

Report of the Meeting of the External Permanent Scientific Advisory Board of the Centre for Industry and Technology Management (CITM/CGIT) on May 6, 2013

On May 6, 2013, the External Permanent Scientific Advisory Board of CITM/CGIT met with the Research Centre Coordinating Committee in Guimarães.

Of the EPSAB, three members were present:

- prof. dr. Henk G.Sol, chairman, professor of Business and ICT and Founding Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen, the Netherlands,
- prof. dr. Jose Enriques Ares, professor of Production Processes at Escuela Technica Superior de Ingenieros Industriales, University of Vigo, Vigo, Spain.
- prof. dr. Pedro Mondelo, professor of Human Engineering, UPC Barcelona, Spain.

The other member was contacted by mail:

- prof. dr. Laszlo Monostory, professor of Distributed Systems, SZTAKI, Hungary.

The EPSAB was again very well received. The meeting with the staff, headed by prof. dr. Madalena Araujo, was well organized and all relevant material was timely distributed.

The FCT report 2012 and the presentations of the center and the groups were the basis for the evaluation.

The EPSAB realizes that the center faces difficult times as many other university units do. The financial pressure on the industry partners reduces funding. It is also observed that interdisciplinary research receives less support in the mono disciplinary reputation race of universities. The design character of the work puts additional pressure on the productivity as issues have to be addressed and analyzed before solutions can be designed and evaluated. It takes a longer route to produce journals papers.

Also the current national evaluation within the setting of Mechanical Engineering does not contribute to the full recognition of the fine scholarly contribution of the center.

The EPSAP appreciates the continuing increase in productivity and quality as expressed in the self-assessment. The board thinks this assessment is quite objective and realistic. The figures are even better in view of the relatively high teaching load of the PhD holders in comparison to other departments and universities. It is observed that some staff members mainly contribute to software development and academic services. It is advised to single out these contributions from the overall productivity figures. The withdrawal of PhD students for financial reasons is remarkable.

Overall, the EPSAP considers CITM/CGIT as close to very good.

It is suggested to articulate the unique character of the center and the constituting groups in terms of contributions to science and to organizations in society.

Quality can be increased further by co-operation with renowned partners, several of which are already highly involved in joint activities.

This can also amplify the research funding, especially in the European setting.

It is advised to continue to work with the already realistic targets for research outputs, where journal publications are becoming more important on the long run than conference publications and book contributions.

Recognition of achievements in software development, editorships, modeling and academic services could form a separate category for evaluation. It is advised to single out staff members that not reach the targets sets over a period of 3 years.

The EPSAB concludes that the center is on the good and appropriate track to becoming a very good to excellent academic unit.



H.G. Sol



E. Ares



P. Mondelo