

Evalveerimine 2010 Application EV38 Protobios LLC, Biosciences and Environment

Expert's opinion: The volume and level of R&D activities in comparison to international criteria.

Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
The research and development in the field being evaluated is characterized by a sufficient volume of financing taking into account the particularities of the field of research and the profile of the institution.	Negative	There is a good level of income but it is concentrated in a small number of large grants. The value of income raised per capita is around the average, but there seems a high risk associated with the concentration of grant earning on the two PIs. Grants are in the Health field, and there is no track record in Biosciences and Environment.
Research and development at the institution is characterized by contemporary and innovative range of topics for research.	Negative	It is not clear from this application under the Biosciences and Environment heading whether ProtoBios has any track record of research funding and activity in this field; it certainly has a track record in the Health field.
The institution has international cooperation projects in the field being evaluated and/or participates in various international cooperation networks.	Positive	International quality is confirmed by international contracts, publications, and patents. Developing participation in international R&D projects and networks is claimed to be a major focus for the future, mainly in the medical field.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	The research is of a high standard in the medical field, but there is limited evidence of work in Biosciences and Environment.

Expert's opinion: R&D Infrastructure (working premises and auxiliary facilities).

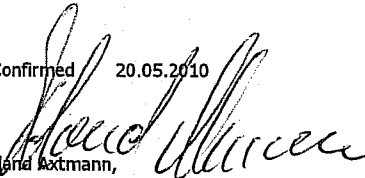
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have at their disposal the necessary working and auxiliary facilities (premises).	Positive	The accommodation is modern and of appropriate floor area for the size of the unit.
The working facilities (premises) at the disposal of the institution's research groups in the field being evaluated are modern and fit for purpose.	Positive	The accommodation is modern and fit for purpose.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have at their disposal, in the case of experimental themes, the necessary equipment and instruments.	Positive	There is no suggestion of a lack of relevant equipment, and in any event, the Institute of Gene Technology, TUT provides access to additional technical facilities.
The equipment and instruments at the disposal of the institution's research groups in the field being evaluated are, in the case of the experimental themes, modern and fit for purpose.	Positive	The equipment has mostly been acquired since 2006, and is fit for purpose.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have access to databases, specialized literature and other research infrastructures.	Positive	Protobios has developed its own databases and collections, and lists a number of these. It also has full access to all public educational, research and culture databases.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	The infrastructure is modern and Protobios has well-found laboratories.

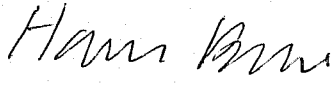
Expert's opinion: Qualification of researchers in comparison to international criteria.

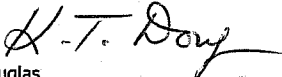
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
A sufficient number of research staff are employed at the institution taking into account the volume and particularities of the R&D activities of the institution and the field being evaluated.	Positive	There are sufficient staff at present, but there may be risks associated with the reliance on the leading staff.
A sufficient number of the research staff have a recognized academic degree corresponding to Estonian legislative acts.	Negative	There need to be more senior staff, and more Masters students converting to PhD.

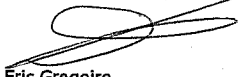
Doctoral dissertations have been successfully supervised in the last five years.	Negative	None are evident in the recent history.
Research staff in the field being evaluated have received sufficient national or international honours and/or awards.	Positive	Only one personal award is noted, a German doctoral scholarship for one of the staff with a Doctorate.
Research staff have published per researcher in the last 5 years a sufficient number of articles in international journals or peer-reviewed research monographs taking into account the particularities of the field of research being evaluated.	Positive	There is evidence of international publication, although this is often double-counted in the TUT submission. Furthermore, little of it is in the Bioscience and Environment field.
Research staff have filed applications for patents or for plant variety rights certificates in the name of the institution in the last 5 years.	Positive	Patenting is a strength of this unit.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	The track record is very short, but has resulted in some quality outputs. The doctoral training function is not clearly articulated. The focus of outputs is primarily in the medical field.
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
Final assessment	Negative	Despite the obvious quality of the infrastructure and staffing, and the evidence of international outputs, the assessment panel feels strongly that this unit should not be assessed under the Bioscience and Environment area, but falls squarely in the Health field. There is little track record in Biosciences and Environment. The panel also notes significant double-counting of outputs between Protobios and TUT, and a difficulty in establishing the provenance of the research.

Confirmed 20.05.2010


 Rolina Kattmann,
 Chairperson of the evaluation committee;
 spokesperson of the subcommittee „Culture and Society“


 Hans Brix,
 Spokesperson of the subcommittee
 „Biosciences and Environmental Sciences“


 Kenneth Douglas,
 spokesperson of the subcommittee „Health“


 Eric Gregoire,
 spokesperson of the Subcommittee
 „Natural Sciences and Engineering“