

Evalueerimine 2010 Application EV34 Competence Center of Food and Fermentation Technologies, 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	This unit is funded by the Programme of Competence Centers, which seems to account for a high percentage of its grant income. However, excluding this income, it has quite a low grant income per project, per capita and per PI. It is therefore very well supported, but may not be as competitive as it could be in winning project grants.
Research and development at the institution is characterized by contemporary and innovative range of topics for research.	Positive	As befits a Competence Centre, the unit is focused on industrially-funded applied research. There is an admission that innovation in Estonian food companies is weak, and this may constrain local industrial support.
The institution has international cooperation projects in the field being evaluated and/or participates in various international cooperation networks.	Positive	There is a limited number of projects with international partners, and limited numbers of high level international publications. However, an Independent International Scientific Board to assess the research focus and quality of research has been created.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	The main function of this unit is to translate basic research into applications within the food industry. There is little evidence that it has undertaken basic research of an international standard, or that it has developed strong international basic research collaborations.

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

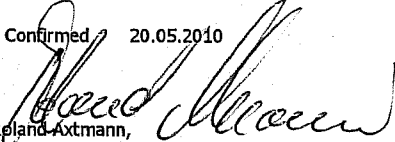
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have at their disposal the necessary working and auxiliary facilities (premises).	Positive	The laboratory facilities are new (2006) and well equipped, and the per capita laboratory and storage space is sufficient at present. However, there is limited space for expansion if the team grows. There is additional space: offices, a seminar room, a cold room and a store room.
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	The laboratories appear to be very well equipped, and access to other equipment is assured through liaison with the nearby laboratories of the Faculty of Science of Tallinn University of Technology. Recent investment has been generous. There is no reason to suppose that equipment shortages limit research productivity.
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 is modern and generally fit for purpose.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have access to databases, specialized literature and other research infrastructures.	Negative	There is no explicit evidence provided of the availability of specialised literature. It is assumed that it is available elsewhere.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	The Centre is a well-funded laboratory as a result of the Structural Fund investment, but its purpose is primarily to undertake applied research for the food industry. It is therefore not clear that it has a basic research objective, and there is a limited track record of this.

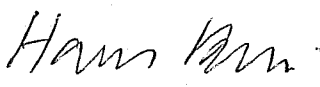
Expert's opinion: Qualification of researchers in comparison to international criteria.

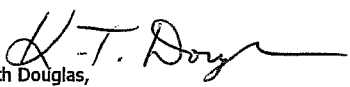
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
A sufficient number of research staff are employed at the institution taking into account the volume and particularities of the R&D activities of the institution and the field being evaluated.	Positive	There are sufficient research staff to perform the function of the Centre.

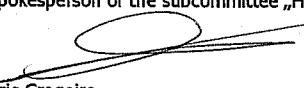
A sufficient number of the research staff have a recognized academic degree corresponding to Estonian legislative acts.	Positive	Only 6 staff act as PIs, and half of these do not have PhDs. Supervision of graduate students is either undertaken by staff without PhDs, or those who do have PhDs may be overloaded.
Doctoral dissertations have been successfully supervised in the last five years.	Negative	There are few PhDs listed and all matriculated before the Centre was created, and obtained their PhDs before 2007 (only one is still in the Centre).
Research staff in the field being evaluated have received sufficient national or international honours and/or awards.	Negative	No honours are apparent.
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.	Negative	There are few international outputs per capita. Conference contributions are more frequent. The standing of the outputs is therefore low. All but one of the international outputs are double-counted, being also in the Tallin University of Technology applications; presumably this is where the research was conducted.
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	There is a policy of patenting, although at this stage the numbers are limited for obvious reasons.
Experts' summary assessment	Negative	While staff are actively researching, the outputs are not of the highest international research standard. It is difficult to establish the contribution of the Centre to basic research outputs (doctorates and publications) because of the overlap with the TUT.
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
Final assessment	Negative	The positive elements of this application relate to the infrastructure provided by the Centre and funded by Structural Funds. However at this stage in its existence it is difficult to identify its own contribution to basic research, as the numbers of doctoral defences and international publications are not high. It is debatable whether the remit of the Centre permits basic research, which in any event could be undertaken at TUT by the leading PIs in the Centre.

Confirmed 20.05.2010


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


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


 Kenneth Douglas,
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 „Natural Sciences and Engineering“