

Research Centre in Education of the University of Madeira
2011 and 2012

Assessment by
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This appears to be an outstanding research centre, distinguished by the following features:

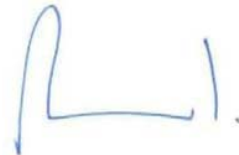
- Faculty are focused and appear to know exactly what they want to achieve. The inclusion of interested faculty from other academic departments – a biologist was present during our visit – is impressive. University-wide participation would enhance the instructional and research strengths of this already strong Centre
- The intellectual distinctiveness of the Centre – expressed, in part, by the emphasis upon ethnography as a research methodology – could be articulated in more detail. An elaborated “Madeira School of Thought” in educational research might well follow and achieve international visibility.
- This is a cosmopolitan group of researchers, a fact that is enhanced by affiliated faculty across Europe. Increased research collaboration with faculty within and outside Portugal – especially in grant proposals directed to the European Union (for example, for the research program “2020”) – would only underscore the cosmopolitan character of the Centre and the development of a sustainable researchers network.
- The website reflects this cosmopolitanism, as it is written in 6 languages: Portuguese, French, English, Spanish, German and Norwegian.
- There is very adequate scientific productivity, including an impressive production of Masters theses and PhD dissertations. Student research could be coordinated and structure proposals for externally funded research. Scientific productivity could be increased if research

partnerships could be formed with Brazilian and European colleagues. In general, instruction and research should be conjoined whenever appropriate and possible.

- Faculty incorporate their research results on post-graduate education programs. Students were very supportive of CIE faculty, praising in strong terms their teaching excellence and professional concern. Teaching appears to be an outstanding feature of graduate programs offered through the Centre.
- There is dissemination of the research results in an annual CIE-UMa Colloquium. Publication in English could be increased.
- There appears to be a strong cooperation with colleagues from South America, especially from Brazil. This cooperation might be expressed in proposals for externally funded international research projects.

Signed:

William F. Piner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'W.F.P.' or similar initials.

March 8, 2013