

European Quality Assurance

Forum EQAF

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Measuring the degree of commitment to the SDGs/Agenda 2030

The *ALCAEUS* Programme

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ACPUA

AGENCIA DE CALIDAD Y PROSPECTIVA
UNIVERSITARIA DE ARAGÓN

"I remember that I lived a great experience in Zaragoza and I remember the beauty of its name"
Chick Corea (1941-2021)

The **ALCAEUS Programme** is an institutional evaluation framework to **assess the degree of COMMITMENT to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in faculties/schools and universities.



*You are on board... "and the anchors have broken free".
(Alcaeus, ca. 620 a.C. – ca. 580 a.C.)*

The Agenda 2030 certification of these centres within the programme has the **main objective of giving visibility to the effort** that institutions are making to comply with the SDGs as set out in the United Nations Agenda 2030.



Evaluation scheme established by national legislation/based on regional regulations/developed by ACPUA

ALCAEUS Programme / Agenda 2030

- *ALCAEUS is a voluntary scheme designed to provide visibility to institutions or centres that demonstrate commitment and contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) / Agenda 2030.*
- *It has been inspired by the INQAAHE project ‘Making connections between the institutional evaluation and the Sustainable Development Goals’.*
- *The pilot run of the Programme is scheduled for December 2020. ALCAEUS will be open to institutions and centres which have successfully undergone an IQAS certification review. It will be based on a SAR and a site visit and will end with an evaluation report.*
- *ACPUA will take final decisions and award a quality label for five years. Institutions will submit annual follow-up reports.*



- The programme measures the centre's commitment to the 2030 Agenda (it does not measure the development of a particular SDG).
- A committed centre includes the development of the 2030 Agenda in its strategic plan, as a line of work down to the different levels of its organisation.
- The actions that the institution develops in response to its commitment to the 2030 Agenda are planned, monitored and their impact is evaluated through its IQAS.
- The staff of the centre are aware of the 2030 Agenda.
- The centre takes into account the 2030 Agenda in its teaching programmes.
- The center sets up alliances and disseminates information on the 2030 Agenda.



The HEI and the ALCAEUS programme:

- It provides a strategic framework, including the Agenda 2030
- It collects and orders the actions related to the SDGs.
- It opens up a space for reflection and debate within the institution for the purpose of self-evaluation.
- It encourages the community to achieve a common quantifiable goal: external recognition.

The university also obtains a certificate since the moment its first faculty obtains an ALCAEUS certificate.





Any institution or centre with Institutional Accreditation from a quality agency that complies with the ESG can apply for this assessment.



A panel of experts on Agenda 2030/sustainability will be appointed (from outside the local or regional Higher Education System)

- a teaching staff *at least...*
- a student
- a professional or external stakeholder
- an international expert
- an ACPUA officer as secretary (*non-voting member*)

One member of the panel will act as chairperson.

ACPUA Subcommittee on Centre Evaluation (SEC) will be the evaluation body responsible.



SEC

Subcomisión de Evaluación de
Centros de la ACPUA



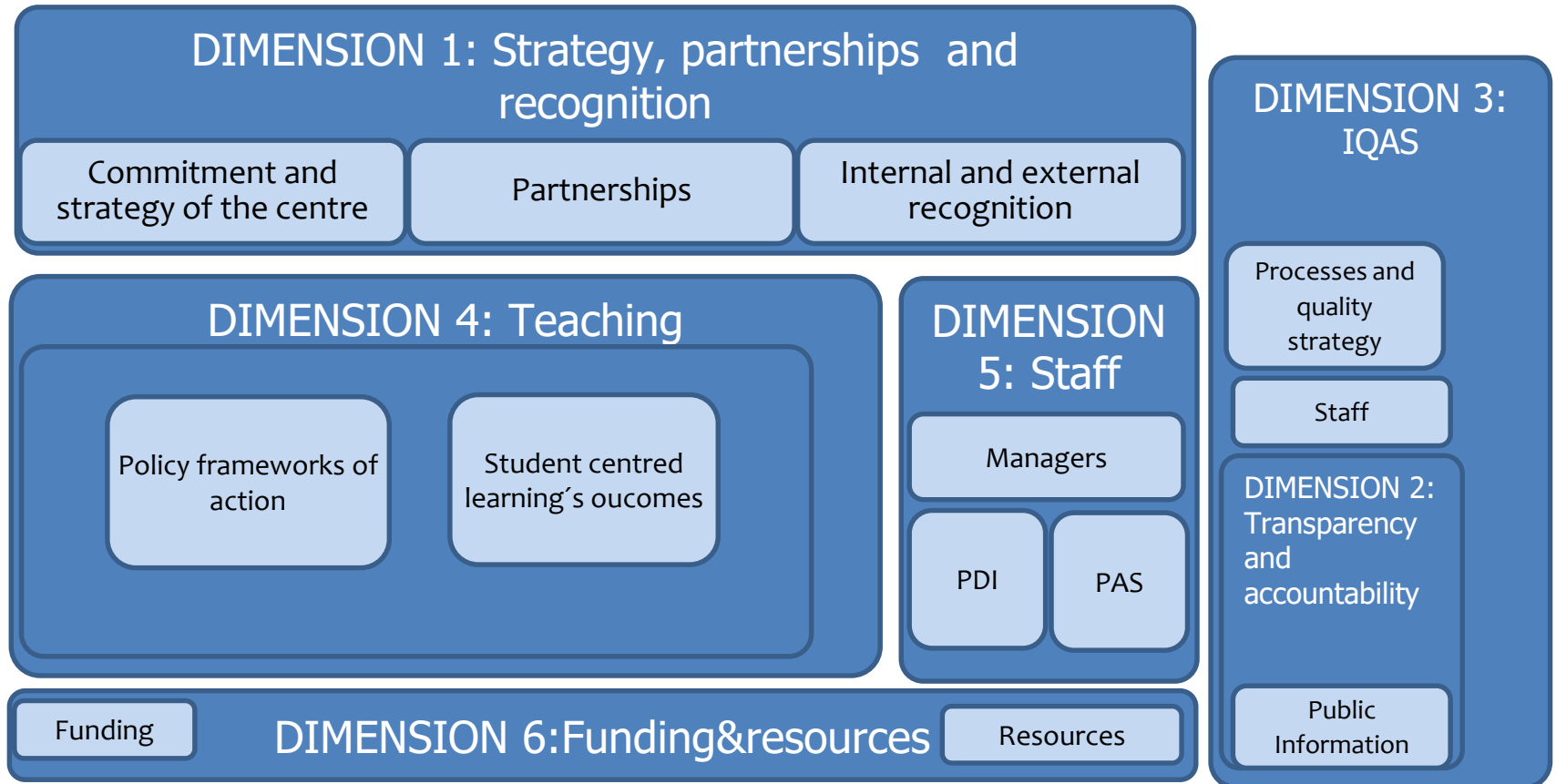
- 1. Initial evaluation:** Analysis and evaluation of the documentation provided by the evaluated institution (SAR and evidence).
- 2. Site visit:** A visit to the centre by the review panel.
- 3. Initial report:** The visit report, together with all available background information, will be submitted by the panel to the ACPUA Institutional Evaluation Committee (SEC) which will draft the initial report.
- 4. phase:** The initial report will be sent to the institution for comment within 20 days.
- 5. Final report:** After taking in account the statement by the institution, the ACPUA Institutional Evaluation Committee (SEC) may ask the review panel to check the report before issuing the final version. This final report will contain an overall score that will determine the level of certification of the centre.
- 6. Certification:** according to final result.



The certification result is based on a qualitative analysis of the evaluation dimensions, transferred to a quantitative result.

A weighting is assigned to each evaluation dimension within the overall evaluation protocol.





Weighting

DIMENSION	% SCORE
Dimension 1: Strategy, partnerships and recognition	30%
Dimension 2: Transparency and accountability	15%
Dimension 3: Internal Quality Assurance system (IQAS)	10%
Dimension 4: Programmes (for faculties and institutions)	25%
Dimension 5: Staff	10%
Dimension 6: Funding and resources	10%



Criterion 1.1: Commitment and strategy of the centre

The centre is committed to the SDGs. The centre defines actions, which it reviews periodically, for the incorporation of the SDGs in its governance, involving the different stakeholders

Criterion 1.2: Partnerships

The centre establishes strategic alliances with external partners (higher education institutions, research centres, non-profit organisations, companies, etc.) at local, regional, national or international level that are useful and effective in supporting the integration of SDGs in the centre

Criterion 1.3: Internal and external recognition

The practices carried out in the implementation of the SDGs are recognised through internal and external recognition



Criterion 2.1: Public information

The centre publishes all relevant information concerning the implementation of the SDGs



Criterion 3.1: Processes and quality strategy

The centre's Quality Assurance system integrates the SDGs vision as a central commitment

Criterion 3.2: Staff responsible for the Quality Assurance system

The staff responsible for the Quality Assurance system are trained to integrate SDGs into their work development



Criterion 4.1: Development of policy frameworks

The centre has developed a teaching strategy aimed to provide knowledge, competences and skills on students due to understand and tackle the SDGs.

Criterion 4.2: Student-centred learning. Learning outcomes

The programmes “student-centred learning” allow students to acquire learning outcomes (knowledge, competences and skills) related to SDGs, focused on the imparted degrees.



Criterion 5.1: Heads of teaching provision / research activity

Those responsible for the centre's teaching provision/research activity are trained to integrate SDG into their academic or research management work

Criterion 5.2: Teaching and research staff

The centre's teaching and research staff are trained to integrate SDG into their teaching or research activity

Criterion 5.3: Administrative and support staff

The centre's administration and support staff are trained to integrate the SDGs into their work



Criterion 6.1: Internal and/or external funding

The centre has internal and/or external funding that is allocated to SDG-related initiatives

Criterion 6.2: Resources

A capable and qualified team or working group has been set up at the centre to plan, implement and evaluate the initiatives set out in the SDG action plan





+ other evidence proposed by the institution

Interviews with stakeholders:

- Institutional management (academic, research, finance, human resources, etc.)
- Faculty/centre management
- Programme leaders
- Teaching staff
- Students
- SDG working group
- Quality assurance staff
- Research groups
- Administration and support staff
- External alliances
- + Others proposed by the institution



ACPUA has finished a **pilot programme** with the two University of Zaragoza schools that have already obtained institutional accreditation:

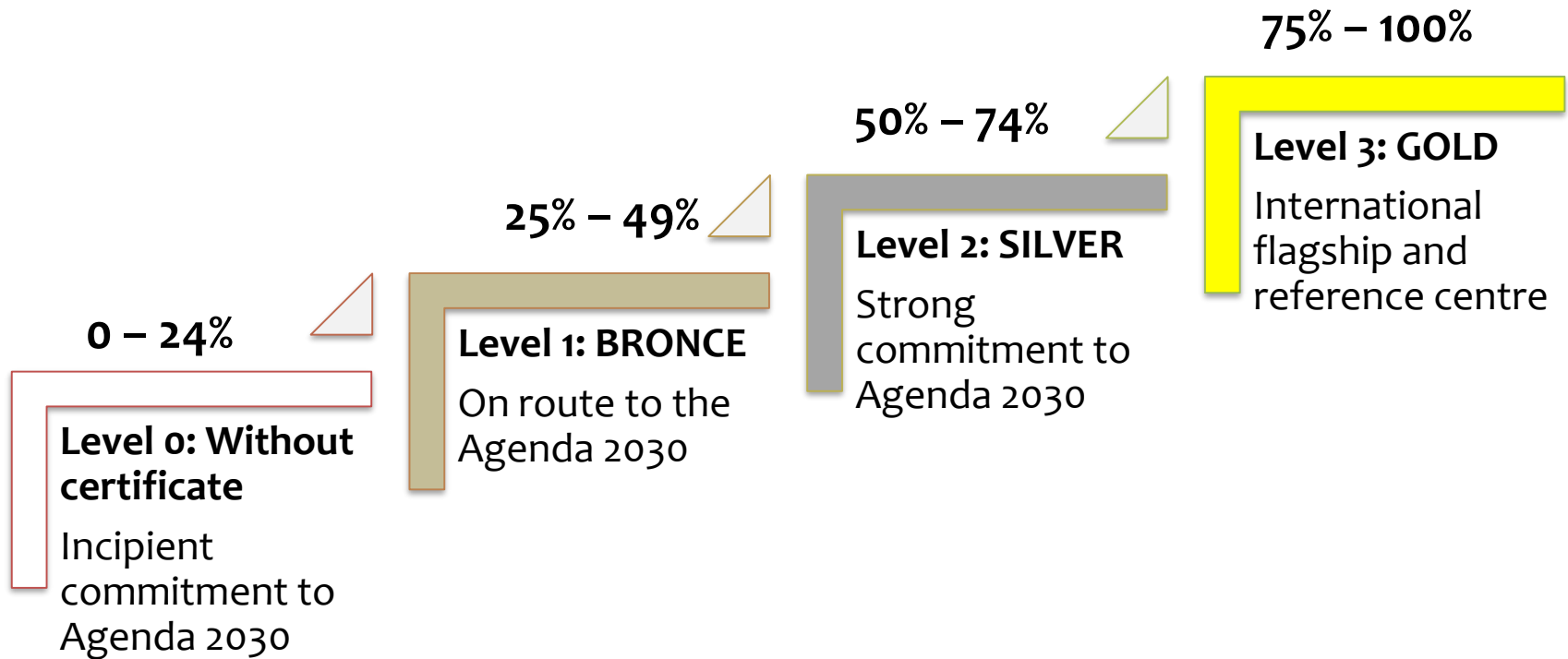


Escuela Politécnica Superior de Huesca
(Polytechnic School of Huesca)



Escuela de Ingeniería y Arquitectura
(School of Engineering and Architecture)





The certification 2030 will have a **duration of 6 years** and will be **renewable** for successive periods of equal duration.





ALCAEUS PROGRAMME



ACPUA
AGENCIA DE CALIDAD Y PROSPECTIVA
UNIVERSITARIA DE ARAGÓN










**CERTIFICATION 2030
OF UNIVERSITIES AND CENTRES**

*You are on board... "and the anchors have broken free". ALCAEUS
(Alceo de Mitilene ca. 620 a.C. – ca. 580 a.C.)*

**STRONG COMMITMENT WITH THE
AGENDA 2030**



ESG	Compliance part 2	ALCAEUS Programme - Certification SDG/Agenda 2030: singularities and improvements
2.1		This new Programme is aimed at centers that have already obtained certification of their Internal Quality Assurance System.
2.2		The design of this protocol has been preceded by a very novel, intense and unparalleled experimental process of consultation and participation with internal and external stakeholders in Aragon (Project Making connections between the Institutional Evaluation and the Sustainable Development Goals).
2.3		The Committee (SEC) that prepares the evaluation report has recently been reformed to increase the technical capacity and versatility of the experts. This Committee includes international experts.
2.4		The training of the experts participating in the panels is bilingual (in Spanish and English), in order to have a greater number of international experts who can join the panels.
2.5		
2.6		
2.7		



ANALYSIS

The panel fully agrees with ACPUA that the ALCAEUS Programme, which aims to raise the visibility of HEIs or centres that carry forward the SDGs, should be widely promoted in Spain and beyond. This is a pioneering scheme designed to enhance the social dimension of higher education, and a flagship example of how the agency responds to the interests and needs of its stakeholders.



ESG 3.1: The panel commends ACPUA for developing ALCAEUS as a pioneering evaluation scheme focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to enhance the social dimension of higher education in Aragon.

The panel commends ACPUA for ensuring extensive and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including students and professional and social partners, as well as international experts, in its governance and external quality assurance processes.

ESG 3.5: The panel commends ACPUA for the professionalism of its staff and their passionate commitment to work which is highly valued by its stakeholders.

The panel commends ACPUA for the significant increase in the funding allocated to development work.

ESG 3.6: The panel commends ACPUA for its responsiveness to the feedback collected from stakeholders in a continuous effort to enhance its policies, structures and procedures.

The panel commends ACPUA for its efforts to ensure that the principles of tolerance, non-discrimination, equality and gender balance feature prominently in its policy and practice.

ESG 2.2: The panel commends ACPUA for involving extensively all stakeholders in the design of its evaluation methodologies, and for seeking regularly and integrating their inputs in continuous improvement of its processes.

ESG 2.4: The panel commends ACPUA for involving international experts in all programme reaccreditation reviews.



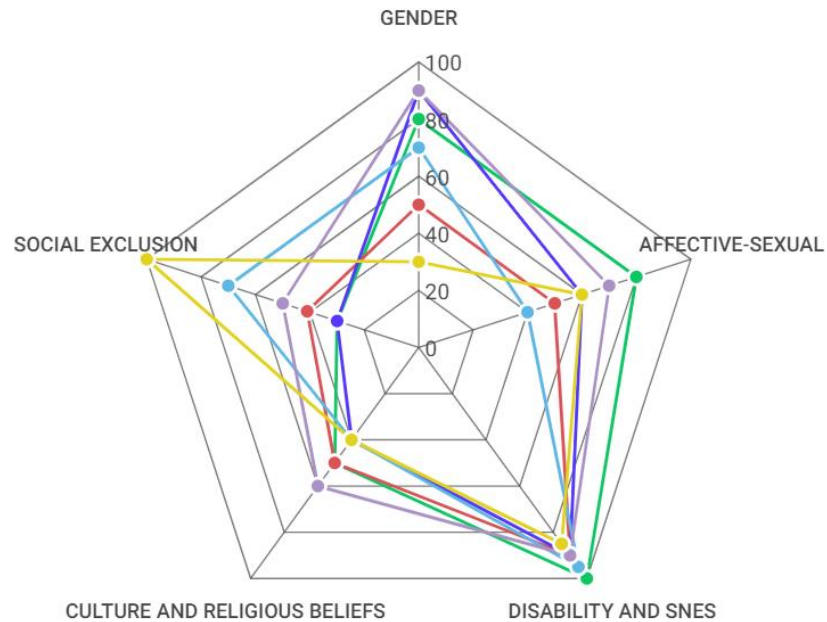
Line	Strategic line	2021 Annual goal	2022 Annual goal
L5	DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF QUALITY	To implement the ALCAEUS Programme	To consolidate the ALCAEUS Programme
		To contribute to effective respect for sexual diversity of people from Aragon Higher Education Centres	To launch an ACPUA label of respect for diversity



Diversity LABEL

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF QUALITY





Graphic representation (all dimensions example)

- Institutional Strategy
- Transparency and communication
- Quality systems
- Training and research
- University community
- Funding and resources



Challenges

- 1.- ALCAEUS International: launching the new protocol
- 2.- The label: relevance and role (simbology!)
- 3.- Connections with other programmes and labels (study programmes accreditation; ACPUA programme on diversity)

New developments:

- 1.- Not only environmental sostenibility: the SDGs as a whole
- 2.- HEI can request up to 3 SDGs of special commitment
- 3.- Follow-up
- 4.- Simplification (SER, procedure)



Any questions?



Do you think that this voluntary scheme evaluation properly responds to the worldwide sustainability (SDGs) challenges?

Do you believe in this programme, as a transferable practice to different current contexts within the EHEA?



Thank you very much

Visit our website:

[ACPUA Certification Programme 2030: ALCAEUS | Agencia de Calidad y Prospectiva Universitaria de Aragón \(ACPUA\) \(aragon.es\)](http://aragon.es)

Sign up for our Reviewer Database:

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We are at your disposal at:

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