

Evalveerimine 2010 Application EV10 Tartu Observatory, 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	There is a diversity of funding source. The grant acquisition levels are just under 2 mEEK per capita for all staff. There are two very large grants (one of 17 mEEK and one of 11 mEEK), the first to build European collaboration, the other to develop environmental remote sensing in the Baltic region. The more specific project grants are relatively modest and often well under 1 mEEK. There are two ESA projects that provide data but no funds, which implies that the costs of personnel for analysis have to be borne centrally.
Research and development at the institution is characterized by contemporary and innovative range of topics for research.	Positive	Research is innovative.
The institution has international cooperation projects in the field being evaluated and/or participates in various international cooperation networks.	Positive	There is evidence of international cooperation and successful grant applications with collaborators.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	Previous and current support indicates a positive future for the observatory and its staff.

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 observatory has occupied the same accommodation for 30 years, and there is a plan to renovate and enlarge the building between 2010 and 2012 to enable it to attract high-calibre staff.
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	New infrastructure project ensures up to date facilities.
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 a sense of an active evolution of facilities managed through project funding, and that this has been a successful policy.
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	There is no evidence of a shortage of necessary equipment, and indeed, an implication that technical support is able to provide some equipment needs internally. This gives the impression of a well-found and well-managed laboratory.
The institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have access to databases, specialized literature and other research infrastructures.	Positive	No apparent problems.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	An ageing institution which is being refreshed and seemingly set for future success.

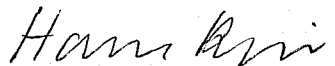
Expert's opinion: Qualification of researchers in comparison to international criteria.

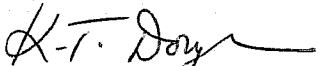
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
A sufficient number of research staff are employed at the institution taking into account the volume and particularities of the R&D activities of the institution and the field being evaluated.	Positive	
A sufficient number of the research staff have a recognized academic degree corresponding to Estonian legislative acts.	Positive	There is a high percentage (65%) of staff with PhD qualifications, and all PI staff have PhDs.

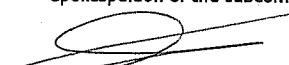
Doctoral dissertations have been successfully supervised in the last five years.	Positive	The Observatory can not grant PhD-degrees, but staff supervise PhDs enrolled at other universities
Research staff in the field being evaluated have received sufficient national or international honours and/or awards.	Positive	There are five awards noted, and these have been made to five different individuals across the seniority range (from an International honorary Doctorate to an ESA training award).
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	62 peer reviewed papers by 15 lead academic staff over 5 years is a poor return, even with multiple authorship, on an international standard. Too many book chapters.
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	Not relevant in this discipline.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	Ageing staff are being replaced with quality younger players.
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
Final assessment	Positive	A combination of a younger staff and improving infrastructure suggest a very promising future for the Observatory.

Confirmed 20.05.2010


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 spokesperson of the subcommittee „Culture and Society“


 Hans Brix,
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