ACPUA
AGENCIA DE CALIDAD Y PROSPECTIVA UNIVERSITARIA DE ARAGÓN

ANÁLISIS TEMÁTICOS – THEMATIC ANALYSIS

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON ON THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATIONS CARRIED OUT ON THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF ARAGON

Results of the activity of the ACPUA from December 2016 to July 31, 2020, with the universities of the University System of Aragon attending to the activity that marks the map of processes of the agency

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Criterion 3.4 of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) establishes for the Agencies the accomplishment of thematic analysis gathering its standard as follows: "Agencies must regularly publish reports describing and analyzing the general conclusions of their external quality assurance activities".

*Cumplir y terminar todo el trabajo del día de hoy
es el mejor modo de preparar y cuidar el día de mañana.
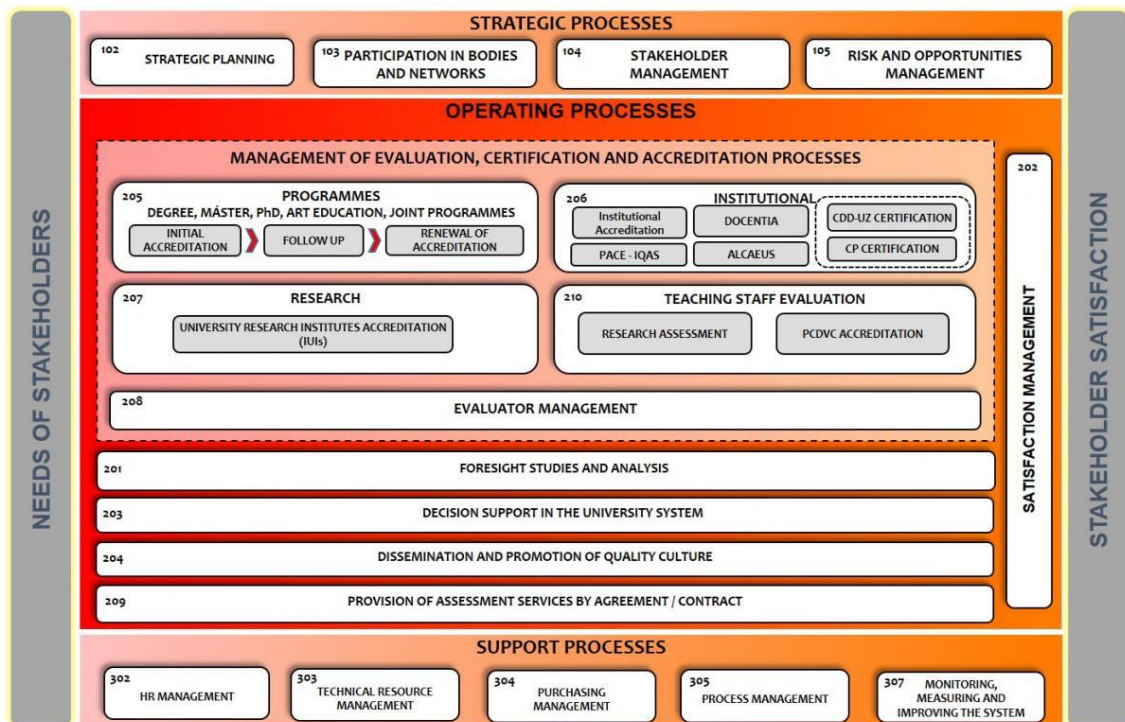Noel Clarasó*

Contents

1. Introduction

The aim of ACPUA is to promote the quality of the University System of Aragon by encouraging its relationship with the business and labour world and society as a whole.

ACPUA's role is to guarantee and promote the quality of the university system in Aragon. To this end, the agency carries out technical tasks of assessment, certification and accreditation. This activity is complemented by study and prospective work and activities to promote a quality educational culture in higher education in Aragon.

In a very brief way, the Agency carries out for the whole University System of Aragon the evaluation of programmes and the assessment of centres. In addition, it carries out research evaluation and people evaluation.

Therefore, these would be the four major evaluation processes carried out by the ACPUA and which coincide (as could not be otherwise) with the Agency's Process Map that derives from the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan approved by the Agency's Board of Directors in its session of 22 January 2020:

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2. 205 Operating Process

205 OPERATING PROCESS concerning the assessment of qualifications, since 2017 assessment activities for initial accreditation/modification, follow-up and accreditation have been carried out as a matter of course.
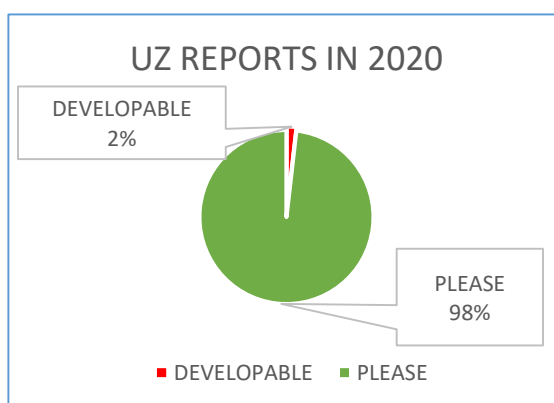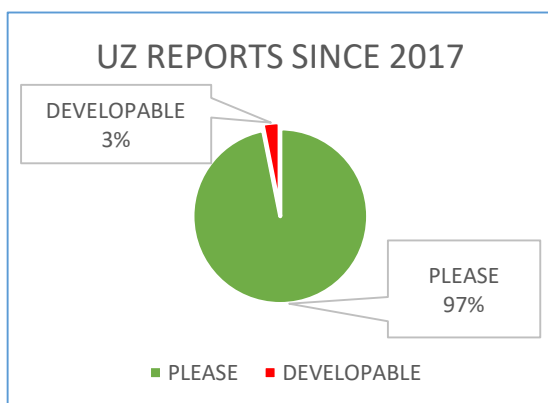
Data from the different evaluation processes by universities since 1 January 2017:

UNIVERSIDAD			TOTAL		2017		2018		2019		2020	
			+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
UNIVERSIDAD DE ZARAGOZA	GRADO	Verificación	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
		Modificación	27	1	3	0	6	1	15	0	3	0
		Seguimiento	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
		Acreditación	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		Nº TOTAL GRADOS	31	2	5	0	7	1	16	1	3	0
	MASTER	Verificación	10	4	1	0	0	3	4	0	5	1
		Modificación	9	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	4	0
		Seguimiento	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Acreditación	34	0	15	0	15	0	4	0	0	0
		Acreditación 2º acreditación	26	0	0	0	22	0	3	0	1	0
		Nº TOTAL MÁSTERES	82	4	19	0	42	3	11	0	10	1
	DOCTORADO	Verificación	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
		Modificación	19	0	0	0	3	0	15	0	1	0
		Seguimiento	52	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	40	0
		Acreditación	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Nº TOTAL DE DOCTORADOS	72	0	0	0	15	0	16	0	41	0
		TOTALES	185	6	24	0	64	4	43	1	54	1

From 1 January 2017 to 31 July 2020, 191 reports were issued, 185 of which were favourable and 6 unfavourable.

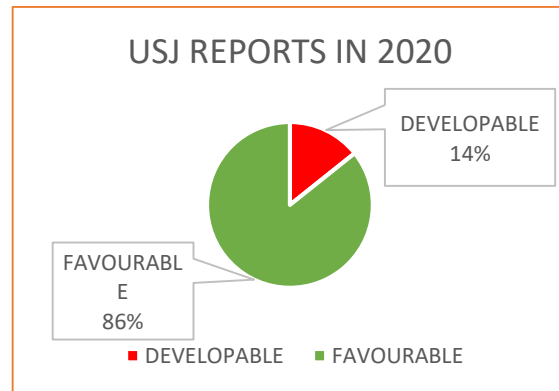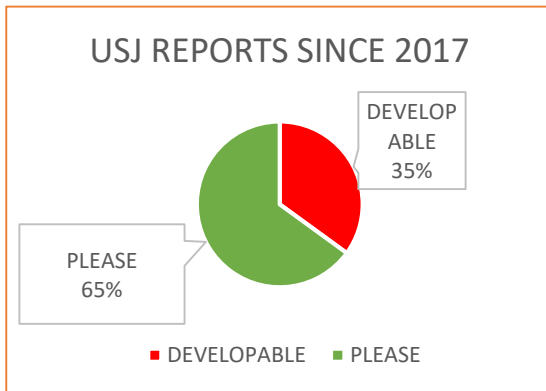**In the last year 2020, 55 reports have been issued, of which 54 were favourable and 1 unfavourable.**

UZ REPORTS SINCE 2017
DEVELOPABLE 3%
PLEASE 97%
■ PLEASE ■ DEVELOPABLE

UZ REPORTS IN 2020
DEVELOPABLE 2%
PLEASE 98%
■ DEVELOPABLE ■ PLEASE

UNIVERSIDAD			TOTAL		2017		2018		2019		2020	
			+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
UNIVERSIDAD SAN JORGE	GRADO	Verificación	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0
		Modificación	11	4	1	0	1	0	6	3	3	1
		Seguimiento	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Acreditación	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Nº TOTAL GRADOS	13	8	1	0	2	2	6	5	4	1
	MASTER	Verificación	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0
		Modificación	3	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
		Seguimiento	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
		Acreditación	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
		Acreditación 2º acreditación	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
		Nº TOTAL MÁSTERES	12	5	3	0	3	2	4	3	2	0
	DOCTORADO	Verificación	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
		Modificación	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Seguimiento	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		Acreditación	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Nº TOTAL DE DOCTORADOS	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
		TOTALES	26	14	4	0	6	5	10	8	6	1

From 1 January 2017 to 31 July 2020, 40 reports have been issued, of which 26 were favourable and 14 were unfavourable.

In the last year 2020, 7 reports have been issued of which 6 were favourable and 1 unfavourable.

USJ REPORTS SINCE 2017
- DEVELOPABLE 35%
- PLEASE 65%

USJ REPORTS IN 2020
- DEVELOPABLE 14%
- FAVOURABLE 86%

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For this operational process 205 different actions have been carried out with the universities aimed at improving the quality of the process itself.

With regard to evaluations for follow-up with visits and the renewal of accreditation of degrees, ACPUA works with the quality units and planning units of the universities to plan and coordinate visits to the different degrees. The Agency has maintained direct contact with the coordinators and heads of all the degree courses that have been subject to evaluation.

In addition, European criteria and standards require university quality agencies to have a continuous improvement attitude towards their evaluation processes (ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose). For this reason, the ACPUA introduced the following new features and improvements in the verification and modification processes:

In the month of September 2019:

- + interactions in INITIAL ACCREDITATION / MODIFICATION: Exceptionally, and as long as the legal deadlines allow it, the ACPUA Programmes Evaluation Committee (SET) may request additional information from the Universities about the modifications that have necessarily had to be introduced at the stage of allegations in order to obtain a favourable report on the initial accreditation / modification of programmes.

- GUIDELINES for the drafting and assessment of initial accreditation /modification reports for blended and online degrees: The Agency plans to publish an ACPUA document in the near future with guidelines for the drafting and subsequent assessment of verification/modification reports for degrees to be offered in blended or online modes (currently under consultation with universities and stakeholders).

- INITIAL ACCREDITATION / MODIFICATION OF PROGRAMMES. Academic Staff: In order to facilitate the presentation of information and the evaluation of point "6. Academic Staff" of the verification reports, tables have been prepared that can be included in these reports on a voluntary basis in the processes of verification and modification of qualifications and doctoral programmes. There are three tables, one for Bachelor's degrees, one for Master's degrees and one for doctoral programmes.

New features to be introduced in September 2020:

Reorganization of the initial accreditation and modification processes.

The ACPUA considers it necessary to organize and systematize communication between the Agency and the universities in a process as important as the verification and modification of degrees. The experience of these last years allows us to present some proposals to improve the work flows and gain in efficiency in the processes.

The central idea of this proposal is the establishment of an annual verification/modification campaign that will establish closed deadlines for the submission and evaluation of applications, allowing universities to integrate the processes into their procedures for quality assurance of degrees and strategic planning of their training offer.

The proposal revolves around a campaign with an annual planning of three items:

1. Information/training sessions for the people in charge of writing the modification/verification requests and the quality units.
2. Establishing deadlines for the submission and evaluation of applications for INITIAL ACCREDITATION and MODIFICATION, as is already done for ACCREDITATION.
3. Annual meta-evaluation of processes: Review and improvement sessions with the universities.

About the modification:

Universities propose changes to their degrees as a result of annual follow-up processes. Therefore, once the academic year is closed, the quality assurance committees approve the modifications to be made to the degrees so that they can be implemented the following year.

Specifically, the Universidad de Zaragoza ends its degree monitoring cycle with the issuing of the Annual Innovation and Improvement Plans at the end of February and Universidad San Jorge University with the Degree Report at the end of the year.

Taking into account the deadlines of the quality assurance systems of the degrees of both universities and given that the national regulations (RD 1393/2007) establish 3 months for the response by the ACPUA for the evaluation of the modifications, it is proposed that these be presented by the university during the month of March. The Agency will evaluate them by issuing reports at the beginning of July, in time for them to be implemented. During February ACPUA will organise training/information sessions for the people who will draft the amendments in order to ensure the highest success rate of the process.

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About initial accreditation:

The initial accreditation of new titles is a process that needs more time. Universities require approval of degrees with sufficient time to advertise them and register students. Therefore, they should have the verified reports approved by the end of May (to give time for the process of the Directorate General for Universities before the implementation is authorised). ORDER IIU/969/2017, of 23 June, which regulates the procedure for the implementation, monitoring, modification, renewal of accreditation and removal of official university education in the Autonomous Community of Aragon, establishes that universities must request the report on adaptation to the programme before 30 September. Once this procedure has been completed, and given that the initial accreditation has a legal deadline (RD1393/2007) of six months, the initial accreditation assessment proposals should enter the Agency during the month of November. Once the evaluation period has ended, the universities will have the ACPUA verification reports in April, with sufficient time to request the implementation of the degrees from the DGU before 31 May, which means that they will be able to implement the programmes in September.

Before submitting verification requests in November, the Agency will hold training sessions in September for the teams responsible for drafting the initial accreditation study plans.

Meta-evaluation:

Once both processes have been completed, during the month of June, the Agency will hold consultation sessions with the universities to analyse the initial accreditation /modification campaign, detect possible improvements and adjust the procedures for the new campaign.

3. 206 Operating Process

206 OPERATING PROCESS referring to the assessment of centres, since 1 January 2017 the following evaluation activities have been carried out with complete normality:

- Certification of the University of Zaragoza's Teaching Complement: an annual report is produced (at the end of the year) that allows the University of Zaragoza to proceed with the payment of recognised complements to its teaching and research staff. + info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/certificacion-procesos-de-evaluacion-del-profesorado
- Training Schools Accreditation: this certifies the educational centres supported with public funds from the Autonomous Community of Aragon that take on work placements for students in nursery and primary education, for students on the University Master's Degree in teaching compulsory secondary education, high school, professional training and language, artistic and sports teaching and for students on the pedagogical and didactic training course for technical teachers in professional training and sports teaching at the University of Zaragoza. + info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/certificacion-de-centros-de-practicas
- *DOCENTIA* Programme: the DOCENTIA programme is a programme developed by ANECA together with the regional agencies to help universities to provide assessment programmes for their teaching staff. The last report issued jointly (ANECA-ACPUA) for the University of Zaragoza is dated April 2018 and considered *"the procedure designed by the University of Zaragoza for the evaluation of its teaching staff's teaching activity"* to be **POSITIVE**. + info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/docentia The last report issued jointly (ANECA-ACPUA) on design verification for San Jorge University dated February 2008 was considered **POSITIVE**.
- ALCAEUS Programme for the 2030 certification of Universities and Centres: This is a programme that aims to evaluate the commitment of centres and universities to the 2010 United Nations Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals. The Agency has launched a pilot programme with two centres of the University of Zaragoza: The School of Engineering and Architecture (EINA) and the Higher Polytechnic School of Huesca. + info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/alcaeus-nuestro-programa-para-la-certificacion-2030-de-universidades-y-centros
- ACPUA's PACE-SGIC programme for the certification of the implementation of the Internal Quality Assurance System of the centres (evaluation results of the SUA are attached).
- Institutional Accreditation (SUA evaluation results attached)

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Timeline and results of the evaluation of the PACE-SGIC programme and the Institutional Accreditation in the SUA

University	Centre	RUCT Code	Validity	Referral request and/or self-report	Visit	Issuance of visit report	Issuance of the proposed report	New visit	Issuance of the final report and/or certification	Application for institutional accreditatio n	Favourable ACPUA report	Concession of institutional accreditatio n	Total elapsed time
University of Zaragoza	School of Engineering and Architecture (EINA)	50012177	From 21/09/2018 to 02/12/2021	20/07/2018	WITH AUDIT	WITH AUDIT	WITH AUDIT	WITH AUDIT	21/09/2018	05/10/2018	15/11/2018	28/11/2018 (favourabl e)	131 days
University of Zaragoza	Higher Polytechnic School (EPSH)	22004670	From 21/09/2018 to 02/12/2021	02/10/2018	WITH AUDIT	WITH AUDIT	WITH AUDIT	WITH AUDIT	26/10/2018	12/11/2018	10/12/2018	28/02/2019 (favourabl e)	149 days
St. George's University	Faculty of Health Sciences	50012013	From 23/10/2019 to 23/10/2024	28/01/2019	07/03/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	20/03/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	19/04/18 (WITH AUDIT)	09/10/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	23/10/2019	14/02/2020	08/05/2020	18/05/2020 (favourabl e)	476 days
St. George's University	Faculty of Communicatio n and Social Sciences	50011941	From 23/10/2019 to 23/10/2024	28/01/2019	06/03/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	20/03/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	19/04/18 (WITH AUDIT)	09/10/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	23/10/2019	07/11/2019	07/01/2020	10/03/2020 (favourabl e)	407 Days
St. George's University	School of Architecture and Technology	50011938	From 23/10/2019 to 23/10/2024	28/01/2019	08/03/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	20/03/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	19/04/18 (WITH AUDIT)	09/10/2019 (WITH AUDIT)	23/10/2019	14/02/2020	08/05/2020	18/05/2020 (favourabl e)	476 days
University of Zaragoza	Faculty of Philosophy and Arts	50008861	In process	17/07/2019	14/01/2020	08/06/2020	10/07/2020						280

- The request was submitted on 17 July 2019, but the final self-report was not submitted until 10 December 2019, following the meeting between ACPUA and FYL on 26 November 2019.
- FROM 14/03/2020 TO 01/06/2020 [79 days] SUSPENDED TERMS HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19 (STATE OF ALARM).

During 2018, ACPUA refined the corresponding assessment tools. After having held regular meetings with the Aragon universities during the design phase, on the 28th of February 2018 a session was held in the Paraninfo of the University of Zaragoza for the public presentation of the main evaluation instrument, the ACPUA's PACE-SGIC Programme for the certification of the IQAS of the centres. This session was attended by the Deans of the different Faculties, as well as by the Directors of schools and centres. The Programme was also presented at the San Jorge University.

In accordance with national criteria, this PACE Programme recognises, for the purpose of obtaining from ACPUA the certification of the centre that qualifies to apply for institutional accreditation, the AUDIT certificates in force. In this case, the protocol provides that the Agency will issue a Certificate of Implementation of the Quality Assurance System with a period of validity identical to that of the AUDIT Certificate enjoyed by the centre concerned. + info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/programa-pace-sgic-0

In 2019, the ACPUA continued its work of accompanying the universities and centres of the University System of Aragon, holding preparatory technical meetings with various centres of the System. It also organised a new training and explanation seminar on the ACPUA's PACE-SGIC programme and institutional accreditation aimed at teams and centres of the Aragonese universities. + info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acreditacion-institucional

Link to information about the event.

Illustration 1Multipurpose Hall Expo Zaragoza Empresarial. Conference on PACE-SGIC and institutional accreditation

In addition, since 2019 "Dialog Meetings" have been held. Adopting the most advanced practices of the agencies operating in the European Higher Education Area, ACPUA launched a new action with the aim of dialogue on the needs and advances in quality of the centres that make up the university system of Aragon, thus increasing the feedback it receives from them. Under the title of "Dialogue Meeting/Conversations with the centres", this friendly form of pulse and monitoring of the system consists essentially of interviews or conversations of approximately one hour's duration with each of its deans, directors or management teams.

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4. 207 Operating Process

> **207 OPERATING PROCESS** concerning the assessment of research, since 1 January 2017 the following evaluation activity has been carried out as normal:

Periodic evaluation of University Research Institutes

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

In January 2018 it was already five years since the following University Institutes of Aragon of the University of Zaragoza were submitted for the first time to this periodic evaluation by the ACPUA: the University Institute for Research in Biocomputation and Physics of Complex Systems (BIFI); the University Institute for Research in Nanoscience of Aragon (INA); the University Institute for Research in Engineering of Aragon (I3A) and the University Institute for Research in Mathematics and Applications (IUMA).

This meant that throughout 2018 the assessment of 9 University Research Institutes of the University of Zaragoza was carried out, as the Agro-Food Institute of Aragon (IA2) also joined the campaign voluntarily, despite being a recently created institute.

To this end, ACPUA initiated a process of reflection on the tools (evaluation protocol and self-reporting model) for the development of this evaluation. The reflection, shared with the Directorate General for Universities and the Directorate General for Research and Innovation, was based on the feedback that was obtained five years ago from the institutes evaluated, from the Vice-Rector's Office for Scientific Policy of the University of Zaragoza, as well as from the Agency's evaluators and other collaborators that participated in the initial evaluation and meta-evaluation processes.

The ACPUA presented the evaluation campaign of the University Research Institutes on the 12th February, in a meeting with the Vice Rector of Science Policy of the University of Zaragoza and the Directors of the nine IUIs of that university. After this presentation to the interested parties, a new period of consultation was opened for the Institutes regarding the Criteria, Guidelines and Evidence for the evaluation foreseen in the "Framework Document: ACPUA Periodic Evaluation Programme for University Research Institutes".

Following the protocol for the Periodic Evaluation of University Research Institutes finally approved on 24 April 2018 by the Commission of Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation (CECA), and subsequently published on the Agency's website, in 2018 ACPUA carried out the periodic evaluation with the result of a **FAVOURABLE REPORT in** all the Institutes subject to evaluation, which were the following:

- Engineering Research Institute of Aragon (I3A)
- University Institute of Mathematics Research (IUMA)
- Institute of Chemical Synthesis and Homogeneous Catalysis (ISQCH)
- Food and Agriculture Institute of Aragon (IA2)
- Institute for Biocomputation and Physics of Complex Systems (BIFI)
- University Research Institute CIRCE (I. CIRCE)
- University Institute of Environmental Sciences (IUCA)
- Institute of Nanoscience of Aragon (INA)
- Institute of Materials Science of Aragon (ICMA)

+ info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/institutos-universitarios-de-investigacion

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5. 210 Operating Process

> **210 OPERATING PROCESS 210** concerning the assessment of persons, since 1 January 2017 the following assessment activities have been carried out as normal:

Assessment of research activity (six years of research)

Process and results of the assessment in 2017

The assessment of the research activity during 2017 was carried out on both the full-time teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, as well as on the teaching staff of the Centro Universitario de la Defensa (CUD) and the non-permanent research staff of CITA, evaluating six-year periods of research activity (six years) with criteria similar to those used at a national level for civil servants by the National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI).

By Resolution of the Management of the ACPUA of 30 January 2017 (BOA dated 16 February 2017), the teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, the University Centre for Defence (CUD) and the non-permanent research staff of CITA were invited to present applications for the evaluation of their research activity.

At the end of the deadline set in the relevant call and after the remediation process, the total number of applications was 101 (109 six-year periods). 80 applications corresponding to professors from the University of Zaragoza, 19 to professors from the University Defence Centre and 2 to researchers from the Agro-Food Research and Technology Centre of Aragon.

The evaluation showed the following results: 72 favourable six-year periods (82.8%) compared to 15 unfavourable ones at the University of Zaragoza; 18 positives and 2 negative from the CUD; and 2 positive applications from CITA.

Assessment process and results in 2018

In 2018 the evaluation of the research activity was carried out with regard to the applications received from the full-time teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, as well as the teaching staff of the CUD, EUPLA and ETUZ, and the research staff of CITA and IACS. In all cases, six-year periods of research activity were evaluated with similar criteria to those used at a national level for civil servants by the CNEAI.

At the end of the period set in the corresponding calls, the administrative review of the applications received and the process of correcting them, the total number of **six-years periods requested** was **252**. 161 of the applications corresponded to lecturers from the University of Zaragoza, 52 to lecturers from the CUD, 14 to lecturers from EUPLA, 2 to lecturers from ETUZ and 23 to researchers from the IACS.

The final evaluation, after a review of resources, produced the following results:

- 137 six-year periods granted (85.1%) compared to 24 denied to applicants from the University of Zaragoza;

- 42 positive (80.7%) and 10 negative with respect to the CUD;

- 11 positive (78.6%) and 3 negative from EUPLA

- 2 positive (100%) ETUZ

- 23 positive (100%) from IACS;

Assessment processes and results in 2019

During 2019, the evaluation of the research activity was carried out with regard to the applications received from the full-time teaching staff of the University of Zaragoza, as well as the teaching staff of the CUD, EUPLA and ETUZ regarding the research staff of CITA and IACS. In all cases, six-year periods of research activity were evaluated with similar criteria to those used at a national level for civil servants by the CNEAI.

At the end of the period set in the corresponding calls, the administrative review of the applications received and the process of correcting them, the total number of six-year periods requested was 181. Of the total number of six-year periods, 122 corresponded to professors from the University of Zaragoza, 21 to professors from the CUD, 3 to professors from EUPLA, 11 to researchers from the IACS, 5 to researchers from CITA, 19 to "Ramón y Cajal" and researchers in the form of "Access contract to the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System". In 2019 there were no applications from ETUZ staff.

The final evaluation, after a review of resources, produced the following results:

- 101 six-year periods granted (82.8%) compared to 21 (17.2%) denied to applicants from the University of Zaragoza.

- 20 positive (95.0%) and 1 negative (5.0%) to CUD applicants.

- 3 six-year periods granted (100%) with respect to EUPLA.

- 9 six-year periods granted (81.8%) compared to 2 denied (18.2%) to applicants from the Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences (IACS).

- 5 six-year periods grants (100%) in respect of the Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Alimentaria de Aragón (CITA).

- 19 six-year periods granted (100%) with respect to the figures of "Ramón y Cajal" and researchers in the modality of "Contract for access to the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System

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Assessment process and results in 2020

The assessment process for 2020 is proceeding normally despite the exceptional situation (state of alert) caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

From the very beginning, the Agency has been able to carry out its activity (in the form of teleworking) including the attention to the interested party via e-mail and personal mobile phones of the technical staff (which can be consulted on the Agency's website).

+ info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/profesorado-sexenios-de-investigacion

Accreditation of Senior Lecturer with Clinical Attachment

Illustration 2Meeting of the Working Group for the creation of the Protocol for the Accreditation of Hired Teaching Staff with Clinical Links (09/09/2019)

The purpose of this evaluation activity is to offer to the institutions that have ACPUA as an evaluation and certification agency, as well as to the different interest groups (teachers, reviewers and experts, Administration, professionals, employers, etc.), a joint reference text describing both the criteria and the assessment procedure that the Agency follows when it exercises the competence of accrediting contracted teaching staff with clinical links to the Aragon Health Service (SALUD), which is attributed to it by the regulations in force (the contracting of this teaching staff figure "will require the possession of the appropriate specialist health sciences degree and prior positive assessment by the Agency for Quality and University Prospects of Aragon in accordance with the protocol established for this purpose").

In 2019 the ACPUA held the following seminar:

Seminar: The accreditation of the Senior Lecturer with Clinical Attachment to the Andalusian Public Health System. Given by Francisco Gracia, Director of Evaluation and Accreditation of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency (DEVA-AAC).

Place: Degree Room of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zaragoza.
Date: 21 January
Link: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/noticias/la-agencia-de-andalucia-explica-en-zaragoza-la-evaluacion-del-profesorado-contratado-doctor

Illustration 3 Francisco Gracia, Director of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency

On 21 January 2019, a new session of the ACPUA Seminars on University Quality took place in the Graduation Hall of the Faculty of Medicine. Francisco Gracia, Director of Evaluation and Accreditation of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency and Professor of Cellular Biology with extensive research and management experience in the biomedical field (he has been, among other important posts, Secretary General of Universities and Research of the Andalusian Regional Government and Director of the Carlos III Health Institute), explained the genesis, implementation, development and results of the evaluation of the new figure of the teaching staff hired as doctors with links to the Andalusian health system. This explanation was enriched with first-hand information about the new María Castellano Arroyo Programme of the Regional Government of Andalusia, which aims to encourage residents to pursue their careers towards accreditation as contracted doctor linked to the health system through an interesting system of prior recruitment.

The holding of this ACPUA seminar was particularly timely given that this new teaching staff figure had just been legally implemented in Aragon (Decree 206/2018, of 21 November, of the Government of Aragon, BOA of 29 November), which will require future doctors with clinical links to have a prior positive evaluation by the ACPUA.

In addition, in 2019 a working group led by APCUA was set up with the participation of the University of Zaragoza, the Aragon Health Service and the Directorate General of Universities of the Government of Aragon to create a proposal for an accreditation protocol for teaching staff hired as doctors with clinical links.

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Today, the actions of the Working Group in charge of the proposal of this protocol have been completed. The proposal was approved (after a period of consultation with the interested parties) by the ACPUA Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation Commission at its meeting on 14 May 2020 and published on the Agency's website.

The first call will be held shortly, for which technical meetings are being held to allow and guarantee the participation via telematics (as well as the evaluation of the research activity) of those interested, both in the certification of clinical and healthcare merits to be obtained by the Aragon Health Service of the Government of Aragon and in the application for accreditation to be made before the ACPUA.

+ info: https://acpua.aragon.es/es/acreditacion-del-profesorado-contratado-doctor-con-vinculacion-clinica