

ANVUR

Meeting of the Advisory Committee of September 15, 2016

REPORT (ENGLISH Version)

Agenda of the Meeting held on September 15, 2016– 12:00 at ANVUR:

- Presentation of activities ANVUR
- Appoint the Chairman of Co.Co.
- AOB

Attendees

Conferenza unificata Stato-regioni, città ed autonomie locali	Adriana Agrimi
European Research Council	Claudio Bordignon
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Maria Castriotta
European Students' Union / ESIB	Fernando Miguel Galan Palomares
Accademia dei Lincei	Renato Guarini
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Costanzo Jannotti Pecci
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Andrea Lapicciarella
Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane	Gaetano Manfredi
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Delio Napoleone
Consiglio Universitario Nazionale	Alessandra Petrucci
Convegno permanente dei Direttori Amministrativi e dirigenti delle Università	Antonio Romeo
European Students' Union / ESIB	Mattia Sguazzini

Connected via videoconference:

Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari	Caterina Chiocchetta
European Research Council	Belen Gavela

Absentees (justified):

Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari	Angelo Antinoro
Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari	Nicola Minerva
European University Association	Rolf Tarrach
Segretario generale OCSE	Dirk Van Damme

The participants are 12 plus two in videoconference, thus the quorum required is achieved and the meeting can start.

In addition to the President Graziosi, the councilors Rumiati and Terracini, the general manager Momigliano, and the collaborator Romagnosi participate to the works.

Graziosi thanks all the members of the Advisory Committee (Co.Co) for their presence, and stresses the relevance of this organ for ANVUR. The last Co.Co. had failed to fully play its role, meeting rarely, and now the President hopes that the new Co.Co. is able to work at their best, providing opinions and proposals to the Anvur.

The meeting proceed with the presentation of each participant and the appointment of Guarini as Dean of the Co.Co.; he is charge with preside the assignment meeting of Co.Co. and handle the procedures for the election of the new president.

Guarini asks to the members of Co.Co. with what point of agenda prefer to start. The participants prefer to have an overview of the main activities of the Agency, and Guarini gave the floor to Graziosi, that briefly presents:

- 1) ASN. Anvur proposes the thresholds for the qualification to the Ministry of Education and assesses the full professors who are applying as commissioners. Although is not competence of Anvur, but of the Ministry of Education, this activity requires a great effort of the agency. Graziosi stressed the importance of the online qualification process, which made the process more efficient and certificate. Through the definition of the thresholds for the ASN and the experience of VQR, it became obvious that the current system of classification for areas, SC and SSD, often poorly fits to the realities of research and to the needs of its assessment, and not only with the international experience. Anvur, on the basis of the work done on VQR, PhD and ASN, intends to build a proposal for the definition of homogeneous areas of assessment, which it will submit to the discussion of the academic community.
- 2) VQR. Is a relevant activity of Anvur and the results have a real impact on the ordinary fund financing (FFO) breakdown. The ministry defines the periodicity of the VQR. The start of this VQR has created much controversy because the decree was only signed in June (instead of January) but the date of expiry of the work has remained unchanged to October 2016. There were then problems with the Cineca which further delayed the start of VQR. At the moment the results seem to promise to close the exercise on schedule. The hope is that this VQR show a convergence of the universities. In fact, in the past there was a strong difference between the universities due to lack of central guidance. The work started from Anvur, with the previous VQR, could harmonize a very fragmented system.
- 3) Ph.D.: in addition to accreditation, based on the evaluation of the teaching and the resources put in place, ANVUR is studying the evaluation, which will shift the focus of the analysis from teachers to PhDs. The recent introduction by the Ministry of innovative PhD programs also places a new, delicate problems that must be resolved.

Lapicciarella asks what is the role of Co.Co. and because the previous Committee did not work. Bordignon, explains that the previous Co.Co., of which he was part, was divided into 5-6 sub-committees that had to produce a trace of work which has not been done. For this reason the Co.Co has not done meeting. Although there was a schedule of meetings, it lacked coordination and direction. Who will be president will play a vital role in the functioning of Co.Co.

Graziosi resumes with the Agency's activities:

4. AVA: It has just been made a radical reform of the system, which will give important fruits, forcing universities to look into certain processes. Soon it will be published the radical reform and we must see if it works. The first feedback has been positive. In this regard, Chiocchetta asks if, closed the consultation (next Monday), the document will be published on the website. Graziosi says it will be published, probably by mid-November.
5. TECO: this activity will be called Learning Outcomes because it concerns the assessment of learning outcomes rather than just testing.
6. AFAM: Anvur has not inside special expertise in this sector, but it wishes to give maximum attention because it is a key area, with great contradictions inside. To remedy the lack of expertise it was created a group of experts who will meet on 26 October.
7. Staff: Anvur works with 3 employees, 3 directors and 12 officials; the collaborators are about 22, mostly PhDs. Now the Ministry of Education appointed the agency to evaluate also the Public Research Organizations that are not monitored by the Ministry, but with these resources is not possible.

Guarini thanks Anvur for the work it is doing and the president Graziosi for having shown the Agency's activities to the Committee. It then proceeds with the appointment of the chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Anvur staff leaves the room, except for Romagnosi that remains to verbalize.

In turns, the participants express their opinion about the type of chairperson that should guide the Co.Co.

Manfredi considers important to an active role of Co.Co., which can give insights and useful contributions to Anvur. In the past it has given importance to the industrial component but who plays this role must ensure the operation, with the support of a vice-chairperson.

Bordignon recalls that in the previous experience, rather than entrusting the presidency to industrial subjects, it was decided that the Chair should not be given to individuals from academia. But it was a mistake. Who takes this responsibility, he takes a commitment by all. Bordignon, representing ERC, believes it is important for the Co.Co. this relationship because it gives us prestige. Finally, bringing a cultural element of ERC, he hopes that the Chair goes to a woman.

Jannotti Pecci gives his availability and he ensures the highest commitment in case the Co.Co. would confirm an industry representative to the Chair.

Romeo believes that rather than an expression of an institution or a world, it is essential to have a functioning Co.Co. It would take a competent chairperson, who devotes time to this activity.

Agrimi observes some convergence towards the availability and the competence rather than the representation. She confirmed her willingness to work on issues and subgroups, but she cannot work hard as chairperson.

Galan agrees on the need for competence and availability. It is important to support the Co.Co. through the experiences and European standards.

Castriotta agrees about the competence and she believes that an important quality is to be able to involve all participant.

Sguazzini believes in the importance of competences from academics for the issues that the Co.Co will analyze. He suggests also to work on the Co.Co. Regulation, inserting a paragraph on the methodology for the appointment of the president.

Lapicciarella considers crucial, for the Co.Co. and its operation, to understand what the Co.Co. is called to do. This is the first mandate to give to the future chairperson.

Napoleone believes Anvur too self-referential, and therefore he supports the candidacy of Pecci, because with an academic person might be there a conflict of interest.

Petrucci has been working a long on issues Anvur, therefore she knows well these. The University expects the Co.Co. carries on the support function to Anvur, which is often self-referential. For this reason, she is a candidate to chair.

Gavela prefers to abstain because it is her first time into Co.Co.

Chiocchetta prefers to abstain from voting but she expresses a preference for an academic profile, because it has greater sensitivity on issues to be discussed, but at the same time a profile with the ability to communicate with everyone.

Guarini believes that it must go beyond the concept of representation of a system (university vs. industry) or gender. The Anvur documents are very technical so need competence, capacity for dialogue with the agency, experience and technical skills.

After this first round of interventions, the participants converge on the experience and competence requirements as the chairperson. Petrucci is elected chairperson with 12 votes and two abstentions.

The Co.Co will be held on 12th October at 12 am. The meeting closed at 2 pm.

Roma, 19/09/2016