

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 16/2018, relating to the National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia, year 2016

Barcelona, 19 September 2018

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 16/2018, relating to the National Institute of Physical Education of Catalonia (INEFC), financial year 2016, 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 24 July 2018.

The subject of this report is the audit of the INEFC's budget outturn and management performance along with a review of compliance with basic legal requirements applicable to it in the areas of accounting, budgeting, procurement and staff salaries.

The INEFC is an autonomous administrative agency which reports to the First Minister's Department (*Departament de la Presidència*) and which, through being attached to the University of Barcelona (UB) and the University of Lleida (UdL), offers various bachelor's and master's degree courses in its teaching centres in Barcelona and Lleida. In the 2016-2017 academic year the INEFC had 1,354 students enrolled (820 at its centre in Barcelona and 534 at the one in Lleida). In the same year 266 students obtained their bachelor's degree and 79 completed their master's degree.

The Conclusions section of the report presents the most significant findings arising from the audit carried out, of which the following can be highlighted:

- The INEFC's acquisition of full university status, which was envisaged in the Act of Parliament which set it up, had still not been achieved.
- The INEFC accounted for revenues from enrolment fees when it collected them, not when the student enrolled, as should have been the case according to public accounting principles. The Audit Office estimated that this meant that realised revenues for year 2016 and budgetary year-end net working capital (*romanent de tresoreria*) as at 31 December 2016 were undervalued by about €570,000.
- The INEFC did not charge its students the cost of academic supervision; thus the amounts paid to the universities under this heading were a cost borne by the INEFC, not by the students, as should have been the case according to the relevant regulations.

- The INEFC did not set aside any part of the revenues from its summer courses and work training courses to cover overheads.
- For the use of its premises the INEFC charged various entities amounts lower than those corresponding to the prices in force for 2016.
- The INEFC held cooperation agreements signed with the INEF Barcelona and INEF Lleida sports clubs which were tantamount to awarding direct grants to these clubs without following the procedure envisaged by current legislation. The Audit Office estimated that for year 2016 these grants came to a total of approximately €375,000.
- The INEFC did not have any system in place for checking the hours worked by its teaching staff. In section 2.5.1.1 the report gives various findings relating to the monitoring of hours worked by non-teaching staff.
- Out of a total of one hundred and one INEFC lecturers, forty-three actually taught less hours than they were supposed to in the 2016-2017 academic year. In sixteen instances they taught less than half the hours they should have.
- The analysis carried out on invoice payments showed that in many cases the INEFC did not promptly register invoices received from suppliers and that statutory payment deadlines were exceeded.
- It was not possible to assess the figure for payments pending for university oversight (€319,378) or part of the revenues pending allocation (€567,448). This circumstance represented a limitation to the audit work. Parts of these balances came from amounts dating back to years prior to 2001, which the INEFC should have written off.

Finally, in the Conclusions section of the report various recommendations are made which, in the view of the Audit Office, would help to resolve 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.