

The use of ORCID ID in the Italian Research Assessment Exercise

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Summary

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- ORCID ID
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The use of ORCID ID in VQR 2011-2014

ANVUR has recently promoted the use of a unique identifier -ORCID ID- in the research assessment exercise VQR 2011-2014.

According to the VQR 2011-2014 Call: «All staff members belonging to the Institutions to be evaluated **must possess an ORCID ID** to be used for accreditation purposes.»

The adoption of ID was *de facto* made compulsory as the Call stated that «Staff members without an ORCID ID will not be considered for evaluation; however, their research outputs will be considered in the total number of products expected from their institution.»

Universities and research centers had hence a strong incentive to encourage their staff to get an ORCID ID; otherwise, the output of staff members without an ORCID ID would be counted as missing (thus receiving the lowest possible evaluation marks).

The use of ORCID ID in VQR 2011-2014

Almost all professors and researchers participating to the assessment got an ORCID ID → 98% of success

The figure is even more remarkable as the process took place in just 2 months (as required by the VQR Call).

However all submitted research outputs were evaluated: no institutions suffered negative consequences even if the researchers they employed did not get an ORCID ID.

ORCID ID

- ORCID is a non-profit organization supported by a global community of organizational members, including research organizations, publishers, funders, professional associations, and other stakeholders in the research ecosystem
- ORCID ID is a persistent digital identifier that uniquely identify researchers
- it allows the disambiguation of the authors and the correct attribution of the research outputs to researchers
- it links to other identifiers (such as Scopus Author-ID or ResearcherID in Clarivate WoS)

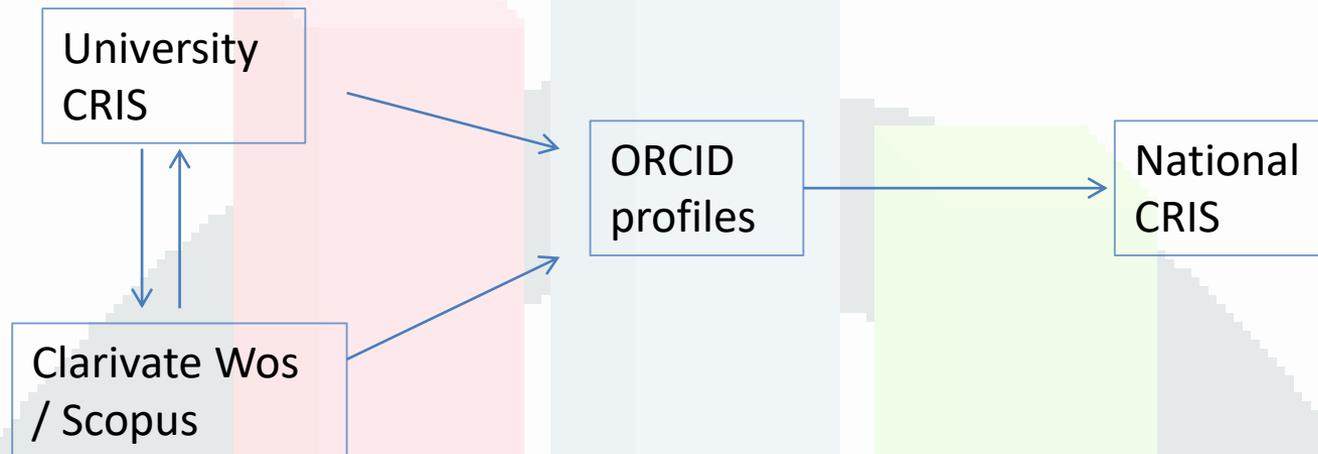
The I.R.I.D.E project and its goals (first phase)

- I.R.I.D.E (Italian Researcher IDentifier for Evaluation): a project to facilitate a general use of ORCID ID in the Italian research system
- The positive effects of the use of ORCID ID on the research systems emerge at national, institutional and researcher's level:
 - it allows to follow the career of researchers, regardless of possibly changing and/or multiple affiliations;
 - it enhances online visibility of researchers' activity;
 - it allows to correctly assign publications to authors and to have reliable data for evaluation purposes, also for computing bibliometric indicators;
 - it allows the alignment between international (Clarivate WoS, Scopus) and local databases;
 - it can create the basis for the national research archive.

The I.R.I.D.E project and its goals (second phase)

- Second step of IRIDE Project: to populate ORCID profiles through Universities' research databases (CRIS) defining a «semi-automatic update» → use of APIs
- The action of researchers or University administrative staff is still needed since they have to «clean up» their profiles in University CRIS (also using Scopus and WoS - pull records) and give an authorisation to export bibliographic metadata to ORCID profiles (push records)
- However, Italian universities do not have a common CRIS system and some of them do not have even a CRIS (50 Universities out of 97 adhered to a common CRIS initiative called IRIS). Thus, it is not possible to define a single common procedure.

The main challenge: towards a national CRIS



Experimental phase to be tested in a limited number of Universities in collaboration with ORCID and ANVUR

Remaining issues

1. Data validation:
 - ORCID profiles need to be validated (duplicated entries, manipulation, fraud)
 - Universities/departments have different procedures for data validation
 - Validation is costly in terms of time and persons: Universities should allocate adequate personnel resources
2. Create an incentive system to make profiles updated → communication is the most important point
3. Minimize or reduce the manual intervention by researchers and make the updating of profiles automatic
4. Fixed term staff in Universities is not considered in the project, thus it has no incentive to get an ORCID ID

Lessons learned

1. Technical implementation for integration of databased takes longer than planned (privacy problems, high number of institutions involved, different CRIS)
2. Data validation is costly in terms of time and persons
3. Incentives designed by law are effective, yet they do not cover a significant portion of academic staff (exclude fixed-term researchers as well as PhD students)



Thank you