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QFORTE
Fortifying higher education quality in Moldova.
No boundaries for quality

Project acronym: QFORTE

Project title: QFORTE - Enhancement of Quality Assurance in Higher Education System in Moldova
(Ref. nr: 618742-EPP-1-2020-1-MD-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP)

Good practices in institutional accreditation in the EHEA: The QA System in Spain

Country workshop
30th September 2021

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Presentation outline

- Higher Education System in Spain

- Coordination of the university system

- QA system in Spain: ANECA

- QA system in Castilla y León: ACSUCYL

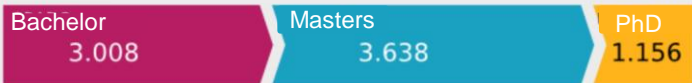- Quality Assessment Unit – USAL

- Challenges

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Higher Education System in Spain

Higher Education System in Spain

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Degrees offered in 2019-2020

Bachelor	Masters	PhD
3.008	3.638	1.156

Students enroled in 2019-2020

Bachelor

1.309.762   55,6%   5,8%

Masters   234.214   55,6%   23,1%

PhD   89.353   50,1%   27,4%

Graduating students 2018-2019

Bachelor   189.354   59,4%   4,1%

Masters   114.320   56,9%   21,1%

PhD   9.340   50,7%   23,3%
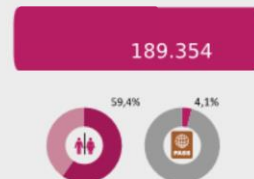
There are currently 82 universities in Spain, 50 public and 32 private.

International students 2018-2019

Regular enrollment	Mobility programmes
57.153	68.522

University staff 2018-2019

PDI	PAS	PI
125.471	63.281	26.408

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA   MINISTERIO DE UNIVERSIDADES

Source https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/
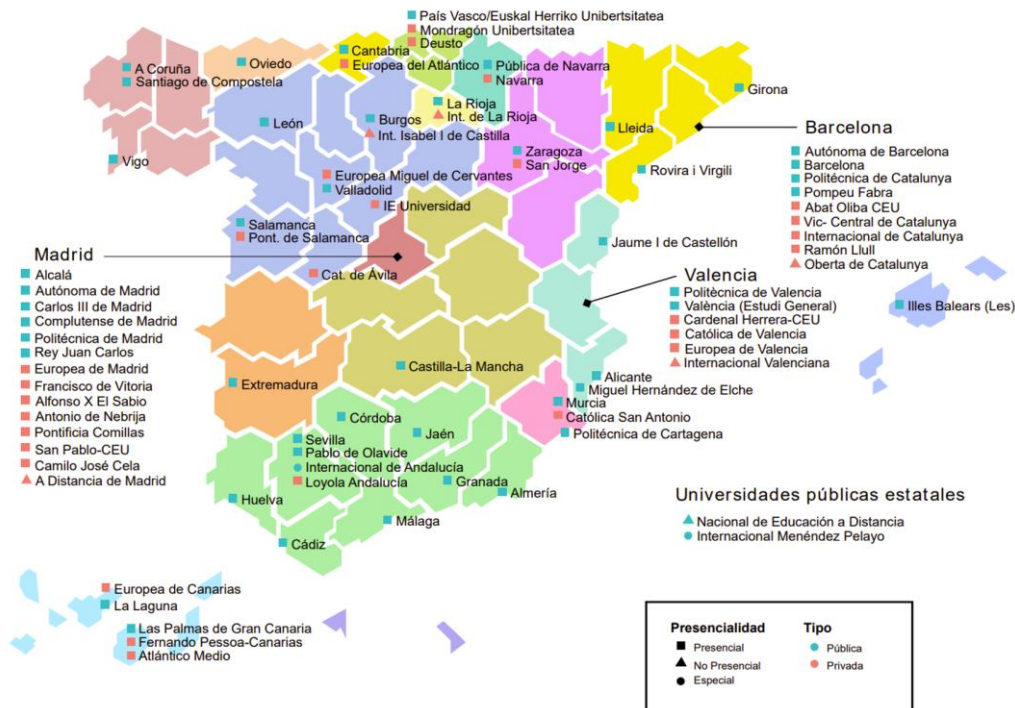
Geographical distribution of active Spanish universities in the academic year 2019-2020.

Higher Education System in Spain

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	Total		Public universities		Private universities	
	Bachelor's degrees	Students	Bachelor's degrees	Students	Bachelor's degrees	Students
Total	2.920	1.293.697	2.159	1.093.991	761	199.706
Social and Legal Science	1.046	601.744	687	497.251	359	104.493
Engineering & Architecture	786	229.510	637	209.576	149	19.934
Arts & Humanities	451	133.579	361	122.607	90	10.792
Health Science	393	245.918	248	184.203	145	61.715
Science	244	82.946	226	80.354	18	2.592

Geographical distribution of Bachelor's degrees in the academic year 2019-2020.

Number of Bachelor's degrees and students enrolled per brach of education.

Source https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/

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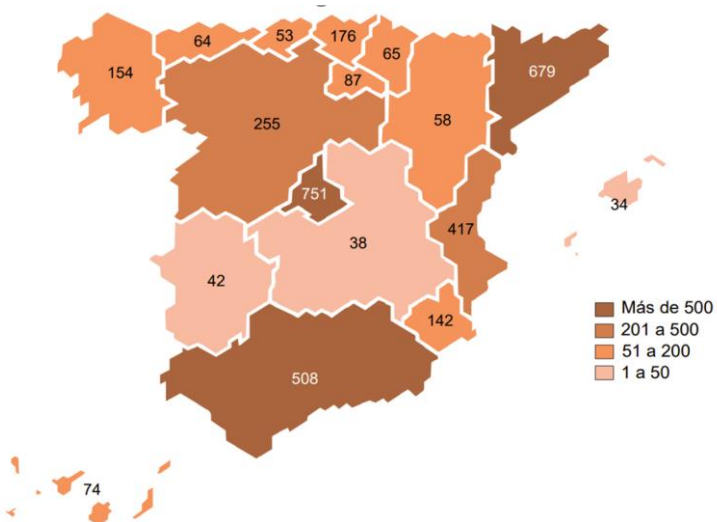
	Total		Public universities		Private universities	
	Master's degrees	Students	Master's degrees	Students	Master's degrees	Students
Total	3.567	214.528	2.761	135.817	813	78.711
Social and Legal Science	1.471	123.380	1014	65.595	461	57.785
Engineering & Architecture	817	41.201	691	32.603	127	8.598
Arts & Humanities	413	17.695	373	14.645	40	3.050
Health Science	526	22.681	356	13.865	172	8.816
Science	340	9.571	327	9.109	13	462

Geographical distribution of Master's degrees in the academic year 2019-2020.

Number of Master's degrees and students enrolled per brach of education.

Source https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/
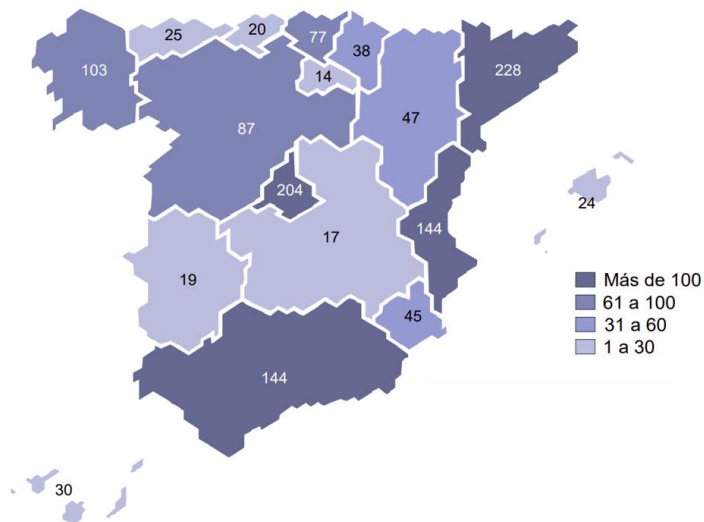
	Total		Public universities		Private universities	
	PhD programme	Students	PhD programme	Students	PhD programme	Students
Total	1.137	86.619	1.047	81.797	94	4.822
Social and Legal Science	293	23.705	257	21.597	38	2.108
Engineering & Architecture	267	14.005	249	13.378	18	627
Arts & Humanities	160	14.869	152	14.544	8	325
Health Science	184	21.179	165	19.601	21	1.578
Science	233	12.861	224	12.677	9	184

Source https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/

Geographical distribution of PhD programmes in the academic year 2019-2020. Number of PhD degrees and students enrolled per branch of education.
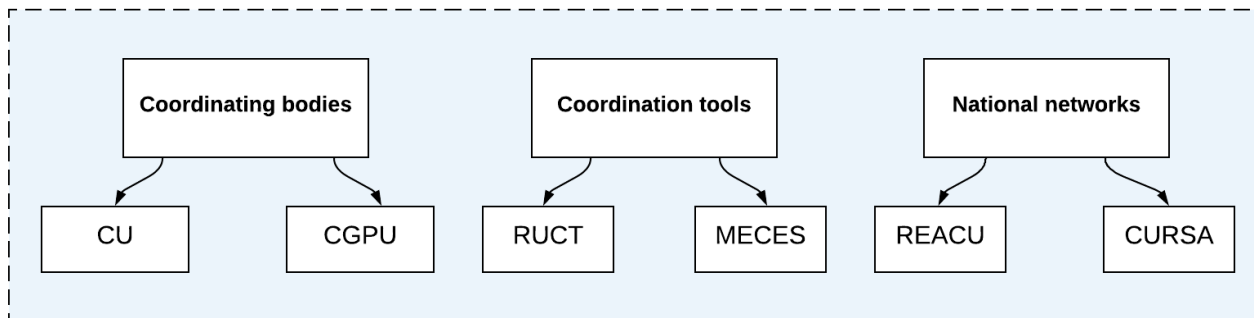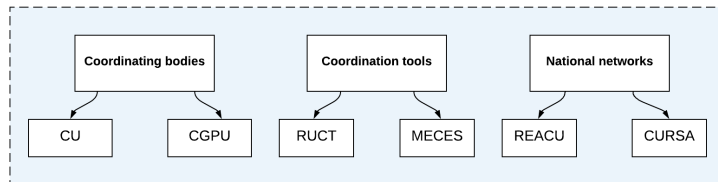
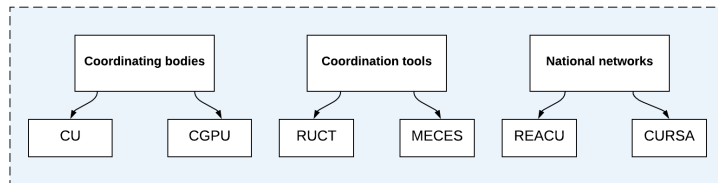# Coordination of the university system

Coordinating bodies:

- *Council of Universities (CU).* Advisory, cooperation and coordination functions. It is made up of the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport and the rectors of public and private universities.

- *General Conference on University Policy (CGPU).* Coordination of general university policy. It is made up of the Minister for Education, Culture and Sport and the ministers with responsibility for higher education in the Autonomous Communities.

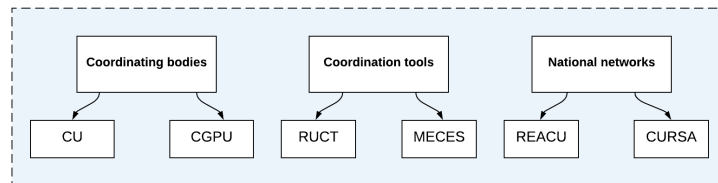# Coordination of the university system

Coordination tools:

- *Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees (RUCT)*. Official and public registers created to provide the most relevant information on the universities, centres and degrees that make up the Spanish university system.

- *Spanish Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (MECES).* Tool for international regulation and coordination that enable the classification, comparability and transparency of higher education qualifications in the Spanish education system.

Coordination of the university system

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National networks:

- *Spanish Network of University Quality Assurance Agencies (REACU).* It is made up of ANECA and all the regional quality assessment agencies of the university system. Promote and develop cooperation and exchange of experiences and information, especially methodologies and good practices.

- *The University Commission for the Regulation of Monitoring and Accreditation (CURSA).* Guarantees coordination in the implementation of the evaluation processes linked to the monitoring and accreditation of official degrees. It involves the Ministry, the Autonomous Communities, the quality agencies and the universities.

QA system in Spain: ANECA

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QA system in Spain: ANECA

The *National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation* of Spain (ANECA) is the body responsible for the evaluation, certification and accreditation of the Spanish university system with the aim of its continuous improvement and adaptation to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

http://www.aneca.es/

ANECA aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality of the higher education system through the <u>evaluation</u>, <u>certification</u> and <u>accreditation</u> of teaching, teaching staff and institutions.

QA system in Spain: ANECA

MISSION

To independently promote the quality assurance of the Higher Education System in Spain and its continuous and innovative improvement through guidance, evaluation, certification and accreditation processes, thus contributing to the consolidation of the EHEA.

VISION

To be recognised as a benchmark of good practice, nationally and internationally, in the field of quality assurance in Higher Education Systems, carrying out its mission and following the values defined; all of this with a transparent service orientation to society.

QA system in Spain: ANECA

VALUES

- Effectiveness and efficiency through the application of internationally recognised quality standards
- Responsibility, professionalism and ethics of people
- Transparency and reliability of the information
- Adaptation to change - Digital transformation
- Efficient use of resources
- Independence, objectivity and transparency

QA system in Spain: ANECA

Strategic objectives:

A. To contribute to the promotion of the quality of the Spanish university system within the framework of the criteria and guidelines for quality assurance in the EHEA.

B. To optimise the visualisation of the Agency's actions at a national and international level through its participation in different bodies of the university system, and with the collaboration of stakeholders.

C. To disseminate the Agency's mission and the work it carries out.

D. To manage resources efficiently in order to contribute to the improvement of ANECA.

ANECA: Organisational structure

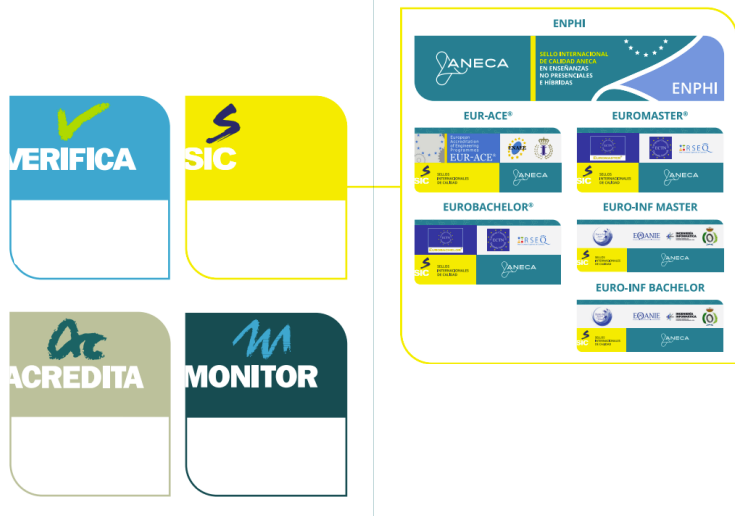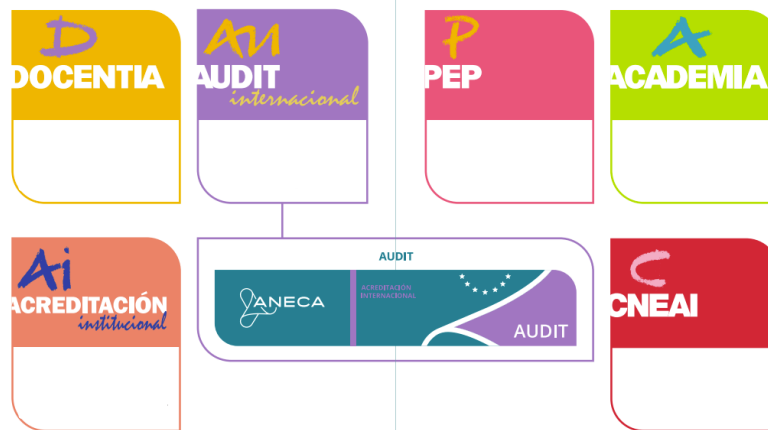| Governing bodies	Governing council	Director

Management bodies	• Management • Teaching and Institutional Evaluation Division • Teaching Staff Evaluation Division

Advisory and Assessment bodies	• Advisory Committee for the evaluation of teaching and institutions • Advisory Committee for the evaluation of teaching staff • National Commission for the Evaluation of Research Activities
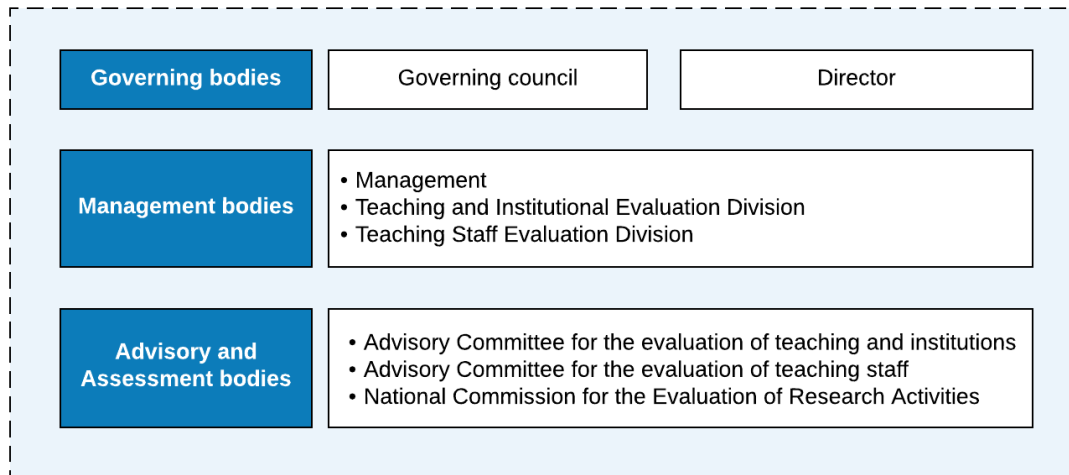
ANECA: evaluation programmes

Source http://www.aneca.es/ANECA/Estrategia/Plan-estrategico

All ANECA evaluation programmes comply with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG)

VERIFICA
Evaluates proposals for degree curricula designed in line with the EHEA.

SIC
Evaluates degrees for the award of International Quality Seals.

ACREDITA
Performs an assessment for the renewal of the initial accreditation of official degrees.

MONITOR
Monitors the official degree to check its correct implementation and results.

ENPHI

SELLO INTERNACIONAL DE CALIDAD ANECA EN ENSEÑANZAS NO PRESENCIALES E HÍBRIDAS

ENPHI

EUR-ACE®

EUROMASTER®

EUROBACHELOR®

EURO-INF MASTER

EURO-INF BACHELOR

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University degrees must undergo external evaluation processes by ANECA in different stages:

- In the first stage, prior to implementing the degree, ANECA, through the VERIFICA programme, evaluates the design of the degree (ex-ante accreditation).
- Once the degree has been implemented, in a second stage, ANECA monitors the development of the implementation through the MONITOR programme (monitoring).
- Once the degree have completed their implementation, in a third stage, they must undergo a cyclical process of accreditation renewal to maintain their status as an official degree. For this last phase, ANECA has developed the ACREDITA programme (ex-post accreditation).

SIC

Evaluates degrees for the award of International Quality Seals.

- The Agency is taking a further step forward in its commitment to quality by offering, together with other institutions, the possibility of obtaining INTERNATIONAL SEALS OF QUALITY (SIC) of recognised prestige in various fields of knowledge and endorsed by international institutions.

DOCENTIA

Helps universities to set up evaluation systems for their teaching staff.

AUDIT internacional

Certifies the quality assurance systems of third country HE institutions.

Ai ACREDITACIÓN institucional

Evaluates applications for institutional accreditation of university centres.

ANECA: institutional evaluation

- AUDIT: Guidance for Higher Education Institutions to establish their own internal quality assurance systems and certifies the design and implementation of those systems.

- DOCENTIA: Support for universities wishing to establish their own mechanisms to evaluate the quality of the teaching activity of their academic staff.

- ACREDITACION INSTITUCIONAL: Evaluation of applications for institutional accreditation of university centres.

PEP

Evaluates CVs of applicants for access to the positions of university lecturer under contract.

ACADEMIA

Evaluates CVs for access to university teaching bodies.

CNEAI

Evaluates the university research activities.

ANECA: evaluation of teaching staff

- **PEP**: Evaluation of the teaching and research activities as well as the academic backgrounds of future applicants to positions of non-civil servant academic staff (PhD Lecturer, PhD assistant Lecturer, Non-PhD assistant Lecturer and private universities Lecturer)

- **ACADEMIA**: Evaluation of the applicants' qualification to access the civil-service positions as university academic staff (Senior Lecturer and Professor) at the national level.

- **CNEAI**. Evaluation of the individual research activity of academic staff of the Spanish higher education institutions, at the national level.

ANECA: internal & external evaluation
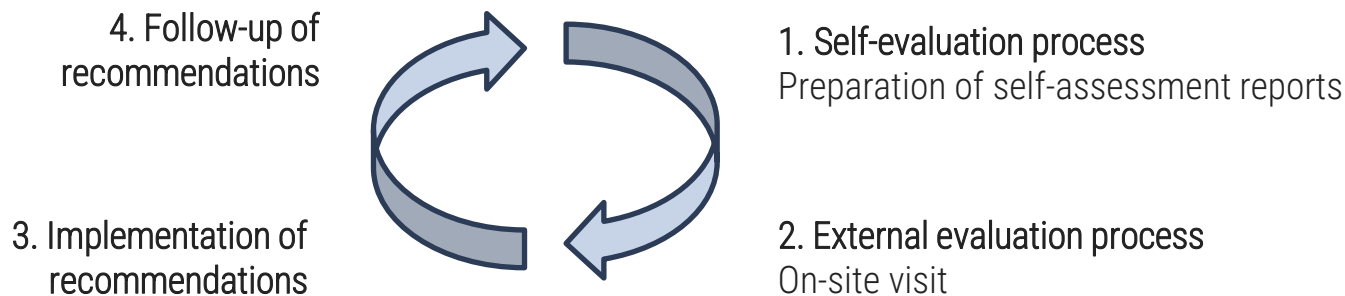
ANECA: external evaluation

- The Criteria and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA state that quality assurance agencies must be externally evaluated every 5 years.

- According to the external evaluation coordinated by ENQA, ANECA complies with the Quality Assurance Criteria in the EHEA.

ANECA: external evaluation

External evaluation process

4. Follow-up of recommendations

1. Self-evaluation process
Preparation of self-assessment reports

3. Implementation of recommendations

2. External evaluation process
On-site visit

Source http://www.aneca.es/Actividad-internacional/Evaluacion-externa

ANECA: internal evaluation

The agency has designed and implemented a quality management system to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the services it provides to the university community.
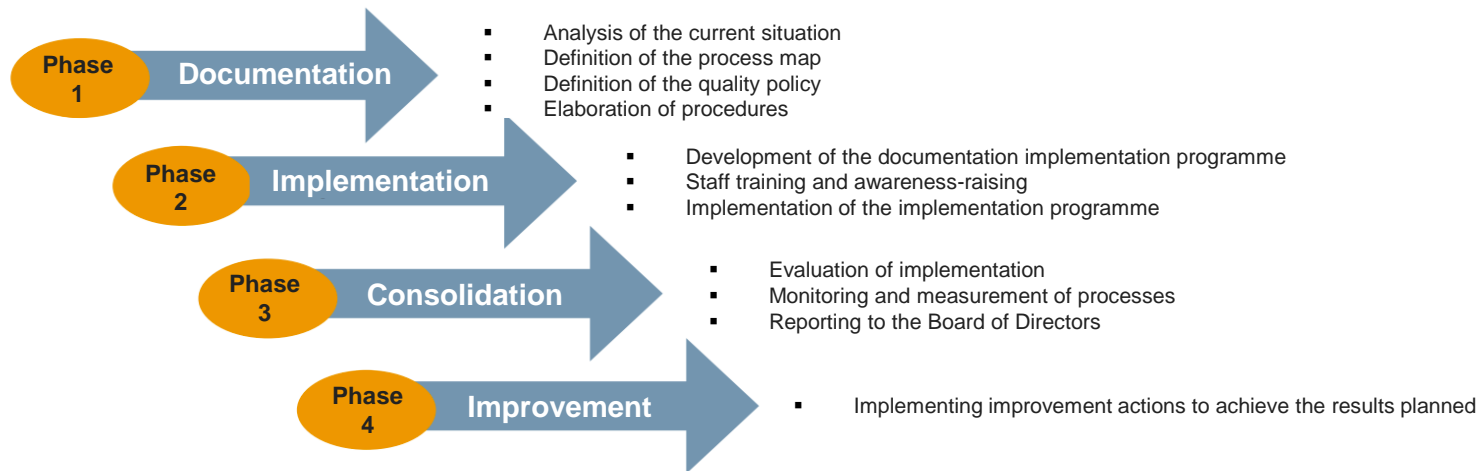
- An *Internal Quality Assurance System (SGIC)* has been defined with the active involvement of all staff and with reference to the Criteria and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

- *Quality and Strategic Planning Unit (UCYPE)*. Unit responsible for leading, in a cross-cutting manner, all processes related to internal quality assurance.

Internal Quality Assurance System (SGIC): stages

| Phase 1 | Documentation | ▪ Analysis of the current situation
▪ Definition of the process map
▪ Definition of the quality policy
▪ Elaboration of procedures |

| Phase 2 | Implementation | ▪ Development of the documentation implementation programme
▪ Staff training and awareness-raising
▪ Implementation of the implementation programme |

| Phase 3 | Consolidation | ▪ Evaluation of implementation
▪ Monitoring and measurement of processes
▪ Reporting to the Board of Directors |

| Phase 4 | Improvement | ▪ Implementing improvement actions to achieve the results planned |

Source http://www.aneca.es/ANECA/Estrategia/Plan-estrategico

Spain: a decentralised model

- Spain is governed by a decentralised model of educational administration that distributes competences between the State, the Autonomous Communities and the universities.

- The state law includes the framework of competences of these three actors and allows the Autonomous Communities to develop their own laws on educational matters.

QA system in Castilla y León: ACSUCYL

The *Quality Assurance Agency for the University System in Castilla y Leon* (ACSUCYL) is the external assessment body for higher education in Castilla y León. Its mission is the quality assessment, accreditation and certification of universities in Castilla y León, as well as research and higher education centres, in the context of the European Higher Education Area.

QA system in CyL: ACSUCYL

- <u>Promote improved teaching, research and management</u> at universities and research centres, fostering enhanced competitiveness and economic development.

- <u>Provide appropriate and suitable information</u> concerning the higher education system to public authorities, the industrial sector and society as a whole to aid them when making decisions in their respective areas of action.

QA system in CyL: ACSUCYL

Programmes for the evaluation of teaching staff:

- Contracted Lecturer holding PhD
- Assistant Lecturer holding PhD and Private University Lecturer
- Permanent Hired Teaching Staff holding a PhD
- Professor Emeritus
- Change of teaching staff affiliation to areas of knowledge
- Teaching staff academic merits
- External evaluation of the teaching activity

QA system in CyL: ACSUCYL

Programmes for the evaluation of research activities:

- University Research Institutes
- Consolidated Research Units
- Recognised Research Groups
- Research projects
- Merits for hiring research staff
- Research productivity

Programmes for the evaluation of degrees:

- Verification of curricula leading to official university degrees

- Changes to already verified curricula

- Follow-up of official university degrees

- Renewal of accreditation of official university degrees

- Assessment of higher arts courses

QA system in CyL: ACSUCYL

Programmes for institutional quality assessment:

- Degree development plan by area of knowledge
- Creation, recognition, affiliation, modification and suppression of university centres
- Institutional accreditation and certification of universities' internal quality assurance systems
- Certification of assessment models for the teaching activities of university teaching staff

Quality Assessment Unit - USAL

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Academic year 2019-2020

Students enrolled **28.390**
17.158   11.232

Teaching and research staff **2.329**
1.077   1.252

Administrative staff **1.212**
703   509

- 68 Bachelor degree
- 24 Double Bachelor degree
- 74 Official Master's degree
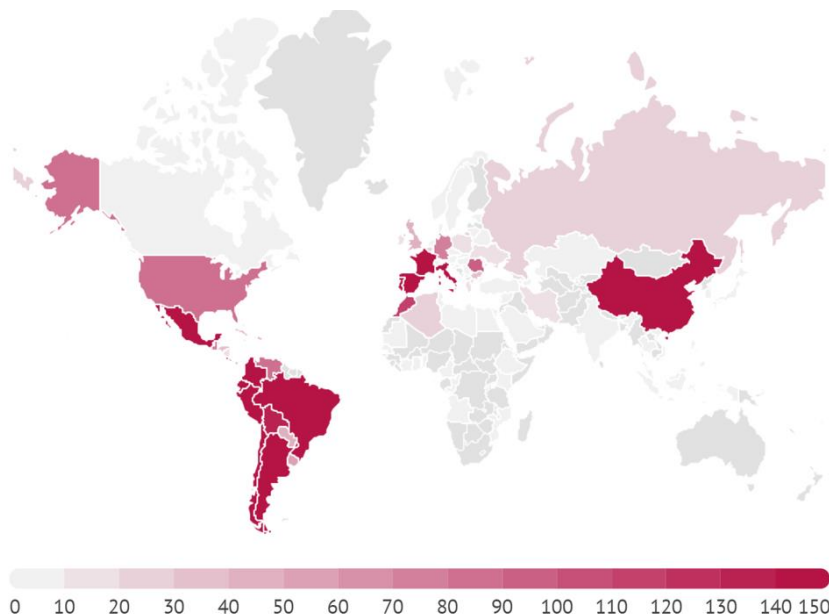- 41 PhD programmes
- 102 Master's degree

Source https://indicadores.usal.es/portal/la-usal-en-datos-curso-2019-20/

International students - academic year 2019-2020

Source https://indicadores.usal.es/portal/la-usal-en-datos-curso-2019-20/

Quality Assessment Unit - USAL

- The USAL *Quality Assessment Unit* is responsible for providing technical support and methodological support to the definition and development of the Quality Improvement Programmes that affect the various institutional activities of the university.

- The Unit supervises compliance with the requirements set by the different national (ANECA), regional (ACSUCYL) and European (ENQA) quality assessment agencies, carrying out consultancy, advisory, information and coordination tasks in the assessment, accreditation and certification processes of the different units of the University: degrees, departments, institutes, centres and services.

https://calidad.usal.es/

Quality Assessment Unit – USAL

Action lines

1. Multidisciplinary, differentiated and updated academic offer, which ensures quality teaching

2. Research, transfer and innovation for sustainable development

3. Promotion and recognition of work well done by the university community, aimed at improving public service

4. Efficient administration, digital transformation and international projection

5. University committed to the progress of its environment, social participation and employability

Challenges

Main challenges facing the Higher Education System in Spain:

1. Making the legal framework more flexible
2. Coordinating sectoral and public administration policies
3. Improving inefficient organisational structures
4. Improving governance, transparency and funding
5. Developing specialization
6. Improving the teaching model to promote employability, entrepreneurship and innovation
7. Increasing international competitiveness
8. Improving the social return on research, innovation and knowledge transfer
9. Encouraging talent attraction and retention
10. Deepening equity, social progress and inclusion

Main challenges facing ANECA:

1. Ensure that quality assessment criteria that Spanish universities apply tend to unify without losing sight of the regional reality and the process of European convergence.

2. Build an integrated education system.

3. Strengthen the presence in the international sphere.

4. Reduce the mismatch between the most demanded qualifications and those most in demand by employers.

5. Improve the levels of learning derived from university studies.

6. Extend the culture of quality seals and certificates.

Thanks for listening

Juan Manuel Corchado

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