ACCREDIA is the Italian Accreditation Body appointed by the State to undertake accreditation activities of certification, verification and inspection bodies and of testing, medical and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.

ACCREDIA operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development which is the National Authority with regard to accreditation activities.

ACCREDIA assesses the competence, impartiality and independence of conformity assessment operators (bodies and laboratories) against both obligatory and voluntary standards in order to ensure the reliability of testing, verification and inspection reports, and of calibration and conformity certificates, also with regard to management systems as quality, environment, energy, occupational health and safety, information technology, information security, food safety, etc.

ACCREDIA operates in both the **voluntary and mandatory sectors** in accordance with Regulations and EU Directives, for which the accreditation of operators (bodies and laboratories) is a requirement for the issue of authorizations and notifications by the competent Authorities.

Accreditation is a service carried out in the public interest, with the aim of contributing to the improvement of competitiveness and the promotion of technical and economic progress, facilitating the free movement of goods, sustainable development, fair competition amongst market operators and transparency in relations between producers and consumers, as well as the improvement of products and of living and work environment.

All actors – **institutions, businesses and consumers** are therefore a part of the system.

ACCREDIA is a member of the bodies of cooperation between national accreditation bodies at EU and at worldwide level (EA, IAF and ILAC) and is **signatory to the International Agreements of Mutual Recognition** whereby reports and certificates issued under accreditation are fully recognized internationally.

ACCREDIA has 68 Members: these consist of scientific, technical, economic and social institutions which have interests in accreditation and certification activities, amongst which there are 9 Ministries, these being the Ministries of Economic Development, Environment, Defense, Infrastructure and Transport, Internal Affairs, Education, Labor, Agriculture and Health. Other entities involved are the Public Administrative Authorities, Research and Standardization bodies, the main business associations and consumer associations.

3 Departments for accreditation: certification (of management systems, of products and persons) and inspection; testing laboratories and calibration laboratories.

1,862 accredited subjects: 417 certification, verification and inspection bodies, 1,250 testing and medical laboratories and proficiency testing providers, and 195 calibration laboratories and reference material producers.

The assessment activities reach **16,493 audit days worked** by **579 qualified assessors and experts**. **147,000 companies and organizations' sites** certified under accreditation for management systems, more than **100,000 certified products** and **280,000 certified professional persons**; **5 million accredited laboratory tests**, especially in the chemical and microbiological sectors; more than **166,000 calibration certificates** issued by the accredited laboratories.

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