

# Report of the Accredia Directive Council for 2024

Data as of 31/12/2024



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In 2024, the economy was affected by various sources of uncertainty linked to ongoing geopolitical tensions, which in recent years have had a direct impact on energy price dynamics and on the competitiveness of businesses.

Over the course of 2024, inflationary pressures and the restrictive monetary policies of previous years were gradually eased, leading to a normalization in the pace of price increases. The Italian economy showed signs of stabilization, with nominal GDP (at market prices) growing by 2.9%. Nonetheless, the overall context continued to display elements of fragility, due to the slowdown in global growth, the erosion of multilateral cooperation, and persistent trade tensions among major economies — challenges that are particularly relevant for an export-oriented country like Italy. The Italian economic framework — which also encompassed the conformity assessment system — recorded real GDP growth of 0.7%. Domestic demand increased in volume terms by 0.5% in gross fixed investment and by 0.6% in final national consumption. As for trade with foreign markets, imports of goods and services fell by 0.7%, while exports grew by 0.4%.

In 2024, public investment was a key driver of economic growth, with a particular emphasis on ecological and digital transition initiatives, supported by resources from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). Accredited services made a significant contribution to the implementation of growth-oriented policies and ongoing transitions.

A notable example is gender equality certification, a key objective of the policies promoted by the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and funded through Next Generation EU. By the end of 2024, there were 55 bodies accredited by Accredia to certify management systems in accordance with UNI/PdR 125, and 27,179 certified sites — an increase of 18,791 over the course of the year. Among the NRRP's missions, RePowerEU allocated resources to the "Transition 5.0" initiative, aimed at supporting the digital and energy transformation of businesses — an area in which accreditation activities, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065, contribute to the implementation of investment support measures through tax credits. More broadly, Legislative Decree 36/2023 — amended in December 2024 — is one of the NRRP's enabling reforms and highlights the role of the Quality Infrastructure in promoting sustainable purchasing decisions by Public Administrations.

Thus, in 2024, accredited conformity assessment emerged as a strategic lever in supporting the Italian economy, enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the production system. The instruments of the Quality Infrastructure supported growth-oriented policies by offering effective solutions for simplification and efficiency to both the market and Public Institutions.



#### **CONFIRMATION OF EA MLA AGREEMENTS**

On 1 February 2024, the Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC) of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) confirmed Accredia's status as a signatory to the EA MLA Agreements, following the peer evaluation carried out in January 2023. This decision resulted in the international recognition of Accredia by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), under the IAF MLA, and by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), under the ILAC MRA. The next EA evaluation, originally scheduled for 2027 but brought forward to November 2026, will assess the Body's level of compliance at the conclusion of the four-year peer review cycle defined by the international conformity assessment system. Globally, the Agreements of the IAF MLA have been expanded to include the certification of food safety (including gluten-free products), packaging materials, and management systems in the aviation, space, and defence sectors. This extension ensures that conformity certificates for these products and services are internationally recognized, thereby promoting their unrestricted circulation in global markets.

#### THE NEW GOVERNANCE

On May 28, 2024, the Directive Council renewed the leadership of Accredia, confirming Prof. Massimo De Felice as President and appointing three new Vice Presidents: Vito Fernicola from INRiM (National Institute of Metrology), with responsibility for the activities of the Calibration Laboratories Department; Eros Mannino from the Ministry of the Internal Affairs, for relations with the Public Administration; Angelo Spanò from Confesercenti, responsible for relations with Business Associations. The new Governance will remain in office for the upcoming three-year term, guiding Accredia's growth both in terms of accreditations granted and in fostering trust in accredited certifications among Institutions, businesses, and consumers. In the months following the Assembly on 9 May, the renewal of Accredia's corporate bodies was completed, with the election of new Presidents and members within the Steering and Guarantee Committee, the Appeals Commission, the Committee for Accreditation Activities, and the Sector Accreditation Committees. During 2024, the admission of the Italian Association of Notified and Authorized Bodies (UN.I.O.N.) as an Ordinary Member of Accredia was also approved. This new partnership underscores the Institution's reputation and reaffirms the trust placed in the Quality Infrastructure by both Public Institutions and the market.

# **HONOURING 15 YEARS OF HISTORY**

In celebrating its 15 years of history, Accredia bid farewell to its first President, who in 2009 committed himself with determination to unify the Italian accreditation system. In 2024, Cavaliere Federico Grazioli, who served as President of the Board of Arbitrators, passed away. After assuming the presidency of Sincert in 2006, Grazioli, together with Professor Antonio Paoletti, then President of Sinal, led the project that, three years later, resulted in the establishment of Accredia.

With foresight, Grazioli ensured that, just months after Government recognition, the accreditation activities for testing and calibration laboratories — previously conducted by INRiM and ISS (National Institute of Health) — were integrated into Accredia through appropriate agreements and conventions.

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Under his leadership, the Body experienced significant growth, not only quantitatively but also in terms of reputation. Furthermore, strategic collaborations were established with various Ministries, which began entrusting Accredia with the responsibility of issuing accreditations in mandatory and regulated areas.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS ON THE BUDGET**

In 2024, Accredia faced the prospect of a potentially negative preliminary budget but promptly implemented cost-containment measures involving members of the corporate bodies, assessors, and staff. These measures proved immediately effective, with the preliminary final accounts already showing an improvement, culminating in a positive margin of approximately 2% on the revenue volume of the 2024 final budget. This result was achieved thanks to particularly stringent expenditure management, the increase in the number of assessment days carried out within the Testing Laboratories Department and Calibration Laboratories Department, as well as the rise in accreditation maintenance fees for bodies under the Certification and Inspection Department.

Despite cost containment efforts, the general increase in expenses has made it necessary to adjust the fees for laboratories accredited by the Testing Laboratories Department and Calibration Laboratories Department. In particular, the charges for assessment man-days and the annual maintenance fees have been revised. These updates have led to the definition of the new TA-00 "Accreditation Pricelist" which was approved by the Interministerial Supervisory Commission in December 2024 and will come into effect on January 1, 2025.

#### THE NEW BRAND IDENTITY

2024 was a year of renewal for Accredia, marked by the launch of its new brand identity and the redesign of its website, with a focus on modernity and accessibility. The new institutional image was designed to ensure visual consistency across all communication products and messages, and to reflect the organization's commitment to promoting a culture of quality and safety. With its new payoff "Competere per crescere" ("Competing for growing"), Accredia also aimed to highlight its role as a point of reference for Institutions, businesses, and citizens, thanks to its values of impartiality, reliability, and support for business competitiveness. With an innovative approach and future-oriented communication, the goal has been to expand the community of accreditation service users by promoting dialogue and collaboration within the Quality Infrastructure sector.

#### THE INSTITUTIONAL LOGO

The new institutional logo, introduced at the end of 2024, represents an important evolution of the organization's visual identity. It combines three key symbols: the letter A, an emblem of excellence; the triangle, a symbol of authority; and the circle, representing inclusivity and perfection. The accreditation mark was also redesigned to ensure immediate recognition, with the circular shape reinforcing the message of reliability and impartiality, while the stylization of the central stroke of the letter A evokes double verification, emphasizing Accredia's role as the "checker of the checkers".

#### THE MARK SYSTEM

The accreditation marks for accredited bodies and laboratories have been designed to enhance the market recognition of conformity and calibration certificates, verification declarations, and test and inspection reports. Furthermore, each mark has been uniquely linked to a specific conformity assessment scheme, allowing users to immediately identify the particular accredited activity — ranging from management systems to products and services, from testing to calibration.

Among the main innovations, in line with international guidelines and to ensure maximum flexibility of use, each accredited entity has been assigned a unique accreditation number linked to its registered company name. To this end, Accredia's Management System and IT area managed the reassignment and historical correlation of accreditation numbers, as well as the issuance of new certificates for all bodies and laboratories across the three Departments. Starting from October 1, 2025, at the end of the transitional period, only certificates, reports, declarations, and documents bearing the new Accredia marks will be allowed on the market, including those used by organizations certified by accredited bodies.

#### THE PROGRAMS OF THE STEERING AND GUARANTEE COMMITTEE

The Steering and Guarantee Committee (CIG), which serves as a synthesis of the parties represented and involved in Accredia, has over the years gained increasing recognition for its expertise. In 2024, it presented the implementation status of the 2021–2023 program and issued new strategic guidelines for the 2024–2027 period. After exploring topics such as conflict of interest, process efficiency, and Quality Infrastructure strategies, the CIG laid the groundwork for further reflection on the role of the Accreditation Body within the socio-economic system. Central to this activity is the establishment of thematic working groups, which serve as key instruments for addressing current and future issues of interest. Here too, a change in leadership took place: following three terms under the presidency of Eng. Roberto Cusolito — during which the Committee established and strengthened its role within the "Accredia system" — Dr. Barbara Gatto, a long-standing member of the CIG, was elected as the new President.

For the 2024–2027 period, the Committee aims to continue its commitment both in the traditional areas of accreditation and in addressing new challenges related to the growing role of accredited certification. Areas identified for in-depth analysis include proprietary schemes — following the publication of PG-13-01 on the initiation of accreditation for new conformity assessment schemes — and conflict of interest, with specific reference to the ISO/IEC 17029 standard. Further areas of focus will include the study of sustainability schemes, the enhancement of databases, and the application of Mystery Audits and unannounced assessments. New working groups have also been established, including those dedicated to digital transition — in line with EU regulations on cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence — and to innovation/simplification, in the context of the Transition 5.0 Plan and Legislative Decree 103/2024 on simplification.

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#### SYNERGIES WITH PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

In 2024, Accredia strengthened its role as a key point of reference within the conformity assessment system, consolidating its collaboration with Public Administrations and Institutions.

The renewal of numerous agreements reflects a virtuous synergy between the public and private sectors, resulting in greater efficiency and higher quality in policies related to safety, environmental protection, and economic competitiveness.

Among the most significant initiatives are two new agreements signed with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, which introduce accreditation as a prerequisite for conformity assessment bodies operating in the sector. The agreement with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport Networks – Directorate-General for Rail Transport and Infrastructure (DGTIF) defines the procedures for verifying railway safety and interoperability, in line with Legislative Decrees 50 and 57 of 2019. The agreement with the Directorate-General for Local Public Transport (DGTPL) governs the qualification of certification bodies operating in the regulated area of cableway installations, pursuant to EU Regulation 2016/424. Particularly significant is the renewal of the Agreement with the Italian Data Protection Authority (GPDP), which strengthens the commitment to safeguarding data security in accordance with EU Regulation 679/2016 (GDPR).

This agreement holds strategic value in light of the launch of accreditation activities for the "Europrivacy" scheme, the first to be validated by the European Data Protection Board. In the healthcare sector, the Autonomous Province of Trento has renewed its collaboration with Accredia, reinforcing the accreditation model for medical laboratories in accordance with the ISO 15189 standard. The goal is to ensure the quality of services within the local Laboratory Medicine Network, which now also includes the management of Point-of-Care Testing (POCT)—diagnostic tests carried out outside traditional laboratory settings, such as in hospital wards, outpatient clinics, and community health services.

Finally, the agreement with the Superior Council of Public Works, the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, and the Ministry of the Internal Affairs has confirmed the use of the conformity assessment system for the implementation of the new EU Regulation 2024/3110 on construction products (CPR).

# **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY**

In 2024, the 7th Customer Satisfaction survey was conducted among accredited subjects to assess the quality of service provided by Accredia and the efficiency of the accreditation body's processes. For the first time, the results included a profile and organizational analysis of the bodies and laboratories, revealing highly positive outcomes. Over 92% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied, with significant improvements observed in four areas: promotion of conformity assessments, Technical Office, accessibility of documents on the website, and the digital presence of the Accreditation Body. This result is particularly noteworthy given the 913 responses received (40% of the 2,302 accredited subjects as of 31 December 2023), more than double the number recorded in the 2022 edition. The insights and comments collected will be used to further enhance key functions and the accreditation process, thereby increasingly meeting the needs of the accredited bodies and laboratories.

#### **ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS**

In 2024, Accredia updated several Regulations to align them with international documents as well as national and European provisions. Among these is the General Regulation RG-09 rev. 12, which governs the use of the Accreditation Body's new mark and the marking system for accredited bodies and laboratories.

Several Technical Regulations were also updated, including RT-18 rev. 06, for bodies certifying quality management systems in the aerospace, security, and defence sectors; RT-27 rev. 02, for proficiency testing providers accredited according to ISO/IEC 17043:2024; RT-35 rev. 03, concerning the accreditation of medical laboratories according to ISO 15189:2024; and RT-31 rev. 04, related to the accreditation of bodies issuing certificates of conformity within the national certification system for the sustainability of biofuels and bioliquids, updated following the interministerial decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry dated 7 August 2024.

#### **STRATEGIC SECTORS**

In 2024, Accredia intensified its dialogue with European and national Institutions on three strategic themes: sustainability, simplification, and digitalization, with a particular focus on Artificial Intelligence.

On the sustainability front, Accredia has closely monitored initiatives by the European Commission, including EU Directives 2024/1760 (Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence - CSDD), 2024/825 (Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition, commonly known as the Greenwashing Directive), and EU Regulation 2024/1781 (Ecodesign). It has also followed discussions on Green Claims and the implementation in Italy of EU Directive 2022/2464 (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive - CSRD) through Legislative Decree 125/2024.

Accredia has been working, and continues to commit, to demonstrating how accredited conformity assessment can serve as a valid alternative to statutory auditing in the assurance of sustainability declarations, collaborating internationally with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). However, at present, the provision excludes certification bodies from the review of sustainability reports, pending possible changes in 2025.

Regarding simplification, Legislative Decree 103/2024 introduced a rating system that reduces public control for certified companies. Accredia has collaborated with the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy and with UNI (National Body of Standardization) to define future standards and reference practices, which are expected to lead to the practical implementation of this long-supported principle, particularly by SME representative organizations.

Regarding Artificial Intelligence, EU Regulation 2024/1689 (AI Act) emphasizes the role of notified bodies to the European Commission in assessing the safety of high-risk systems, while the ISO/IEC 42001 standard, adopted by UNI, establishes the procedures for certification under accreditation.

Pending the publication of European technical specifications, Accredia has initiated discussions with the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID), the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN), and other Institutions to adapt processes and methodologies, ensuring the effectiveness of the conformity assessment system in this sector.



#### **TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT**

The Department issues accreditations to testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) medical laboratories (ISO 15189) and Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043).

#### Medical laboratories and PTPs

Throughout 2024, the Department continued the transition of accreditations in accordance with two technical standards, concerning strategic categories of conformity assessment operators: medical laboratories and Proficiency Testing Providers (PTPs).

On one hand, ISO 15189 "Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence" was recognized as a harmonized standard in the Official Journal of the European Union. On the other hand, EN ISO/IEC 17043 "Conformity assessment – General requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers" served as the basis for the completion of revision 02 of Technical Regulation RT-27 "Requirements for the accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers".

#### **Cybersecurity Scheme**

With the entry into force of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/482, concerning the adoption of the European cybersecurity certification scheme based on Common Criteria (EUCC), the accreditation process has been launched for bodies and laboratories that will assess the security requirements and risk levels associated with the use of ICT products.

The Regulation establishes two distinct assurance levels for such products — *substantial and high* — and provides for the issuance of specific certificates by bodies accredited in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17065 standard. However, accredited certification is based on the results of tests conducted by Information Technology Security Evaluation Facilities (ITSEFs, or Laboratori di Valutazione della Sicurezza Informatica — LVS), which must be assessed in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17025:2018 standard. In line with this standard, the Cybersecurity Certification Body (Organismo di Certificazione della Sicurezza Informatica — OCSI), a division of the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN) responsible for certifying products that fall under the *high* assurance level, will also be accredited.

#### **IT Projects**

Given the high number of tests and accredited laboratories, the Department has taken the lead for other Departments in designing and implementing digital tools aimed at streamlining the accreditation process.

The commitment to improving the efficiency and quality of working tools has resulted in the extension of the "3A" and "DA online" software applications to medical laboratories and proficiency testing providers, as well as to the Certification and Inspection Department and Calibration Laboratories Department.

The "3A" system, in particular, enables the computerized management of the entire audit process, facilitating remote interaction between the accredited entity, the technical officers' structure, and the on-site assessors. This tool offers multiple advantages in terms of flexibility and efficiency, transparency of communications, risk reduction, process speed, and sustainable consumptions. The implementation of "DA online," on the other hand, allows for the management of accreditation applications for testing laboratories in the construction sector, in alignment with the new EU Regulation 2024/3110 on construction products (CPR).

#### Collaboration with the Ministries

Accredited testing, like other conformity assessments, validates the actions of businesses and Institutions, contributing to the safety of goods and services and safeguarding market efficiency. For this reason, in 2024, the Department engaged in extensive dialogue and collaboration with Public Administrations, beginning with Ministries involved in controls, such as the Ministry of Health, in the areas of food safety and water intended for human consumption, and the Ministry of Agriculture, regarding the national laboratory network in the plant health sector. Among specific initiatives, under the mandate of the Directorate-General for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicines (DGSAF) of the Ministry of Health, the Department launched the first census targeting both public and private diagnostic laboratories, accredited or otherwise, that perform isolation and identification tests of microorganisms and related antibiotic susceptibility testing in Italy. This strategic objective falls within the 2022-2025 National Plan to Combat Antibiotic Resistance (ABR) (PNCAR), approved by the State-Regions Conference, to address the emergency of antibiotic resistance in the coming years.

#### **CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT**

The Department assesses and issues accreditations to certification bodies for management systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1), persons (ISO/IEC 17024) and products/services (ISO/IEC 17065), inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020) and verification and validation bodies (ISO/IEC 17029).

#### The voluntary area

Most of the accreditations and extensions granted concerned well-established schemes. Growth was recorded in the environmental sector, both at the level of management systems (ISO 14001, EMAS), products/services (material recovery and recycling in accordance with UNI/PdR 88 and private schemes, the national certification system for the sustainability of biofuels and bioliquids pursuant to the Ministerial Decree of August 7, 2024), as well as in verification and validation activities. Many bodies have extended their accreditation to the certification of gender equality management systems in accordance with UNI/PdR 125, as well as to new areas related to social management, in compliance with the PAS 24000 standard, and to the sustainability of accommodation facilities according to UNI ISO 21401. Over 15 new schemes for certification of persons were launched for the attestation of professional competences based on UNI standards and reference practices, in order to meet both the growing demands of the market and the inclusion of certification requirements in National Collective Labour Agreements (e.g. for schools, domestic work, dubbing).

# The regulated area

The accreditation of designated and notified bodies progressed successfully, supported by Agreements and Conventions with Ministries for the performance of conformity assessment activities in regulated sectors governed by national and European provisions. In this context, interest has increased in accreditation for emerging sectors regulated by the new EU Regulation 2023/1230 on machinery safety and EU Regulation 2024/3110 on construction products (CPR), which have paved the way for new types of notified bodies.

For bodies performing the periodic verification of measuring instruments pursuant to Ministerial Decree 93/2017, the transition of accreditations was managed in accordance with the Directive issued by the Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy on July 26, 2023. This Directive introduced technical specifications on procedures for the verification of cold or heated clean water meters, thermal energy meters, and gas meters.

Among the activities supporting conformity assessment, the technical document DT-04-DC was developed: "Technical document for the simplified calibration of mass standards and weights of class M1 and lower, according to OIML R111-1." with the purpose providing general guidelines to product/service certification and inspection bodies, whether accredited or in the process of accreditation, for the periodic verification of non-automatic weighing instruments (NAWI).

#### Agri-food

In the agri-food sector, the new certification scheme for the National Quality System for Animal Welfare (SQNBA) was implemented, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests and the Ministry of Health. Established under Article 224-bis of Law 77/2020, the System defines a voluntary certification pathway managed under accreditation and based on the requirements set by the Scientific and Technical Committee for Animal Welfare (CTSBA), in which Accredia also participates.

In particular, Interministerial Decrees of August 2, 2022, and October 23, 2024, approved the requirements for certification bodies accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065, along with the provisions for operators in the primary sector and the supply chain, as well as the specifications concerning the welfare of bovine animal species. Additionally, the Department initiated the transition of accreditations for certification bodies operating in the field of Geographical Indications (IGs), pursuant to the new EU Regulation 2024/1143, which consolidated all provisions relating to geographical indications for wines, spirit drinks, and agricultural products, as well as for traditional specialities guaranteed and optional quality terms for agricultural products.

#### Infrastructures

In 2024, Accredia continued its collaboration with the National Agency for the Safety of Railways and Road and Motorway Infrastructures (ANSFISA), under a specific Agreement governing the accreditation of product certification bodies. This followed the publication of the new ANSFISA Guidelines for the Recognition of Third-Party Certification Bodies for Road and Motorway Infrastructure Safety Management

### Sustainability

In addition to managing the accreditation of new proprietary schemes – FidESG program, Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), expert in Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) in sustainable design –, the Department completed significant transitions in 2024.

In this context, the bodies responsible for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas emissions in both voluntary (Greenhouse Gas – GHG) and mandatory (European Union Emission Trading System – EU ETS) areas have been qualified as verification and validation bodies for environmental claims, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO 14065:2020 standards.

The verification and validation activities have also consolidated various types of voluntary accreditation to be managed consistently, such as Environmental Product Declaration (EPD International and EPD Italy), Made Green in Italy, and Product Carbon Footprint (CFP). A similar effort has been directed toward restructuring accreditation activities in maritime transport, which, under the Green Deal measures, have been incorporated into the EU ETS system.

#### Digital

In 2024, advancements in digitalization and Artificial Intelligence significantly impacted conformity assessment activities, including the accreditation of a product/service certification body under the private Europrivacy scheme — the first seal approved by the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) pursuant to EU Regulation 2016/679 on data protection (GDPR). Additionally, two pilot projects were launched for the accreditation of certifications according to ISO 42001 "Management Systems for Artificial Intelligence," a strategic standard in the market since it is to date the only certifiable instrument for compliance regarding AI. Following the introduction of the mandatory requirement for the International Digital Literacy Certification (CIAD) for Administrative, Technical, and Auxiliary (ATA) staff in the education sector, the Department quickly initiated the accreditation processes for the European DIGCOMP 2.2 framework. In the field of cybersecurity, regulatory work has progressed in collaboration with UNI and the National Interuniversity Consortium for Informatics (CINI) on the forthcoming UNI/PdR "Management System for Cybersecurity and Information Security, harmonized with the ISO/IEC 27001 standard and the NIST CSF 2.0 Framework — Requirements".

#### **CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT**

The Department issues accreditations to calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) to reference measurement laboratories in the field of laboratory medicine (ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15195), Reference Material Producers (ISO 17034) and to research and development biobanks (ISO 20387).

# **Biobanks and Reference Material Producers**

In 2024, the Department strengthened the accreditation scheme for biobanks, developed in collaboration with the ISS (National Institute of Health) and in synergy with the Ministry of Health. This was achieved through close dialogue with stakeholders in the research and development sector and targeted outreach activities aimed at facilities applying for accreditation.

These initiatives represent a key step in enhancing the scheme, pending the formal recognition of the ISO 20387 standard "Biobanking – General requirements for biobanking" as a harmonized standard, with its future publication in the Official Journal of the European Union and the signing of the corresponding EA MLA.

In the field of Reference Material Producers (RMP), the new Technical Regulation RT-39 rev. 00, titled "Requirements for participation in proficiency testing (PT) and/or interlaboratory comparisons (ILC)," has been developed, incorporating the requirements of international documents issued by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and unifies Accredia's policy on participation in Proficiency Testing (PT) and Interlaboratory Comparisons (ILC) for all subjects performing testing, medical analyses, and calibrations.

#### Metrological culture

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting a sound metrological culture in support of the Quality Infrastructure, the Department carried out a survey of measurements within the scope of accredited certifications, where metrological traceability plays a key role. Following the analysis, a dissemination initiative was launched, targeting the bodies accredited by the Certification and Inspection Department, with the aim of strengthening the strategic use of calibrations and certified reference materials. Among the topics explored were the management of instrumentation, criteria and guidelines for calibration intervals, the distinction between calibration and adjustment, as well as the interpretation of calibration certificates and accreditation tables. Within the area of the Quality Infrastructure, collaborative and consultative activities continued in standardization forums — both internationally, through participation in the ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 334 "Reference materials," and nationally, through contributions to the UNI Technical Committees UNI/CT 052 "Conformity assessment," UNI/CT 27 "Metrology," and CEI/TC 85 "Measuring, control and laboratory instrumentation".

#### Institutional collaborations

To promote the use of accredited calibrations, the Department maintained a constructive dialogue with Institutions and Public Administrations, participating in ministerial technical working groups. In particular, activities involved the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, through participation in the "Metrology" and "Exhaust Gas Analysers" working groups, and the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, through its thematic tables on "Technical Data Sheets," dedicated to the periodic verification procedures for measuring instruments pursuant to Ministerial Decree 93/2017, and on "Taximeters". The collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure focused on updating the regulations concerning the requirements for laboratories authorized to carry out assessments on equipment used in vehicle roadworthiness testing, a key step in view of the forthcoming issuance of a dedicated Ministerial Decree.

#### Training and research

The Department is committed to ensuring the reliability of calibrations as a tool to qualify the performance of businesses and Institutions and to guarantee the quality efficiency of markets. At the same time, experimental research and the continuous development of knowledge represent distinctive features of its work. In this perspective, the Department has participated in the EMPIR PROMETH2O initiative of the European Association of National Metrology Institutes (EURAMET) and in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) project of the National Research Council (CNR) – Institute of Endotypes in Oncology, Metabolism and Immunology "G. Salvatore" (IEOMI), which promotes scientific outreach and training activities aimed at raising public awareness of science and innovation, and at bringing new generations closer to research.



#### **COMMUNICATION MEDIA**

# Accredia.it: new look, same commitment to quality

At the end of 2024, the new website was launched following a complete redesign aimed at providing a faster and more intuitive user experience.

The streamlined information architecture and the fresh, contemporary graphic design enable users to enjoy smooth navigation and improved accessibility to the wealth of content and documents relevant to professionals involved.

Designed as a multi-utility platform, Accredia.it offers numerous sections tailored to the needs of accredited bodies and laboratories, as well as those interested in accreditation. With 2,500 visits and 10,000 page views within seven days of launch, the website's performance represents a commendable achievement for Accredia.

#### "AccrediaLetter" Newsletter

The figures achieved by Accredia's digital newsletter are noteworthy: in 2024, it recorded over 1,700 new subscribers throughout the year (+8% compared to 2023), surpassing a total of 20,700 subscribers, of whom nearly 13,000 are organic sign-ups.

"AccrediaLetter" has confirmed itself as the preferred channel for disseminating website content, communicating all updates for accredited bodies and laboratories, institutional news, events, and training courses.

# Podcast "Voce alla Qualità" ("Voice to Quality")

The podcast has continued to be a versatile and high-potential medium, relaunching monthly interviews with key figures of the Quality Infrastructure across major audio platforms, the website, and social media channels.

This innovative tool has helped amplify news about Accredia and accreditation, strengthening networking with stakeholders.

#### Media Relations

In 2024, Accredia strengthened its presence across print, web, radio, and television, consolidating brand awareness and expanding communication channels. This included direct engagement with journalists and participation in media events. Several articles were published, focusing on institutional matters and strategic topics such as Artificial Intelligence, sustainability, and workplace safety. The activities also extended to specialized media as well as TV and radio, with coverage on Sky TG24, Class CNBC, and Radio 24.

# Social Media

In 2024, Accredia strengthened its presence on social media, starting with its LinkedIn profile, which recorded significant growth, reaching 32,994 followers compared to 29,779 in 2023. On both X and Facebook, the number of followers stabilized at approximately 3,500 per platform, while the YouTube channel, with 1,600 subscribers, hosts 273 videos. At the end of the year, Accredia also launched its Instagram profile to enhance engagement with a younger audience, aiming to effectively convey the role of accredited certification in everyday life.

#### The Accredia "Osservatorio"

Within the framework of the Accredia "Osservatorio", the study "Technical Standards and Accredited Conformity Assessment for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Systems" was published, in collaboration with the National Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems (AIIS) of the Interuniversity Consortium for Informatics (CINI).

The study analyses the role of accredited conformity assessment in managing risk for Artificial Intelligence (AI), exploring the evolution of AI regulation and developing three Proofs of Concept (PoCs), which highlight the importance of technical standards and accredited certification in ensuring the ethics, privacy, and security of AI systems.

Among other initiatives, the survey "Unregulated Professions: The Professionals' Perspective" was conducted in collaboration with UNI and in partnership with Assotic and Conforma. Additionally, the study "The Effectiveness of Accredited Certifications for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems: Technical Standards, Regulations, Support, and Outcome Monitoring — from Current Status to Future Perspectives" was updated in cooperation with INAIL.

All studies were presented at public events organized directly by Accredia or in partnership, designed as opportunities for in-depth analysis and dialogue with institutions and the business community.

## Publications and editorial collaborations

On the occasion of World Accreditation Day, held on June 9, 2024, Accredia presented the second edition of its Sustainability Report. Based on data as of December 31, 2023, the document incorporated the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), applying the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines and specific indicators tailored to the different activities.

Three new measurement areas were introduced to monitor the impact of accreditation: enhancement of training through the Accredia Academy and Summer School, promotion of accreditation through innovative management mechanisms, and strengthening of international collaborations.

Together with UNI, the document "Application Guidelines for UNI/PdR 125" was drafted. It provides clarifications, operational guidance, and information on specific KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for the certification of gender equality management systems. In addition, regular contributions — such as in-depth articles, interviews, and thematic columns — were published in specialized journals within the Quality Infrastructure sector, including "Standard" by UNI, "Qualità" by AICQ, and "Tutto Misure".

# Awards and scholarships

In 2024, collaboration with Confindustria and APQI was renewed for the organization of the "Enterprises for Safety Award", now in its eighth edition. In addition, awards were granted for thesis projects discussed at the University of Pisa, focused on the themes of "Quality and Accreditation," in memory of Paolo Bianco, the first Director of the Testing Laboratories Department.

Promoted by Accredia and AICQ, the award recognizes outstanding academic work on the topics of conformity assessment and accreditation, strengthening the connection between research and industry.

#### Conferences and trade fairs

Numerous events marked Accredia's 2024 calendar, aimed at disseminating the results of the Quality Infrastructure and presenting studies and research developed in collaboration with Institutions and partners. These included meetings with the Ministry of Health, ISS, Unichim, and Eurachem-Italy on the quality of drinking water analysis, as well as a conference with ANSFISA on accredited certification in support of safety in road and motorway infrastructure.

Accredia renewed its participation in the Automation & Testing trade fair, organizing several thematic conferences: in Turin, on the digitalization of metrological services and calibration certificates, and on ethics in conformity assessment activities; and in Vicenza, on the role of testing and calibration in driving innovation and technological transition. In addition, in collaboration with UNI, Accredia set up an exhibition stand at the 1st Legal and Forensic Congress of the Lazio Region to promote accredited certification as a tool for supporting the professional development of lawyers and chartered accountants.

#### TRAINING INITIATIVES

#### Training and continuing education

During the year, Accredia promoted an extensive training program aimed at professionals, stakeholders, and students, with a total of 279 events advertised on the website. These were categorized into training events, co-organized meetings, and academic lectures.

In addition to directly organizing the annual update meetings for assessors and the accredited bodies and laboratories of the three Departments, Accredia has provided support and granted endorsements to conferences and courses held by external subjects, primarily initiatives by AICQ, ANGQ, and UNI, based on specific Memoranda of Understanding. Furthermore, University collaborations were strengthened through the delivery of lectures and management of training modules for first- and second-level courses and Master's programs at Universities such as Padua, Roma Tor Vergata, Siena, and the Polytechnic of Turin.

#### Accredia Academy: an increasingly structured identity

In 2024, Accredia Academy, having consolidated its functional structure, began delivering external training directly, developing a networking and collaboration strategy with Universities and Institutions. Notably, the second edition of the Summer School — initiated by the Calibration Laboratories Department in collaboration with INRiM — was organized, experiencing significant growth and becoming a key reference for metrology training.

This edition involved 100 participants in the technical-practical sessions and offered 64 hours of training (+28% compared to 2023), including online theoretical sessions, a safety module, and 22 hours of practical activities at the INRiM laboratories in Turin, covering measurements of temperature, humidity, pressure, and length.



Also in 2024, Accredia reaffirmed its leading role in the international accreditation landscape, strengthening its presence within key cooperation bodies. As an active member of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the Organization continued to contribute to the development of policies and strategies aimed at ensuring consistency and uniformity in conformity assessment practices.

Through collaboration with other accreditation bodies and stakeholders within decision-making committees, technical working groups, and training activities, it has been possible to adopt shared best practices and promote an increasingly modern and harmonized Quality Infrastructure.

In an international context marked by new challenges related to digitalization, sustainability, and security, Accredia has engaged in constructive dialogue with European and global Institutions, as evidenced by its role in initiating the merger between IAF and ILAC into a single association. Accredia's efforts have also extended to international cooperation through targeted projects aimed at improving Quality Infrastructures in partner countries of the European Union.

#### **NEW APPOINTMENTS IN EA AND IAF**

During the IAF General Assembly in October 2024, Emanuele Riva, General Vice Director of Accredia and Director of the Certification and Inspection Department, was reappointed President for a second three-year term, following nine years of leadership roles within the association.

In the same month, within the framework of the EA Multilateral Agreements Council (MAC), Sergio Guzzi, Technical Officer and Assessor of the Testing Laboratories Department, was appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for a two-year term starting in 2025; this role adds to his position as Chair of the EA Laboratory Committee.

Furthermore, Accredia participates in EA peer evaluations that ensure uniformity in the operations of European accreditation bodies and support the network of EA Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (EA MLA), with 11 officers and assessors qualified as EA peer assessors, one of whom is also certified as a regional team leader for IAF and ILAC assessments.

#### **TOWARDS A GLOBAL ACCREDITATION NETWORK**

The year 2024 was a pivotal one for the evolution of the international accreditation system. Under the leadership of Riva, IAF and ILAC initiated the process of merging into a single network, the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, which from 2026 will absorb the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA International Mutual Recognition Agreements, with the goal of becoming fully operational by 2029. On October 9, 2024, in particular, the leadership of IAF and ILAC officially commenced the registration of the new association in New Zealand.

Like all other accreditation bodies that are members of IAF and ILAC, Accredia will actively collaborate with national regulatory Authorities and stakeholders to ensure an effective transition and maintain continuity in references to accredited conformity assessments.

#### **COOPERATION PROJECTS**

At the European level, Accredia has participated in projects funded by the European Commission aimed at improving Quality Infrastructures in partner countries. In June 2024, the Twinning project for strengthening the Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM) concluded in Tbilisi, following over two years of involvement by Accredia. In its role as leader of the Italian-Spanish consortium, Accredia managed the project together with INRiM, UNI, and Spanish partners, contributing to GEOSTM's integration into the EURAMET, CEN, and CENELEC networks.

In addition to the Twinning projects, Accredia participated in the European Commission's TAIEX projects, pursuing multiple objectives: training on the ISO 20387 standard for biobank accreditation (Serbia, February); information exchange on the ISO/IEC 17024 standard for the Turkish Qualifications Framework (Turkey, March); training on the ISO/IEC 17065 standard for product/service certification (Algeria, March); study on the ISO 42001 standard for Artificial Intelligence management systems (Japan, April); Twinning mission for the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (Malawi, April); assessment of agri-food laboratories for organic product analysis (Serbia, May); information exchange on certification for gender equality (Uzbekistan, June); implementation of the ISO 15189 standard for medical laboratories (Albania, November).

#### **CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH**

Accredia has continued its collaboration with Mesopartner (Germany) and Analyticar (Argentina) for the update of the Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII), supported by the German PTB.

The objective of the project is to promote greater awareness of Quality Infrastructure and its impact across economic and industrial sectors by providing up-to-date data and in-depth analyses on the dissemination and evolution of standardization, accreditation, metrology, and conformity assessment systems worldwide

Through the update of the Global Quality Infrastructure Index Report, the initiative helps map the performance of various economies in quality management, offering a valuable reference tool for policymakers, businesses, and international Institutions committed to the development of reliable and harmonized standards.



# THE BALANCE SHEET 2022-2024

Balance sheet			
ASSETS	2024	2023	2022
Intangible assets	180	239	241
Tangible assets	8,826	9,211	9,555
Fixed assets	91	91	91
Short-term receivables	6,649	6,382	6,741
Long -term receivables	168	273	355
Short-term financial assets	657	657	1,652
Liquid assets	5,968	6,130	3,620
Other assets	162	145	153
TOTAL ASSETS	22,701	23,128	22,408
LIABILITIES	2024	2023	2022
Net worth	11,616	11,456	11,390
Severance indemnity reserve	3,217	3,002	2,755
Short-term payables	7,620	8,163	7,475
Long-term payables	158	429	711
Other liabilities	90	78	77
TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,701	23,128	22,408
Income statement	2024	2023	2022
Production value	27,814	26,928	25,009
Production costs	27,705	26,863	24,910
Difference between production value and production costs	109	65	99
Financial income and expenses	179	104	8
Pre-tax income	288	169	107
Income tax	138	114	84
Surplus for the year	150	55	23



2,616

21,208

Accreditations issued to bodies and laboratories

Assessment
days performed
by the three Departments

#### **ASSESSMENTS BY THE THREE DEPARTMENTS**

In 2024, the assessment days performed by the three Departments totalled 21,208, approximately 800 more than the previous year. Remote assessments accounted for a significant portion of the activities, reaching 6,671 days, following the consolidation of new procedures developed during the Covid-19 emergency (see table 1).

In response to the increase in assessment activities, the number of accreditations managed by the Testing Laboratories and Calibration Laboratories Departments grew, while those managed by the Certification and Inspection Department decreased. In this case, the transition of verification activities for GHG emissions and ETS — as well as EPD International and EPD Italy, Made Green in Italy, and CFP — to the single scheme compliant with ISO/IEC 17029 led to the elimination of several accreditations that were duplicated for the same legal entity.

Overall, Accredia managed a total of 2,616 accreditations held by 2,357 accredited bodies and laboratories, compared to 2,304 in 2023. The increase in accredited subjects involved all three Departments: 30 more in the Testing Laboratories Department, 39 in the Certification and Inspection Department, and 8 more in the Calibration Laboratories Department.

Table 1 -	Accecement	activites	2022-2024 -	Dave perform	ed/Accreditations
Table I -	ASSESSILIELL	activites	/U//-/U/4 -	Davs benonn	eu/ Accreunanons

	2024		2023		2022	
Department	Days	Accredi- tations	Days	Accredi- tations	Days	Accredi- tations
Testing Laboratories	11,569	1,427	11,151	1,397	10,928	1,382
Certification and Inspection	8,626	960	8,494	1,138	7,800	1,045
Calibration Laboratories	1,013	229	896	221	974	219
Total	21,208	2,616	20,541	2,756	19,702	2,646

The majority of accreditations were managed by the Testing Laboratories Department, accounting for 55% of the total (see figure 1). This share corresponded to 54% of the assessment days performed by Accredia during the year.

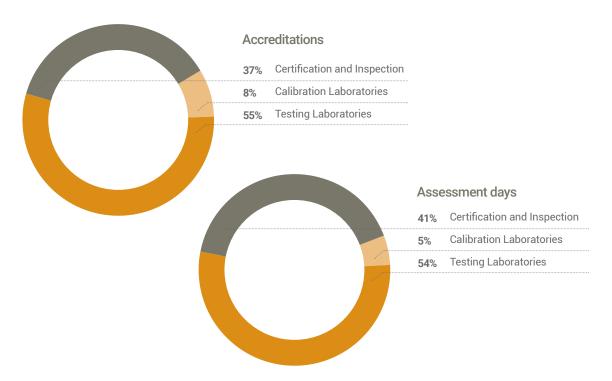


Figure 1 - Assessment days performed per Department 2024 - Percentage values

# ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS OF THE THREE DEPARTMENTS

The constant search for new skills and the need for a qualified assessment team led to an increase in the number of assessors and technical experts employed in the assessment teams in 2024, particularly in the Certification and Inspection Department, which saw about ten additional professionals.

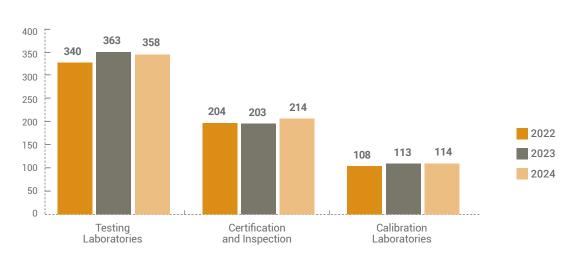


Figure 2 - The assessors 2022-2024

Overall, by the end of the year, the Testing Laboratories Department employed 358 assessors and experts, the Certification and Inspection Department 214, and the Calibration Laboratories Department 114 (see figure 2).

Considering that assessors may carry out assessment activities for multiple Departments, Accredia relied on a team of 498 assessors, supported by 124 technical experts in highly specialized areas. It is the number of technical experts that has grown significantly compared to 2023, reflecting a progressive and intensive expansion of the specialized skills required for accreditation activities.

#### **ACCREDITATIONS OF THE THREE DEPARTMENTS**

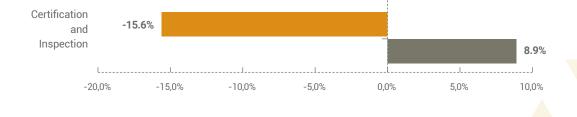
Laboratories

In the comparison between 2023 and 2024, the dynamics of the Testing Laboratories and Calibration Laboratories Departments were positive, while the number of accreditations managed by the Certification and Inspection Department decreased (see figure 3). The latter was affected by the unification of environmental schemes under the ISO/IEC 17029 standard, as well as by trends in the regulated area of periodic verification of measuring instruments according to DM 93/2017 and assessments of electrical systems under DPR 462/2001.

In the three-year period 2020–2022, these activities had grown significantly, then returned to a natural growth rate of about 2.0%.



**Figure 3** - Assessment activities 2023-2024 – Accreditations per Department – Percentage variations



The total of 2,616 accreditations managed by Accredia in 2024 is distributed across a wide range of conformity assessment schemes, well representing the extent of the Accreditation Body's expertise.

2024 2023

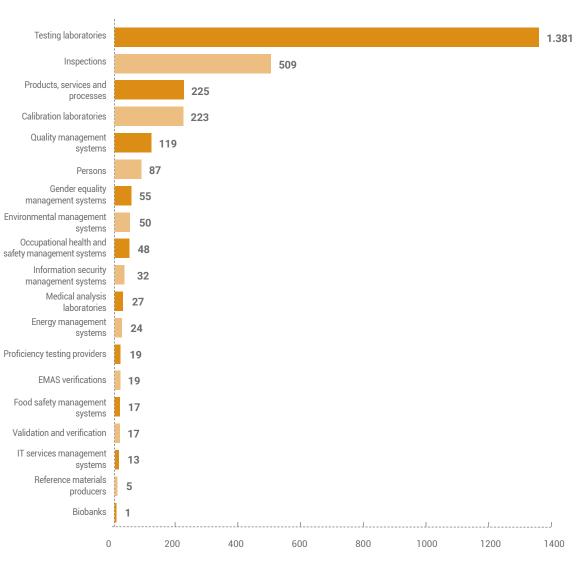


Figure 4 - Accreditations per scheme 2024

At year-end, testing laboratories held the majority of accreditations (1,381), showing further growth compared to 2023. Within the Certification and Inspection Department, inspection bodies ranked second with 509 accreditations, followed by product and service certification bodies (see figure 4).

In 2024, the accreditation schemes that experienced the highest growth involved verification and validation bodies — including the incorporation of assessment activities for all types of claims — as well as certification schemes for EMAS, information security management systems, energy management systems, and IT service management systems (figure 5). These activities respond to current business needs and can be effectively supported by accredited conformity assessment services.

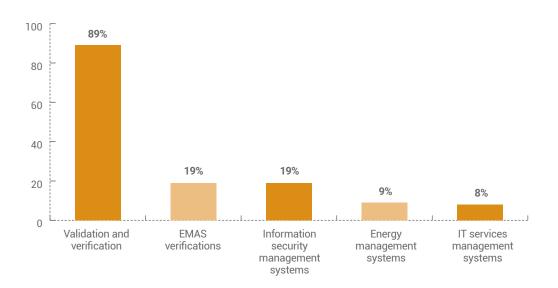


Figure 5 - Growth of accreditation schemes in 2024

# **COMPLAINTS IN THE THREE DEPARTMENTS**

A fundamental part of the Accredia's work, contributing to a solid reputation among accredited entities and stakeholders, concerns the management of complaints and related corrective actions, integrated into a continuous improvement process. The management of complaints and comments by all Departments is indeed a central element for ensuring compliance with Accredia's operating standards, starting with ISO/IEC 17011. In 2024, a total of 95 complaints and 157 comments were received, prompting a thorough examination of responsibilities, identification of root causes, and implementation of corrective actions. Of these, 69 complaints were found to be substantiated. Specifically, the Testing Laboratories Department received 14 complaints and 20 comments, the Certification and Inspection Department handled 77 complaints and 122 comments, and the Calibration Laboratories Department recorded 4 complaints and 15 comments (see table 2).

Table 2 - Complaints and comments received - Years 2023-2024							
	Testing Laboratories		Certification and Inspection		Calibration Laboratories		
	Complaints	Comments	Complaints	Comments	Complaints	Comments	
2023	9	23	67	89	2	10	
2024	14	20	77	122	4	15	
2024 vs 2023	5	-3	10	33	2	5	



1,427

11,569

358

Accreditations

issued to laboratories and PTPs

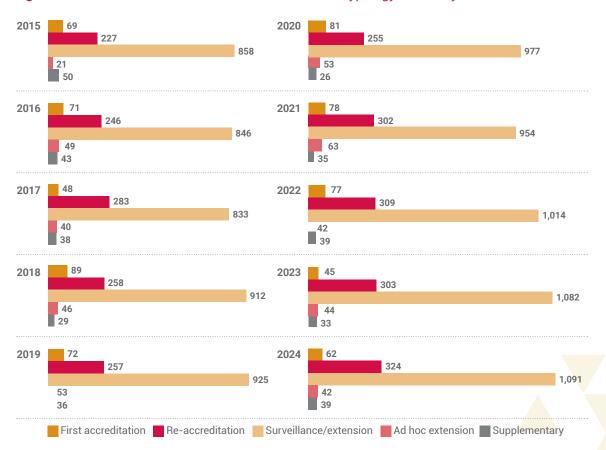
**Assessment** days performed by the Department

Assessors and technical experts

### ASSESSMENTS OF THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

In 2024, the Testing Laboratories Department managed 62 first accreditation applications, marking an increase of 17 compared to the previous year (see figure 6). More than in the other Departments, the majority of activities involved surveillance and extension procedures to manage the large portfolio of existing accreditations: there were 324 re-accreditation and 1,091 surveillance/extension procedures. Additionally, 42 ad hoc extension and 39 supplementary visits were recorded.

Figure 6 - Assessments for accreditation 2015-2024 - Typology of activity - Number of files



The distribution of accredited sites by testing sector confirms the clear predominance of chemistry and biology/microbiology, with 1,202 and 946 accredited facilities respectively (figure 7). Compared to 2023, nearly all testing areas recorded an increase in the number of accredited sites, also indicating a growing specialization of activities.

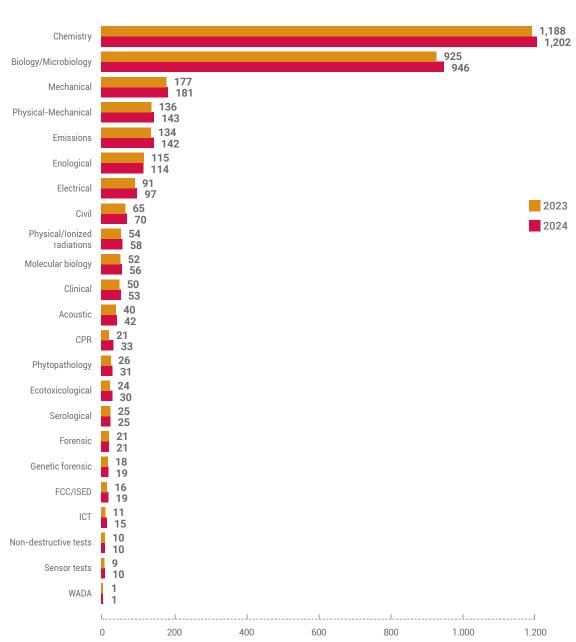


Figure 7 - Distribution of accredited sites per sector 2023-2024

# **ACCREDITATIONS OF THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT**

At the end of 2024, the accreditations granted by the Testing Laboratories Department were concentrated in the northern regions, mainly in Lombardy (17.5%), Veneto (11.2%), and Emilia-Romagna (9.3%).

A significant percentage of accreditations was located in the central regions, Tuscany (8.3%) and Lazio (7.1%), while in the south, Campania, Sicily, and Puglia together accounted for 18.7% of the national accreditations (see figure 8).

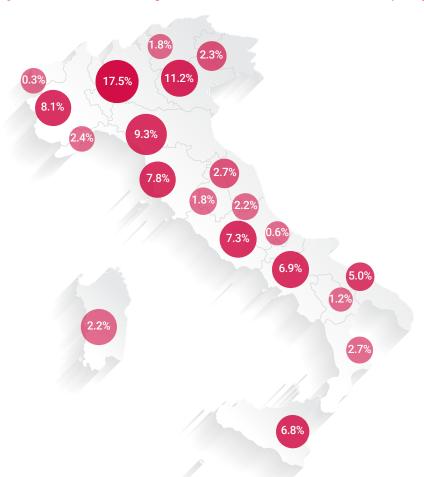


Figure 8 - Distribution of testing laboratories, medical laboratories and PTPs per region 2024

## **COMPLAINTS IN THE TESTING LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT**

In 2024, the Testing Laboratories Department received a total of 14 complaints and 20 comments. Overall, 13 of these were found to be justified. The majority (61.8%) of complaints and comments concerned the activities of accredited testing laboratories, while 23.5% related to the Department's own operations, and 14.7% were directed towards other subjects (see figure 9).

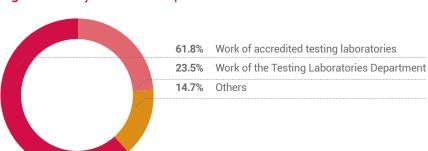


Figure 9 - Subject of the complaints and comments 2024



960

**Accreditations** issued to bodies

8,626

**Assessment days** performed by the Department

214

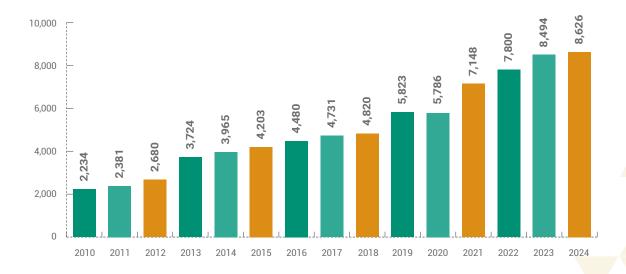
Assessors and technical experts

#### ASSESSMENTS OF THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

Also in 2024, the assessment activities of the Department increased, reaching a total of 8,626 man-days (figure 10). Analysing the trend of assessment activities for accreditation from 2010 to 2024, a steady increase and a very positive long-term trend have been recorded.

The rise in the number of assessment days was certainly driven by the new accreditations of certification bodies for gender equality management systems (UNI/PdR 125), as well as by activities in the regulated area related to the inspection scheme.

Figure 10 - Assessment activities for accreditation 2010-2024 - Days performed



Among the assessment activities carried out by the Department during the year, cross-frontier assessments slightly decreased, reaching a total of 101 days. Among the various types of assessments for certification, inspection, verification, and validation bodies, document reviews accounted for 716 days, slightly down compared to the previous year. On the other hand, on-site assessments and witness assessments increased, reaching 5,556 and 2,253 man-days of assessment respectively (figure 11).

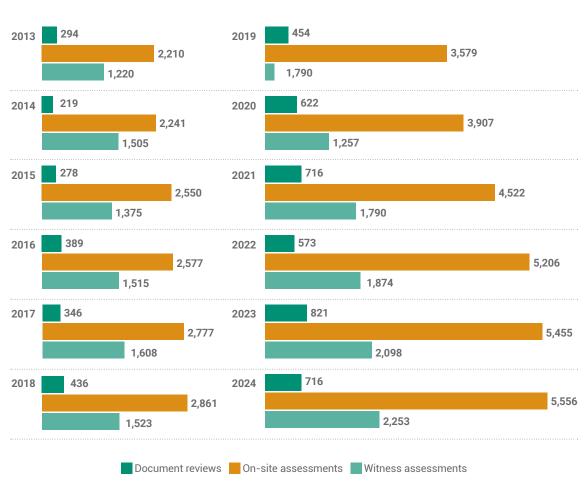


Figure 11 - Assessments for accreditation 2013-2024 – Typology of activity – Days performed

In 2024, the share of days dedicated to surveillance/extension activities decreased to 66%, while the percentage of re-accreditation activities increased to 25%. Residual and, respectively, equal to 5% and 4%, were the shares of assessment days used for first accreditation activities and for supplementary/extraordinary assessments (figure 12).

# ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS OF THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

In 2024, accreditation activities for certification, inspection, verification and validation bodies were entrusted to an assessors' team of 137 professionals, supported by 77 technical experts (7 more than at the end of 2023) to ensure sector-specific and specialist knowledge.

The Department's team of assessors was mainly composed of professionals for the product scheme (88 assessors), management systems (82 assessors), and inspection (63 assessors) (figure 13).

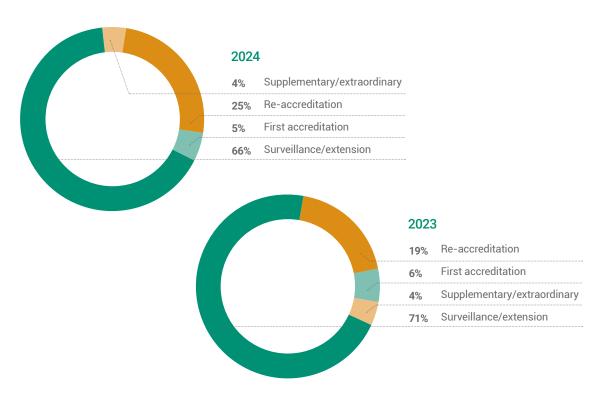
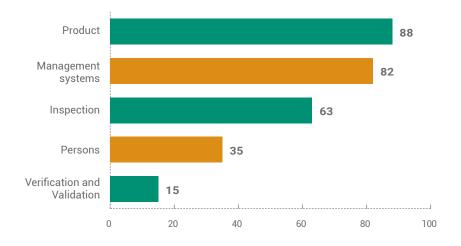


Figure 12 - Assessments for accreditation 2023-2024 - Typology activity - Days performed





## ACCREDITATIONS OF THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

The number of valid accreditations at the end of 2024, broken down by scheme, shows the inspection scheme in the lead, with 509 accreditations. The product and quality management systems schemes, with 225 and 119 accreditations respectively, occupy the second and third positions in the ranking of accreditations attributable to the Department (table 3).

# **Certification, Inspection, Verification and Validation Bodies**

The novelty, already emerging in 2022, concerns the accreditations for gender equality management systems certifications (UNI/PdR 125): in three years the number of accredited bodies has reached 57, in fourth position after the ISO/IEC 17024 scheme relating to certification of persons.

The number of accreditations for verification and validation according to ISO/IEC 17029 has reached 17 bodies, as it has encompassed a broad range of conformity assessment activities in the environmental sector, following the completion of the transition process from the previous accreditation standards.

Table 3 - Growth of accreditations per scheme - Years 2015-2024										
Scheme	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
INSP	509	499	468	407	294	191	133	119	109	97
PRD	225	217	217	212	208	214	212	212	203	195
QMS	119	120	105	104	102	98	96	95	95	92
PRS	87	86	75	66	57	57	52	49	40	37
GEMS	57	47	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EMS	50	52	43	44	43	43	39	40	40	39
OH&S	48	48	38	39	37	34	31	30	27	27
ISMS	32	27	21	20	18	16	14	13	12	11
EnMS	24	22	18	18	17	16	14	13	13	12
FSM	17	17	14	14	14	15	14	13	12	10
EMAS	19	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
ITSMS	13	12	9	9	7	7	7	5	5	4
V&V	17	9								
EPD	-	7	10	8	8	7	7	7	7	7
GHG ETS MRV	-	6	10	9	11	10	10	11	12	12

# Legend - Accreditation schemes

INSP - Inspection

**PRD** - Certification of product/service

**QMS** - Certification of quality management systems

PRS - Certification of persons

**GEMS** - Certification of gender equality management systems

**EMS** - Certification of environmental management systems

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

 $\label{lsms} \textbf{ISMS} - \text{Certification of information security management} \\ \text{systems}$ 

**EnMS** - Certification of energy management systems

**FSM** - Certification of food safety management systems

**EMAS** - Certification for environmental verification activities

**ITSMS** - Certification of IT services management systems

**V&V** - Verification and Validation

**EDP** - Environmental product declaration

**GHG/ETS/MRV** - Verification and Validation of emissions

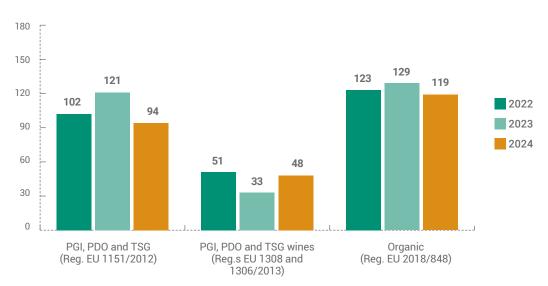
# Food and Wine – Regulated accreditation for the certification of GI and organic products

PDO and PGI productions contribute to the country's development through supply chains that combine quality food and wine with the culture and traditions of the territories, as well as a natural attention to the environment. Market recognition of the quality and specialization of these productions, along with all the characteristics linked to the territories and traditions, is made possible by a rigorous system of controls ensuring compliance with production specifications. According to European regulations, compliance with the production specifications for Geographical Indications (GI) and organic products is also guaranteed through the accreditation of private control bodies.

Compared to 2023, the number of accredited bodies in the GI wine sector and in the organic sector remained stable, while the number of accredited bodies in the GI sectors other than wine increased. At the end of 2024, there were 26 certification bodies accredited for the certification of GIs, of which 13 operated in the quality wine market. On the organic front, control activities were carried out by 20 accredited bodies (figure 14).

30 26 25 24 25 20 19 19 20 2022 15 13 13 13 2023 2024 10 5 O PGI, PDO and TSG PGI, PDO and TSG wines Organic (Reg.s EU 1308 and (Reg. EU 2018/848) (Reg. EU 1151/2012) 1306/2013)

Figure 14 - Accredited control bodies in the regulated GI and organic sector - 2022-2024



**Figure 15** - Assessment activities for accreditation in the regulated GI and organic sector 2022-2024 - Days performed

The assessment activities for accreditation in the three-year period 2022-2024 have slightly decreased across all sectors, but the last two years (2023-2024) show an increase, from 33 to 48 accredited control bodies, in the GI wine sector (figure 15).

#### Authorized/Qualified/Notified Bodies

In 2024, activities related to the accreditation of bodies operating on the market by virtue of ministerial authorization or qualification, or notification to the European Commission, increased significantly. There are 34 different sectors — corresponding to European Directives and Regulations and national provisions — in which Accredia has issued accreditations, demonstrating the important role recognized for the Accreditation Body in ensuring the market about the competence and independence of conformity assessment bodies. The data highlight the predominance of accreditations granted to bodies active in the periodic verification of measuring instruments (DM 93/2017) and those carrying out the assessment of electrical systems (DPR 462/2001). The majority of accreditations are concentrated in these areas, with 196 and 190 recognitions respectively (figure 16).

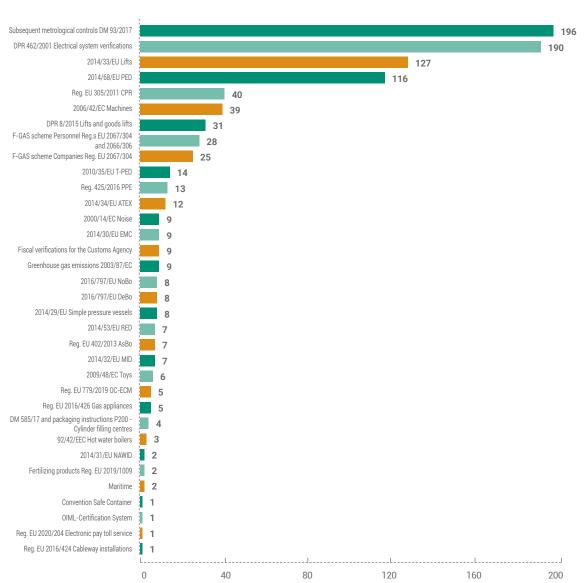


Figure 16 - Accreditations in the notified area and other regulated activities 2024

### Legend - Applicable provisions for notification

Subsequent metrological controls - Law DM 93/2017 Electrical system verifications – Law DPR 462/2001 Lifts - Directive 2014/33/EU PED - Pressure equipment - Directive 2014/68/EU

CPR - Construction products - Regulation EU 305/2011

Machines - Directive 2006/42/EC

Lifts and goods lifts – Law DPR 8/2015

F-GAS scheme Personnel – Implementing Regulations EU 2067/304 and 2066/306

F-GAS scheme Companies – Implementing Regulation EU 2067/304

T-PED - Transportable pressure equipment - Directive

2010/35/EU

**PPE** - Personal Protective Equipment – Regulation EU 425/2016 and Directive 89/686/EEC

ATEX - Equipment and protection systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres - Directive 2014/34/FU

Noise - Directive 2000/14/EC

**EMC** - Electromagnetic compatibility - Directive 2014/30/EU

Fiscal verifications for the Customs Agency Greenhouse gas emissions - Directive 2003/87/EC NoBo - Directive 2016/797/EU Railway subsystems DeBo - Directive 2016/797/EU Railway subsystems Simple pressure vessels - Directive 2014/29/EU RED - Radio and telecommunications equipment -

Directive 2014/53/EU **AsBo** - Regulation EU 402/2013 Railway subsystems

MID - Measuring instruments - Directive 2014/32/EU Toys - Directive 2009/48/EC OC-ECM - Regulation EU 779/2019 Railway

subsystems

Gas appliances – Regulation EU 426/2016 GAR "Certification of cylinder filling centers in accordance with the Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport 585 of 21/12/2017 and the provisions of the P200 packaging instruction of the ADR/RID/ ADN and in the INSP scheme - Type A inspection

body for the verification of the cylinder filling activities carried out by the filling centers in accordance with the provisions of Ministerial Decree 585/17 and the packaging instruction P200 of the ADR/RID/ADN".

Hot water boilers - Directive 92/42/EEC
NAWID - Non-automatic weighing instruments -Directive 2014/31/EU

Fertilizing products - Regulation EU 2019/1009 Maritime - Regulation EU 2015/757, Amending Regulation EU 2023/957 and Delegated Regulation 2023/2917 "Convention Safe Container" - CSC pursuant to the Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport

ref. 0000585 of 21/12/2017 and of the Accredia Technical Circular DC N° 20/2020 ref. DC20200C407 dated 16/12/2020 OIML - Certification System

European electronic pay toll service – Regulation EU 2020/204

Cableways installations – Regulation EU 424/2016 and Directive 2000/9/EC

#### MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS<sup>2</sup>

In 2024, the number of certified sites for management systems increased by 16.1% compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 211,049 units. The statistical aggregates of "companies" (identified by VAT number/tax code) and "certificates" also showed significant annual growth, with increases of +6.5% and +9.8% respectively (figure 17).

**Figure 17** - Trend of management system certifications 2013–2024 - Certified sites, Companies, Certificates<sup>3</sup> - Percentage variations



The number of certified sites increased in most certification schemes managed by accredited bodies, with those certified for gender equality management systems experiencing a surge to 27,179 sites by the end of the year, reflecting an annual growth of 224%. In just a few years, the scheme compliant with UNI/PdR 125 has ranked fourth in terms of the number of certified sites, following quality, environmental, and health and safety management systems in the workplace (table 4).

Quality management systems, ranking first with 138,810 certified sites, increased by about 7,000 units. Environmental management systems and occupational health and safety management systems, which together with quality management systems represent the vast majority of certified management system schemes, showed annual growth rates of 7% and 16%, respectively. Information security management systems also grew, reaching 7,398 certified sites.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data updated as of October 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The statistical reports of the management system certifications are created 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:

<sup>•</sup> Certified site: the single certified company/production site which can be an office, a department, a production unit of the certified organization/company. A certified company, therefore, can correspond to multiple certified sites.

<sup>•</sup> Certified company: the unit/company name of the organization/company in possession of a management system certification uniquely identified by a VAT number/tax code.

<sup>•</sup> Certificate: the specific code developed at procedural level, which, together with the date of first issue, uniquely identifies the management system certification obtained by the certified company.

Table 4 - Trend of certified sites per management systems - 2015-2024										
Standard	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
QMS	138,810	131,060	124,152	124,690	122,464	123,211	116,891	124,420	128,240	126,865
EMS	43,720	37,619	31,508	29,181	2,.482	24,076	22,963	22,160	21,616	20,339
OH&S	40,682	32,974	2,.805	26,252	24,799	20,548	16,103	16,860	15,461	14,052
GEMS	27,179	8.388	823	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ISMS	7,398	5,177	4,288	3,250	2,874	2,233	1,619	1,205	926	799
ABMS	6,628	4,962	3,471	3,614	2,856	2,364	673	230	-	-
EnMS	5,771	3,982	3,226	3,393	2,960	2,607	3,420	2,322	1,315	794
FSM	3,911	3,538	1,881	1,652	1,472	1,545	1,308	1,190	1,218	854
ITSMS	572	489	322	283	261	233	191	108	81	73

## Legend - Management system certification schemes

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) **GEMS** - Gender equality management systems (UNI/PdR 125)

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)

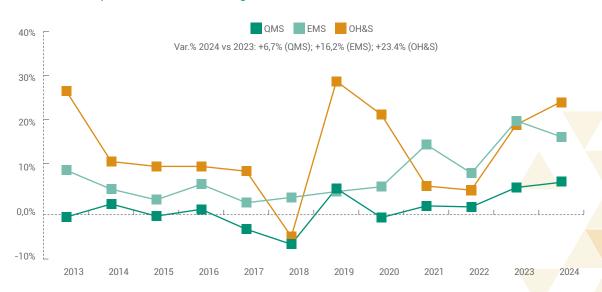
 $\textbf{FSM} \cdot \textbf{Food safety management systems}$ 

(UNI EN ISO 22000)

 $\textbf{ITSMS} \text{ -} \ \text{Management systems for IT services}$ 

(ISO/IEC 20000-1)

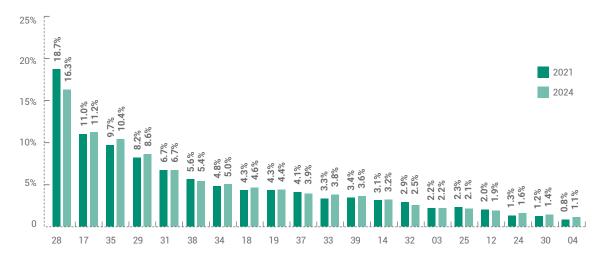
**Figure 18** - Trend of the main management system certifications 2013-2024 - Certified sites per standard - Percentage variations



The trend of annual percentage changes in the number of certified sites for the top three management system certification schemes (quality, environment, and safety) shows great dynamism (figure 18). In 2024, the annual percentage changes have significantly increased compared to the previous year for occupational health and safety management systems and environmental management systems; there is a slight decrease, but still very positive, in the trend variation of the number of certified sites for quality management systems. Over the analysed time frame, the trend in certified sites for occupational health and safety management systems is quite variable, due to the introduction of the international standard ISO 45001.

At the IAF sector level, the requirement of accredited certification, according to the ISO 9001 standard, for participation in public procurement tenders has, over the years, concentrated the stock of certified sites in the construction sector (IAF 28), with a share of 16.3%.

Figure 19 - Percentage share of certifications per IAF sector of activity - Leading twenty IAF sectors - 2024 vs 2021



### Legend - IAF certification sectors

- 01 Agriculture, fishing and forestry
- **02** Mining and quarrying
- **03** Food products, beverages and tobacco
- **04** Textiles and textile products
- **05** Leather and leather production
- **06** Wood and wood products
- **07** Pulp for paper, paper and paper products
- **08** Publishing companies
- **09** Printing companies
- **10** Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products
- 11 Nuclear energy
- **12** Chemicals, chemical products and fibers

- 13 Pharmaceutical products
- 14 Rubber and plastic products
- 15 Non-metallic mineral products
- 16 Concrete, cement, lime, plaster etc.
- **17** Basic metals and fabricated metal products
- **18** Machinery and equipment
- 19 Electrical and optical equipment
- 20 Shipbuilding
- 21 Aerospace industry
- 22 Other transport equipment
- 23 Manufacturing not elsewhere classified
- 24 Recycling
- **25** Electricity supply
- 26 Gas supply

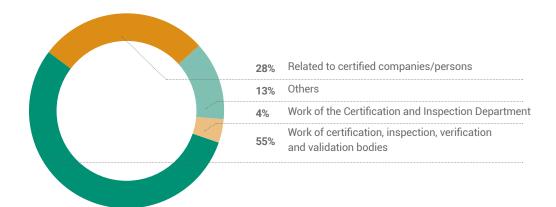
- 27 Water supply
- 28 Construction
- 29 Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods
- **30** Hotels and restaurants
- 31 Transport, logistics and communication
- **32** Financial intermediation; real estate renting
- 33 Information technology
- 34 Engineering services
- 35 Other services
- 36 Public administration
- 37 Education
- 38 Health and social services
- 39 Other social services

"Basic metals and fabricated metal products" (IAF 17) and "Other services" (IAF 35) occupy second and third place with 11.2% and 10.4% respectively (figure 19). However, recent years highlight a reshuffling by sectors in the spread of accredited management system certifications in favour of other sectors, particularly in "Wholesale and retail trade" (IAF 29), "Machinery and equipment" (IAF 18), and "Information technology" (IAF 33).

#### COMPLAINTS OF THE CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

In 2024, the Certification and Inspection Department received a total of 77 complaints and 122 comments, of which 43 were found to be justified. More than half of the complaints/comments received concerned dissatisfaction with the work of certification, inspection, and verification and validation bodies (55%), while a share of 28% was attributed to the shortcomings of companies or certified persons. Formal reports related to other subjects accounted for 13% of cases, while only 4% of the complaints and comments received were directed at the work of the Department (figure 20).

Figure 20 - Subject of the complaints and comments 2024





229

Accreditations issued to laboratories, RMPs and biobanks 1,013

**Assessment days** performed by the Department

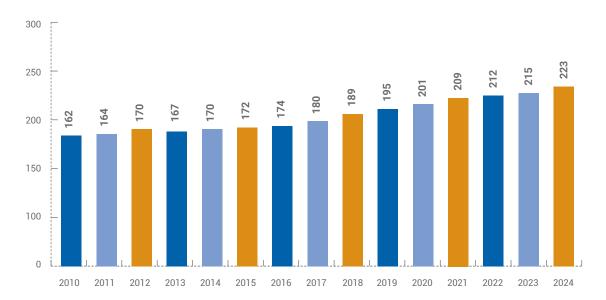
144

Assessors and technical experts

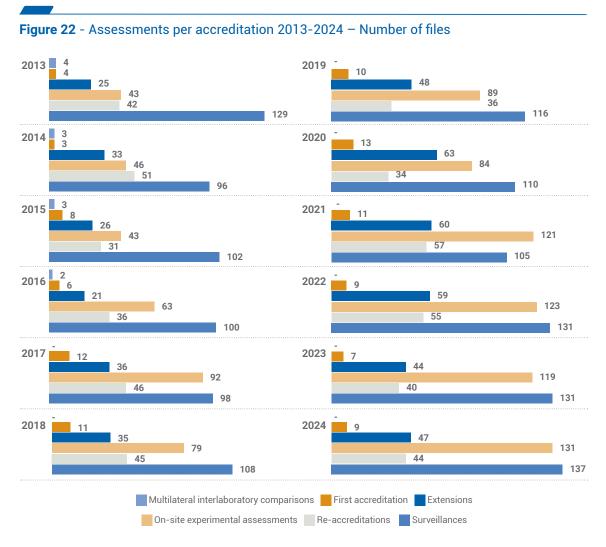
#### ASSESSMENTS OF THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

Year 2024 recorded 223 accredited calibration laboratories, 8 more than the previous year (figure 21). The increase in accreditations intensifies a growth trend that, since 2010, has led the number of laboratories to grow steadily, with an increase of about 38% compared to 2010.

Figure 21 - Trend of calibration laboratories 2010-2024



Consistently, the number of files handled during 2024 increased, involving not only calibration laboratories but also reference material producers and biobanks. This increase occurred across all types of activities (first accreditation, extensions, experimental on-site assessments, re-accreditations, and surveillances). In particular, there were 9 first accreditation files, 47 extensions, 131 experimental on-site assessments, 44 re-accreditation procedures, and 137 surveillances (figure 22). In 2024, the assessments activities of the Calibration Laboratories Department exceeded 1,000 days. In particular, the man-days spent on document reviews amounted to 327, while 636 were dedicated to on-site assessments and 50 to experimental assessments (table 5).



**Table 5** - Assessments 2010 -2024 - Typology of activity - Days performed 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011 Document reviews On-site assessments Experimental assessments Total 1.013 1.056 

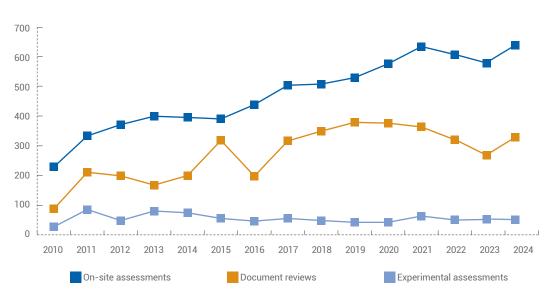


Figure 23 - Assessments 2010-2024 - Typology of activities - Days performed

From 2010 to 2024, the Department's activities have tripled, with significant increases across all types of activities (figure 23) and a particularly marked trend during 2024 (figure 23).

Typically, system assessors are more involved in on-site assessments than in document review compared to technical assessors. In 2024, the majority of on-site assessments therefore involved system assessors, who conducted 76% of the corresponding assessment days (figure 24).

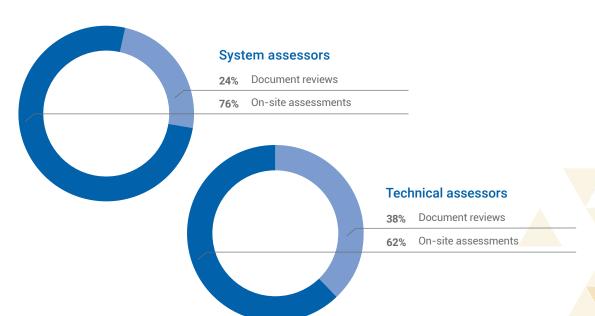
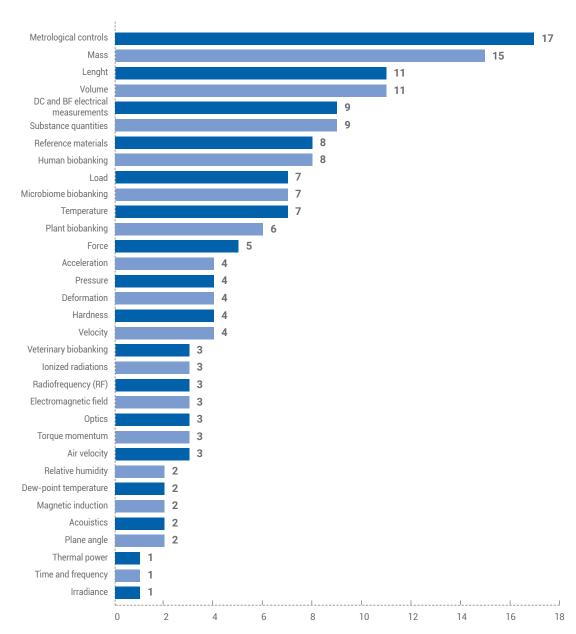


Figure 24 - Assessments for accreditation 2024 - Typology of activities - Days performed

### ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS OF THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

The Calibration Laboratories Department relies on a highly qualified assessors' team specialized in multiple areas of expertise, which at the end of 2024 counted 91 assessors assisted by 23 technical experts for highly specialized activities. In 2024, the mandatory activities for the periodic verification of measuring instruments for legal purposes (DM 93/2017) involved 17 specialized assessors, the primary area of expertise by number of professionals, followed by mass and volume with 15 and 11 assessors respectively (figure 25).

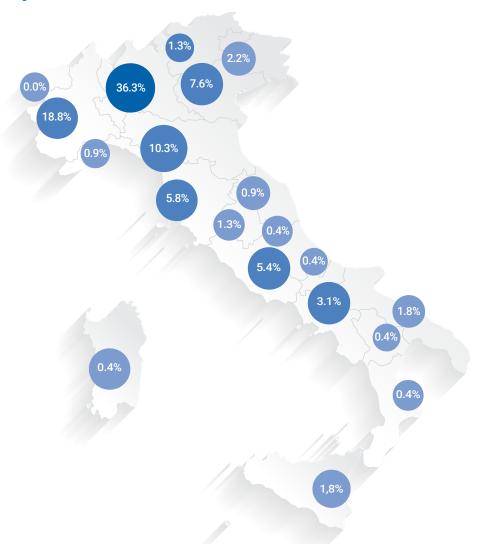




# ACCREDITATIONS OF THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT

At the regional level, in 2024, the 225 entities accredited by the Department (calibration laboratories, reference material producers, and biobanks) were concentrated in Lombardy (36.3%) and Piedmont (18.8%), but with significant shares also in Emilia Romagna (10.3%) and Veneto (7.6%). In the central regions, Tuscany and Lazio particularly concentrated the highest number of accredited subjects, while in the southern regions, Campania and Sicily accounted for about 5% of the accredited subjects (figure 26).

**Figure 26** - Distribution of accredited calibration laboratories, reference material producers and biobanks per region - 2024



At the end of 2024, the calibration activities for which laboratories were accredited were concentrated in the sectors "Mass, Volume, Load" with 69 accreditations, "Dimensional" with 51, and "Thermal" with 50 (figure 27).

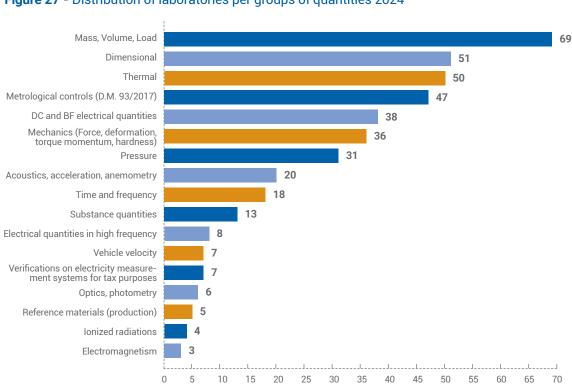


Figure 27 - Distribution of laboratories per groups of quantities 2024

### **CALIBRATION CERTIFICATES**

Continuous technological innovations and the growing complexity of the economy and society justify the constant increase in calibration demands. As a result, in recent years, the number of calibration certificates on the market has risen significantly, reaching 233,955 by the end of 2024 (figure 28). The increase has been progressive since 2010 but has accelerated notably in the last few years.



The technological transition has indeed engaged Governments and businesses in developing new production and consumption methods, to which accredited calibration laboratories have provided effective operational responses. The majority of calibration certificates were issued in Lombardy (45.4%), but significant shares were also reached in Emilia Romagna (13.6%), Piedmont (12.6%), and Tuscany (10.6%). In the rest of Italy, the distribution is very limited, with only Lazio and Abruzzo standing out, accounting for 2.8% and 3.5% of calibration certificates, respectively (figure 29).

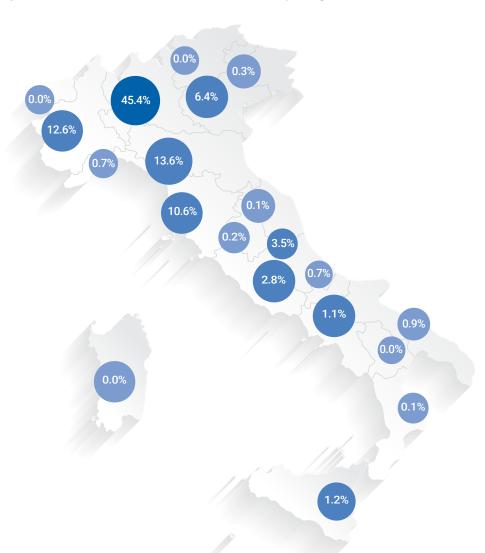
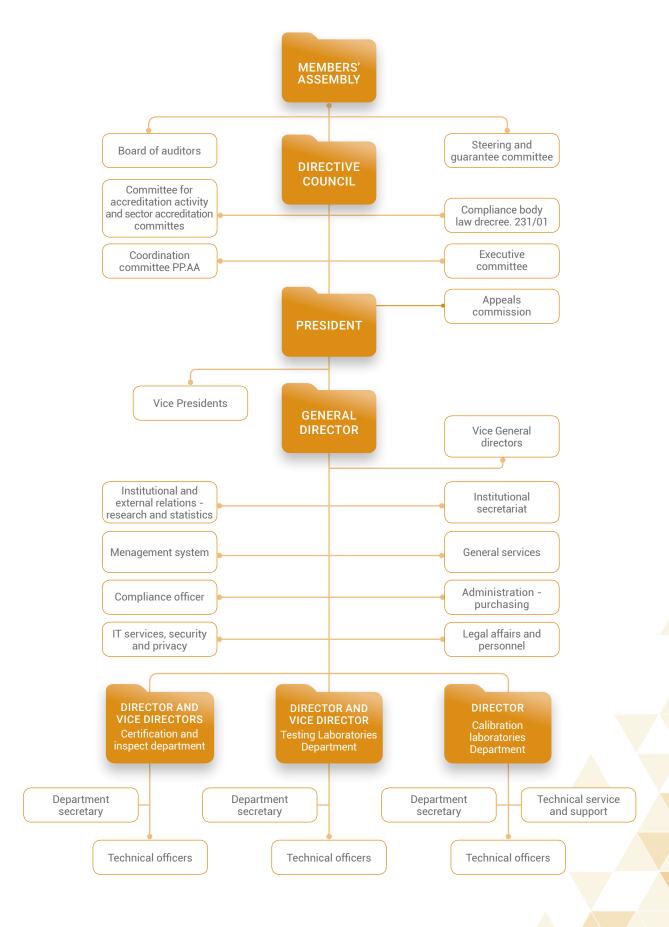


Figure 29 - Distribution of calibration certificates per region 2024

# **COMPLAINTS OF THE CALIBRATION LABORATORIES DEPARTMENT**

In 2024, the Calibration Laboratories Department received 4 complaints and 15 comments. Of the 19 formal reports received, 13 were found to be founded and all concerned the performance of the accredited laboratories. The Department's activities were not subject to any complaints or comments.







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Loredana Le Rose

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Paolo Tattoli

Grazia Maria Cacopardi - Expert

Pierpaolo Gentile - Expert

Benedetto Legittimo - Expert

Maurizio Pertoso - Expert

Laura Petrone - Expert

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Purchiaroni

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Finco - Anna Danzi

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Federazione Cisq - Mario Romersi

Union - Giorgia Feneri Unoa - Radu Solomon

# National standardization bodies, consumer associations for protection from risks and protection of the environment; suppliers of public utility services and other interested parties

Acu - Emilio Senesi

Aias - Alessandro Foti

Aicq - Demetrio Gilormo

Angq - Gaetano Montebelli

Apco - Anna Bortoluzzi

Assoconsult - Filippo Pennati Salvadori

Assoreca - Alessio Bonciani

Cei - Ivano Visintainer

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Gruppo Enel - Giuseppe Macrì

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Andrea Vanner - Ministry of Environment

and Energy Security

Paolo Vigo - Ministry of University and Research

Armando Zambrano - Cni

Ministry of Health

Paolo Moscatti - Assotic - Permanent invited

Paolo Salza - Conforma - Permanent invited

(resigned)

Angelo Trapanà - Unoa - Permanent invited

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(D.LGS. 231/01)

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Compliance Body

Marino Gabellini

Elena Maggio

Mariagrazia Lanzanova - Compliance Officer



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Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy Ministry of Environment and Energy Security

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Labor and Social Policies Ministry of University and Research

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Ispra Iss

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Cia - Agricoltori Italiani Cna

Coldiretti Confagricoltura

Confapi

Confartigianato Imprese

Confcommercio Imprese per l'Italia

Confcooperative Confesercenti Confindustria

Legacoop

### Standardization bodies

Cei Uni

# Major clients

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Gruppo Enel

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Aises Aizs Ala Anacam Ance

Angq Apco Ascoteco

Assocalzaturifici Italiani

Assoconsult Assoreca Assotic Atecap Cdo Cng

Cni Cnpi Colap Conaf

Confimi Industria Confindustria Sit

Conforma

Federazione Cisq

Federbio
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