of Aragon, prepared to face future challenges".	The Head of Universities of the Government has recalled various issues dealt with by this Committee such as the assessment of the recognition obtained by the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) , as a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), the regulation of the procedure for implementation, follow-up, modification and renewal of the acceptance and suppression of official teaching or the awareness of the intention of the Executive to renew the current law of arrangement of the university system of Aragon.
19/04/2017	MENTION	LOCAL-PROVINTIAL	PRINTED PRESS	DIARIO DEL ALTO ARAGÓN	5	"They study the double degree Social-Magisterial Graduate"	J.A. Mayoral, Rector UZ: stressed that if any new subject had to be added to complete the degree, it would require that it be accredited by the ACPUA, a planning should be made as well as an economic report and it would finally require the approval of the Government of Aragon.
21/04/2017	MENTION	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	ARAGON UNIVERSITY	6	"Alegría stresses the advances for the specialisation of the Campus of Huesca"	Councillor Pilar Alegría insisted that double degrees "are an attractive option to attract students from Huesca or all of Aragon but also from neighbouring Communities".../...which will be dealt with in the University Programme Follow-up Committee and which will be sent to the ACPUA to find out if they are viable.
06/05/2017	MENTION	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	Aragondigital.es		"Projecting laws."	In the Department of Innovation, Research and University they are working on the project of the Law for the organisation of the university system of Aragon. The draft will be ready after the summer and works will be conducted with the University of Zaragoza, with the University San Jorge, with the Social Council, with the ACPUA and with other economic and social agents.
09/10/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	EFE_EL PERIODICO DE ARAGÓN	8	"The university degrees in Aragon are in excellent health".	Interview with the Director of the ACPUA _ Full page interview
20/11/2017	MENTION	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	EL PERIODICO DE ARAGÓN	10	"Medicine rules out offering more places despite lack of health practitioners"	J. Castillo, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, UZ: "Not long ago there were 220 in Zaragoza and 65 in Huesca, but it is clear that it is not in our plans to increase the offer. Because, in addition, we are immersed in a process of accreditation of degrees by means of the ACPUA, which has exposed that, for years, the offer of vacancies in Medicine has been superior to what our bidding report required and that was not good. Because, with the teachers and means at our disposal, we are able to train a certain number of students. Not more".

05/12/2017	NEWS ACPUA	LOCAL-PROVINTIAL	RADIO	CADENA SER	2'	"The director of ACPUA explains that this is the first time that they are part of a European project."	Interview with the Director of the ACPUA insertion in news, slot 2'. DEQAR Project.
10/12/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON		"The ACPUA participates in a project to create a database on the quality of university education".	It is the first time that the Aragonese agency participates in a European Erasmus+ project. The European Commission, through its Erasmus+ Programme, has selected and agreed to finance a project of which the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) is a part. This is the first European project in which the Aragonese agency participates in all its history.
11/12/2017	NEWS ACPUA	INTERNATIONAL	DIGITAL PRESS	Aragondigital.es		"The community participates in a project to create a database on the quality of education".	The Aragonese agency ACPUA, Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education , is participating for the first time in its history in a European project. Specifically, in DEQAR, which proposes developing a large European database on the quality of university education. The project started in November
11/12/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	HERALDO DE ARAGÓN	6	"Aragon participates in a programme on the quality of education"	The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) is participating in a project to create a database on the quality of university education. The European Commission, through its Erasmus+ programme, has agreed to finance this project, the first European project in which the Aragonese agency participates in all its history, whose objective is to develop a large European database on the quality of university education.
11/12/2017	NEWS ACPUA	REGIONAL	PRINTED PRESS	EL PERIODICO DE ARAGÓN	12	"Aragon will show the quality of its university degrees in Europe"	The European Commission, through its Erasmus+ Programme, has selected and agreed to finance a project of which the The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA) is a part. This is the first European project in which the Aragonese agency participates in all its history.
12/12/2017	NEWS ACPUA	LOCAL-PROVINTIAL	PRINTED PRESS	DIARIO DEL ALTO ARAGÓN	7	"University quality database."	ACPUA, The Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education , has been chosen by the European Commission to participate in a community project to develop a large European database on the quality of university education. The ACPUA will participate together with similar agencies from Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Russia or Portugal. The project, framed within Erasmus +, is the first European project in which ACPUA participates.

9. MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

9.1 Human Resources

The Agency has its own staff, officially approved on 18 July 2017 (BOA 20/09/2017) made-up of personnel covered by the Collective Agreement for Administration Employees of the Autonomous Community of Aragón, as well as civil servants



The composition of its staff in 2017 was the following:

MANAGEMENT	Director	Antonio Serrano González	Top Management
	Executive Secretary	Raquel Gadea Mallada	Labour
ADMINISTRATION AREAS	Administration Manager	Esteban Blasco Gamarra	Labour
	Administrative	Vacant	Labour
	Administrative Assistant	Miryam Alda Sebastián	Labour
AREAS OF QUALITY AND FORESIGHT	Quality Coordinating Technician	Isabel Ortega Pardos	Labour
	Teaching Quality Technician	Vacant	Civil servant
	Research, Innovation and Foresight Quality Technician	Elías Escanero Loriente*	Civil servant
	Quality and Internationalisation Technician	Irene Melchor Lacleta**	Labour/ civil servant new RPT

(*) On 2 November, 2017, Elías Escanero Loriente joined the position of Technician for Quality in Research, Innovation and Foresight (vacant as of 1 July 2015), as a civil servant.

(**) Irene Melchor Lacleta held the position of Quality Technician until 10 September 2017, when the position became vacant.

9.2 Infrastructure

On 5 June 2014, ACPUA moved from its previous facilities in Avda. Gómez Laguna to the Dinamiza building, inside the Expo Zaragoza Business Park. The new and modern facilities are located near the Delicias station, which connects the city of Zaragoza with, among other cities, Madrid and Barcelona via high-speed trains. The Business Park also has numerous parking spaces, both paying and free of charge.

ACPUA's offices currently have eight equipped workstations that meet the requirements of accessibility and comfort by far, as well as having their own small meeting room and the right to use larger capacity rooms with computer equipment and videoconferencing support. In the event that the ACPUA expands its staff in the future, there is capacity in the facilities to integrate some additional workstation.

Dinamiza Building. ACPUA Headquarters



9.3 Economic Resources

	FINAL BUDGET	EXECUTED	EXECUTED %
HEADING I STAFF EXPENDITURES			
(120000) STAFF SALARIES	6.788,16	2.262,72	33,33%
(120005) STAFF TRIENNA	863,91	87,04	10,08%
(120006) BONUS PAYMENTS	2.346,81	2.568,07	109,43%
(121000) STAFF DESTINATION S.	4.273,50	1.424,50	33,33%
(121001) STAFF SPECIFIC S.	7.425,78	2.475,26	33,33%
(130000) BASE SALARY PERMANENT STAFF	180.894,84	108.649,47	60,06%
(130001) SENIORITY	6.968,09	7.366,45	105,72%
(130002) BONUS PAYMENTS	36.510,19	25.533,70	69,94%
(130003) OTHER REMUNERATIONS	130.791,76	99.051,18	75,73%
(160000) S. S. PAYMENTS CORRESPONDING TO THE COMPANY	90.436,00	50.566,90	55,91%
(162000) FINANCING. AND IMPROVEMENT OF P.LAB.	3.677,00	2.725,98	74,14%
(165000) SOCIAL ACTION	2.574,00	742,24	28,84%
(165001) OTHER SOCIAL S. E.- P.LAB	1.103,00	0,00	100,00%
(170000) REGULATORY INCREASE FUND	4.746,53	0,00	
TOTAL	479.399,53	303.453,51	63,30%
HEADING II EXPENDITURES FOR CURRENT ASSETS AND SERVICES			
(202000) BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES	20.000,00	0,00	0,00%
(212000) BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES	100,00	0,00	0,00%
(216000) EQUIPMENT FOR INFORMATION PROCESSES	100,00	0,00	0,00%
(219000) OTHER TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	700,00	0,00	0,00%
(220000) NONINVENTORY RECURRENT	1.939,00	692,32	35,71%
(220002) PRESS, MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS	600,00	631,00	105,17%
(220003) BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS	765,00	45,00	5,88%
(220004) COMPUTER MATERIAL	100,00	0,00	0,00%
(221000) ELECTRICITY	1.000,00	1,46	0,15%
(222000) TELEPHONE SERVICES	-3.226,77	0,00	100,00%
(222001) POSTAL EXPENDITURES	1.221,00	485,82	39,79%
(223000) TRANSPORT	1.000,00	0,00	100,00%
(224003) OTHER RISKS	50,00	0,00	100,00%
(226001) PROTOCOL AND REPRESENTATION EXPENSES	1.200,00	0,00	0,00%
(226002) INFORMATION AND PROMOTION EXPENSES	1.000,00	907,50	0,00%
(226005) MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES	99.586,00	79.502,98	79,83%
(227000) CLEANING AND HYGIENE EXPENSES	601,00	0,00	100,00%
(227006) TECHNICAL STUDIES AND WORKS	50.000,00	10.038,59	20,08%
(230000) ALLOWANCES	1.000,00	415,38	41,54%
(231000) TRANSPORT	1.500,00	257,10	17,14%
TOTAL	179.235,23	92.977,15	51,87%
HEADING VI REAL INVESTMENTS			
(605000) FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	0,00	0,00	0,00%
(606000) EQUIPMENT FOR INFORMATION PROCESSES	2.000,00	0,00	0,00%
TOTAL	2.000,00	0,00	0,00%
TOTAL	660.634,76	396.430,66	60,01%

Glossary

- AAC: Andalusian Agency of Knowledge.
- ACSUCYL: Agency for the Quality of the University System of Castilla y León.
- ACSUG: Agency for the University Quality System of Galicia.
- ANECA: National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation.
- ANEP: National Agency for Evaluation and Foresight.
- AQU: Agency for the Quality of the University System of Catalonia.
- AQUIB: Agency for the Quality of the University of the Balearic islands.
- AVAP: Valencian Assessment and Foresight Agency.
- CECA: Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Committee (ACPUA body).
- CNEAI: National Commission for the Evaluation of the Research Activity.
- CURSA: University Commission for Follow-up and Accreditation.
- CONAUPA: National Council for University Evaluation and Accreditation of Panama.
- ECA: European Consortium for Accreditation.
- EEES: European Higher Education Area.
- EFQUEL: European Foundation for Quality in e-Learning.
- ENQA: European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
- EOTA: Spatial Planning Strategy of Aragón.
- EQAF: European Quality Assurance Forum.
- EQAR: European Quality Assurance Registry.
- ESG: European Standards and Guidelines.
- ESU: European Student Union.
- EUA: European University Association.
- EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education.
- Madrid + d: Foundation for Knowledge madrimasd (Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation section of the Quality of Higher Education).
- INQAAHE: International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education.
- IUI: University Research Institute.
- LOSUA: Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Organisation of the University System of Aragón.
- LOTA: Law 4/2009, of 22 June, on the Organisation of the Planning of the Territory of Aragon.
- REACU: Spanish Network of University Quality Agencies
- CUD: Defence University Centre.
- RRSS: Social Networks.
- RUCT: Register of Universities and Centres.

SEC: Subcommittee on Evaluation of Centres.

SEI: Research Evaluation Subcommittee.

SET: Subcommittee of Evaluation of Degrees.

IQAS: Internal Quality Assurance System.

SIIU: Integrated University Information System

SUA: University System of Aragon.

UNIBASQ: Agency for the Evaluation of Quality and Accreditation of the Basque University System.

USJ: University San Jorge.

UZ: University of Zaragoza.