

Introduction

Education is no longer limited to a specific stage of our lives, nor is it about passive and unidirectional learning. Learning today involves the acquisition of skills, knowledge and competences in a context of exchange, complicity and networking. Today, as we have been reminded by the OECD Director of Education, Andreas Schleicher, “modern education is about enabling professional autonomy within a collaborative culture.”

This has been and is the role of universities. Without ceasing to be generators of knowledge, we have added the role of being a node that facilitates exchange and dissemination, on the understanding that in a complex world like ours, knowledge necessarily interacts in a complex way. We have assumed the challenge of adapting to this complexity, and it is one that we find enticing. That is why we are working for universities at the service of society to meet its educational needs.

The aim of this report is to present the teaching and education work done by Catalan public universities, as one of their main missions, demonstrate their accountability to society, and highlight their importance and quality. It follows on from the Indicator Reports of Research and Innovation in Catalan Public Universities that have been published annually since 2012 and the Report on the Social and Economic Impacts of Public Universities and the Public Research System in Catalonia, published in 2017.

The report is divided into three interconnected chapters and a monograph. The first chapter shows a map of the training programmes on offer, the profile of students and faculty, doctoral training and the funding of teaching in the Catalan public university system. The second chapter presents the education process, with questions such as the quality of the offer, international mobility, training results, professional internships and teaching innovation. Next, the third chapter looks at continuing education, networks and links the links of universities with society. The document ends with a monograph, which examines a different subject in each edition. This deals with education and the social commitments of universities and includes specific examples of experiences that illustrate the key role played by universities as agents of social change.

We have used a broad range of sources of information and documentation to prepare this report, including the UNEIX databases, reports and indicators from the Agency for Quality in the Catalan University System (AQU Catalunya) and those of each of the universities. Additionally, some indicators were created especially for this report and for subsequent editions.

Eight Catalan public universities have helped to produce this document: the University of Barcelona (UB), the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), the Polytechnic University of Barcelona (UPC), Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), the University of Girona (UdG), the University of Lleida (UdL), Rovira i Virgili University (URV) and the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). The ACUP Executive Secretary is responsible for its initial design and overall coordination.

All of the information, including the indicators, is available in electronic format at the following link www.indicadorsuniversitats.cat.