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## **SUMMARY**

### **Summary of Report 5/2016, relating to the Catalan University Services Consortium, year 2014**

*Barcelona, 27 April 2016*

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 5/2016, relating to the Catalan University Services Consortium (CSUC), financial year 2014, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Jordi Pons i Novell, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 22 March 2016.

The work in this limited audit assignment included a review of the budget outturn and of compliance with applicable legislation in the areas of budgeting, procurement and staff salaries.

The Government Agreement of 10 December 2013 ratified the dissolution of the Catalan University Libraries Consortium (CBUC) through its absorption by the Catalan Centre for Scientific and Academic Services Consortium (CESCA) and approved the amendment to the Statutes of this latter, whose name was changed to that of Catalan University Services Consortium. The CSUC is an entity set up under public law, of a voluntary associative nature, whose basic aim is the sharing or combining of services for its member organisations, to improve their effectiveness and efficiency by creating synergies and economies of scale.

In the 2014 financial year the CSUC's member organisations were the Catalan Government, through the department in charge of university affairs, the University of Barcelona (UB), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), the University of Lleida (UdL), the University of Girona (UdG), the Rovira i Virgili University (URV), the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), the Ramon Llull University (URL) and the University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC).

The budget outturn for 2014 shows realised revenues of €7.97m and recognised expenditures of €7.43m. The main sources of income are the provision of services (€4.69m) and contributions from the Government of Catalonia (€3.20m), which represent, respectively, 58.82% and 40.16% of total revenues. Expenditures mostly correspond to goods and services (€4.50m) and personnel (€2.45m), which represent, respectively, 60.54% and 32.89% of total expenditures.

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:

- According to its Statutes, the CSUC is considered to be an internal service provider and technical service unit for its member organisations and their subsidiary or attached entities, provided they have the status of contracting authorities and meet the corresponding legal requirements, and it must carry out the work commissions it receives from them in the fields covered by its remit. However, the CSUC does not fulfil the requirement established by jurisprudence from the Court of Justice of the European Union and incorporated into Directive 2014/24/EU, regarding the absence of private equity holdings, for it to be an internal or controlled service provider.
- The CSUC has not signed the programme-contract which, according to its Statutes, it should establish with the Catalan Government department in charge of university affairs.
- In year 2014 the CSUC had no official Schedule of Staff Positions (*Relació de llocs de treball*) as required by article 74 of the Statute for Public Employees (Act 7/2007, of 12 April).
- The wage tables for CSUC staff for the 2014 financial year were not approved in their entirety by the Executive Committee, as stipulated by the CSUC's Statutes.
- The industry-wide collective bargaining agreement states that workplaces can establish promotion or career development plans for their staff, which must be publicised. The CSUC has no such plan, although in 2014 it raised the professional category of some staff members and gave them the corresponding pay rise.
- The Consortium's Director General had an employment contract for specific undertakings or services, signed on 17 January 2013 for the post of Vice-Chairman of CESCA, but he never signed a senior executive contract as the CSUC's Director General, as required by the Cabinet Agreement of 26 November 2013.

In the Conclusions section of the report various recommendations are also made which, in the view of the Audit Office, would help to improve the running of the CSUC and correct some of the issues mentioned in the Findings section.

<p>This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at <a href="http://www.sindicatura.cat">www.sindicatura.cat</a>.</p>
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