



**crea**

Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura  
e l'analisi dell'economia agraria

**Council for Agricultural Research and  
Economics**

# **Principles and procedures guiding science-based policy advice within CREA's institutional mission**

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CREA - Institutional and International Cooperation

*European Science Advisors Forum (ESAF)*

*Trans-European online seminar on science-based policy advice in agriculture, food,  
climate and environment*

*Aarhus University, March 16-17 2021*

- National Research Institution
- General scientific competence in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, agro-industry, food & nutrition and economics
- Legal personality under public law
- Supervision by Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies
- Scientific, statutory, organizational, administrative and financial autonomy

**12 Research Centers with > 1.400 R&T staff**

## 6 Centres for value chains:



**Cereals and Industrial Crops**



**Animal Production and Aquaculture**



**Forests and Wood**



**Olive Fruit and Citrus crops**



**Vegetables and Ornamental crops**



**Viticulture and Enology**

## 6 Centres on cross-cutting research topics



**Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy**



**Agriculture and Environment**



**Plant Protection and Certification**



**Genomics and Bioinformatics**



**Engineering and Agro-food Processing**



**Food and Nutrition**

### At National level:

Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Economic Development



Assessment reports (progress, risk, ..)  
Development of national legislation in  
respect of existing EU legislation

### Regional Development Services



Development of regional legislation in  
respect of existing national legislation

### At EU level:

- European Commission
- Specialized Agencies



Development of technical/scientific  
standards and related normative  
framework for application at EU level

### At international level:

International Organizations



Development of technical/scientific  
standards and related normative  
framework for application at global level

**Relevant Public institutions of  
non-EU countries** (ministries,  
research institutions, public and  
private sector)



Assistance in the development of national  
legislation based on existing EU legislation  
and related by-laws and secondary  
legislation to provide for tools for  
impletation at national level

## Foresees explicitly situations of request of institutional consultancy:

Art. 2 (“Institutional activities and objectives”):

CREA carries out research and develops technological solutions capable of raising,, the profitability and competitiveness of agricultural, agri-food and forestry activities in a context of sustainability of production, guaranteeing the protection and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity of agricultural, forest and aquatic ecosystems, on the basis of the objectives and guidelines defined by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies. In pursuit of the aforementioned purposes and in accordance with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers (EC recommendation no. 2005/251 of 11 March 2005), CREA:

- provides **technical-scientific support, assistance and consultancy to organisms of national and international relevance**, to institutions and specialized agencies of the European Union, to Ministries, Administrations and Technical Services of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces, and other territorial bodies;
- promotes, develops and carries out activities of scientific dissemination and **knowledge enhancement** deriving from various research context, thus ensuring timely **outreach and sharing of results**;
- **incentivates debate on scientific topics** of national and international interest

Based on CREA Statute, Mission and EU charter of Researchers, aiming at defining the formal process and guiding principles for acceptance and conductance of institutional consultancy

## **“Scientific consultancy”:**

Expression of scientific knowledge, elaborated as an answer to an explicit or implicit request made by policy and decision makers, aware of the fact that this response might be incorporated in in related decisional processes

### - Advice requested at institutional level:

- External client
- Decision by CREA Scientific Committee

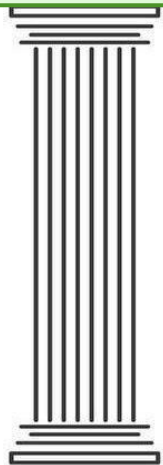
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### - Advice requested at personal level:

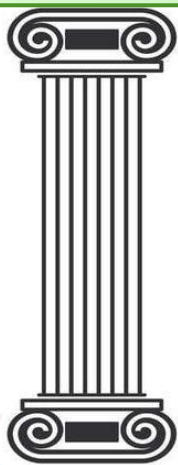
- Evaluation/review of publications and/or project proposals
- Legal advice (expert registered in the national register of legal consultants; exclusive responsibility of expert
- Individual expertise in the context of a scientific or technical context, exclusive responsibility of expert

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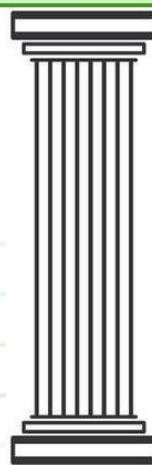
Advice/Consultancy



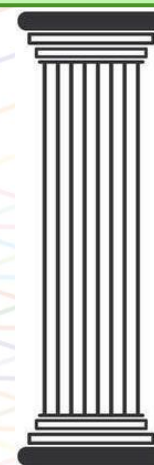
**Competence**



**Plurality**



**Impartiality**



**Transparency**

## Objectives of institutional scientific consultancies

- Critical exposition of available knowledge on a specific topic:
  - Bibliography
  - Consolidated facts
  - Still unknown aspects and/or ongoing scientific controversial discussions
- Experts:
  - do not express any personal position or recommendation
  - act as to clarify and scientifically evaluate different scenarios and options in the context of a given topic
  - are not personally involved in research targeted at the given topic, but the consultancy can result in the recommendation to initiate a respective research activity/line

## Formalization of the entrustment:

- Approved by Director-General
  - Confirming CREA's
    - willingness to support the expert in its mission
    - making available of resources/tools to enable the expert to carry out his/her/their task
- Carried out free of charge,
- If foreseen/decided: stakeholders are part of a «Supervising Committee» which is periodically informed about the progress of the work, but cannot intervene on its progress and content

## **Results/Products of the consultancy:**

- Reports and synthesis
  - Document(s) destined to the client:
    - Report on work done, bibliographic sources consulted, methodology applied
    - Report on conclusions and main points (accessible and understandable for non-expert clients).
  - Document, destined to the general public, produced by CREA in agreement with the client, and published through institutional communication channels

## **Fostering debate on conclusions:**

- The result of/report on a consultancy may trigger further debate in the scientific community.
  - Dedicated seminar/meeting, organized by CREA, if requested, in agreement with the client
  - Subject of further examination by the Scientific Council, to be opened to other scientific institutions or other stakeholders
  - Might be included in future CREA internal programmes of activity to promote innovation in research



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