



RESMED

1. Noteworthy productions

1.1. Outstanding progress regarding research

The Labex, inaugurated in October 2011, looks at “Religions and Societies in the Mediterranean World”. It has made a good progress in the previous period as demonstrated in the written report as well as in the oral presentation. Its topic is of the utmost importance considering the developments in the Middle East in the past years. The interdisciplinary achievements in its three research areas are already remarkable.

The ongoing conflicts in the region (Lybia, Syria, Iraq) did force the scholars to stop archaeological fieldwork at a number of places. However, new and promising regions (Ethiopia, Albania, Iraqi-Kurdistan) were selected and research started.

1.2 Striking progress in other “Labex” fields

a. Formation

This Labex has got a convincing policy on its educational strategy and argued convincingly. It shows a clear spending policy towards Ph.D. grants, postdoc-positions and invited scholars. A new category of young scholars was recruited from all over Europe and even beyond. The number of applicants for open positions demonstrates the competitiveness of this Labex.

b. Valorization

A considerable number of partnerships have been established, especially also with the media sector. Cross-disciplinary Conferences (e.g. in Turkey, Greece, Italy), workshops and exhibitions have been successfully organized. The increasing number of publications - using already existing series - will offer the research results towards the scholarly community and even a broader audience.

c. International (outreach, attraction, networking...)

RESMED is active in the whole Mediterranean area and in the Middle East. The networking skills of the leaders of RESMED are excellent indeed. They successfully solved the political and cultural issues caused by recent upheavals and political unrest: they withdrew from areas that showed intractable problems and began new initiatives in areas that have been unaffected or less effected by the recent events.

2. Added-value resulting from labelling and funding as a “Laboratoire d’Excellence”

Members of RESMED have profited from the labex format a lot as the collaborative environment has created not only opportunities but also shaped links of transdisciplinary nature that were integral to the research project.

3. Main weaknesses

3.1. Main weaknesses that might require corrective actions regarding the research performed in the “Labex”

RESMED is an extremely convincing project that does not show any major weaknesses.

3.2 Main weaknesses that might require corrective actions regarding other fields of the “Labex”

a. Formation

no remarks on this account.

b. Valorization

Valorization has been adequate.

c. International (outreach, attraction, networking...)

RESMED is international in its nature. No critical remarks.

4. “Labex” contribution to structuring the gathered scientific strengths (governance, synergy, common scientific programming, visibility...)

Labex is providing an excellent research environment. It has a convincing governance structure which by its formation allows a considerable synergy towards managing the Labex.

5. Beyond scientific results specifically obtained by the “Labex”, give an assessment on its contribution to the development, outreach and overall visibility of the concerned institutions and of the corresponding site.

The Labex fits well in the structure of the concerned institutions. The outreach towards the wider public is impressive as mentioned in the scientific report. The actuality of the research topic is evident and underlines the high demand of Labex scholars in the Media. Workshops, conferences and articles in newspapers and periodicals further underline the visibility of the joint research. These activities will then certainly highlight the concerned institutions.

6. Overall opinion and recommendations

The Labex has been making a very good progress since its inauguration in October 2011. It centers at the Sorbonne University and being well integrated in the Idex. It is also well linked to the 15 Labex communities at that university. The research topics are of great importance for a better understanding between the religions and societies in the Mediterranean region. The recent developments in the Middle East where we witness terrible civil wars between members of different religions and severe attacks against our common cultural heritage underline the importance of the research concerned. The governance is well established and offers a convincing management concept for this Labex. Overall, the Labex has been very successful in its aims as set up in the former proposal.