

Objectives and strategy of the R&D Unit for 2020-2024

In our vision, the IEM's major programmatic objectives are:

- to consolidate the IEM as a Centre of Excellence;
- to sustain the high-quality level of its researchers and of the collaborative and innovative research being done;
- to increase the open access policy and the universal availability of research data as well as its interconnectivity in the academic world and beyond;
- to expand the connection with the civil society in close collaboration with public and private institutions of culture and municipalities, to empower the impact of the research being done in the IEM.

In order for those objectives to be achieved, the IEM marks out 14 operative objectives, that will define our action and help develop the plan of activities for the next 4 years:

- 1) to enhance the participation of the IEM in EU Projects and Networks as a contributor and as a leader;
- 2) to incorporate the current eligible post-doctoral fellows as researchers with a contract (11 fellows in 2018) and to further recruit, on an international level, investigators that will reinforce strategic areas where the RU wants to invest.
- 3) to expand the internationalization of the researchers by intensifying their presence in European Projects, the dissemination of their research, their participation in advanced training, research seminars & research stays abroad, and their participation/ organization of international meetings and teaching and supervising at all levels, in Portugal and abroad;
- 4) to explore innovative interdisciplinary methodologies for the advancement of research in new frameworks (as has been the case of History of Art and Archaeology in collaboration with REQUIMTE, VICARTE and HÉRCULES);
- 5) to promote the training of young undergraduate researchers by integrating them in RU activities in order to facilitate scholarly discussion and the transmission/exchange of knowledge;
- 6) to encourage postgraduate researchers and researchers with PhD on a contract to contribute proactively and independently to the investigations carried out within the RU taking responsibility over a range of activities connected with knowledge dissemination in their own field of research;
- 7) to cooperate with NOVA FCSH in view of maintaining and sustaining the expansion of teaching provision at all levels (BA, MA, and PhD), so as to ensure constant and

dynamic dialogue between teaching and cutting-edge research. Investment in postgraduate training, and in the doctoral programme in Medieval Studies in particular, emerges as a key element to prop the renewal of research and teaching staff and to consolidate IEM's critical mass;

- 8) to continue supporting open access policies for the dissemination of research outputs and research data to specialized scholars and the general public alike, in accordance to the RU's previous practice of total free open access of all outputs and research data (full availability of DBs, e-books, e-journal, videos and streaming of conferences to the general public, compulsory introduction of all publications in the open repository of the FCSH and NOVA's PURE search engine);
- 9) to align the previous open access long term policy of the RU with the EU and ERC's guidelines for Open Science and Open Access;
- 10) to contribute to the infrastructure ROSSIO and through it enable collaboration and communication with other national and international infrastructures RCAAP, DARIAH.EU, CENDARY, eHumanities;
- 11) to invest in the Digital Humanities as a means of promoting enhancement of research data and wider dissemination of results;
- 12) to intensify the connection between research and civil society, promote life long learning strategies and advanced formation for the general public;
- 13) to promote, in collaboration with the Institutions of Culture and Arts and the Municipalities, knowledge based strategies to raise awareness and conscientiousness, at local, regional and national level of a common past and the uses and abuses of Heritage and Historical "truth" narratives;
- 14) to provide consultancy and hands-on services to the institutions above mentioned, in order to create a knowledge based information society and to help sustain life-long learning, promote Cultural Heritage and Historical critical awareness for the greater public and promote the consequent rise of new self-sustainable jobs, whose vital role in the local communities and society this RU thinks that it could help to implement; all this would be very much in accordance to what the regional and national Strategies for development (EREIS & ENEIS) define as priorities, and also in accordance to objectives 4, 11 & 17 of the goals for Portugal 2030.

Our main Scientific Goals haven't changed considerably since the last Research assessment. They are:

- 1) to promote the production of new knowledge on a range of topics, by electing Portugal in its Iberian context as a primary object of observation, but always integrating the Portuguese case against a much larger interpretative canvas that can be better expressed via the analysis of the mobility of knowledge, material culture, models and practices as elements of cohesion within a politically fragmented Europe.
- 2) To stimulate debate and critical thinking in Medieval Studies, placing a strong emphasis on collaborative work between different fields in Social Sciences.
- 3) To build on previous, successful experiences of cooperation with other scientific domains, like Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Genetics and other Natural Sciences and take the RUs interdisciplinary experiments even further.
- 4) To allow the work being done in the Institute, its collaboration with the Institutions of Culture and Heritage and its interface with the civil society at large, to influence the research agenda, methods and experiments being done in the RU, thus enabling some less canonical combinations to promote new and innovative knowledge.

These objectives reflect the Strategy that the RU intends to adopt vis a vis of its mission and vocation. The IEM has also devised a wide range of activities of which only a few are listed, for the sake of brevity.

- 1) **As an international partner**, we plan to:
 - Host a biennial Meeting of European directors of RU in Medieval Studies;
 - Apply to 4 EU calls per year as PI (COST Actions/ Marie Curie Fellowships and Training networks, ERC, ESF and HERA Projects);
 - Develop a Marie Curie International joint interdisciplinary PhD in Medieval Studies "Medieval Europe in Motion: a Global Context?" and continue offering the e-learning PhD degree in Medieval Studies;
 - Integrate our research in major Research Networks (UNESCO Chair "The Ocean's Cultural Heritage"/ COST actions / Collaborative Lab on Lisbon and its Cultures) and networks of medievalists (CARMEN, FIDEM, MÉNÈSTREL);
 - Create a Visiting Professorship;
 - Implement IEM prizes for the best MA & PhD thesis (to be published in e-book) & for best article published in Medievalista online (granting a research stay of one month to the winner);
- 2) **As a RU where the Open Access and Open Science policies are taken seriously**, we plan to:

- -Continue our publications, enhanced by the possibility of inclusion in an infrastructure for Digital Humanities;
- -Create a Digital Encyclopedia of the Portuguese Middle Ages (eMedieval) in consortium with all the other Portuguese Universities and Research Centers;
- -Build a Collection of Sources for Scholars and Sources for Schools in Open Access using TEI system of indexation and hypertext;
- -Create more Db for the general public;
- -Produce a Mass Open Online Course (MOOC) about the Middle Ages

3) As a RU that invests in sustaining regular interdisciplinary scientific meetings as a form of creating new synergies and networks we plan to organize:

-Academic events:

- "IEM Research seminar";
- "IEM Research Conferences";
- "Researching in the Middle Ages";
- "Mattoso Seminar";
- "Medieval Europe in Motion"
- other International Events;

-Workshops for researchers:

- sessions for applicants for Research Projects, Scholarships or academic posts.
- Training in soft skills workshops:
- Website design
- Digital Humanities
- Medieval Latin
- Advanced Medieval Palaeography
- Stays abroad for specific needs for training of the medievalists

4) As a Centre that creates synergies, consortia, work posts and fundraising in collaboration with the Partner Institutions we plan to:

- Integrate actively the Collaborative Lab on Lisbon Metropolitan area - Cultures of the City, that will be headed by NOVA FCSH (<http://fcsb.unl.pt/investigacao-colaborativa>)
- Become a partner in applications by Municipalities and private firms to specific I&D Project calls and increase consortia with local associations of more regional incidence
- Co-organize international conferences and events with municipalities and Institutions of Culture and Heritage (Castelo de Vide/ Batalha/ Alcobaca).
- Establish protocols with Museums and Archives for cataloguing uncatalogued spoils or classifying and describing documents, manuscripts or museum pieces not yet fully described -Help produce Heritage guides
- Provide training for touristic guides in municipalities (in association with Institute of Professional Training for the unemployed)
- Implement the new contract with EGEC

5) **As a centre deeply committed to Life-long learning,** we plan to continue organizing:

-Lectures, Open Courses, Summer Schools

-Programmes for children

-Short courses, guided tours, historical routes