

Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del  
sistema Universitario e della Ricerca



National Agency for the Evaluation of  
Universities and Research Institutes

# VQR and Third mission

prof. Alessandra Celletti  
ANVUR Vice-President  
VQR 2015-2019 Coordinator

Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del  
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# 1. VQR 2015-2019

# VQR

- A first, still experimental, evaluation exercise was conducted by CIVR in 2007 (called VTR 2001-2003).
- ANVUR conducted three **VQR** evaluation exercise:
  - the first in 2011-2013, the **VQR 2004-2010**
  - the second in 2015-2017, the **VQR 2011-2014**
  - the third one started at the end of 2019 and it will be completed by the end of July 2022, the **VQR 2015-2019**.
- **Evaluation concerns Institutions, does NOT concern individuals.**
- **It is not appropriate to use the results to compare different SSDs, particularly within the same institution.**

# ANVUR and GEV

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M. Avellino, P. Bonetti, R. Gori, G. Racale

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Area 13b - Economics and Management	Prof. Maria Rosaria Napolitano
Area 14 - Political and Social Sciences	Prof. Maurizio Ambrosini
Interdisciplinary Impact/Third mission	Prof. Sauro Longhi

# VQR 2015-2019: key facts

- 17 Disciplinary Panels and 1 Third Mission Panel in charged of evaluation
  - **615 experts for the research outputs**
  - **30 experts for the Third Mission**
- **24 Assistants**
- **11.299 external peer reviewers** were used in the evaluation
- **134 Institutions** assessed
  - 98 Universities,
  - 14 Public Research Institutes (supervised by the Ministry)
  - 22 Other Institutions performing research activities (on a voluntary basis)
- **65.119 researchers** involved
- **182.648 research outputs** and **676 Third Mission case studies** evaluated

# Evaluated Institutions

- Public Universities
- Special Tertiary Education Schools
- Private Universities
- Public Research Institutes (supervised by the Ministry)
- Volunteer Institutions

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## 2. Third Mission

## Terza Missione

«Third Mission is the set of activities with which the Institutions interact with society, besides the traditional missions of research and teaching»

da: Rapporto sullo Stato del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca 2013 – p. 559

Case studies were related to TM activities in one or more fields of action, whose impact was verifiable in the period 2015-19

Usually referred to Departments or similar structures (max 2 per Department) or to the whole Institution

Referred to activities during the period 2015-2019, but that generated an impact in part or in the whole period 2015-2019

Case studies with an impact outside the period of evaluation were not considered admissible



# Evolution of TM in VQR 1 – 2 – 3

VQR 2004-2010	VQR 2011-2014	VQR 2015-2019
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Broad definition of third mission (patents, spin-offs, museums, public involvement activities, etc.)</li><li>- Use of a set of indicators based on counting (number of spin-off companies,...), with data from internal monitoring systems of institutions (no central data collection system)</li></ul> <p>→ Need for more reliable data and refinement of definition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Construction of a central data collection system (SUA-RD, Third Mission) for comparability and standardisation; output and outcome indicators (revenues and employees of spin-off companies, ...)</li><li>- Development of an informed peer review model (publication of the Evaluation Manual): data + expert judgement</li></ul> <p>→ Difficulty in adjusting between data and indicators and taking into account context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Like in VQR1-2, the broad definition of TM is confirmed and the Guidelines for the compilation of SUA-TM (ANVUR 2018) are recalled.</li><li>- The evaluation methodology changes: instead of the activities, a selection of case studies chosen by the evaluated institutions, to bring out the institutional and territorial specificities, to value the best practices</li></ul> <p>→ <i>Work in progress</i></p>



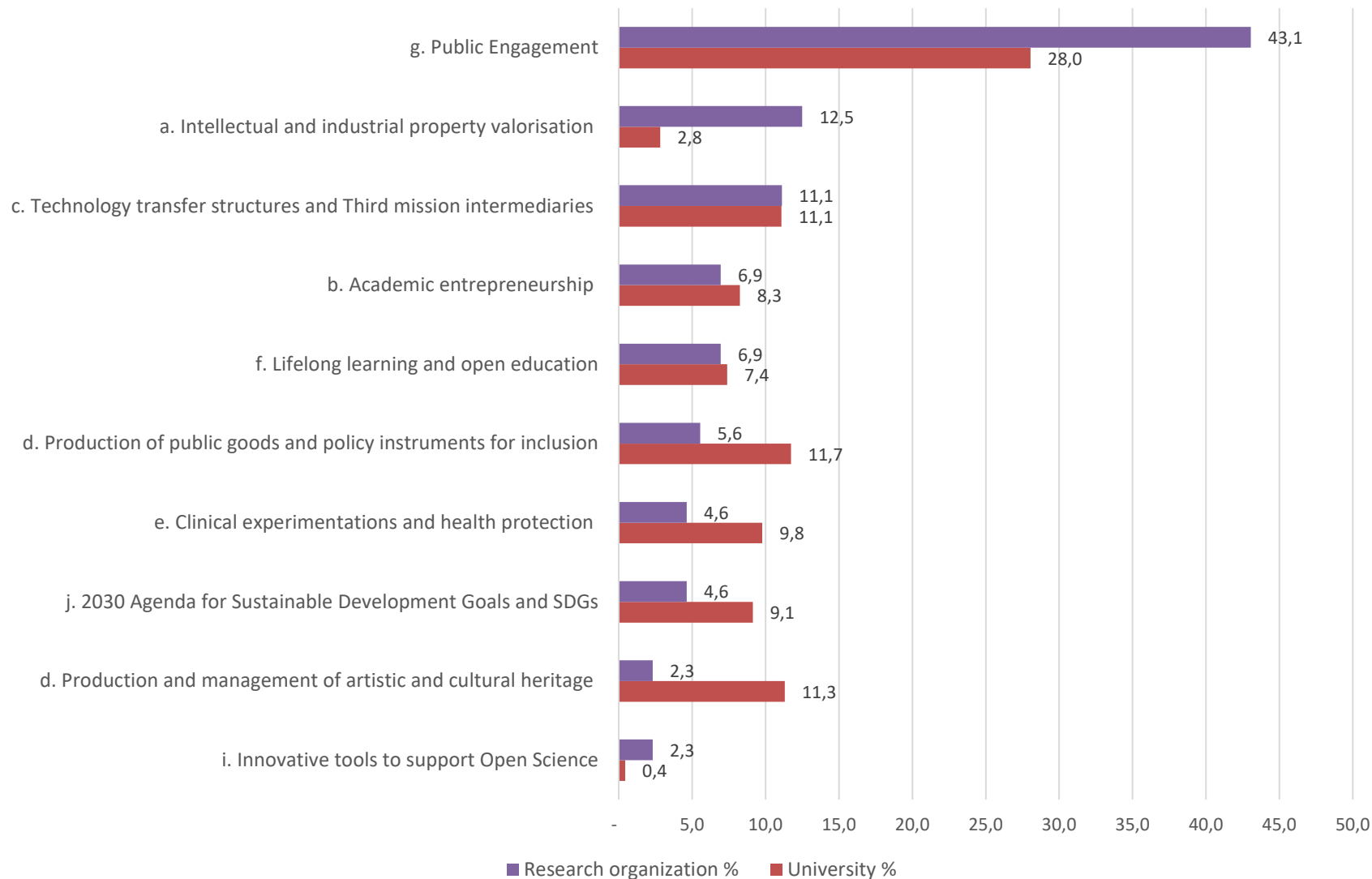
## Submitted case studies

Institutions	Number	Case studies	Percentage
Universities	98	460	68,05
EPR	14	159	23,52
Voluntary	22	57	8,43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>100,00</b>

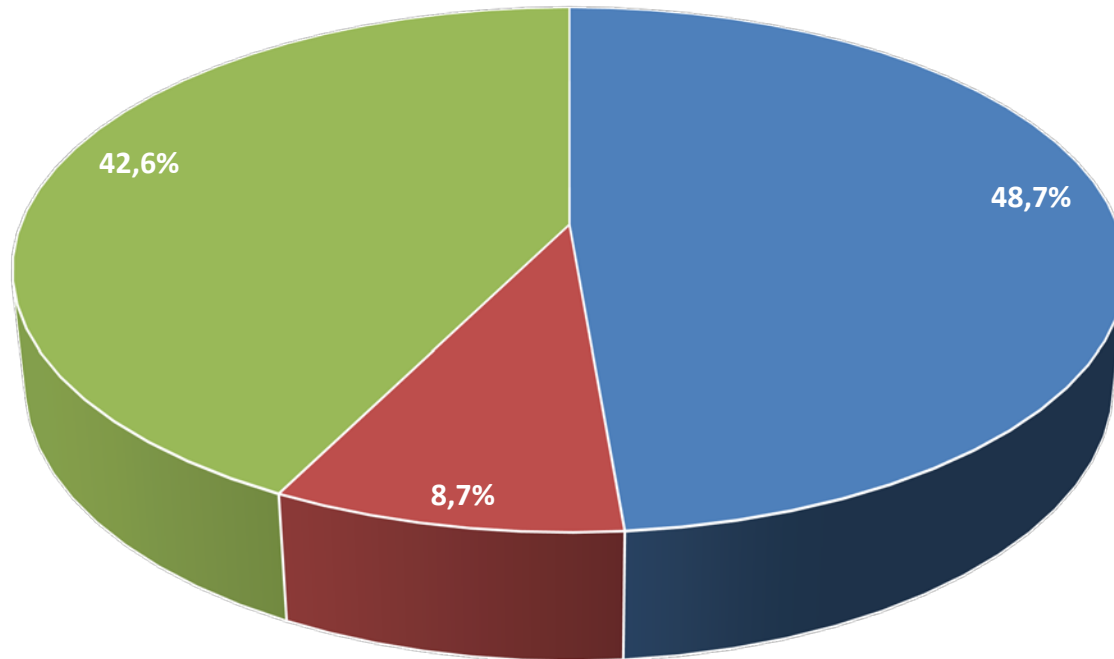
# Distribution of case studies into the 10 fields of action

Fields of action	Total submitted case studies	% on total submitted case studies
<b>a. Intellectual and industrial property valorisation</b>	40	5,92
<b>b. Academic entrepreneurship</b>	53	7,84
<b>c. Technology transfer structures and other Third mission intermediaries</b>	75	11,09
<b>d. Production and management of artistic and cultural heritage</b>	57	8,43
<b>e. Clinical experimentations and health protection</b>	55	8,14
<b>f. Lifelong learning and open education</b>	49	7,25
<b>g. Public Engagement, defined as non-profit institutional activities with educational, cultural and social value</b>	222	32,84
<b>h. Production of public goods and policy instruments for inclusion</b>	66	9,76
<b>i. Innovative tools to support Open Science</b>	8	1,18
<b>j. Activities related to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and SDGs</b>	51	7,54
<b>Total</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>100,00</b>

# Fields of action by institution type

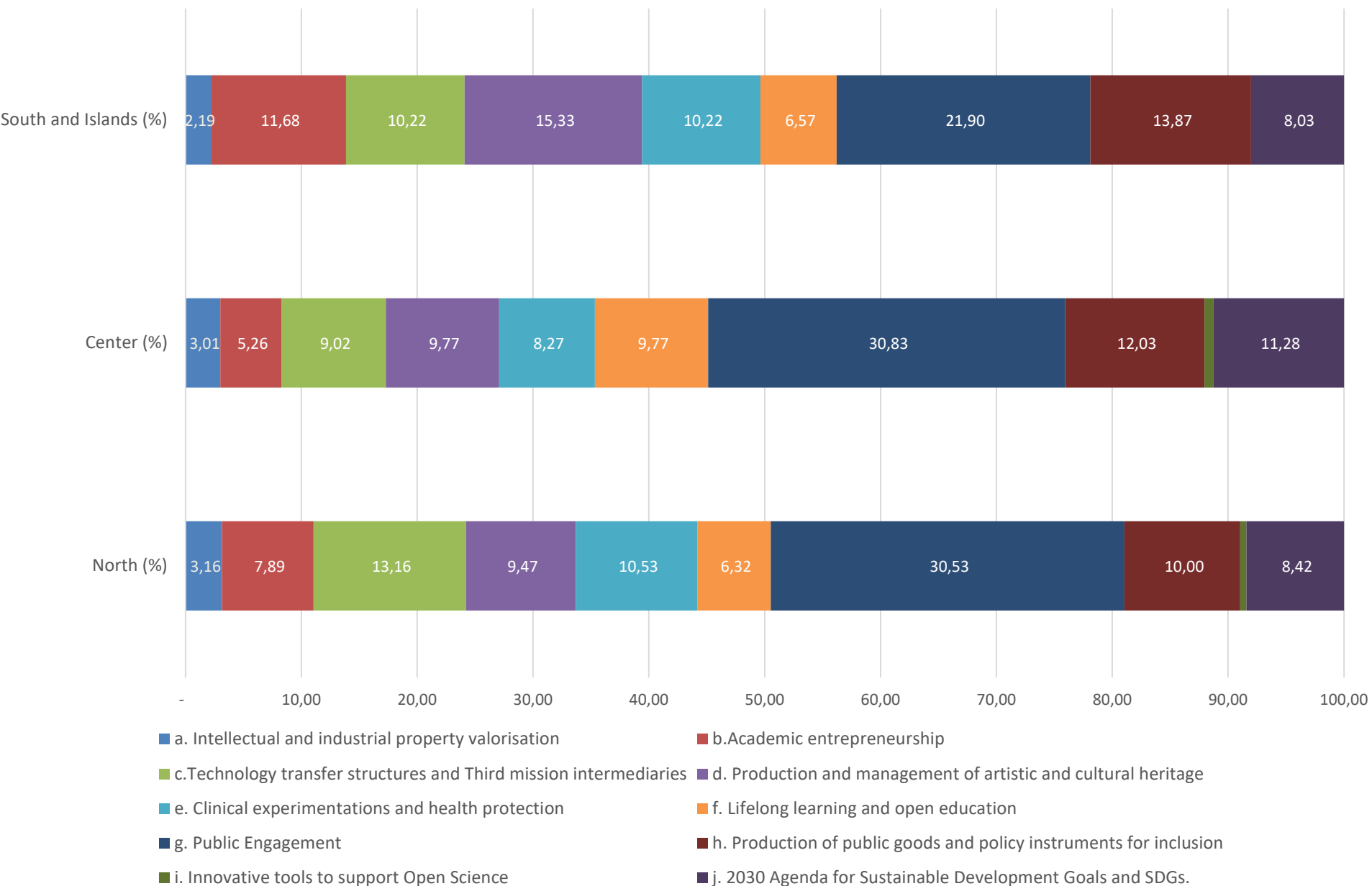


# Case studies submitted by Institution or Department(s)



■ 1 Department   ■ 2 o more Departments   ■ Institution

# Fields of action by geographic area



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## 3. Procedure

# Informed peer review vs. Pure Peer review

- VQR 2015-19 was based on the methodology of informed peer review
- The citation information used was provided by ANVUR, differentiated according to the characteristics of the area and the sector.

(STEM+LS in red, HSS in blue, Economy in green)

Area 1 Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Area 2 Physics

Area 3 Chemistry

Area 4 Earth Sciences

Area 5 Biology

Area 6 Medicine

Area 7 Agricultural and veterinary sciences

Area 8a Architecture

Area 8b Civil Engineering

Area 9 Industrial and Information Engineering

Area 10 Ancient History, Philology, Literature and Art History

Area 11a History, Philosophy, Pedagogy

Area 11b Psychology

Area 12 Law

Area 13a Economics and Statistics

Area 13b Economics and Management

Area 14 Political and Social Sciences

Interdisciplinary Impact/Third mission



# VQR 2015-2019: evaluation method

- **Evaluation criteria**

- **Research outputs:**

- *Originality;*
    - *Methodological rigour;*
    - *Impact*

- **Case Studies:**

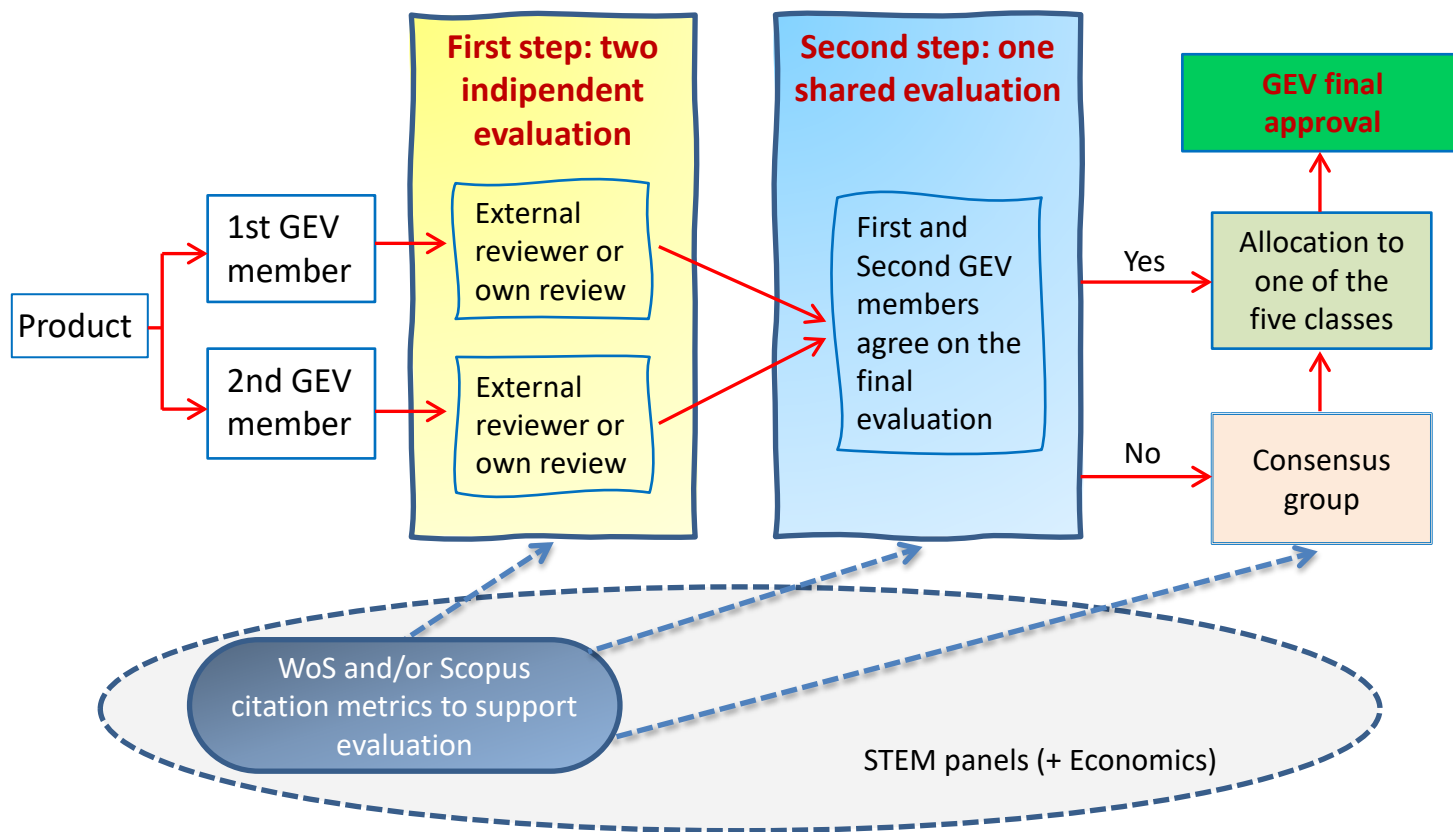
- *Social, economic and cultural dimension of the **impact**;*
    - *Relevance in relation to the context;*
    - *Added value for the beneficiaries;*
    - *Contribution of the department or similar structure.*

- **Each research output / case study may be categorised as:**

- A. *Excellent and extremely relevant* (score 1)
  - B. *Excellent* (score 0.8)
  - C. *Standard* (score 0.5)
  - D. *Sufficient significance* (score 0.2)
  - E. *Low significance or Not admissible\** (score 0)

\*publications excluded from the assessment. Missing research products are also included in category E.

# VQR 2015-2019 – Evaluation Process



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## 4. Impact

## Definition of impact

- In the VQR decree there was not a strictly closed definition of **impact** to give the possibility to each Institution to highlight those TM activities that had a greater impact.
- Impact should have emerged as the difference between the situation before and after the development of the activities.
- Impact was supposed to take place in the period 2015-2019.

## Definition of impact (TM panel [document](#))

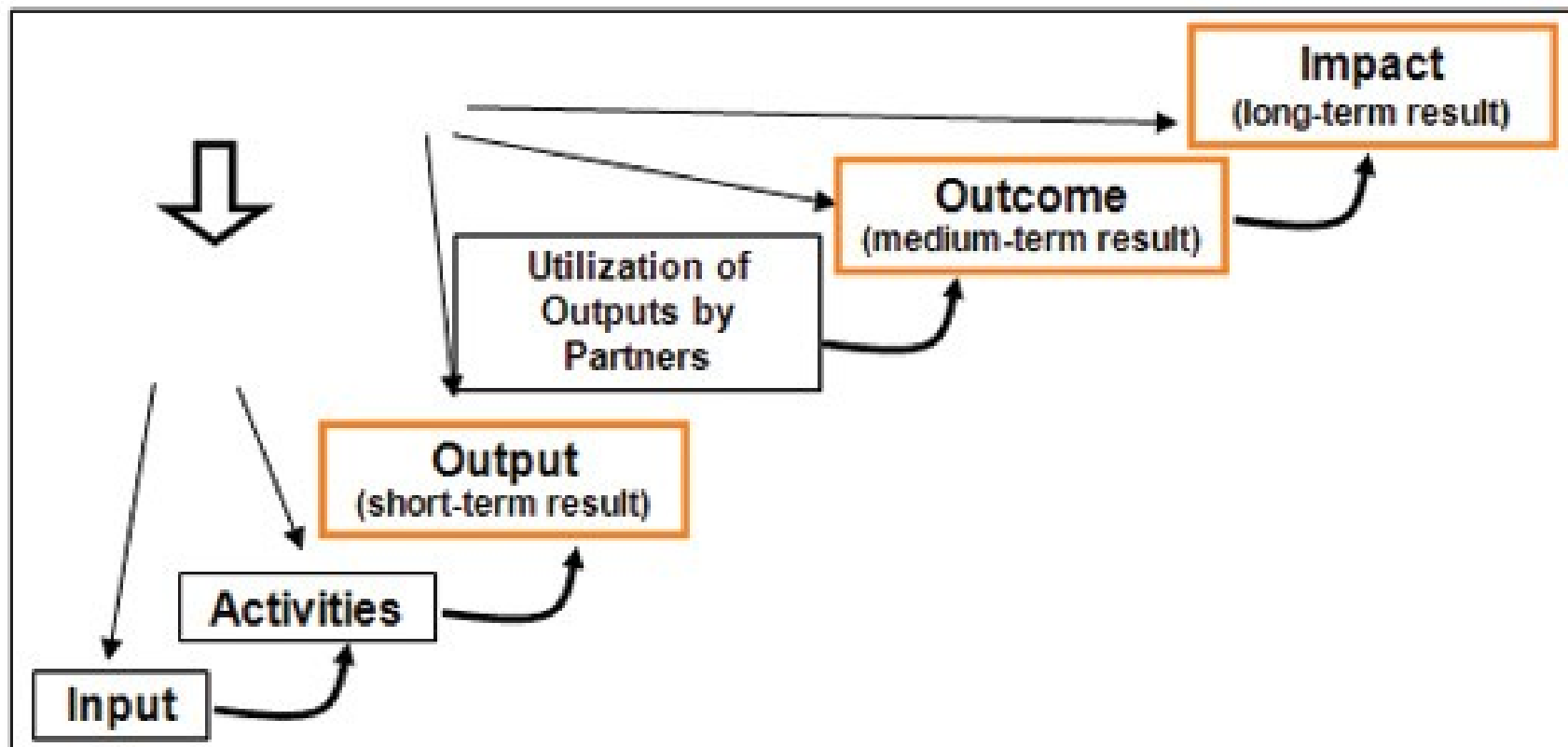
- It was intended the transformation or the improvement generated for economy, society, culture, health, environment (also in relation to the results obtained by the research products presented by the Institution) or, more in general,
- combating economic, social and territorial inequalities in order to increase the quality of life in a territorial context (local, regional, national, European or international);
- the reduction or prevention of damage, risks, or other negative externalities; priority was given to assessing the impact generated outside (but also any spillover effects within the institutions).

## Impact and Third Mission

Possible criticalities (Ben Martin, U. Sussex, 2007):

- a) **Causality:** the cause-effect link between the research and the outcome is not always clear.
- b) **Attribution:** There is not always a direct correspondence between research activity and the impact generated; the impact may be diffuse, complex and it may not be clear what part of the impact should be attributed to a given research.
- c) **Internationality:** the most innovative activities are intrinsically international and consequently it is difficult to attribute the impact of a given research to a local or national **context.**
- d) **Timing of the assessment:** the time window can vary enormously and is difficult to predict.

## Impact and Third Mission



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## 6. Conclusions



## Third Mission: conclusions

- Scientific institutions become the leading actors of their region and offer their knowledge to the whole community.
- TM activities open to the involvement with the outside world in the process of research and innovation.
- The fields of action, albeit with different degrees, were all covered.
- Universities have diversified their case studies more than the research institutions.
- It is necessary to start thinking about some fields of action (in particular public engagement).

## Third Mission: conclusions

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers

- **Commitment to public opinion**
- «**Researchers should ensure that their research activities are made known to society at large in such a way that they can be understood by non-specialists, thereby improving the public's understanding of science.** Direct engagement with the public will help researchers to better understand public interest in priorities for science and technology and also the public's concern».

*<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32005H0251>*

**Thank you for your attention**