

**Evaiveerimine 2010 Application EV26 Tallinn University, 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.	Positive	The volume of the financing is adequate, although many of the grants are small. A large part of the money received is from one grant and removing this has an adverse effect on the statistics.
Research and development at the institution is characterized by contemporary and innovative range of topics for research.	Positive	There is innovative research over a large area. Possibly, there would be a gain in increasing the cooperation between this institution and other University institutions with common areas of interest.
The institution has international cooperation projects in the field being evaluated and/or participates in various international cooperation networks.	Positive	There is international cooperation, but it appears rather at the individual level.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	The institution performs valuable research, but might gain from a more visible research strategy less dependent on individual grants and networks.

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

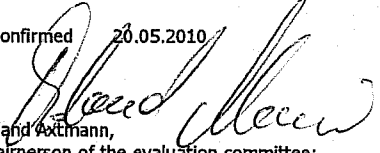
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have at their disposal the necessary working and auxiliary facilities (premises).	Positive	Laboratory space is limited and appears not adequate to meet the need of a growing personnel of PhD and MSc students. But we were informed that new buildings will be constructed and built.
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	With the new buildings, current problems with limited space should be solved.
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 good laboratory and field equipment.
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	Most equipment we were shown was younger than 5 years, although there is some older equipment that should be renewed.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have access to databases, specialized literature and other research infrastructures.	Positive	There is access to a large library and electronic databases
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	Available space will be increased and other infrastructure is good.

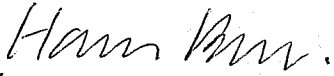
**Expert's opinion: Qualification of researchers in comparison to international criteria.**


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	The size of the staff is satisfactory, but an increase in number of PIs should be encouraged.
A sufficient number of the research staff have a recognized academic degree corresponding to Estonian legislative acts.	Positive	There is a healthy and diverse age structure, and movement from PhD into post-Docs and eventually staff members.


Doctoral dissertations have been successfully supervised in the last five years.	Positive	Although the supervision of PhD-students is reasonably good, their number appears too low and an increase should be stimulated.
Research staff in the field being evaluated have received sufficient national or international honours and/or awards.	Negative	The esteem indicators are national, and they are mixed and include a bachelor's degree award. The number of significant awards is low.
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	The average scientific output is the best of the groups we assessed.
Research staff have filed applications for patents or for plant variety rights certificates in the name of the institution in the last 5 years.	Negative	There have been no patent applications filed.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	The size and age structure of the scientific staff are good. Their scientific output is also good, but the number of PhD-dissertations could have been higher. Also, the number of PIs should be increased.
<b>Subcriteria for evaluation</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Final assessment	Positive	The financing of this research is good, but too dependent on a few large individual grants. Number of individual PIs and PhD candidates should be increased. The scientific output is good.

Confirmed 20.05.2010

  
 Roland Axtmann,  
 Chairperson of the evaluation committee;  
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 Hans Brix,  
 Spokesperson of the subcommittee  
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 Kenneth Douglas,  
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 „Natural Sciences and Engineering“