QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS OF THE GALICIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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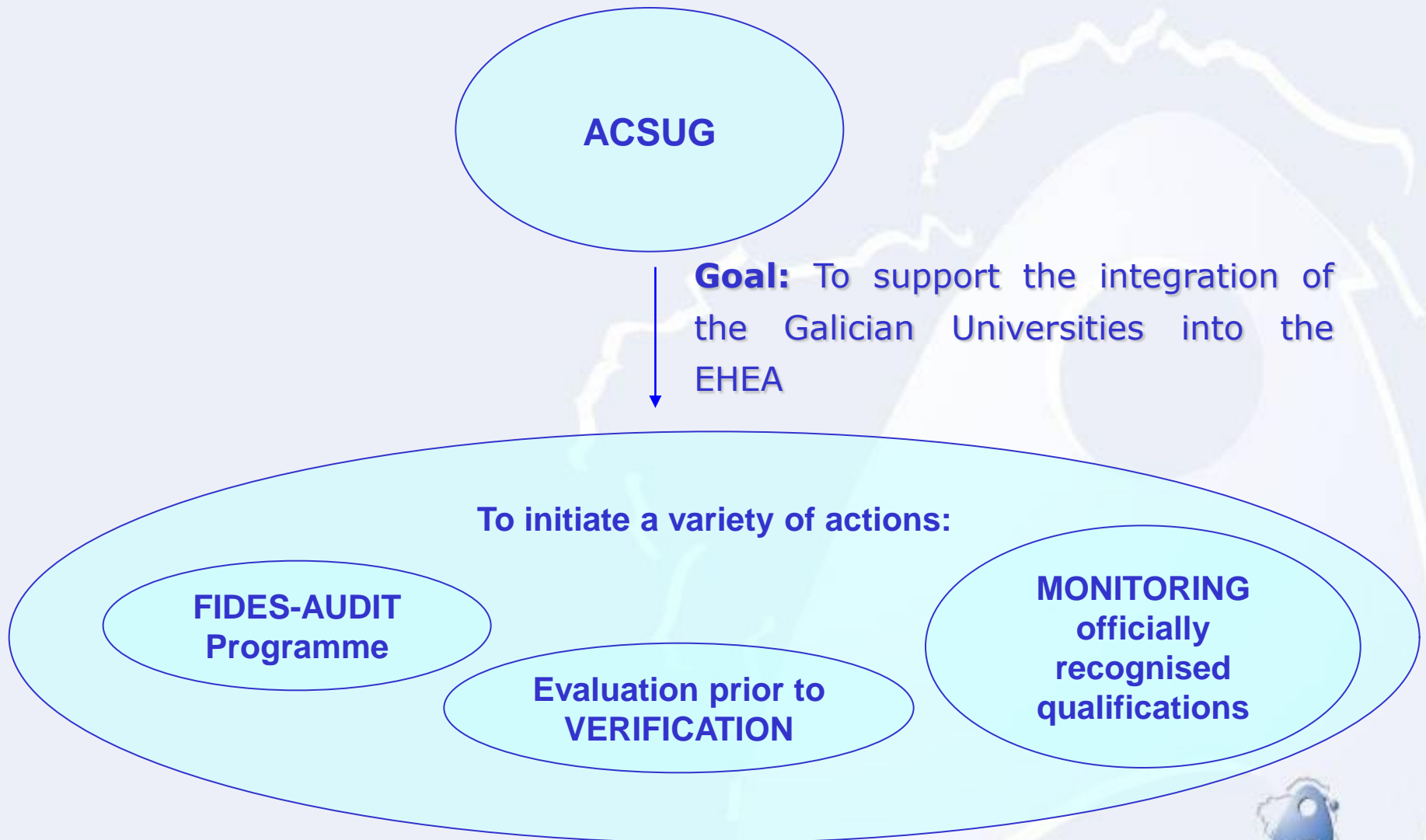**Madrid**

April 2011

http://www.acsug.es

Organic Law 6/2001 of 21 December, amended by the Organic Law 4/2007 of 12 April. Sets out a new teaching structure for the officially recognised university qualifications.

Royal Decree 1393/2007 of 29 October, amended by the Royal Decree 861/2010 laying down the regulation of officially recognised university education.

ACSUG

Goal: To support the integration of the Galician Universities into the EHEA

To initiate a variety of actions:

FIDES-AUDIT Programme

Evaluation prior to VERIFICATION

MONITORING officially recognised qualifications

FIDES-AUDIT PROGRAMME

The Royal Decree 1393/2007 stipulates that "*Quality Assurance Systems (…) provide the basis which allows the new organisation of the study programmes to function efficiently, and provide the assurance on which the qualification accreditation procedure is built*" and that all "*proposals for new qualifications should include a Quality Assurance System to ensure their monitoring, review and continuous improvement*"

➤**GOALS**

To motivate institutions to consider the changes required to systematically accommodate quality assurance procedures designed to achieve continuous improvement and accountability to society, while respecting their independence and diversity, and promoting creativity and innovation in each of them.

To provide each institution with a reference framework to increase satisfaction amongst the various stakeholders and to build society's trust in their ability to provide a quality service.

➤**BENEFITS**

All qualifications whose faculty or school in which they are taught has a certified IQAS are exempt from the evaluation process prior to verification by the Council of Universities and from the evaluation of section 9 of Annex I of the Quality Assurance System.

GUIDELINES FOR IQAS DESIGN:

1. **Quality policy and objectives:**

    Definition of the policy and objectives of educational quality.

    2. **Course content objectives:**

    Definition of the goals of the course content.

    3. **Admission policies and procedures:**

    Definition of the admission policies and procedures.

    4. **Tuition planning:**

    Design and approval of the tuition plans.

    Implementation of the tuition plans.

    5 **Quality assurance of the education programmes:**

    Design and approval of the education programmes.

    Implementing the educational offer.

    Criteria and procedures for withdrawing an education programme.

6. Management of the teaching-learning process:

Definition of enrolment/graduation profiles

Admission and matriculation

Student support and guidance

Teaching and assessment methods

Work experience, mobility and career guidance

Appeals, claims and suggestions

Rules affecting the students

7. Quality assurance of academic staff and administrative and service staff:

Staff policy: access, training, evaluation, promotion and recognition.

8. Quality assurance of material resources and services:

Material resources and services policy

9. Analysis of and utilising results to improve the education programmes:

Results compilation, analysis and utilisation.

10. Public information and accountability of the education programmes:

Publication of up-to-date information and accountability.

RESULTS:

CERTIFIED IQAS DESIGNS		
UNIVERSITY	**IQAS**	**Percentage**
UDC	25	100 %
USC	23	82.14%
UVI	24	88.88%
TOTAL	**72**	**90 %**

EVALUATION PRIOR TO THE VERIFICATION OF OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS

ACSUG has created the "*Guide to preparing and verifying university qualification proposals*" following the REACU guidelines and the Royal Decree 1393/2007:

- Criterion I: Description of the qualification
- Criterion II: Justification for the qualification
- Criterion III: Competences
- Criterion IV: Student access and admission
- Criterion V: Tuition planning
- Criterion VI: Human Resources
- Criterion VII: Material resources and services
- Criterion VIII: Results forecast
- Criterion IX: Quality assurance system
- Criterion X: Implementation timetable

QUALIFICATIONS VERIFIED IN THE GALICIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

UNIVERSITY	GRADUATE				MASTERS				TOTAL
	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL	2008 (EXPRESS VERIFICATION)	2009	2010	TOTAL	
UDC	2	24	12	38	19+1	6+1	4	31	69
USC	2	22	19	43	24+3	37+1 (1)	13	78	121
UVI	1	24	14	39	21	35+1	12	69	108
TOTAL	5	70	45	120	68	81	29	178	298

- In blue are the inter-university qualifications coordinated by universities outside Galician University System (SUG)

- (1): inter-university qualification coordinated by a university outside the SUG and in which the USC and UVI take part: added to UVI.

EHEA Quality Assurance Standards and Guidelines
ENQA 2005

1.2 University institutions must have formal mechanisms for the approval, and periodic review and monitoring of their programmes and awards.

1.6 Institutions should ensure that they collect, analyse and use relevant information for the effective management of their programmes of study and other activities.

1.7 Institutions should regularly publish up-to-date, impartial and objective information, both quantitative and qualitative, about the programmes and awards they are offering.

2.6 Quality assurance processes which contain recommendations for action or which require a subsequent action plan, should have a predetermined follow-up procedure which is implemented consistently.

2.7 External quality assurance of institutions and/or programmes should be undertaken on a cyclical basis. The length of the cycle and the review procedures to be used should be clearly defined and published in advance.

2.8 Quality assurance agencies should produce from time to time summary reports describing and analysing the general findings of their reviews, evaluations assessments, etc.

LOM-LOU 4/2007

Article 31.4: "The Government, on receiving a report from the General Conference on University Policy, shall regulate the conditions enabling universities to submit the teaching of officially recognised university courses for **assessment** and **monitoring**, as well as to a procedure for their **accreditation**."

Royal Decree 1393/2007

Article 1. Goal: To establish the guidelines, conditions and procedures for the **verification** and **accreditation** of awards.

Article 24. Verification and accreditation: The course contents for officially recognised awards must be **verified** by the Council of Universities and be submitted to an evaluation procedure every 6 years in order to maintain their **accreditation**.

Article 27. Renewal of award accreditation: Qualifications shall renew their accreditation within a period of 6 years following their introduction and they should be monitored until the time of the evaluation for the renewal of their accreditation.

Royal Decree 861/2010

Article 24. Verification and accreditation: Defines the assessment body (ACSUG).

Article 25. Verification procedure: The verification procedure is defined.

Article 27. Monitoring awards registered in the "Register of Universities, Centres and Awards" (RUCT): It sets forth that to monitor the qualifications, a joint protocol should be developed between all the agencies, and pilot schemes should be trialled.

Article 27 bis. Renewal of award accreditation: The accreditation is defined.

Additional fourteenth provision. Information about the Spanish University System: It establishes the creation of an integrated and general information system required to perform the monitoring and accreditation procedures.

Since **2008**

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"Spanish Network of University Quality Assurance Agencies" (REACU)

drafting of document:

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"Recommendations for monitoring officially recognised awards"

The aim is to provide both the agencies and universities, who are primarily responsible for the monitoring task, with a useful tool to aid decision making and to ensure they comply with the regulations for monitoring qualifications.

"University Committee for Monitoring, Regulation and Accreditation" (CURSA)

COMPOSITION:

* The Managing Director of University Policy

* 4 representatives from the Autonomous Regional Governments (**Andalusia, Balearic Islands, Murcia and Basque Country**).

* 5 Vice-chancellors as representatives from the Council of Universities (**UEM, UMA, UPF, UPNA, US**).

* 5 Agency representatives (**ACSUG, ACPUA, ACSUCyL, ANECA, AQU**).

* 2 Representatives from the Ministry of Education.

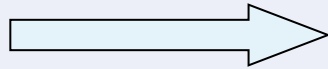* The holder of the Sub-directorate General of University Coordination.

"Protocol for monitoring and for the renewal of the accreditation of officially recognised awards"

AIMS:

* To agree on the guidelines and the protocol for the award monitoring procedures and for accreditation renewal.

* To draft reports on the process of adaptation to the EHEA to be submitted to the *Council of Universities* and to the General Conference on University Policies.

* To agree solutions to the problems of interpretation and conflicts which may arise during the monitoring and accreditation renewal process.

* To discuss and propose any other aspects related to monitoring and accreditation renewal, not previously accounted for.

MONITORING PILOT SCHEME

ACSUG ⟶

2010

Characteristics

- Voluntary nature

- It is recommended that each university participate with two awards: one graduate programme and one masters, both fully implemented.

Goal

The aim of the scheme is to provide universities with a useful tool to aid decision making, and to ensure they comply with the regulations for monitoring qualifications.

Participating centres

The 3 Galician universities, with a total of 9 awards

UNIVERSITY	AWARD
UDC	**Graduate Degree in Sociology** (Faculty of Sociology)
	Graduate Degree in Occupational Therapy (Faculty of Health Sciences)
	University Masters in Education Innovation, Guidance and Evaluation (Faculty of Education Sciences**)**
USC	**Graduate Degree in Mathematics** (Faculty of Mathematics)
	Graduate Degree in Political and Administrative Science (Faculty of Political and Social Sciences)
UVI	**Graduate Degree in Fine Art** (Faculty of Fine Art)
	Graduate Degree in Ocean Sciences (Faculty of Ocean Sciences)
	University Masters in Urban Law and the Environment (Faculty of Law)
	University Masters in Energy and Sustainability (Higher Technical College in Industrial Engineering)

REASON FOR MONITORING AWARDS

To achieve transparency and accessibility

To ensure the effective fulfilment of the tuition

To ensure the pertinent and relevant information is available to the public

AIM: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

To identify good practice

To detect deficiencies

To establish improvement plans

CHANNEL: Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS).

AIM: To obtain the renewal of the accreditation

SCOPE: Applicable to all the officially recognised qualifications presently taught in the SUG universities, encompassing the period from the moment the award is introduced until it must be submitted to evaluation in order to renew its accreditation (starting a new cycle after the renewal).

Article 24.3 of Royal Decree 861/2010

Graduate and Doctorates: within a period of **6 years**.

Masters: within a period of **4 years**.

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE ANALYSED:

1.- Public information provided by universities about each of their qualifications:

1.1.- Relevant information about the qualification

1.2.- Information about indicators:
- Rates: performances, abandonment, efficiency and graduation
- IQAS indicators
- Employability or labour market insertion indicators

1.3.- Information deriving from the evaluation of the Quality Assurance System (IQAS):
- Provide information generated by the IQAS application programme

2.- Detection of any deviation, good practice and decision making:

2.1.- Appraisal of the extent to which the project fulfils its objectives.

2.2.- Indentify good practice, any deviation and set out proposals for improvement.

2.3.- Provide public access to the improvement plans.

3.- Actions carried out as a result of the recommendations set out in the final verification report and in the subsequent monitoring reports.

ACSUG MONITORING DOCUMENT

The final monitoring reports are published on the ACSUG website

ACSUG shall issue an individual preliminary /final report for each

of the awards being monitored, which shall include:

- Details about the University and the qualification being monitored.

- The evaluation resulting from the monitoring process

  (approved or not approved).

- The evaluation resulting from the monitoring process for each of the criteria.

- The evaluation resulting from the implementation of the award (the following must be analysed: public information; an evaluation of the degree to which the project fulfils its objectives and the results achieved, identifying good practice, any deviation and decisions taken; actions undertaken as a result of the recommendations).

GOOD PRACTICE DETECTED IN THE ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE PILOT

MONITORING SCHEME

- **Availability of an integrated information system which includes all the details about the qualification.**

- **Public information available about the proposed improvement plans for the course and their level of completion.**

- **Systematic reviews are carried out, updating and improving the Internal Quality Assurance procedures.**

- **The availability of an information system to develop the IQAS and to monitor the qualification appropriately.**

CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IQAS FOR THE PROCESS OF MONITORING OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AWARDS

- Enhances the involvement of the different stakeholder groups in developing the qualification.

- It entails the automatic updating of course contents.

- It ensures that there is continuous, public and accessible information about quality in the university.

- It cuts bureaucracy and promotes the computerisation of document handling.

- It permits network coordination and the exchange of good practice.

- It ensures that actions are carried out to improve quality.

- It guarantees a quality education and optimum learning results.

- It improves the funding mechanisms, increasing competitiveness.

- It helps to synchronise the internal quality assurance systems with the outside evaluation and accreditation procedures.

THANK YOU

Madrid

April 2011

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