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Statement from the Director of the Astronomical Institute of the CAS on the Final Report of the Commission No. 2 (Physical Sciences), “Evaluation of research and professional activity of research-oriented institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the period 2015–2019”.

The performance of the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences during the evaluation period 2015–2019 was examined by the Commission No. 2 – Physical Sciences.

We have been thrilled to learn that the Institute receives the overall positive evaluation and we consider our result as a commitment for the future. Leaders of our Scientific Teams have been informed and consulted about the recommendations given in the Final Report. Several suggestions for possible textual improvements and additions have been identified in the discussion with members of Working Groups. Hereafter, we list these suggestions for your consideration, along with some typos and misprints that could be corrected before the Report is publicly released.

We believe that the Evaluation was executed in an appropriate manner in accordance with the evaluation Methodology. Astronomical Institute accepts the report as a whole.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Vladimír Karas, DrSc.
Director of the Astronomical Institute

Comments and corrections

Institute

- Part A: paragraph on Strengths: asteroid research should be mentioned among our active and fruitful fields of research.
- H1.4 – also here, asteroid research could be added (e.g., "characterization of the geometry of 1I/Oumuamua, the first interstellar object passing through our solar system").
- H2.1- Denmark is missing from the list of collaborations (joint operation of the telescope at La Silla).
- H2.4 - the topic on "Natural hazards" is missing among active collaborations performed by Teams #1 and #3.

Team 1

- H2.4: contributions of the traditional *Solar Patrol Service* is omitted.
- D1.2: activity within the EU Research and Training Networks (RadioSun, and SolarNET I and II) is not mentioned.
- D2.5: here, one should refer to 4-band (instead of four-antenna) radio spectrograph.

Team 2

- D1.2: Azerbaijan collaboration is missing.
- D2.5: long-term monitoring of stellar variability and of transient events is a particular strength of the Perek 2-m telescope and it underlines the need for national facilities of medium size; such observing requests often lack consideration at large observatories.
- D2.7: "The team is composed of 31 scientists and engineers, and 12 technical & administrative personnel" does not seem to reflect right numbers. Based on the submitted documents these should read: 15 (+ 8 former) scientists + 4 (+3 former) technicians plus 5 (+3 former) PhD-students.
- D3.1 Add: The successful application of Team #2 for international projects (e.g. Marie Skłodowska-Curie RISE and Erasmus+), dedicated to long-term exchanges of lecturers and students from and to the partner universities, forms an important pillar for training.

Team 3

- H2.1 - regarding the last two sentences, the wording is at odds with in sections D4.1 and D4.2, where Team #3 is praised for the public outreach. Quite on the contrary, our activities are positioned well above the average in this area. We thus propose to omit these two sentences.
- H2.4 - our activity is missing here, where we have been significantly involved in the evaluated period; it would be appropriate to add: "Participation in the inter-institutional Natural Hazards program of CAS Strategy AV21 in the assessment of risks and consequences of collisions of interplanetary bodies with Earth."
- D2.1: it is not true that the research objectives for the following years were not described for the group of meteors. During the discussion there was not enough time to explain everything, however, both in the presentation file and in the submitted materials this was described in detail.

Team 4

- D 1.3: The researchers have been invited to present talks at conferences and they have organised topical meetings, including the *entire* EWASS 2017 Symposium in Prague (1200 participants).
- H2.3: High resolution observations and modelling of the Earth's gravity field allow us to detect various geological structures hidden under the surface.

- D2.1: Participation in the LOFAR interferometer is considered as a possible extension of expertise of the Czech ALMA node on its way towards a more general Expert center for radio and millimeter interferometry and observations in the future.

Typos and misprints

p.2 ... instiuite → institute

p.7 ... Oprava's → Opava's

p.9 ... envornment → environment

p.12 ... Vacation wth the Sun → Vacations with the Sun

p.16: ... instumentation → instrumentation

p. 19 ... though → through

p.24 ... experise → expertise

p.24 ... SWARMDISC → Swarm DISC

p.24 ... retention → loss (?)

p. 24 ... were lead/co-lead → were led/co-led

p.27 ... including print and TV → including the press and TV

The observatory site name Ondřejov is misspelled several times, e.g., p.7, p.12.