

Abstract

In 1998 INCA (Consorzio Internuniversitario Nazionale la Chimica per l'Ambiente Venezia), an Italian consortium of university research units dedicated to the field of chemistry for the environment had its quality assessed by an international Review Committee. The assessment focused both on the quality of the consortium itself and the quality of the consortium's individual research units.

In 2002 INCA's management enquired about the possibility of organising an assessment follow-up of the network. This is the reason behind the present exercise, which was performed by a Review Committee quite similar to the one that conducted the 1998 assessment — four of the five initial Committee members have been present and the secretary has been replaced.

For the follow-up the same guidelines of 1998 assessment were used, the only difference being some simplification of the administrative work for those research units already assessed in the previous exercise. For those units the assessment has concentrated on the analysis of developments taking place since 1998, while for the consortium the Review Committee paid special attention to the degree of implementation of the recommendations made in the 1998 report. Special attention was also given to the new specialist laboratories established by INCA.