

Advisory Committee
16 January 2018
Minutes of the meeting

The ANVUR Advisory Committee's meeting took place on 16 January 2018, at 12.00, at the Via Ippolito Nievo, 35 offices in Rome.

The following are present:

Institution	Member of the Advisory Committee	Present	via video conferencin	Excused absence	Absent
Conferenza unificata Stato-regioni, città ed autonomie locali	Adriana Agrimi	X			
European Research Council	Claudio Bordignon	X			
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Maria Castriotta	X			
Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari	Nicola D'Ambrosio			X	
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Michele Dau			X	
Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari	Pietro De Ponti		X		
Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari	Mario Donadio			X	
European Students' Union / ESIB	Fernando Miguel Galan Palomares			X	
European Research Council	Belen Gavela			X	
Accademia dei Lincei	Renato Guarini	X			
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Costanzo Jannotti Pecci			X	
Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro	Andrea Lapicciarella	X			
Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane	Gaetano Manfredi			X	
Consiglio Universitario Nazionale	Alessandra Petrucci	X			
Convegno permanente dei Direttori Amministrativi e dirigenti delle Università	Antonio Romeo	X			
European Students' Union / ESIB	Mattia Sguazzini	X			
European University Association	Rolf Tarrach			X	
Segretario generale OCSE	Dirk Van Damme			X	

The meeting was attended by President Miccoli; Director Momigliano; Terracini, Board of Directors member (Skype connected); Ciolfi, officer in charge of the AVA operative unit and the TECO project; Blasi, officer in charge of the "Third Mission and Social Impact" (TeMI) Working Group; Scaletta, officer in charge of evaluating Universities's performance; Tiziana Maselli, head of the Technical Secretariat/Legal Affairs; Francesca Pentassuglio, assisted the Chairperson to draft the minutes.

Before the meeting, Chairperson Petrucci informed those present of Committee member Belen Gavela's resignation which had been received on Friday 12 January. Given this resignation, the quorum required for the meeting would be nine and instead of ten.

After being declared quorate, the meeting regularly started by examining the following agenda:

1. Communications
2. Departments of excellence, status update
3. Analysis of the basic research activities financing procedure (FFABR) outcome document
4. "Third Mission and Social Impact" (TeMI) Working Group update
5. Universities' performance evaluation (additional note to Guidelines) update
6. New TECO trial update
7. ENQA accreditation process update
8. Presentation of the association-regulated professions White Paper
9. Three-Year Programme of the Agency's activities for 2018-2020
10. Advisory Committee work plan ex-art. 3 of the Advisory Committee Regulations
11. Other business

Chairperson Petrucci proposed to revise the agenda item order due to the availability of the officers in charge of the various activities. With the unanimous approval of the Committee members, the agenda was reorganised as follows:

1. Communications
2. Departments of excellence, status update
3. Analysis of the basic research activities financing procedure (FFABR) outcome document
4. New TECO trial update
5. "Third Mission and Social Impact" (TeMI) Working Group update
6. Presentation of the association-regulated professions White Paper
7. Three-Year Programme of the Agency's activities for 2018-2020
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1. Communications

Chairperson Petrucci opened the meeting with the already anticipated announcement of the appointment of the new ANVUR President, Miccoli, who spoke at the meeting for formal introductions and to participate in agenda items 4 and 8. Concerning the appointment of the new ANVUR President, Petrucci informed the Committee that the Ministry is about to start the replacement procedure for Graziosi.

Two further communications followed:

1. On 10 November, an important Ministry-organised discussion on the "University in tomorrow's Europe", was held. During the debate, the President of the Council of Ministers and Minister Valeria Fedeli spoke at length. The Chairperson focused on the Fedeli speech which discussed the revision of the Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors (SSD) and the degree classes. The Committee members agreed with the Chairperson's approval. The Technical Secretariat will share the links to the Miur youtube channel.

2. ANAC has released a new national anti-corruption plan which is an issue which affects the university system. It was noted that the ANVUR's observations were mostly adopted in the new version of the document.

2. Departments of excellence, status update

Chairperson Petrucci introduced the first item on the agenda, which saw Terracini's remote participation. As a preliminary point, the Commission's independence from ANVUR, which limited

itself to carrying out ex post studies for information purposes, was discussed. Terracini discussed the departments of excellence's geographical distribution which showed a greater northern concentration compared to the centre or south. Out of the 180 departments of the ANVUR list, the percentage of projects in the south was low (9%), while in the overall results the percentage was 12%. The commission has however tried to favour a uniform distribution from a geographical and university perspective within margins established by the stability law (which required only the first 150 departments of excellence on the list to be considered).

Terracini added that the ISPD was not considered as part of the peak value, but as a percentile, and departments which had ISPD value in the first decile were considered as comparable. Chairperson Petrucci asked about the possibility of an ISPD "re-edition" by ANVUR; Terracini informed those present that ANVUR may update the indicator at the universities' request given the changed compositions of departments.

After two questions by Sguazzini about the project implementation supervision (1) and their possible publication (2), the Committee debated the issue of results publication and any related transparency problems. Chairperson Petrucci detected a "positive recommendation" from various comments, in favour of the transparent assessment guarantee, stating that this was an accountability consideration and not an issue with the method.

A brief discussion followed between Director Momigliano, the Chairperson and Bordignon on a possible comparison with ERC projects. It was noted that the funding mechanisms and the nature of the projects were different.

After the first item on the agenda was discussed, the Chairperson introduced the next item.

3. Analysis of the basic research activities financing procedure (FFABR) outcome document

The results presentation was introduced by Terracini with some observations on the number of applications submitted (which did not allow for the distributions of all funding) and on their geographical distribution.

Director Momigliano informed the participants of the news concerning FFABR funding in the regulatory framework:

- a. During summer 2017, a provision was allocated for AFAM institutes which reduced the funding for FFABR by approximately 15 million Euro, starting from 2019.
- b. During the budgeting under the current legislation (pre-budget), the allocation for FFABR was redefined as 27 million (with a reduction of 18 million), probably because not all funds were used in 2017.
- c. With two successive amendments to the budget law, the FFABR funding was further reduced, to 2 million for the current year and 0 from 2019. No significant funding is foreseen for this initiative.

The Director and the Committee stressed the negative consequences of the provision, noting that the setting up of complex procedures and high intellectual investment had been frustrated due to the programme's suspension. Guarini proposed for the committee to formally recommend the survival of FFABR and request that the programme be maintained. The observation was widely shared among the Committee members, who proposed to formulate a note stressing the procedural burden and the frustration of the efforts due to the suspension of the programme.

4. New TECO trial update

The discussion started with the presentation from Ciolfi, who illustrated the TECO project progress:

- a. The disciplinary and transversal tests are underway for first-year students in the health professions (who have already been using a progress test shared by many universities for many years). The disciplinary TECO follows a bottom-up procedure, after the transversal TECO (literacy and numeracy) and takes 90 minutes.
- b. To date, there are 23 universities involved and more than 8000 tests performed.

c. A logistical organisation is underway to carry out the tests in paper format, at the request of some large universities which lack sufficient IT workstations. A paper test will take TECO to another 5000 students.

Some members of the Committee spoke about the possible extension of the test to other disciplines. Ciolfi said that this year is expected to involve health professions only, but it has been suggested that the Board of Directors extend the test to two other disciplinary groups: pedagogy and philosophy. There has been an interaction with the economics disciplinary groups, which have shown interest in the project but have not yet made a direct request for the preparation of tests. Ciolfi's presentation continued with the communication of two subsequent project objectives:

d. The preparation of transversal tests in problem solving.

e. The integration of the citizenship within the test which still requires work for the creation of the framework.

At the end of the presentation, Chairperson Petrucci asked for a list of the universities involved and sharing the TECO project results with the committee at the next meeting. Ciolfi agreed to send what was requested through the Secretariat.

5. "Third Mission and Social Impact" Working Group update

The Chairperson introduced the fourth item on the agenda, during which the ANVUR President, Miccoli took the floor. The debate started with Blasi's presentation on the establishment of the "Third Mission, and Social Impact" (TeMI) Working Group and the activities carried out by the Group. During the presentation the following communications were given to the Committee:

a. The Working Group was established this year and has a duration of 18 months.

b. The first two Working Group meetings were held, on 14 November and 14 December. A third meeting is scheduled for 29 January.

c. Presentation of the Working Group's nine components.

d. Presentation of the Working Group's tasks:

- data collection following the 2015-2017 survey for the Third Mission
- revision and modification of the Single Annual Report Departmental Research (SUA RD) - third part
- development of data collection procedures for research institutes
- new official database access
- in depth study of impact aspects
- 2015 evaluation manual revision

e. During the first two meetings, work was carried out mostly on the SUA RD - third part and the synthesis of the actions with the observations and the modification proposals received by Universities through CRUI.

On this last point, President Miccoli underlined a desire from some universities to enhance the Third Mission activities.

It followed the presentation of the structure and the various sections of the SUA RD - third part, concerning the newly introduced areas or areas redefined in the report.

Sguazzini asked if student cultural activities were reported, particularly those promoted by accredited associations. Blasi replied that a survey of student activities is not currently foreseen; the Committee requested an in-depth examination of the issue.

The discussion ended with Chairperson Petrucci, who observed that, since it is an ongoing year, the committee can support its development. The drafting of an Advisory Committee note to support the Directorial Decree was decided unanimously.

6. Presentation of the association-regulated professions White Paper

The meeting continued with the presentation of the association-regulated professions White Paper by President Miccoli, who illustrated its main contents:

- a. A detailed examination of the association-regulated professions and their relations with Universities.
- b. Some suggestions to improve the student professionalization levels.
- c. An in-depth study of practical internships, state examinations and issues such as the mobility of professionals.
- d. Proposals on the relationship between a Bachelor's and a Master's degree.

Chairperson Petrucci noted that the matter should be further analysed by the academic community. A discussion with President Miccoli followed on the possibility to evaluate traineeships; two possible aspects to be strengthened were identified:

- Discuss with trade associations, and professional associations.
- The questions on the conduct of internships by Commission of Evaluation Experts (CEE) during the visits, at the time of students' opinion acquisition (medicine, veterinary and agrarian).

The President gave each member a copy of the material.

7. Three-Year Programme of the Agency's activities for 2018-2020

The Chairperson introduced the next item on the agenda which was a presentation of the Three-Year Programme of the Agency's activities for 2018-2020. The Committee unanimously decided to postpone its study to the next meeting. It followed a presentation from Momigliano of the document's main contents:

- a. A first retrospective section of 2017, which highlighted last year's news: FFABR and departments of excellence. The section included the AVA reform.
- c. A second section on human resources, where an increase from 18 to 35 units was highlighted.
- d. The third part covered the next few years work. This part highlighted that the programme of institutional visits in 2019 has almost been completed, and some visits were already planned for 2020.

Following the comments made by some Committee members, the Chairperson underlined the need for a greater Committee prior involvement with ANVUR activities.

8. ENQA accreditation process update

The Committee briefly discussed about updating the ENQA accreditation process. The Chairperson brought to the attention of those present a document produced by Fernando Galan, which contained a comparative analysis of item 3 of the ENQA Guidelines, concerning the independence of evaluation Agencies. The work could be shared as a basis of a new document from the committee. Galan suggested the Committee produce an internal analysis of the European Standard Guidelines, and particularly paragraphs 2 and 3. It was decided unanimously to draw up a document on the European Guidelines, which focused on Agency independence.

9. Universities' performance evaluation (additional note to Guidelines) update

The meeting discussed the last item on the agenda. Scaletta took the floor to discuss the evaluation of the Universities' performance. The salient points of the activity were illustrated:

- a. This was an ANVUR institutional activity, which since 2013 had foreseen this evaluation exercise of the Universities and MIUR-supervised research institutes administrative performance.
- b. From the first phase of the evaluation exercise, it aimed at a greater integration between universities' administrative performance and institutional activities. The objective of linking the performance plan to strategic plans (research, third mission) was underlined.
- c. The contents and function of the performance report were illustrated.
- d. Reference was made to the possible introduction of on-site visits similar to AVA assessments, which had not been foreseen.
- e. It should be noted that, out of 66 universities, 63 have already received a feedback document with aspects to improve and suggestions; in 30 cases there was a follow-up meeting.
- f. The exercise objective is to get homogeneous evaluations to produce indicators. The appointment of a performance expert within the CEE was suggested.

g. There was a problem of use and reliability of data in the performance evaluation. A discussion followed on the problems posed by performance evaluation of research Institutes, which did not have standardised governance bodies. Research institutes' management levels are much lower than universities.

h. Other important objectives of the evaluation exercise are:

- the integration between budget and performance.
- the identification of the highest performing Universities with skills that can be replicated and reproduced elsewhere, to create a virtuous mechanism that includes the rector and the Director General.

10. Advisory Committee work plan ex-art. 3 of the Advisory Committee Regulations

The Chairperson summarised the next Committee activities:

- Reading of the three-year programme sent by ANVUR;
- Drawing up two notes on FFABR and the "Third Mission and Social Impact" Working Group;
- Note to be sent to Blasi on university student activities;
- Collection of suggestions for the work on the European Standard Guidelines;
- Revision of regulations (after sharing the document)

11. Other business

None.

After the last item was discussed, the Chairperson thanked the participants and declared the meeting closed at 4.25 pm. The next meeting will be held on 10 April 2018.