
Director's Decree V2017-06 – Commentary

August 18, 2017

Commentary to Evaluation 2017

On July 14-15, 2017 seven out of 11 IAB members met in Prague to finalize evaluation of selected research groups at IOCB.

Six groups were evaluated to reach a decision on the future continuation of their activities. In such cases, each group was assigned two coordinators from among the IAB members who, based on the full reports provided to them in April 2017, separately contacted their network of experts in the respective fields of research. As a result, 4 to 6 independent reviews were assembled for each such group before the meeting in Prague and they were presented to the group leaders ahead of their presentations.

There were three junior research groups facing the decision on whether they meet criteria for promotion to senior group status. Here the IAB was assessing factors such as quality and quantity of scientific output in relation to group size, originality, and independence of research – e.g. how far has the science evolved from the previous postdoctoral theme, as well as a willingness to take risks in starting new research directions.

For the three groups whose leaders have reached the retirement age, the IAB was asked to judge the two possible outcomes: A. This group does an excellent world-class science, and extension by additional three years is recommended. B. This group does a decent science but opening one or two junior groups in its place, rather than extending its activities, would be in the best interest of IOCB.

In the two cases when IAB recommended that these senior research groups should not continue it was stressed, however, that the developed technology and expertise within these groups should be retained and a possible commercial outreach explored. A more detailed arrangement of how this would be achieved will be outlined in the next Director's Decree before the end of 2017.



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