

To Professor Manuel Pedro Ferreira  
Chairman of CESEM, Lisboa, Portugal

#### Evaluation of CESEM annual reports for 2015

The CESEM consists of 5 research groups, 1. Early music studies, 2. Music in the modern period, 3. Contemporary Music, 4. Education and Human Development, and 5. Critical Theory and Communication.

The 2015 annual report contains a brief overall report on the development since a reshaped structure of CESEM became effective from the beginning of 2015. This involved transverse thematic lines of research as well as new branches at the University of Évora, the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon, in addition to what was already established in 2009 at the Polytechnic Institute of Oporto (p. 1).

Results during 2015 were to a high extent positive. Funding rates have gone up, including competitive grants won for the CESEM. Numerous scientific events are mentioned including activities connected to the Doctoral Programme “Music as Culture and Cognition”, the first annual symposium of the CESEM, and CESEM’s participation in the new online series of the *Revista Portuguesa de Musicologia*. Very important in my view is the mentioning of activities to promote internal integration of the scholarly work within the CESEM in terms of “monthly internal symposia in order to coordinate individual research work, promote internal peer reviewing of work in progress and foster reflection on each group’s collaborative work” (p. 2). This is exactly the kind of activity that I wished to see in the reports for 2013 and 2014. It is very reassuring to see this being incorporated into the regular activities of CESEM.

The graphs and tables on pp. 2–3 indicating funding rates and publication figures (divided according to the 5 research groups as well as giving the total rates) also show progress and an overall convincing output from the CESEM in 2015.

The report is further divided up in 5 detailed reports from the five (above-mentioned) groups, each one giving a brief overall summary of activities and problematics for 2015. The listings confirm the already mentioned impressions, also in the listings of theses and dissertations finished during the year, academic services provided, activities concerning conferences and workshops as well as concerts and outreach activities. In spite of certain difficulties mentioned in connection with integrating the new branches at other universities, activities have clearly remained at a high level everywhere, and the international peer review journals in which CESEM publishes are (to my knowledge, which, of course, is not equally solid in all areas) of high quality.

It would have been helpful to have more information about the internal discussions in the internal symposia about how the 5 research groups can profit from each other, and how the collaboration between teams actually works. As the report shows, however, the CESEM clearly functions at a high level, my overall evaluation is that the CESEM in 2015 has progressed significantly, carrying out excellent research at a high academic level.

Copenhagen 31 May 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nils Holger Petersen', written in a cursive style.

Nils Holger Petersen