

Evaluation report

Evaluated point	Grade	Comments
Scientific impact of research	Unsatisfactory	<p>In the self-evaluation document, it is noted that one challenge in compiling the report arose from the fact that ENM is different to 'other research institutions'. It is noted that this is because of the need of ENM to make visible the museum's achievements in popularising the results of the studies through various channels. The self-assessment report does not provide evidence that the first 4 elements of the assessment criteria (number and classification of publications; impact of scientific articles; number of IP items; publications with the highest impact) are met by ENM. In terms of 'significant additional information', the self-report also does not provide convincing evidence, and the site visit did not uncover further evidence, that 'other channels' conveyed sufficient scientific impact to compensate.</p>
Sustainability and potential of research	Satisfactory	<p>It was difficult to judge 'sustainability' given that the ENM has only recently opened in the new building. The process of moving the museum to the new building was clearly an enormous undertaking spanning several years. It is therefore possible that the ENM is about to move into a period of greater stability and research staff will have more time to dedicate to research.</p> <p>R&D activities are strongly dependent upon academic links, notably with Tartu University, and the strength and depth of these collaborative partnerships is likely to be significant for the future sustainability of R&D at ENM.</p>
Societal importance of research	Satisfactory	<p>ENM is a national museum and a central institution for collecting, preserving, studying and introducing Estonian culture. This is undoubtedly of very great societal importance.</p> <p>However, saying the ENM has intrinsic societal importance is not the same as saying that the R&D in the Social Sciences at ENM has societal impact. The issue is made additionally more complex when the collaborative activities of ENM are considered.</p> <p>ENM disseminates and generates knowledge about Estonia's complex history. These tasks it does by assembling and disseminating its knowledge production to the population via the museum's exhibitions. It also produces knowledge for specific groups, thus engaging them in a dialogue with the rest of society. The methodology and skills in this context seem to be considerable. Nevertheless, on the available evidence, ENM is not producing sufficient quality research in the social sciences.</p>

Evaluated point	Grade	Comments
Scientific basis in the field is sufficient to conduct doctoral studies. (This question should be answered only if: a) institution being evaluated is conducting doctoral studies and; b) The field being evaluated is proposed to grant positive evaluation. If these conditions are met then: a) If the level of scientific basis is sufficient for conducting doctoral studies in every structural unit being evaluated, then the answer should be „yes“; b) If the scientific basis is not sufficient in some structural units, then those units should be listed.)		not evaluated

Summary assessment

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Areas of special note as appropriate (Where necessary indicate sub-fields, assessment criteria, and/or structural units which, in the committee's opinion, were of a notably high level.)		The ENM is an important and valuable institution in Estonia, but it is not performing at the level of a research institution in the area of Social Science.
Areas in need of improvement as appropriate (Where necessary indicate sub-fields of the field being evaluated, assessment criteria, and/or structural units which, in the committee's opinion, revealed significant shortcomings.)		Academic research at a competitive national level is in need of development.
Assessment proposal to the Minister of Education and Research	To grant negative evaluation	<p>There is, as yet, no clear evidence of the potential for ENM to perform R&D at the level expected of a national research institute.</p> <p>With the collaborative input of academics who are working at levels of international excellence in any one of a number of fields (for example, cultural anthropology, history, archaeology or sociology) and/or of international partners in areas such as museology and communication science, ENM could be in a position to contribute their own research expertise, their deep knowledge of the collections and the excellent facilities of the new museum.</p> <p>On current evidence, ENM is not producing sufficient quality research in Social Science. Collaborative working or the development of an independent research program could produce academic research in Social Science at an appropriate level.</p>

Feedback

Evaluated point	Comments
Feedback for institution (This question should be answered only if the institution asked for feedback from the evaluation committee in the self-report (about up to three specific areas of R&D which it finds to be currently important, e.g., related to its development plan).)	ENM sought feedback from the evaluation team on how to sustain R&D activities in the context of strategic decisions to consolidate research to avoid areas of duplication. The major reason to consolidate is to share knowledge, skills and resources and gain economies of scale. In the case of ENM, the obvious resource is the collections themselves, about which the researchers have deep knowledge. 'Consolidation' in this context would presumably entail administrative linkages with an academic unit to ensure academic resources (whether administrative, cultural, pedagogical) are available to ENM. The evaluation team is not in a position to judge whether ENM would perform its other functions - as a national museum - more effectively if such research consolidation were an aim. However, it is clearly the case that research is a collaborative social undertaking and the researchers at ENM need to be deeply embedded in a wider research culture to thrive and produce excellent research in Social Sciences.
Suggestions for unit, institution, state etc (As appropriate, committee can give additional feedback for the structural unit, the institution, or the State (please specify whom feedback is directed to) according to the directive assessment criteria for regular evaluation (article 7).	No further comments