



Hcéres: contributor to the enhancement of higher education

Through its analyses, evaluations and
recommendations, Hcéres contributes to
improving higher education and research

In a context where research outputs contribute to shaping society, and where the academic environment becomes global, the works of the Hcéres provide tools for stakeholders. Independency, transparency and fairness constitute the values of the High Council. Its method is to provide assistance and commitment to the evaluated bodies in the objective of being a partner to their progress. Through its analyses, evaluations and recommendations, the Hcéres contributes to improving higher education and research. Its ambition is to become an indispensable reference within the higher education and research system.

STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

The High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres), created by the Law No. 2013-660 of July 22nd, 2013 relative to higher education and research, has replaced the AERES as from November 17th, 2014. Its organisation and operating are defined by the decree No.2014-1365 of November 14th, 2014.

In this regard, Hcéres:

- has an independent administrative authority status, preserving evaluations' impartiality of the influence from evaluated parties or any other stakeholders;
- makes all of its evaluation reports accessible to the public and also publishes its evaluation methods and procedures in complete transparency;
- acts in accordance with the international standards and European Standards and Guidelines (ESGs) adopted in Bergen (Norway) in 2005.



BUDGET
€17.8M

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The law tasks the Hcéres with the following missions:

- evaluate all the higher education and research bodies in France (universities, schools, institutions, higher education

clusters, research units, doctoral schools, programmes pertaining to the Bachelor/Master/Doctorate system);

- validate the evaluation procedures designed by other bodies;
- evaluate, when they wish to do so, the higher education bodies of other countries;
- provide analyses and indicators both on the domestic and international levels by utilizing the studies of the Observatory of Sciences and Technology (OST), a branch of the Hcéres.
- contribute to define a national policy on scientific integrity, observe practices and provide support to the actions of key actors by relying on the French office of scientific integrity, a branch of the Hcéres.



EVALUATIONS (ANNUAL AVERAGE)

60 HEIs or research bodies,

600 Research units,

600 Bachelor's,

400 Master's Degrees,

70 Doctoral Schools.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

By setting its action within the Bologna process, the Hcéres helps building the European environment of higher education, and establishes its action on the basis of the best international and European practices in terms of quality assurance.

For that matter, ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) has confirmed the full membership of Hcéres which is also listed on the EQAR-Register (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education). Such European recognition enables Hcéres to shore up its credibility abroad.

As part of its responsibilities, the High Council is called on by international organisations to evaluate foreign institutions, training programmes and research bodies; or to collaborate on international projects. These types of evaluation and cooperations are rising sharply.

ORGANISATION

The Hcéres is endeavouring to forge close working ties between:

- the High Council Board, on which the Council's President sits, is appointed by decree for four years (renewable once); this is made up of 30 French, European or international members. The Board defines measures that will guarantee the quality, transparency and publicity of evaluation procedures and ensures that the diversity of the institutions and programmes evaluated is considered on board, along with the diversity of disciplinary fields.
- the four evaluation departments (for higher education clusters, institutions, research entities, programmes and degrees) are each run by a head who is appointed by the Hcéres Board, following a proposal by the Hcéres President. He or she organises the structure's work, particularly as regards the expert committees and the evaluation process.
- the Science and Technology Observatory (OST), a branch of the Hcéres, responsible for strategic research and analysis.
- the French Office of scientific integrity (Ofis), a branch of the Hcéres, responsible for contributing to the definition of a national policy on scientific integrity, observing practices and providing support to the actions of key actors.

The Hcéres has 230 administrative and scientific support staff, including 120 scientific advisors, researchers and professors. Working full or part time, these advisors are tasked with the scientific organisation of evaluations. They work under the authority of the department head to organise the expert committees and evaluation follow-up.



230

STAFF

Administrative and scientific staff (including 120 scientific delegates, working part time).



4 500

EXPERTS

A pool of some 10 000 regularly renewed and trained experts, around 4 500 of whom are activated every year (20% of them are foreign experts).

The Hcéres also calls on some 4,500 French and foreign experts every year to help with conducting its evaluations. These are chosen at the proposal of:

- the High Council's Board members and department heads,
- the rectors or directors of higher education and research organisations and institutions,
- the presidents of staff evaluation bodies that are competent in higher education and research.

The evaluation is mainly carried out by peers (researchers or professors) and experts from other backgrounds (students, professionals from the corporate sector or governmental departments, etc.). The committees' members vary depending on the specific nature of what is being evaluated.



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