

Advisory Committee
Meeting of 14 May 2019
Meeting minutes

Participants at the meeting

The ANVUR Advisory Committee met on Tuesday 14 May 2019, at midday, at the organisation's headquarters at Via Ippolito Nievo, 35 in Rome. The following individuals were present:

Organisation	Member of the Advisory Committee	Present	Present by videoconference	Absent with apologies	Absent
European Research Council	Claudio Bordignon			X	
National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL)	Maria Castriotta			X	
National Council of University Students (CNSU)	Nicola D'Ambrosio			X	
National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL)	Michele Dau			X	
National Council of University Students (CNSU)	Pietro De Ponti			X	
National Council of University Students (CNSU)	Mario Donadio			X	
European Students' Union/ESIB	Fernando Miguel Galan Palomares			X	
Lyncean Academy	Renato Guarini	X			
National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL)	Costanzo Jannotti Pecci			X	
Unified Conference of the State, Regions, Cities and Local Authorities	Domenico Laforgia	X			
National Council for Economics and Labour (CNEL)	Andrea Lapicciarella	X			
Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI)	Gaetano Manfredi			X	
European Research Council (ERC)	Valeria Nicolosi				
National University Council (CUN)	Alessandra Petrucci	X			
Permanent Conference of the Administrative Directors and Managers of Italian Universities	Gabriele Rizzetto		X		
European Students' Union/ESIB	Mattia Sguazzini		X		
European University Association	Rolf Tarrach			X	
Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co- operation and Development (OECD)	Dirk Van Damme			X	

The meeting was also attended by Ines Panico, Technical Secretariat/Legal Affairs Assistant, who assisted the President as the secretary compiling the minutes.

Activities of the meeting

The President, Prof. Alessandra Petrucci, first informed the persons present that although the number of people present at the meeting was not legally sufficient to be able to deliberate, the meeting would nonetheless take place in order to further explore the issues included on the agenda.

The meeting commenced with an analysis of the items on the agenda, which were the following:

1. Notices
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019
3. Report from the EQR Experts
4. Scientific journal procedure
5. Accreditation of Doctoral Courses for the 35th Cycle
6. Working plan for the Advisory Committee, in accordance with Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Committee
7. Other business

1. Notices

The President took the floor, and updated the members of the Committee about the decision by the Council of Ministers to appoint Prof. Antonio Felice Uricchio as a member of the ANVUR Governing Board. Prof. Petrucci also advised that the term of office the Director Mr Sandro Momigliano had come to an end and the new Director of the Agency would be Mr Daniele Livon, whose term of office would commence in June. The President continued with an update about the activities undertaken in recent months, and in particular ANVUR's membership, along with the French and Spanish agencies, of the European Research Infrastructure Evaluation Consortium (ERIEC) and the recently created partnership with Research England. Prof. Petrucci then advised that she was involved on 12 February in the 'Transparency Day' organised by ANVUR, stating that the event had been an opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views with the rectors and professors involved. Prof. Petrucci informed those present that the results of the first ANVUR survey on PhD or post-doctoral students had been announced on 5 March, and stated that she would ask the member of the ANVUR Governing Board Mr Checchi to share the corresponding documentation with the members of the Advisory Committee. Lastly, the President advised that Mr Momigliano had confirmed that the establishment of the ENQA Report had been deferred to June and would therefore be included on the agenda of the meeting of the Advisory Committee to be held on 15 October 2019.

Prof. Guarini took the floor to discuss the possibility mentioned on several occasions for an in-depth review of ANVUR's role and functions and read the introduction of the opinion provided on that subject by the Lyncean Committees. This essentially states the importance of the continued existence of ANVUR as an independent agency, because it is only independent status that can guarantee independent evaluations and opinions. The independence of the Agency cannot be undermined, especially because this would mean non-compliance with the

European Guidelines.

Discussion of the first item on the agenda having been concluded, the President introduced the next item.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019

In relation to the abovementioned item, the President asked for any comments from those present about the minutes referred to above.

As there were no comments, Prof. Petrucci declared that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019 were approved.

Discussion of the second item on the agenda having been concluded, the President introduced the next item.

3. Report from the EQR Experts

With reference to the abovementioned item, Prof. Petrucci held the floor and reviewed the document concerned, focusing in particular on Chapter 4, which covers the recommendations for future evaluation exercises. Prof. Petrucci highlighted the recommendation from the experts that evaluation of outputs should be supported by the drafting of a report in which the universities describe their specific research strategies, also providing information about doctoral programmes and third-mission activities. This report should contribute to calculation of the final indicator used for distribution of the prize fund. An additional important recommendation is an increase in the number of Groups of Evaluation Experts (GEE), in order to have a better representation of the granularity of research activities. Within the GEEs, it would be appropriate to increase the proportions of women and foreign scholars, so as to enable an adequate gender representation and better protection against conflicts of interest. The Report also suggests that some of the members of the GEEs should be elected by reference scientific communities and that some should continue to be selected by ANVUR on the basis of criteria that guarantee transparency, equal treatment and compliance with diversity requirements. With regard to methodology, the experts recommend that the informed peer review approach be retained, through the use - where appropriate - of bibliometric indicators. They suggest however that the GEEs should specify from the outset whether they intend to use bibliometric indicators, also choosing the corresponding database. This choice should not therefore be left any longer to the individual researchers. In terms of peer reviews, the three criteria used in the most recent EQR should be replaced by five criteria, relating to methodological rigour, knowledge of the state of the art in the discipline, originality, ability to make appropriate use of knowledge acquired, and the quality and clarity of the reasoning and research objectives, respectively. Lastly, Prof. Petrucci emphasised the fact that, according to the findings of the experts, it is fundamental that the contribution of each author to the publication be identified correctly, with individual contributions being weighted appropriately in the case that the number of co-authors is above a predetermined threshold. Prof. Lapicciarella took the floor, and stated that the individual contribution constituted the story of the researcher and that only knowledge and careful reading were able to exhaustively

expound the publications. Prof. Petrucci took the floor again, stating that there was a need to allow the possibility for several researchers to present a single work. Prof. Laforgia then spoke, stating that the comparison between different scientific disciplinary sectors (SDS) was very complicated and the only option would be to standardise the SDS, with a classification by uniform sectors, and to evaluate the corresponding excellence. Gabriele Rizzetto proposed that Prof. Petrucci request feedback from ANVUR about the Report, so that it could be used more easily. Mattia Sguazzini then took the floor, and stated that there was limited value in a potential revision of existing indicators, because this could only create additional distortions. Prof. Lapicciarella asserted that it was impossible to redefine the existing indicators and stated that there was a need to start again from scratch. Following a wide-ranging discussion, the Advisory Committee recommended that maximum focus be given to a revision of existing indicators.

The discussion on the third item on the agenda having been concluded, the President introduced the next item.

4. Scientific journal procedure

Prof. Petrucci took the floor, and reviewed the salient points of the new regulation on the classification of journals in non-bibliometric areas, approved by Decision No 42 of the Governing Board of 20 February 2019. Prof. Petrucci stated that the new procedure for classification of class A and scientific journals into non-bibliometric areas would be applied in the second four-month period for national scientific qualification (NSQ), with the old procedure being applied in the first four-month period. The

President focused in particular on the part of the document covering the indicators for the process and output requirements and reviewed Articles 15, 17 and 18 of the regulation, which relates to the composition of the bodies of journals, accessibility of content and the scientific nature of contributions. Gabriele Rizzetto then took the floor, and highlighted the link between the classification of journals, the EQR and all of the legal requirements on open access. Mr Rizzetto then asked for an update for the Advisory Committee on the status of the works on the issue of open access and Prof. Petrucci proposed that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion of the fourth item on the agenda having been concluded, the President introduced the next item.

5. Accreditation of Doctoral Courses for the 35th Cycle

Prof. Petrucci reviewed the document on the *Guidelines for accreditation of doctoral courses and sites for the 35th cycle*, focusing on *Requirement A4*) relating to the qualification of faculty boards and the scientific qualification of the coordinator, which she believed to be the most innovative aspect of the document. In particular, the requirement for qualification of faculty boards is met if the following two conditions are both satisfied:

- a) Each member of the board has published at least three scientific outputs with ISBN/ISMN/ISSN or WoS or Scopus indexing in the last five years;

- b) Bibliometric sectors: each member exceeds the first NSQ indicator for level II qualification. Non-bibliometric sectors: each member exceeds the third threshold for level II qualification or the first threshold for level II qualification [sic].

The President then opened the discussion about the new *Guidelines for accreditation of doctoral courses and sites for the 35th cycle*. Gabriele Rizzetto took the floor, and stated that this new formulation of the requirements to be met for accreditation of doctoral courses and sites could make the accreditation process for some courses and sites more problematic.

Discussion of the fifth item on the agenda having been concluded, the President introduced the next item.

6. Working plan for the Advisory Committee, in accordance with Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Committee

In reference to the issues previously discussed, Prof. Petrucci advised that she would ask the President of the Governing Board for feedback about the report from the EQR Experts, so that this could be discussed at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee, already scheduled for 15 October 2019. The President proposed that those present exchange views and suggestions over the coming months in relation to a change in the Advisory Committee's Rules of Procedure, because she believed that there were elements that should definitely be reviewed.

The President confirmed that the ENQA Report would be shared with the members of the Committee as soon as it was ready.

Discussion of the sixth item on the agenda having been concluded, the President introduced the next item.

7. Other business

Prof. Petrucci reiterated that attendance by members at the meetings of the Advisory Committee, although requested very far in advance, was often very limited. She therefore asked those present to encourage attendance by their absent colleagues, because the collection of observations on the issues covered was important as an input for the Agency's Governing Board. The President also advised her intention, at the request of those present, to periodically update the members of the Advisory Committee on the principal issues handled by the Agency, by sharing the important decisions made by the ANVUR Governing Board.

As the final item on the agenda had been addressed, the President thanked the participants and declared the meeting closed at 13:40. The next meeting will be held on 15 October 2019.

Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del
sistema Universitario e della Ricerca



National Agency for the Evaluation of
Universities and Research Institutes

THE PRESIDENT (Prof. Alessandra Petrucci)*