

GLOBAL REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH UNITS ON LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

The present Global Report was written in Portuguese. For reasons of uniformity with the other reports and inner consistence of the Overall Report, it was translated into English. The authors of the Report acknowledge this fact and assume responsibility for any misinterpretation arising from it

Evaluation Panel:

Adriano Moreira – Coordinator

André Thomashausen

Gianfranco Pasquino

Julían Santamaría Ossorio

José Fontes - Panel secretary

I - 1. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation process encompassed ten Research Units and was carried out from July 14 to 16, 2003. The evaluators went to the School of Law at Porto University, to visit the Centro de Investigação Jurídico-Económica, which had been previously financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). The representatives of the remaining proposed Centres (projects) were interviewed at the FCT headquarters.

The audits were always initiated with a presentation by the project leader, detailing the strategic vision of the institution, its wealth of experience and the opportunity, objectives and added value expected from the project. Usually, the other members intervened to clarify methods, human resources and task allocations, and the articulation of the project with future activities.

The meetings ended with a discussion between the Panel members and the project's proponents, in order to clarify the prospective vision of the institution, the initiatives foreseen, and their worth relatively to the state-of-the-art in the field, and also the difficulties anticipated in realizing the adopted programme.

I - 2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Panel decided to value positively the international recognition already attained by the institutions responsible for the projects; the relevance and originality of the proposals; the motivation, capacity and determination of the researchers involved; and the dimension and quality of the human resources relatively to the project's requirements.

II - RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

The Evaluation Panel always took into consideration the need to avert the institutions, and the scientific agents involved in the project, from a passive attitude relatively to outside developments. Instead it considered as central the ambition to innovate and mobilize young researchers, oriented by senior staff, towards critical freedom supported by adequate resources.

III - RECOMMENDATIONS

Law and Political Science is still a developing area, with financing demands that do not find in the national framework, neither sponsorship from individuals nor support from enterprises. Hence, a proper management of the State budget recommends that the projects specify other financial support already received or to be received, namely from public entities, in order to achieve equity in the allocation of resources.

IV – RESEARCH QUALITY IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS

The overview of the Projects shows that the distinction between a normative and a socio-political perspective is not yet consolidated in Political Science and International Relations. However, advances are taking place, and some of the projects already show progress towards a multidisciplinary attitude.

In the future, insistence should be placed on avoiding double employment, in view of the need to rationalise human resources, favouring inter-institutional programmes, whenever there are joint scientific interests involved. Researchers with quality publications abroad should be preferred, as well as the Centres with leaderships with proven capability for the management of group work.

Finally, the Centres and Projects should be integrated in the evaluation of the University they are associated with, to help optimize the distinct capacities of teaching, investigation and research coordination, with the consequent definition of responsibilities.