Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Italian National Research Council (CNR)
Central Management for Programming and Infrastructures- ...
Operative Programming Office

Evaluation at CNR:
Autoevaluation annual reports

S.S. Chen & A. M. Stilo
Operative Programming Office

ESF workshop: "Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes"
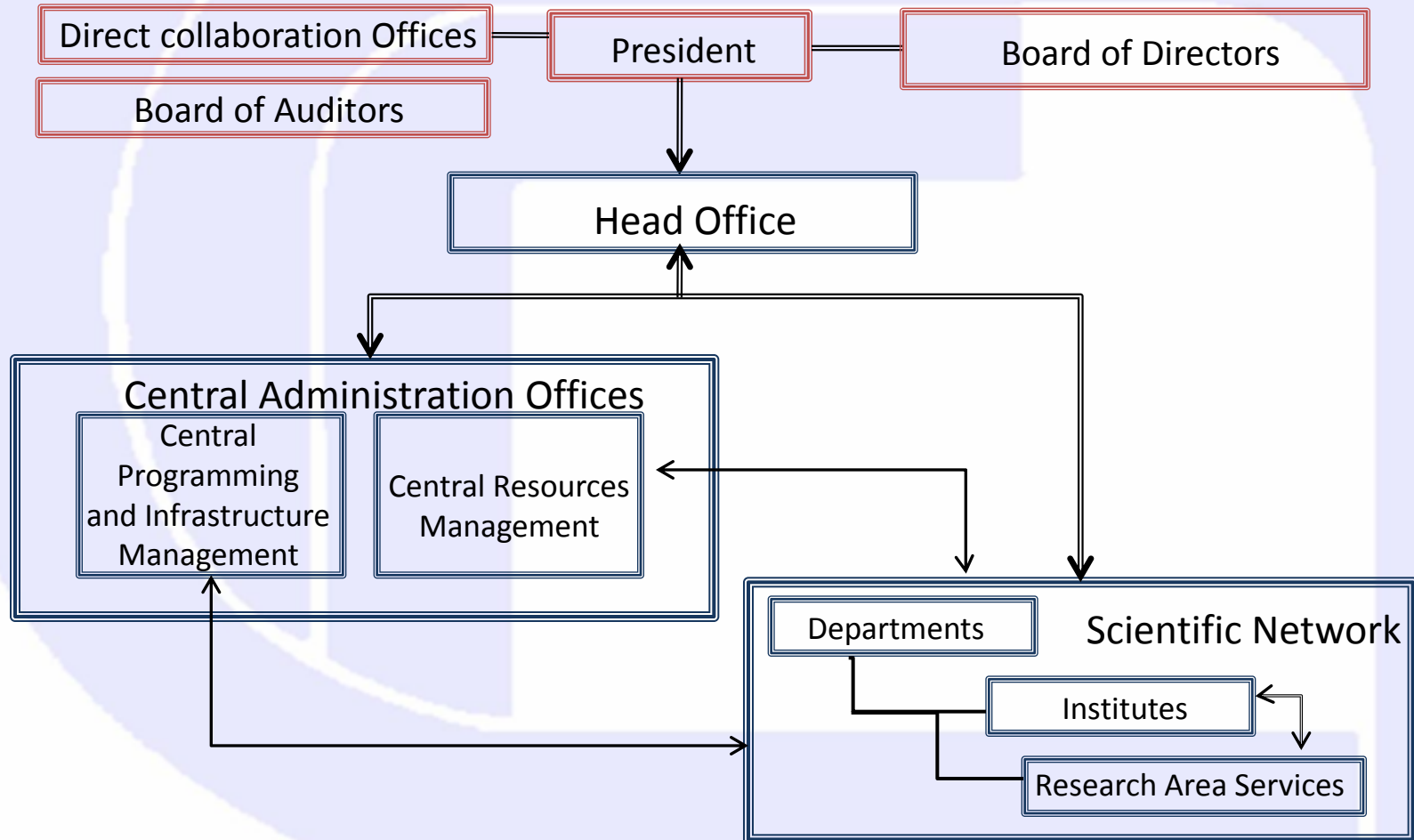INFN Headquarters - Rome
31st March – 1st April 2008

Introduction: CNR's mission

Mission: Perform, promote, broaden, transfer and improve research activities in the main development fields of knowledge for scientific, technologic, economic and social Italian development.

CNR is the wider research public structure in Italy. The scientific fields of the more than 100 Institutes cover a variety of issues from Humanities to Nanotechnology.

Introduction: CNR's organization

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Introduction: performing research at CNR

- **107 institutes**, located in about 300 different sites around the country;

- **11 scientific departments (SD)**

- **83 research projects**

- **More than 4.000 researchers**

Evaluation and autoevaluation

CNR Regulation defines evaluation for:

- Research products of scientific network
- General objectives of research activity
- Results of research activities
- Long term programmes according to Ministry programmes

Autoevaluation closes evaluation procedures and it is performed by:

- Department Chiefs
- Institute Directors
- Single Researchers

Evaluation at CNR - Levels

External Evaluation (CIVR)
- National evaluation comitee
- Three years of activities are evaluated (last

Strategic and management evaluation of CNR's structures
- Performed by Board of Directors
- Both research activities and management are evaluated
- Institutes and Departments contribute with RD and RI

Institutes and Departments autoevaluation
- Annual report

Researchers' evaluation
- Annual report on their activity

Evaluation at CNR – Criteria

- **Main aim:** get an overview on Institutes through different elements such as: scientific production on existing issues, analyze the possibility of opening new research activities, new competences and new technologies needs, collaboration with internal and external groups.

- **Articulation:** 120 division areas clustered in 29 main fields.

- **Main criteria:** Institutes will be evaluated, in relation with their main field, on
  - ➢ Skills
  - ➢ Consistency
  - ➢ Particularity
  - ➢ Collaboration and relationship networks
  - ➢ Development potential
  - ➢ External incomes
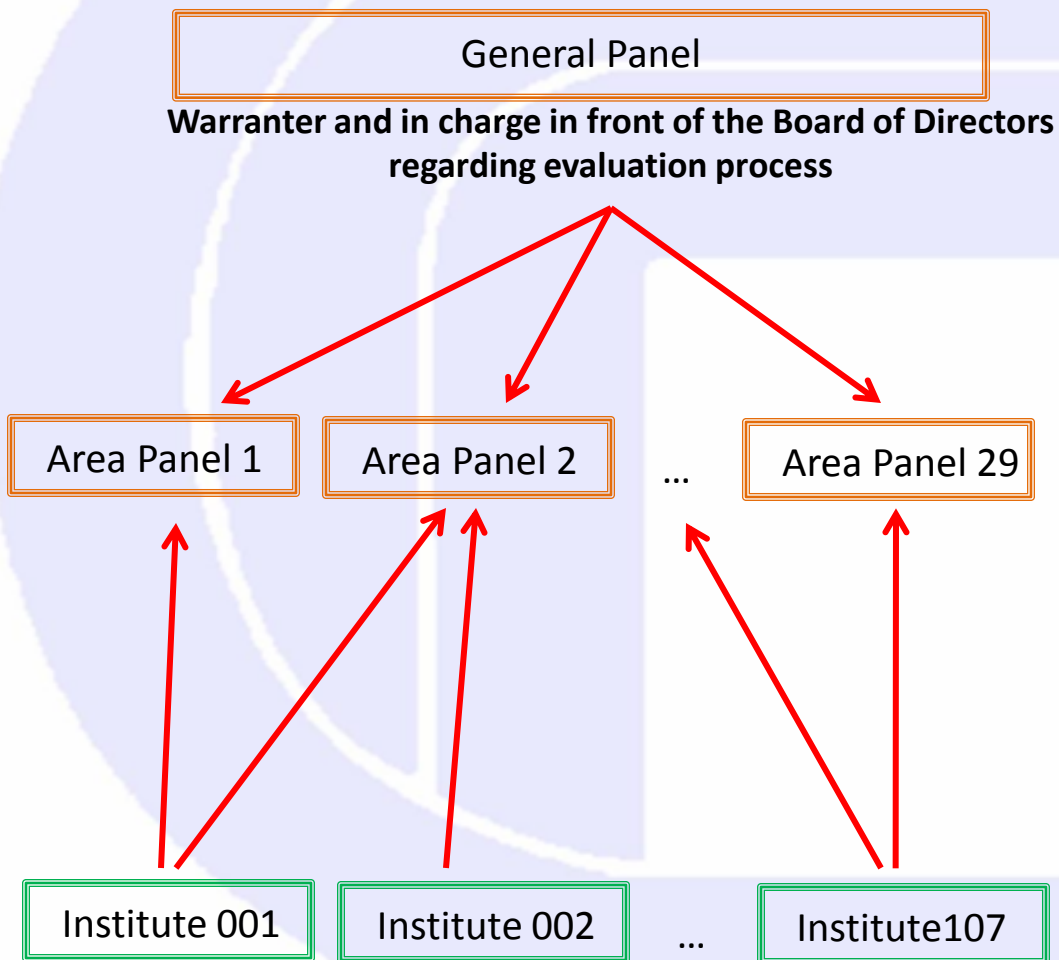 - ➢ Social and economic impact

Evaluation at CNR – Criteria (2)

- **Definition of indicators:** define a number of rational parameters related to Institutes critical mass

- **Common indicators:** such as intellectual, relationship, structural, economic and production assets.

- **Specific indicators:** such as quantity and quality of scientific products and innovation value of research programmes

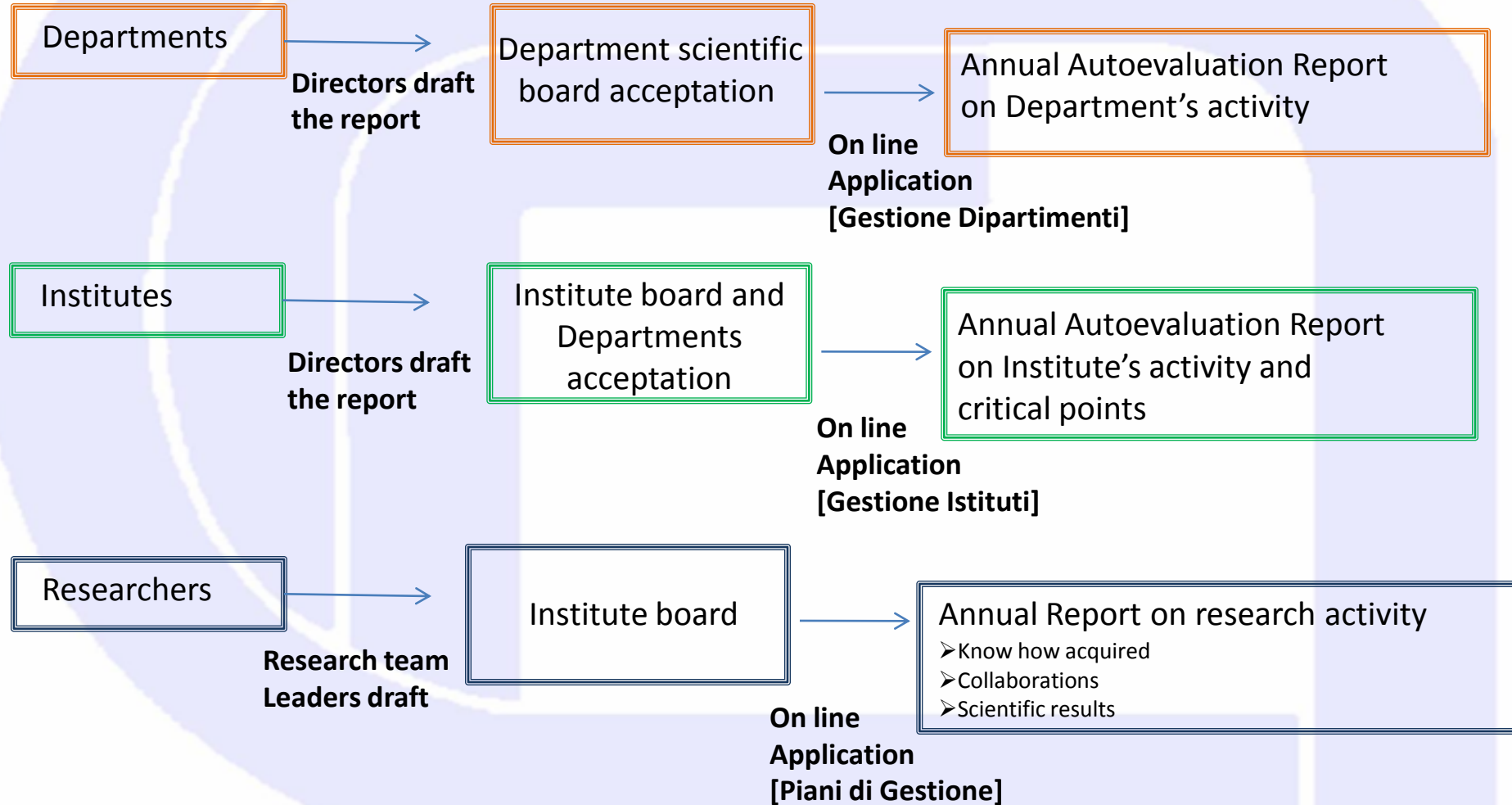# Evaluation at CNR: how evaluation is performed

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General Panel

Warranter and in charge in front of the Board of Directors regarding evaluation process

Area Panel 1   Area Panel 2   ...   Area Panel 29

Institute 001   Institute 002   ...   Institute107

➢ 16 expert selected on different subjects
➢ Supervision the whole evaluation process
➢ Designation of the Area Panel's experts
➢ Summary and report of the Area Panel's evaluation

➢Analyse documents and papers produced in the last 5 years
➢On site visit
➢Produce an annual final report on the valuated activity

➢Each Institute is evaluated by one or more Area Panels accoding to their research area

Autoevaluation – Who and how

Departments → **Directors draft the report** → Department scientific board acceptance → **On line Application [Gestione Dipartimenti]** → Annual Autoevaluation Report on Department's activity

Institutes → **Directors draft the report** → Institute board and Departments acceptation → **On line Application [Gestione Istituti]** → Annual Autoevaluation Report on Institute's activity and critical points

Researchers → **Research team Leaders draft** → Institute board → **On line Application [Piani di Gestione]** → Annual Report on research activity
- Know how acquired
- Collaborations
- Scientific results

Autoevaluation reports – Institutes and Departments

- Fill up a form in the dedicated **on line application**.

- Each Department or Institute has to describe **autoevaluation elements,** explaining discrepancies between ex post results and ex ante targets, and propose organizational structure improvements

- These reports are **published** in CNR's official documents

Autoevaluation reports - on line application

Autoevaluation reports – Researchers

- Research Group Leaders fill in dedicated on line forms in two different moments:
  - During the budgeting process.
  - In the scientific results reports

- For each research activity Group leaders must define:
  - Achieved Results
  - Used utilities
  - Critical points
  - Partnerships
  - **Comments to discrepancies between ex post results and ex ante targets**

Autoevaluation reports – Researchers [budgeting process]

Autoevaluation reports – Pubblication

- **Departments:** Departments Annual reports. They expose information regarding the Department.

- **Institutes:** Autoevaluation annual report.

- **Research Group Leaders**: Activities progress annual report

Evaluation Panels analyze all these documents to complete the evaluation process