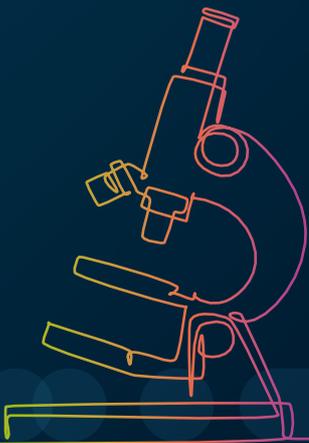


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ACCREDIA

L'ENTE ITALIANO DI ACCREDITAMENTO

REPORT OF THE ACCREDIA DIRECTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2022

Data at 31 12 2022



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Chapter 1

THE ITALIAN ACCREDITATION BODY IN 2022



Since its establishment, Accredia's activities have increased year by year. At the end of 2022, the growth in the demand for accredited conformity assessments brought the number of accreditations to 2,646, consisting of 2,263 bodies and laboratories, while Accredia's 587 assessors and technical experts performed 19,702 assessment days. These essential numbers recall the dual role of accreditation activities: on the one hand, the fruitful collaboration with the public sector, based on the principle of subsidiarity, according to which the Public Administrations entrust Accredia with an increasing number of assessment activities, confirming those already active with the renewal of numerous agreements and Memoranda of Understanding in the regulated areas, and on the other hand, the market, which increasingly recognizes the value of accredited certifications, inspections, tests and calibrations, now a consolidated tool at the service of institutions, companies and professionals.

The interest of the Public Administrations regarding accredited conformity assessments also depends on the incentive and reward mechanisms envisaged by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, as demonstrated by the case of the certification of the gender equality management system according to the UNI Reference Practice UNI/PdR 125:2022. The economic crises of recent years have accelerated the transition process of our economy towards sustainability, and the investments that the National Recovery Plan should lead to are today an important opportunity to fill infrastructure gaps, improving the functioning of the Public Administrations and providing inputs for investments to finance the challenging sustainability and technological objectives. This is a path of development to which accreditation can make a significant contribution.

At a legislative level, the growing need for accreditation in many areas, central to health and safety, suggests new and further activities for Accredia in the future. This is the case, for example, of the National Quality System for Animal Welfare or of the conformity assessment bodies of fertilising products. Also at European level, the law requires accreditation to enforce the effectiveness of its policies, as with EU Regulation 881/2019 (Cybersecurity Act) which aims to qualify a series of activities within the National Security Perimeter, hence creating a new collaboration in the regulated area, sealed by the agreement with the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN).

The accreditation activities of medical laboratories have also increased, bringing the number of accredited healthcare facilities to 23 - compared to 16 in 2021 - many of which belong to the National Health System. The first accreditation against the standard UNI EN ISO 20387 has been issued to a research and development biobank in the field of management of biological material of human origin, and the accredited certifications of quality management systems and IT and information security have grown, in addition to those referable to the GDPR. A further example of the response that accreditation can provide to market needs is that of the accreditation of ethical claims. The worldwide growth of the demand for reliable information on the effective sustainability of products and services has led to the first accreditation according to the new scheme in compliance with UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029, concerning verification and validation bodies.

In this crucial moment of transformation, new necessities of competence and impartiality of organizations and laboratories emerge, which in our economy and more generally in society, ensure transparency and compliance with the rules. These are needs that accreditation, and Accredia, can fulfil, since the choices of the Public Administrations, businesses and professionals demonstrate that investing in accredited conformity assessments is strategic for launching effective growth processes.

Chapter 2

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES



SUSTAINED GROWTH

A more eclectic and more efficient organization: these are the characteristics of the growth of Accredia in 2022. A new partnership upheld by reputation and by trust on the part of institutions and the market which was strengthened with the addition of the CNG (National Council of Geologists) as a new ordinary member. The internal organization has also improved, with the creation of the new legal and personnel area, reporting to the General Management. In a structure that now has 115 employees and more than 600 external collaborators, whose activities are becoming increasingly important, it is essential to ensure coordinated, coherent and highly professional legal and human resources management..

PREPARATION FOR THE PEER EVALUATION

The last months of 2022 were largely dedicated to the preparation for the Peer Evaluation carried out by European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), which all European accreditation bodies undergo every four years, to confirm their signatory status of the EA international agreement mutual recognition (EA MLA). The evaluation, which involved the entire Accredia staff for a week, with the involvement of 12 EA peer evaluators, had a positive outcome at all three Accredia offices (Rome, Milan, Turin) and 17 accredited bodies and laboratories selected for witnessed assessments. All the activities carried out for the accreditation of the organizations and laboratories were evaluated, both at a documental and operational level, from the initiation phase of the files by the Technical Officers up to the decisions of the Sector Accreditation Committees (CSA). The results of the Peer Evaluation confirm, among other things, how the governance of Accredia is able to ensure the solidity of the Italian Accreditation Body and the balanced representation of all the economic and social components, both public and private, of our country.

PROCEDURAL RULES

In 2022, the General Regulations for the activities of the Accreditation Committee were revised, to bring them into line with the Accredia Statute ST-00 and the General Regulation for the Application of the Statute, ST-01 (rev. 06), in force since May 2021. Among the most important elements: better regulation of the modalities for managing remote meetings, greater detail on situations of incompatibility and the introduction of a limit on the renewal of the Presidents of the CSAs. The new 2022 editions concern the following documents:

- RG-04 rev.06 “Regulation for the procedures of the Accreditation Committee (CSA)”;
- RG-04-01 rev.05 “Regulation for the proceedings of the Sector Sub-committees of Accreditation (SCSA)”;
- RG-04-DL rev.07 “Regulation for the proceedings of the Sector Accreditation Committee of the Department of Testing Laboratories (CSA DL)”;
- RG-04-DC rev.06 “Regulation for the proceedings of the Sector Accreditation Committees of the Department of Certification and Inspection (CSA DCI)”;
- RG-04-DT rev.05 “Regulation for the Functioning of the Sector Accreditation Committees of the Department of Calibration (CSA DT)”.

GREATER ACCESSIBILITY

In January 2022, the new Accredia pricelist TA-00 came into force, providing for greater assurances and a reduction in costs for bodies and laboratories. The Directive Council has defined a system for devolving budget margins in favour of accredited parties, based on the rebate, a mutualistic redistribution mechanism to determine discounts regarding the maintenance of accreditation. The operation benefits the conformity assessment bodies and Accredia itself, which, in compliance with the “principle of sound and prudent management”, was able to overcome the logic of one-off reductions in prices with a view to greater dynamism.

ACCREDITATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Accredia has always been careful about social issues, the needs and expectations of citizens. The accreditation schemes and the scopes of conformity assessments have evolved over the years and they have also taken shape in relation to factors such as industrial development, technological innovation and labour market trends. The aim is to always respond in the best possible way to the demands of production, helping to ensure the safety and quality of products and services. Nowadays social impact constitutes a new issue with a significant influence on accredited certification.

Gender equality

One of the most significant cases of the contribution of accredited certification to the growth of a healthy and inclusive society is represented by the gender equality management system, which, since 2022, has been certified under accreditation in accordance with UNI/PdR 125:2022, the Reference Practice developed by UNI with the participation of Accredia. It was included in mission five of the National Recovery Plan, in accordance with Law 162/2021 and recognized in the national certification system of the Decree issued by the Ministry for Equal Opportunities of 29 April 2022, with the aim of encouraging companies to adopt policies to reduce the gender gap issues, create career opportunities, promote policies for the management of gender differences and the protection of parenthood.

Accessible tourism

In 2022 Accredia participated in the drafting of the Reference Practice UNI/PdR 131 with the aim of preparing the certification system of the accessibility of services offered by accommodation and sports facilities. Of fundamental importance for the social growth of the country, the accessibility of the national accommodation and sports system is also supported by the funding made available by the National Recovery Plan. For the implementation of the Decree of the Ministries of Tourism and of Disabilities of 19 April 2022, the public list of accredited bodies was established according to the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065 for product certification of the accessibility of accommodation and sports facilities.



COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Relations with the Ministries

In 2022, numerous agreements and Memoranda of Understanding were renewed with the Ministries regarding the management of accreditations in the mandatory regulated areas. The agreements concern the bodies qualified, authorized or notified to the European Commission, which issue certifications, inspections, tests and calibrations for the safety of products and services, also in the sectors of application of the CE marking. The dialogue with the Institutions, which has been a major part of Accredia's activities since its inception in 2009, has proved to be fruitful and increasingly oriented towards operations and results, as demonstrated by the commitment made to ensure the reliability of individual medical and protective devices during the Covid-19 pandemic. Collaborations were renewed with the Ministries of Economic Development, Internal Affairs, Labour and Social Policies and Sustainable Infrastructures and Mobility, concerning a series of products such as toys, lifts, pressure equipment, electricity grounding systems, measuring instruments, radio appliances, etc., and services, from electronic road pay toll systems to vehicle classification.

The cybersecurity agreement

In 2022, a major step forward was taken towards integration between the technical competences of Accredia in the field of IT and information security, and the competences of the newly established National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN). Accredia and the ACN signed the agreement to manage the accreditations of certification and inspection bodies and testing laboratories that operate to ensure cybersecurity for public and private entities. Legislative Decree 123/2022, which implements Title III of EU Regulation 881/2019 (Cybersecurity Act), establishes that some types of certifications in the cybersecurity field may be issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by Accredia, which will work together with the ACN in monitoring and supervising the activities of these bodies.

ANALYSIS OF THE CIG AND NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN PROJECTS

In 2022, the new editions of Accredia's "Quality and Impartiality Policy" were defined, to meet the requirements of the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17011:2018, while the General Regulation RG-21 "Analysis of risks ISO/IEC 17011", relating to Accredia's management processes, has been made more in line with the model required by EA.

After the analyses regarding conflict of interests developed for the standards ISO/IEC 17021-1, 17020, 17024 and 17065, the Steering and Guarantee Committee (CIG) drew up "Recommendations of the CIG regarding the definition of homogeneous criteria for the verification of some requirements of the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018, during the assessment and surveillance of accredited testing laboratories and calibration laboratories". Following publication of the "Documento Programmatico 2021-2023", the CIG has also set up two new working groups dedicated to "Social Responsibility and Sustainability" and to the "Certification of professionals" to examine in greater depth the implementation status of Law 4/2013 on the non-regulated professions ten years after its entry into force. Other important initiatives concern the participation in three research projects envisaged by the National Recovery Plan, which respectively concern environmental sustainability, artificial intelligence and the development of hydrogen. The latter involves, among the Members of Accredia, also CEI, CNR, INRiM and UNI.

THE VALUE OF DATA

The quality of data is an increasingly crucial factor for the good functioning of the market and for the healthy development of society, both nationally and globally. Activities concerning statistics, analysis and research, in order to be able to achieve valid results which can make a real contribution to social, economic and technological progress, need reliable starting data. In this context, Accredia's information assets, consisting of accreditation data and management system certifications, products, services and persons, constitute a valuable resource and a concrete tool in support of parties operating in a broad range of fields.

The agreements with ISTAT and ENEA

In 2022, Accredia entered into two agreements with ISTAT and ENEA, making the data of accreditation and accredited certifications available as a contribution to the realization of analyses, studies and research of national importance.

The agreement signed with ISTAT, resulting from a collaboration which began in 2018, regulates the methods of access and use of Accredia data on accreditations and accredited certifications, according to standards that ensure their accuracy, availability, accessibility and integrity. By consulting the online databases of accredited certifications, ISTAT has access to public information relating to aspects such as: verification of requirements, control, database management and sector cultural promotion. A Technical Committee, consisting of representatives of the two entities, manages the activities covered by the agreement.

The agreement with ENEA governs the access, use and publication modalities on the ENEA website of the lists contained in the Accredia database, relating to the accredited certifications for energy efficiency, which concern: ESCos (Energy Service Companies) certified under accreditation in accordance with UNI CEI 11352; the EGE (Experts in Energy Management), certified under accreditation in accordance with UNI CEI 11339 and organizations with an energy management system (EnMS) certified under accreditation according to UNI CEI EN ISO 50001.

International collaborations

Accredia, together with the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), conducted an online survey to study the digitization processes of the TIC (Testing, Inspection and Certification) sector. The survey involved 2,200 conformity assessment bodies accredited by Accredia. Digital transition is a phenomenon that marks our epoch and that involves businesses and consumers on a daily basis. The TIC industry has been able to respond to this challenge by digitizing a large part of the conformity assessment activities, also to meet the new "remotisation" needs imposed by the pandemic. The survey measured the level of digitization of a sample of accredited organizations and laboratories, highlighting how the digital transition process requires commitment, skills and resources, and involves many areas of the organisation.

Recognition of the Authorities

An important recognition of the Accredia database system came from the Italian Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), which in 2022 made the decision to exclusively use the CertSearch database of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to confirm the validity of the certificates of management systems required for participation in public tender contracts in Italy.

The automatic verification is expected to start on 1 September 2023 and will initially be limited to construction companies certified according to ISO 9001 (IAF code 28), to be extended to other codes and management systems in the near future. IAF Certsearch was created on the model of the Accredia databases, on the initiative of Emanuele Riva, President of IAF, Director of the Certification and Inspection Department and Vice Director of the Italian Accreditation Body.

THE ITALIAN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

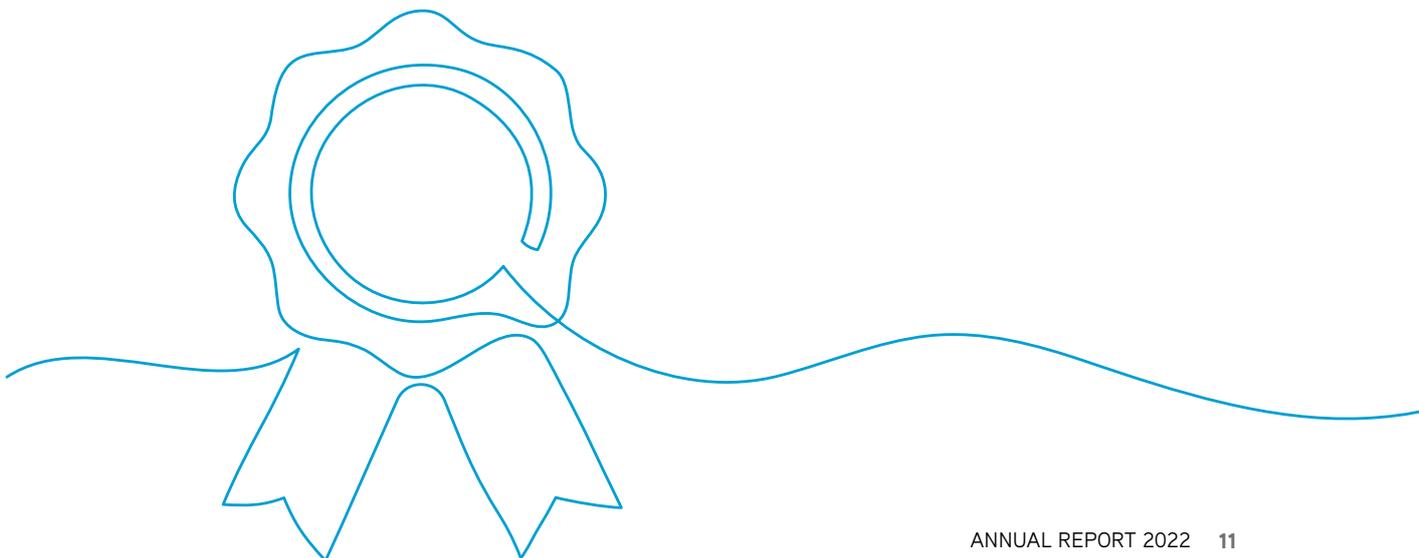
Standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment – already during the Covid-19 emergency, these pillars of the Italian Quality Infrastructure offered a decisive collaborative contribution in ensuring the safety of personal protective equipment, such as surgical masks and the FFP2s, and their effectiveness in achieving specific objectives is even more evident with regard to the missions of the National Recovery Plan. In 2022, the Italian Quality Infrastructure project took shape, and Accredia, together with CEI, UNI, INRiM, Unioncamere and the Associations of Accredited Bodies, worked on the definition of common initiatives and joint activities. In April 2022, the organization and the IQI Charter of Values were officially presented during the event “Infrastructure for Quality: the tools to implement the National Recovery Plan”.

THE IMPACT OF THE WAR

The economic, social and political crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine has also had its effects on the Quality Infrastructure. In fact, international sanctions have directly affected the activities of accreditation bodies and accredited bodies and laboratories all over the world. On 16 June 2022, the “Meeting of the expert group on the internal market for products” between the European Commission and the Member States confirmed the validity of the “Letters to the accreditation and conformity assessment bodies related to the situation in Ukraine”, made applicable by EA to all its members. In accordance with the international rules disseminated by means of a specific circular, Accredia respects the prohibition of the issuance of accreditations to bodies and laboratories subject to national, European or US sanctions - including the organizations controlled by them - and verifies that no accredited body offers accredited services to sanctioned parties (natural or legal persons) as well as to subjects connected or affiliated with them.

THE COMMITMENT TO CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

The results were presented of the Customer Satisfaction survey which every two years involves all the accredited bodies and laboratories. It is a useful comparison tool, which enables analysis at system level on how the service offered by Accredia is perceived as a whole, from contact with the secretariats to external and corporate relations. Of the 2,129 accredited bodies as at 31 December 2021, 455 bodies and laboratories responded to the survey (21% of the total) expressing a largely positive opinion: over 90% declared themselves satisfied or very satisfied with Accredia’s services and activities. With a view to constant improvement, the three Departments have launched a process of evaluating the suggestions collected and the reasons for dissatisfaction.



Chapter 3

TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES



THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OF ACCREDITATIONS

In 2022, the accreditation digitization process made significant progress, from the dematerialization of documents – thanks to which the three Departments are now able to issue digital certificates accessible via QR code – to the enhancement of the databases. On one hand, the new search engine makes it possible to record and verify data from accredited biobanks, and on the other hand an online service has been launched which enables access to versions of the accreditation certificates that are no longer valid, so as to reconstruct the “history” of all the bodies and laboratories accredited by Accredia. Subsequently, a recoding process of the accreditations was launched, unified among the three Departments, aimed at identifying the certificates on the basis of a single number associated with the name of the body or laboratory (no longer, therefore, on the basis of multiple numbers linked to accredited certification, inspection, verification and validation, testing, calibration, etc. schemes). This substantial revision, closely linked to the reedition of the accreditation marks which will be applicable from the end of 2023, aligns the Accredia coding process with the rules of EA and represents an important step towards greater simplification for accredited parties and easier accessibility to information for institutions and the market.

THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

In 2022, the Department developed the activities for new accreditations and scope extensions relating to tests carried out by testing laboratories (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025), medical laboratories (UNI EN ISO 15189) and interlaboratory proficiency testing providers (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17043). Among the main innovations in accreditation activities were the schemes relating to medical laboratories and plant health.

Medical laboratories

With the publication of the new edition of the international standard ISO 15189:2022 “Medical laboratories - Requirements for quality and competence”, Accredia started the transition process of the accreditations of medical analysis laboratories. The provisions in question are contained in the Information Circular Legislative Decree n. 5/2022, which requires adaptation to the new standard by 7 December 2025. Again, with a view to simplification, it was also established that POCTs (Point-Of-Care Testing) shall no longer have to refer to the standard ISO 22870:2016 “Point-of-care testing (POCT) - Requirements for quality and competence”, but to ISO 15189.

In the health sector the new regulations present greater opportunities for accreditation, an increasingly strategic tool for European policies and for the National Health System, as demonstrated by the successful cases of 2022. In fact, the past year saw the first accreditations in Italy of two structures entirely dedicated to medical analyses for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of oncological diseases: the laboratories of the IRCSS Oncological Reference Center - Department of Advanced Research and Diagnostics of tumors of Aviano (Pordenone) and of the University Hospital of Padua UOC Pediatric Oncohematology, which have chosen to be accredited according to UNI EN ISO 15189.

The health of plants

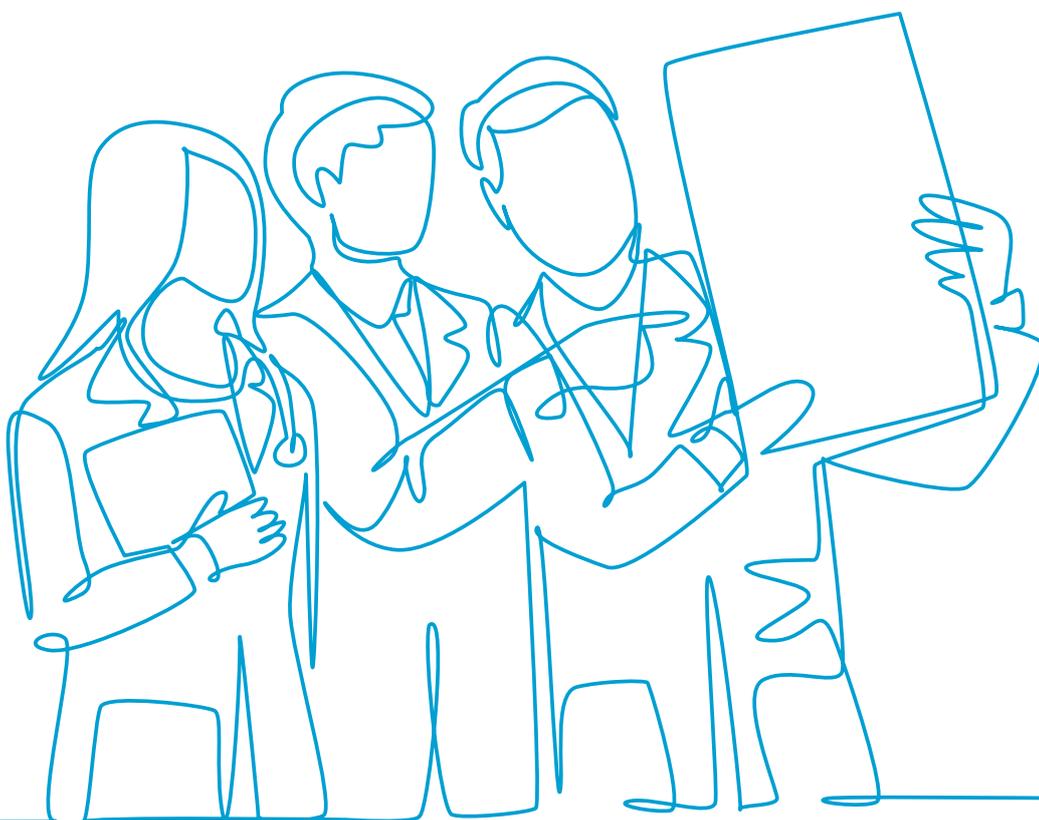
With regard to the crucial sector of plant protection, governed by EU Regulation 625/2017, the National Phytosanitary Committee involved Accredia in the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Working Group of the Ministry of Agriculture, engaged in the drafting of specific methods that will be validated by the Centre of Defence and Certification of the Council for Research in Agriculture and the Analysis of Agrarian Economics (CREA).

The European provision established that the laboratories for official controls responsible for verifying the health of plants must operate according to UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025 and have obtained accreditation before 29 April 2022 from a national accreditation body in compliance with the Regulation CE 765/2008. In this strategic area for the quality and safety of the entire agri-food chain, Accredia has also expanded its specialist skills, organizing specific training events for its assessors.

Another important step was the publication of the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of 13 April 2022 n. 169819, developed by a "Laboratory" working group in which technical officers of the Testing Laboratories Department also actively participated.

THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

The Department issues accreditations for management system certification bodies (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17021-1), for persons (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024) and products/services (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065), as well as for inspection bodies (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17020) and verification and validation bodies (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029).



In 2022, 40 new conformity assessment schemes were launched according to UNI, CEN or ISO normative/paranormative documents (technical standards and Reference Practices), and 9 owner schemes, in compliance with private requirements and specifications. The most innovative sectors concern the certification of management systems linked to the incentive and reward mechanisms envisaged by the National Recovery Plan, such as gender equality and accessible tourism, the certification of persons in the areas of innovation management, information technology, compliance and anti-corruption, animal welfare and sustainability claims schemes, agri-food product controls, cosmetics and textile product controls.

The new Regulations

The new editions of the General Regulations for the accreditation of certification, inspection, validation and verification bodies, managed by the Certification and Inspection Department, were published. The document structure has remained unchanged (one RG-01 - General Part, with transversal requirements for all active accreditation schemes, and five scheme Regulations: 01 for the certification of management systems; 02 for the certification of persons; 03 for product, service, process certification; 04 for inspection; 05 for verification and validation), but modifications have been introduced to strengthen three key principles: simplification, with a general part containing the common requirements; harmonization, which enables the implementation of the European and international regulations of EA, IAF and ILAC; uniformity, in the revision of terminology in line with the new accreditation of verifications and validations according to the standard ISO/IEC 17029. The new Regulations also include clarifications regarding unannounced assessments and scheduled and unscheduled remote surveillance activities, aligning the requirements with the “Accredia policy for the performance of remote assessments” developed in 2021 in agreement with the Steering and Guarantee Committee.

For the certification bodies of organic products, the Technical Regulation RT-16 was also updated, harmonizing the procedures of the bodies in the management of risk assessment, in compliance with EU Regulation 834/2007 in force from 1 January 2022, which replaced the EC Regulation 834/2007 establishing the principles and rules applicable to organic production and labelling of organic products.

Animal welfare

At the end of 2022, from the collaboration between the Government, the Regions, the trade associations, the certification bodies and the Accredia Testing Laboratories and Certification and Inspection Departments, the national certification scheme for sustainable breeding officially based on accreditation was born.

The Decree of the Ministries of Agricultural Policies and of Health, published in the Official Journal n. 279 of 29 November 2022, regulates for the first time the “National Quality System for Animal Welfare” by providing for the role of certification bodies accredited according to the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065. In December, the requirements applicable to breeders were issued, by species of animal, production orientation and method, which will enable the certification and accreditation process to be started.

Sustainability claims

In 2022, activities began for the accreditation of verification and validation bodies with the qualification of the first body in conformity with ISO/IEC 17029, to which Accredia also contributed by participating in the ISO working groups. The new accreditation scheme concerns ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development, currently based on the technical standard UNI ISO/TS 17033:2020, which defines the requirements to support the definition, verification or development of verifiable ethical claims, credible, accurate and not misleading, and the Reference Practice UNI/PdR 102:2021, which indicates to organizations a structured and shared path in the drawing up and declaration of ethical claims focusing on sustainability issues.

Fertilizing products

A new sector in which accreditation has become a pre-requisite for obtaining notification to the Ministry of Agriculture concerns bodies assessing the conformity of fertilising products. The Ministerial Decree of 11 November 2022 adapted the national legislation to EU Regulation 1009/2019 which establishes the rules relating to making EU fertilising products available on the market, and it provides for the designation of a national notification authority and the establishment of a national register of conformity assessment bodies of EU fertilising products.

In order to be notified, the bodies must send to the Ministry the request for notification, which also contains an accreditation certificate issued by Accredia attesting compliance with the requirements of the European Regulation.

Accredia shall also monitor the maintenance of accreditation over time, according to modalities defined in the context of a specific agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Road infrastructures

In 2022, the Certification and Inspection Department collaborated with ANSFISA (National Agency for the Safety of Railways and Road and Motorway Infrastructures) to start a new accreditation scheme, based on the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17065 and aimed at ensuring proper maintenance and monitoring of all transport infrastructures on the part of the relevant managers. A crucial role, given that ANSFISA was established following the collapse of the Morandi bridge, with Legislative Decree 109/2018, known as the “Genova Decree”, and replaced ANSF, the National Agency for Railway Safety, extending their range of activities to road and motorway infrastructures.

The collaboration resulted in the “Guidelines for the implementation, certification and evaluation of the performance of Safety Management Systems for the verification and maintenance of road and motorway infrastructures” preliminary to the definition of the specific requirements for the sector.



THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

Already operative for the accreditation of calibration laboratories (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025) and of reference material producers (UNI EN ISO 17034), the Department has started activities to assess the conformity of research and development biobanks (UNI EN ISO 20387).

The biobanks

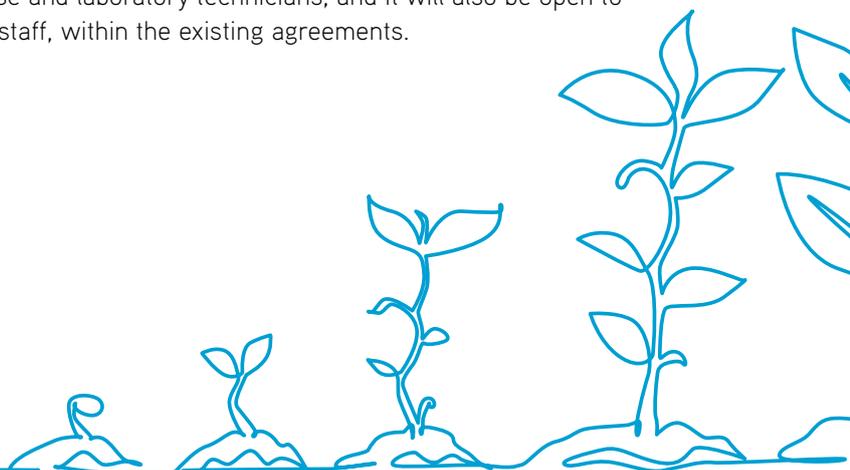
In 2022, the Calibration Laboratories Department issued the first accreditation according to UNI EN ISO 20387 to a research and development biobank of the Tuscany Health Service, the Multispecialist Biobank of the University Hospital of Pisa, which was evaluated by a team of inspectors with various specific technical skills in the management of biological material of human origin, as well as on quality management systems and IT and information security, and expertise in privacy and the GDPR. This important result comes at the conclusion of the formulation process of the Biobanking scheme, developed by the Department together with the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Health Institute) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, with which a pilot project was undertaken involving various biobanks set up within the IRCCS (Scientific Hospitalization and Care Institutes). This first accreditation enables Accredia to be a candidate for the next EA Peer Evaluation, to extend the international mutual recognition agreements to Biobanking, after the standard EN ISO 20387 “Biobanking - General requirements for biobanking” was qualified as a harmonized standard and its reference was incorporated into EU legislation.

Training

Collaborating with universities and higher education and training institutes and bodies is in the DNA of the Calibration Laboratories Department, which, in 2022, provided teaching services at the University of Turin and at the Polytechnics of Turin and Milan, and tutoring activities for students at a scientific high school in Turin as part of the project “Training to help us train”. The objective shared with the other Accredia Departments is to promote the study of the tool of accreditation, conformity assessment and issues related to metrology and calibration, in a professionalizing and specialist dimension.

With this in mind, in 2022, the Accredia Academy project was also created, a functional container for the construction of a path of training initiatives of various kinds, intended for the broadest possible audience, also with the involvement of Accredia partners, who, for a number of years, have organized training courses on certification and standardisation. Formally launched in December 2022, the Academy project follows a timetable shared between the Accredia management and the Calibration Laboratories Department.

The pilot experiment will be a “Summer School” to be held in Turin, at the INRiM laboratories, and will be aimed at inspectors in the qualification phase and laboratory technicians, and it will also be open to potential laboratory collaborators, or to INRiM staff, within the existing agreements.



Chapter 4

COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES



In 2022 Accredia further developed its communication activities, with the start of new projects and greater integration between the many tools and channels used. The goal was, once again, to promote and spread awareness of the advantages of accreditation as a pillar of the Quality Infrastructure in the community, and also to effectively address the increasingly numerous interlocutors in the world of conformity assessment. Formal coherence, accessibility of information, formulation and fine-tuning of contents in the various communication channels, especially digital, were the guidelines of 2022, which made it possible to reach a vast audience of users. The updating and training meetings organized by Accredia during the year were also numerous and well attended, aimed at both internal personnel and external professionals.

THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

Newsletter for Assessors

The first internal communication project was launched in 2022: the “Assessors’ Newsletter” is organized into quarterly issues and three different editions, to further meet the interests of external assessors of the Accredia Departments. It is an opportunity for dialogue and targeted information, with the aim of further enhancing the climate of close and fruitful collaboration between staff and collaborators.

Website and newsletter

The Accredia website has been enriched with a new section which, using multimedia supports, illustrates the crucial role of accreditation in contributing to the implementation of projects of the National Recovery Plan. Accredited certifications, inspections and tests are valued as effective solutions to ensure the reliability of suppliers of safe and quality products and services, for the benefit of institutions, businesses and the community. The field of “Accredited services” has grown with the addition of new data sheets of the activities carried out by the accredited bodies and laboratories in the context of the strategic schemes, starting with those for sustainability. After the peaks recorded in the two years of the Covid-19 emergency, owing to the special informative role of Accredia concerning “PPE certificates” and “masks”, in 2022 visits to the website stabilized at pre-pandemic levels, for a total of about 400,000 users and 2 million views. The results of the *AccrediaLetter* newsletter were significant, with 1,300 new subscribers in 2022 for a total of 18,000 users.

Podcast “Voce alla Qualità”

The Accredia podcast service “Voce alla Qualità” (Giving quality a voice) was also confirmed in 2022 as a means of communication with high potential and high flexibility. The podcast was launched by the audio platforms on the website and social channels, increasing awareness regarding the novelties of Accredia and accreditation as well as the testimonies of the protagonists of the Quality Infrastructure and the stakeholders. This integrated communication makes it possible to reach a broad audience, to spread knowledge about Accredia’s activities and awareness of its role. In two monthly episodes, the podcast consists of general news and a topical interview.

The Accredia “Osservatorio”

The promotion and communication of the studies and research of the Accredia “Osservatorio” continued regularly and included the publication of the study “Cybersecurity and data protection: the role of accredited certification”, created with the Cybersecurity National Lab of the National Interuniversity Consortium for Computer Science (CINI).

Digital illustrations

To give a special resonance to the role of accreditation in a crucial area today such as sustainability, Accredia has focused on the language of editorial illustration. 17 tables were created, one for each global goal of the UN 2030 Agenda, which were disseminated in a dedicated brochure, published on social media channels, presented in the digital exhibition of “Milanogreenforum” and distributed to the communication partners of EA member bodies.

Media relations

Accredia’s general visibility grew in 2022, with 1,729 articles published, 46% more than in 2021. Accredia was constantly present on all types of media, from the press to television, with 73 articles and interviews relating to our activities and 15 specialized articles on strategic issues, such as sustainability, gender equality and cybersecurity, appearing in various vertical publications.

Social media

The overall results of the social channels were good, confirming an upward trend in profile visits and post views. LinkedIn was confirmed as the reference platform, with a rise in followers of 16.2% and a total of 26,000 connected users, and also Twitter, with 3,600 followers, recorded a constant increase in views of the corporate page and individual tweets. Considering the purely technical content of the more than 40 videos published, and highlighting the potential of the video channel for dissemination and training activities, the growth of the YouTube profile is also interesting, with subscribers increasing from around 500 to 700.

Advertising

The investment in advertising was increased in economic terms with a targeted project that made it possible to achieve the best balance between the channel used and strategic issues. Two radio commercials were made on gender equality and cybersecurity, broadcast on Radio Rai and on Radio24, for almost 4 million and over 5 million contacts, respectively.

Events

Accredia organized and promoted the conference of the “Accredia Osservatorio - How to manage IT risk? The contribution of accreditation and certification to national cybersecurity”, which took place on November 14, 2022, at the Sapienza University of Rome.

Accredia also renewed its participation in the “Automation & Testing” fair in Turin in April, with two technical conferences about calibration, certification, testing and biobanks, and the conference to present the Italian Quality Infrastructure, entitled “Infrastructure for Quality: the tools for implementing the National Recovery Plan”. Furthermore, in collaboration with UNI and the Confindustria management, a series of meetings was organized aimed at illustrating the activities carried out under accreditation relating to the missions of the National Recovery Plan, from ecological transition to digitalisation, from sustainability to cybersecurity.

TRAINING INITIATIVES

Updates and courses

The customary dissemination activities were carried out in 2022 through the annual meetings with the assessors and accredited parties of the three Departments, as well as specialist training courses on accreditation schemes, for a total of 111 events.

Collaborations were continued with AICQ, ANGQ and UNI relating to study activities, courses and conferences, as well as with universities, in particular with the University of Padua with a cycle of seminars on calibration in testing and medical laboratories, the University of Parma with a specialization course on food safety, the University of Tuscia for the “Quality and Accreditation” Degree Thesis Award in memory of Paolo Bianco, the University of Verona for the Masters in “Risk Management”.

Accredia’s visibility was also promoted through the participation of the body’s staff in 213 events, including conferences and other training initiatives for stakeholders and partners, both nationally and internationally.

Specialist training

To respond to the need to define a training model consistent with the tools of the National Recovery Plan, which enhances the culture of accreditation and the Quality Infrastructure, a new project has been launched for the structured and organized management of external training activities, with particular focus on the development of the competences of the professionals of the future.

The route that Accredia wants to follow was set out in a “White Book”, developing many of the topics related to its training objectives, on the model of the already numerous initiatives begun, including the course for the training of Procedure Managers (RUP) of the contracting stations, organized together with Conforma, ITACA and UNI.

In consideration of the essential role that the legislator increasingly recognizes to accredited services, as an assurance for companies wishing to take part in calls for public tender contracts, the course was provided to the staff of over 30,000 contracting stations of the Public Administration.



Chapter 5

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Accredia has continued to play a leading role at an international level, as a member of the international associations of accreditation bodies: European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The EA and IAF MLA and ILAC MRA agreements of mutual recognition, of which Accredia is a signatory, represent a passport for the free movement of goods, services and certified professionals under accreditation, with tangible benefits for all operators and for the development of an increasingly sustainable, healthy and safe market in Europe and worldwide.

THE ROLE IN EA

Accredia has been actively involved in EA, thanks to the commitment of its professionals in the technical committees and in the Peer Evaluation activities among the members of EA: 11 technical officers and assessors are qualified as peer assessors. Furthermore, Accredia obtained the Presidency of the Laboratory Committee (EA LC), with the election of Sergio Guzzi as Chair, and organized three important meetings in Italy, the Multilateral Agreement Council (EA MAC) in Turin, from 3 to 5 October; the Communications and Publications Committee (EA CPC), in Rome, on 13 and 14 October and the Working Group Health Care (EA LC WG Health), also in Rome, on 5 and 6 December.

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

By virtue of its recognition as a Mandated Body, i.e. a body with similar status to the Public Administrations of the Member States, also in 2022 Accredia continued its commitment at a corporate level in the Twinning projects of the European Commission. In the heart of the Caucasus, work is underway to strengthen the conformity assessment systems of the Republics of Georgia and Armenia. The goal is to align their Quality Infrastructures with European Union legislation, with particular regard to harmonized regulations for product safety and CE marking. For the Georgian accreditation body Georgian Accreditation Center (GAC), Accredia participated in a seminar addressed to Georgian judges, to explain the legal nature of an accreditation body, and in the Mid Term Conference on 7 April; in early May Accredia also hosted a study tour in its three departmental head offices.

On 13 April the Twinning project for the Georgian metrology and standardization body Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM) was also launched, together with the partners of the Italian-Spanish consortium, in which INRiM and UNI members participate for Italy. For the Armenian Accreditation Body: Armenian National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB) on-site and transfer activities continued, together with our German partners of DAkkS and BMWi. In collaboration with the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), the "MU Training" activity of the European Network in Metrology MATHMET continued, aimed at improving the quality, effectiveness and dissemination of training on measurement uncertainty, through the development of new teaching material and the increase in ad hoc training courses.

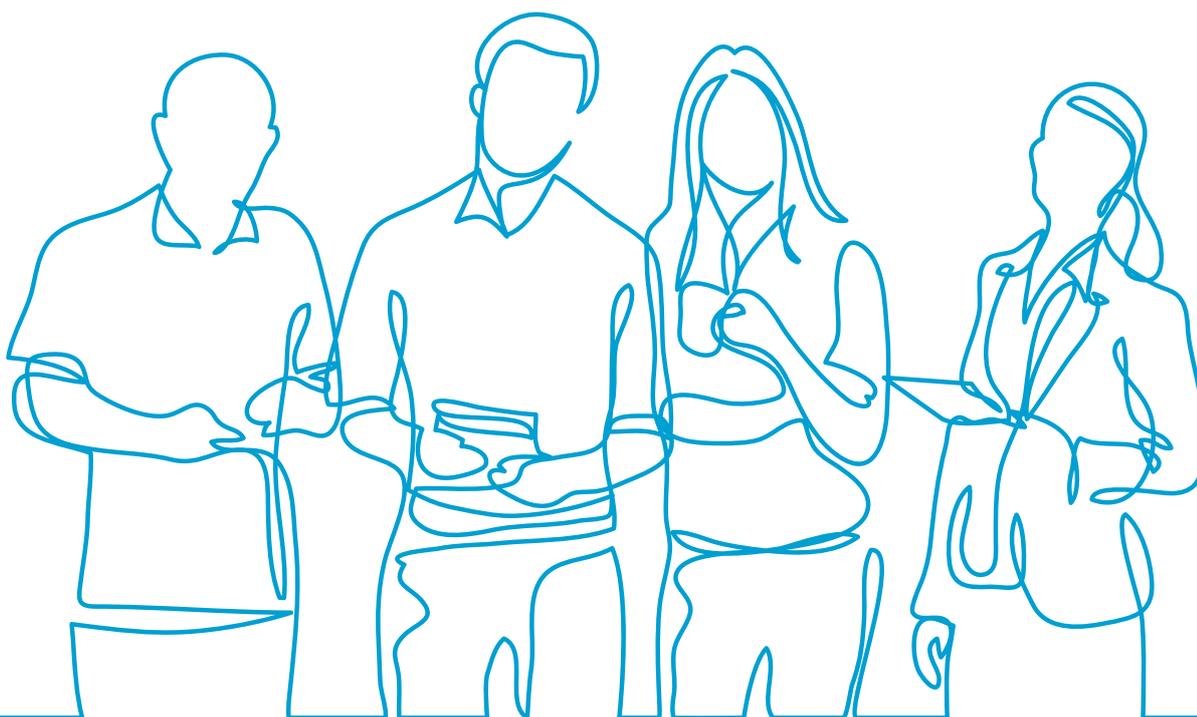
EU RECOGNITIONS

The activities and role of Accredia, like the other EA member accreditation bodies, have received important recognition with the latest report from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee, on the implementation of EC Regulation 765/2008 which governs accreditation and market surveillance activities in the EU.

The 2022 report reaffirmed the centrality of the role of the European accreditation infrastructure represented by EA. The report highlights the added value that the activities of Accredia and of the other EA member accreditation bodies bring to EU policies to the Single Market, industrial strategy, European Green Deal, digital transition and sectoral policies. Faced with the Covid-19 emergency, accredited conformity assessment has proven to be a flexible tool, capable of adapting so that even the most unpredictable occurrences can be handled in the best possible way.

Furthermore, in the period of full management of the pandemic, in a market suddenly populated by new and not always professional companies, accreditation played a role of primary importance in protecting the safety and health of citizens, ensuring the reliability and objectivity of checks carried out by certification bodies and testing laboratories.

As further confirmation of this, and following the diffusion in the Single Market of “voluntary certificates” concerning products subject to the technical harmonization legislation of the Union, in 2022 the DG GROW of the European Commission “Directorate-General of the internal market, of industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs” intervened with an official note to the Member States, clarifying that the practice of “voluntary certification” is not authorized and is punishable if it is carried out in the sectors in which the Notified Bodies operate and if it refers to the harmonized technical standards.



OUR GLOBAL ROLE

A prominent position in the International Quality Infrastructure (INETQI) aimed at promoting the role of European accreditation bodies with respect to the market and European regulatory bodies is held by Accredia's Vice Director Emanuele Riva, who also retains the Presidency of IAF for the second year. Accredia's commitment has led to the creation of the global database of IAF Certsearch certifications, which requires the uploading of the data of all management system certifications, including those issued outside the IAF MLA mutual recognition agreements, making it possible to search and verify the certificates of over 660,000 public and private organisations, issued by around 1,250 accredited bodies worldwide.

However, the biggest challenge was the start of the merger project of IAF and ILAC, the ultimate goal of which is to ensure the reliability of all conformity assessments of certification, inspection and verification bodies and testing, medical and calibration laboratories on a global level. It is a project dedicated to the harmonization of rules, with concrete benefits for institutions, businesses and also for the general public, in terms of optimizing processes and simplifying activities.



Chapter 6

FINANCIAL RESULTS



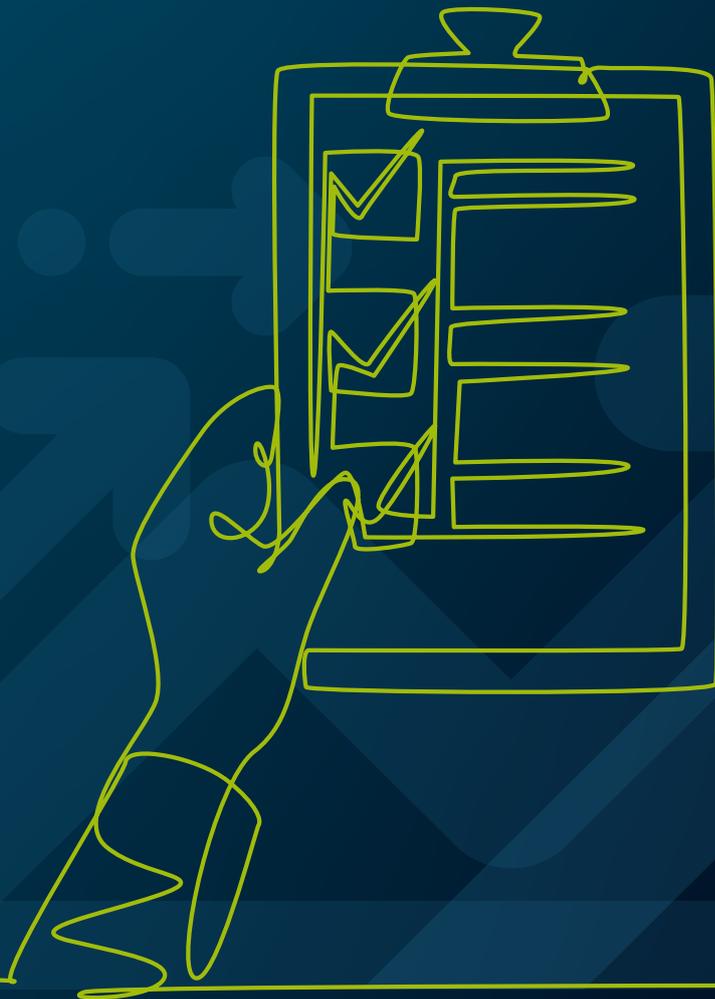
THE BALANCE SHEET 2020-2022

Balance sheet	2022	2021	2020
ASSETS			
Intangible assets	241	223	268
Tangible assets	9,555	9,595	9,862
Financial fixed assets	91	91	94
Short-term receivables	6,741	5,570	4,990
Long-term receivables	355	268	102
Short-term financial assets	1,652	160	160
Liquid assets	3,620	6,181	4,517
Other assets	153	184	123
TOTAL ASSETS	22,408	22,272	20,116
LIABILITIES			
	2022	2021	2020
Net worth	11,390	11,357	10,294
Severance indemnity reserve	2,755	2,361	2,072
Short-term payables	7,475	7,473	6,387
Long-term payables	711	1,003	1,290
Other liabilities	77	78	73
TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,408	2,272	20,116
INCOME STATEMENT			
	2022	2021	2020
Production value	25,009	23,761	2,212
Production value	24,910	22,181	20,090
Difference between production value and production costs	99	1,580	1,122
Financial income and expenses	8	11	-2
Pre-tax income	107	1,591	1,120
Income tax	84	528	379
Surplus for the year	23	1,063	741

in thousands of euros

Chapter 7

OPERATIVE RESULTS



ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY THE THREE DEPARTMENTS

In 2022, the assessment days performed by the three Departments increased overall by over a thousand units, reaching 19,702 (table 1), also thanks to the use of remote assessments which, though down in 2021, required around 9,200 days.

Along with the increase in assessment activities, the number of accredited bodies and laboratories has also grown, amounting to 2,263 at the end of 2022. The number of bodies has increased in each Department, with 62 more in the Certification and Inspection area, due to the effect of the dynamics of regulated accreditation.

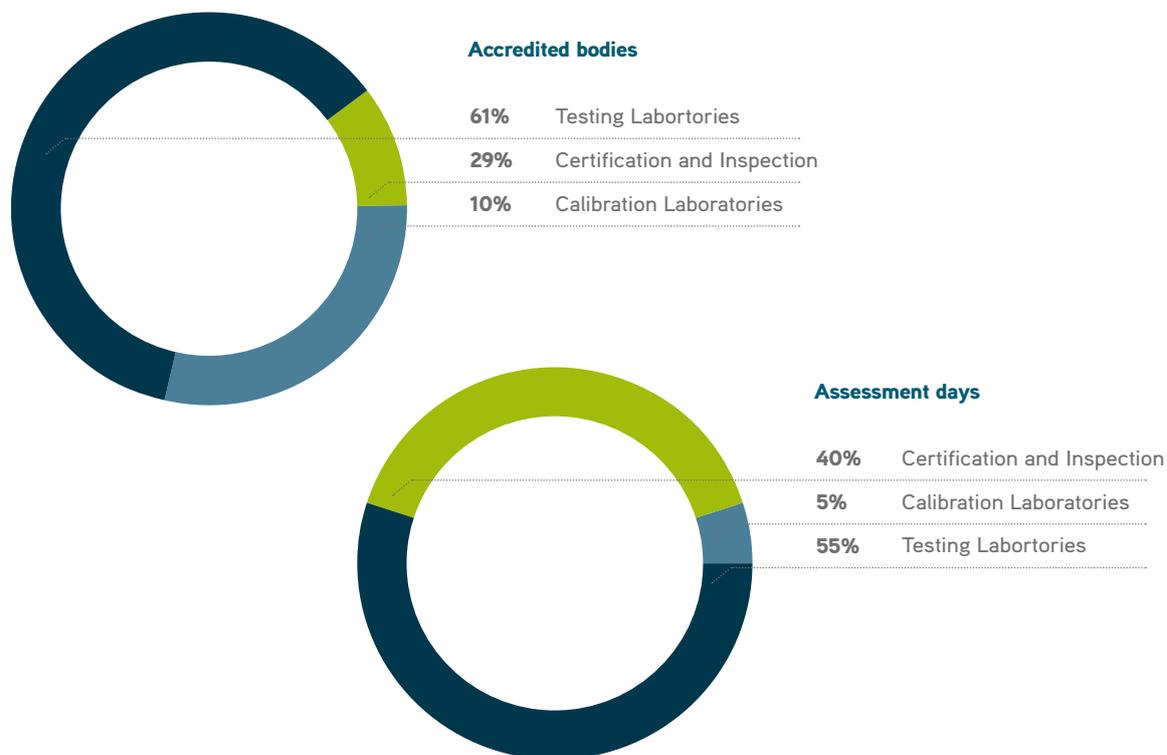
Table 1 - Assessment activities 2020-2022 - Days performed/accredited bodies

Department	2022		2021		2020	
	Days	Accredited bodies	Days	Accredited bodies	Days	Accredited bodies
Testing Laboratories	10,928	1,382	10,503	1,314	10,020	1,272
Certification and Inspection	7,800	666	7,148	604	5,786	501
Calibration Laboratories	974	215	1,057	211	991	202
Total	19,702	2,263	18,708	2,129	16,797	1,975

Most of the accredited bodies are managed by the Testing Laboratories Department, accounting for 61% of the total, with 55% of the assessment days carried out in 2022 correspond to this rate (figure 1), whilst in the Certification and Inspection Department, the share of accredited bodies of 29% of the total corresponded to 40% of the annual assessment days.

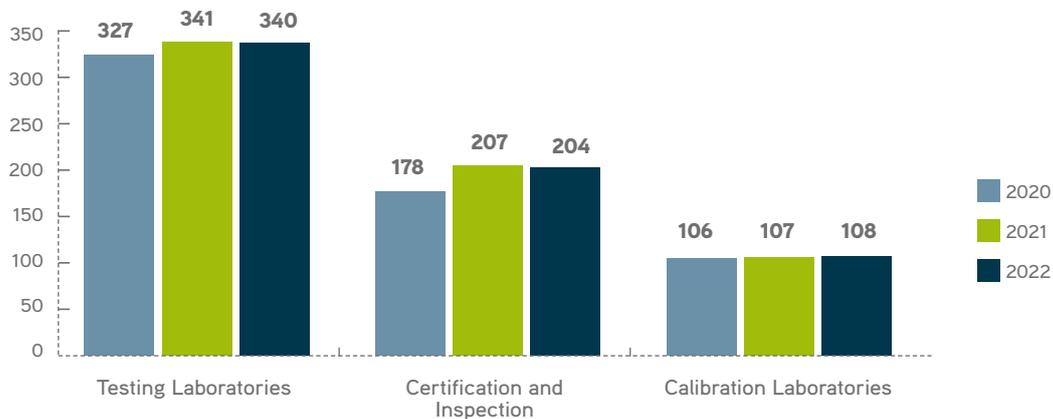
The 2,263 accredited bodies and laboratories manage a total of 2,646 accreditations for the various conformity assessment schemes (see figure 4), since each body can be accredited for more than one scheme.

Figure 1 - Assessment days performed per Department 2022 - Percentage values



ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS OF THE THREE DEPARTMENTS

In the last three years, Accredia's pool of assessors and technical experts has expanded, reaching, at the end of 2022, 340 professionals operating in the Testing Laboratories Department, 204 in the Certification and Inspection Department and 108 in the Calibration Laboratories Department (figure 2). Considering that assessors can perform assessment activities for multiple Departments, the total number is 478 assessors supported by 109 technical experts for highly specialized areas.

Figure 2 - The assessors 2020-2022

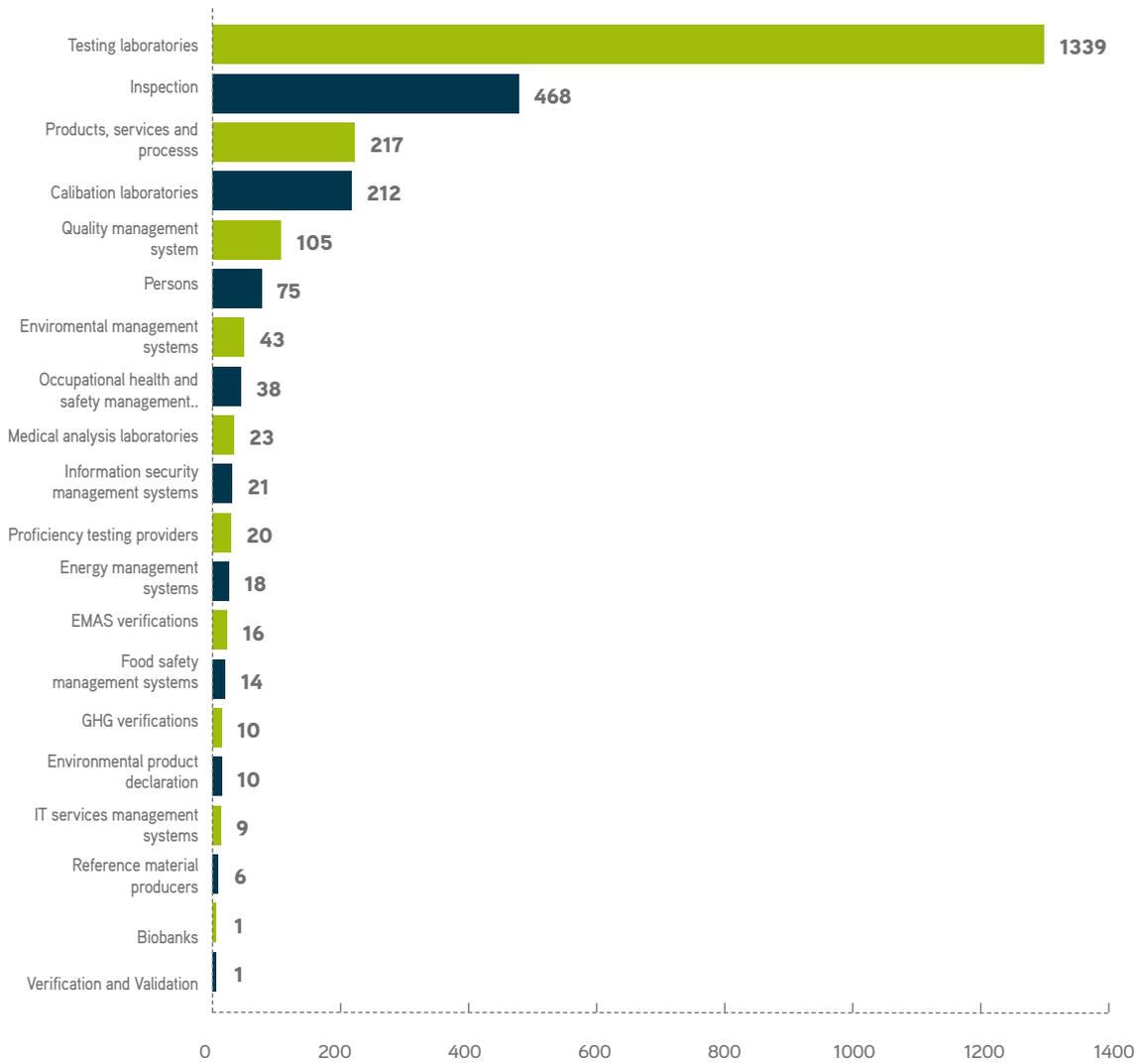
ACCREDITATIONS OF THE THREE DEPARTMENTS

The data of accredited bodies per Department show almost always positive annual trends over a period of more than twenty years.

Starting from 2018, the dynamics have further improved, to a great degree in the Certification and Inspection Department, especially in the mandatory areas of the periodic verification of measuring instruments based on Ministerial Decree 93/2017 and the verifications of electrical systems according to the Presidential Decree 462/2001. In 2022 there was a 10.3% rise in the number of accredited bodies, with testing laboratories, medical laboratories and PTPs up by 5.2%, and calibration laboratories, biobanks and accredited RMPs which rose by 1.9%.

Figure 3 - Assessments 2010-2022 - Accredited bodies per Department Percentage values

Figure 4 - Accreditations per scheme 2022

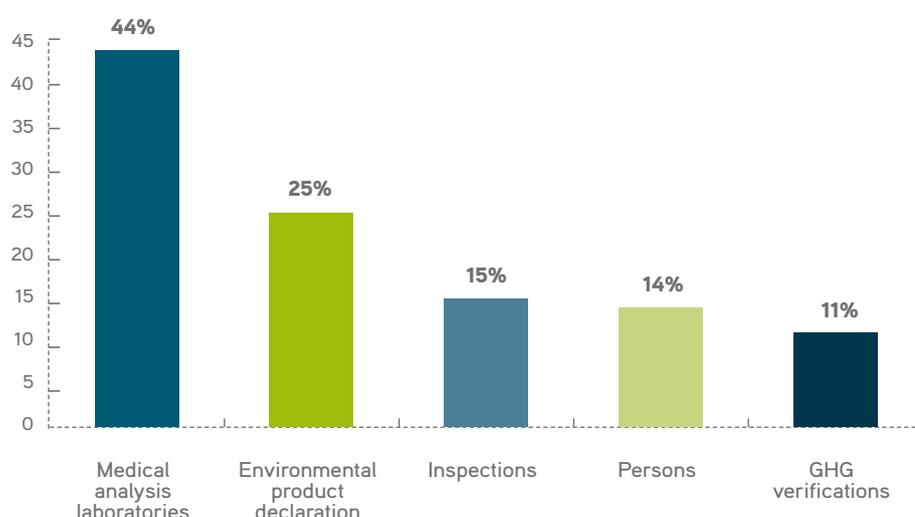


The number of accreditations shown in figure 4 demonstrates a diversified panorama, in which testing laboratories, which grew significantly in number during 2022, hold the majority of accreditations, equal to 1,339, while the effect of regulatory provisions on the increase of the inspection scheme continues, with 468 accredited bodies.

Compared to 2021, the most decisive percentage increase concerned the number of accreditations of medical laboratories (+44%), followed by the bodies that issue the environmental product declaration (+25%) and by the inspection bodies (+15%).

The growth in the accreditations of certification bodies of persons (+14%) and of those conducting GHG verifications (+11%) was also significant.

Figure 5 - Accreditation schemes showing the highest growth rate in 2022 - Percentage values



COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE THREE DEPARTMENTS

Accredia's well-established reputation among accredited bodies and stakeholders is based on a process of continuous improvement, in which the management of complaints and remarks by all Departments is essential.

The complaints received in 2022 have, as usual, led to a rigorous examination of responsibilities and the identification of the causes and corrective actions to be implemented. Compared to 2021, the most relevant aspect is the marked reduction in complaints and remarks addressed to the Certification and Inspection Department (table 2).

Table 2 - Complaints and remarks received in 2022

	Testing Laboratories		Certification and Inspection		Calibration Laboratories	
	complaints	remarks	complaints	remarks	complaints	remarks
2021	3	25	53	70	2	2
2022	8	19	34	54	3	6
2022 VS 2021	5	-6	-19	-16	1	4

Chapter 8

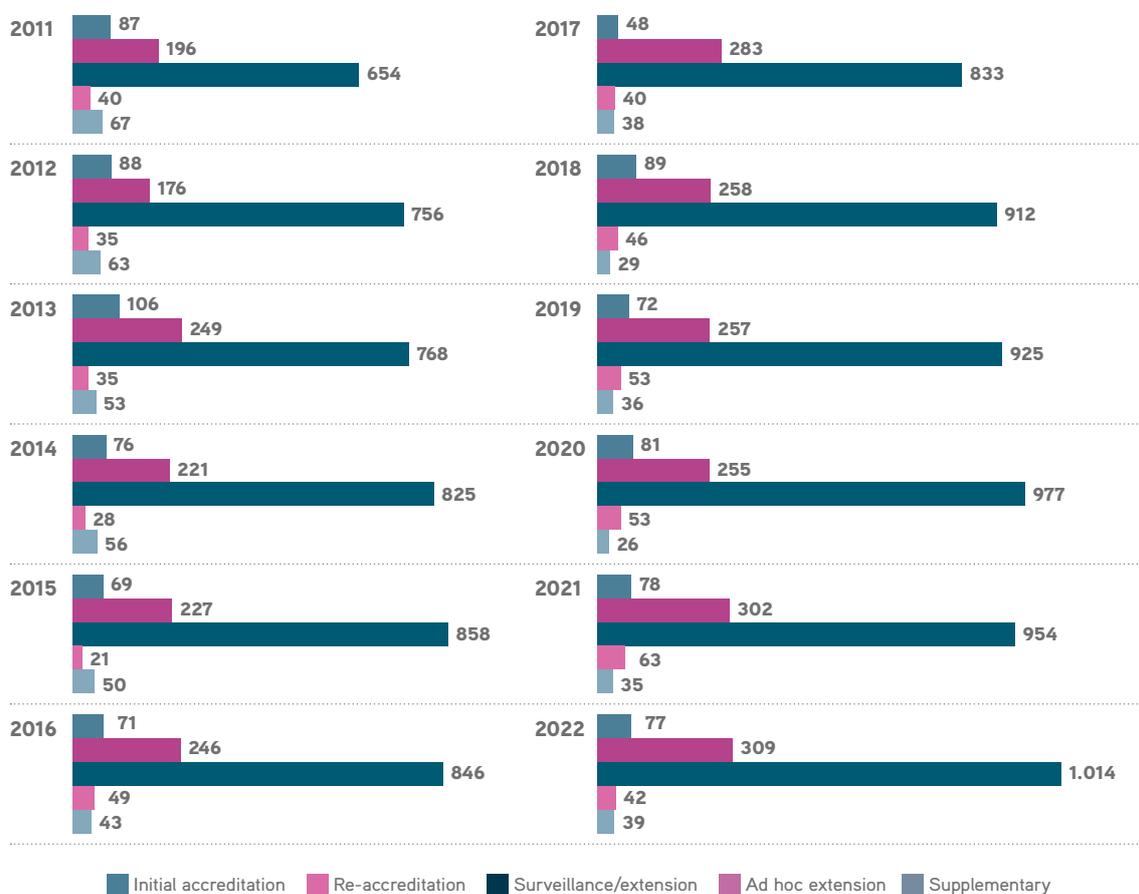
TESTING LABORATORIES, MEDICAL LABORATORIES AND INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS (PTP)



ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED BY THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

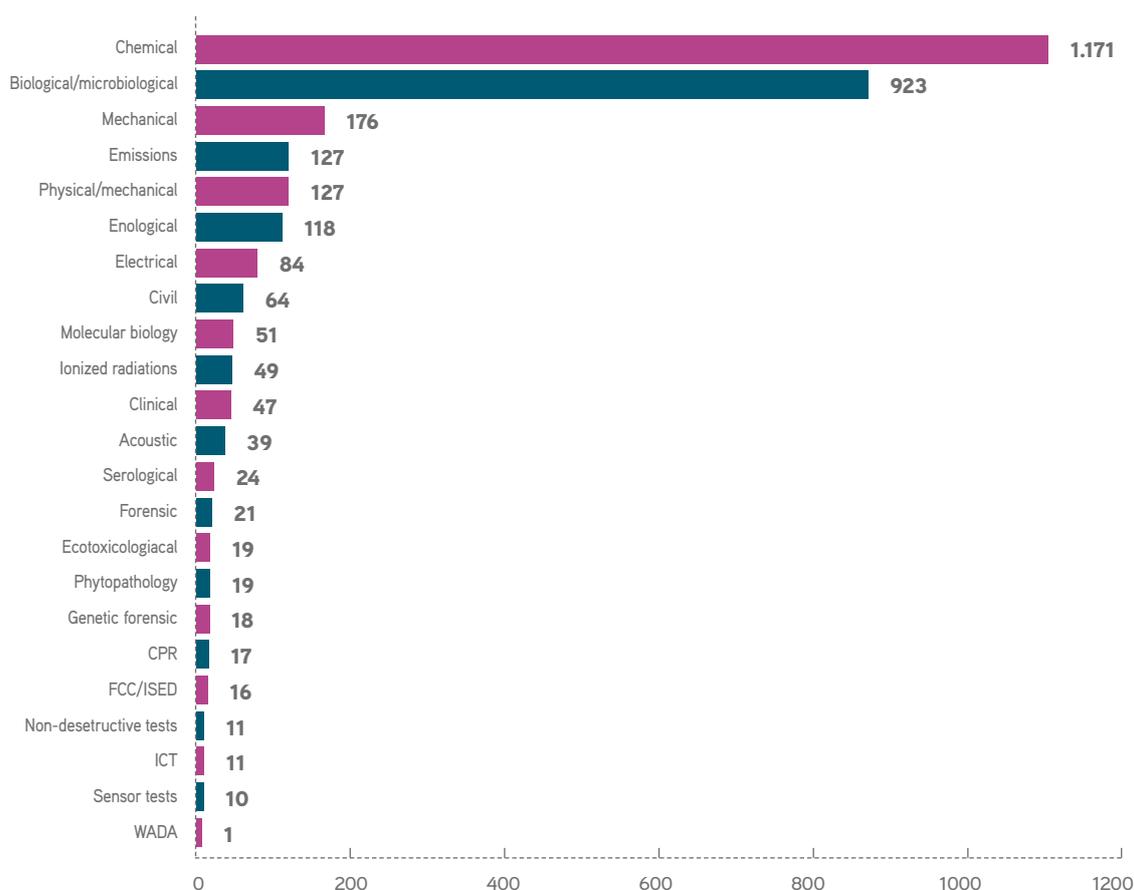
The growth in the number of assessment days has involved, compared with 2021, an increase in the files of the Testing Laboratory Department. In 2022, 77 first accreditations were managed, 309 re-accreditations, 42 ad hoc extensions and 39 supplementary visits. Most of the activities still concern surveillance/extension activities, totalling 1,014 assessments managed (figure 6) at the end of 2022.

Figure 6 - Assessments for accreditation 2010–2022 - Typology of activity - Number of files



The breakdown of accredited sites according to the test sectors shows the clear prevalence of chemical and biological/microbiological tests with 1,171 and 923 accredited facilities respectively (figure 7). The start of activities in construction products (CPR) and phytopathology sectors resulted in the accreditation of 17 and 19 laboratories respectively.

Figure 7 - Distribution of accredited sites per sector - 2022



ACCREDITATIONS OF THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

At the end of 2022, the accreditations issued by the Testing Laboratories Department were concentrated in the northern regions, mainly in Lombardy (18.3% of the total), Veneto (12.1%) and Emilia Romagna (10.3%). In the northern regions, the accreditations issued to testing and medical laboratories and to in-terlaboratory proficiency testing providers also increased, reaching 40.7% of the total (figure 8).

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

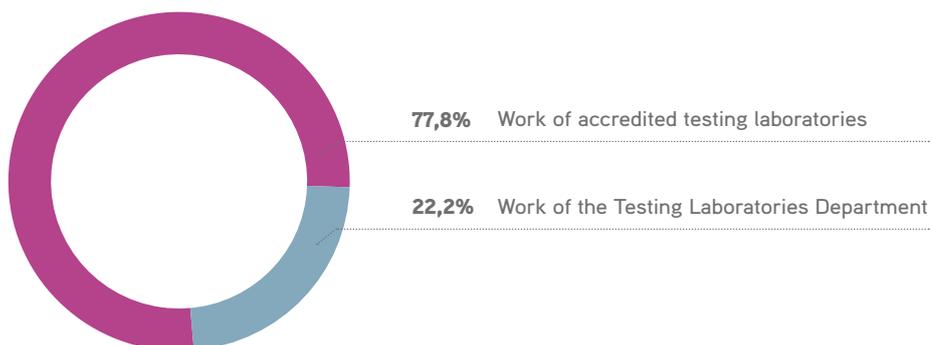
In 2022, the Testing Laboratories Department received a total of 19 remarks (6 fewer than in 2021) and 8 complaints (compared to 3 in 2021). In the majority of cases (77.8%), the complaints and remarks concerned the work of the accredited testing laboratories, while 22.2% of the complaints concerned the activities of the Department (figure 9).

¹ Net 1 foreign laboratory

Figure 8 - Distribution of testing laboratories, medical laboratories and proficiency testing providers per region 2022



Figure 9 - Subject of the remarks and complaints - 2022



Chapter 9

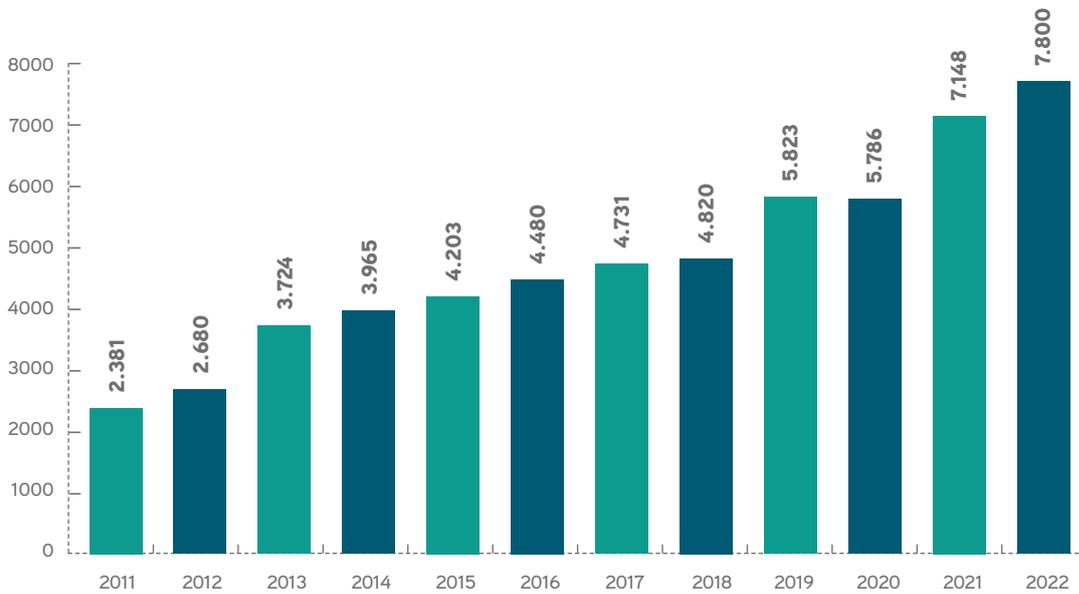
CERTIFICATION, INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION BODIES



ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED BY THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

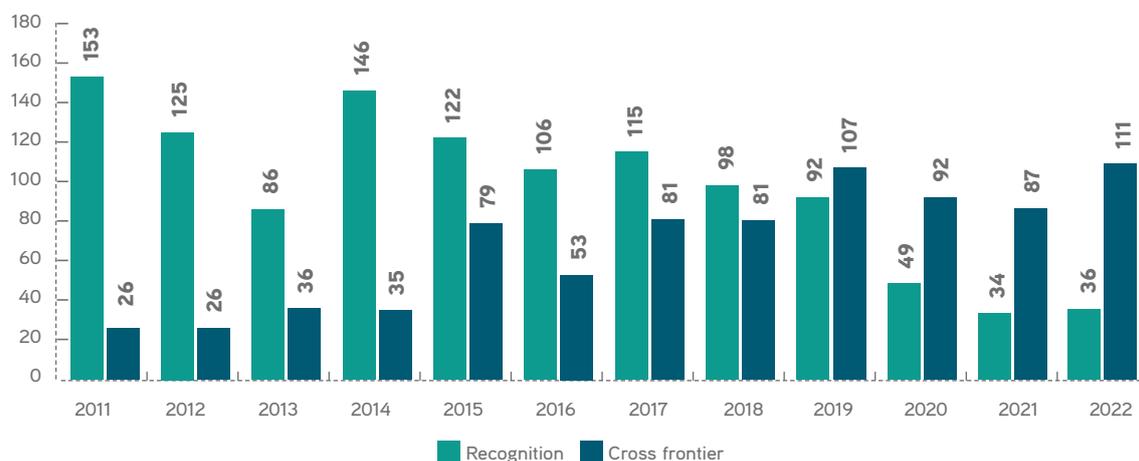
In 2022, the Department’s assessment activities increased significantly, reaching a total of 7,800 days (figure 10). There are several accreditation schemes that have recorded growth over the 12 months: inspections, driven by mandatory and regulated activities, and also the certification of persons, as well as the certification of some management systems, in particular for information security.

Figure 10 - Assessment activities for accreditation 2010-2022 - Days performed



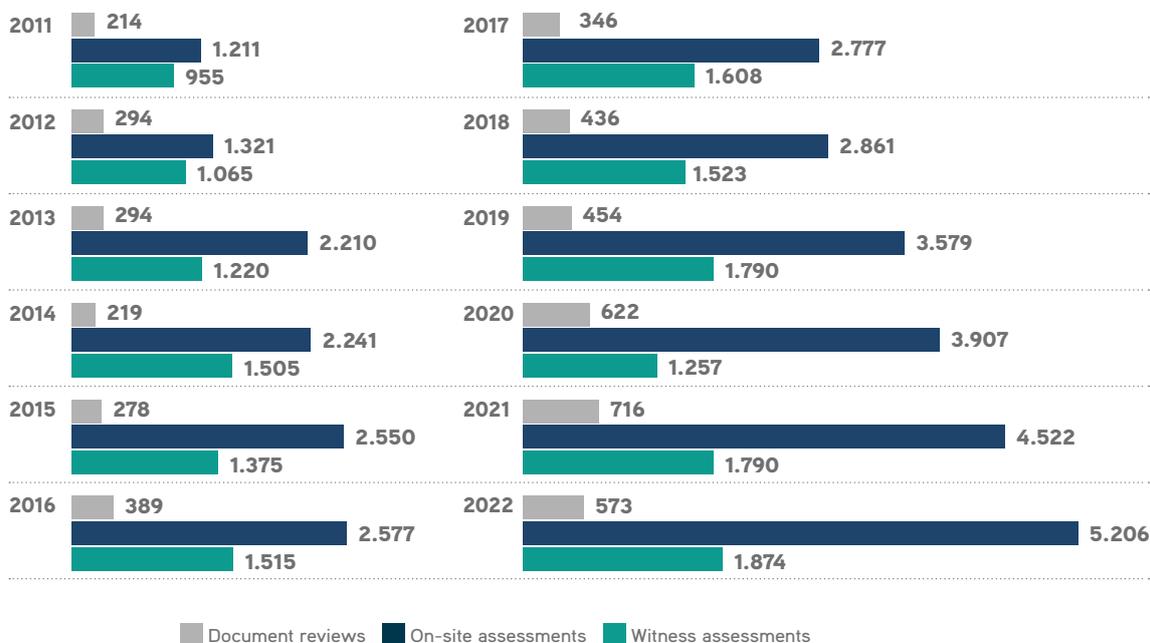
In 2022, the number of assessment days for accreditation for the purpose of recognition of bodies operating in compliance with the Technical Regulation RT-05, which covers UNI EN ISO 9001 certification in the construction sector, remained stable, while the assessment days in *Cross Frontier* activities also grew appreciably (figure 11).

Figure 11 - Assessments for recognition and Cross Frontier activities 2010-2022 - Days performed



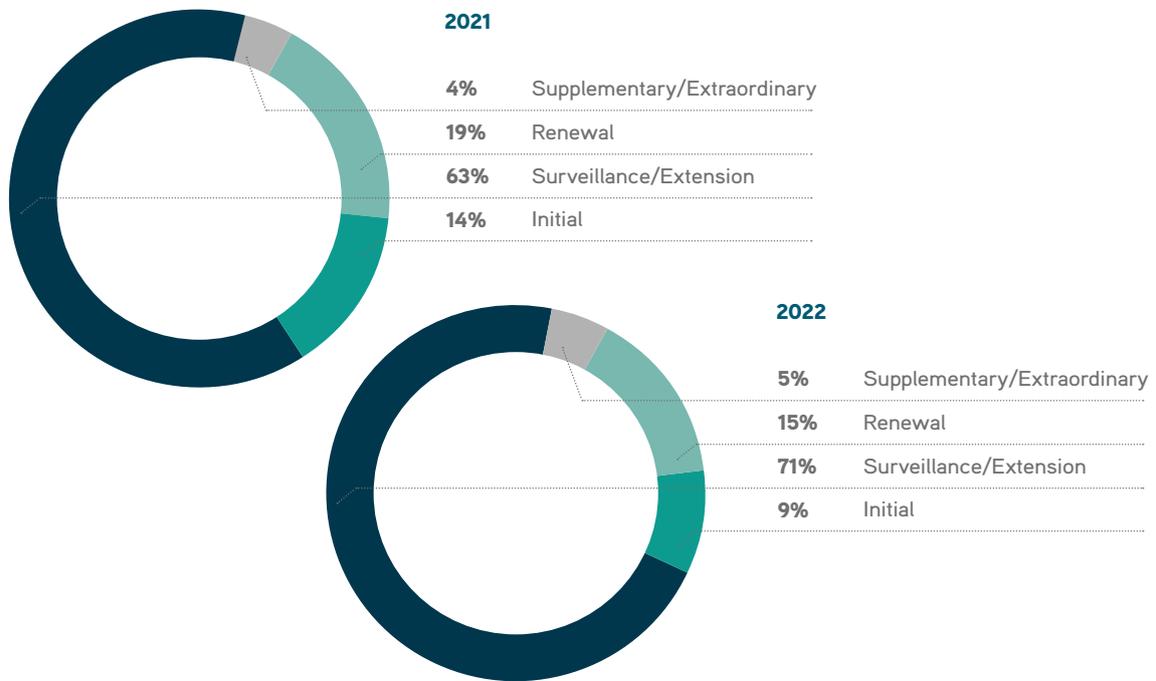
As in recent years, among the various types of assessment conducted by certification, inspection and verification bodies, it was above all the on-site inspection activities that increased, reaching 5,206 days. Witnessed assessments also increased slightly, reaching 1,874 days. Document reviews, on the other hand, slowed slightly, taking up 573 days (figure 12).

Figure 12 - Assessments for accreditation 2010-2022 - Typology of activity - Days performed



In 2022, the share of days for surveillance and extension activities increased significantly (71%), while those dedicated to initial accreditations (9%) and renewals (15%) decreased; supplementary and extraordinary assessments accounted for the remaining 5% (figure 13).

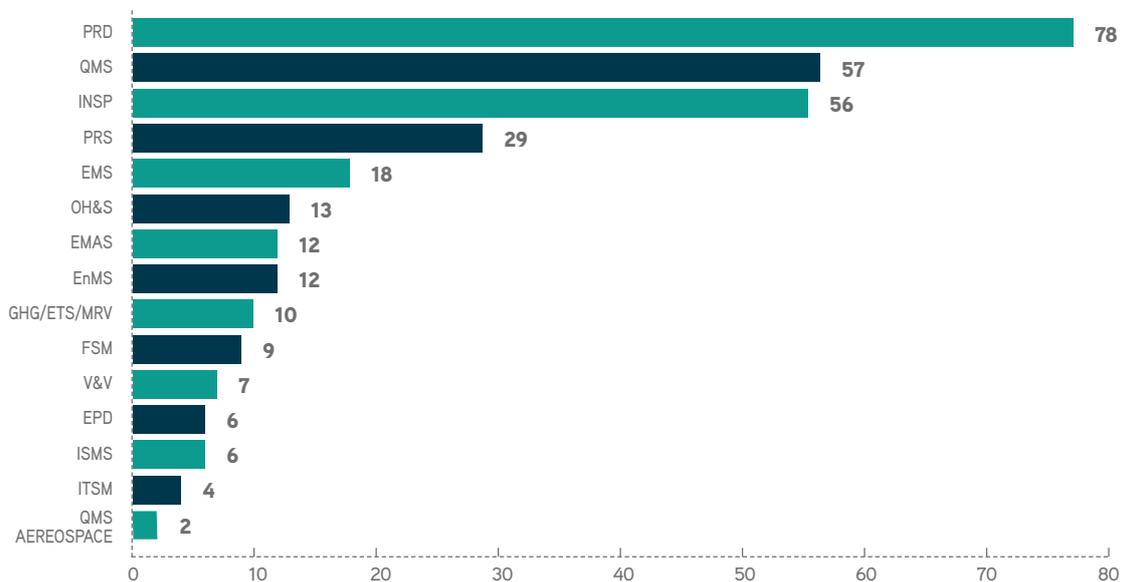
Figure 13 - Assessments for accreditation 2022-2021 - Typology of activity - Days performed



ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS OF THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION

The accreditation activities of the certification, inspection and verification bodies are entrusted to a pool of 128 professional assessors, assisted by 76 technical experts who ensure sectoral and specialist knowledge. The inspection, quality management system and product certification schemes involved the largest number of assessors in 2022 (figure 14).

Figure 14 - Assessors per scheme 2022



ACCREDITATIONS OF THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

666 bodies accredited by the Certification and Inspection Department manage over one thousand accreditations for the various schemes. The year 2022 confirmed the growing trend of accreditations issued to inspection bodies due to the regulated sectors, bringing them to first place, with 468 bodies. The number of accreditations for the certification of persons scheme also increased significantly, reaching 75.

Table 3 - Increase of accreditations per scheme 2010-2022

Scheme	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
INSP	468	407	294	191	133	119	109	97	79	64	62	57	52
PRD	217	212	208	214	212	212	203	195	171	149	84	66	63
QMS	105	104	102	98	96	95	95	92	92	91	90	89	85
PRS	75	66	57	57	52	49	40	37	29	28	23	15	15
EMS	43	44	43	43	39	40	40	39	40	40	37	42	37
OH&S	38	39	37	34	31	30	27	27	29	26	23	21	17
ISMS	21	20	18	16	14	13	12	11	10	10	10	10	9
EnMS	18	18	17	16	14	13	13	12	12	10	7	7	2
EMAS	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	-	-	-
FSM	14	14	14	15	14	13	12	10	10	11	11	12	12
GHG/ETS/MRV	10	9	11	10	10	11	12	12	15	1	-	-	-
EPD	10	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	4	4
ITSM	9	9	7	7	7	5	5	4	4	3	2	1	1
Total	1044	965	831	723	644	622	590	558	513	454	355	324	297

Legend – Accreditation scheme

INSP - Inspection

PRD - Certification of products/services

QMS - Certification of quality management systems

PRS - Certification of persons

EMS - Certification of environmental management systems

OH&S - Certification of occupational health and safety management systems

ISMS - Certification of information security management systems

EnMS - Certification of energy management systems

EMAS - Certification for environmental verification activities

FSM - Certification of food safety management systems

GHG/ETS/MRV - Verification and validation of emissions

EPD - Environmental product declaration

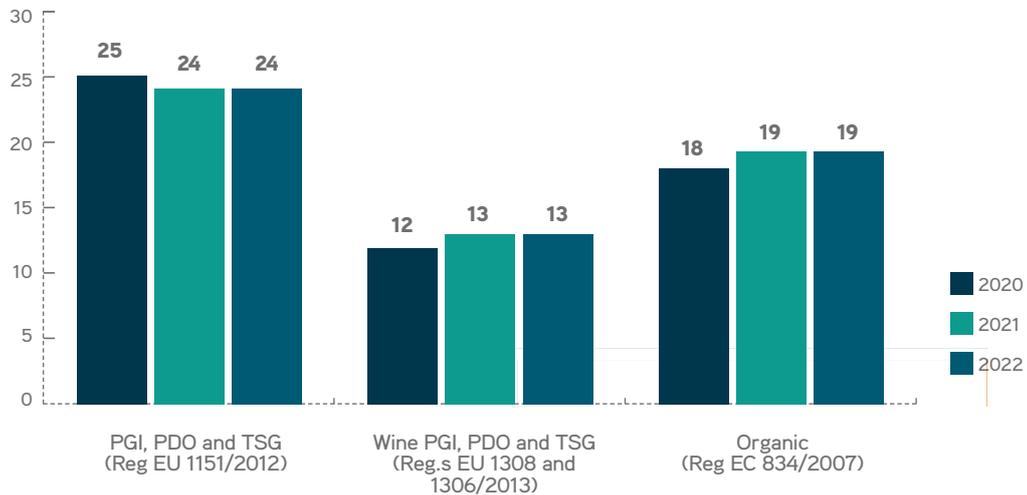
ITSM - Certification of IT services management systems

Food and Wine - Regulated accreditation for the certification of GI and organic products

Quality agri-food has always been an area receiving great attention: in accordance with European regulations, compliance with Geographical Indication (GI) and organic production specifications is also ensured by means of the accreditation of private control bodies.

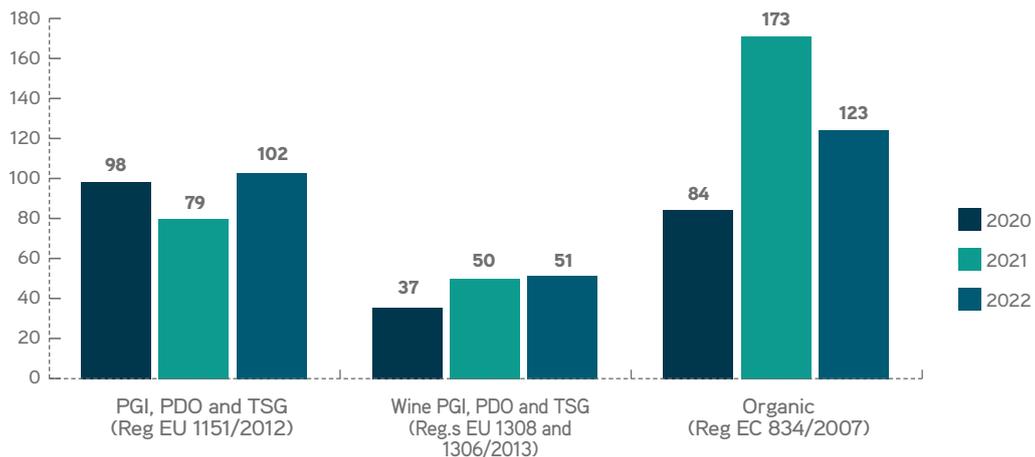
At the end of 2022 there were 29 certification bodies accredited for the certification of GI products, of which 24 for PGI, PDO and TSG agri-food products and 13 in the quality wine market. On the organic front, production has grown enormously and in 2022 control activities were carried out by 19 accredited bodies (figure 15).

Figure 15 - Accredited control bodies in the regulated GI and organic sector 2020-2022



Assessment activities for accreditation in the three-year period 2020-2022 have increased in all food sectors. From 2020 to 2022 the organic sector required a significant increase in activities: from 84 to 123 audit days. In 2022, there was also a rise in activities for PGI, PDO and TSG agri-food production, which went from 79 to 102 audit days (figure 16).

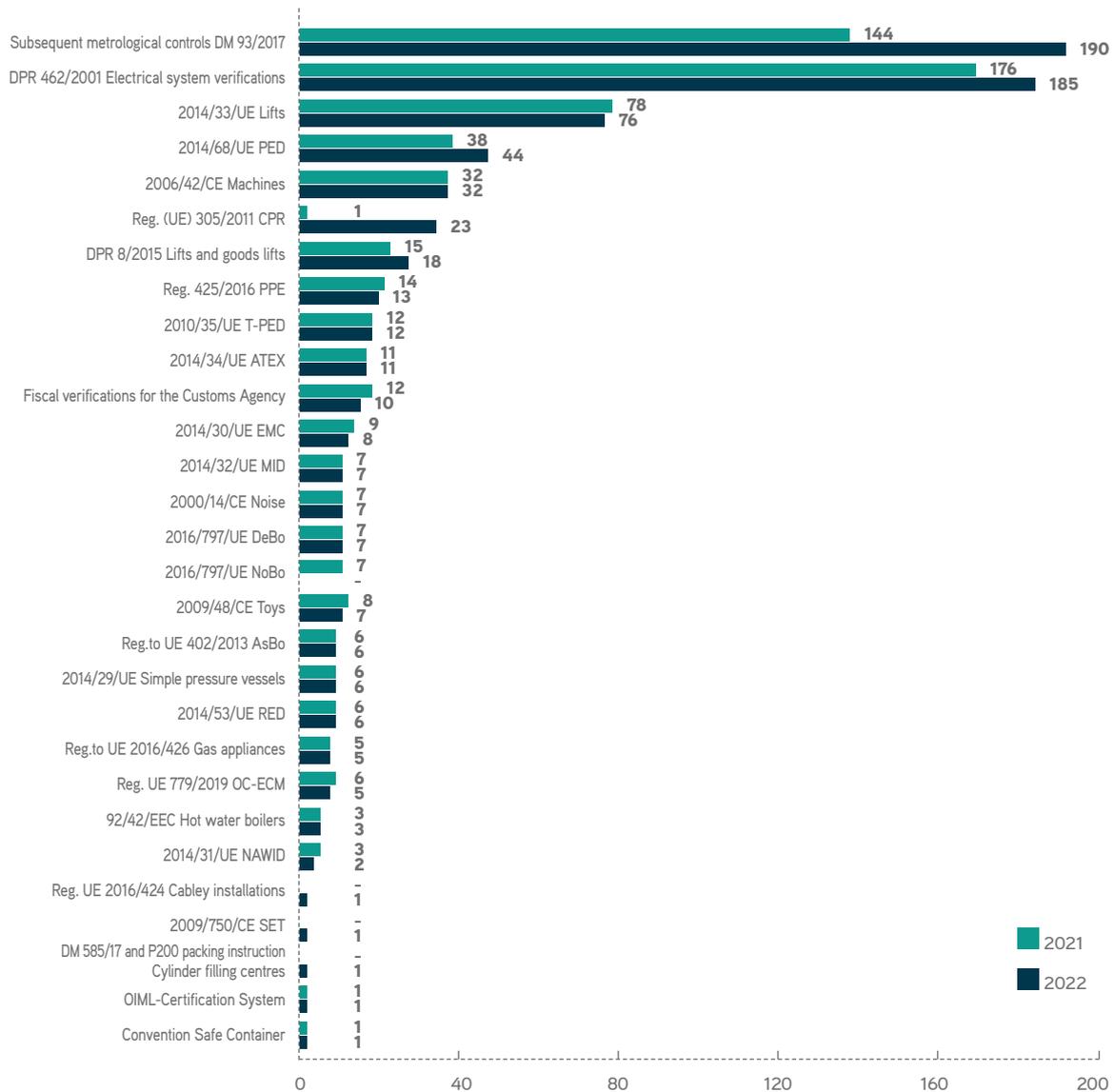
Figure 16 - Assessment activities for accreditation in the regulated GI and organic sector 2010-2022 - Days performed



Qualified, authorized and notified bodies

The volume of activities for the accreditation of organizations operating on the market by virtue of ministerial authorization or qualification or notification to the European Commission showed an increase last year. In particular, the bodies that carry out checks of electrical systems, in compliance with Presidential Decree 462/2001, and the periodic assessment of measuring instruments, according to Ministerial Decree 93/2017, currently total 185 and 190 accreditations respectively. After the first accreditation issued in 2021 according to EU Regulation 305/2011 on construction products, in 12 months the accreditations reached 23 (figure 17).

Figure 17 - Accreditations in the notified area and other regulated activities 2022-2021



Legend - Applicable provisions for notification

Subsequent metrological controls - Law DM 93/2017
Electrical system verifications - Law DPR 462/2001
Lifts - Directive 2014/33/UE
PED - Pressure equipment - Directive 2014/68/UE
Machines - Directive 2006/42/CE
CPR - Construction products - Regulation UE 305/2011
Lifts and goods lifts - DPR 8/2015
PPE - Personal protective equipment - Regulation EU 425/2016 and Directive 89/686/EEC
T-PED - Transportable pressure equipment - Directive 2010/35/UE
ATEX - Protective equipment & systems for use in potentially explosive atmospheres - Directive 2014/34/UE
Fiscal verifications for the Customs Agency
EMC - Electromagnetic compatibility - Directive 2014/30/UE
MID - Measuring instruments - Directive 2014/32/UE
Noise - Directive 2000/14/CE
DeBo - Railway subsystems - Directive 2016/797/UE
NoBo - Railway subsystems - Directive 2016/797/UE
Toys - Directive 2009/48/CE
AsBo - Railway subsystems Regulation EU 402/2013

Simple pressure vessels - Directive 2014/29/UE
RED - Radio and telecommunications equipment - Directive 2014/53/UE
Gas appliances - Regulation EU 426/2016 GAR
OC-ECM - Railway subsystems - Regulation UE 779/2019
Hot water boilers - Directive 92/42/CEE
NAWID - Non-automatic weighing instruments - Directive 2014/31/UE
Cableway installations - Regulation EU 424/2016 & Directive 2000/9 EC
SET - European pay toll system - Decision 2009/750/EC
"Certification of cylinder filling centres according to the Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport 585 of 21/12/2017 and the provisions of the P200 packing instruction of the ADR/RID/ADN and in the Type A inspection body scheme" - for the verification of the cylinder filling activities performed by the filling centres in accordance with the provisions of Ministerial Decree 585/17 and the P200 packing instruction of the ADR/RID/AND"
OIML-Certification System
"Convention Safe Container" - CSC according to the Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport prot. 0000585 dated 21/12/2017 and ACCREDIA Technical Circular DC n. 20/2020 prot. DC2020OC407 dated 12/16/2020

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS

In 2022, the number of management system certificates issued by accredited bodies to public and private organizations reached 157,330 units: an annual increase of 1.2%. Similar increases were also recorded among certified companies (identified by VAT/fiscal code number) and in the number of certificates, which rose by 1.1% and 0.9% respectively (figure 18).

Figure 18 - Trend of management system certifications 2013–2022 - Certified sites, Companies, Certificates² - Percentage variations



With the exception of Energy Management Systems (EnMS), all major certification schemes have recorded high uptake rates among organisations. The number of certified sites for Quality Management Systems (QMS) remains stable, with a slightly negative annual variation of -0.4%. However, it is the Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) that grew significantly (+32%) reaching 4,288 certified sites. The rising trend of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) schemes also continued, reaching 31,508 and 27,805 certified sites respectively (table 6). In 2022, the new management system for gender equality in accordance with UNI/PdR 125:2022 created the need for certification schemes in response to the growing attention, including legislative, given to this issue. In just a few months, over 800 company sites have been certified (table 4). Figure 19 shows how in recent years the trend of energy management systems certified according to the standard UNI CEI EN ISO 50001 has been conditioned by Legislative Decree 102/2014 on energy efficiency and, at the same time, how the transition to the new standard UNI ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety management systems has positively influenced the dynamics of certifications, becoming stable in recent years. In 2022, after the Quality, Environment and Safety schemes, the highest number of company sites are certified according to UNI ISO 27001, reflecting the importance of the issue of cyber-security among Italian companies and the awareness of the benefits brought by certification.

² The statistical reports of the management system certifications are made on the basis of the data of the certified organizations/companies communicated to ACCREDIA by the accredited bodies. The data is processed and aggregated according to three different categories:

- Certified site: the single certified company/production site that can correspond to an office, a department, a production unit of the certified organization/company. A certified company, therefore, can correspond to multiple certified sites.
- Certified company: the unit/company name of the organization or company in possession of a management system certification unequivocally identified by a VAT number/fiscal code.
- Certificate: the specific code developed at the procedural level, which, together with the date of first issue, unequivocally identifies the management system certification obtained by the certified company.

Table 4 - Trend of certified sites for management systems 2013-2022

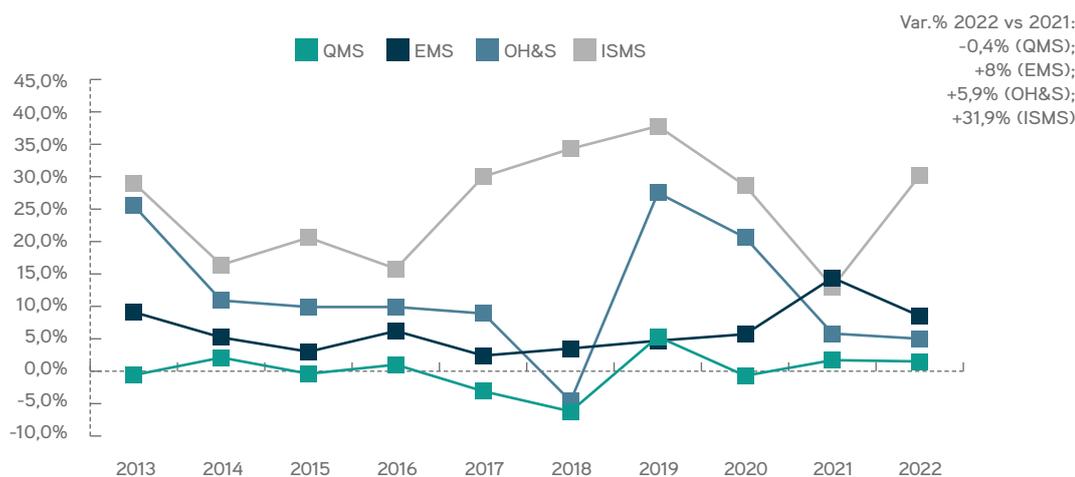
Norma	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
QMS	124.152	124.690	122.464	123.211	116.891	124.420	128.240	126.865	127.303	124.615
EMS	31.508	29.181	25.482	24.076	22.963	22.160	21.616	20.339	19.735	18.738
OH&S	27.805	26.252	24.799	20.548	16.103	16.860	15.461	14.052	12.779	11.516
ISMS	4.288	3.250	2.874	2.233	1.619	1.205	926	799	662	568
ABMS	3.471	3.614	2.856	2.364	673	230	-	-	-	-
EnMS	3.226	3.393	2.960	2.607	3.420	2.322	1.315	794	-	-
FSM	1.881	1.652	1.472	1.545	1.308	1.190	1.218	854	-	-
Equality	823	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITSM	322	283	261	233	191	108	81	73	57	17

Legenda - Schemi di certificazione di sistemi di gestione

QMS - Quality management systems (UNI EN ISO 9001)
EMS - Environmental management systems (UNI EN ISO 14001)
OH&S - Occupational health and safety management systems (UNI EN ISO 45001)
ISMS - Information security management systems (UNI ISO 27001)
ABMS - Anti-bribery management systems (UNI EN ISO 37001)

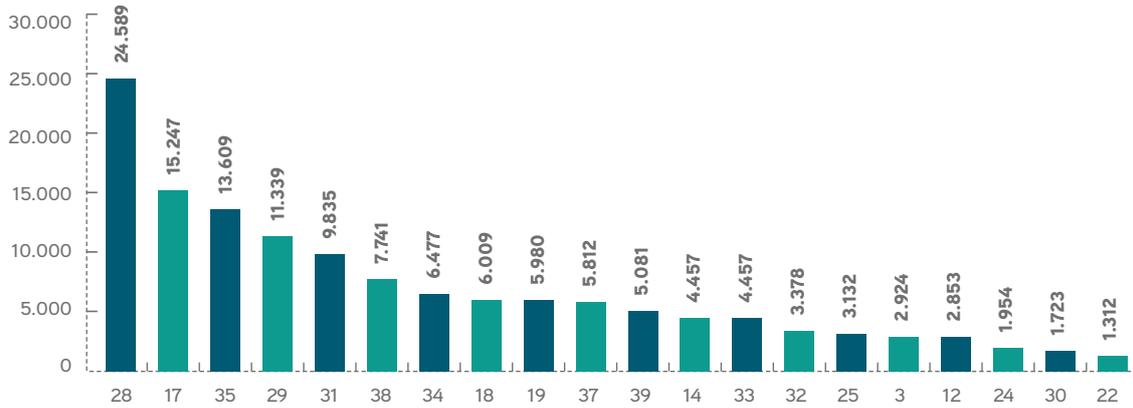
EnMS - Energy management systems (UNI CEI EN ISO 50001)
FSM - Food safety management systems (UNI EN ISO 22000)
Gender equality management systems (UNI/PdR 125)
ITSM - Management systems for IT services (ISO/IEC 20000-1)

Figure 19 - Trend of the main management system certifications 2013-2022 - Certified sites per standard - Percentage variations



At IAF sector level, the requirement for accredited certification according to UNI EN ISO 9001 for participation in public tenders has been concentrated on certified construction organizations (IAF 28), numbering just under 25,000. In 2022, certifications increased in many other sectors, including “metals and metal products” (IAF 17) and “other services” (IAF 35), respectively in second and third place for number of certified sites (figure 20).

Figure 20 - Breakdown of certifications per management system 2021 - Leading 20 IAF sectors



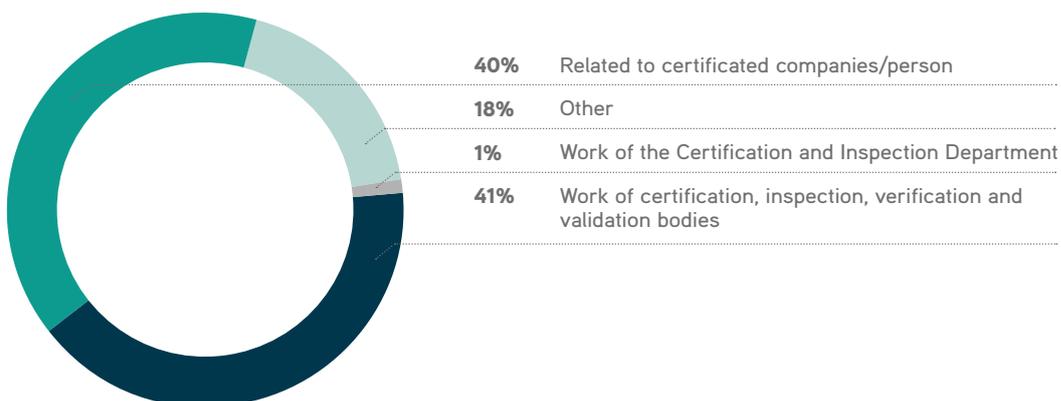
Legend - IAF certification sectors

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 01 Agriculture, fishing and forestry | 11 Nuclear fuel | 21 Aerospace industry | 30 Hotels and restaurants |
| 02 Mining and quarrying | 12 Chemicals, chemical products and fibers | 22 Other transport equipment | 31 Transport, logistics and communication |
| 03 Food products, beverages and tobacco | 13 Pharmaceutical products | 23 Manufacturing not elsewhere classified | 32 Financial intermediation; real estate renting |
| 04 Textiles and textile products | 14 Rubber and plastic products | 24 Recycling | 33 Information technology |
| 05 Leather and leather production | 15 Non-metallic mineral products | 25 Electricity supply | 34 Engineering services |
| 06 Wood and wood products | 16 Concrete, cement, lime, plaster etc. | 26 Gas supply | 35 Other services |
| 07 Pulp for paper, paper and paper products | 17 Basic metals and fabricated metal products | 27 Water supply | 36 Public administration |
| 08 Publishing companies | 18 Machinery and equipment | 28 Construction | 37 Education |
| 09 Printing companies | 19 Electrical and optical equipment | 29 Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods | 38 Health and social services |
| 10 Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products | 20 Shipbuilding | | 39 Other social services |

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

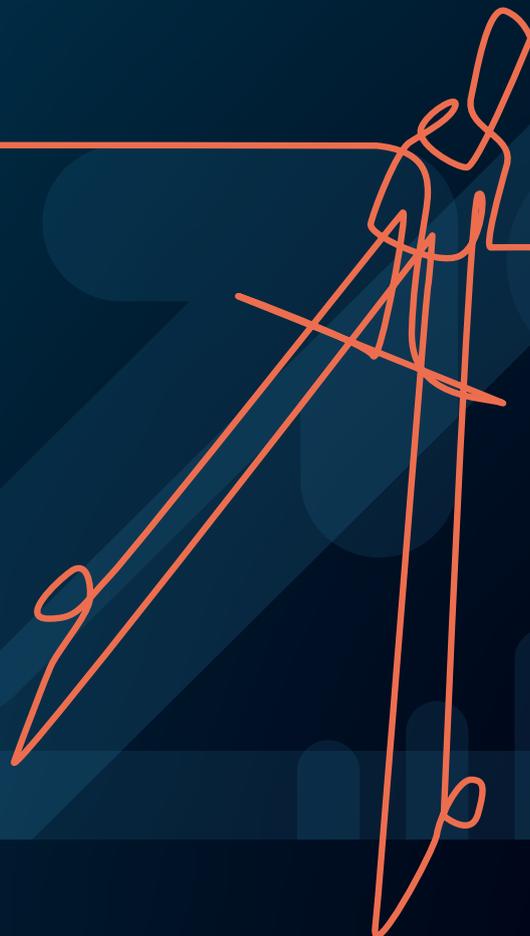
In 2022, the Certification and Inspection Department received a total of 34 complaints and 54 remarks, significantly fewer than 2021, when there were 53 complaints and 70 remarks. Mostly, the subject of the complaints and remarks concerned dissatisfaction with the work of the accredited bodies (41%), while an equal share of 40% was attributed to poor services of certified companies. Complaints relating to other parties stood at 18%, while only 1% of complaints concerned the work of the Department (figure 21).

Figure 21 - Subject of remarks and complaints 2022



Chapter 10

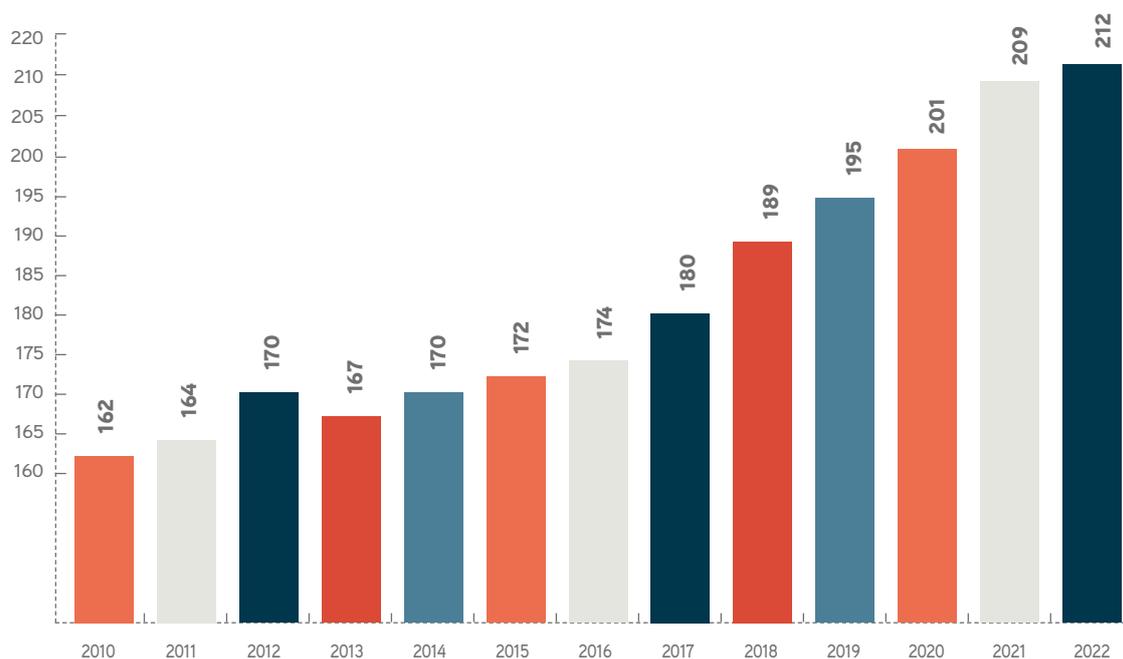
CALIBRATION LABORATORIES, REFERENCE MATERIALS PRODUCERS (RMP) AND BIOBANKS



ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED BY THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

Also in 2022 the Department's activities led to an increase in the number of accredited calibration laboratories, which reached 212 units (figure 22), as well as the accreditations of 6 producers of reference materials and of the first biobank, for a total of 215 entities managed.

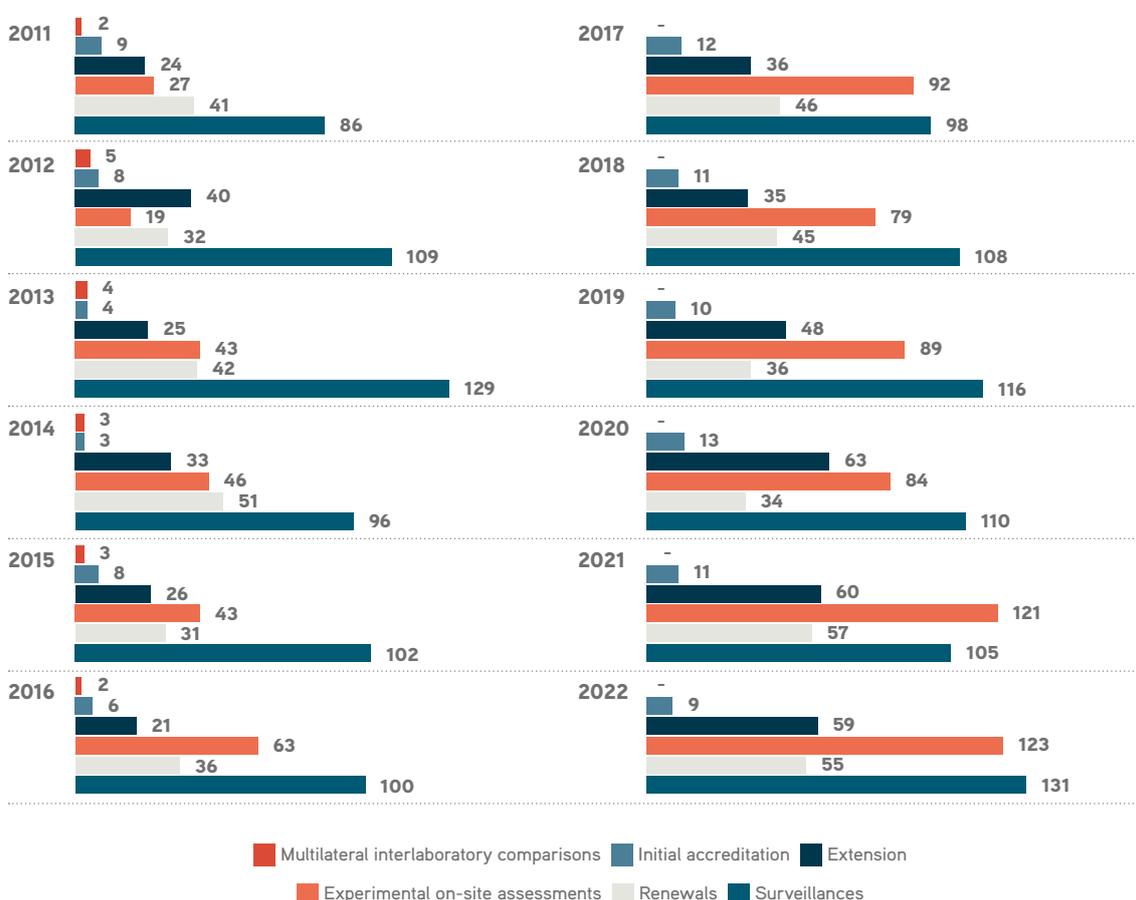
Figure 22 - Trend of the calibration laboratories 2010-2022



At the same time, the number of files managed increased, in particular those for experimental on-site assessments³ and for surveillances, which reached 123 and 131 respectively (figure 23). The number of files managed for the remaining activities, such as first accreditation, extensions and renewals, has fallen slightly.

³ The on-site experimental assessments also contain the comparison reports issued by the technical assessors following an on-site experimental assessment where there are no interlaboratory comparisons, as required by RT 36.

Figure 23 - Assessments for accreditation 2010-2022 - Number of files



The assessment activities of the Calibration Laboratories Department in 2022 reached 974 days. In particular, 319 days were dedicated to document reviews, 605 to on-site activities and 50 to experimental assessments (table 5).

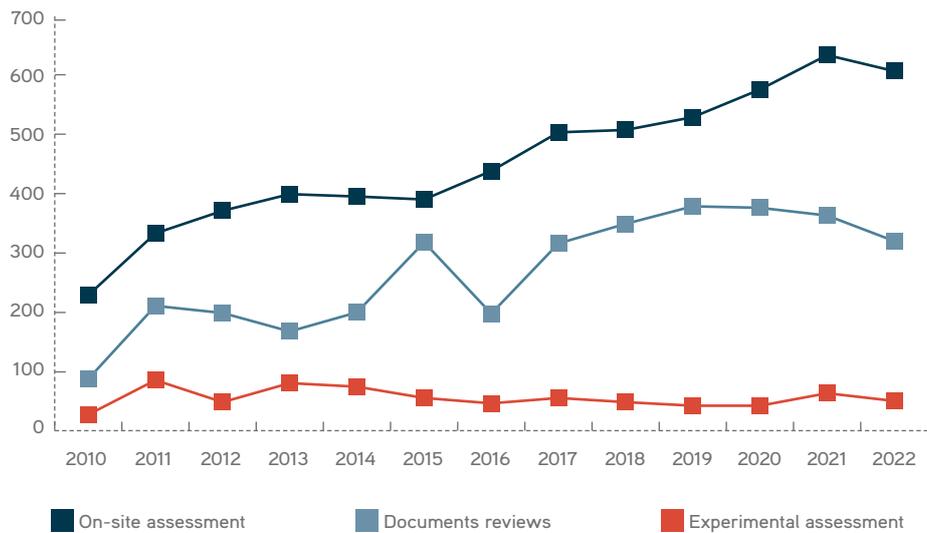
Table 5 - Assessments 2010-2022 - Typology of activity - Days performed

	2022	2021 ⁴	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Document reviews	319	362	375	378	348	315	197	317	199	167	198	210	87
On-site assessments	605	632	574	528	506	502	437	389	394	398	370	332	228
Experimental assessments	50	63	42	42	48	55	46	55	74	80	48	85	27
Total	974	1.057	991	947	902	872	680	761	667	645	616	627	342

⁴ The totals for 2021 include half days for document reviews and on-site assessments for which the numbers have been rounded up and are not included.

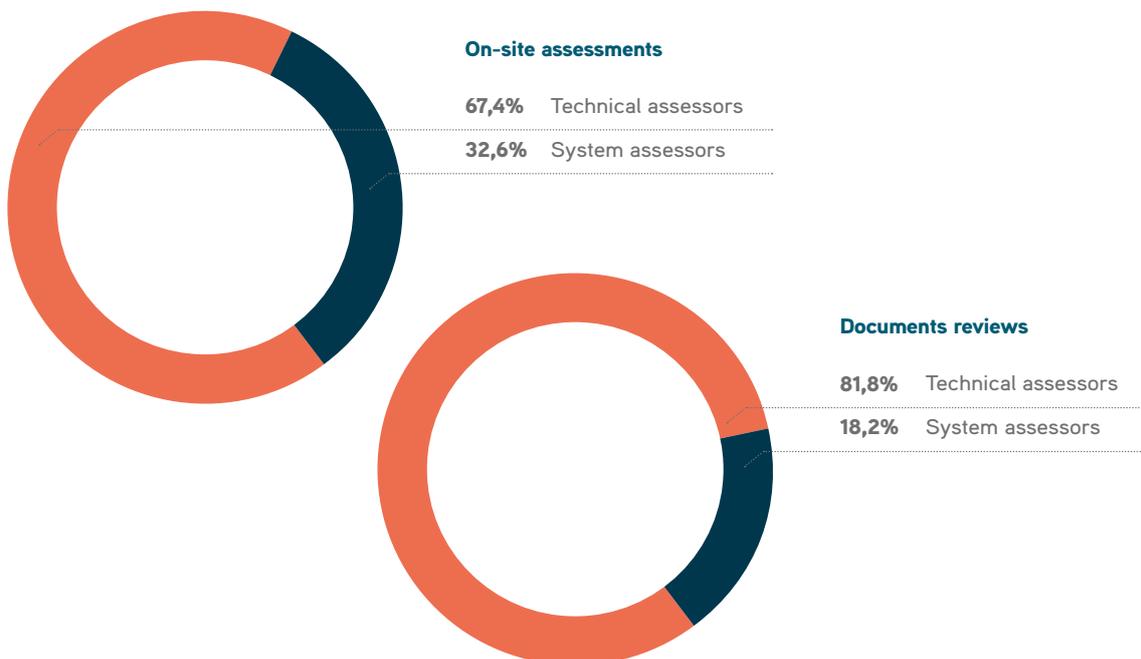
Looking at the trend according to the type of activity, there is an overall decrease in the number of days compared to 2021, in all types of activity (figure 24). If we broaden the time horizon to several years, however, we note an increasing trend in assessments, in particular in on-site assessments.

Figure 24 - Assessments 2010-2022 - Typology of activity - Days performed



Distinguishing the activities by inspection typology, between system and technical assessors, in 2022 relatively more system assessors were involved in on-site activities (figure 25), performing 32.6% of assessment days.

Figure 25 - Assessments for accreditation 2022 - Typology of activity - Days performed



ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS OF THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

The Calibration Laboratories Department coordinates 86 assessors and 22 technical experts who ensure an accreditation process in line with international reference standards for calibration laboratories and reference material producers, as well as having obtained, in 2021, the competences for the new accreditation activities of biobanks in compliance with UNI ISO 20387. The mandatory activities concerning Ministerial Decree 93/2017, which regulates the periodic verification of measuring instruments for legal purposes, have required the services of 17 specialized assessors (figure 26).

Figure 26 - Assessors for area of competence 2022

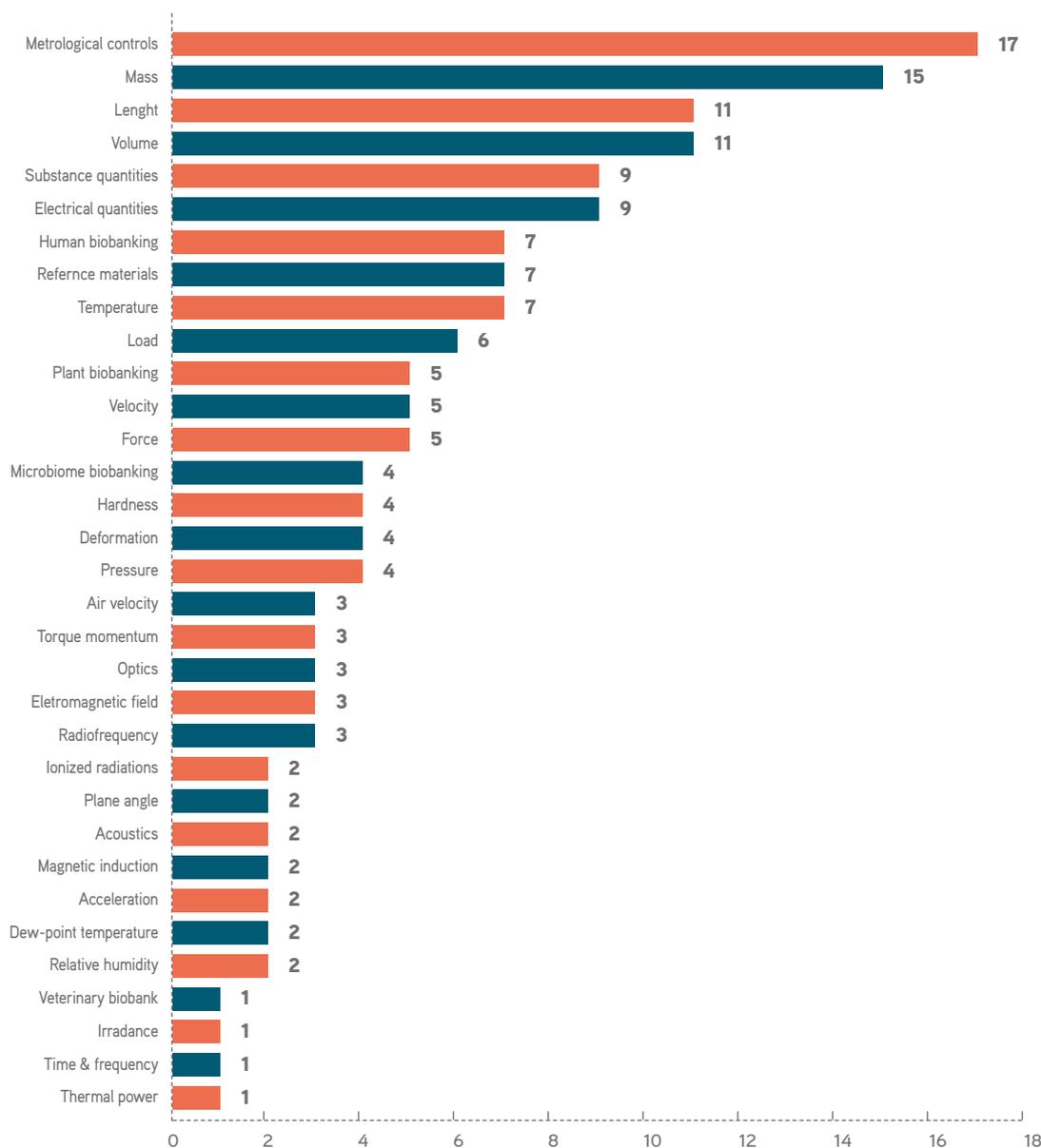
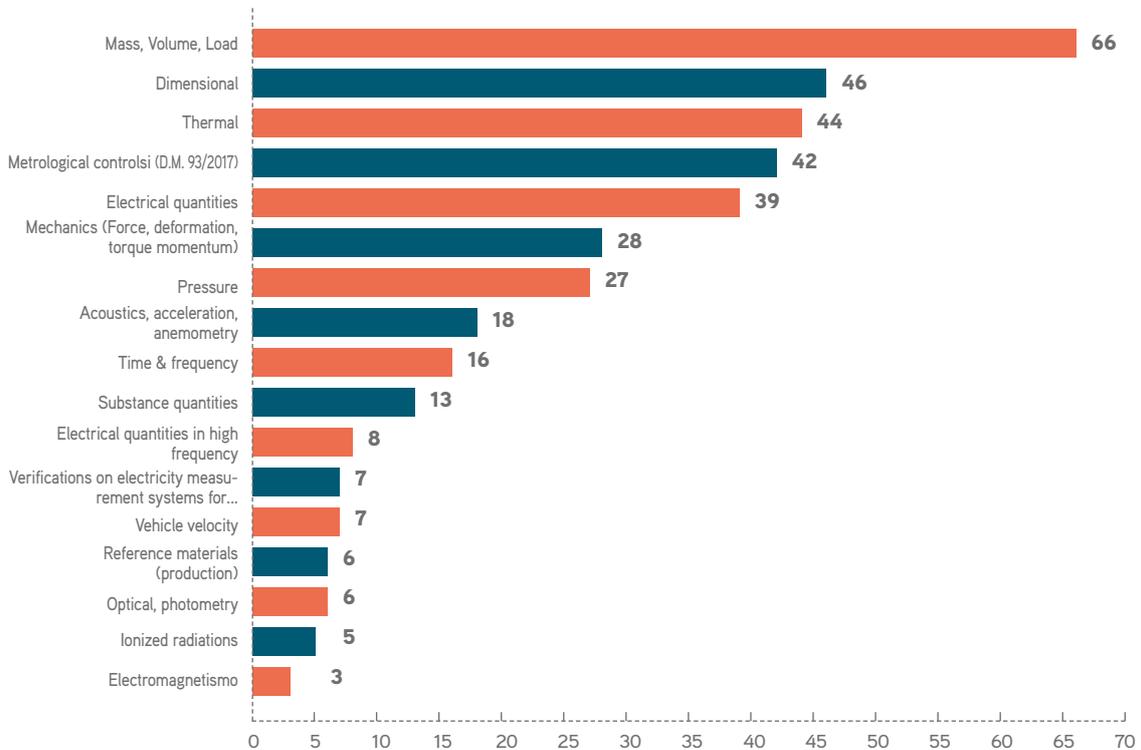


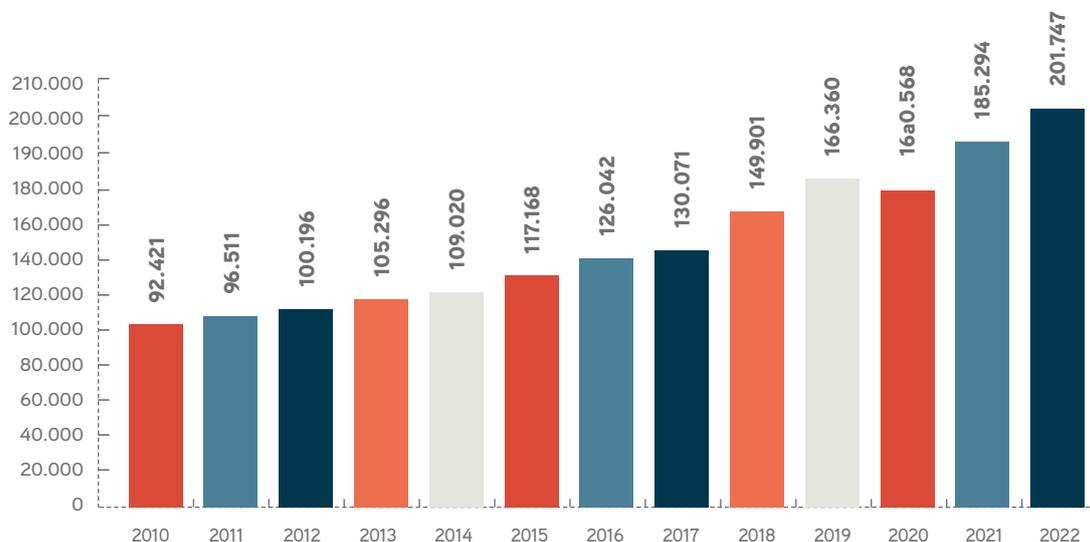
Figure 28 - Distribution of laboratories per groups of quantities 2022



CALIBRATION CERTIFICATES

The progress over time of calibration certificates issued by accredited laboratories demonstrates an ever-increasing market need for accurate and traceable measurements. In 2022, 201,747 calibration certificates were issued, with a 9% growth compared to the previous year and a doubling in 10 years (figure 29).

Figure 29 - Trend of calibration certificates 2010-2022



Nearly half of the calibration certificates were issued in Lombardy (48.4%), while Emilia Romagna, Pied-mont, Tuscany and Veneto account for 40.6% of the certificates on the market (figure 30). The close link between calibration and industry is evident in these few data, which show that over 90% of the activities are concentrated in the most industrialized regions.

Figure 30 - Distribution of calibration certificates per region 2022



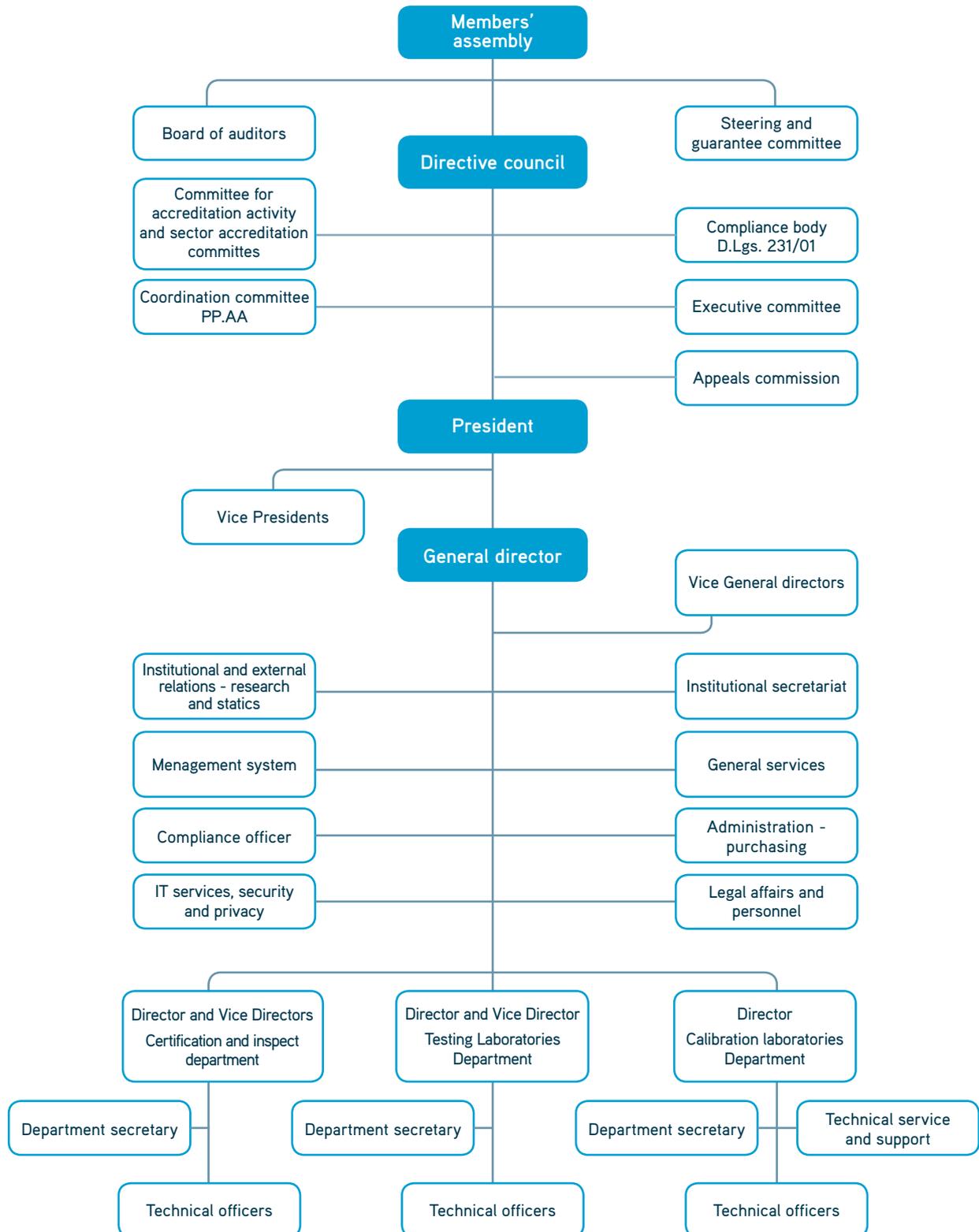
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

In 2022, the Calibration Laboratories Department received 3 complaints and 6 remarks, of which 4 were addressed to the Department (2 were upheld), whilst 3 remarks concerned the work of the accredited laboratories, of which 1 was considered unfounded.

Chapter 11

THE ORGANIZATION





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From Feb. 28, 2023

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Cei
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 Cdo
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 Cni
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Calibration Laboratories Department

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bodies and laboratories
accredited by
ACCREDIA and the
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