



Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

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To: Programas Doutorado, Portuguese Science & Technology Foundation

Subject: Interim Advisory Committee review of the FLUVIO program

From: Robert M. Hughes, Chair, FLUVIO Advisory Committee 

Copy: Maria Teresa Ferreira, FLUVIO Program Director

Rui Cortes, Universidade do Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal

Felix Frances, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Toni Munne, Agència Catalana de l'Aigua, Spain

Nuno Portal, EDP Gestão da Produção de Energia, Portugal

Stephane Stroffek, Agence de l'Eau Rhône-Mediterranee et Corse, France

The FLUVIO Advisory Committee (ACFLUVIO) has reviewed the FLUVIO annual report for September 2013 to August 2014, dated 4 September 2014. The ACFUVIO has the following comments and suggestions on that report:

As stated in the FLUVIO report, the lack of promised funding from the FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) has been a substantial barrier for accomplishing the two major international goals of FLUVIO. That lack of funding has seriously hindered a) student coursework and research at universities in different nations and b) joint attendance by all FLUVIO participants in international meetings. FLUVIO leadership has been able to lessen these negative impacts through creative use of Skype meetings and funds from the Instituto Superior de Agronomia and Instituto Superior Técnico.

We agree that rescheduling the timing of key courses at different universities to enable students to complete those courses is a necessary change. Another option is to develop and offer online or distant learning courses. That would take additional time and effort, but it might attract non-FLUVIO students to the universities (which could have positive or negative impacts).

We commend the FLUVIO program for seeking student evaluations of professors. Although such evaluations can be problematic because of heterogeneity in student expectations, they help professors seek ways to improve their teaching and commitment to students.



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The 2013 evaluation criteria for admissions incorporated numerical (objective and consistent) scoring for degrees, grades, coursework appropriateness, and number of publications. If possible, numerical versus qualitative scoring also should be considered for journal impact factor and participation in scientific meetings (attendance versus presentation, poster versus platform presentation, and local versus regional, versus national, versus international meeting).