

Evaiveerimine 2010 Application EV9 Tartu Observatory, Natural Sciences and Engineering

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	
Research and development at the institution is characterized by contemporary and innovative range of topics for research.	Positive	
The Institution has international cooperation projects in the field being evaluated and/or participates in various international cooperation networks.	Positive	There appears to be very good engagement with European initiatives and with neighbouring states. There is now good opportunity for greater international engagement due to the new association with the ESA.
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	

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	Facilities are good and will be even better after renewal and rebuilding.
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	Facilities are good and will be even better after renewal and rebuilding.
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	Facilities are good and will be even better after renewal and rebuilding.
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 institution's research groups in the field being evaluated have access to databases, specialized literature and other research infrastructures.	Positive	
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	


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

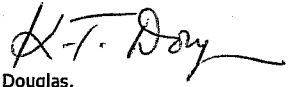
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
A sufficient number of research staff are employed at the institution taking into account the volume and particularities of the R&D activities of the institution and the field being evaluated.	Positive	
A sufficient number of the research staff have a recognized academic degree corresponding to Estonian legislative acts.	Positive	

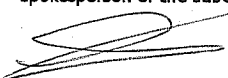
Doctoral dissertations have been successfully supervised in the last five years.	Positive	Yes though this is not a primary purpose of the Observatory, which cannot award its own doctorates.
Research staff in the field being evaluated have received sufficient national or international honours and/or awards.	Positive	There is good external recognition of research standing via 15 awards/honours.
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 committee noted that particularly in the field of remote sensing, outputs are in leading international journals.
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 applicable
Experts' summary assessment	Positive	
Subcriteria for evaluation	Evaluation	Comments
Final assessment	Positive	The institution is clearly dynamic in a number of research fields and benefits from good leadership. Despite internal views to the contrary, the committee considers that benefits would be gained through greater integration with other Estonian institutions, especially in the field of theoretical physics and also through greater integration of research and teaching.

Confirmed 20.05.2010


 Roland Axtmann,
 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”