



Section des unités
de recherche

October 2008

What is AERES?



A = Agence
E = d'Evaluation
R = de la Recherche
ES = et de l'Enseignement
Supérieur

Agency
for Evaluation
of Research
and Higher Education

Questions



- What is AERES?
- Why was AERES created?
- When does it work?
- How many (evaluations, experts, referees, staff,...)?
- How does it work?
- What is the output?

What is AERES?



- AERES is a young autonomous administrative authority
- whose tasks and organisation have been defined by two texts
 - « *La loi de programme n°2006-450 du 18 avril 2006 pour la recherche (texte d'origine & textes consolidés)* »
 - « *Le décret n° 2006-1334 du 3 novembre 2006 relatif à l'organisation et au fonctionnement de l'Agence d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur, publié au Journal officiel du 4 novembre 2006.* »

AERES tasks



AERES has been given 4 tasks

- Evaluate **research institutions** (universities, INSERM, CEA, CNRS...) considering all their missions and their activities.
- Evaluate **research activities of the units** and groups of these institutions
- Evaluate **teaching curricula** of the higher education system (LMD = 3, 5 and 8 years)
- Validate **evaluation processes for the scientific staff** of these institutions.

Do and don't



- **AERES evaluates and does NOT decide**

Decisions about accreditation and funding belong to Universities, Institutions, State,...

- **AERES evaluates research AND higher education :**

Research and curricula sections are working together. They share the same scientific officers:

- Cross fertilisation
- Master and doctoral curricula are linked to the research groups
- Evaluation of universities (task 3) needs information on research and teaching evaluations (tasks 1 and 2).

- **AERES does NOT evaluate individuals**

Representatives of bodies evaluating research officers are included at different levels :

- AERES Council
- Visiting committees

The 3 sections



- **Section 1 (Institutions)**
 - evaluates universities and research agencies,
 - validates evaluation processes for scientific staff of these bodies
- **Section 2 (Research units)**

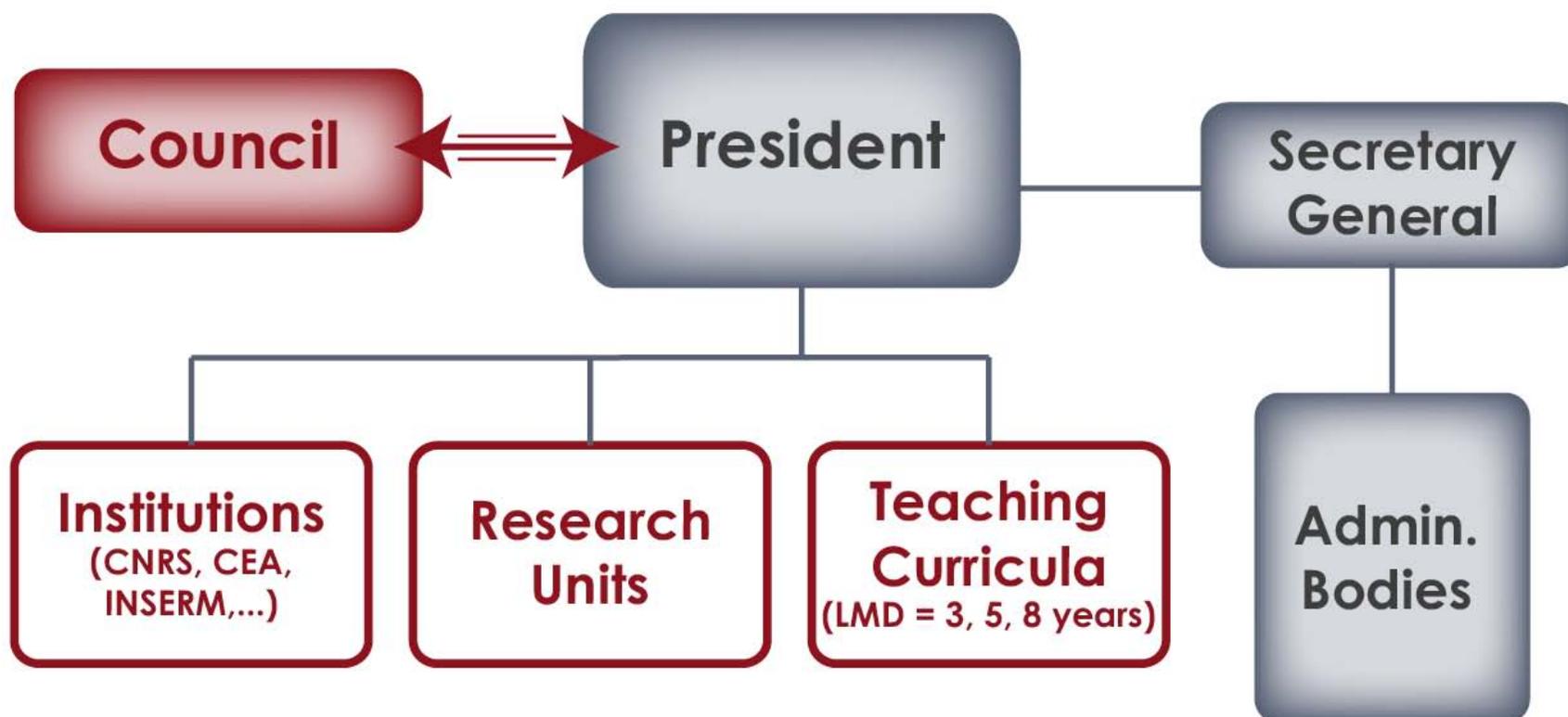
evaluates research units (5-500) and teams (3-10) from the above institutions by

 - direct evaluation,
 - through agreement with these institutions if processes are validated.
- **Section 3 (Teaching curricula and diploma)**

evaluates 3y. (« licence »), 5y. (« master ») and 8 y. (« doctorat ») by

 - direct evaluation,
 - through agreement with these institutions if processes are validated.

AERES organisation



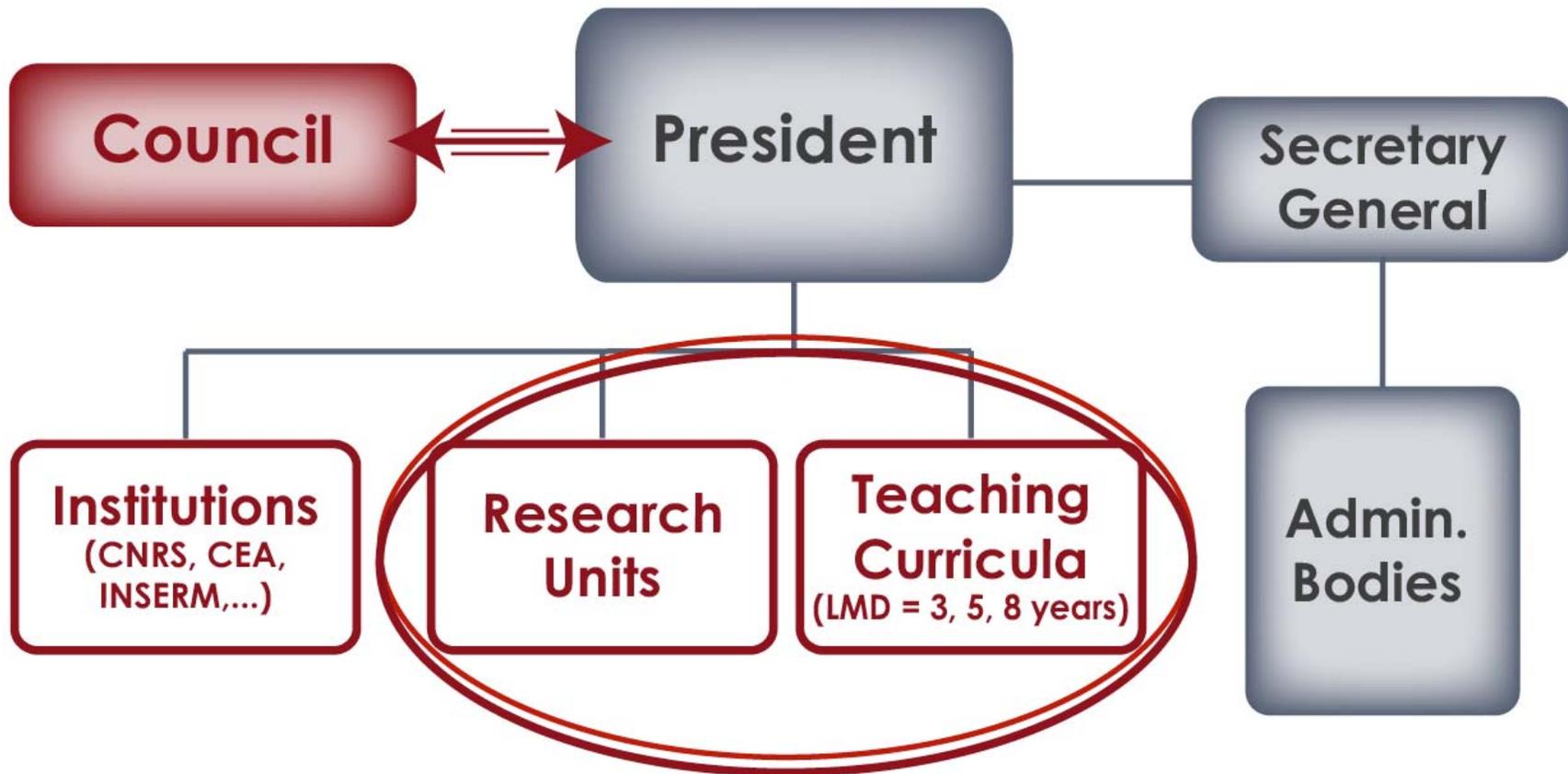
The AERES Council

définit « les mesures propres à garantir la qualité, la transparence et la publicité des procédures d'évaluation. »

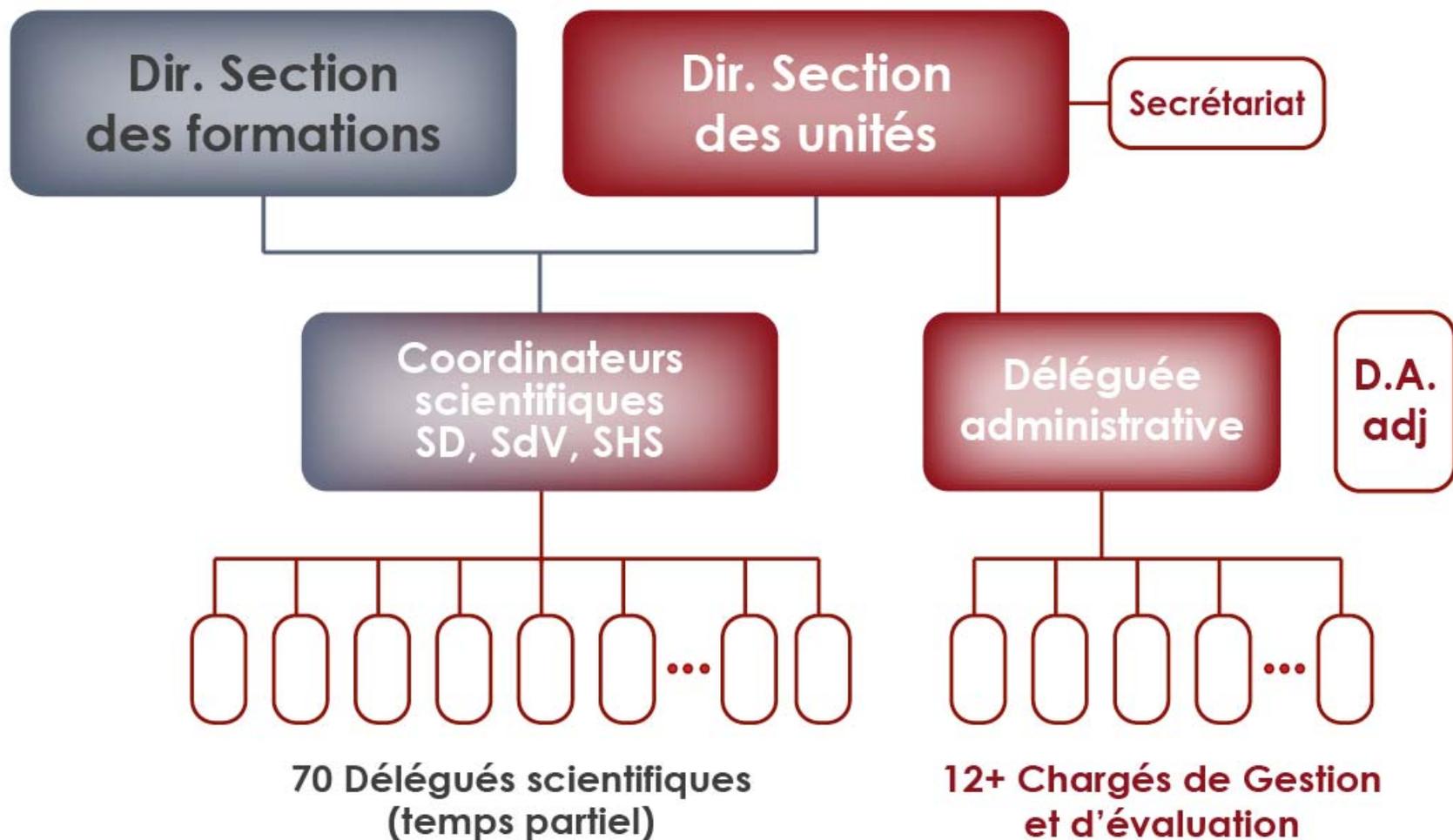


- The 3 missions of the AERES Council
 - Warrant **process consistency** within the different sections by setting :
 - the general framework ;
 - the global goals ;
 - the criteria ;
 - the processes.
 - Ensure that criteria and processes account for **diversity** in the scientific domains and in the nature and missions of the bodies under investigation
 - Specify **operating conditions** for the evaluations

AERES organisation



Organisation sections 2 and 3

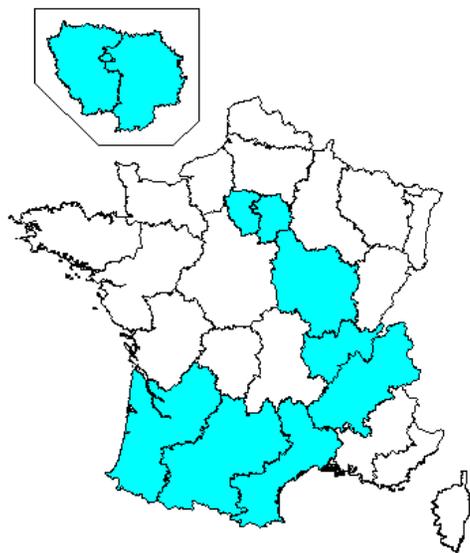


Research units evaluation

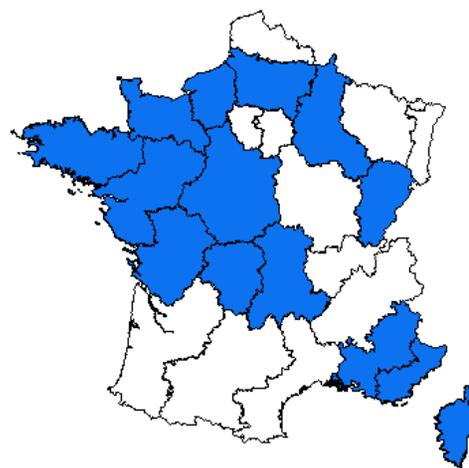


- The task: evaluation of all state funded research units
 - 600 research units in 2008 (700 in 2009) by 3200 experts (peer review)
 - 32 universities and agencies (62 in 2009)
 - 2000 curricula in 2008 by 700 referees.
- Covering **ALL** research bodies supported by public funds, including private universities, architectural and cultural research, and possibly clinical research...

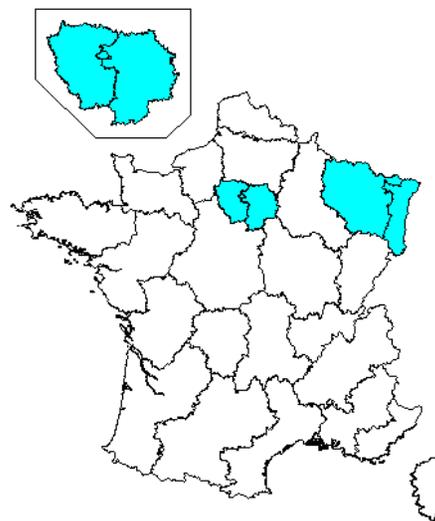
A 4-year survey



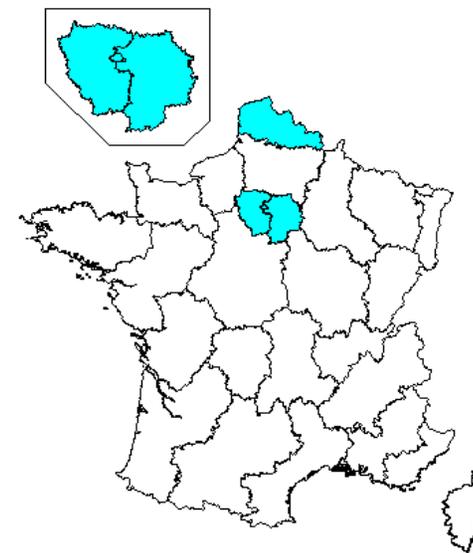
2010



2011



2008



2009

Research Unit evaluation process

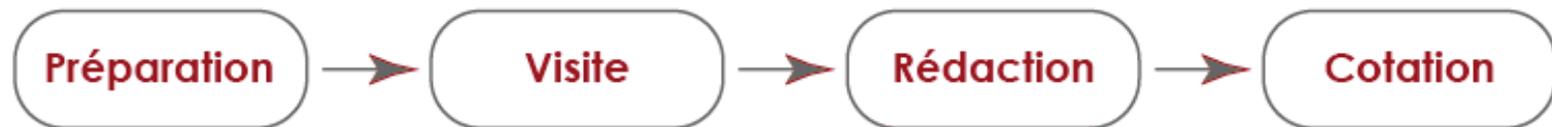
4 steps :

Preparation

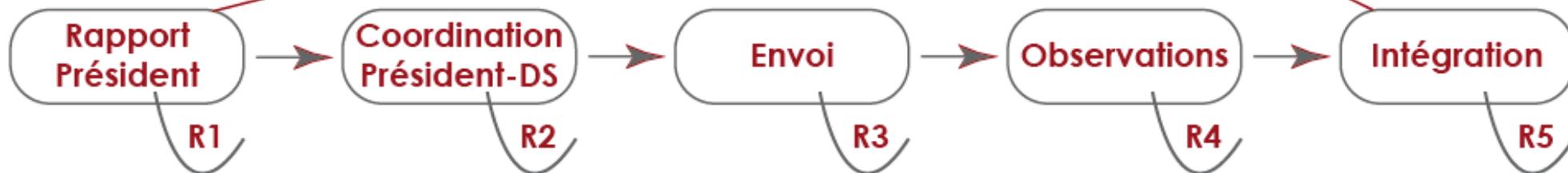
Visit

Writing

Marking



Each is divided into 5-6 subprocesses

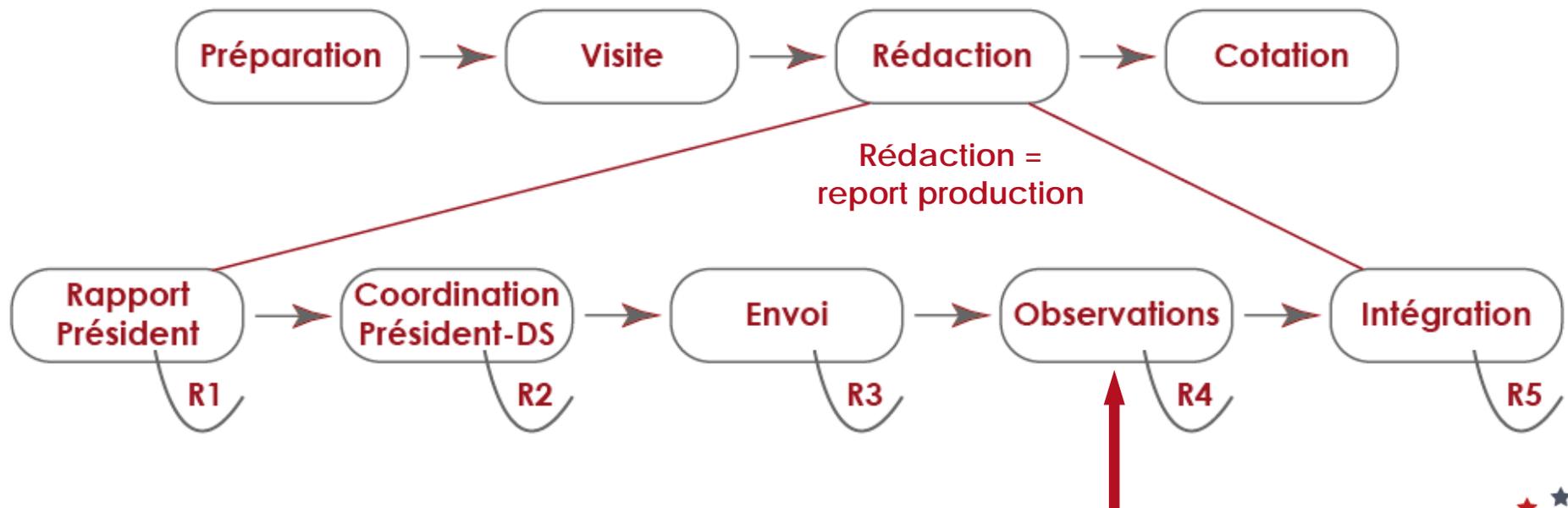


Output: a detailed report, 4 marks and 1 global mark

Report production

The report is

- prepared by the president of the visiting committee
- checked for quality by AERES scientific officers
- sent to evaluated bodies and host institutions for observations
- stored before « final delivery » (= report + observations + marks)



Here the « return » of the evaluated unit is accounted for

The report



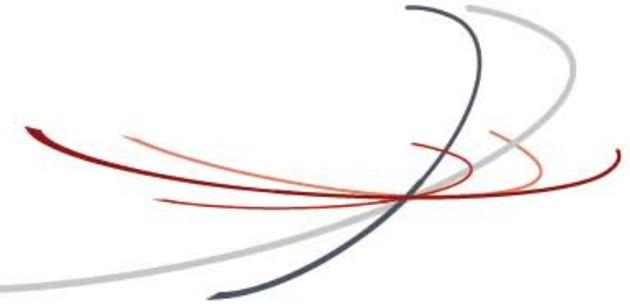
- The report must
 - be critical, not descriptive,
 - detail evaluation of each research team,
 - specify Strengths, Weaknesses and Recommendations.
- **Observations** from the research unit and its host institution are added to the peer review.
- The report and the observations are made **available on the Web.**

Marking of research units and teams (1)



- A deliberately anti-algorithm approach
- Based on a 15 points grid
- Combines quantitative and qualitative data
- Emphasizes most relevant results w.r.t. average values

Marking of research units and teams (2)



- Four items:
 - Production (Quality, quantity, impact)
 - Attractivity (national, international,..)
 - Strategy, management
 - Project
- Plus a **global mark** by AERES
- Each mark on 4 levels: A+, A, B and C

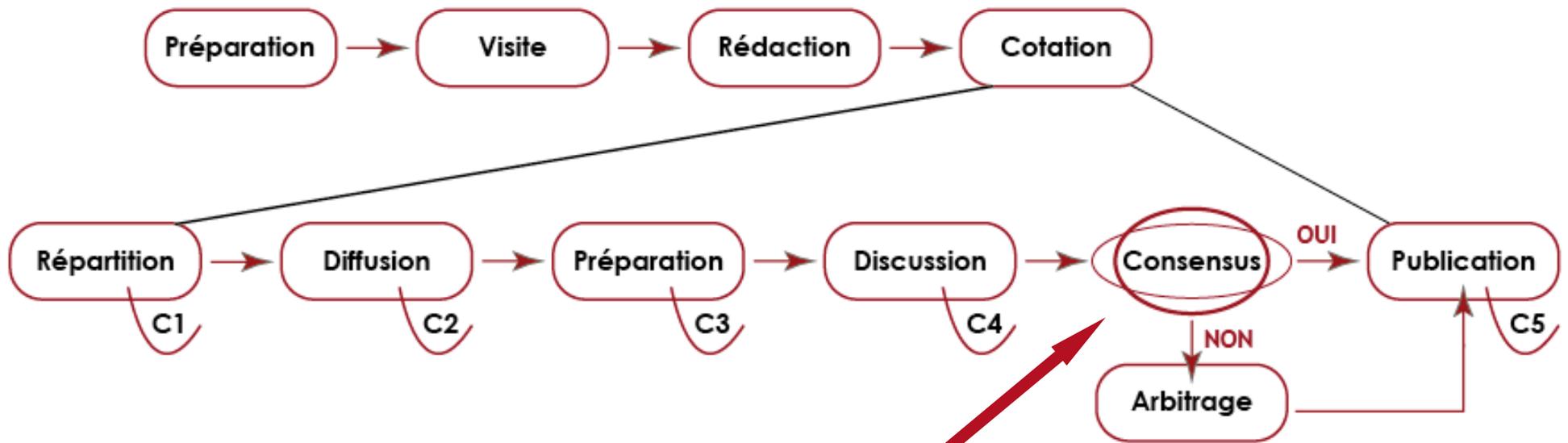
Marking of research units and teams (3)



- Marking is NOT proposed by the visiting committee (inhomogeneity, up-push...).
- Marking by panels including ca. 10 presidents of visiting committees and AERES staff members.
- Panels organized roughly following the ERC* panel classification.

* European Research Council

Marking of research units and teams (4)



The panel marks on the basis of peer consensus

Criteria and Indicators



Refined version
to be published soon

and in any case, before
next « G8 research »
meeting.