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Subject: Report for Centro Universitário de Investigação em Psicologia (CUIP)

8th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

I am happy to write a report for *Centro Universitário de Investigação em Psicologia* (CUIP), for the period 2018-2023. CUIP integrates 44 members across 4 Portuguese universities, and has a wide spectrum of thematic interests, from cognitive neuroscience to education, mental health, and wellbeing. The leading team of CUIP includes Full Professors with a proven track-record of experience and achievements. Looking at its trajectory across this period, I was particularly struck by its achievements in internationalization, research funding, high-quality publications, and its commitment to fostering the next generation of psychological researchers through its Masters and PhD programs.

International Collaborations and Funding

CUIP has worked on expanding its international network. This is evident in its effort of hosting over 6 international conferences and in its ongoing collaborations with leading European institutes, such as the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behavior, and the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. Such events and partnerships not only enrich CUIP's research but also promote cross-cultural exchange of knowledge and methodologies. The centre's researchers have actively participated in international conferences and workshops, presenting their findings and forging new connections with leading academics across the globe. In addition, the University of the Algarve, one of the 4 universities which form CUIP, was singled out by the Times Higher Education (THE) as the leading Portuguese university on commitment to Sustainable Development Goals.

CUIP has been able to secure funding for over 60 research projects, including 11 projects that received international funding, with an overall total that is close to 5 million Euros. This clearly is an indicator of a very successful centre. The range of projects shows an excellent balance between theoretical approaches (e.g. brain adaptation to reading acquisition and expertise) with real-world applications (e.g. creating a family support network).

Suggestions for the future: it is important the centre is able to train younger researchers in grant writing so they can maintain and keep expanding their research portfolio. It would also be strategic to attract international researchers at various stages of their careers who already have their own funding and could bring it over to CUIP — if the centre is able to provide them with office, lab space, and good working conditions.

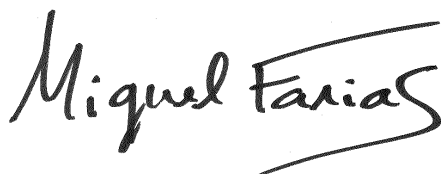
Publications and Advanced Training Activities

CUIP's growing number of publications in very good or excellent journals shows a significant contribution to the advancement of psychological knowledge a par with other centres of excellent across Europe. For example, a recent publication in the *Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijchp.2017.10.002>) was honoured with the "Atlas Elsevier Prize, for its significant contribution to positively impact older individuals.

I would like to finish by highlighting the growth of completions at Masters and PhD level (385 and 18, respectively). My suggestion would be keep working on the internationalisation strategy in order to attract a growing number of PhD students from other European and even non-European countries. There is a very sharp rise of interest from students outside of Europe to have an opportunity to study here; if the postgraduate degrees are advertised in English and at international conferences this would likely lead to a rise of international applicants.

Overall, I am very impressed by the achievements of CUIP and am confident that, under its current leadership, it will keep thriving and expanding.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Farias". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Miguel Farias, BSc (Lisbon) MA (Wales) DPhil (Oxford)