



CATALISI

Catalysation of institutional transformations
of Higher Education Institutions through
the adoption of acceleration services

Twinning Exchange at Luiss University

CATALISI consortium | 2024

Welcome to Luiss Twinning

The topics we will discuss in today's Twinning are:



Reform of the Research Assessment



Engagement with the Local Ecosystem

Colleagues from the **Research and Third Mission Office**, from the **Library** and from the **X.ITE Research Centre** will present their work around these two topics.

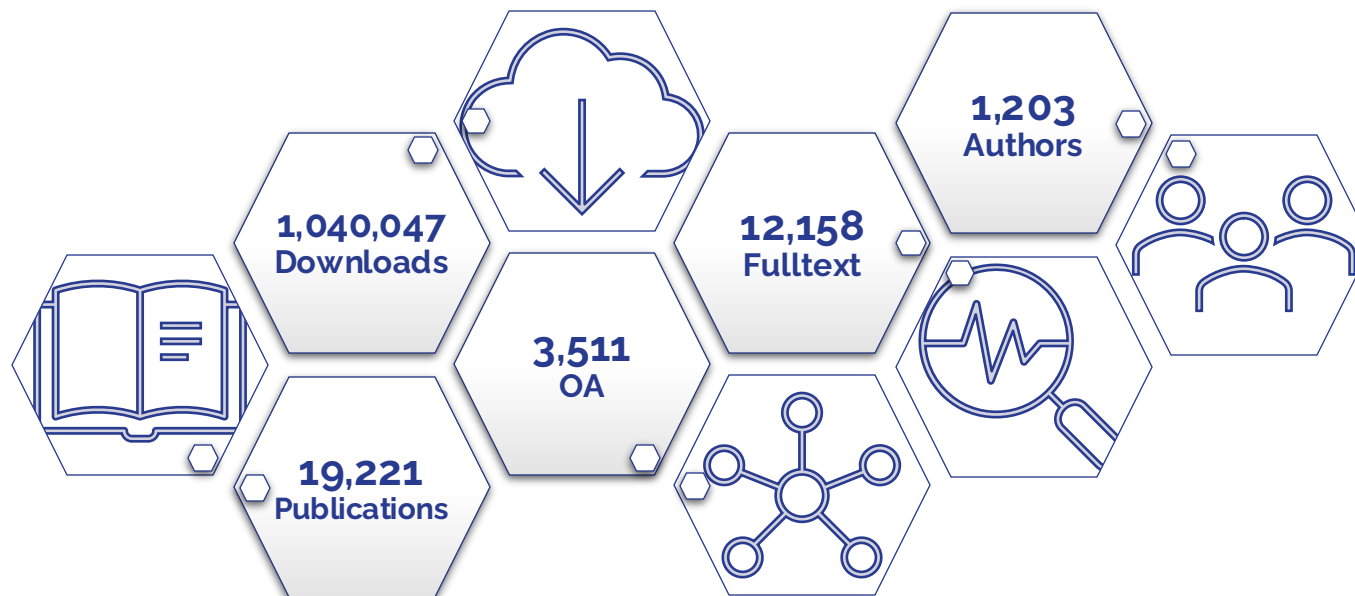
Plan for the day

Start Time	End Time	Activity
10:00	10:45	Quality in Reasearch: presentation of Internal Research Evaluation procedures (VIR)
10:45	11:15	Open discussion about Research Assessment
11:15	11:45	Coffee Break
11:45	12:00	Presentation about the use of VIR scores for other quality assessment procedures
12:00	12:30	Presentation on how the external engagement is structured in Luiss' Research Centers: the X.Itc case
12:30	13:00	Open discussion about Engagement with the Local Ecosystem



IRIS

IRIS is the institutional repository dedicated to the Luiss Guido Carli's research data. The **Catalogue of University Research products** collects the scientific publications by Luiss' Academic staff and Researchers, who can self-archive their research products and - in compliance with the publisher's Open Access policies - make them available in open access. Currently, over **19,000** research products are registered in IRIS and 3.500 are available in open access. Starting from 2021, the **Doctoral theses** discussed at Luiss since 2008 are also archived and preserved in IRIS, being available in Open Access unless justified requests for embargo.



IRIS

IRIS constitutes the University Research Information System, and it is interoperable with MUR's databases as well as with the **OpenAIRE** European portal. The repository is the sole database for the University's scientific production, which is also used for **internal and external quality evaluation** purposes (VIR and VQR).

PhD Students, Research fellows and Faculty members can self-archive their research outputs in IRIS, so the repository also meets the University's goals in terms of promotion and dissemination of the scientific research products elaborated by scholars within their institutional activities, in order to enhance their visibility and impact at national and international level.

To support the Internal Evaluation of Research, but also to guarantee a high standard in the dissemination of bibliographic data, Luiss has adopted a workflow which requires the IRIS team to validate all products that are self-archived in IRIS.



VQR - Research Quality Assessment

The **VQR - Valutazione della Qualità della Ricerca (Research Quality Assessment)** is a national procedure conducted every **five years** by **ANVUR** on behalf of the **MUR**, the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research, that evaluates the results of **scientific research** and **Third Mission activities** of Universities, Departments, and other Research Institutions.

The VQR exercise provide an up-to-date assessment of the state of research in various scientific fields, aiming to promote the **improvement** of research quality in the assessed institutions and to allocate the performance-based share of the **Fondo di Finanziamento Ordinario (FFO)**, the **Ordinary Financing Fund** for the Italian university system.

In 2022, the third VQR exercise, covering the years 2015-2019, was completed. The evaluation of research products was based on the criteria of “**originality**”, “**methodological rigor**” and “**impact**” on the scientific community; all the **GEVs (Groups of Evaluation Experts)** employed the peer review method, potentially informed by the use of international citation indicators.



VQR - Research Quality Assessment

Luiss achieved **very positive** results in the 2015-2019 VQR, ranking among the **top universities** in Italy for the quality of the research products of all assessed personnel (the “R1e2” indicator):

- Luiss ranked **4th** in Italy in the academic fields of “Area 12 - Law” and “Area 14 - Political and Social Sciences,” **6th** for “Area 13a - Economics and Statistics,” **and 7th** for “Area 13b - Economics and Management.”
- The Department of Economics and Finance ranked **8th** in Italy for its publications in “Area 13a,” the Department of Law ranked **12th** in “Area 12,” the Department of Political Sciences ranked **14th** in “Area 14,” and the Department of Business and Management ranked **16th** in “Area 13b.”
- Regarding the scientific-disciplinary sectors, Luiss is among the **top 8 in Italy** for all those evaluated (except SECS-P/07); in particular, it **ranks 1st in Italy** for IUS/10 “Administrative Law” and 3rd for IUS/04 “Business Law,” SECS-P/10 “Organization Studies,” and SPS/04 “Political Science.”



VQR - Research Quality Assessment

The evaluation of the Third Mission case studies, on the other hand, was based on the criteria of “**social, economic, and cultural dimensions of impact**”, “**relevance in relation to the context**,” “**added value for the beneficiaries**” and “**contribution of the structure**.”

As for the quality of the Third Mission (**the “R4” indicator**) Luiss **ranked 2nd** among all private universities, demonstrating its significant **impact** on the social and economic environment in which it operates.

The selection activities for scientific products and case studies to be submitted for the VQR 2020-2024 are currently underway.



VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

The University is committed to **advancing knowledge** by promoting research activities, cultural and professional development, high-quality scientific output, and the transfer of innovation.

For Luiss, this also means maximizing the **visibility** of its scientific production through **reward systems** that recognize the contributions of individual researchers while also **attracting** distinguished professors.

Luiss University has placed at the center of its strategic plan a process of **internationalization**, to compete with the best European universities. In this context, the excellence of our research activities plays a crucial role, as a fundamental parameter for all international rankings.

Given that quality research requires adequate funding, the University has developed a **research funds allocation system**, which applies homogeneously to all Luiss researchers, even if the specificities of the different disciplinary areas are fully recognized.



VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

This new allocation system pursues three objectives:

- **increasing** the average budget;
- **differentiating** the allocation based on individual performance;
- ensuring **flexibility** and **autonomy** for each researcher in the use of the funds, in compliance with the general rules established by the University.

The **IRIS team** is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the bibliographic data entered in IRIS by the authors.



VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

The **VIR – Valutazione Interna della Ricerca (Internal Evaluation of Research)** is an annual internal evaluation process introduced in **2019** that allocates funding to each researcher based on the quality of their publications from the previous three years, as recorded in **IRIS, the University's Research Catalog**.

For this purpose, the system uses the **research score**, an individual scientific productivity index calculated at the beginning of the year and determining the research funds allocation for the current year. The allocation can vary from a minimum of € 1,000 to a maximum of € 10,000.

Each publication is assigned a score based on its **type** (article, monograph, book chapter, etc.), its **quality** (journal ranking, publisher reputation, etc.), and the **number of authors** involved.

The total of the individual scores of each publication constitutes the author's research score, which determines the amount of research funding allocated.



VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

The evaluation is based on a classification of journals and publishers that adhere to internationally recognized **quality standards**.

It's very important that the evaluation system meets certain fundamental requirements:

- It must be inspired by criteria recognized by the international scientific community;
- it must be perceived as **fair** and **shared** by the entire Luiss community;
- it must be **transparent**, **easily implementable**, and as **automatic** as possible, in order to reduce management costs and arbitrariness, which could represent a source of tension in the allocation procedure.



VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

Regarding journals, bibliometric parameters are used for the classification: the **Scimago Journal Rank** (<https://www.scimagojr.com/>) but also **ABS classification** for Area 13 (Management journals).

Since bibliometric indicators cannot be used for Area 12 (Law), a different evaluation method is applied for this Area. Area 12 journals are classified using the **ANVUR classification** of scientific journals for National Scientific Qualification.

The use of bibliometric indicators, on the other hand, presents challenges for publishers. Therefore, the classification has been developed in **consultation with experts** from the relevant sectors.

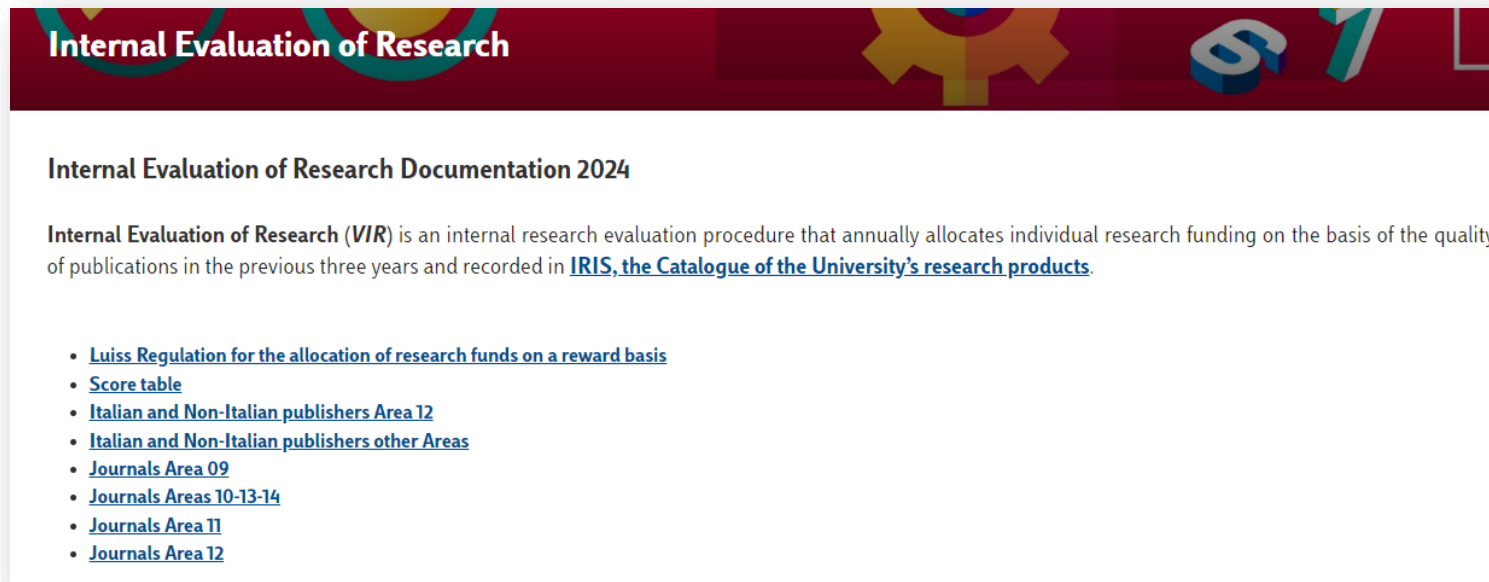
For each scientific Area, three merit classes have been defined that determine the score for **publishers**: **A+**, corresponding to eminently renowned international publishers; **A**, corresponding to highly regarded national and international publishers; **B**, corresponding to well-regarded publishers.



VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

The entire Luiss research community contributes to defining these criteria and lists, which are **clear, transparent, fully documented**, and **accessible** to all researchers via the intranet.

The **VIR Regulation (Regolamento per l'assegnazione di fondi di ricerca su base premiale)** is available on the **Luiss website** and on a dedicated page of the Luiss intranet.



Internal Evaluation of Research

Internal Evaluation of Research Documentation 2024

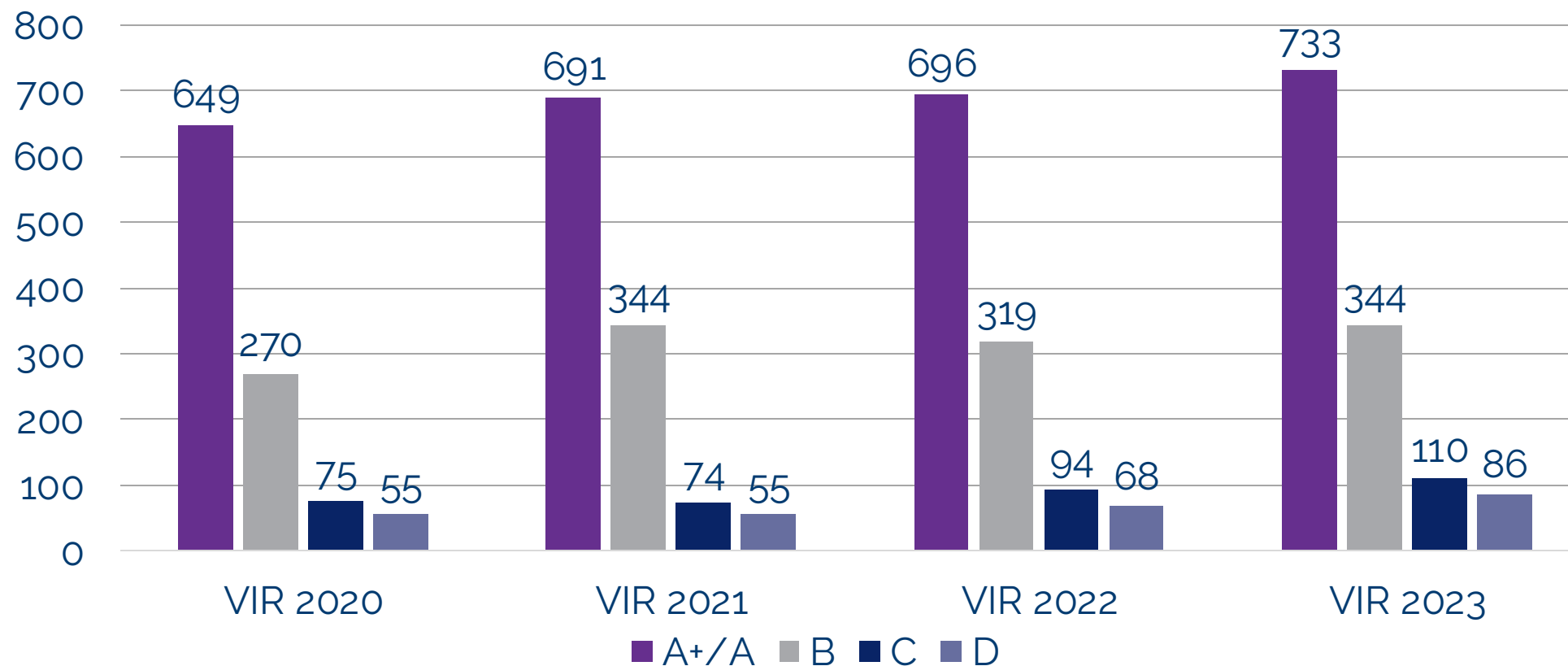
Internal Evaluation of Research (VIR) is an internal research evaluation procedure that annually allocates individual research funding on the basis of the quality of publications in the previous three years and recorded in [IRIS, the Catalogue of the University's research products](#).

- [Luiss Regulation for the allocation of research funds on a reward basis](#)
- [Score table](#)
- [Italian and Non-Italian publishers Area 12](#)
- [Italian and Non-Italian publishers other Areas](#)
- [Journals Area 09](#)
- [Journals Areas 10-13-14](#)
- [Journals Area 11](#)
- [Journals Area 12](#)

VIR - Internal Evaluation of Research

+13%

A/A+ Publications from
VIR 2020 to VIR 2023



Other uses of VIR score

1) Luiss Research Award

The **Luiss Research Award** was established in 2022 to encourage Luiss faculty and researchers to pursue high-quality research through various means available to them: publication of scientific outputs, participation to competitive project - both at the national and European levels – and carried out by RC. The award is conferred publicly and granted annually to a tenured professor from each Department.

In this context, VIR results are one of the parameters contributing to the score assigned to each professor:

The awarding of the prize [...] depends on the score assigned to each professor or researcher based on the following parameters:

- 1. VIR result from the year preceding the award year [...]*



Other uses of VIR score

2) Requirements for Luiss Research Centers

The **Regulations on Luiss Research Centers** foresee that Centers are required to fulfil certain economic and academic requirements.

These requirements are set to ensure that each Center maintains **financial self-sufficiency**, has got an **adequate number and type** of members to meet demands of increasing complexity, and can produce relevant and **impactful research results**.

In this context, VIR results are used to annually monitor the fulfillment of the latter requirement:

Research Center members assessed for internal evaluation of research (VIR) purposes (Luiss permanent faculty and assistant professors research) must produce, over a three-year period, an average of at least 2 research products in the A/A+ and B VIR bands per faculty member evaluated. The reference is the results of the last VIR period ending on the date of the evaluation of the requirements. [...]

X.ITE Research Centre

Luiss **X.ITE** (X Insights Technology Enhanced) Research Centre's goal is to develop deeper insights into *how new technologies can impact human behavior* and *how human behaviors can be better understood thanks to new technologies*.

Our Research Centre provides guidance and support for businesses and institutions' leaders through actionable research on how to manage market innovation and organizational changes mediated by technologies. Strategic decisions by its Management Team are converted into actions by two main units:

- X.ITE's **Academic Research Unit** (ARU), which focuses on the scouting of open questions for future research, design of innovative research projects and execution of innovative, multi-disciplinary, multi-method research. The ARU is also in charge of conferences, workshops and talks, engaging X.ITE Business Community members.
- X.ITE's **Knowledge Transfer Unit** (KTU) focuses on the design and execution of transformational and actionable research, delivering Custom research projects both to the X.ITE Business Community members and to any other Business or Institutional stakeholder.



External Engagement at X.ITE

Our goal as a University research center, is not to develop **descriptive** research. We aim to guide actions, strategies and decisions of business and institutional **ecosystems**. In other words, our work is "transferred" from university campuses and labs to firms, institutions and any kind of purposive social entity.

Such a knowledge transfer process aims at accelerating the conversion of social science "discoveries" into **social, entrepreneurial, managerial and institutional innovation**.

Throughout the years, we developed strong relationships with business partners and institutions. One main example is our partnership with **Federalimentare**: after conducting more than 6 research projects to understand the impact of Different Food Product Information Systems on consumer choices, they recently decided to launch a new observatory about **Agri&Food Tech within the Made in Italy supply chain**, which is extremely relevant for our country, as a key driver of economic growth.



Business Development at X.ITE

X.ITE's **custom research projects** are developed to **support business navigating** the complexity of **technological transition** within specific business domains. Through sequential multi-method approaches, which combine qualitative and quantitative techniques, our research team derives managerial implications, as well as **actionable insights**, that can be immediately translated into strategic decisions.

Throughout the years, we conducted several projects with multiple brands, based on their specific needs. Hereafter we report some recent examples (2024)



How is business mobility evolving because of technological innovations?

GOAL

launching a new B2B platform (Tbusiness) that integrates all the emerging needs of decision makers



What do Italian women think about selfcare and selfcare practices?

GOAL

launching a new campaign about the importance of selfcare and hair care based on research insights (i.e. Regeneration Movement)



How do different generations perceive the integration of technology within the healthcare system?

GOAL

Understanding drivers and barriers of the integration of technology in everyday health routine.



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Thank you!



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