Peer-review in the Performance-based Research Funding System in Portugal

Mutual Learning Exercise in Performance-based Research Funding Systems
28th of April, 2017
HEFCE, London
The PRFS in Portugal

- Promote a modern, competitive and flexible network of science and technology research units using international peer review
- Fostering scientific excellence and connection to industry
- Basis for the pluriannual public funding of the research units
- Stimulus for strategic planning within the research units
- Fostering internationalization

The research unit

1. Research groups determined by the researchers themselves;

2. **No legal existence** – validated by the parent institution (university, research centre, etc.)

3. With legal existence;

4. Flexible - merge, grow, split. Across departments or even between centres from different universities;

5. **Interdisciplinary**: the topics covered and the researchers involved are defined by themselves;

Last exercise (2013): 322 research units.
Phases of the procedure

1. Application form
   - Strategic view for the research unit
   - Outputs from last 5 years (including publications, PhD thesis, awards)

2. Panel of foreign experts evaluates the application

3. Same panel of experts performs site visits

4. Final evaluation
A. Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization level of the R&D activity of the research unit in the last 5 years

- Includes
  - Publications
  - Advanced training
  - Hiring of new investigators in the context of a broader policy of scientific employment
  - Involvement of young students
  - Organizing conferences and seminars;
  - Patents, prototypes or products;
  - Knowledge and technology transfer
  - Dissemination of results contributing to the Open Science policy
  - Promotion of the Scientific and Technological Culture
  - Initiatives of special relevance for society, of a scientific, technological, cultural, artistic, social or economic nature
Evaluation Criteria (2017)

B. Scientific merit of the team of integrated researchers, evidences of national and international recognition and, when applicable, the technical, cultural or artistic merit in the team

C. Objectives, strategy, organization and activity plan for the next 5 years
Results and funding formula

### BASE FUNDING

- **Amount**
  - \( Z \) * FTE of PhD

  \( Z \) depends on the final grade

### PROGRAMATIC FUNDING

- **Extra funding** proposed by the panel of experts
Uses of the funding attributed via PRFS

- Research activities
- Salaries of researchers hired directly
- Salaries of support staff hired directly
- Equipment, infrastructure

Excluded:
- Salaries of civil servants (researchers, professors, support staff)
Thank you.

Rui Durão  
rui.durao@fct.pt

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