

National Agency for the Evaluation of
Universities and Research Institutes



Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del
sistema Universitario e della Ricerca

Evaluation of Research Quality



Valutazione Qualità della Ricerca

EVALUATION OF QUALITY OF RESEARCH 2011-2014 (VQR 2011-2014)

**Criteria for the evaluation of the research products by the
Evaluation Experts Group of Engineering Civil
(GEV08b)**



1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. DELIMITATION OF THE AREA OF GEV 08B	3
3. ORGANIZATION OF THE GEV 08B	5
3.1 OPERATING ROLES OF GEV 08B	6
3.2 ASSIGNMENT OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS TO THE GEV AND WITHIN THE GEV	6
4. THE EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS	7
5. THE PEER REVIEW EVALUATION	8
5.1 THE SELECTION OF EXTERNAL PEER REVIEWERS	8
5.2 PEER EVALUATION	9
6. THE BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS	10
6.1 DATABASES	10
6.2 SUBJECT CATEGORY	10
6.3 BIBLIOMETRIC INDICATORS	11
6.4 TEMPORAL SHIFT FOR CITATIONS	11
6.5 THE SELF-CITATIONS.....	11
6.6 THE ALGORITHM FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF PRODUCTS	11
6.7 THE CALIBRATION PROCEDURE.....	13
7. OTHER PRODUCTS	17
8. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	18



1. Introduction

This document describes the organization of the Group of Evaluation Experts for the Engineering Civil Area (from now on, the GEV) and the criteria the Group will use in evaluating research outputs. The document is divided in eight parts. Section 2 lists the Scientific Sector (SSD), the Academic Recruitment Field (SC) and the ERC Sectors which are relevant for the GEV. Section 3 summarizes the organization of the GEV including the internal operating rules. Section 4 describes the evaluation criteria for the research products. Section 5 describes the peer review process and the guidelines for the selection of external reviewers. Section 6 describes the bibliometric criteria: the databases, the subject categories of WoS and SCOPUS, the bibliometric indicators, the temporal shift of the citations, how the GEV will deal with the self-citation, the description of the algorithm for the classification and the calibration procedure. Section 7 describes the evaluation criteria for specific products. Finally, Section 8 describes how the GEV plans to solve potential conflicts of interest between GEV members and authors of research products.

2. Delimitation of the Area of GEV 08b

The GEV will evaluate the submitted products by researchers identified by the following (Tables 1-3) Scientific Sector (SSD), Academic Recruitment Field (SC) and ERC sectors (ERC).

	Area 08b Engineering Civil- Scientific Sector (SSD) of reference
ICAR/01	IDRAULICA
ICAR/02	COSTRUZIONI IDRAULICHE E MARITTIME E IDROLOGIA
ICAR/03	INGEGNERIA SANITARIA-AMBIENTALE
ING-IND/28	INGEGNERIA E SICUREZZA DEGLI SCAVI
ING-IND/29	INGEGNERIA DELLE MATERIE PRIME
ING-IND/30	IDROCARBURI E FLUIDI DEL SOTTOSUOLO
ICAR/04	STRADE, FERROVIE ED AEROPORTI
ICAR/05	TRASPORTI
ICAR/06	TOPOGRAFIA E CARTOGRAFIA
ICAR/07	GEOTECNICA

ICAR/08	SCIENZA DELLE COSTRUZIONI
ICAR/09	TECNICA DELLE COSTRUZIONI

Table 1. The relevant Scientific Sector (SSD) of Area 08b

	Area 08b Civil Engineering- Academic Recruitment Field (SC) of reference
08/A1	Idraulica, Idrologia, Costruzioni idrauliche e marittime
08/A2	Ingegneria sanitaria-ambientale, ingegneria degli idrocarburi fluidi nel sottosuolo, della sicurezza e protezione in ambito civile
08/A3	Infrastrutture e sistemi di trasporto, estimo e valutazione
08/A4	Geomatica
08/B1	Geotecnica
08/B2	Scienza delle costruzioni
08/B3	Tecnica delle costruzioni

Table 2. The relevant Academic Recruitment Field (SC) of Area 08b

	Area 08b Engineering Civil- ERC Sectors (ERC) of reference
PE6_12	Scientific computing, simulation and modelling tools
PE7_3	Simulation engineering and modelling
PE7_4	(Micro and nano) systems engineering
PE8_1	Aerospace engineering
PR8_3	Civil engineering, architecture, maritime/hydraulic engineering, geotechnics, waste treatment
PE8_4	Computational engineering
PE8_5	Fluid mechanics, hydraulic-, turbo-, and piston engines
PE8_7	Mechanical and manufacturing engineering (shaping, mounting, joining, separation)
PE8_8	Materials engineering (metals, ceramics, polymers, composites, etc.)
PE8_9	Production technology, process engineering
PE8_10	Industrial design (product design, ergonomics, man-machine interfaces, etc.)
PE8_11	Sustainable design (for recycling, for environment, eco-design)
PE8_12	Lightweight construction, textile technology
PE8_13	Industrial bioengineering
PE8_16	Architectural Engineering
PE10_7	Physics of earth's interior, seismology, volcanology



PE10_14	Earth observations from space/remote sensing
SH2_6	Sustainability sciences, environment and resources
SH2_8	Energy, transportation and mobility

Table 3. The relevant ERC sectors for Area 08b

3. Organization of GEV 08b

The GEV is composed by the following members related to the reported SSD:

GEV 08b	AREA APPOINTED	Role
ARMANINI ARONNE	ICAR/01	Coordinator
COLOMBINI MARCO ENRICO	ICAR/01	Member
BARBARO GIUSEPPE	ICAR/02	Member
MARSELLA MARIA ANTONIETTA	ICAR/06	Member
FOTI SEBASTIANO	ICAR/07	Member
CUENOT BENEDICTE	ICAR/07	Member
AURICCHIO FERDINANDO	ICAR/08	Member
CAILLETAUD GEORGES	ICAR/08	Member
SPACONE ENRICO	ICAR/09	Member

Table 4: Composition of the GEV08b

The assistant of the GEV is Elena Nucci.



3.1 Operating roles of GEV 08b

The operating rules of the GEV are recalled as follows:

- a GEV meeting is called with a notice of at least 15 days. The meeting is called by the Coordinator, who also sets the agenda;
- decisions within the GEV are made by simple majority rule among members who attend a meeting. In order to vote, physical presence is not required if presence is assured via web or phone connection. When it is necessary to vote on a specific point outside a scheduled meeting, votes are expressed electronically;
- the assistant assigned by ANVUR to the GEV attends the GEV meetings, with secretariat functions and without voting rights. At the end of each meeting, minutes and a synthetic report outlining the main decisions will be drafted, circulated among GEV members, approved by the Coordinator and the members, and then sent to ANVUR to be filed.

3.2 Assignment of research products to the GEV and within the GEV

The assignment of research products to the members of the GEV in charge with their evaluation will occur according to the SSD indicated by the author in the research output description form. The SSD assigned to the product may differ from the author's SSD, since it refers to the GEV and, within the GEV, to the SSD which, according to the author, is more competent to evaluate the product. The Coordinator will assign each research output to two competents of the GEV.

If a research output is assigned to more than one GEV (for instance since co-authors indicate different SSD belonging to different GEVs), the product will be evaluated according to the VQR Guidelines for the Groups of Evaluation Experts (Sub-section 3.2). If necessary, the Coordinators of the GEVs involved will constitute specific Inter-Area Consensus Groups. Each product will be assigned by the Coordinator to two members which best fit to the evaluation.

The following list represents the preliminary distribution of the SSDs among the members of the GEV:



ICAR/01	IDRAULICA	Colombini, Barbaro, Cuenot
ICAR/02	COSTRUZIONI IDRAULICHE E MARITTIME E IDROLOGIA	Barbaro, Colombini
ICAR/03	INGEGNERIA SANITARIA-AMBIENTALE	Colombini, Barbaro
ING-IND/28	INGEGNERIA E SICUREZZA DEGLI SCAVI	Foti, Barbaro
ING-IND/29	INGEGNERIA DELLE MATERIE PRIME	Foti, Cailletau
ING-IND/30	ING-IND/30 – IDROCARBURI E FLUIDI DEL SOTTOSUOLO	Cuenot, Colombini
ICAR/04	STRADE, FERROVIE E AEROPORTI	Foti, Marsella
ICAR/05	TRASPORTI	Marsella, Foti
ICAR/06	TOPOGRAFIA E CARTOGRAFIA	Marsella, Foti
ICAR/07	GEOTECNICA	Foti, Marsella
ICAR/08	SCIENZA DELLE COSTRUZIONI	Auricchio, Cailletaud
ICAR/09	TECNICA DELLE COSTRUZIONI	Spacone, Auricchio

4. The evaluation of research products

The evaluation of products by the GEV follows the informed peer review methodology, which consists in employing different, and if possible mutually independent, evaluation methods, to be harmonized within the GEV, which ultimately remains responsible for the final evaluation.

The available evaluation tools are:

- peer review evaluation by (normally two) external reviewers selected independently by two different GEV members.
- direct evaluation by the GEV, which can conduct an internal peer review according to the same procedure described for external peer review (that is, two GEV members will be involved).
- bibliometric analysis, to be conducted according to the procedure described below in this document (Section 6). Research products subjected to bibliometric analysis are not assigned *automatically* to the merit classes established by the Ministerial Decree (hereafter MD) and by the VQR Call. The allocation is instead based on the expert judgment of the GEV, which will employ any possible knowledge beside bibliometric indicators, such as the expertise of its members and the information described in forms associated with the products.



5. The peer review evaluation

Each research product that should be evaluated through peer review is sent to two external reviewers, chosen independently by the two Members to whom the product is assigned.

Alternatively, if there are not conflicts of interest and if the two Members have the required knowledge they can review the products by themselves.

5.1 The selection of external peer reviewers

The selection of external reviewers, among Italian and foreign scholars, given its essential goals in the public interest, follows the principle of honest institutional cooperation and is founded on the criteria of correctness, objectivity and impartiality.

Great attention will be devoted to maintaining the anonymity of the reviewers, both at the stage of preparation of the list of reviewers and at the operational stage of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation of individual products and the identity of the reviewers in charge will not be made public. A list with the reviewers' names will be published by ANVUR within 30 days of the publication of the VQR Final Report.

Reviewers will be selected among the most authoritative and scientifically qualified scholars and specialists in the disciplines relevant to the research products to be examined. They are expected to have been active in research during the period covered by the VQR.



Starting from the list provided by ANVUR, the GEV will prepare an updated list of external reviewers such to adequately satisfy the standards set by the GEV in terms of scientific quality and experience with evaluation. The list will be extended with new reviewers selected by the GEV. In particular, through the Sub-GEV Coordinators, the Coordinator will invite GEV members to suggest a significant number of experts who satisfy the required standards and are available for the evaluation. The GEV Coordinator will collect suggestions together with information about the reviewers' qualifications, as summarized in a specific proposal form, to be prepared by the GEV Coordinator and approved by the GEV.

It will be possible to extend the reviewer list throughout the evaluation procedure, on the basis of the needs that might emerge after the products are transmitted by institutions.

In order to reduce potential conflicts of interest, the GEV will employ, whenever possible, reviewers that are active in foreign universities and institutions.

Rather than internal reviewers chosen among GEV members, the GEV will preferably employ, whenever possible, external reviewers.

5.2 Peer evaluation

The evaluation by external or internal reviewers is based on an evaluation form to be prepared by the GEV, following ANVUR guidelines, together with instructions for reviewers. The evaluation form will allow the reviewer to assign a score to the three evaluation criteria established by the MD and the VQR Call, that is, originality, methodological rigor, and attested or potential impact. The form will also include an empty space where a brief comment should be entered, to summarize a motivation for the answers provided to the questions. The GEV will translate the indications contained in the evaluation form into one of the five classes of merit established by the VQR Call.

In case of non-converging evaluations by the reviewers, the GEV creates Consensus Groups with the task of proposing to the GEV the final score for the products under examination, using the consensus report methodology.

When peer evaluations are strongly diverging, the Consensus Group can also request the opinion of a third expert. In the case the *Consensus group* isn't able to take the final evaluation, the Coordinator will be included in the *Consensus group*.



In any case the final judgment of each product submitted to each GEV is own responsibility of that GEV.

6. The bibliometric analysis

The research products subject to bibliometric evaluation are indexed products in the databases ISI Wos and SCOPUS based on citations, and especially:

- scientific articles, as Papers, Letters or Proceedings published on journals.
- scientific articles of critical review of the literature (Review).

The 10% of the articles submitted to the bibliometric analysis will be chosen randomly by the GEV and will be evaluated also with a peer review, in order to quantify the correlation between the two methods for the evaluation.

6.1 Databases

The GEV identifies two databases Web of Science (WoS) of Thompson Reuters and SCOPUS of Elsevier. The author/ institution must choose between them on the research output description form and the GEV will use the recommendation on the choice of database to be used.

6.2 Subject Category

Since in both the two databases, a journal can belong to one or more SC of ISI Wos or ASJC of SCOPUS, the author/institution will indicate in which category (SC or ASJC) the product must be evaluated.

The GEV notes that some categories are very heterogeneous and contain journals affecting the Scientific Sectors of the GEV in a marginal way, and that in some cases these Journals may significantly alter the calibration process.

The GEV will evaluate the journals which own the following conditions:

- the products of these journals cover a too large proportion (approximately > 15%) of all the products of that SC/ASJC.
- among the products of the point above, a too high percentage (generally > 40%) falls in the class of merit of Excellence.



- if these journals are included in other categories they don't show the anomalies of the two points above.

In these cases the GEV will acquire also the evaluation made by excluding from the reference sample the journal so identified and will decide to which sample refer through a process of informed peer review.

6.3 Bibliometric indicators

The bibliometric evaluation uses for all articles published on indexed journals in WoS and SCOPUS databases, an algorithm which considers number of citations and the impact indicator Journal Metric (JM) of the hosting journal, depending from the publication data. For each databases, indicators are identified to measure the popularity or the prestige of the publication. Following the opinion of the scientific community in the bibliometric sector, and taking into account the diversity in measuring the impact of indicators of a journal, the GEV decided to use more than one indicator of Journal Metric. More precisely, the GEV decided to use:

- for WoS (<https://www.webofknowledge.com>): 5-year Impact Factor (5YIF), and the Article Influence (AI);
- for SCOPUS(<http://www.journalmetrics.com>): Impact per Publication (IPP), and SCImago Journal Rank (SJR).

In the research output description form the author will identify compulsorily a single impact indicator between the two associated to the database selected.

6.4 Temporal shift for citations

For the computation of bibliometric indicator related to the number of citations, the GEV will take into account the updated citations at February 29th 2016.

6.5 The self-citations

The GEV will conduct the examination of each product with and without the self-citations and assesses the final class of merit through an informed peer review.

6.6 The algorithm for the classification of products

The algorithm used for the classification of the articles, in 5 classes of merit defined in the VQR Call, is based on a combined use of bibliometric indicator relates both the impact of the journal



in which the article was published (JM) and the indicator citation (CIT) measuring the impact of the single item. Depending on the year of publication, the first or the second indicator can have a greater relative weight. Each article is evaluated within a specific reference category (more details below), and the year of publication. The evaluation procedure in the reference category is previously calibrated in order to ensure that each product falls into one of the classes of merit defined in the VQR Call:

- Excellent [top 10% the distribution of the international scientific production of the area which it belongs];
- Good [10% - 30 % the distribution of the international scientific production of the area which it belongs];
- Fair [30% - 50% the distribution of the international scientific production of the area which it belongs];
- Acceptable [50% - 80% the distribution of the international scientific production of the area which it belongs];
- Limited [80% - 100% the distribution of the international scientific production of the area which it belongs].

The calibration of the algorithm for bibliometric evaluation will guarantee that the percentages indicated in the definitions of the quality classes of merit are respected, with reference to the "international scientific research production of the Area", which is identified as the content of the bibliometric databases at subject category level (ISI WoS) and ASJC level (SCOPUS).

The first step is the identification of the reference category known as Subject Category (SC) in WoS and All Science Journal Classification (ASJC) in SCOPUS (in the following SC). A journal can belong to one or more SC, and the indication of which is indicated by the author/institution who proposed the item. This indication is not, however, binding and may be modified by the GEV if the content of the article appears more relevant to another category at whom the journal belongs.

A multidisciplinary category exists both in WoS (Multidisciplinary Sciences) both in SCOPUS (Multidisciplinary) and includes journals, such as Nature, Science, etc., all characterized by a plurality of scientific arguments. Articles published in a journal that appears only in this category will be reassigned to another category on the basis of (i) the citations contained in the article and (ii) the references made in that article. In particular, each of the journals cited/citing belongs to a



category and the final choice is done with the rule of majority. In this way, the publication will be compared with publications in the same subject area and/or disciplinary. Moreover, when assigning the new SC, the article will bring the JM of the journal and the number of citations received, without changing the distribution of the SC of destination.

The same procedure will be adopted for the journals appearing only in other multidisciplinary subject categories of WoS and Scopus (ex. Engineering, Multidisciplinary in WoS)

6.7 The calibration procedure

The calibration of the bibliometric algorithm is a function of the specific category for each year analysed. The algorithm also distinguishes the type of journal articles and letters from the reviews, calculating empirical cumulative distributions separated by the different number of citations typically received from such publications.

The algorithm calculates the cumulative distribution of bibliometric indicator (JM) of the journals belonging to the SC/ASJC identified for the year of publication of the article to be evaluated. A percentile for each journal is assigned. Then it calculates the empirical cumulative distribution function of the number of citations CIT of all articles published by the journals belonging to the SC/ASJC identified. A percentile to each article is assigned. Each item has two associated percentiles. The two percentiles obtained represent a point in the region $Q = [0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ of the coordinate plane, bounded by JM percentile of the journal (X-axis) and the percentile of citations CIT (Y axis). Then Q is divided into five zones or regions such that they comply with the percentage of items belonging to each region defined in the VQR Call. These divisions are accomplished by simple lines identified by:

$$CIT = A \cdot JM + B_n$$

The angular coefficient of the straight lines (A), delimiting the zones, is imposed equal for all the straight lines in order to increase the homogeneity of the criterion adopted. The intercepts (B_n) are calculated by ANVUR, depending on the distribution of the specific category, to ensure that the percentage of the VQR Call are met. An example of a subdivision of Q in the 5 zones is represented in Figure 1.

The slope of the straight lines (A) of threshold is established by the GEV. Depending on the value of A, the final classification will be based more on percentile of citations (for slopes in absolute value less than 1), or viceversa on the percentile of the metric of the journal (for slopes in absolute value major than 1). For example, with reference to Figure 1, a horizontal line

corresponds to a valuation based only on the percentile of the citations. From the various statements on the proper use of bibliometrics for evaluation, the use of the very steep slopes should be avoided as much as possible. This choice is however not absolute, but depends on the different citation practices of the various disciplines/community, as well as from the number and composition of the specific category.

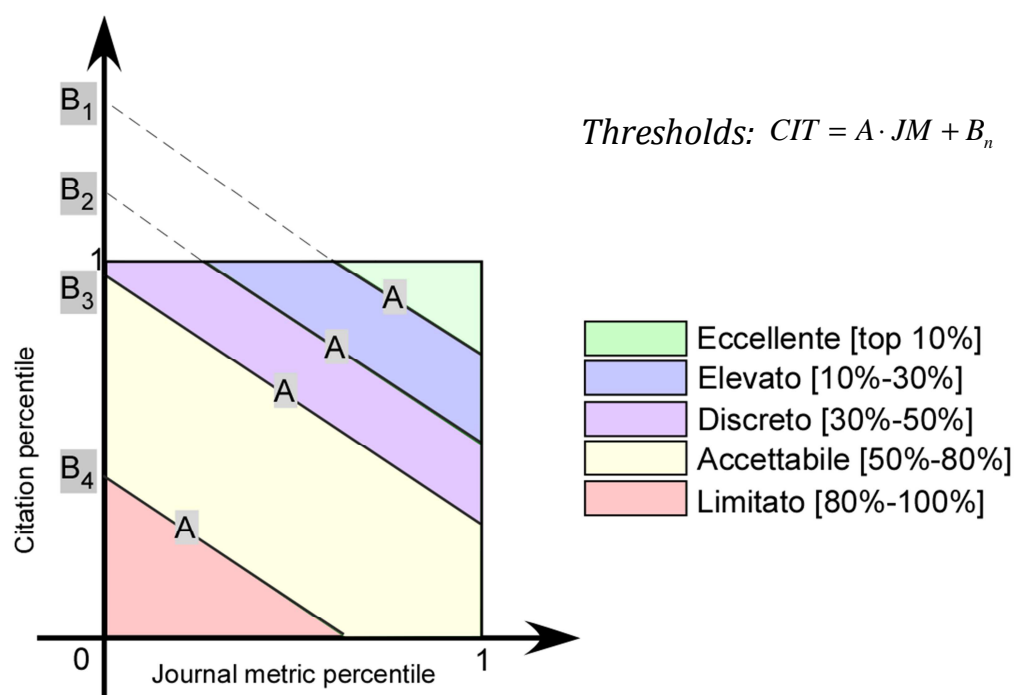


Figure 1. Representation in percentiles of all articles published in a given SC/ASJC in a particular year. Each publication is positioned in the plane depending on the percentile of the indicator of the impact of the journal JM (row) and the percentile of the number of citations CIT (column). The plan is divided into five areas according to the percentages shown in the VQR Call. The angular coefficient of the straight lines delimiting the zones is imposed equal for all the straight lines. The B_n intercepts are calculated by ANVUR, depending on the distribution of the particular SC/ASJC, to ensure that the percentage of the contract are met.

For example, it is shown in Figure 2 the calibration of a SC by means of four parallel lines. The slope of -0,6 was chosen in order to prioritize the weight of the citations in the final evaluation. As can be seen from the figure, the points, which represent the articles of the SC, are distributed unevenly. By appropriately selecting the values of the intercepts, one can ensure that the percentage of the VQR Call are complied. It follows that the specific article submitted to the

VQR has an evaluation always refers to the percentile of the "international scientific production environment in its own region."

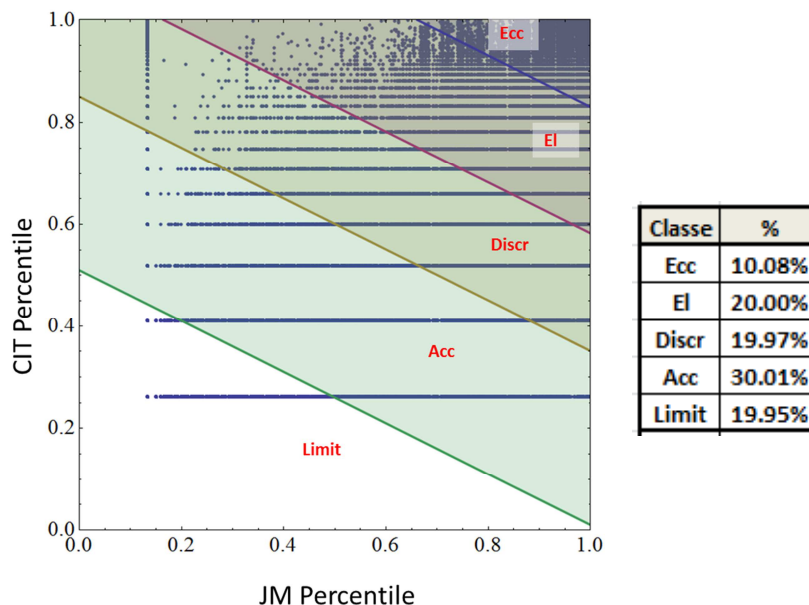


Figure 2. Example of application of the bibliometric algorithm to a SC sample. The division of the sub-space Q is done by parallel lines in order to respect the percentage defined in the VQR Call when the algorithm is applied to the world population of the specific SC.

The GEV uses the same slope of the threshold for all the classes of merit, but the slope will vary however depending on the year of publication.

Since the products of the Civil Engineering Area are mostly characterized by a relatively low number of citations and often begin to be cited after some time from the date of publication, the GEV uses slopes such as to classify products weighing more the JM than the citations. Therefore, the slopes to be used for each year are the following:

Anno	Pendenza, A
2011	-0,7 ±30%
2012	-0,9 ±30%
2013	-1,5 ±30%
2014	-2 ±30%



Once the calibration is done, the assignment of a product submitted to the VQR follows a standard procedure: first the percentiles of JM for the journal in which the article was published and the percentiles of citations received are calculated in order to have the point in space Q. Based on where the point is found, the class of merit of evaluation of the product is given.

There are borderline cases in which articles are published in journals of high prestige but receive few citations (the area at the bottom right in Figure 2) or published in journals with low value of JM, but with a high citation impact (in the upper left area in Figure 2). In such cases of uncertainty, the evaluation procedure will take place through informed peer review.

To identify the products of this type, the GEV, consistently with the others bibliometric GEVs, draws two straight lines with positive slope, which identify the areas at the top left and at the bottom right of Q (see Figure 3) forming two triangles. In particular, the triangle in the upper left is determined by the straight line connecting the point (0; 0,5) with the intersection between the line of border of the class of merit "Excellent". The triangle at the bottom right is an isosceles triangle big enough to include the 5% of products for 2011 and 2012 to 7% for 2013.

Finally, given the low influence of the indicator of the citations for the articles published in 2014, the GEV decided to submit to informed peer review all articles published in 2014 whose classification does not result in the class of merit of "Excellent" according to the classification done by the proposed algorithm.

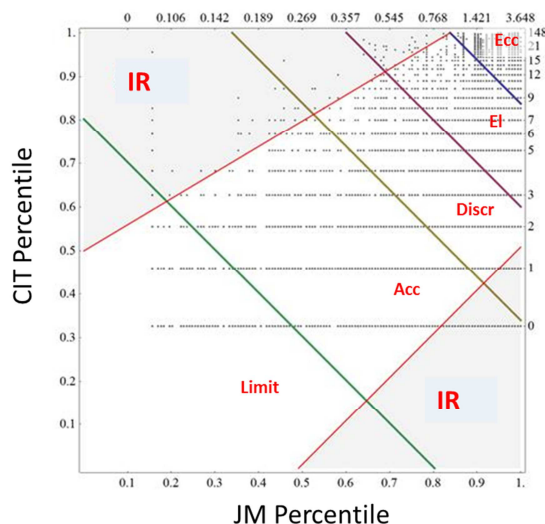


Figure 3. Example of uncertain definition of the areas to be managed by informed peer review (IR).

7. Other products

On the basis of the scientific characteristics of the Area of Engineering Civil, the following research products, listed in the VQR Call, are considered by the GEV not eligible for the evaluation:

Type 1. Scientific monographs and related products: Concordance; Research bibliography; Critical editions; Critical editions of excavations, intended as the communication of the results of a scientific research of a non-negligible length; Publication of unedited sources with introduction and comments; Manuals (non purely educational); Scientific Grammars and dictionaries; Book translations (upon GEV decision), if characterized by a critical approach.

Type 2. Journal contributions: Comments on a court sentence (Nota a sentenza); Journal translation, only when scientifically relevant (upon GEV decision)

Type 3. Book contributions: Preface/Postface essays; Editing of volumes with an essay; Catalogues with introduction essay; Critical entrance in dictionary or encyclopedia; Book translation; Part of catalogues, repertoires, corpora.

Type 4. Other scientific products: Compositions; Drawings and Designs; Architecture projects; Performances; Exhibitions; Shows; Manufactures and art operas; Data bases and software; Online cards



Moreover, the GEV precludes to the following products to access to some classes of merit:

- Proceedings of international conferences cannot access by default to the class of merit “Excellent”
- Proceedings of national conference cannot access by default to the classes of merit “Excellent” and “Good”.

8. Conflicts of interest

GEV members will not evaluate or assign to external reviewers or other GEV members:

- products they have authored or co-authored;
- products which have been authored or co-authored by spouses and relatives up to the fourth degree of kinship;
- products submitted by universities of which they have been employees or official associates (even through research centers) since 1/1/2011;
- products submitted by research centers controlled by MIUR or other public ad private entities that are voluntarily subjected to the VQR of which they have been employees or official associates (even through research centers) since 1/1/2011.

For the above products there exists a conflict of interest in the following cases:

- when the institution in question has a permanent internal division along a territorial or disciplinary dimension (e.g., a local section of a research center, institute, department), a conflict of interest exists only with respect to the products presented by the same internal unit;
- when the institution in question does not have a permanent internal division along a territorial or disciplinary dimension (e.g., a local section of a research center, institute, department), a conflict of interest exists with respect to the products presented by the institution;
- when the internal organization is based on several hierarchical levels (e.g., several institutes within a single department) a conflict of interest emerges at the lowest level

National Agency for the Evaluation of
Universities and Research Institutes



Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del
sistema Universitario e della Ricerca

Evaluation of Research Quality



Valutazione Qualità della Ricerca

(e.g., GEV members who are affiliated with different institutes belonging to the same department have a conflict of interest only with respect to the products presented by authors belonging to the same institute).

In case of conflicts of interest, the GEV Coordinator, or the sub-GEV Coordinator when appropriate, will assign the product to be evaluated to another GEV member for whom no conflict of interest is present.

In case of conflicts of interest involving the GEV Coordinator, the corresponding products will be assigned by the VQR Coordinator or by a person designated by the VQR Coordinator.