



Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

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Date: 21 September 2015

To: Programas Doutorado, Portuguese Science & Technology Foundation

Subject: 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

Antoni Munne, Agència Catalana de l'Aigua, Spain

Paulo Pompeu, Universidade Federal de Lavras, Brazil

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 report for September 2014 to August 2015 dated 7 September 2015. The ACFLUVIO has the following comments and suggestions:

As indicated in the FLUVIO report, the lack of promised funding from the FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) was a substantial barrier for accomplishing the two major international goals of FLUVIO. That lack of funding continued to hinder a) student coursework and research at universities in different nations and b) joint attendance by all FLUVIO participants in international meetings. FLUVIO participants lessened those negative impacts through creative use of Skype meetings and funds from the Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Instituto Superior Técnico, and Universidade da Bahia.

The ACFLUVIO commends FLUVIO for adding BOKU (University of Environmental & Life Sciences, Vienna), which greatly broadens and strengthens its course and research potentials.

ACFLUVIO still recommends developing one or more online distant learning courses to reduce FLUVIO student travel costs, increase the number of students interacting from different nations, and introduce an alternative instructive model.



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ACFLUVIO commends the FLUVIO program for seeking and reporting student evaluations of professors and courses. 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.

Because they were scored by students as sufficient (versus good to excellent), we commend the FLUVIO professors and Program Director for seeking ways to improve the functioning, content, and applicability of the Watershed & Aquifer Dynamics and Land Use & Water Management courses. The course instructors should also be provided with a copy of the evaluation form to better modify course content and pedagogy (if that has not already occurred).

It would be useful for ACFLUVIO if the affiliations of the student supervisory teams were provided (as acronyms) to better indicate the geographic breadth of the supervision.

Given that this was the second year of the FLUVIO program, it would be useful to all concerned to indicate the progress toward degrees (e.g., number & % of courses completed, status of research proposal, initiation of research) of each student. That is, students (as well as professors & courses) should be monitored.

The ACFLUVIO agrees with improving the student selection process by linking specific supervisors with each student, clarifying thesis objectives and content, and having those research supervisors lead the student interviews.

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