

External Review Committee Meeting

Porto, June 2017

External Review Committee:

Professor Sir John O'Reilly, UCL, UK (Chair)
Professor Tariq Durrani, Strathclyde University, UK
Professor Luigia Carlucci Aiello, Sapienza University of Roma, Italy
Professor Joel Moses, MIT, USA (unable to attend this meeting)
Professor Christopher Tucci, EPFL, CH (unable to attend this meeting)

Summary

The External Review Committee (ERC) of the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) convened in Porto during June 2017 to review progress. The Committee, having received in advance extensive written reports for the two years of the Program since the previous ERC review visit in May 2015, met and had extensive discussions with program participants and leadership, representatives from companies in Portugal and with the President of FCT. The committee observes that - around the world - universities operating at the highest levels of excellence in education, research - and increasingly also fostering flow through to innovation/enterprise - are seen as crucial as countries seek to engage with the complexities and opportunities of a knowledge economy.

As the Committee has observed previously:

"This is a visionary initiative having a very positive impact, advancing yet further the standing and standard of research and postgraduate education in Information and Communication Technologies in Portugal."

Of particular note in this second phase is the 'entrepreneurs in residence' action. This enables representatives from early stage innovative Portuguese businesses to receive special coaching and the opportunity to experience the vibrant ecosystem in and around Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh and develop their business networks in the USA. This complements most effectively the world leading dual degree PhD programme and research between Carnegie Mellon University and Portuguese universities. The various actions of the programme work together in developing and nurturing research and entrepreneurial talent and activity in Portugal, making a positive, transformational, contribution to advancing interaction and engagement with industry, further raising the ambitions and achievements measured against the highest levels of international excellence.