
SUMMARY

Summary of Report 23/2015, relating to the Foundation for the Higher School of Music of Catalonia, year 2013

Barcelona, 10 December 2015

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 23/2015, relating to the Foundation for the Higher School of Music of Catalonia (*Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya*), financial year 2013, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

This report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Jordi Pons i Novell, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 20 October 2015.

The work undertaken for this limited audit included the following aspects: auditing the budget outturn; reviewing compliance with applicable legislation in the areas of accounting, budgeting, procurement and staff salaries, and calculating a series of financial indicators for the Foundation's activities. The time period covered by this report is the 2013 financial year.

The Foundation is a public sector entity belonging to the Government of Catalonia (*Generalitat*) and reporting to the Department of Education. It was set up in November 2000 with the foundational aim of managing the Higher School of Music of Catalonia (ESMUC) and promoting initiatives and activities relating to music education at higher and postgraduate level. The Department of Education has a majority membership of the Foundation's Board of Trustees (*Patronat*).

The numbers of full time equivalent students in the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years were 700 and 677 respectively. The cost per bachelor graduate comes to around €58,000. Revenues from enrolment fees cover 15.83% of the cost per student. Transfers of funds from the Catalan Government represent 81.33% of current receipts.

The budget outturn for 2013 shows realised revenues of €10.91m and recognised expenditure of €10.90m. The main income items are the Government of Catalonia's contribution (€8.87m) and revenues from student enrolment fees (€1.73m). The main expenditure categories are personnel (€9.52m) and goods and services (€1.37m).

In the Conclusions section of the report there is a summary of the main findings from the work carried out, of which the following can be highlighted:

- In the financial year audited the manager had a forty-hour contract with the Foundation and, at the same time, through an agreement for providing services between the Foun-

dation and the Auditorium and Orchestra Consortium, a commitment equivalent to half standard working hours with this other organisation, without a special public-interest authorisation from the Government. In this particular instance, these professional services were contrary to Act 13/2005, which establishes incompatibility rules for senior officials working for the Catalan Government.

- The Foundation had no catalogue of staff positions or register of teaching staff as specified, respectively, in the Foundation's Collective Bargaining Agreement and the ESMUC's General Regulations.
- In 2012 a modification was made to the Collective Bargaining Agreement without a favourable joint report being first obtained from the government department in charge of Civil Service matters and from the Department for the Economy and Knowledge. This report is mandatory, according to article 28 of the Budget Act for the Government of Catalonia for 2012, extended for 2013, which also states that agreements reached on salary items for personnel with labour contracts, without obtaining this prior report or in disregard of an unfavourable report, are null and void.
- The Foundation paid various supplementary wage items which did not conform to legislation then in force.
- The working hours for teaching staff at the ESMUC in 2013 did not conform to legislation then in force.
- The Foundation had no procedure in place to monitor cases of teaching staff also holding other jobs or incompatible posts.
- In the audit of expenditures on goods and services some items were found for which proper procurement procedures had not been followed.

Finally, in the Conclusions section of the report various recommendations are made which, in the view of the Audit Office, would help to improve the Foundation's management and correct some of the issues mentioned in the Findings section.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.