

FCT Relatório Científico 2011 Print: 20-06-2013 16:09:26 [Instituto de Estudos Medievais]

General Information

Name of Research Unit: (HIS-LVT-749)
Instituto de Estudos Medievais

Coordinator: Amélia Aguiar Andrade

Main Scientific Domain: História

Other Subdomains: n/a

Host Institutions

Leading Host Institution: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Other Institutions Involved:

Objectives & Achievements

Unit Description

The IEM is a Research Unit founded in 2002. Its work began with the Núcleo Científico de Estudos Medievais da FCSH, promoted by José Mattoso and Luis Krus, which, during the 90s managed to congregate most of the researchers which, during that period devoted themselves to the study of the Middle Ages.

Hosted by the FCSH/UNL, and characterized by its multidisciplinary, its mission fits perfectly into the statutory principles established by the Faculty in what concerns the nature and functions of RUs: it is an institution devoted to the promotion and development of research and scientific culture, formation of researchers and serving the community in its own area of specialization, the Medieval Studies.

According to its Statutes, the scientific and administrative coordination of all the IEM activities is attributed to the Direction of the Centre, composed by a Director, a Secretary, all the coordinators of RGs, the Director of the e-journal Medievalista. The Direction is assessed and its major decisions ratified by the Scientific Council, composed of all the PhD integrated researchers. The General Assembly gathers all the researchers to pronounce itself on the general policies of the Institute.

The External Scientific Advisory Committee is composed by five professors of Portuguese (1 from Coimbra and 1 from Lisbon) and Foreign Universities (1 from Spain, 1 from France, 1 from Italy, 1 from the USA) and it has as its main function, to assess and evaluate the annual activity, to advise the Institute on how to improve and adequate policies and to suggest ways to improve the functioning and development of the Centre and of its different areas of research.

The research, formation and dissemination activities occur within the RG's structure. This is a plastic and variable support structure, whose formal organization can vary according to each of the coordinators orientations. Its number and thematic has changed since the beginning of the Institute, which reflects, the evolution and growth of the IEM and a serious attempt at evaluating and assessing its production and possibilities from a self-critical perspective.

In 2011, a new re-organization of the RGs was intensely debated by all the members of the Institute within the structures of the RU and after the approval of the External Scientific Advisory Committee and the FCT, it originated a fusion into the present three RGs: Constructing the Middle Ages; Space and Power in The Middle Ages; Image and Text in the Middle Ages.

The RGs integrate senior and junior researchers, young PhDs and MAs and even some undergraduate students being introduced to research skills and projects. The sharing and exchange of experiences is therefore fundamental in the organization and dynamics of these groups and in the results of their activities.

As the RGs are not closed structures it is often the case that many of their activities, especially the ones with a public expression are often made in partnership, within the different RGs of the IEM, within several different RUs of the FCSH, but especially also with other RUs, Portuguese or Foreign.

The Institute's activities are sustained by an administrative secretariat which is in charge of most of the bureaucratic tasks and the administrative organization of events. Since the Institute does not have legal financial autonomy for the funding received from the FCT and gained through other fund raising processes, the management of the financial resources is ascribed and managed centrally, by the accountancy services of the FCSH.

General Objectives

Since its foundation, the general objectives of IEM have been:

1. To promote critical thinking and debate on the field of Medieval Studies in general, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity and comparative approaches
2. To stimulate the production of innovative knowledge on medieval topics, with a particular attention to the Portuguese and Iberian context, through research activities, meetings and projects.
3. To promote the formation of young researchers via their integration in research teams under the supervision of senior researchers
4. To encourage a pro-active and autonomous participation of PhD students and post doctoral researchers in the various lines of research of the Institute
5. To develop a strategy for the dissemination for the general public of new, comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives on Medieval Themes of wider impact.
6. To increase the scientific and academic exchange and to network with other national and international research centers of excellence, which share identical objectives in the field of medieval studies
7. To collaborate with the FCSH for the maintenance of a sustainable and constant offer within the Faculty's teaching offer, at all levels of study (BA, MA and PHD), so as to guarantee the updated dialogue between research and teaching

The fulfillment of some of these desiderata has not reached the level of implementation which we would have anticipated, mainly due to difficulties derived from the lack of financing for projects in Medieval History since 2005. This cripples the development of research teams and projects, as it hinders our capacity for long term planning. The multidisciplinary character of the Institute, however, and the funding of projects in the areas of Medieval Art and Literature, have enabled the production of some outstanding outputs in some of those fields, raised the international profile of the IEM and corroborates the assumption made above.

Despite such difficulties, the IEM has implemented a diversified set of activities aiming at promoting rigorous and scientific debate, dialogue and exchange on the main topics / lines of research of the Institute. This has been carried out in conferences, seminars, workshops and debate sessions, promoted by the RU and by the RGs. The creation of two BII from the IEM's own resources and the inclusion in our teams of PhD and Post doc researchers, with FCT scholarships, have supplemented our critical mass and allowed significant progress in projects and dissemination alike.

The publication plan of IEM, and the continuation and improvement of its e-journal, Medievalista, have made available to both specialists and the public in general a cluster of texts which highlights the expertise of the Portuguese medieval community, and the growing role of the IEM as an interface for contact and exchange within that same community. Internationalization has also been a major priority and one in which we have been doing well, whether in publishing abroad, in collaborative volumes or peer-reviewed journals, in integrating teams of researchers in foreign projects, foreigners in our research lines or just in participating in conferences abroad.

Main Achievements during the year of 2011

The IEM achievements derived from its objectives:

1. Empower the production of innovative knowledge on Medieval topics via research activities:
 - 1.1. Projects
 - 1 Research Project funded by the FCT
 - 8 International Research Projects, financed by the governments of the foreign countries in which such projects are based in which 11 of our researchers are participating.
 - 1 Conception and development of an application to an ESF European Project, to be presented in 2012
 - 1.2. PHDs: 7 PhD thesis successfully concluded
 - 1.3. Dissemination of knowledge to specialized publics:

Objectives & Achievements

Scientific publications:

International:

- 1 book
- 10 articles in peer reviewed journals, of which 2 in WoS
- 8 book chapters
- 8 papers in conference proceedings and catalogue entries with peer review
- 2 book reviews

National:

- 13 books (of which 1 fully in English)
- 24 book chapters
- 10 papers in conference proceedings and catalogue entries
- 2 issues of the IEM's online journal, *Medievalista*, with foreign contributors (ns. 9 and 10)

1.4. Dissemination of knowledge via other outputs:

- 2 databases finalised and 1 in construction
- 2 multimedia databases made available online, in open source ware

1.5. Enhancement of the interdisciplinary nature of the Institute: inclusion of Medieval Archaeologists as a new input.

2. Implement scientific and institutional exchange and contact with other national and foreign Institutions.

Most of our events were organized with the collaboration and/or support not only of other Portuguese and Foreign RUs, but also, to a considerable degree, with the collaboration of Private and Public Institutions, with a special place for Municipalities, the National Library, the National Archives and Museums and Cultural Associations.

34 conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops (6 of which occurred abroad) in joint partnership and with the participation of Portuguese and foreign academics.

1 Atelier doctoral in which the IEM participates as partner with the collaboration of senior members and PhD students in an initiative centred by the Casa Velazquez.

1 book on *Historiography of the Middle Ages (1950-2010)* was published, in English, with the contribution of (46) members of almost all of the Portuguese RUS of History. These units also contributed significantly to the funding of the publication.

- 20 Papers presented in events abroad
- 8 papers presented in events hosted in Portugal

3. Develop dissemination strategies near the wider public. This objective was achieved mainly through life-long learning activities:

- 1 open programme (12 sessions)
- 5 programmes (20 hours each) in the Summer School of FCSH

4. Collaboration with FCSH in supplying the Faculty with research-lead teaching: The IEM integrated MA and PhD students amongst its members.

For the Faculty, the senior members teach:

- 2 optional courses for the BA in History (Space and Power in the Middle Ages and War in the Middle Ages)
- 4 MA courses in History MA

several modules in the PhD programme of the FCSH;

5. Promoting the formation of junior researchers:

- Institution of a BII scholarship with the Institute's own resources
- Regular seminars for the debate of research topics and problems

6. Enhancing the integration of postdoc researchers and PhD students:

support of 5 workshops (jointly with other History RUs in FCSH) on submission of articles to indexed journals, methodologies and techniques useful to the academic writer.

4 new post doc researchers integrated the IEM, one shared with another RU and 3 other in full dedication, 2 of which from abroad (1 Spanish and 1 Italian).

Activities

Integrative/multidisciplinary activities during the year of 2011

From the onset, and as stated on its statutes, the Instituto de Estudos Medievais has always assumed its marked vocation for interdisciplinary Studies as one of its most prominent and distinctive characteristics.

This accounts for the fact that it promotes, in all its RGs, not the study of Medieval Art, Literature or History, as separate areas, but rather the practice of Medieval Studies as a field in which no progress can be done without taking into account the contributions of the different areas within Medieval Studies, as well as the one of other Social Sciences and Humanities, and the so-called ancillary sciences without which working on the Middle Ages is not possible. Joint events and activities, in which more than one RG collaborate, are promoted having such dialogue in mind.

The collaboration of the researchers who specialize in the different areas of Medieval Studies has been a major concern of the IEM and broadening the spectrum of the areas hosted within its RG is a priority for the Institute. It justifies the inclusion of Medieval Musicology among our members, and, more recently, that of Medieval Archeology, which allows the widening of the possibilities for collaborative work. Last years renewal of the previous research groups and the fusions and rethinking they meant also reflect the notion that the work even within each of the research groups should reflect that goal.

The input of archivists, less common in this sort of RU, has been an enriching one, which has allowed an even wider chronological perspective in a field that demands favoring the *longue durée* perspective for the study of formation, preservation and keeping of documentary evidence, private, or public. The participation of the RG Constructing The Middle Ages on the Thematic Net "Family and Society: Archives, History, Memory" opened the way to some initiatives closely related to the topic of Family Archives, whose results reflected in, not only a much broader chronological span, but also methodologies and problematic beyond traditional History .

However, despite the interdisciplinary vocation and all the efforts already in place, the RU feels that the practice of interdisciplinarity, and the promotion of its visibility could and should still be further improved, amplified and diversified, going beyond chronological boundaries and scientific areas.

Outreach activities during the year of 2011

The IEM considers that a Research Unit, especially one funded by state funds, has the moral obligation of dissemination of its work near the general public, just as much as that of serving the community in general, with its specific skills in its area of knowledge.

The IEM also feels that a proper and rigorous dissemination of knowledge of this field of studies to a broader spectrum of the population and with Private or Public Institutions of a different nature will help raise the profile and importance of the Medieval Studies in general and will contribute to the general understanding of the relevance and need for a strong Humanities and Social Science tradition in a World in development whose awareness of its collective past , its identity and its civic rights is continuously being challenged and whose essence is the dialogue with the civil society.

Guided by such goals, the IEM promoted several life-long learning activities, among which the open programme on "Family: Identity, Memory, History" and the participation on the FCSH /UNL Summer School with five modules:

- Poetry in Gharb Al-Andalus;
- Medieval Lisbon – the space and its inhabitants;
- The Gharb al-Andalus (VIII – XIII centuries): territories, people and culture;
- Paleography Workshop I;
- Paleography Workshop II.

Lectures in municipalities and public Libraries, participation in conferences promoted by local associations or institutions and Open Days of the

Activities

RU are also other such initiatives, with the same objectives. In 2011, the RG Space and Power has developed a number of initiatives in order to promote the signature of several protocols with other institutions.

Contacts were established, and a protocol signed with the Universidade Aberta, whose close connection with the municipalities through its Local Centres for Learning would allow the development of a consistent and broad research project for the study and dissemination of monographical studies on towns and cities alike, with the involvement of the local resources.

Another protocol established with the Municipality of Lisbon aims at the collaboration of the IEM as scientific consultant for the setting of the future Centre of Interpretation of the Cerca Moura (Moorish Walls) of Lisbon.

In both these cases, the economic crisis and internal questions concerning both external institutions at stake have delayed the development of the ensuing actions, but hopefully they will progress somewhat during the following year.

Funding

	2008	2009	2010	2011
LA FCT	0,00	0,00		
Units FCT	5.625,00	37.537,50	37.537,50	54.166,00
Projects FCT	23.060,00	20.785,00	20.436,00	11.021,00
Other (National)	2.100,00	5.527,40	4.330,00	31.923,00
Other (International)	0,00	0,00	0,00	1.350,00
National Industry	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
International Industry	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
	30.785,00	63.849,90	62.303,50	98.460,00

General Indicators

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
No. of Researchers Hired (Ciência Programme)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
No. of Researchers integrated with PhD	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	24,00	
Training PhDs (PhD thesis completed)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,00	3,00

Researchers Hired

Name	Start Date	End Date	Other Institution
No researchers found...			

Technical Personnel Hired

Name	Start Date	End Date	Other Institution
No technical personnel found...			

Additional Comments**Additional Comments**

It should be emphasized that the 2011 new integrated members of the IEM were, on the one hand, four new post doc students, two of which came from abroad (one from Italy and one from Spain), and on the other hand it is also worth noting that the inclusion of two senior archaeologists has allowed the broadening of the subject areas and will improve the interdisciplinarity nature of the work done inside the IEM.

Research Groups

Reference	Title / Principal Investigator
RG-LVT-749-1909	<u>Construir a História medieval</u> (Maria de Lurdes Pereira Rosa)
RG-LVT-749-3986	<u>Espaços e Poderes na Idade Média</u> (Adelaide Maria Pacheco Lopes Pereira Millán da Costa)
RG-LVT-749-3987	<u>Imagem e textos medievais</u> (Maria Adelaide da Conceição Miranda)

Strategic Project Adjustments

All the activities programmed for 2011 were actually completed, but its conclusion took up far more from the estimated budget than expected, which disabled, to a considerable extent, the realization of the activities for 2012, as they had been proposed in the Strategic Plan 2011-2012. The new Direction, elected in November 2011 had, consequently, to propose ways in which to overcome the situation, by downscaling the number and nature of a considerable number of activities whilst trying to maintain untouched the strategic priorities and main orientations of the approved Strategic Plan.

According to these new orientations, done with the unanimous approval of all the Direction Board, all but five of the previewed books will be completed, the conferences and workshops programmed were downscaled and the IEM is going to invest in trying to raise external financial support in order to allow the Activities to maintain an acceptable rhythm and an improved dynamic.