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Evaluation of annual report 2016

The material presented in CESEM's annual report clearly reveal that in 2016 CESEM started to collect the fruits of the seeds sowed in 2014 and cultivated in 2015. It is evident: CESEM delivers.

(1.) The output in terms of publications is indeed impressive, and this not due to the sheer quantity of publications alone, which makes the annual report count 169 pages. A considerable number of papers appeared in prestigious series such as *Acta Musicologica*, *Basler Jahrbuch für historische Musikpraxis,* and the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, to just name a few.

(2.) At the same time the intensity of academic teaching is not treated as subordinate to research and publishing. A total of "twelve Doctoral dissertations and twenty-two Master's thesis were completed in 2016 under the supervision of CESEM integrated members",[1] and CESEM hosted six Doctoral Studentships from the Program "Music as Culture and Cognition".

(3.) Notable milestones in 2016 included the start of CESEM's strategic project *História Temática da Música em Portugal e no Brasil*,[2] the establishment of the *Caravelas* centre in Brazil at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro[3], the completion of setting up the *Laboratório de Informática Musical*[4], and the further development of research on the therapeutic effects of music by the research group *Education and Human Development* and its lab LAMCI (*Laboratório de Música e Comunicação na Infância*) in collaboration with external partners.

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[1] Centro de Estudos de Sociologia e Estética Musical, "Annual Report 2016", p.1.
[2] Ibid. p.5
[3] Ibid. p.32
[4] Ibid. p. 59

(4.) The submission of funding applications has achieved with considerable success: in 2016 the research group *Critical Theory and Communication* alone obtained 10 scholarships and grants, including the much-coveted Marie SkŁodowska-Curie Award, won by João Pedro Cachopo.[5]

(5.) The high international visibility obtained by CESEM in the course of this decade is epitomized by the fact that iin 2016 CESEM's president and acting director Manuel Pedro Ferreira was named member of the international committee of the Inamori Foundation (Japan) in the nominations stage for the renowned Kyoto Prize.

In sum, there is no doubt that CESEM has grown to be a research unit of academic status that qualifies to be rated "excellent" and is capable to compete with prestigious institutions on international level. That said, it is difficult for the reviewer to find room for optimizations. Two aspects seem worth to be noted:

(6.) CESEM's career – to a great extent – is driven by the high commitment of its individual members and the extraordinary commitment of the members of the board. The focus on individual research performance is also evident in the structure and the content of the annual reports. Effort has been made to institutionalize CESEM-wide collaboration between the research groups by means of the annual CESEM symposium, first organized in 2015, that includes detailed presentations by all research groups and a final round-table.[6] Although, it seems that for developing an *institutional identity*, which on the long run will be a decisive factor for the further career of CESEM, more ways and means for the development of a "culture of cooperation" between the research groups should be created, practiced and institutionalized.

(7.) The theoretical horizon installed by the intention to perform the study of music as "Estudos de Sociologia e Estética Musical", investigating the interrelatedness of the sociological and the aesthetic perspective, has to be categorized as a lighthouse approach in the field. Without questioning the fundamental relevance, which both the historical and the philological approach have for the study of sociology and aesthetics of music, the extremely rich potential of CESEM's approach will develop in a sustainable way, if the research perspectives of the social sciences, including their basis in empirical methodology as well as the philosophical view on the aesthetic are equally supported and developed. It can be expected that additional funding will be needed in order to realize such an ambitious program. As CESEM has a proven record showing that programs are implemented and projected outcomes are delivered, I would like to recommend with special emphasis to provide CESEM with the support needed.

Witten, 26. Januar 2018

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[5] Ibid. p. 89, 126.

[6] Ibid. p.2.