Comitato Consultivo ANVUR
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The evaluation of third mission of universities and Public Research Organisations

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Definition

- Third mission is now considered integral part of the mission of universities and Public Research Organisations (PROs)
- Third mission refers to direct interaction with society, i.e. all activities oriented at society at large, not limited to well defined institutional audiences, such as education (= interaction with students) and research (= interaction with other researchers)
- The definition adopted by ANVUR involves two dimensions:
  - valorization of knowledge (= transformation of knowledge produced by research in order to obtain usable/commercial results)
  - production of public or collective goods (= production of socio-cultural goods usable by society)
Evaluation approach

- Third mission was initially included in the Evaluation of Quality of Research (VQR) 2004-2010
- April 2013: Workshop ANVUR
- Creation of an Expert group
  - valorization of knowledge (Massimo Colombo, Francesco Lissoni, Aldo Geuna, Maurizio Sobrero)
  - socio-cultural goods (Massimiano Bucchi, Andrea Gavosto, Stefano Consiglio, Francesco Dotta)
- Preparation of the SUA_RD Third mission documentation
- > 10 Conferences around Italian universities; > 10 academic seminars
- Second Workshop in preparation (early 2015)
  - Evaluation guidelines
  - New themes to be explored
Areas of third mission

- Patents
- Spinoff companies
- Third party research
- Incubators and Intermediaries for knowledge transfer
- Public engagement
- Life long learning and support to placement
- Museums and Archaeological excavations
- Clinical trials and Biobanks
• SUA_RD experimental approach

• Development of the data collection sheets + Manual

• Discussion within the joint CODAU-CINECA-ANVUR working group

• Help desk

• Start late July 2014

• Final data collection December 2014

• Massive extension- 2015
Two areas in which the flow of data collection is inverted:
- not from universities to ANVUR
- but from ANVUR to universities

- Initiative wellcome by universities
  - administrative simplification
  - standardization and validation of data
  - fresh data to be used for advanced valorization policies

- Research agreements with state-of-the-art research teams to build up the initial dataset and to prepare a routine procedure for data collection
Data collection/3

- Distinction between academic patents (patents invented by academic staff) and university patents (patents whose assignee is the university)

- Matching names of inventors: names of structured and unstructured personnel of universities (including PhD students and post-doc)

- Delivery of the full dataset to universities and to individual websites of personnel for validation, i.e. recognition that the identified inventor is affiliated to the university

- Questionnaire on income obtained from patents (deadline January 9, 2015)

- Disclosure of the full dataset of certified and validated data
Spinoff companies

- Broad definition (=companies officially recognised by universities with a formal procedure- no need to invest into equity)
- Lack of comparable data
- Identification of all spinoff companies at current date (sources: VQR + university websites)
- Validation of the full list by universities
- Production of economic and financial data from Infocamere delivered to universities
- Integration of data with a short survey by universities
  - Employment
  - Use of university patent
  - Use of university infrastructure
  - Value of equity in M&A operations
- (Under discussion) Disclosure of the full dataset
Perspectives for the evaluation of third mission

Contribution of ANVUR

Institutionalization of third mission

Broad definition (valorization + socio-cultural goods)

«Demand for evaluation»

Methodological difficulties in evaluation of the third mission

- Strong disciplinary characterization (heterogeneity)
- Non-mandatory activity at individual level
- Great variety of manifestations and levels of organization of activities
- Lack of standardized indicators (or proliferation of indicators) in the international experience
Perspectives for the evaluation of third mission/2

Concept of «peer review of third mission»

- Development of a Manual for the evaluation of third mission (support by the Group of experts)
- Call for expert evaluator within the VQR 2011-2014 procedure
- Creation of a GEV+ evaluation panel
- Members of the panel
  - academic (researchers in various areas of third mission)
  - stakeholders
- Basis of evaluation:
  - indicators
  - narrative case studies from universities