

Evaluation report

Evaluated point	Grade	Comments
Scientific impact of research	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the R&D outcomes are of good international standard, within which there are research fields in which the standard is high. • There is evidence that the majority of results generate international interest in the field; there are some fields in which the scientific impact is considerable. • Some publications have been issued by internationally recognized publishers and journals, with a few in leading international outlets. • There is evidence of some disparity both in the volume and quality of high-level publications per research member and across research units. <p>Humanities research is clearly important to the institution and there is evidence that research in arts and humanities makes a sound contribution across a range of disciplines. However, arts and humanities research is not identified as a strategic priority for the University and this may have had implications for the development of a coherent strategy for publications and dissemination.</p>
Sustainability and potential of research	Satisfactory	<p>The Laboratory of Phonetics and Speech Technology is well integrated into the overall research ambitions of the university, but other units are more closely aligned with the individual expertise of some researchers and their capacity to attract other researchers and sustained funding. A new position in practical philosophy, including business ethics and ethics of technology, could enhance integration in the university, and increase the research power of the unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating the PhD-students into the operations of this unit would enhance its cohesion and research potential as well as ensure its sustainability. • The international research connections are good but may be developed further to ensure that scientific and societal impact remain sustainable. • The main negative aspect is that arts and humanities is currently too small to survive if it is not better integrated into the priorities and research policies of the University.
Societal importance of research	Satisfactory	<p>The evaluators recognise that the unit is a new configuration that will require time to mature and to establish the basis for achieving societal impact from the R&D undertaken within this altered context.</p> <p>In particular, the evaluators noted the potential for extending ongoing research in the fields of architecture, architectural heritage, conservation and urbanism, with a view to integrating this across the University and with the research</p>

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		<p>and knowledge exchange that is being undertaken at the Estonian Arts Academy.</p> <p>Development of R&D in the Laboratory of Phonetics and Speech Technology fully takes into account societal development trends and needs: for example, by developing speech technology apps and online services. The evaluators noted that the Laboratory provided a significant example of successfully applied research with societal impact.</p> <p>In order to enhance the unit's societal impact it would be helpful to address the ways in which the public might come to a better understanding of philosophical argumentation.</p> <p>The evaluators noted the potential to integrate digital humanities, philosophy, architecture and urbanism and stimulate dialogue. This includes, but is not limited to, opportunities to examine, 'the urban mind' and discussions about the nature and future of public space.</p>
<p>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.)</p>		<p>N/A</p>

Summary assessment

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<p>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.)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophical research on (the history of) science and technology is the most well-established in terms of the institutions arts and humanities research base. • The Peirce archive is a strong resource in terms of scientific impact, and offers positive R&D opportunities for the future. • Experimental phonetic and speech technology is beginning to develop a very good scientific research profile.
<p>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.)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of a more strategic approach to publication, dissemination and forward planning would produce a more consistent profile across arts and humanities research. • A more robust framework for the intellectual and professional development of early career researchers would be beneficial for sustaining the research base. • There was a need to articulate future strategies and develop a vision as to the role and purpose of arts and humanities in the context of the University. • Demonstrable evidence and links with other university philosophical centres in Tallinn and Tartu would be advisable. Evidence as to how the reference to MIT is realised would be helpful.
<p>Assessment proposal to the Minister of Education and Research</p>	<p>To grant positive evaluation</p>	<p>No special comments</p>

Feedback

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<p>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).)</p>	<p>The University asked how to evaluate the scientific excellence and societal impact of interdisciplinary research.</p> <p>The number of interdisciplinary research projects in which arts and humanities researchers are involved at the University is limited. An important criterion for their scientific excellence is the degree to which there is real integration of research results from different fields. The research currently carried out in phonetics and speech technology is a good example of such an integrated approach. In terms of societal impact, the added value of responding to important societal questions from various disciplinary perspectives should be made clear and explicit. An enhanced and sustainable infrastructure for arts and humanities research would help the institution realize its mission.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Self-Evaluation: The self-evaluation report should be redesigned in order to prioritise analysis over description. The employment of descriptors such as ‘add facts’ is counterproductive and tends to lead to an emphasis on product over process throughout. The inclusion of a final section on strategic forward planning would be a more coherent summation of the self-evaluation exercise, while also providing continuity from one evaluation exercise to another.</p> <p>Evaluation of Scientific Impact: The panel has encountered wide-spread problems concerning the evaluation of publications in the humanities. The academic community of arts and humanities clearly lacks confidence in the criteria for scientific impact as presently formulated. What is needed for a more equitable and effective evaluation is: (i) Appropriate credit should be given for research undertaken in the production of monographs, the editing of and contributions to multi-authored work. (ii) The evaluation system should take account of the scientific quality of a publication irrespective of the language in which it is written. A multi-lingual system of evaluation is a matter of balancing three variables: (1) the scope (2) the subject and (3) audience. (iii) The current system fails to capture the range of research and the various modes in which it is produced. This is particularly evident in the absence of criteria for non-text based research [‘artistic’, ‘practice-based’]. A bench-marking exercise against other European models would be useful.</p> <p>Societal Impact: The academic community requires a more lucid definition of what is understood by societal impact;</p>

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	<p>this should be substantiated by exemplars drawn from a much broader range of domains than the impact of research on the economy. It is clear that enterprise and entrepreneurial approaches do not appear to be at the forefront of most institutions visited. There is also a need to outline the relationship between scientific and societal impact for research in these fields such that the criteria may provide an appropriate and effective framework for quality assessment of the research.</p> <p>Doctoral Programmes: While the research base for doctoral programmes is generally satisfactory, there are widespread issues around completion rates that are linked to extremely low funding levels. The current provision in Estonian is out of line with other European countries. Many students are by necessity in full-time employment, and carrying out their doctoral research part-time.</p> <p>Academic leadership: There is a lack of strategic leadership in (almost) all institutions. In many cases, the dean of the faculty or the director of a non-university research institute have a clear vision about the future of their unit, but are not successful in conveying it to the heads of department and the (senior) researchers. Therefore appropriate professional training and development in strategic management for researchers at various stages of their career is necessary.</p>