

Publications, Evaluations and Careers: VQR and ASN

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National Scientific Qualification

Main aim: provide (to individual researchers) a qualification that allows to participate in local calls for position as associate or full professor

- Entry level based on thresholds
- Then evaluation by a national panel

Info here: <https://abilitazione.miur.it/public/index.php>

National Scientific Qualification, 2012-13 round

The Panel working environment in the first round for the National Scientific Qualification (ASN) was different from those of the following rounds, because:

- bibliometric indicators not widely accepted within the SSD 07/A1
- Orcid ID not yet introduced: the median values of some authors was biased by products of authors with the same name but belonging to other SSDs
- predominant role of non-indexed national journals, monographs, book chapters, research reports, papers in proceedings of national and international conferences published in volumes with or without peer review

The evaluation was aimed at evaluating the full scientific maturity of the candidates, through:

- *the importance of the scientific issues addressed, and*
- *the achievement of relevant results (in terms of quality and originality), as compared to the international research frontier*

✓ Adopted parameters

✓ Adopted criteria for the evaluation of the scientific production

Adopted parameters

- a) number and type of publications presented and their distribution in the period
- b) impact of publications within the SSD

Adopted criteria for the evaluation of the scientific production

- a) consistency with the SSD topics or with interdisciplinary topics pertinent to it;
- b) individual contribution in each co-authored publication;
- c) quality of scientific production as compared to the international research frontier, in terms of originality, methodology and innovation, using the publications classification as per Annex D of D.M. 76/2012 (**i.e. excellent, good, acceptable, limited**);
- d) ranking of peer-reviewed journals or book

the individual contribution in the co-authored works was identified on the basis of:

- *statement written in the work itself*
- *Self reporting by the candidate (declaration)*
- *specific skills of each author (based on whole scientific production)*

Classification of publications (Annex D del D.M. 76/2012)

1. **Excellent level:** products recognized as excellent at international level for originality, methodology and relevance; or those that have significantly innovated the field of research in the SSD at a national level
2. **Good level:** products of international and national relevance in terms of originality of results and methodological rigor
On the basis of these parameters and criteria, the evaluation could be very low in the presence of scientific production carried out in collaboration with authors of other SSDs where the contribution of the candidate was marginal or with a limited level of originality, methodology and innovation in relation to the A7 / 01 SSD
3. **Acceptable level:** products with international or national circulation that have increased the knowledge in the the SSD fields.
4. **Limited level:** products with national or local circulation, or irrelevant at international level, which modestly contributed to the SSD knowledge

The current ASN

The parameter and criteria assessment of the first round has been replaced by an evaluation process based only on two sets of criteria

Criteria refer to

Candidate's whole scientific
production

Publication-specific



Candidate's whole scientific production (1-2)

1. Number of paper over the last 5 years
2. Continuity of publications over the last 5 years
3. Journal ranking quartile according to Scimago
4. Number of citations
5. Number of authors
6. Presence of "foreign" authors, more generally the number of institutions from different countries involved

1-6 "objective" criteria for the whole panel

Publication-specific (3 - 13)

7. Originality and relevance of the research topic
8. Methodological innovation
9. Significance of the statistical results, if appropriate
10. Clearly defined and stated research objectives
11. Literature review completeness and identification of the knowledge gap to be addressed
12. Clarity in the presentation of the results
13. Result discussion must prove that the work responds to points 11 and 12.

7 -13 "subjective" criteria (individual evaluation of each panelist)

Research quality assessment (VQR)

Main aim: to provide an evaluation of research output of Universities, their departments and research institutions

- **Products submitted by institutions (in relation to their staff)**
- **Then evaluation by a national panel (GEV)**
- **Results are used to distribute funding among universities and departments**
- **Exercises: 2004-2010; 2011-2014; 2015-2019**

Info here: <https://www.anvur.it/attivita/vqr/>

Ranking in 5 categories (VQR 11-14)

- Eccellente (A, weight 1): best 10% (of the distribution of the international scientific output of the subject area)
- Elevato (B, weight 0,7): 10-30%
- Discreto (C, weight 0,4): 30-50%
- Accettabile (D, weight 0,1): 50-80%
- Limitato (E, weight 0): 80-100%

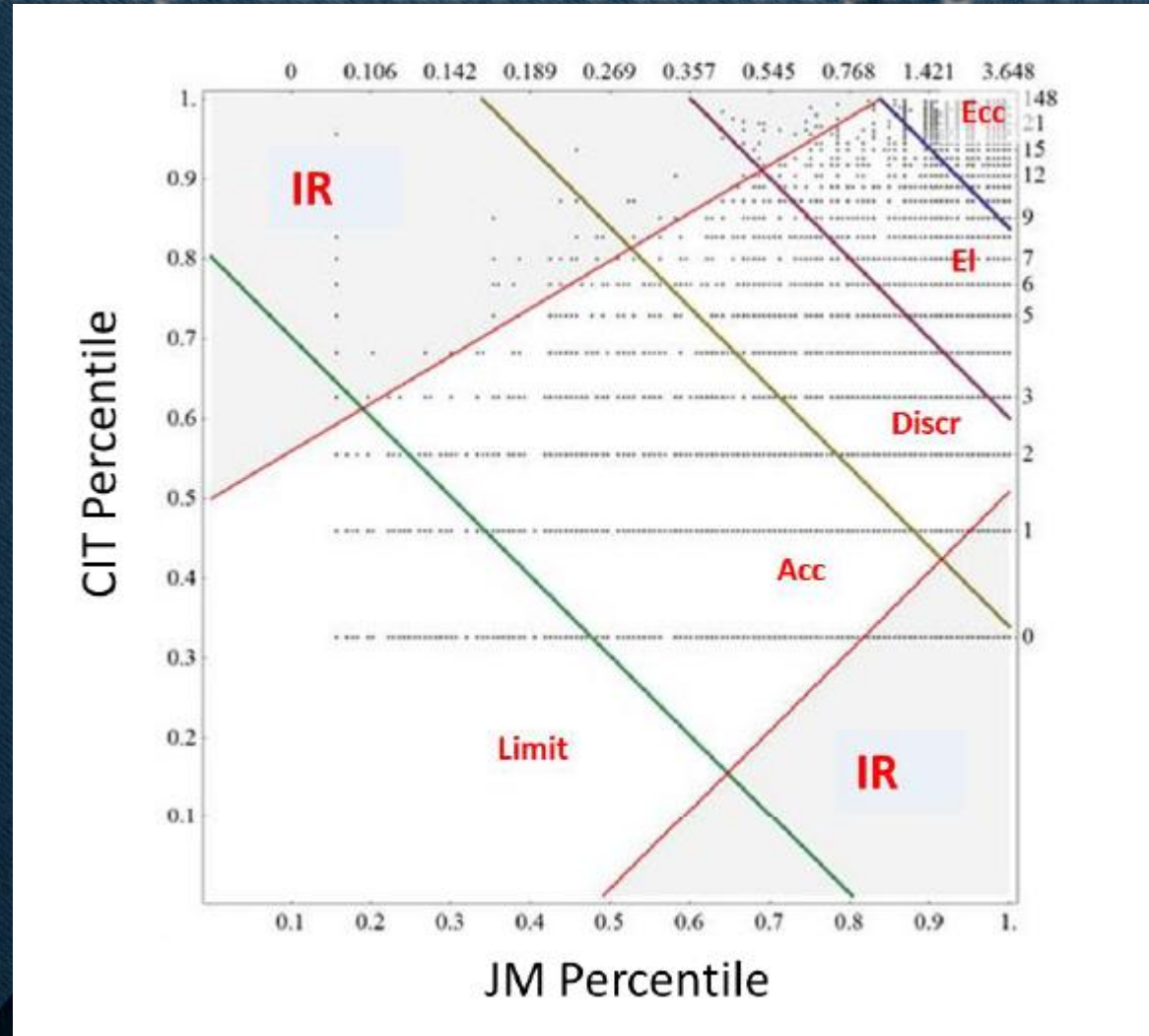
General criteria

- Originality
- Methodological rigor
- Impact

Approach to assessment

- Bibliometric
- Peer review
- Informed peer review

Bibliometric assessment



IR=Informed
peer review

Two indicators:

- 1) Journal ranking (percentile in subject category based on 5YIF for ISI WoS and IPP/SJR for Scopus)
- 2) Citation ranking of article (based based on number of citations of the paper)

VQR 11-14: share of products by type

- Journal article 71%
- Book chapter 24%
- Book 5%

But see next slide

VQR 11-14: share of evaluation procedure

- Bibliometric 25%
- Informed peer review 24%
- Peer review 51%

Number of publications in Scopus (Italian associate professors AGR/01)

- Average 2010-2014: 5,7
- Average 2015-2019: 12,9 !!!
- 90% have at least 2 publications in Scopus

Some hot topics

- **Bibliometry vs. peer review**
- **Multiauthoriality (and score)**
- **Multidisciplinary papers**
- **Self-citation**

Some cross-cutting issues

- **ASN vs. VQR:**
 - Evaluation of researcher vs. evaluation of paper
 - High quality in your subject vs. High quality of the paper itself
- **Beware of both!!**

- **General**
 - Many products vs. few good papers
 - High citation vs. good quality of contents (for your subject)
- **Both of course!!**

ANYWAY NO EVALUATION WILL JUST LOOK AT YOUR AUTHOR PROFILE IN SCOPUS