

COMMENTS ON THE CEG ACTIVITIES REPORT 2010
BY PROF. ANTOINE BAILLY

Since its creation on the 17th of march 2009, the IGOT-UL, comprising the CEG, has developed a high profile in geographic research and teaching, with an international reputation linked to its publications and conferences. Thanks to the CEG, it is one of the leading Institutes in Geography in Western Europe, with research links with well known universities, in the UK, in France, in Switzerland... This very clear "CEG activities report" is the proof in 2010 of an ambitious and successful story, even enabling a good start in 2009 for the IGOT-UL.

The 10 research clusters of the CEG show a good balance between human and physical geography, involved in contemporary economic, social and environmental problems. Among those clusters some are more theoretical, some are more applied, which shows the variety of projects .

We can take the examples of Urban Studies, with many applied urban researches for municipalities, or Antarctic Environments and Climate Changes, involved in the debate of global warming at an international level, or the migration cluster with its academic reputation and international conferences. All clusters, well presented in the report, give examples of a dynamic research centre. The choice of a multidisciplinary perspective shows the vast panorama developed by the clusters, and gives an opportunity to create many teaching courses based in the 10 fields, at different levels, including PhD. students. It is also a way to develop a significant editorial activity, at the Portuguese and international levels (books, "Finisterra", "Geography Notes"...) and to organize international seminars (54 in 2010, which is remarkable).

Many actions, consultancy services to local authorities, educational projects, "Dia Aberto da Geografia", "Festa da Geografia", conferences, are the proofs of an involvement in the diffusion of new geography in Portugal and at international levels (with also many exchanges

programmes for researchers and students). With the CEG, IGOT stands as one of the leading geographical institutes in Portugal for research, publications and involvement in applied geography. It is also one of the main centres of geographic education.

I find in the report the section on the General Objectives and the Main achievements a bit short. Each cluster gives more details than the overall view, which should be more developed to show that the CEG is not only composed of 10 groups, but has common objectives to promote geography, geographical researches and applied territorial analysis. A general diagram, presenting the main objectives of the CEG would be useful in the report. This is the next step to improve both the already good reputation of the Institute and the old-standing high quality of the CEG, and to develop even more activities in a structured way.

As a conclusion I support warmly CEG / IGOT projects and activities and wish both the research centre and the Institute a successful future.

Antoine Bailly
2011