



INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL PROCESS FUNDAMENTALS OF THE ASCR, v.v.i.

Director

Statement from the director of the institute on the final report of the Commission No. 4

A) Evaluation of the Team No. 5: Department of Analytical and Material Chemistry

We consider the evaluation rather severe but truthful in many points. However, there are several misunderstandings or misinterpretations we have to comment.

Ad 1 Introduction:

"the Team covers an ad-hoc package consisting of very broad topics ranging from organic synthesis, through organometallics, material chemistry, biosensor research, NMR and analytical services as well as a scale-up service."

The Team does not provide the scale-up service. Each group within the Institute having a promising know-how worth industrial application further develops the know-how including scale-up in collaboration with engineer oriented departments (Laboratory of Separation Processes, Department of Multiphase Reactors). The Team Leader presented the activity in the building up of cannabidiol isolation procedure developed within the Team, which is highly promising and the success is a concern of the whole Institute.

"This brings about a confusing scientific dispersion with a too large number of groups working in non-interconnected areas of chemistry without any apparent perspective of improvement."

The evaluated unit could be subdivided into several subunits for the purpose of detailed evaluation. This would provide more realistic reflection of the group performance. On the other hand it would bring more administration. This matter was discussed in detail on the meeting of the Institute Board (21.10.2014) and it was highly recommended to follow the organization structure of the Institute and the number of evaluated unit should be equal to the number of the departments.

"ad-hoc composition its announced general themes (viz., Analytical and Material Chemistry)"

The Team name, Department of Analytical and Material Chemistry, was chosen intentionally rather general in order to fully cover whole topics of the Team sub-groups two years ago after last ad-hoc changes of the Team composition.

Ad 3 Weaknesses and Threats:

"no clear information on how the Team's members collaborate with rest of the ICPF - or are encouraged to do so - was provided and no argument was offered in answering to the many questions of the Committee Members on these two crucial issues"

The detailed scheme of internal cooperation was presented by the Director of the Institute. In the presentation of the Team Leader there was no space for such presentation. No related questions were asked on this particular topic to the best of our knowledge.



INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL PROCESS FUNDAMENTALS OF THE ASCR, v.v.i.

Director

"Only vague ideas about future and development of the Team and its groups were delivered."

There was no space to discuss this topic in the presentation of the Team Leader. Therefore only a short overview of the future activities was given for each subgroup that gives five dedicated slides in total. The detailed research plans were formulated in the written narrative materials.

"it was surprising that the details of financial support of the Team could not be clearly provided to the Panel during the on-site evaluation."

No related questions were asked on this particular topic to the best of our knowledge. The list of the granted project of the Team can be found on the webpage of the Institute for example. The success rate does not differ much from the rest of the Institute except EU projects. There were few in the past and there are none right now. However, the Team participates in the new COST action MP1406 (Multiscale in modelling and validation for solar photovoltaics) where we would like to find utilization of our materials within international collaboration.

Ad 4 Recommendation:

"...and allocate sufficient task-force to these few axes by inter-linking the present know-how to reach nationally and internationally visible levels."

We believe that this statement is a bit exaggerated. The majority of the Team researchers are well recognized on the national level and some of them even on international level at least in the field of their specialization.

"The required reorganization must be then fully supported by the Direction of the Institute and possibly at the CAS level, in order to enforce with sufficient determination and strength the development of collaborative works within the Team on the few axes selected..."

We do agree that a certain restructuring of the Team is necessary. Thorough analysis will be done in order to reduce the strategic research agenda to two or three most perspective directions.

22. 01. 2016

ÚSTAV CHEMICKÝCH PROCESŮ AV ČR, v.v.i.
165 02 Praha 6-Suchbát, Rozvojová 135
IČO: 67985858 DIČ: CZ67985858

-1-