



Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de Catalunya

AQU Catalunya
Activities Report 2003
19 March to 31 December 2003

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Via Laietana, 28, 5a planta

08003 Barcelona

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Introduction

In accordance with the Act on the Universities of Catalunya (LUC), Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (AQU Catalunya) adopted the legal form of a public-law entity of the Generalitat (Autonomous Government) de Catalunya which adjusts its activity to private law, and it is linked to the Department competent in matters of universities, with its own legal status, full capacity to act, and its own assets for the performance of its functions.

AQU Catalunya is defined by the LUC as the main instrument for the promotion and assessment of quality and its objective is the assessment, accreditation and certification of quality in the field of the universities and centres of higher education of Catalunya. The bylaws of AQU Catalunya were approved in the year 2003 and regulate, among other matters, the structure, operation and composition of its bodies as well as all the competences that the LUC and the normative framework in force attributed to it. With respect to its functions, in 2003 AQU Catalunya focused its action on four strategic lines:

- Creation of a new entity: AQU Catalunya
- Quality assessment
- Assessment of university teaching staff
- Co-operation, promotion and communication

The passage from the former consortium to the creation of AQU Catalunya entailed the closing of one entity and the opening of a new one that had to assume the functions of its predecessor as well as the new attributions, competences and structure. It also had to adapt the existing governing bodies and create new ones, in accordance with the new framework that was established.

The transformation process obliges strict compliance with the legal requirement of rendering accounts on the activities carried out by AQU Catalunya in the year 2003 and also obliges that this report shall:

- Explain the new structure and operation of AQU Catalunya.
- Describe the actions carried out in order to face the new challenges.
- Express recognition for the support received from the Department of Universities, Research and Information Society, from the Catalan universities, and from all the people who collaborated to make it possible.

All processes of change unquestionably entail an internal restructuring that requires time to become consolidated and to operate to the full extent of its possibilities. Although it is evident

that it was necessary to make a change in form, this was not so with respect to the basic premises, that is to say, the essence. AQU Catalunya continues to maintain the firm will to keep working with the Catalan universities and with the DURSI to improve the Catalan university system, understanding quality as a method of improvement more than as a mere formality with which compliance is to be made.

It should be noted that all the activities that are mentioned here were carried out with the greatest dedication and rigour and with the will to carry on with the spirit of collaboration and of teamwork that was begun by the predecessor entity.

AQU Catalunya has the foundations of a solid agency, with European interest and projection, which watches out for the improvement of the Catalan university system, which stakes energetically on innovation and co-operation, which seeks internal excellence, which promotes the dissemination of quality and which works in accordance with a code of ethics. It does all this with the aim of working for the Catalan university system with the full conviction that quality is the assurance of improvement.

Objectives for the year 2003

AQU CATALUNYA

As was defined in the Activities Plan for 2003, the most important challenge to be faced was that of creating and starting up AQU Catalunya in order to confront, with efficacy and efficiency, the new context and attributions that were assigned to it. The consortium was to be transformed into AQU Catalunya, in accordance with the provisions of the LUC, without detriment to the activities that were under way and assuming the complex developments for the preparation of AQU Catalunya in the rendering of new services and the performance of new activities. At the same time it was wished to take advantage of the transformation process to make an analysis of strengths and weaknesses, with the will to define a new body that would be the heir to the valuable background and experience which had been acquired, and that would bring about a considerable improvement in the strong points and weak points which were detected.

In the first place, from the structural standpoint, it was necessary to adapt the existing governing bodies (President, Board of Directors, and Director) in accordance with the new framework established. It was necessary to appoint the President of AQU Catalunya; to set up the Board of Directors —the supreme governing body— with a new composition: *a)* the president of AQU Catalunya, *b)* the rectors of the Catalan public universities and the rector of the UOC, *c)* the rectors of the private universities (up to a maximum of three), *d)* the presidents of the social councils of the public universities, *e)* three academics of acknowledged prestige, *f)* two representatives of the Department competent in matters of universities, *g)* the presidents of the assessment committees, and *h)* the director of AQU Catalunya; and lastly, to appoint the director of AQU Catalunya.

Secondly, it was necessary to appoint the members and to set up the assessment bodies provided by the LUC —the Quality Assessment Committee, the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee, and the Research Assessment Committee— and the specific committees that were derived from them, and also to define their respective attributions.

Lastly, as a result of these far-reaching changes, it was necessary to restructure the internal operating unit in order to deal with the management of the new attributions and operation of AQU Catalunya.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The main objective of this line of work was to transform the structure and operation of AQU Catalunya in order to adapt it to the requirements of the new assessment bodies —the Quality Assessment Committee and the specific committees— and with a view to assuming the new attributions granted by the LUC, while continuing the activities which the former consortium had undertaken. By fields, the specific objectives were as follows:

Assessment of programmes:

- To establish the new projects for Assessments Programme 2003-2004.
- To analyse and assess the operation of the new methodology, bearing in mind the experience acquired and especially its adaptation to the European assessment model.
- To develop the respective agreements with the universities.
- To continue the participation in the European project TEEP (Transnational European Evaluation Project).
- To finish the programmes begun under the consortium Agència.

Assessment of systems:

- To carry out the certification of the quality systems of the universities for the assessment of teaching activity, in accordance with the criteria established by the Inter-university Council of Catalunya, at the request of the universities.

Accountability:

- To publish the Report 2002 on the process of quality assessment in the university system of Catalunya.
- To develop the Report 2003 on the process of quality assessment in the university system of Catalunya.

Development and innovation projects:

- To continue the adaptation of specific methodologies.
- To finish the project of the Pilot Plan on qualification and professionalisation at the universities.
- To develop the General Frameworks, which are documents that bring together the best practices implemented by the universities and the recommendations made by the experts in each of the respective fields.

TEACHING STAFF AND RESEARCH

The assessment of university teaching staff was one of the new attributions that the LUC granted to AQU Catalunya. Never having been carried out from Catalunya, this activity had to be planned and created from zero. For this reason, a specific ad hoc area was created within AQU Catalunya in order to manage and co-ordinate all the activities relating to this new attribution, as well as the activities addressed to the creation of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee, the Research Assessment Committee, and their specific committees.

Specifically, the following objectives were set for 2003:

- Development of the model of assessment of university teaching staff for the preparation of reports for the contracting of teachers in the categories of tenure-track lecturer and collaborating lecturer.
- Establishment of the model of assessment of university teaching staff for the issuing of research accreditations and advanced research accreditations, which are also used for the contracting of teachers in the categories of tenured assistant professor and full professor.
- Establishment of the assessment model with the private universities for the assessment of the teaching and research of the teachers of these universities.
- Establishment of the rules of operation.
- Development of procedures and forms.
- Establishment of the criteria to be applied in assessment.
- Establishment and publication of convocations.
- Start-up of the administrative mechanisms in the Teaching Staff and Research Area.

PROMOTION, CO-OPERATION AND COMMUNICATION IN THE FIELD OF QUALITY

The former Agència already carried out tasks relating to promotion, co-operation and communication in the field of university quality, and the following objectives were set in this respect for 2003:

Promotion and communication:

- To develop a promotion plan that would allow the creation of a new image for AQU Catalunya as a whole (stationery, publications, web site, documents and other aspects).
- To prepare a new web site that would allow an improvement of communication with the users of AQU Catalunya.
- To redesign the termly newsletter and to begin to produce it in digital format.

Publishing and dissemination:

- To develop the necessary publications to disseminate the assessment results.
- To develop publications that will allow the dissemination of the methodological materials and the General Frameworks prepared by AQU Catalunya.
- To develop the books that are derived from the workshops for reflection and debate.

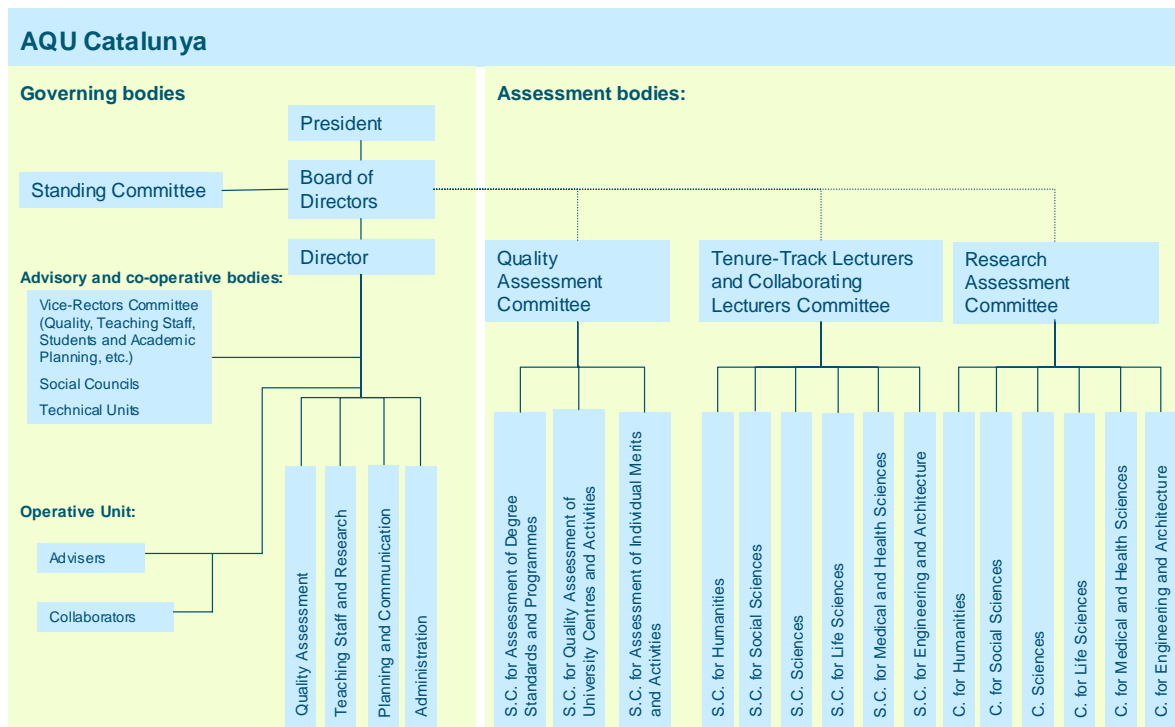
Training, co-operation and exchange:

- To organise a workshop for reflection and debate with Rovira i Virigili University.
- To establish all the necessary ties in order to maintain the close collaboration between the Catalan universities, the Administration and AQU Catalunya that allowed the former Agència to make substantial advances.
- To participate and co-operate with the associations and entities that have the same objective as AQU Catalunya.
- To participate in seminars and congresses while exporting the experiences created in AQU Catalunya.
- To co-operate on the European and international projects that either contribute added value to the Catalan university system as a whole or help to develop quality systems that will allow the university systems of other countries to advance.

Structure and operation

ORGANISATION CHART

As a result of its transformation by the LUC, AQU Catalunya established the following organisation chart in 2003:



GOVERNING BODIES

President

Dr Antoni Serra i Ramoneda was appointed president of AQU Catalunya by Decree 40/2003, dated 20th February. Among other functions, he is in charge of the following: to watch out for the achievement of the objectives that are set, to exercise the institutional representation of AQU Catalunya and to inform the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Catalan Parliament about the activity carried out.

Board of Directors

This is the supreme governing body of AQU Catalunya and it may act in the plenary assembly or in the Permanent Commission. The constitutive meeting of the Board of Directors took place at the headquarters of AQU Catalunya on 19 March 2003. The composition of the Board of Directors in the year 2003 was as follows¹:

- Dr Antoni Serra Ramoneda (president of AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Joan Tugores Ques (rector of the University of Barcelona)
- Dr Lluís Ferrer Caubet (rector of the Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Ferrer Llop (rector of the Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Rosa Virós Galtier (rector of Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Joan Batlle Grabulosa (rector of the University of Girona)
- Dr Jaume Porta Casanellas (rector of the University of Lleida, until 26-05-03)
- Dr Joan Viñas Salas (rector of the University of Lleida, from 27-05-03)
- Dr Lluís Arola Ferrer (rector of Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Gabriel Ferraté Pascual (rector of the Open University of Catalunya)
- Dr Esther Giménez-Salinas Colomer (rector of Ramon Llull University, from 23-10-03)
- Dr David Serrat Congost (rector of the University of Vic, from 23-10-03)
- Dr Josep Argemí Renom (rector of the International University of Catalunya, from 23-10-03)
- Mr Pere Fontana García (president of the Social Council of the University of Barcelona)
- Mr Pere Miró Plans (president of the Social Council of the Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Mr Joaquim Molins Amat (president of the Social Council of the Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Mr Joan Guitart Agell (president of the Social Council of Pompeu Fabra University)
- Mr Salvador Carrera Comes (president of the Social Council of the University of Girona)
- Mr Josep M. Pujol Gorné (president of the Social Council of the University of Lleida)

¹ On 23 October 2003, the General Secretariat of the CIC notified AQU Catalunya that Ramon Llull University, the University of Vic and the International University of Catalunya had requested to join the university programming of Catalunya and, consequently, they formed part of the Board of Directors of AQU Catalunya as from said date.

- Mr Josep Gomis Martí (president of the Social Council of Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Enric Argullol Murgadas (academic, Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Gemma Rigau Oliver (academic, Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Rolf Tarrach Siegel (academic, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Claudi Alsina Català (Director-General of Universities, until 28-12-03)
- Dr Ramon Vilaseca Alavedra (Director-General of Universities, from 29-12-03)
- Dr Joaquim Casal Fàbrega (Director-General for Research, until 28-12-03)
- Dr Francesc Xavier Hernández Cardona (Director-General for Research, from 29-12-03)
- Dr Teresa Garcia-Milà Lloveras (president of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee, AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Joan Rodés Teixidor (president of the Research Assessment Committee, AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Gemma Rauret Dalmau (director of AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Joan Bravo Pijoan (secretary of AQU Catalunya)

The main attributions that are to be carried out by the Board of Directors are to approve the Activities Plan, to establish the policies and strategic objectives, and to approve the balance sheet, the income statement and the notes to the financial statement.

In 2003, the Board of Directors approved the proposal of Bylaws of AQU Catalunya and ratified the operating rules of the Quality Assessment Committee and of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee. It also approved the proposals of appointment of the members of the assessment committees of AQU Catalunya that were submitted by the respective presidents. Lastly, it approved the Activities Plan of AQU Catalunya for 2003 and the preliminary project of the Activities Plan and the Budget for 2004.

Permanent Commission of the Board of Directors

The Permanent Commission of the Board of Directors approved its operating rules and ratified the transitional internal organisational structure for 2003, the model agreement with the Catalan public universities and the definitive budget of AQU Catalunya for 2003. The members who formed part of the Permanent Commission of AQU Catalunya during this year were as follows:

- Dr Antoni Serra Ramoneda (president of AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Lluís Ferrer Caubet (rector of the Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Lluís Arola Ferrer (rector of Rovira i Virgili University)
- Mr Pere Fontana García (president of the Social Council of the University of Barcelona)
- Mr Josep M. Pujol Gorné (president of the Social Council of the University of Lleida)
- Dr Rolf Tarrach Siegel (academic, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Claudi Alsina Català (Director-General of Universities, until 28-12-03)
- Dr Ramon Vilaseca Alavedra (Director-General of Universities, from 29-12-03)
- Dr Gemma Rauret Dalmau (director of AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Joan Bravo Pijoan (secretary of AQU Catalunya)

Director

Dr Gemma Rauret i Dalmau was appointed director of AQU Catalunya by Resolution UNI/872/2003, dated 9th April. Among other tasks, she is in charge of the direction of AQU Catalunya, the full representation of its Board of Directors with respect to the performance of the resolutions that this body may adopt, and the administration of its assets and its legal representation.

ASSESSMENT BODIES

In order to carry out the new attributions in accordance with the structure established by the LUC, the assessment bodies of AQU Catalunya were formed, namely: the Quality Assessment Committee (CAQ), the Tenure-track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee (CLiC) and the Research Assessment Committee (CAR). These three committees have approved their operating rules as well as the operating rules of the specific committees that are derived from them.

Quality Assessment Committee

The Quality Assessment Committee of AQU Catalunya (CAQ) was organised on 10 June. It is formed by a president (Dr Gemma Rauret i Dalmau was appointed to this position by Resolution UNI/871/2003, dated 9 April) and twelve members of acknowledged academic or professional merit. The LUC granted attributions to the Committee in the fields of assessment, accreditation and certification in relation to the degree standards, activities, centres, and quality assessment processes and systems. The composition of the Committee was as follows:

- Dr Gemma Rauret Dalmau (president of the Committee and director of AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Pere Botella López (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Jean-Loup Jolivet (Comité National d'Évaluation of France)
- Dr Francesc Michavila Pitarch (Polytechnic University of Madrid)
- Dr Josep Oliver Alonso (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Oliveras Samitier (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Espinar (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Ignasi Romagosa Clariana (University of Lleida)
- Dr Christian Thune (Danish Evaluation Institute, Denmark and the ENQA)
- Dr Jaume Torras Elías (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Miguel Valcárcel Cases (University of Cordoba)
- Dr Darío Villanueva Prieto (University of Santiago de Compostela)
- Dr Ton I. Vroeijenstijn (Quality Assurance Expert)

At the session of 11 June, the CAQ resolved to appoint Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí (chief of the Quality Assessment Area of AQU Catalunya) to the position of secretary of the Committee.

For the good exercise of its functions, the CAQ organised three specific committees, with their respective attributions:

The Specific Committee for the Assessment of Degree Standards and Programmes. The Specific Committee was organised on 11th November. The CAQ entrusted it with the assessment of the educations leading to the grant of the official and own degrees that are provided by the universities and the higher education centres; the certification of the quality of educations and the assessment of programmes; the accreditation of the educations within the frame of the European Area of Quality, and the issuing of assessment, certification and accreditation reports on the quality of degree standards. The composition of the Specific Committee was as follows:

- Dr Jaume Torras Elías (president, Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Nicole Mahy (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Oliver Alonso (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Ana María Sastre Requena (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Darío Villanueva Prieto (University of Santiago de Compostela)
- Dr Ton I. Vroeijenstijn (Netherlands Accreditation Organization)

At the session of 11 November, the Specific Committee for the Assessment of Degree Standards and Programmes resolved to appoint Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí (chief of the Quality Assessment Area of AQU Catalunya), to the position of secretary of the Committee.

The Specific Committee for the Quality Assessment of University Centres and Activities

The Specific Committee was organised on 2 December. The CAQ entrusted it, among other tasks, with the assessment of the educational centres established in Catalunya that provide educations leading to the grant of foreign university higher education degrees; the accreditation of the quality assessment procedures and systems of the universities (except those relating to the teaching function of teachers), and the assessment of the activities, programmes, services and management of the universities and higher education centres. The composition of the Specific Committee was as follows:

- Dr Pere Botella López (president, Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr M. Lluïsa Hernanz Carbó (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Francesc Michavila Pitarch (Polytechnic University of Madrid)
- Dr M. Luisa Molinas de Ferrer (University of Girona)
- Dr Josep Oliveras Samitier (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Christian Thune (Danish Evaluation Institute and the ENQA)

At the session of 2 December, the Specific Committee for the Quality Assessment of University Centres and Activities resolved to appoint Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí (chief of the Quality Assessment Area of AQU Catalunya) to the position of secretary of the Committee.

The Specific Committee for the Assessment of Individual Merits and Activities

The Specific Committee was organised on 2 October and the CAQ entrusted it with the assessment of the individual teaching and management merits of the public-official and contracted teaching and research staff, for the assignment of payment bonuses in accordance with Sections 55 and 69 of the LOU; the accreditation of the quality assessment procedures and systems of the universities relating to the teaching function of teachers, and the issuing of evaluation and assessment reports on individual merits. The composition of the Specific Committee was as follows:

- Dr Miguel Valcárcel Cases (president, University of Cordoba)
- Dr Carmen Ansotegui Olcoz (Ramon Llull University)
- Dr Jean-Loup Jolivet (Comité National d'Évaluation of France)
- Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Espinar (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Ignasi Romagosa Clariana (University of Lleida)
- Dr M. Àngela Vilallonga Vives (University of Girona)

Mr Esteve Arboix Codina, expert of the Quality Assessment Area of AQU Catalunya, was the secretary of this Committee.

The Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee

The Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee (CLiC) of AQU Catalunya was organised on 26 March 2003. It is formed by a president (Dr Teresa Garcia-Milà i Lloveras was appointed to this position by Resolution UNI/441/2003, dated 21 February) and seven persons more. The LUC granted the Committee attributions in the field of the issue of reports for the contracting, by the Catalan public universities, of teaching staff in the categories of tenure-track lecturer and collaborating lecturer. The composition of the Committee was as follows:

- Dr Teresa Garcia-Milà Lloveras (president, Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Montserrat Agudé Porres (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Joaquim Bisbal Méndez (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep M. Bruart Marraco (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Rosa Caballol Lorenzo (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Adolf Comeron Tejero (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Enric Herrero Perpiñan (University of Lleida)
- Dr Xavier Pueyo Sáñez (University of Girona)

In the session of 26 March, the CLiC resolved to appoint Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (chief of the Teaching Staff and Research Area of AQU Catalunya) to the position of secretary of the Committee.

For the exercise of its functions, six specific committees were created for the respective fields of knowledge (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences, and Engineering and Architecture), which were formed by the following members:

The Specific Committee for Humanities (organised on 19 May)

- Dr Josep M. Brucart Marraco (president, Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Juan José Acero Fernández (University of Granada)
- Dr Josep Oliveras Samitier (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Maria del Ripoll Freixa (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Mercè Roca Roumens (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Vicent Salvador Liern (Jaume I University)
- Dr Avelina Sunyer Gratacós (University of Girona)
- Dr Pere Ysàs Solanes (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Specific Committee for Social Sciences (organised on 23 May)

- Dr Joaquim Bisbal Méndez (president, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Teresa Anguera Argilaga (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Jordi Brandts Bernard (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Francisco Garcimartín Alférez (University of Castilla la Mancha)
- Dr Alejandro Nieto García (Complutensian University of Madrid)
- Dr Ángel I. Pérez Gómez (University of Malaga)
- Dr Vicente Salas Fumás (University of Zaragoza)
- Dr Pere Vilanova Trias (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Specific Committee for Sciences (organised on 16 May)

- Dr Rosa Caballol Lorenzo (president, Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Amadeu Delshams Valdés (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Anna Maria Grandas Sagarra (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Jordi Pascual Gainza (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Joan Francesc Piniella Febrer (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Specific Committee for Life Sciences (organised on 9 May):

- Dr Montserrat Agudé Porres (president, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Xavier Niell Castaneda (University of Málaga)
- Dr Jesús Matallanas García (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Manuel Palacín Prieto (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Alfredo Ruiz Panadero (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Specific Committee for Medical and Health Sciences (organised on 21 May):

- Dr Enric Herrero Perpiñan (president, University of Lleida)
- Dr Elías Campo Güerri (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Mariano Domingo Álvarez (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Fausto García Hecardt (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Lluís Massana Marín (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Specific Committee for Engineering and Architecture (organised on 26 May):

- Dr Xavier Pueyo Sández (president, University of Girona)
- Dr Adolf Comeron Tejero (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Eduardo Fernández Camacho (University of Seville)
- Dr Francisco Javier Martínez Rodríguez (University of Zaragoza)
- Dr Fermín Luis Navarrina Martínez (University of Coruna)
- Dr Guillermo Reglero Rada (Autonomous University of Madrid)
- Dr Juan José Sendra Salas (University of Seville)
- Dr Luis Vergara Domínguez (Polytechnic University of Valencia)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Research Assessment Committee

The Research Assessment Committee of AQU Catalunya (CAR) was organised on 3 April 2003. It is formed by a president (Dr Joan Rodés i Teixidó was appointed to this position by Resolution 440/2003, dated 23 February), and by twenty other persons with prominent scientific merits. The LUC granted attributions to the Committee in the field of research accreditations and advanced research accreditations. The composition of the Committee was as follows:

- Dr Joan Rodés Teixidor (president, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Francesc X. Avilés Puigvert (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Jaume Baguñà Monjo (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Alegria Borràs Rodríguez (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Joaquim Bruna Floris (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Eudald Carbonell Roura (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Àngel Cardama Aznar (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Carmen Claver Cabrero (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Joan X. Comella Carnicé (University of Lleida)
- Dr Gosta Esping-Andersen (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Manuel García-Carpintero Sánchez-Miguel (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Joaquim Gosálbez Noguera (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Jordi Maluquer de Motes (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr David Pérez Castillo (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep A. Planell Estany (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Artur Polls Martí (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Ricard Pujol Borrell (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Albert Rossich Estragó (University of Girona)
- Dr Manuel de Solà-Morales Rubió (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Eduard Soriano García (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep M. Terricabras Noguera (University of Girona)

On 3 April, the CAR resolved to appoint Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (chief of the Teaching Staff and Research Area of AQU Catalunya) to the position of secretary.

For the good exercise of its functions, this Committee resolved to work with six committees, just one for each area of knowledge, in order to assess research and advanced research. Consequently, these committees are responsible for granting both research accreditations and advanced research accreditations. The composition of these committees was as follows:

The Humanities Committee (organised on 14 July):

- Dr Manuel García-Carpintero Sánchez-Miguel (president, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Eudald Carbonell Roura (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Violeta Demonte Barreto (Autonomous University of Madrid)
- Dr Josep M. Fullola Pericot (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Albert Rossich Estragó (University of Girona)
- Dr Josep M. Terricabras Noguera (University of Girona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Social Sciences Committee (organised on 30 June):

- Dr Jordi Maluquer de Motes (president, Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Alegria Borràs Rodríguez (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Gosta Esping-Andersen (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Luis Núñez Ladevéze (University of San Pablo-CEU)
- Dr David Pérez Castillo (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Vicenç Roselló Verger (University of València)
- Dr Jaume Sarramona López (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Sciences Committee (organised on 9 May):

- Dr Joaquim Bruna Floris (president, Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Carmen Claver Cabrero (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Pablo Espinet Rubio (University of Valladolid)
- Dr Alberto Marcos Vallaure (University of Oviedo)
- Dr Artur Polls Martí (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Life Sciences Committee (organised on 16 July):

- Dr Jaume Baguñà Monjo (president, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Francesc Xavier Avilés Puigvert (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Joaquim Gosálbez Noguera (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Ginés Morata Pérez (CSIC-Autonomous University of Madrid)
- Dr Eduardo Soriano García (Barcelona Science Park)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Medical and Health Sciences Committee (organised on 30 June):

- Dr Joan X. Comella Carnicé (president, University of Lleida)
- Dr Luis J. Fuentes Melero (University of Almeria)
- Dr José López Barneo (Virgen del Rocío University Hospital, Seville)
- Dr Ricard Pujol Borrell (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Jesús Sanmiguel Izquierdo (Clinical Hospital)
- Dr Juan L. Tamargo Menéndez (Complutensian University of Madrid)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)



The Engineering and Architecture Committee (organised on 22 July):

- Dr Àngel Cardama Aznar (president, Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Enrique Castillo Ron (University of Cantabria)
- Dr José Antonio Martín Pereda (Polytechnic University of Madrid)
- Dr Josep A. Planell Estany (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Manuel de Solà-Morales Rubió (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

ADVISORY BODIES

One of the characteristic points of the Catalan model launched by the former consortium Agència was the fact that it worked jointly with the universities in order to unfold their action in the same direction. For this purpose, various advisory committees were organised, and the different activities that AQU Catalunya carried out were established and co-ordinated with them. Specifically, the permanent committees with which work was performed in the year 2003 were the following:

The Committee of Vice-Rectors Competent in Matters of Quality

Created by the Quality Assessment Committee, this Committee is formed by the vice-rectors for quality of the Catalan universities and its objective is to jointly co-ordinate and foster the actions of the Agència with the main persons responsible for institutional quality in the Catalan universities. In accordance with Article 6 of the rules of the CAQ, this Committee is informed of the programmes of the Quality Assessment Committee, to which it may submit plans of action, dispatched on a compulsory, non-binding basis. The Committee of Vice-Rectors Competent in Matters of Quality was formed by:

- Dr Gemma Rauret Dalmau (director of AQU Catalunya and president of the CAQ)
- Dr Ramon Alemany Leira (University of Barcelona)
- Dr M. Dolors Riba Lloret (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Ramon Carreras Planells (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Carles Ramió Matas (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Ramon Moreno Amich (University of Girona)
- Dr Josep M. Villar Mir (University of Lleida, until 26-05-2003)
- Dr Joan Prat Corominas (University of Lleida, from 27-05-2003)
- Dr Agustí Segarra Blasco (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Carles Sigalés Conde (Open University of Catalunya)
- Dr Josep Gallifa Roca (Ramon Llull University, from 23-10-2003)
- Dr Pere Quer Aiguadé (University of Vic, from 23-10-2003)
- Dr Albert Arbós Bertran (International University of Catalunya, from 23-10-2003)
- Mr Joan Bravo Pijoan (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Committee of Vice-Rectors for Teaching Staff

For the purpose of informing the Catalan universities about the operation of the new attribution unfolded by AQU Catalunya, namely, the assessment of university teaching staff, AQU Catalunya created an advisory body formed by all the vice-rectors competent in matters of teaching staff in the respective universities. During 2003, this Committee dealt mainly with the assessment of teaching staff with a view to contracting, and the certification of the teaching assessment model. This Committee was formed by:

- Dr Gemma Rauret Dalmau (director, AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Ramon Alemany Leira (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Jordi Marquet Cortés (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Vera Sacristán Adinolfi (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Josep Joan Moreso Mateos (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Joan Martí Bonmatí (University of Girona)
- Dr Albert Ibarz Ribas (University of Lleida, until 26-05-2003)
- Dr Joan Ramon Rosell Polo (University of Lleida, from 27-05-2003)
- Dr Francesc Xavier Grau Vidal (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Mr Joan Bravo Pijoan (AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Committee of Representatives of the Social Councils

In order to strengthen the ties between the universities and society, AQU Catalunya continued working in 2003 with a committee of representatives of the social councils from the Catalan public universities. Apart from informing them about all the activities it organises, AQU Catalunya held a meeting with the committee for the planning and follow-up of the project on assessment of the labour insertion of graduates. During this meeting, the representatives of the social councils were also informed about the process of the 2001 survey and its results, as well as about the planning of the second survey for 2004. This Committee was formed by:

- Dr Gemma Rauret Dalmau (director of AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Jordi Camós Grau (University of Barcelona)
- Mr Simó Aliana Magrí (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Ms Anna Serra Hombravella (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Mr Alessandro Benuzzi (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Mr Sebastià Alegre Rosselló (University of Girona)
- Mr Rafael Pujol Solanas (University of Lleida)
- Mr Jordi Gavaldà Casado (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The Committee of Managers of Technical Units for Quality

For the purpose of co-ordinating the unfolding of the activities of AQU Catalunya within the universities, work was carried out jointly with the managers of the technical units for quality in order to follow up the assessments of degree standards in progress, the new projects (such as the current assessment of labour insertion), and the unfolding of the DISSENY programme, among others. Moreover, the 2003-2004 programme was planned. This Committee was formed by:

- Ms Gemma Rauret Dalmau (director of AQU Catalunya)
- Ms Meritxell Chaves Sánchez (University of Barcelona)
- Mr Jordi Casanova Maturana (University of Barcelona)
- Ms Marta Vilalta Casals (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Ms Carme Sala Martínez (Autonomous University of Barcelona, until 14-09-2003)
- Mr Jesús Vivas González (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Mr Santiago Roca Martín (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Mr Xavier Massó Pérez (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Mr Francesc Abad Esteve (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Ms Anna Petit Solé (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Mr Josep M. Gómez Pallarès (University of Girona)
- Ms Pilar del Acebo Peña (University of Girona)
- Mr Josep M. Cots Caimon (University of Lleida)
- Ms Carme Sala Martínez (University of Lleida, from 15-09-2003)
- Ms Sara Gimeno Vila (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Mr Josep Salvatella Beas (Open University of Catalunya)
- Mr Jordi Garriga Andreu (Ramon Llull University, from 23-10-2003)
- Mr Sebastià Riera Cusí (University of Vic, from 23-10-2003)
- Mr Josep Corcó Juvinyà (International University of Catalunya, from 23-10-2003)
- Mr Joan Bravo Pijoan (AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Sebastián Rodríguez Espinar (AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí (AQU Catalunya)
- Ms Anna Prades Nebot (AQU Catalunya)
- Ms Olga Pujolràs González (AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Esteve Arboix Codina (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

The creation of the new AQU Catalunya also involved the transformation of the operating and internal structure. For this reason, four operating areas were created with specific transparent attributions and their own personnel. The personnel of the former consortium were integrated in the new entity, which maintained expressly the contractual labour relationships of these people.

Quality Assessment Area

This Area was entrusted with managing and co-ordinating all the activities attributed by the LUC to the Quality Assessment Committee and its specific committees. Basically, these activities are related to assessment, accreditation and certification in the field of degree standards, activities, centres, and quality assessment processes and systems. The members who formed part of this Area were the following:

- Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí, chief of the Area
- Mr Esteve Arboix Codina
- Ms Anna Prades Nebot
- Ms Olga Pujolràs González (from 17th March)

Teaching Staff and Research Area

This Area was entrusted with managing and co-ordinating all the activities attributed by the LUC to the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee and to the Research Assessment Committee and the respective committees derived from them. Basically, these activities are related to the issuing of reports for contracting in the categories of tenure-track lecturer and collaborating lecturer by the public universities, and the issuing of research and advanced research accreditations. The members who formed part of this Area were:

- Dr Josep Manel Torres Solà, chief of the Area
- Ms Núria Márquez Aranda
- Ms Eva Eixarch Olleta (from 11th September)
- Ms Àngels Hernández Salgado (from 11th September)

Planning and Communication Area

This Area was entrusted with managing and co-ordinating all the activities relating to the communication, creation and dissemination of the new image, the organisation of workshops and seminars, the start-up of the custom-made software for integration of the data of AQU Catalunya, and the planning of activities and quality. The members who formed part of this Area were:

- Ms Maria Giné Soca, chief of the Area
- Ms Concepción Herruzo Fonayet (from 14th November)
- Ms Àgata Segura Castellà (from 12th May)
- Ms Caterina Cazalla Lorite (from 7th April)

Administration Area

This Area was entrusted with managing and co-ordinating the directorship secretariat, the economic and financial area, legal consultancy, administrative support for the rest of the areas, and the purchasing and maintenance of the spaces of AQU Catalunya. The members who formed part of this Area were:

Secretariat, reception and registry

- Ms Eva Benito Moré (from 7th April)
- Ms Ingrid Mattick Pallart (from 1st April)
- Ms Anna Riba Rivera
- Ms Rocío Torres Lara (from 24th December)

Economic management and personnel administration

- Ms Carme Pérez Cruz
- Mr Carlos Alberto Gómez Díaz (from 14th May)

Legal consultancy

- Mr Jordi Escolar Bañeres (from 9th April)

Project on integration of databases (GESTA)

In order to improve the internal operation and co-ordination, a management programme (GESTA) was developed that had the purpose of efficiently integrating the databases of AQU Catalunya. The GESTA programme was conceived as a modular system from which the personal, security and assessment modules were prepared in 2003. The web-site contents

manager module was integrated and, lastly, the preparation of the teaching staff module was begun.

In parallel to the development of the programme, work was carried out on the entry of the data relating to the persons and experts who usually collaborate with AQU Catalunya, the teaching staff who needed to be assessed, and the assessment programmes.

LEGISLATIVE COMPILATION AND OPERATING RULES

Bylaws and operating rules

- Bylaws of AQU Catalunya, approved by Decree 93/2003 dated 1 April, published in the DOGC no. 3862 of 10 April 2003.
- Operating rules of the Quality Assessment Committee of AQU Catalunya, approved on 16 June 2003 and ratified by the Board of Directors on 23 July 2003.
 - Operating rules of the Specific Committee for the Quality Assessment of Degree Standards and Programmes, approved on 11 November 2003.
 - Operating rules of the Specific Committee for the Quality Assessment of University Centres and Activities, approved on 2 December 2003.
 - Operating rules of the Specific Commission for the Assessment of Individual Merits and Activities, approved on 2 October 2003.
- Operating rules of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of AQU Catalunya, approved on 26 May 2003 and ratified by the Board of Directors on 23 July 2003.
 - Operating rules of the specific committees of the CLiC, approved on 26 May 2003.
- Operating rules of the Research Assessment Committee, approved on 27 November 2003.

Appointments

- Decree 40/2003, dated 20 February, by which Mr Antoni Serra i Ramoneda is appointed to the position of president of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3827, dated 21 February 2003).
- Resolution UNI/872/2003, dated 9 April, by which appointment is made of the director of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3863, dated 11 April 2003).
- Resolution UNI/441/2003, dated 21 February, by which appointment is made of the president of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3834, dated 3 March 2003).
- Resolution UNI/440/2003, dated 21 February, by which appointment is made of the president of the Research Assessment Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3834, dated 3 March 2003).

- Resolution UNI/871/2003, dated 9 April, by which appointment is made of the president of the Quality Assessment Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3863, dated 11 April 2003).

Resolutions on activities and others

- Resolution UNI/938/2003, dated 11 April, by which the Resolution of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya, dated 2 April 2003, is made public, a resolution by which approval is granted to the procedure for the issuing of the reports prior to selection for the contracting of the tenure-track lecturers and collaborating lecturers of the public universities, in accordance with Act 1/2003, dated 19 February, on universities of Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3866, dated 11 April 2003).
- Edict, dated 11 August 2003, on notification of the resolutions of the specific committees of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 3952, dated 22 August 2003).
- Resolution UNI/2857/2003, dated 18 September, by which the Resolution of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya, dated 3 September 2003, is made public. It modifies the Resolution of 2 April 2003 (published in the DOGC no. 3974, dated 25 September 2003).
- Resolution UNI/3766/2003, dated 9 December, by which the procedure for the issuing of research accreditation is made public, in accordance with Act 1/2003, dated 19 February, on universities of Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 4029, dated 12 December 2003).
- Resolution UNI/3767/2003, dated 9 December, by which the procedure for the issuing of advanced research accreditation is made public, in accordance with Act 1/2003, dated 19 February, on universities of Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 4029, dated 12 December 2003).
- Resolution UNI/3768/2003, dated 9 December by which the Resolution of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya dated 28 November 2003 is made public, a resolution by which approval is granted to the procedure for the issuing of the reports prior to selection for the contracting of tenure-track lecturers and collaborating lecturers in the public universities for the year 2004, in accordance with Act 1/2003, dated 19 February, on universities of Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 4029, dated 12 December 2003).
- Edict, dated 19 December 2003, on notification of the resolutions of the specific committees of the Tenure-Track Lecturers and Collaborating Lecturers Committee of Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (published in the DOGC no. 4036, dated 23 December 2003).

Agreements and others

- 10/04/2003, framework agreement for the co-ordination of the international collaboration agreements in educational matters of the Principality of Andorra.
- 22/05/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and Agència per a la Qualitat Universitària de les Illes Balears (University Quality Agency of the Balearic Islands) for the establishment of terms for the concretisation of the collaboration between the two agencies, with the aim of carrying out shared projects: assessment of the degree standards and services of the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) and assessment of collaborating lecturers and tenure-track lecturers.
- 31/07/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya, the Department of Universities, Research and Information Society; the Department of Health and Social Security, and the Institute of Health Studies, for the development of the White Paper on Health Professions.
- 01/08/2003, framework agreement on collaboration between AQU Catalunya, the Department of Universities, Research and Information Society, and the Catalan public universities for the development of the Serra Húnter Plan for permanent contracted teaching staff.
- 15/10/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the Polytechnic University of Catalunya (UPC) for the development of follow-up reports on indicators by the Social Council of the UPC.
- 22/10/2003, framework agreement on collaboration between AQU Catalunya and the National Agency for Assessment, Certification and Accreditation relating to the exchange of experiences in the fields of quality assessment, certification and accreditation in the areas in which the parties have a manifest interest.
- 29/10/2003, agreement between AQU Catalunya and Ramon Llull University (URL) for the assessment of the teaching and research activity of the teaching staff at URL.
- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the University of Barcelona for the performance of the ProQU and DISSENY programmes of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the Autonomous University of Barcelona for the performance of the ProQU, DISSENY and SEGUIMENT programmes of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the Polytechnic University of Catalunya for the performance of the ProQU and DISSENY programmes of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and Pompeu Fabra University for the performance of the ProQU programme of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).

- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the University of Girona for the performance of the ProQU and DISSENY programmes of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the University of Lleida for the performance of the ProQU and DISSENY programmes of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 15/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and Rovira i Virgili University for the performance of the ProQU and DISSENY programmes of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 23/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and the Universitat Ramon Llull for the performance of the DISSENY programme of institutional assessment. (2003 Programme).
- 29/12/2003, collaboration agreement between AQU Catalunya and For Quality on the development of a report on the integration of non-regulated training in the European Area of Higher Education (EAHE).

Actions and results in university quality

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Assessment programmes in progress

The assessments pending from programmes prior to 2002-2003 were closed with the following status:

PROGRAMME	UNIVERSITY	PROJECT	STATUS
2000	URV	▪ Physiotherapy	Completed
	UAB	▪ Speech therapy ▪ Tourism	Completed Completed
2001-2002	UdG	▪ Tourism	Pending
	UdL	▪ Tourism	Completed
	UOC	▪ Documentation ▪ Business Sciences ▪ Business administration and management	Completed Not performed Not performed

The assessments of the programme 2002-2003 were closed with the following status:

UNIVERSITY	PROJECT	STATUS
UB	▪ Criminology and Criminal Policy	Carried over to 2003-2004 programme
	▪ Library Economy and Documentation	Pending external assessment
	▪ International Business	Pending external assessment
	▪ Electronics Engineering (shared degree with the UAB)	Pending external assessment
	▪ Physical Activity and Sports Sciences	Carried over to 2003-2004 programme
	▪ Classical Philology ▪ Theory of Literature and Comparative Literature	Pending external assessment Pending external assessment
UAB	▪ Occupational Therapy	Pending external assessment
	▪ Electronics Engineering (shared degree with the UB)	Pending external assessment
	▪ Classical Philology	Pending external assessment
	▪ Theory of Literature and Comparative Literature	Completed
	▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT (T. Cerdà)	Completed
	▪ Computer Engineering	Completed
	▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT ▪ Technical Engineering in Computer Systems	Completed Completed

UPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer Engineering ▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT ▪ Technical Engineering in Computer Systems 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
UNIVERSITY	PROJECT	STATUS
UPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design. Spec. Graphic, Industrial & Interiors 	Carried over to 2003-2004 programme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International trade 	Pending external assessment
UdG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Engineering in Computer Systems 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geography 	Pending external assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History of Art 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer Engineering 	Completed
UdL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT ▪ Technical Engineering in Computer Systems 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Physical Activity and Sports Sciences 	Internal assessment completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT ▪ Technical Engineering in Computer Systems 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
URV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Computer Engineering ▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT ▪ Technical Engineering in Computer Systems 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Engineering in Telecommunication. Spec. Telecommunication systems 	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Engineering in Management IT 	Completed
UB, UAB, UPC, UPF, UdG and UdL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labour insertion of university graduates 	Internal assessment completed

For the co-ordination of these projects, the following working sessions and meetings have been held with the various agents involved in the assessment:

DATE	PLACE	TOPIC
31/03/03	AQU	Working session of presidents and professionals of the Tourism CAE
24/04/03	AQU	Working session with a professional of the Tourism CAE
13/05/03	UPF	First meeting of the CAI for the assessment process of the labour insertion of graduates
13/06/03	AQU	Work meeting with the technical units for quality of the universities
08/10/03	UB	Working session with the CAI for the assessment process of the labour insertion of graduates
05/11/03	UOC	Working session with the External Committee for Assessment of Documentation
06/11/03	URV	Working session with the External Committee for Assessment of Physical Therapy
14/11/03	AQU	Working session with the professionals of the Computer Science CAE
18/11/03	UAB	Working session with the Computer Science CAE
26/11/03	AQU	Presentation of the projects of AQU Catalunya to the technical units of the private universities
03/12/03	AQU	Work meeting with the managers of the technical units of the universities

The new assessment programmes

Assessment programmes

Considering the new needs that appeared as a result of the progressive integration of the universities in the European Area of Higher Education, as set out in the Bologna Declaration for the year 2010, and the needs posed by the Catalan universities with respect to the implementation of quality systems, in 2003 AQU Catalunya designed and started up a total of three programmes, which seek to meet the challenges posed.

PRO-QU programme

This represents the continuation of the Pluri-Annual Assessments Plan, although it lends preference to the degree standards that have not yet been assessed. The base from which it starts out are the protocols applied in the pilot projects of Business Sciences and Engineering Sciences, and the incorporation of the most outstanding aspects with respect to the assurance of the quality of the European project TEEP (Transnational European Evaluation Project). AQU Catalunya carried out the calculation of the referents of the projects that participate in the PRO-QU programme (2003-2004). Likewise, it signed the respective agreements with the Catalan universities to assess the following degree standards:

Projects to be assessed	UB	UAB	UPC*	UPF	UdG	UdL	URV
Law							
Philosophy							
Technical Industrial Engineering. Spec. in Chemistry							
Technical Industrial Engineering. Spec. in Electricity							
Technical Industrial Engineering. Spec. in Electronics							
Technical Industrial Engineering. Spec. in Mechanics							
Pedagogy							
French Philology							
Humanities							
Geological Engineering							
Engineering in Automatics and Industrial Electronics							

(*) The degree standards assessed by the UPC are: Technical Industrial Engineering – speciality in Mechanics at the EUETIT and the EUETIB; Technical Industrial Engineering – speciality in Industrial Electronics at the EUPVG and the EUETIB; Technical Industrial Engineering – speciality in Industrial Chemistry at the EUETIB, and lastly, Technical Industrial Engineering – speciality in Electricity, also at EUETIB.

The DISSENY programme

This is addressed to degree standards in order that they may confront the design of new curricula, incorporating criteria set out explicitly in the General Frameworks and, at the same time, so that they may fulfil the requirements derived from the present legal framework. AQU Catalunya signed the respective agreements with the universities so that the following degree standards may participate in the programme:

Educations	UB	UAB	UPC	UdG	UdL	URV	UOC*	URL*
Medicine								
Chemical Engineering and Chemical-Technical Engineering								
Psychology								

(*) They didn't sign any agreement but took part in the programme

AQU Catalunya began the preparation of a guide for designing curricula. This guide incorporated the criteria set out explicitly in the General Frameworks for designing new curricula and their revision, for assessing the students' learning, and for European integration. The objective of this guide was to take into consideration the aspects derived from the definition of the curricula itself, and also the aspects that affected the design process and its operative planning (aspects that are not covered by any other programme at State level).

This programme is formed by three working groups for the respective educations that participate in it. They are all working on the design of the training profile of the graduates in each of the degree standards:

Working Group on Medicine (organised on 29 October):

- Dr Joan Prat Corominas (co-ordinator, University of Lleida)
- Dr Luis A. Branda (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Carreras Barnés (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Rodrigo Miralles Marrero (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Espinar (AQU Catalunya)
- Mr Josep Grifoll Saurí (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

This working group also had the collaboration of Dr Maria Rosa Fenoll Brunet of Rovira i Virgili University.

Working group on Chemical Engineering (organised on 27 November):

- Dr Claudi Mans Teixidó (co-ordinator, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Francesc Xavier Cañavate Ávila (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Fidel Cunill Garcia (University of Barcelona)

- Dr Xavier Farriol Roigés (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Xavier Font Segura (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr. Miquel Gassiot Matas (Universitat Ramon Llull)
- Dr José Ignacio Iribarren Laco (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Francesc Valero Barranco (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Isabel Villaescusa Gil (University of Girona)
- Ms Anna Prades Nebot (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

Working group on Psychology (organised on 19 December):

- Dr Juan Antonio Amador Campos (co-ordinator, University of Barcelona)
- Dr Climent Giné Giné (Ramon Llull University)
- Dr Urbano Lorenzo Seva (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Susana Pallarés Parejo (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Montse Vall-Llovera Lovet (Open University of Catalunya)
- Dr Esperança Villar Hoz (University of Girona)
- Ms Anna Prades Nebot (AQU Catalunya)

SEGUIMENT programme

The purpose of this programme is to consolidate the culture of quality and of continuous improvement on the basis of a methodology tried out in the year 2000. The aim of the SEGUIMENT programme is to continue to carry out follow-ups of the improvement plans, taking into consideration the specific methodology and incorporating the mechanisms of assessment of quality assurance promoted in the TEEP project. AQU Catalunya signed an agreement with the UAB for the performance of the follow-up of the Law degree standard.

Assessment of centres that grant foreign degrees in Catalunya

Under commission from the DURSI, a system of assessment, authorisation and accreditation was prepared and approved for the centres that offer foreign degrees in Catalunya. The Specific Committee for the Quality Assessment of University Centres and Activities began the analysis of the methodology of assessment for the authorisation of centres that offer foreign degrees in Catalunya.

Study of the labour insertion of university graduates in the working world

The collaboration was unfolded with the social councils of the Catalan public universities for the undertaking of the second survey of university graduates.

Methodological development and innovation

Transnational European Evaluation Project (TEEP)

The TEEP project, which was co-ordinated by the European Network of Quality Agencies (ENQA) and managed by the British, Danish and Catalan agencies, was completed. It envisaged the transnational assessment of the degree standards in History, Physics and Veterinary Medicine. In this project, AQU Catalunya took charge of the co-ordination and management of the external assessment process of the faculties of Veterinary Medicine of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), the University of Ljubljana, the University of Glasgow and the University of Budapest.

The objective of this project was to identify the comparable criteria in the European sphere with respect to the quality of higher education, in order to achieve a European assessment model that will allow the future assessments to be carried out with pre-established common criteria.

The progress reports, approved by the group that led the TEEP project, were presented at the meeting of rectors and European political managers (Graz, 29-31 May); these people prepared the meeting of Ministers of Education, which was held on 19 September in Berlin.

After the meeting for the close and meta-assessment of the project, which included the participation of all the internal and external committees, the project was finished with the drafting and publication, by the ENQA and AQU Catalunya, of the transverse assessment report on the educations of Veterinary Medicine at the UAB, the University of Glasgow, the University of Budapest and the University of Ljubljana. Lastly, the project was presented at the plenary meeting of the ENQA, in Budapest (29-30 September) and it became the main referent in relation to transnational assessment.

Adaptation and development of methodologies

The adaptation of specific methodologies was finished in accordance with the assessment needs, as is the case of the guide to assessment of the insertion of graduates in the working world.

The development of the external assessment guide corresponding to the new assessment methodology was completed. It takes into consideration the establishment of validated

reference values, statistical data and indicators, and also the establishment of well defined assessment criteria. This model is also oriented towards the improvement of quality and the rendering of accounts to society, and it allows comparison of the degree of achievement of the objectives of quality of university training.

General Frameworks

AQU Catalunya finished the General Framework for the handling of claims, complaints and suggestions of students, which was developed by the committee formed by the following persons:

- Dr Josep Vila Boix (co-ordinator, University of Girona)
- Dr Ramon Corbella Bosch (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Joan Guàrdia Olmos (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Josep Navarro Solé (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Josep Miquel Prats Solé (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Mr Pere Torra Pla (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Ms Anna Prades Nebot (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

The General Framework for Assessment of the Interaction and Coherence between Research and Teaching, and the General Framework for the Establishment, Control and Revision of Improvement Plans were left in the consultation phase. The composition of the committees that worked on these documents was as follows:

General Framework for Assessment of the Interaction and Coherence between Research and Teaching	General Framework for the Establishment, Control and Revision of Improvement Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Josep Oliveras Samitier (co-ordinator, Rovira i Virgili University) ▪ Dr Joaquim Bruna Floris (Autonomous University of Barcelona) ▪ Dr Jordi Cartanyà Solé (Rovira i Virgili University) ▪ Dr Albert Cornet Calveras (University of Barcelona) ▪ Dr Fidel Molina Luque (University of Lleida) ▪ Dr Francesc Pallarès Porta (Pompeu Fabra University) ▪ Dr Àngels Pèlach Serra (University of Girona) ▪ Dr Josep Maria Salla Tarragó (Polytechnic University of Catalunya) ▪ Ms Anna Prades Nebot (secretary, AQU Catalunya) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Francesc Pedró Garcia (co-ordinator, Pompeu Fabra University) ▪ Mr Francesc Abad Esteve (Pompeu Fabra University) ▪ Ms Meritxell Chaves Sánchez (University of Barcelona) ▪ Ms Sara Gimeno Vila (Rovira i Virgili University) ▪ Mr Josep Maria Gómez Pallarès (University of Girona) ▪ Mr Santiago Roca Martín (Polytechnic University of Catalunya) ▪ Dr Immaculada Vilardell Riera (Autonomous University of Barcelona) ▪ Mr Esteve Arboix Codina (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

Lastly, work is still being carried out on the development of the General Framework for assessment of the satisfaction of graduates and of society in relation to the process of insertion in the working world. The persons who form part of this committee are as follows:

- Dr Sebastián Rodríguez Espinar (co-ordinator, AQU Catalunya)
- Dr Ignasi Brunet Icart (Rovira i Virgili University)
- Dr Pere Jòdar Martínez (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Dr Josep Maria Masjuan Codina (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Dr Manuel Quera Miró (Polytechnic University of Catalunya)
- Dr Teresa Riba Salles (University of Barcelona)
- Dr Marta Sadurní Brugué (University of Girona)
- Ms Anna Prades Nebot (secretary, AQU Catalunya)

Assessment reports

2002 Report

The 2002 Report was finished, edited and made public to the media. Its purpose is to render accounts on the process of assessment of the quality of the university system in Catalunya. This process is carried out by applying the methodology developed by AQU Catalunya on the basis of the European assessment method, which consists of the following stages: firstly, an internal assessment carried out by the unit that is being assessed, with the preparation of an internal report on this phase; secondly, an external assessment, managed by AQU Catalunya, which assesses the respective unit on site and checks the conclusions of the internal report, after which an external report is prepared on this second phase; and lastly, the assessed unit prepares a reflection on the conclusions of both reports and develops an improvement plan for the following years. In parallel, on the basis of all the reports, AQU Catalunya prepares the annual report, which is made public.

The 2002 Report is based on all the reports received during the year. Consequently, it is based on the internal report prepared by the assessed unit and on the external report, thereby integrating both points of view and assuring the validity of the data set out in them.

With respect to the approval of the content of the 2002 Report, the committees of advisers for the various thematic areas (CAAT), formed by Spanish and international academics of acknowledged prestige in their respective fields, were in charge in validating the report and approving its content. These committees were also entrusted with pronouncing themselves on the claims that were lodged by the assessed units after studying the report.

The 2002 Report is divided into five major sections: an introduction that presents the principal recommendations derived from the assessment processes and the results of each of the assessments carried out, divided into four main areas (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Technology). Lastly, the annexes present the composition of the various assessment committees, the members of the CAAT and the authors of the Report.



The following assessments were carried out:

Assessments of educations in the 2002 Report

Humanities area

Philology (English, Catalan, French and Spanish), UdL

History, Geography and History of Art, UdL

Geography, URV

History, URV

Humanities and Catalan philology, UOC

Social Sciences area

Actuarial and Financial Sciences, Market Research and Techniques and Statistics, UB

Public Administration and Management, Political and Administration Sciences, UB