

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)
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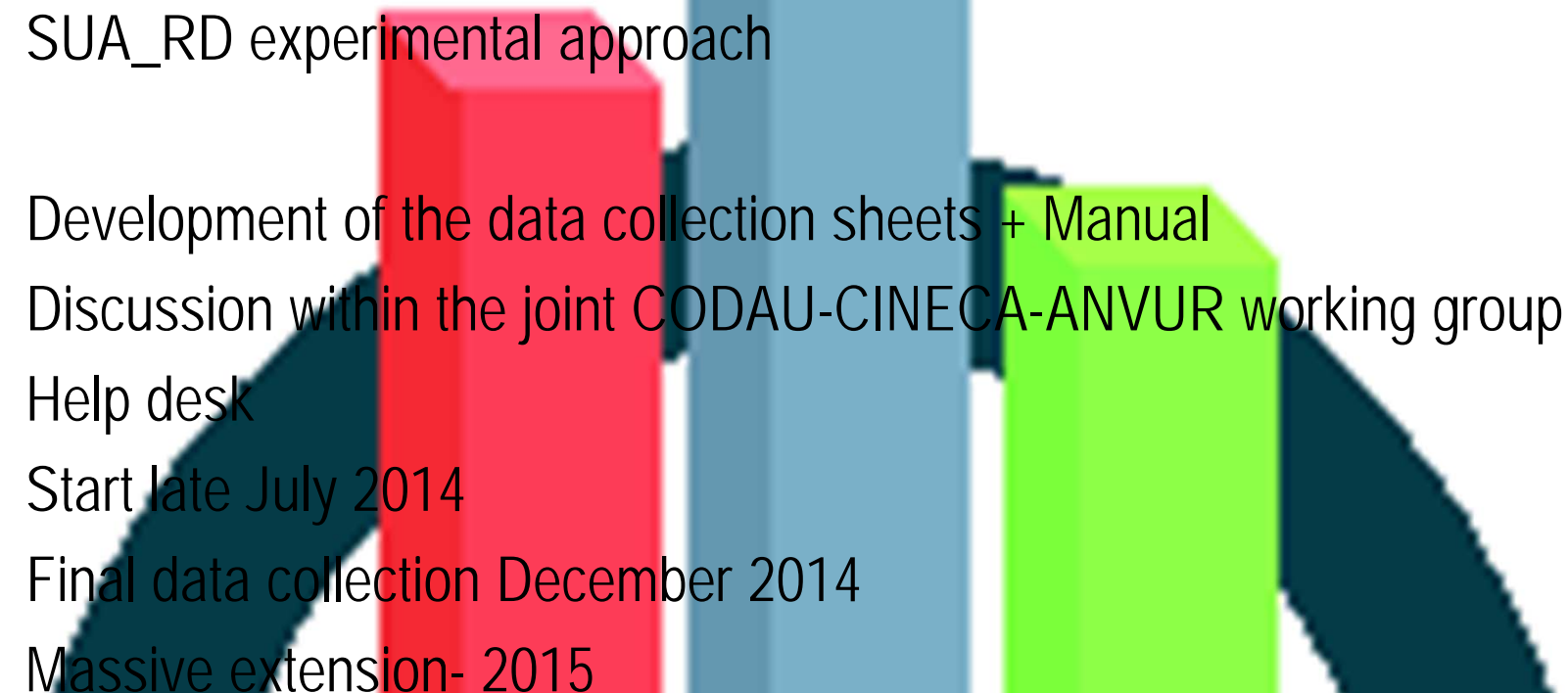
Evaluation approach

- 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
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- A decorative graphic consisting of three 3D rectangular bars of different heights and colors: a red bar on the left, a taller blue bar in the center, and a green bar on the right. The bars are set against a dark teal background that forms a wide, shallow arch. The entire graphic is framed by a light purple horizontal bar at the top and bottom.

Data collection/1

- 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
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Data collection/2

- Two areas in which the flow of data collection is inverted:
 - not from universities to ANVUR
 - but from ANVUR to universities
- Patents
- Spinoff companies
- 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

Patents

- 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
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Data collection/4

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
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