

## **Report of the Advisory Board Member Isabel Ferreira on CBIOS**

I, Isabel Ferreira, Director of the Mountain Research Centre, Portugal, have visited CBIOS during October 17 and 18, 2019. This report is based on the different documents that were sent prior to this visit and the presentations and discussions during the visit.

The visit occurred in an organized and clear way. All researchers were knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their own research and were willing to answer all questions. I take the opportunity to thank all researchers and directive board of CBIOS for this most welcoming visit.

I strongly agree with the strategy of CBIOS for 2020-2023 according with its classification and attributed funding. However, I have made a SWOT analysis with the following conclusions, mainly to prepare the next evaluation:

### Strengths

- Clear identity of CBIOS
- Adequate laboratorial facilities
- Students with good language (English) skills and connections with Portuguese and foreign Universities (including Spanish)
- Researchers doing high-level research within their own discipline
- Capacity to attract and organize meetings and advanced courses
- Diversity of funding sources
- High-level of publications
- High number of PhD students
- Scientific employment (3 +1 full-time researchers' contracts)
- Interaction with society in scientific events

### Weaknesses

- Dispersion through five domains
- Linkage to knowledge transfer (including to industry)

### Opportunities

- Obtaining funding from Horizon Europe starting from the excellent networking in COST actions
- Defining a core topic and central mission differentiated from larger R&D units in Portugal

### Threats

- Interdisciplinary goal and capacity to transform it into transdisciplinary challenges

Overall, I strongly recommend to support this R&D unit with a relevant role among national private universities national but also in the international context as demonstrated by their connections and top-level publications.

*Isabel C.F.A. Ferreira*