



Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de **Catalunya**

ANNUAL REPORT

2012



Generalitat
de Catalunya



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Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de Catalunya

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FOREWORD

The set objective for the ANNUAL REPORT for 2012 is the accountability and total transparency of the activities carried out by AQU Catalunya over the last twelve months.

As a result of the current economic situation, the Agency has had to take measures to reduce expenditure and optimise available resources. Certain activities planned at the beginning of the year had to be postponed due to the lack of human and economic resources, while others had to be refined so they could be undertaken. On balance, however, the outcome was more than satisfactory given that the efforts made by the Agency enabled its core activities to be maintained, in addition to the fact that it successfully secured external financing for projects in the international sphere that we believe will have positive repercussions for higher education and the universities in Catalonia.

Practically all of the commitments set out in the plan of activities (action plan) envisaged for 2012 were in fact fulfilled. Among the activities carried out, particular mention is made of the fact that, for the second time (2007, 2012), the Agency successfully underwent the international external review of its compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG), as a result of which it continues to maintain its status as a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA, www.enqa.eu) and its listing with the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR, www.eqar.eu), in addition to placing it among the top two European quality assurance agencies that best comply with European standards.

All of the activities set out in this document were carried out by the individuals who participated in AQU Catalunya's various governing, review and quality assurance (QA) bodies and staff. I am sincerely grateful to all of them for their involvement in developing the Agency's activities and for their meaningful participation, which has enabled us to actualise the fundamental principle upon which AQU Catalunya is based, namely, to improve day after day.

Josep A. Ferré Vidal

Director

0. INTRODUCTION

2012 was fundamentally marked by the implementation of the Framework for the validation, monitoring, modification and accreditation of recognised university degrees and programmes (referred to as the VSMA Framework¹) and the international external review of AQU Catalunya for the Agency to continue as a full member of ENQA and to maintain its listing with EQAR. In summary, the main activities in 2012 were as follows:

- **Quality assurance of institutions and programmes:** continuation of the roll out of the VSMA Framework and development of the methodology for the accreditation of Bachelor and Master's degrees, including the external site visits to faculties and schools, and the start of the quality assurance of higher awards in the performing arts and visual arts.
- **Quality assurance of teaching:** the pre-selection assessment of teaching staff for contract teaching posts; monitoring of the handbooks used for teaching assessment at public universities in Catalonia, which come up for accreditation in 2014, and the start of the monitoring of the handbooks used for teaching assessment at private universities.
- **Knowledge generation:** expansion of the WINDDAT webpage with indicators on the development of degree programmes; the start of the student satisfaction survey project, the fifth labour market outcomes (graduate destinations) survey, and production of the report entitled *Catalan universities: their contribution to knowledge, learning and employment*.
- **Internationalisation:** institutional contacts at international level maintained with the European associations that the Agency is associated with, and participation in international projects and reviews to generate added value for Catalan universities.
- **Strategic management and communication:** review of the Agency in accordance with the European standards and guidelines to renew its status as a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA, www.enqa.eu) and maintain its listing with the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).
- **Internal organisation:** accountability and optimising of the allocation of human and physical resources to the Agency's different projects and activities; relocation of the Agency's offices; and the start of the implementation of ISO standard 27001 for information security.

¹ VSMA - from the acronym for the framework in Catalan (*Marc per a la verificació, el seguiment, les modificacions i l'acreditació de les titulacions universitàries oficials*)

1. QUALITY ASSURANCE OF INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMMES

One year on from the launch of the processes involving the validation, monitoring and modification of recognised degree programmes within the context of the VSMA Framework, AQU Catalunya analysed the development and results of these processes by way of a **meta-evaluation**, which included obtaining the opinion of the three key actors involved in the validation, monitoring and modification of recognised degree programmes and awards, namely, the reviewers, programme coordinators and heads of quality units, and university officials. While the overall assessment of the process is positive, the actors were of the opinion that the process is rigid and could be simplified.

These findings were presented in the **Workshop on the Meta-evaluation of the validation, monitoring and modification of recognised degree programmes and awards**, organised in collaboration with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). As a result of the findings of the meta-evaluation and the conclusions of the Workshop, the Board of Management of AQU Catalunya issued a communiqué, “**Yes to validation, no to the current procedure**”, in which it set out its position regarding the quality assurance of degree programmes.

Together with the universities and the Directorate General for Universities, the Agency agreed on the timetable for the programme reviews. The objectives of the timing for the various QA processes in the VSMA Framework are to have degree course proposals validated after their authorisation by the Commission for Academic Programming and Governance (Interuniversity Council of Catalonia/CIC) and prior to their being included in the university admissions pre-registration process; and also to distribute the review processes in a consistent way throughout the year.

1. Validation

AQU Catalunya carried out the ex-ante assessment of proposals for Bachelor, Master's and doctorate degree programmes at Catalan universities for introduction in the 2012-2013 academic year. This was undertaken in accordance with the implementation of the VSMA Framework.



Validation allows the Agency to assure the quality of the design of proposals for recognised university Bachelor and Master's degrees and doctorate programmes through an enhancement-oriented process; promote the formulation of proposals for new programmes that are appropriate in terms

of content and form; and establish equivalent and linked QA procedures for Bachelor's, Master's and doctorate degree courses, amongst others.

The validation of Bachelor's and Master's programmes is based on the *Guide to the formulation and validation (ex-ante accreditation) of proposals for recognised Bachelor and Master's degrees* (AQU Catalunya, 2011), while for the validation of doctorate programmes use is made of the *Guide to the formulation and validation (ex-ante accreditation) of proposals for recognised doctorate programmes* (AQU Catalunya, 2011).

A total of 213 proposals (12 Bachelor's, 146 Master's and 55 doctorate programmes) were submitted by Catalan universities for validation. 90% received a favourable evaluation, which represents an increase of 192% compared to 2011. This increase was due to the CIC's agreement concerning university planning and implementation in Catalonia, according to which degrees that have already been validated and introduced must undergo revalidation.

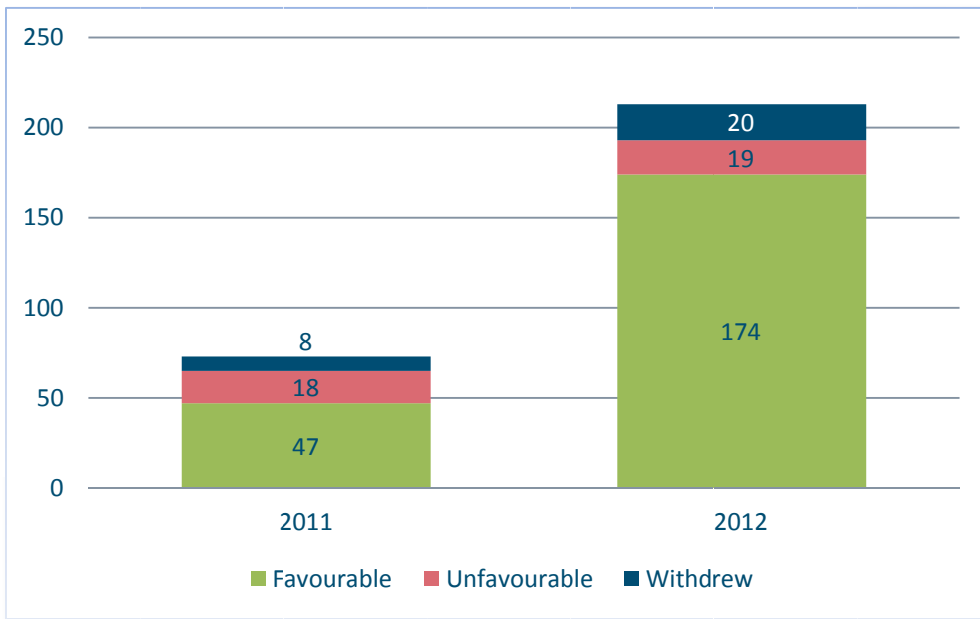
Table 1. Result of validation (ex-ante assessment), according to university. 2012

	UB	UAB	UPC	UPF	UdG	UdL	URV	URL	UOC	UVic	UIC	UAO	Total
Bachelor's	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	12
Master's	47	24	13	8	5	8	13	8	7	5	1	7	146
Doctorate programmes	12	9	24	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	55
Total	60	34	38	19	6	8	14	9	8	6	1	10	213

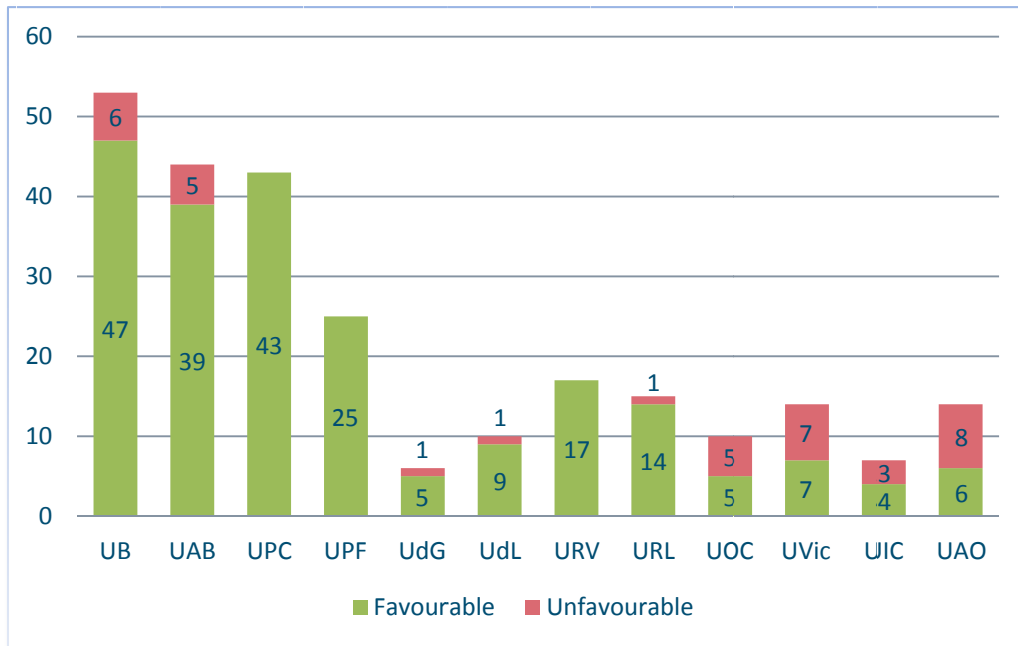
Table 2. Result of validation (ex-ante assessment), according to subject area/review panel. 2012

	Favourable	Unfavourable	Withdrew	Total	% favourable
Arts and Humanities	13	3	2	18	81%
Social Sciences and Law	60	9	5	74	87%
Sciences	22	2	0	25	88%
Health Sciences	14	1	1	16	93%
Engineering and Architecture	25	1	0	26	96%
Doctorate programmes	40	3	12	55	93%
Total	174	19	20	213	90%

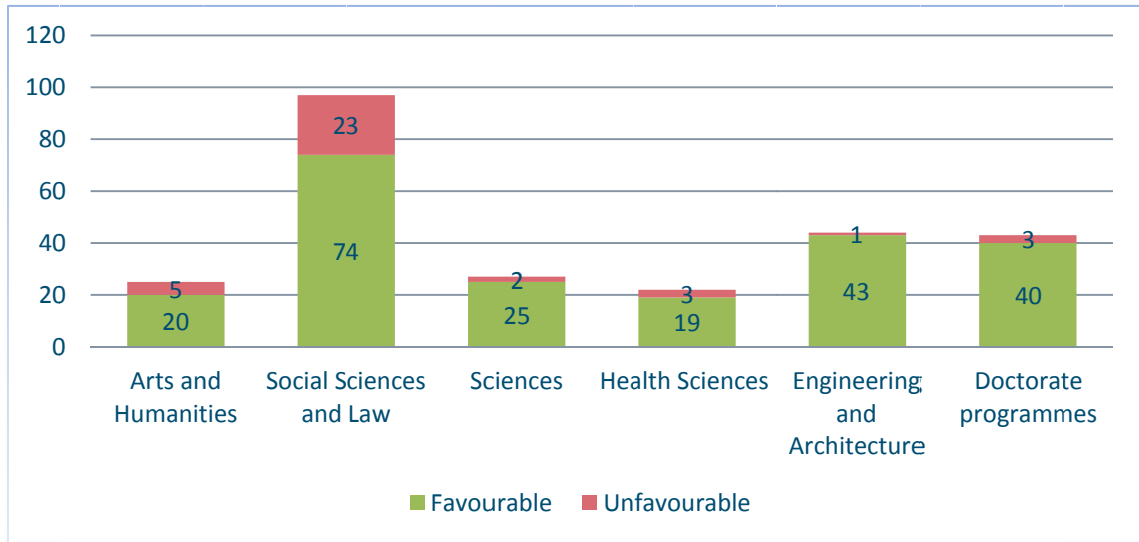
Graph 1. Result of validation (ex-ante assessment) (2011-2012)



Graph 2. Result of validation (ex-ante assessment), according to university (2011-2012)



Graph 3. Result of validation (ex-ante assessment), according to subject area/review panel (2011-2012)



In 2012 the Agency began the validation, monitoring, modification and accreditation of **higher awards in the Performing Arts and Visual Arts**, as laid down in the VSMA Framework, following the signing of a collaboration agreement with the Catalan Government's Ministry of Education. Programmes in these subjects have formed part of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) since the 2010-2011 academic year. This fact has resulted in a change in their structure as well as methodology, leading to new elements being included in curricula, such as autonomy in curriculum design combined with a system for quality assurance.

Table 3. Higher studies in the Arts

Higher studies in the Arts	Institution
Dance	Institut del Teatre
Dramatic Arts	Institut del Teatre
Dramatic Arts	Escola Superior d'Art Dramàtic Eòlia
Restoration and Preservation of Cultural Heritage	Escola Superior de Conservació i Restauració de Béns Culturals
Design	Escola Superior de Disseny i Arts Plàstiques
Design	Escola Superior de Disseny Felicidad Duce
Design	Escola Superior de Disseny IED
Music	Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya
Music	Conservatori del Liceu
Music	Taller de Músics

2. Modification

79 proposals for the modification of recognised degrees were received (58 Bachelor's and 21 Master's). 79% of these proposals received a favourable evaluation.

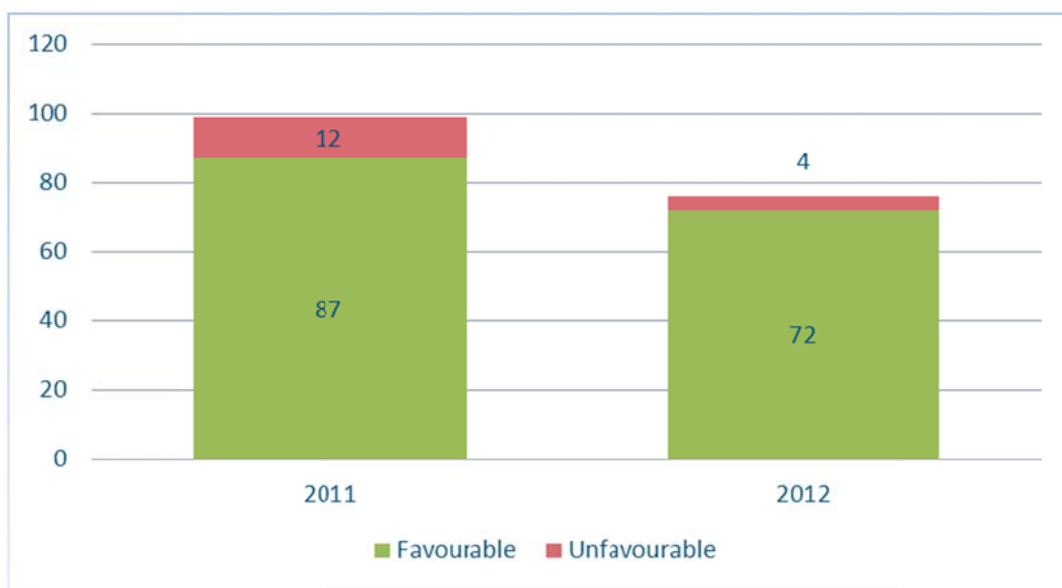
Table 4. Result of the evaluation of modifications to degree programmes, according to university (2012)

	UB	UAB	UPC	UPF	UdG	UdL	URV	URL	UOC	UVic	UIC	UAO	Total
Bachelor's	0	11	3	7	4	6	8	7	1	6	4	1	58
Master's	0	0	2	8	0	0	2	5	4	0	0	0	21
Total	0	11	5	15	4	6	10	12	5	6	4	1	79

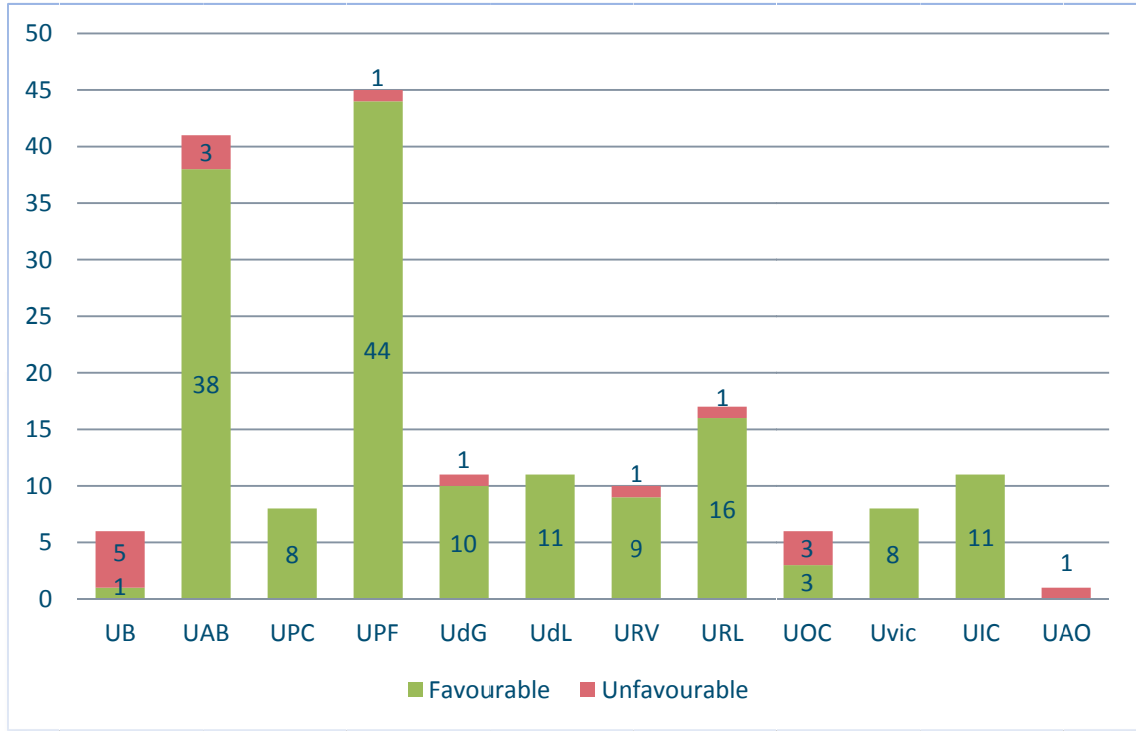
Table 5. Result of the evaluation of modifications to degree programmes, according to subject area/review panel (2012)

	Favourable	Unfavourable	Withdrew	Total	% favourable
Arts and Humanities	7	0	0	7	100%
Social Sciences and Law	32	4	2	38	84%
Sciences	5	0	0	5	100%
Health Sciences	15	0	1	16	94%
Engineering and Architecture	13	0	0	13	100%
Total	72	4	3	79	95%

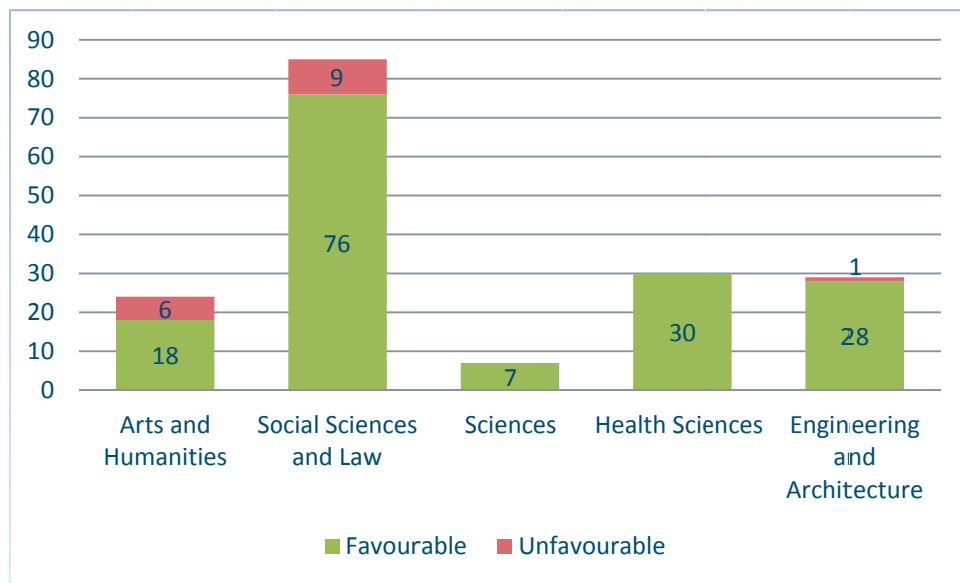
Graph 4. Result of the evaluation of modifications to degree programmes (2011-2012)



Graph 5. Result of the evaluation of modifications to degree programmes, according to university



Graph 6. Result of the evaluation of modifications to degree programmes, according to subject area/review panel (2011-2012)



3. Monitoring

AQU Catalunya carried out the monitoring of recognised Bachelor and Master's degrees corresponding to the 2010-2011 academic year.



An agreement exists between the Agency and all Catalan universities regarding the monitoring of recognised degree programmes, which is described in the *Guide to the monitoring of recognised Bachelor and Master's degrees* (AQU Catalunya, 2011).

As confirmed by the universities, an analysis was made of the delivery of a total of 775 degrees (429 Bachelor's and 346 Master's), which accounted for 75% of all recognised degrees. Out of these 775, AQU Catalunya selected 147 (93 Bachelor's and 54 Master's), 19% of those dealt with by the universities, to issue the final reports.

Table 6. Results of Monitoring reports assessed by AQU, according to university (2012)

	UB	UAB	UPC	UPF	UdG	UdL	URV	URL	UOC	UVic	UIC	UAO	Total
Bachelor's	61	75	66	27	44	29	38	31	15	21	14	8	429
Master's	47	85	24	31	21	31	38	42	8	7	10	2	346
Total	108	160	90	58	65	60	76	73	23	28	24	10	775

Graph 7. Monitoring reports assessed by AQU (2011-2012)

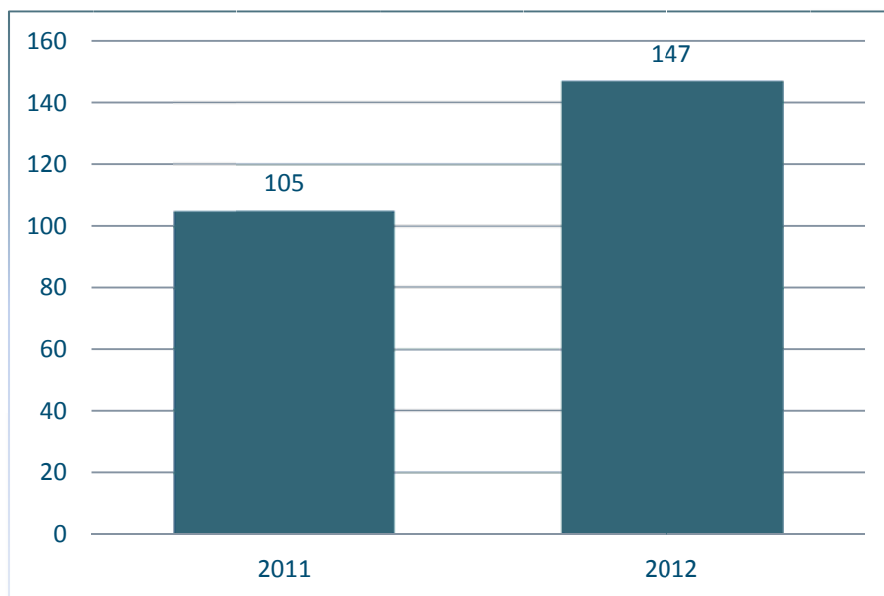


Table 7. Monitoring reports assessed by AQU, according to university and subject area/review panel (2012)

University	Arts and Humanities		Social Sciences and Law		Health Sciences		Sciences		Engineering and Architecture		Total		% assessed
	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	P	E	
UB	38	5	30	5	15	5	23	4	4	1	108	20	19%
UAB	34	6	49	7	30	6	30	4	17	4	160	27	17%
UPC	0	0	4	1	2	1	1	0	83	15	90	17	19%
UPF	12	2	28	5	1	0	9	1	8	2	58	11	19%
UdG	11	2	28	5	7	2	5	2	14	3	65	14	22%
UdL	10	2	18	3	3	1	15	3	14	2	60	11	18%
URV	10	3	28	4	7	2	8	1	17	5	76	15	20%
UOC	3	1	13	2	0	0	2	1	5	1	23	5	22%
URL	5	0	36	6	2	1	7	1	23	5	73	13	18%
UVic	3	1	12	2	3	1	7	1	3	1	28	6	21%
UIC	1	0	11	2	0	0	9	2	3	1	24	5	21%
UAO	1	0	8	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	10	3	30%
Total	128	22	265	44	70	19	117	21	191	40	775	147	19%
% assessed		17		17		27		18		21		19%	

P: reports submitted by universities; E: final reports.

4. Accreditation

Royal Decree 1393/2007 establishes the guidelines, conditions and procedure for programme accreditation. In particular, it lays down that, prior to six years of a Bachelor or doctorate degree being introduced, and prior to four years in the case of a Master's programme, all recognised degrees and programmes shall be subject to accreditation, which is the substantiation that the curriculum/programme is being followed according to the initial project. In the event that the degree or programme is accredited, it is again registered with the Spanish Register of Higher Education Institutions and Programmes (RUCT).

To fulfil this legal mandate, AQU Catalunya takes as its underlying principles that:

1. It is only the Catalan universities, both individually and as a system, that can assure the quality of the study programmes and educational services that they offer. The function of AQU Catalunya is to collaborate, as an external validation agent, in the achievement of this purpose.
2. The benchmark for the methodological approach to all processes undertaken by AQU Catalunya, and in particular accreditation, are the standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the EHEA (ENQA, 2005), adopted by the European Ministers in charge of higher education in the Bergen Communiqué (2005). The model adopted must be equivalent to accreditation schemes implemented at international level.

3. Accreditation is the final step in the VSMA Framework and, as such, must gather evidence accumulated in the introduction and monitoring of programmes that have been previously validated and authorised.

In this context, AQU Catalunya produced a first draft of the Agency's standards for the accreditation of recognised degrees and programmes, which will serve as the basis for the forthcoming *Guide to the accreditation of recognised Bachelor and Master's degrees and programmes*.

1.1. AUDIT Programme

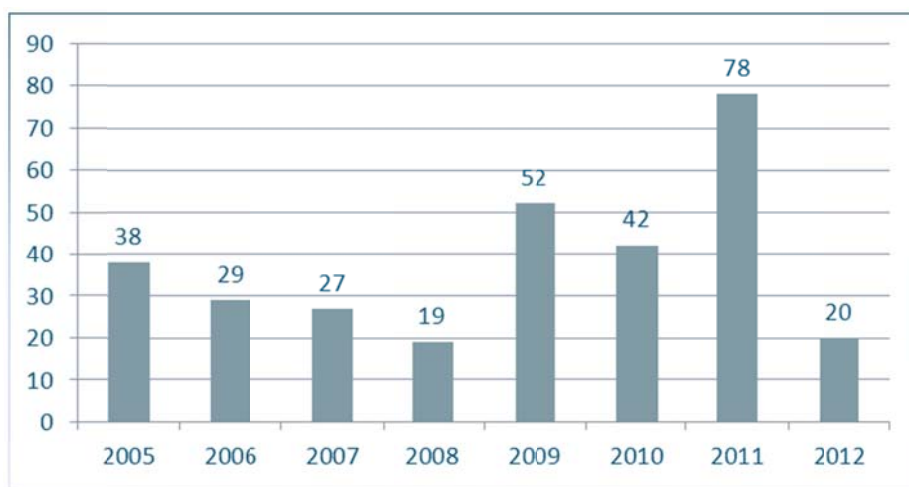
The purpose of the AUDIT programme, which is implemented jointly by ANECA, ACSUG and AQU Catalunya, is to assess the suitability of faculty and department internal quality assurance systems (IQAS) prior to their implementation.

The quality assurance of the design of IQAS submitted in the fourth call of the programme was completed in 2012. With the completion of this latest call, all Catalan universities have now participated at least once in the AUDIT programme and almost all IQAS of university faculties (excluding affiliated schools) have been reviewed within the framework of the programme.

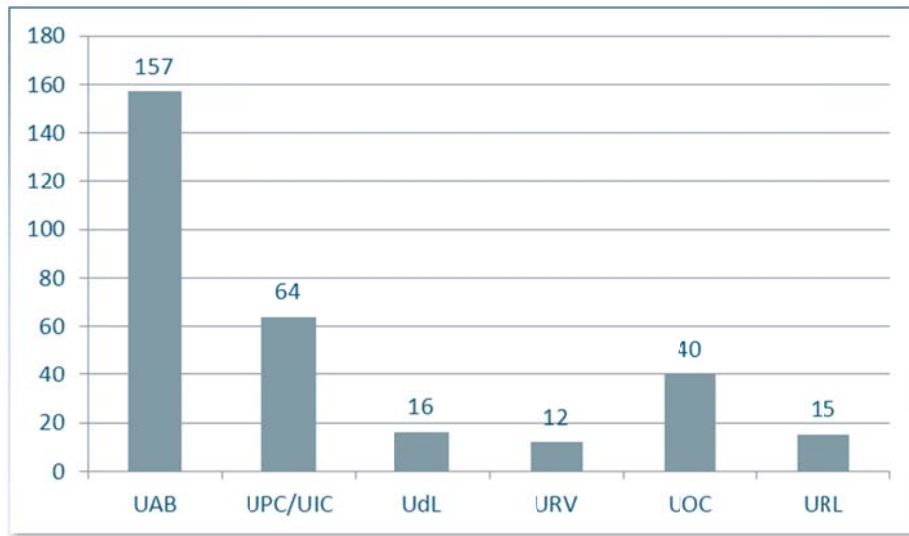
1.2. The student body

AQU Catalunya continued to run the programme of courses on university quality assurance. The courses enable students to obtain the knowledge and skills to satisfactorily be involved in the running of the university's QA systems and QA and enhancement processes. During 2012 one course was run at the Catalan Open University (UOC).

Graph 8. Number of students who received training through courses in university quality assurance (2005-2012)



Graph 9. Number of students who received training through courses in university quality assurance, according to the universities that participated in the programme (2005-2012)



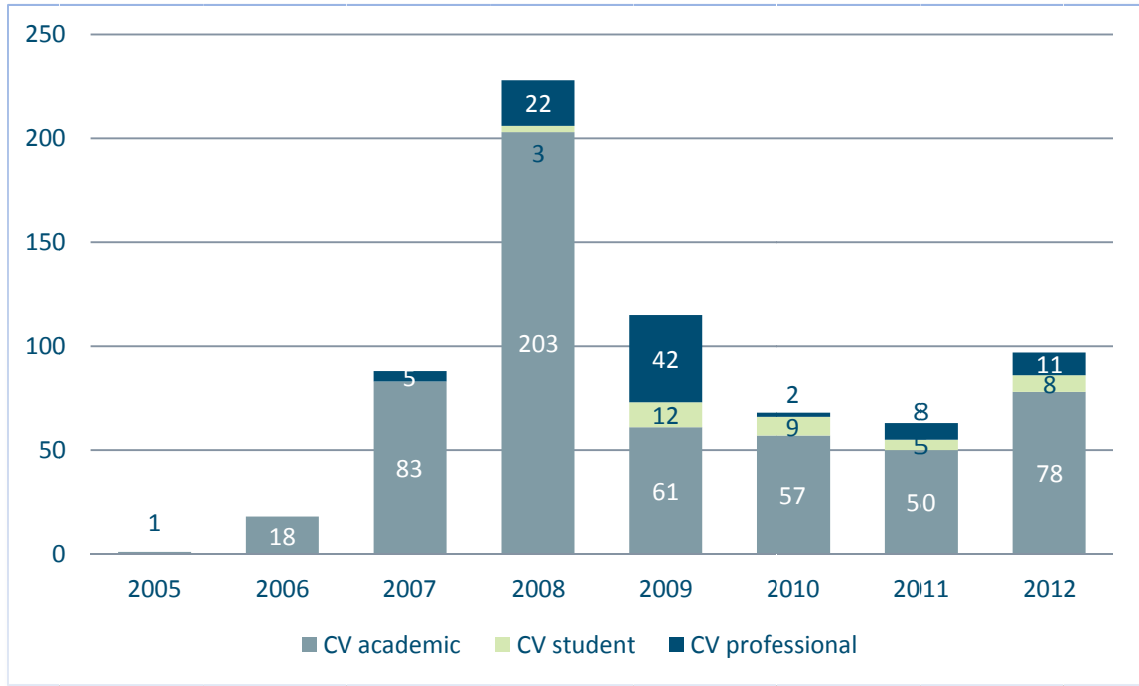
1.3. The Agency's pool of reviewers

AQU Catalunya includes external experts, individuals of renowned standing in academic and/or professional circles, and students in its review processes, all of whom are selected on the basis of independence, objectivity and the absence of any conflict of interest. External experts are selected from the Agency's pool of reviewers.

During 2012, 78 academic curricula were received, 11 from professionals and 8 from students.

Institutional review processes in 2012 saw the participation of 138 reviewers, of which 63% were external to the higher education system in Catalonia. All together, 296 experts were involved in the quality assurance of teaching.

Graph 10. Number of experts who sent a cv, according to the profile (2005-2012)



2. QUALITY ASSURANCE OF TEACHING

1. The assessment of academic staff prior to selection by the universities

In order to apply for selection for a contract teaching post at a public university in Catalonia, applicants must already be in possession of a favourable pre-selection report for the categories of collaborating and tenure-track (junior lecturer) staff, and an accreditation in research or advanced research for the categories of assistant professor and full professor, respectively

An agreement signed between the private universities in Catalonia and AQU Catalunya covers the assessment of staff under these same terms for the issue of reports for tenure-track staff and accreditations in research and advanced research.



On-line application via the Generalitat de Catalunya's website (OVT) was set up in 2012. Use of the on-line applications service simplifies the handling of applications, reduces the number of documents to be

submitted by applicants and offers options that streamline the whole process.

1.1. Reports for tenure-track and collaborating lecturer staff

According to the current regulations, the closing date for the universities to hold competitive recruitment drives for contract teaching staff was 3 May 2013. It was therefore agreed by AQU's CLiC commission which deals with tenure-track and collaborating teaching staff that the call for applications in September 2012 would be the last in which applications for collaborating teaching staff would be accepted.

The results of the calls for applications made in 2012 were as follows:

Table 9. Results 2011² of the second call in 2010 for collaborating lecturer reports

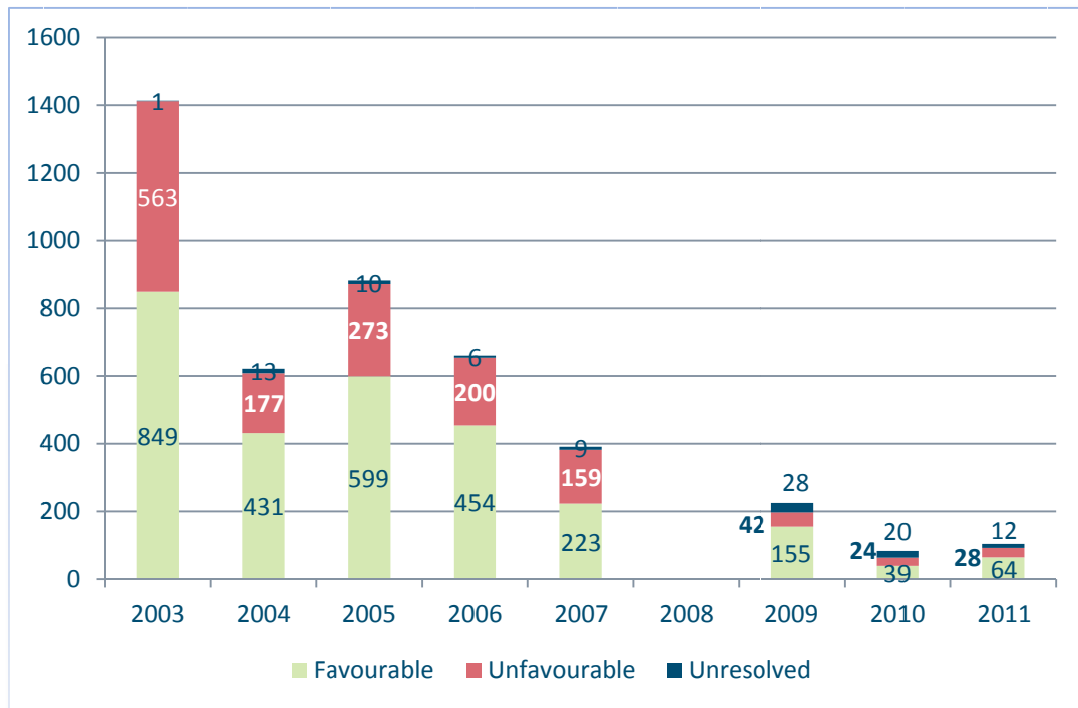
Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	100
Social Sciences	8	0	5	3	0	0	5	3	63
Experimental Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Sciences	39	2	24	13	0	0	24	13	65
Engineering and Architecture	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	100
Total	50	3	31	16	0	0	31	16	66%

Table 10. Results of the first call in 2012 for collaborating lecturer reports

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	RP	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100
Social Sciences	7	0	5	2	0	0	0	5	2	71
Experimental Sciences	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	100
Health Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Sciences	15	2	7	2	0	3	1	7	6	54
Engineering and Architecture	7	2	2	3	0	0	0	2	3	40
Total	32	5	16	7	0	3	1	16	11	59%

² TS: total applications; TSR: closed/no decision; F: favourable; D: unfavourable; RE: appeals accepted; RD: appeals dismissed; RP: appeals pending (see other tables); TF: total favourable; TD: total unfavourable; %F: percentage of favourable out of the total (excluding those closed with no final decision).

Graph 11. Applications for collaborating lecturer reports (2003-2011)



Graph 12. Applications for collaborating lecturer reports, according field of knowledge (2003-2011)

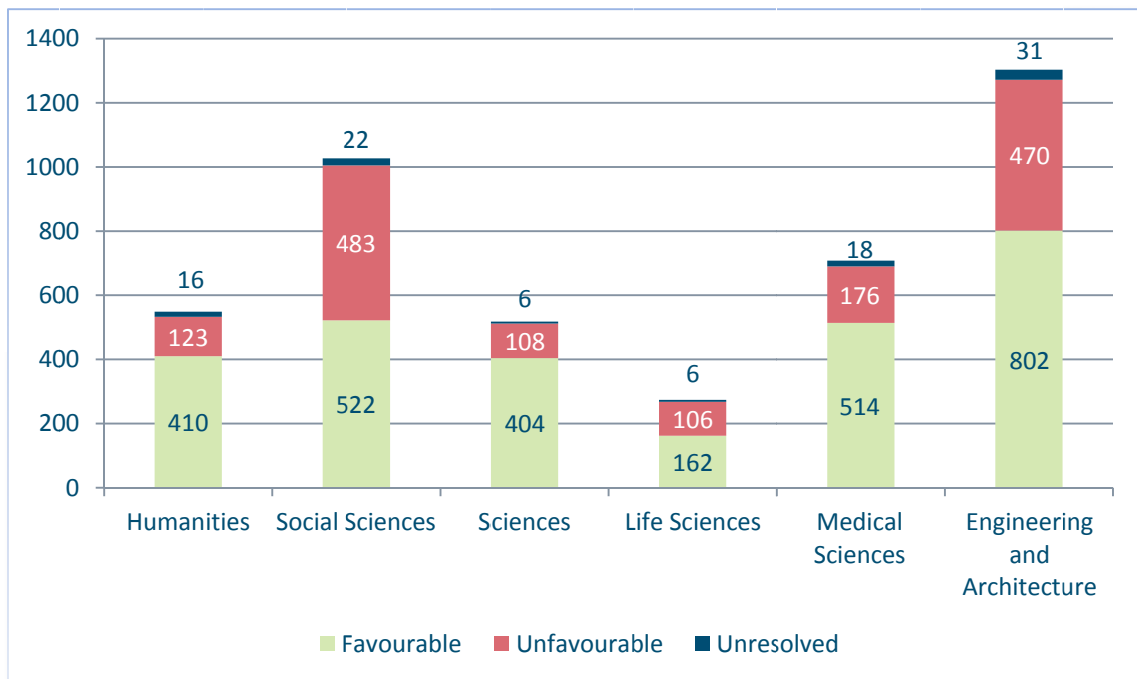


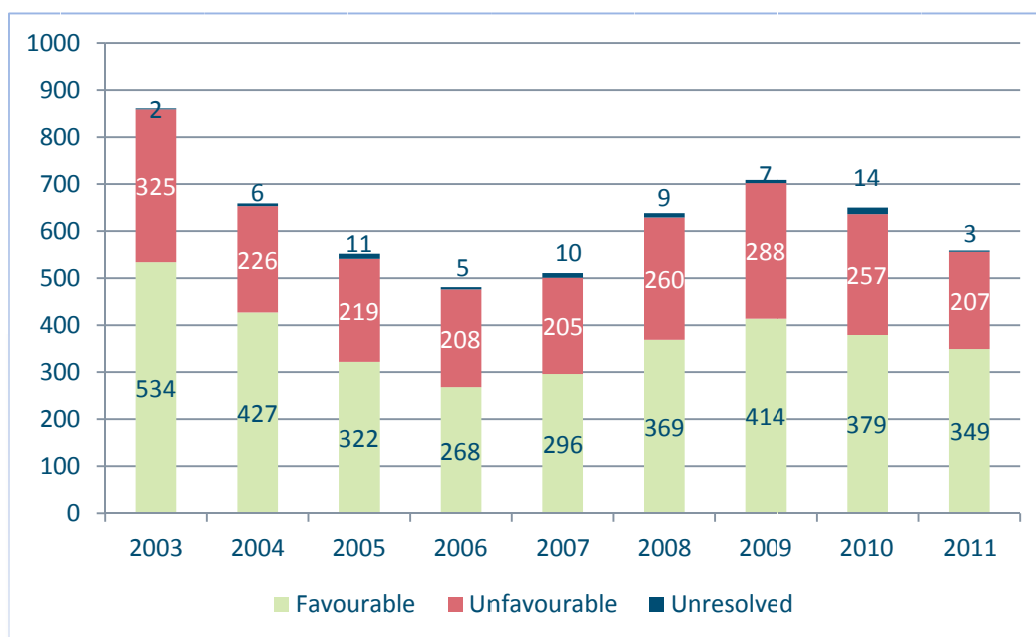
Table 11. Results of the second call in 2011 for tenure-track lecturer reports

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	37	0	26	9	1	1	27	10	73
Social Sciences	79	0	40	26	2	11	42	37	53
Experimental Sciences	28	0	24	2	0	2	24	4	86
Health Sciences	21	0	7	12	0	2	7	14	33
Medical Sciences	35	1	22	11	0	1	22	12	65
Engineering and Architecture	43	0	32	10	1	0	33	10	77
Total	243	1	151	70	4	17	155	87	64%

Table 12. Results of the first call in 2012 for tenure-track lecturer reports

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	35	1	25	8	0	1	25	9	74
Social Sciences	101	0	56	40	0	5	56	45	55
Experimental Sciences	24	0	19	5	0	0	19	5	79
Health Sciences	29	0	12	14	0	3	12	17	41
Medical Sciences	26	0	14	11	0	1	14	12	54
Engineering and Architecture	55	3	43	7	0	2	43	9	83
Total	270	4	169	85	0	12	169	97	64%

Graph 13. Applications for tenure-track lecturer reports (2003-2011)



Graph 14. Applications for tenure-track lecturer reports, according to field of knowledge (2003-2011)

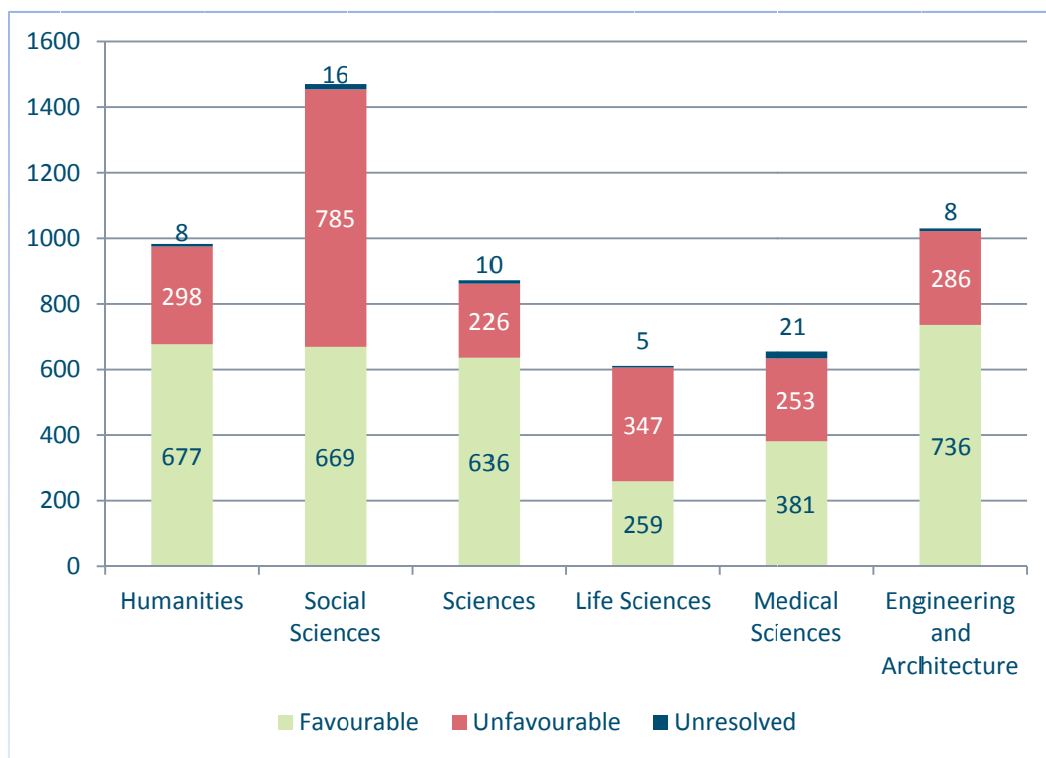


Table 13. Applications received in the second call in 2011 for collaborating lecturer and tenure-track lecturer reports

Field of knowledge	Collaborating staff	Junior Lecturer
Humanities	2	28
Social Sciences	4	54
Experimental Sciences	1	14
Health Sciences	0	23
Medical Sciences	14	17
Engineering and Architecture	0	30
Total	21	166

1.2. Accreditation for research and advanced research

The outcomes of the calls made in 2012 were as follows:

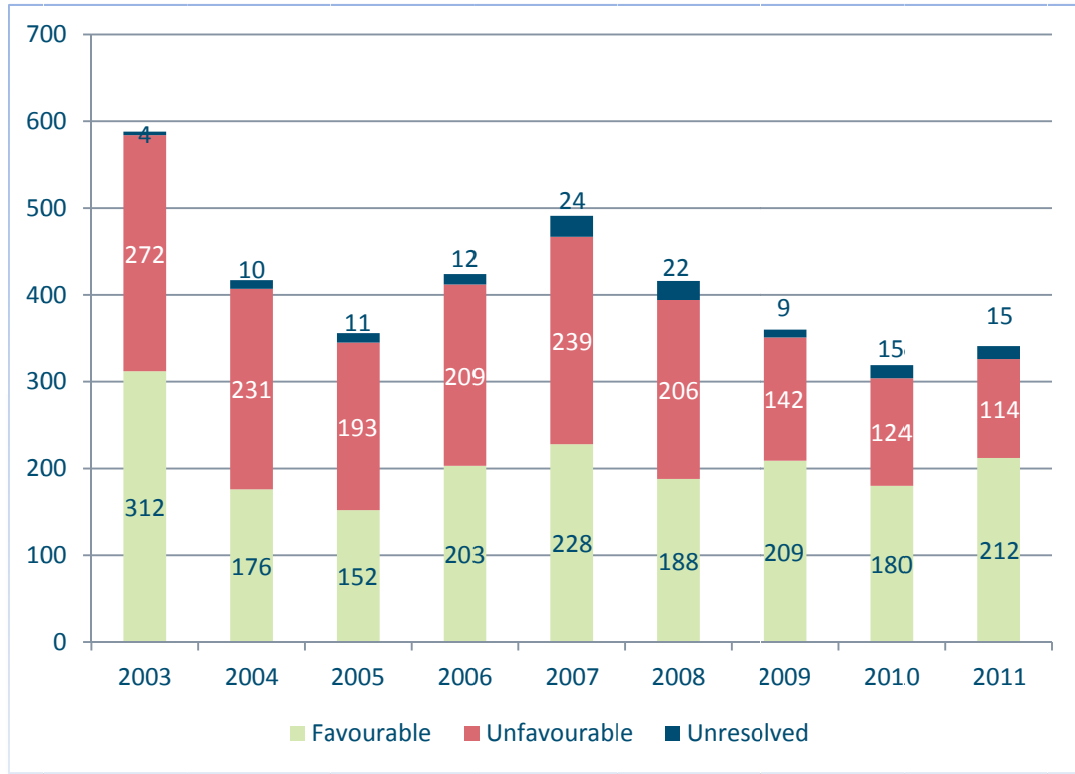
Table 14. Results of the second call in 2011 for research accreditations

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	11	0	7	1	1	2	8	4	73
Social Sciences	50	0	35	11	1	3	36	15	72
Experimental Sciences	22	1	15	4	1	1	16	6	76
Health Sciences	19	0	15	4	0	0	15	4	79
Medical Sciences	18	0	10	7	0	1	10	8	56
Engineering and Architecture	31	1	19	7	1	3	20	11	67
Total	151	2	101	34	4	10	105	48	70%

Table 15. Results of the first call in 2012 for research accreditations

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RP	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	46	5	22	10	9	22	19	54
Social Sciences	87	8	56	12	11	56	23	71
Experimental Sciences	38	0	28	7	3	28	10	74
Health Sciences	23	1	11	8	3	11	11	50
Medical Sciences	19	0	11	6	2	11	8	58
Engineering and Architecture	60	4	42	9	5	42	14	75
Total	273	18	170	52	33	170	85	67%

Graph 15. Applications for research accreditations (2003-2011)



Graph 16. Applications for research accreditations, according to field of knowledge (2003-2011)

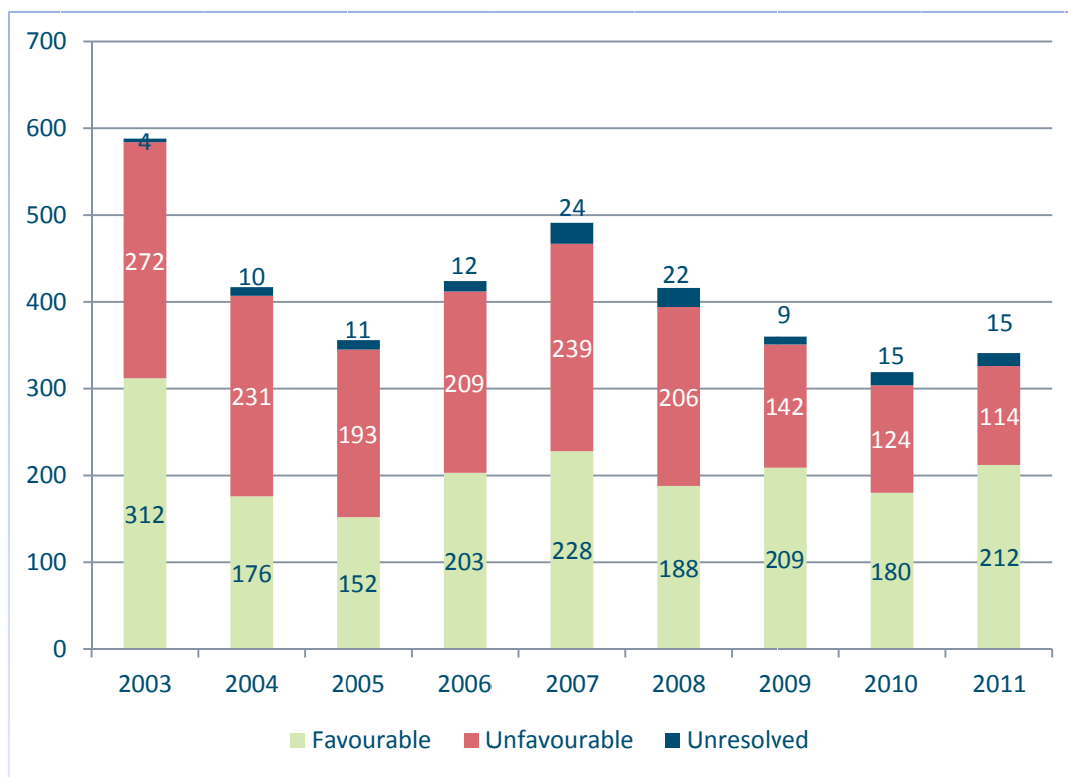


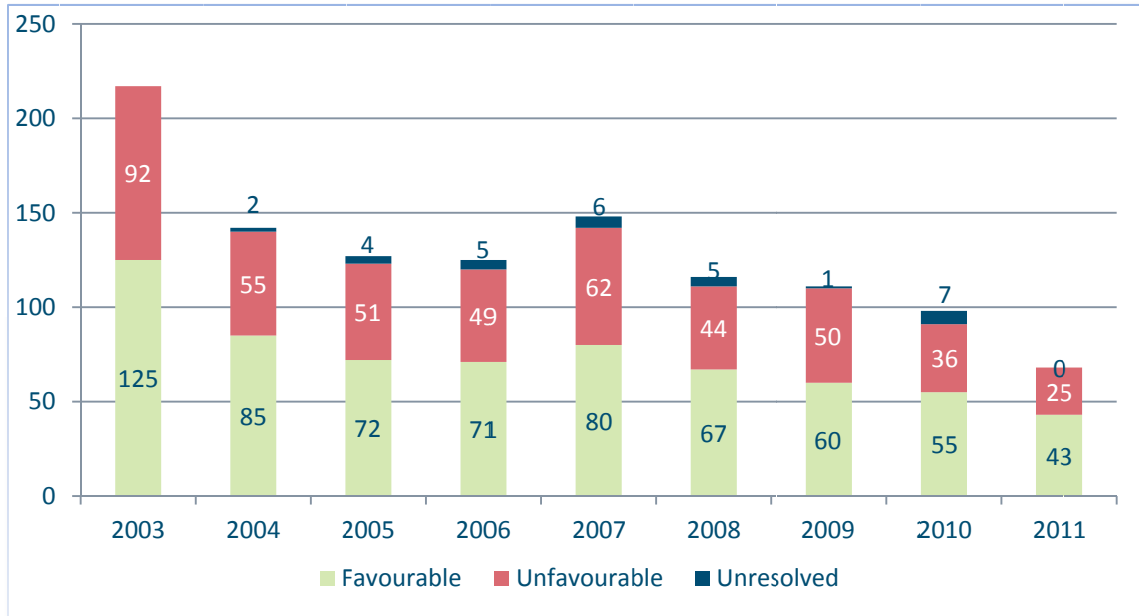
Table 16. Results of the second call in 2011 for advanced research accreditations

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Social Sciences	9	0	5	1	0	3	5	4	56
Experimental Sciences	9	0	6	3	0	0	6	3	67
Health Sciences	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Medical Sciences	7	0	5	2	0	0	5	2	71
Engineering and Architecture	6	0	4	2	0	0	4	2	67
Total	33	0	20	10	0	3	20	13	61%

Table 17. Results of the first call in 2012 for advanced research accreditations

Field of knowledge	TS	TSR	F	D	RP	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	5	0	4	1	0	4	1	80
Social Sciences	6	0	2	3	1	2	4	33
Experimental Sciences	12	1	9	2	0	9	2	82
Health Sciences	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	50
Medical Sciences	7	0	4	2	1	4	3	57
Engineering and Architecture	19	1	9	6	3	9	9	50
Total	51	2	29	15	5	29	20	59%

Graph 17. Applications for advanced research accreditations (2003-2011)



Graph 18. Applications for advanced research accreditations, according to field of knowledge (2003-2011)

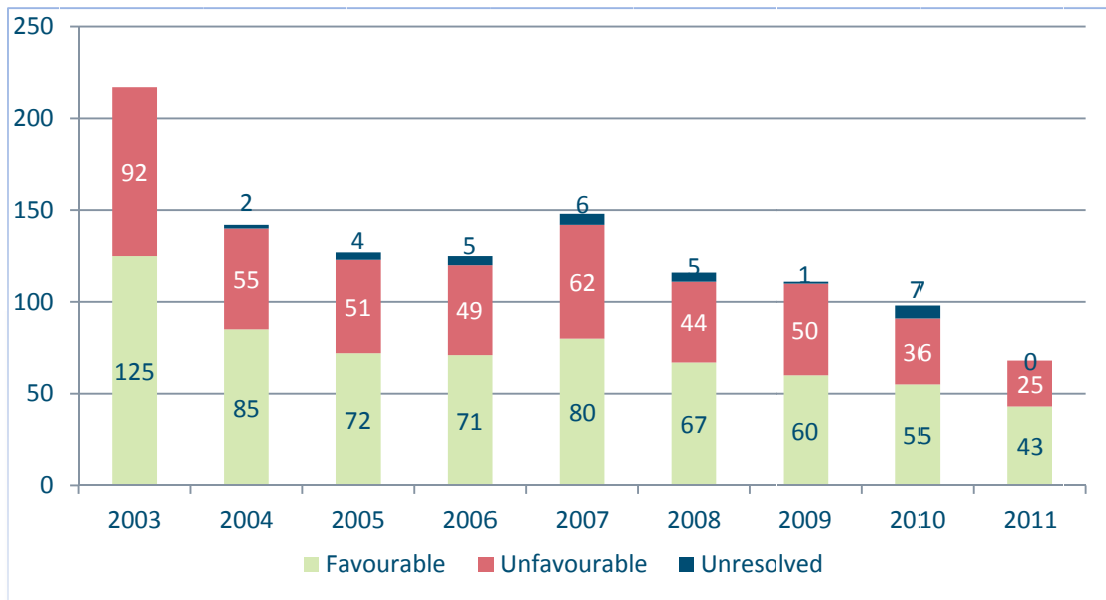


Table 18. Applications received in the second call in 2012 for research accreditation and advanced research accreditation

Field of knowledge	Research	Advanced research
Humanities	34	2
Social Sciences	79	10
Experimental Sciences	20	6
Health Sciences	14	8
Medical Sciences	21	11
Engineering and Architecture	47	12
Total	215	49

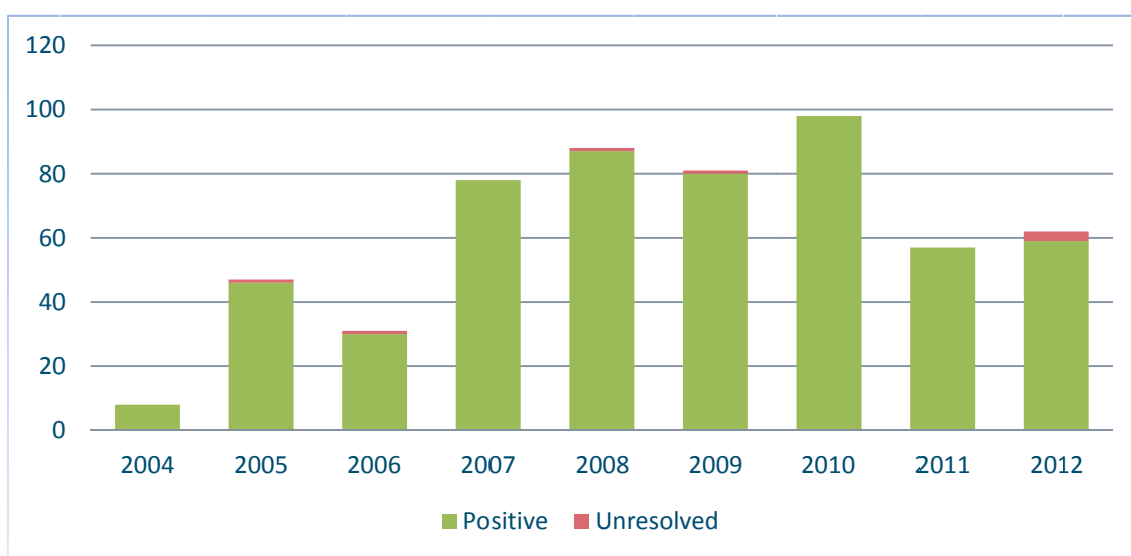
1.3. Teaching assessment certificates

Teaching certification is aimed at teaching staff with accreditation for research and/or advanced research issued by AQU Catalunya and public service and contract teaching and research staff at public universities in Catalonia.

The teaching assessment certificate serves as recognition that an applicant complies with a series of teaching prerequisites and is valid in competitive examinations as eligibility to university teaching posts

Sixty-two (62) applications were received in 2012, of which fifty-nine (59) were ruled as favourable, and three that were closed with no final decision.

Graph 19. Applications for teaching assessment certificates (2004-2012)



2. Assessment of merits in research, teaching and management

The allocation of salary increases to public service and contract teaching and research staff at public universities in Catalonia is based on the assessment of individual merits in teaching, research and management.

2.1. Merits in research

Merits in research are assessed directly by the Agency according to an established procedure and criteria. Assessments carried out by the Spanish Research Assessment Commission (CNEAI) for the same purpose are also recognised through a signed agreement.

The specific criteria for the evaluation of research by teaching and research staff at public universities in Catalonia for calls for applications made during the year were revised for 2012. As of 2011, public service and contract teaching and research staff applying for the assessment of merits in research can also request assessment for premiums on research and technology transfer.

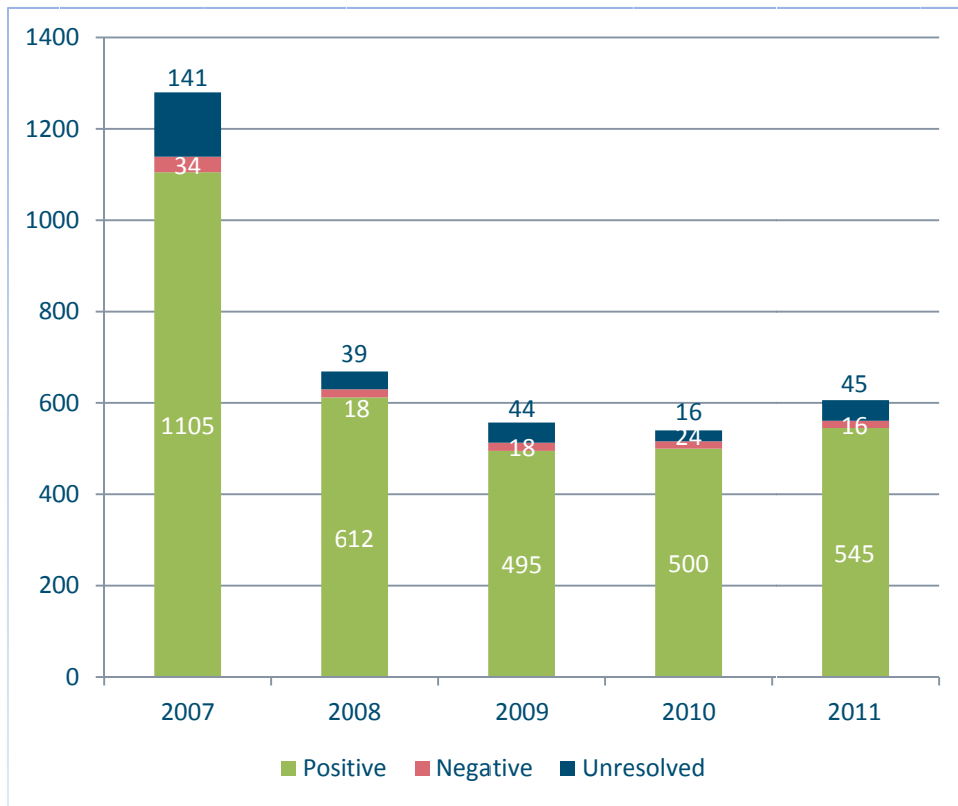
Table 19. Results of the 2011 call for public service teaching and research staff at public universities

Field of knowledge	TT	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	37	1	36	0	0	0	36	0	100
Social Sciences	67	2	63	2	0	0	63	2	97
Experimental Sciences	50	4	46	0	0	0	46	0	100
Health Sciences	23	2	20	1	0	0	20	1	95
Medical Sciences	46	3	42	0	0	1	42	1	98
Engineering and Architecture	58	6	50	1	1	0	51	1	98
Total	281	18	257	4	1	1	258	5	98%

Table 20. Results of the 2012 call for public service teaching and research staff at public universities

Field of knowledge	TT	TSR	F	D	RP	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	90	5	79	5	0	79	5	93
Social Sciences	137	4	129	3	0	129	3	97
Experimental Sciences	115	1	112	2	0	112	2	98
Health Sciences	52	2	49	1	0	49	1	98
Medical Sciences	57	2	53	1	0	53	1	96
Engineering and Architecture	144	7	135	0	2	135	2	99
Total	595	21	557	12	2	557	14	97%

Graph 10. Applications for public service teaching and research staff at public universities (2003-2011)



Graph 21. Applications for public service teaching and research staff at public universities (2003-2011)

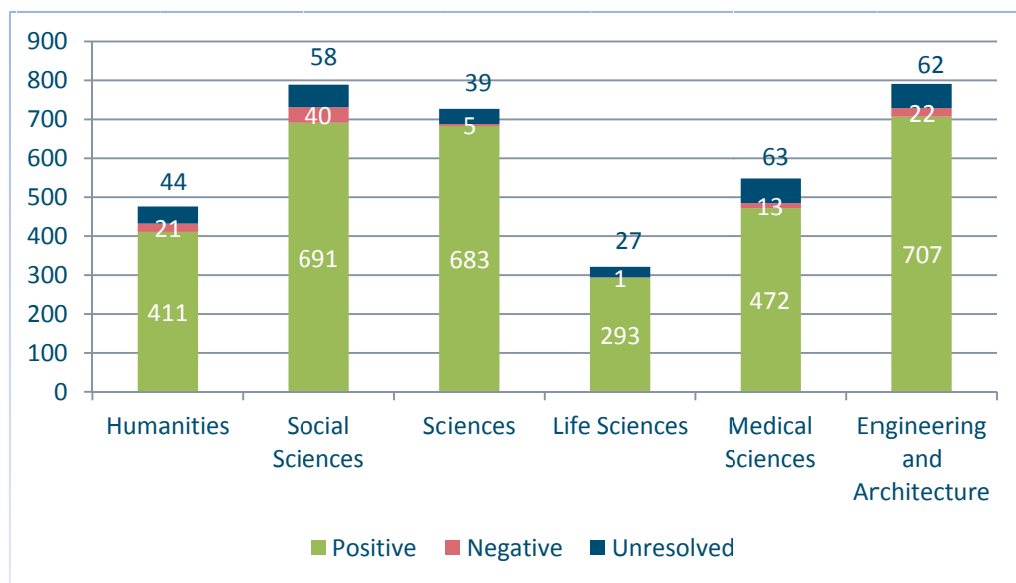
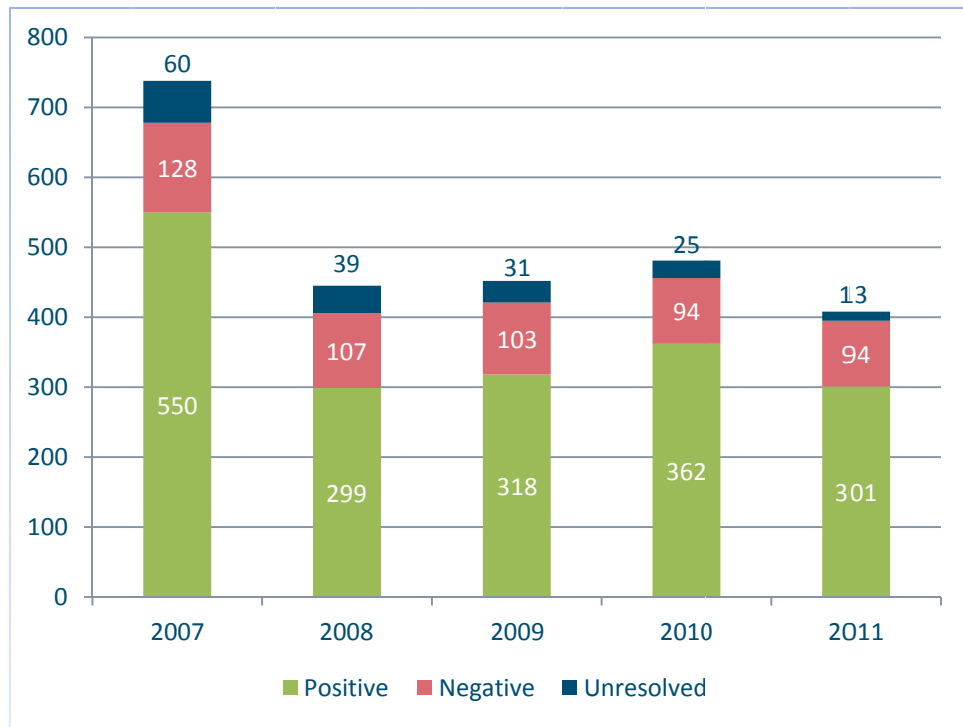


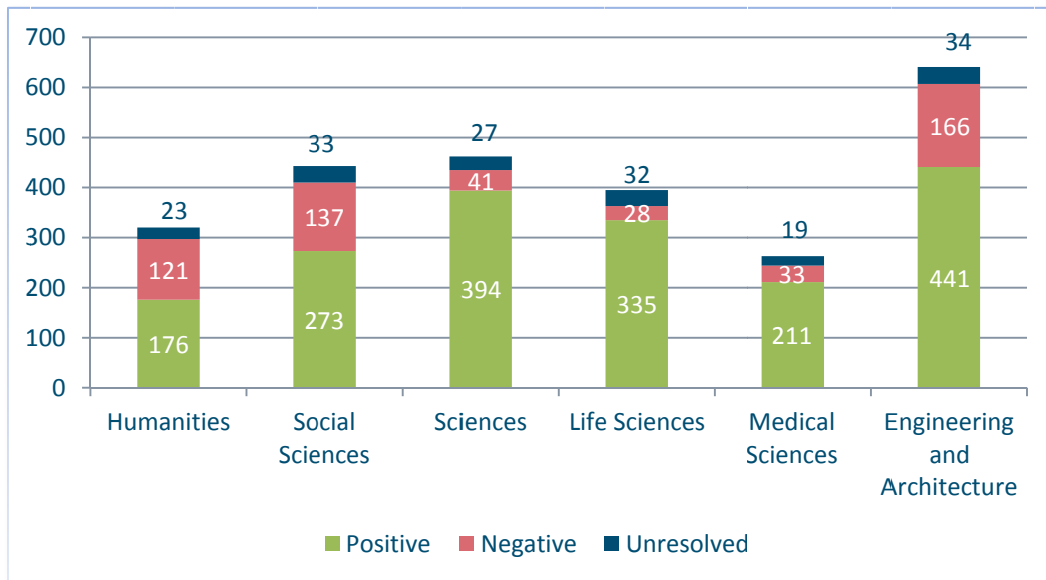
Table 21. Results of the 2012 call for contracted teaching and research staff at public universities

Field of knowledge	TT	TSR	F	D	RE	RD	RP	TF	TD	%F
Humanities	59	9	21	8	2	18	1	23	27	46
Social Sciences	102	7	74	14	1	6	0	75	20	79
Experimental Sciences	75	3	66	3	2	1	0	68	4	94
Health Sciences	47	0	44	3	0	0	0	44	3	94
Medical Sciences	39	1	32	4	0	2	0	32	6	84
Engineering and Architecture	125	3	85	24	2	11	0	87	35	71
Total	447	23	322	56	7	38	1	329	95	78%

Graph 22. Applications for contracted teaching and research staff at public universities (2003-2011)



Graph 23. Applications for contracted teaching and research staff at public universities (2007-2011)



Evaluation of research quality premiums through agreements

In line with the criteria and procedure applied by the Agency in evaluating research work undertaken by public service and contract teaching and research staff at public universities in Catalonia, signed agreements exist between AQU Catalunya and the following institutions in connection with the evaluation of research work by teaching and research staff at private universities in Catalonia: the Catalan Institute for Physical Education (INEFC), BarcelonaTech University (UPC, research staff) and the University of Extremadura.

Table 22. Evaluation of research quality premiums through agreements. Results 2012

institutions	TT	TSR	F	D	RP
Private universities in Catalonia	99	0	68	18	13
UPC (research staff)	3	0	3	0	0
INEFC	22	2	12	6	2
Universidad de Extremadura	60	7	24	20	9
Total	408	13	299	57	34

2.2. Merits in teaching and management

The Agency certifies the reports on the merits in teaching of academic staff issued by the public universities in Catalonia using the model set out in their respective **handbooks for teaching assessment**.

The handbooks for teaching assessment used at public universities for the 2009-2012 period had already been accredited by the Agency; AQU's special committee for the assessment of individual merits and activities (CEMAI), in agreement with the public universities, approved a one-year extension of the authorisation of accreditation for the handbooks.

Table 23. Results of the 2011 call for certification of the assessment of merits in teaching

Potential applicants	Actual total applicants	%	Positive	%	Negative	%	% favourable/potential
2.312	1.498	64,70 %	1.403	93,60 %	26	1,70 %	60,68%

The number of potential applicants includes academic staff from previous calls with the option to participate in the 2010 call.

In the case of the **private universities**, and within the framework of the DOCENTIA programme, the first monitoring of the application of the respective handbooks for teaching assessment, which were certified by the Agency in 2008, was completed.

The evaluation of monitoring, which was carried out by an *ad hoc* committee, consisted of the verification of the functioning and application of the QA processes set out in each university's handbook for teaching assessment, reflection on the consequences of the evaluation for the institution, verification that the conditions and recommendations stemming from the certification

report have been incorporated into the handbook, and an evaluation of the level of publicity and diffusion of the handbook among the university community.

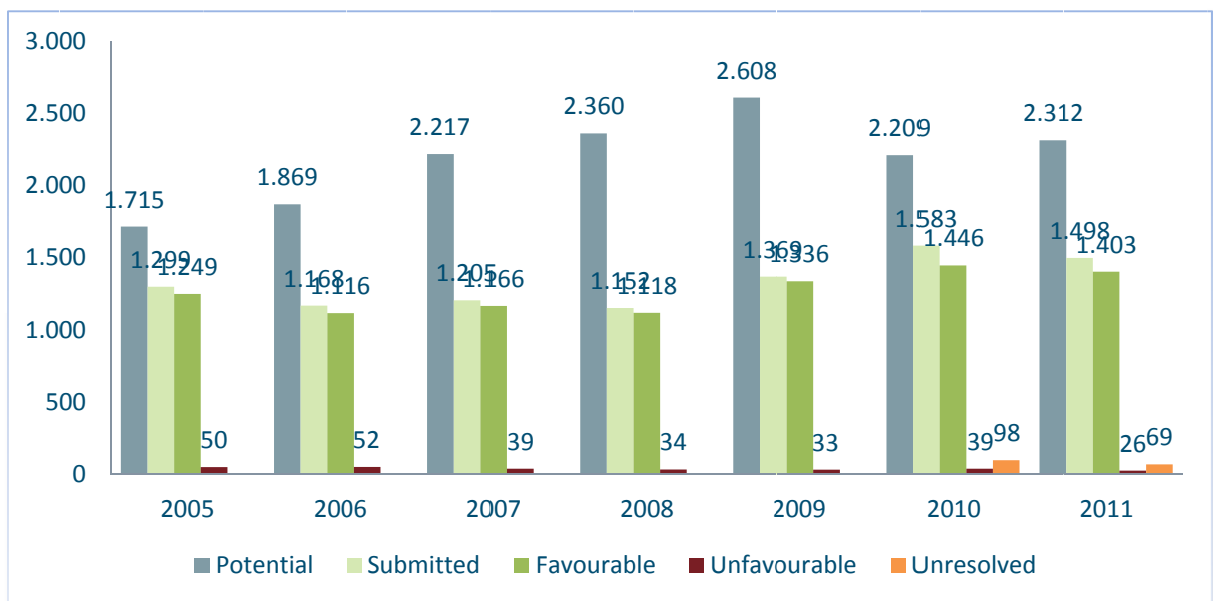
Catalan universities assess the individual merits in management of both public service and contract academic staff, using the corresponding instructions endorsed by AQU Catalunya and the Directorate General for Universities. Following the assessment of their teaching staff, each university refers the assessment reports to the Agency for certification that assessment has complied with the abovementioned instructions.

Table 24. Results of the 2011 call for certification of the assessment of merits in management premium

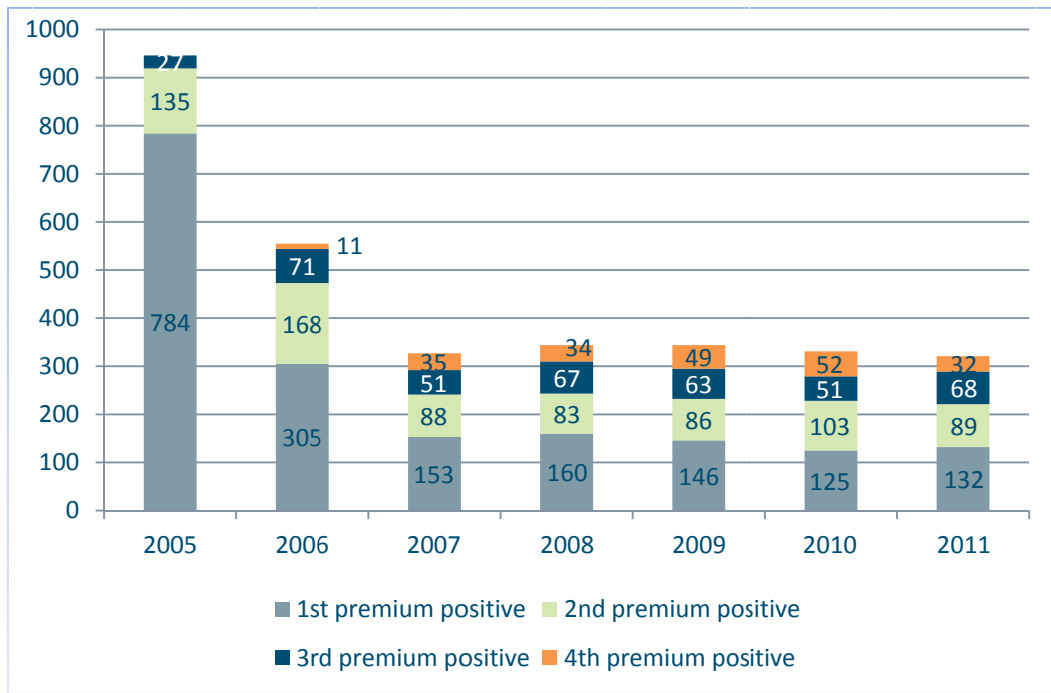
Tramos evaluados	Favorables	Desfavorables	1 ^r tramo	2 ^o tramo	3 ^r tramo	4 ^o tramo
321	321	0	132	89	68	32

The information in the table refers to periods of externally assessed skills in management, not people.

Graph 24. The assessment of merits in teaching (2005-2011)



Graph 25. The assessment of merits in management (2005-2011)



3. KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

1. The system of universities and higher education in Catalonia

1.1. Gender and the labour market outcomes of graduates. Is the situation the same or different for females and males ten years after graduation?

http://www.aqu.cat/biblioteca_fitxa/index.aspx?idioma=ca-ES&id=10705

AQU Catalunya published the report titled *Gender and graduate labour market outcomes ten years after graduation (Gènere i inserció laboral. Dones i homes deu anys després de graduar-se, iguals o diferents?)*. Produced with the support of the Institut Català de les Dones (the Catalan institute that designs, promotes and coordinates policy concerning women in society), the report analyses the employment situation of a sample of the graduate population ten years after graduation.



1.2. WINDDAT, indicators on teaching for degree programme development and analysis

<http://winddat.aqu.cat/>

In order to have the necessary indicators to exercise authority over matters respectively affecting them with regard to the universities and higher education, the Catalan government, the Catalan universities and the Agency jointly set up the UNEIX interuniversity information system, which provides homogeneous and comparable information and data for use in the monitoring of university degrees and programmes.





WINDDAT, which was developed by AQU Catalunya, is a public website that displays data on student demand, the cut-off mark for admission, the number of places offered, student achievement rates, etc., which can be used by the university to draw up monitoring progress reports and compare data on their programmes with others offered in Catalonia. Indicators are one of the fundamental components for analysing the **monitoring** of the running

of degree programmes, which the universities undertake on an annual basis.

WINDDAT came online to the public in March and by 31 December 2012 had received 26,063 visits.

2. Workshops and events

AQU Catalunya organised two brainstorming sessions in 2012:

- **Workshop on the Meta-evaluation of the validation, monitoring and modification of recognised degree programmes and awards** (6 March, Autonomous University of Barcelona, UAB). The objectives of the session were, on the one hand, to analyse the development and results of validation, monitoring and modification carried out so far and, on the other, to discuss aspects of the VSMA Framework that are in the process of being set up, such as accreditation and obtaining feedback from the stakeholders in the form of satisfaction surveys.
- 
- **The social impact of the universities in times of crisis** (12 December). The aim of the session was to discuss the role played by the universities in the growth strategy for Catalonia (Europa 2020) through the presentation of two of the latest publications on this subject: *Universities, graduates and productivity in Spain*, (Francisco Pérez and Lorenzo Serrano) and *Public and state-run universities in Spain: challenges and priorities within the context of the crisis, a decade into the 21st century* (Francesc Xavier Grau).
- 

4. INTERNATIONALISATION

1. Institutional relations

<http://www.aqu.cat/internacional/organismes.html>

ENQA



AQU Catalunya has been a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education since the association was established in 2000. The Catalan agency is currently represented on the ENQA Board.

INQAAHE

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) is a worldwide association of over 200 organisations, most of them QA agencies, which is active in the theory and practice of quality assurance in higher education. AQU Catalunya has been a member since 1998.

ECA

In 2010 AQU Catalunya joined the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education, which aims for the mutual recognition of accreditation and the international acceptance of decisions through mutual recognition agreements.

AQU Catalunya coordinates the workgroup set up by the ECA to develop the agreement concerning the mutual recognition of accreditation results regarding joint programmes (MULTRA).

A multilateral agreement on the mutual recognition of accreditation results regarding joint programmes (MULTRA) was signed between AQU Catalunya and the Danish QA agency (EVA) in 2012.

The Agency's participation and work in these networks and projects has facilitated the appointment and incorporation of experts from the system of higher education and the

universities in Catalonia in international review panels: in 2012, eight Catalan professors carried out review work in other European countries through processes associated with AQU Catalunya's involvement in international projects and networks.

2. International projects

<http://www.aqu.cat/internacional/projectes/index.html>

Internationalisation

- **CEQUINT, Certificate for Quality of Internationalisation of the Lifelong Learning Programme** (ongoing, started in 2012)

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/projects/cequint>

AQU Catalunya is a member of the consortium consisting of European QA agencies that is in charge of developing the project, and the Agency is to coordinate one of the workgroups.

- **ERANET-MUNDUS** (ongoing, started in 2011)

<http://www.eranetmundus.ub.edu/>

AQU Catalunya is an associate member of the consortium in charge of developing the project, which is coordinated by the University of Barcelona (UB), the main purpose of which is to develop systems of quality assurance in relation to academic mobility.

- **JOQAR, Joint programmes: Quality assurance and recognition of degrees awarded** (ongoing, started in 2010)

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/projects/joqar>



AQU Catalunya is a member of the consortium in charge of developing the project, which is coordinated by the ECA and the NVAO (Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders). The Agency is to coordinate the review of an Erasmus Mundus programme.

Within the framework of this programme, AQU Catalunya organised a seminar to develop the methodology for the recognition and accreditation of joint programmes. The seminar was held on 9 November at the Pompeu Fabra University with the participation of representatives from the ENIC-NARIS networks for the recognition of qualifications.

- **STUDY ABROAD** (2011-2012)

<http://www.uab.es/servlet/Satellite/estudiantes-internacionales/movilidad-e-intercambio/study-abroad-en-estudios-regulares-1253513297270.html>

AQU Catalunya signed an agreement with the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and the Fundació UAB to design a specific methodology and to review the quality of the courses being offered, teacher support for students participating in the programme, the

public information aimed at both current and prospective students, and the QA mechanisms associated with the Study Abroad programme. The findings of this review are set out in the report entitled *AQU External Quality Assurance Report. UAB. Study Abroad Programme*.

Innovation

- **ENQA WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPACT OF QA** (ongoing, started in 2012)

AQU Catalunya coordinates an ENQA project group, consisting of representatives from twenty European QA agencies, to identify the impact of quality assurance on higher education in areas such as improvements in teaching, course management and the linkage of new policies in the sector.

- **LIFELONG LEARNING, FLLLEX. The Impact of Life-Long Learning Strategies on Professional Higher Education** (2010-2012)

<http://www.enqa.eu/projectitem.lasso?id=342&cont=projDetail>

AQU Catalunya spearheaded the preparation of the methodology for self-assessment for the following policies and strategies in the universities: *FLLLEX-Radar. A self-assessment instrument for Lifelong Learning in Professional Higher Education*. The findings of the project are set out in the publication *FLLLEX Project - Results and Recommendations. Towards an Institutional Strategy for Lifelong Learning in Higher Professional Education*.

- **ETRAIN, European Training of QA Experts** (2010-2012)

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/projects/e-train>

AQU Catalunya participated as a partner in the training of experts.

Cooperation

- **ISLAH, Instruments of Support of Labor Market and Higher Education** (ongoing, started in 2012)

<http://www.islah-project.net/?q=node/33>

The Agency is a member of the consortium in charge of the development of ISLAH, a project selected by the technical agency of the European Commission's TEMPUS programme for funding to the amount of 1.2 million euros. AQU Catalunya shares best practices and its experience in setting indicators on graduate destinations (labour market outcomes).

- **EQuAM, Enhancement of Quality Assurance Management in Jordanian Universities** (ongoing, started in 2011)

http://www.ub.edu/web/ub/ca/menu_eines/noticies/2012/Fotonoticies/12/004.html

AQU Catalunya participates in EQuAM as a partner and shares best practices in quality assurance.

- **DIES ASEAN-QA, Joint capacity building project in Southeast Asia** (2011-2012)

<http://www.enqa.eu/projectitem.lasso?id=377&cont=projDetail>

AQU Catalunya participates in DIES ASEAN-QA as a partner and cooperates with experts from the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) in the training of staff with QA agencies in the ASEAN region (Southeast Asia). In addition, it will also participate in two university programme reviews to be carried out in the region.

- **JISER-MED, Joint innovation and synergies in education and research** (2011-2012)

<http://www.jiser-med.org/>

AQU Catalunya collaborates in the development of quality assurance.

- **TEMPUS BiH, TEMPUS in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (2007-2012)

http://www.tempusbih.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=106

AQU Catalunya participated in the training of staff from universities and the QA agency in matters relating to quality assurance, and coordinated the review of six programmes in five public universities.

Benchmarking

- **QPP, Quality procedures in European higher education: Visions for the future** (2011-2012)

<http://www.enqa.eu/projectitem.lasso?id=359&cont=projDetail>

AQU Catalunya previously participated in this programme (the second time it was run, in 2007).

5. STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

1. Review of AQU Catalunya in accordance with the European standards and guidelines

Recognition of a QA agency at European level calls for compliance with the European standards and guidelines (ESG). Agencies must undergo a review based on the ESG in order to become members of the association and then again once every five years in order to continue as members of ENQA and to maintain registration with the EQAR register.

The second international external review of AQU Catalunya, which was coordinated by ENQA, began in 2011. The review consisted of an assessment of the cyclical external review (QA) activities dealing with university study programmes, together with other processes undertaken by the Agency, such as university teaching staff assessment.



The drawing up of the Agency's self-evaluation report was completed in March 2012, and it was then referred to the members of the international external review panel designated by ENQA. The panel visited the Agency on 29-30 May and issued the final external review report in July, in which it found that AQU Catalunya was in compliance with the European standards and the ENQA Membership Provisions to continue as a full member of ENQA during the period from 2012-2017.

Following its review of the external review report, the ENQA Board determined that AQU Catalunya meets the criteria for full membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and confirmed its membership for the next five years (2012-2017). The Agency's listing with the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) was also renewed until 2017.

The fact that the Agency has successfully undergone an external review of this type facilitates agreements of mutual recognition for the quality assurance activities it carries out with other national and international agencies and institutions. The most evident case is the possibility of AQU Catalunya, in accordance with Spanish regulations, to carry out the validation of recognised university degrees and programmes. Only regional³ QA agencies that have

³ In reference to the regional Autonomous Communities in Spain.

successfully undergone an international external review, are full members of ENQA and registered with the EQAR register can carry out validation.

2. Governing and QA bodies

The governing bodies of AQU Catalunya, the Board of Management and the Standing Committee, met to supervise and endorse all actions by the Agency.



The Agency's quality assurance bodies also held the corresponding meetings to supervise the work of AQU Catalunya's special committees and in relation to the following matters:

- **CAQ (Quality Assurance Commission):** the supervising of work carried out in relation to the review of official degrees and programmes and the timetable for reviews over the next few years. Endorsement of the modifications submitted in the material on the validation methodology and a first draft of the *Guide to the accreditation of recognised Bachelor and Master's degrees*.
- **CLiC (Commission that deals with tenure-track and collaborating teaching staff):** the suitability of the criteria for several of the special committees and the endorsement of calls for applications and QA criteria.
- **CAR (Research Assessment Commission):** improvements to certain aspects of the review and endorsement of calls for applications and QA criteria.

3. Advisory bodies, Catalan universities and social partners

AQU Catalunya held different meetings with the advisory bodies and representatives from the Catalan universities and the following social partners:



- **Student Commission:** to deal with the international external review of AQU Catalunya, degree programme monitoring and the start of the fifth survey on graduate destinations and labour market outcomes, planned for 2014.
- **Vice-rectors in charge of quality and academic governance:** to deal with simplifying the validation and modification of recognised degrees and programmes, the indicators used to monitor doctorate programmes and the fifth survey on graduate destinations (labour market outcomes).
- **Vice-rectors in charge of teaching staff:** to discuss the proposal to extend the validity of the accreditation of teaching assessment handbooks used in the public universities in Catalonia.
- **Secretaries of the universities' boards of trustees:** to prepare the launch of the fifth survey on graduate destinations (graduate labour market outcomes).

4. Communication

Publications

AQU Catalunya produced around ten publications dealing with the findings of the SUPORT programme, methodological materials and the publications available online entitled *Working after university 2011* and *Gender and the labour market outcomes of graduates. Is the situation the same or different for females and males ten years after graduation?*

Website



Changes were made during 2012 to the structure and overall presentation of the website, with improved access to the website for mobile devices.

The number of visits to the website was consolidated at around 107,000, while recorded access to documents was over 63,000.

The e-newsletter (elButlletí)

All six issues were produced of the e-newsletter (elButlletí), the Agency's bi-monthly publication in Catalan, Spanish and English that gives in-depth information on activities and projects that are carried out, together with feedback from the participants. The e-newsletter is now sent out to more than 5,900 subscribers.



6. INTERNAL ORGANISATION

1. Accountability and internal quality

1.1. Internal quality and information security system

In line with the quality and information security policy approved in 2011, prevailing legislation dealing with the protection of personal data (Organic Law 15/1999, LOPD, Spanish acronym) and the National Security Framework (ENS), the project to implement ISO 27001 (for information security) was launched.

In addition, AQU Catalunya satisfactorily underwent an external audit to renew the certificate for its management system according to ISO standard 9001:2008, which was carried out by the Applus certifying agency.

2. Information and communications technologies/ICT

In the area of data processing, AQU Catalunya undertook the following:

- The WINDDAT website with indicators on teaching for the development and analysis of degree programmes.
- NEXUS.
- Migration of formalities to the Generalitat de Catalunya's on-line application website (OVT).



3. Human resources

As of 31 December 2012, in addition to the director and the manager, the Agency's staff totalled 41 people (31 female and 10 male), of which 27 had a permanent contract and 14 were interim staff.

In 2012 staff salaries underwent various reductions as a result of the coming into effect of new regulations. The end result was a reduction in staff salaries to the value of the additional bonus payment (*paga extraordinària*).

In addition, and in accordance with Law 1/2012 regarding the budget of the Generalitat de Catalunya for 2012, contributions to the pension plan, staff ticket restaurant vouchers and the social welfare fund were all temporarily suspended.

3. Financial and accounting management

The budget settlement for 2012 was as follows:

Table 25. Budget revenue 2012

Recognised income and assets	Initial budget	Actual amount in €
Charges, sale of goods and services	86,386.00	111,858.65
Current transfers	2,772,980.64	2,598,606.43
Additions to capital	44.00	2,080.82
Variation in financial assets	75,261.06	75,261.06
Carry-overs		370,041.32
Total	2,934,671.70	3,157,848.28

Table 26. Final expenditure 2012

Recognised expenditure and liabilities	Initial budget	Actual amount in €
Staff salaries	1,816,397.52	1,707,712.54
Expenditure on current assets and services	1,034,503.12	1,130,904.09
Financing expenses	10.00	0.07
Current transfers	8,500.00	47,420.00
Current investments	75,261.06	150,286.10
Total	2,934,671.70	3,036,322.80

A breakdown of the expenditure budget for each of the strategic areas in which the Agency is active was as follows:

Table 27. Final economic costs and work hours of staff at AQU Catalunya according to strategic categories and main projects

Strategic category	Amount in €	Work hours
Teaching quality	384,883.36	15,919
Degree programme validation and modification	263,585.52	9,986
Degree programme monitoring	33,913.38	2,805
AUDIT	8,680.37	345
UNEIX	71,617.37	2,605
Validation of higher studies in the Arts	7,086.72	178
Teaching staff quality	282,044.33	7,417
Accreditation of research and advanced research	85,868.29	1,964
Pre-recruitment reports for tenure-track and collaborating teaching staff	106,545.72	2,291
Merits in research	89,630.32	3,162
Knowledge generation	15,916.85	1,811
MVSM workshop	9,656.90	378
Others	6,259.95	1,433
Internationalisation and institutional relations	40,595.21	2,733
Strategic management and communication	111,134.88	3,981
Internal organisation	494,035.63	24,819
General services	252,183.60	16,428
Relocation of the Agency	72,846.70	1,352
Investments	123,068.81	4,579
Others	45,936.52	2,460
Total	1,328,610.26	56,680

Table 28. Final expenditure 2012 including staff wage costs for each category

Strategic category	Amount in €	% of the budget
I. Teaching quality	921,977.90	30.37
II. Teaching staff quality	617,688.95	20.35
III. Knowledge generation	15,916.85	0.50
IV. Internationalisation	103,593.12	3.42
V. Strategic management and communication	111,134.88	3.66
VI. Internal organisation	1,266,011.10	41.70
Total	3,036,322.80	100.00