

Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre

Evaluation of Research in Arts (6.5) in Estonia

Institutes evaluated

University of Tartu
Chair of Art History

Estonian Academy of Music
Department of Musicology

Higher Theatre School of Estonian Academy of Music

Estonian Academy of Arts
Faculty of Cultural Heritage and Conservation
Faculty of Architecture
Faculty of Art History

Institute of History
Department of Art History

Evaluation dates
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Part I

General Overview

Introduction

At the request of the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre, Tallinn (EHEAC), an evaluation team (hereafter named the “Evaluators”) visited institutes in Estonia carrying out research activities in arts (6.5). The evaluating team consisted of Prof. Lars Olof Larsson (Kunsthistorisches Institut der Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel), Prof. Eeva Maija Viljo (University of Turku), Prof. Tamás Mezös (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) and Prof. Matti Huttunen (Sibelius Academy, Helsinki). Prof. Huttunen arrived for the evaluation of the Departments of Estonian Academy of Music on Thursday (13. March).

The institutions to be evaluated were:

University of Tartu

- Chair of Art History

Estonian Academy of Music

- Department of Musicology
- Higher Theatre School of Estonian Academy of Music

Estonian Academy of Arts

- Faculty of Cultural Heritage and Conservation
- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Art History

Institute of History

- Department of Art History

The evaluators were provided in advance with self-assessment report from the institutions, prepared by the members of their groups.

After a brief orientation meeting at EHEAC, the evaluators visited the institutions to be evaluated in Tartu and Tallinn during four days. At these meetings staff members of the various departments presented their work. During these presentations as well as during the subsequent discussions additional information about the research activities was provided. This included additional documents such as copies of published papers.

Approach to the evaluation

The evaluators were asked to:

- 1) Judge the activities of research and development in the units evaluated and the research topics implemented by them to ensure the governmental funding for internationally recognised research and development. The Team was asked to concentrate on research units (university departments, laboratories) with specific comments to sub-units, groups if necessary.
- 2) Identify deficiencies in the activities of research and development units.

- 3) Give recommendations on the development concerning research and development and research areas to the state of Estonia.

The Team received the following materials: A working schedule, principles and criteria for evaluation of the research units, evaluation guidelines for the ranking of research units, and self-evaluation reports created by the research units themselves.

On a first evaluation point, the *quality of the research activities* was considered. This assessment is largely based on the records of scientific publications.

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>The majority of the submitted works are at a high international level and virtually all others at a good international level.</i>
<i>Excellent to good</i>	<i>At least one third of the submitted works are at a high international level and many others at a good international level, these together comprise a clear majority.</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>The majority of the submitted works are at least at a good international level and virtually all others at a fair international level</i>
<i>Good to satisfactory</i>	<i>At least one third of the submitted works are at a good international level and many others at a fair international level, these together comprise a clear majority</i>
<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>The majority of the submitted works are at least at a fair international level</i>
<i>Satisfactory to unsatisfactory</i>	<i>A minority of the submitted works are at a fair international level</i>
<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>None, or virtually none, of the submitted works are at a fair international level</i>

Regarding the grading of the research activities, the evaluation team was instructed by the EHEAC to reserve the term **excellent** for groups, which were found to be among the best 10% of the European groups in the corresponding field. Similarly, the term **excellent to good** should be used if the evaluated group was found to be among the best 25 % of corresponding European groups. The full scale comprised 7 levels, in addition to the highest ones the grades are **good**, **good to satisfactory**, **satisfactory**, **satisfactory to unsatisfactory**, and **unsatisfactory**.

Secondly, the *over-all capability* of a research unit was evaluated based on a the combined assessment of the following criteria (each graded in three levels):

- The originality/novelty of past and ongoing research activities
- The strategy and perspective of the research
- Multidisciplinarity and relevance for other research areas
- The competence of the research groups and their capacity for development
- National and international co-operation
- Success in applying for grants

As the result of this assessment one of the four grades **excellent**, **good**, **satisfactory** or **unsatisfactory** was given for the group.

Thirdly, the *implementation opportunities* for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society were commented.

Finally, on a fourth evaluation *point the critical comments and recommendations* were asked to give by the expert team.

Part II

General Comments

Introduction

2.1 General Comments

The cultural and educational institutions of Estonia have gone through great changes in the 1990s after the country regained its independence. The higher institutions of learning, especially the schools training professionals for various fields of art, have been completely reorganised; in some areas of cultural expertise entirely new educational possibilities have been founded, and even older institutions have been given new possibilities. All this has been a tremendous cultural and economic effort on the part of a small nation. The institutions that we have evaluated have got their present organisation in 1995 or even later. Exposing these very new academic structures to evaluations is a great challenge for them as they have barely had time to consolidate their structures. Even so we have found the overall picture very convincing; not only are the institutions in working order, they have already produced impressive results in the way of research, and they can show up a team of academic experts that are capable of performing their tasks at an international academic level.

2.2 Introduction

The research and educational institutions that we were asked to evaluate represent many and in part widely diverging fields of knowledge: art history, architecture, musicology, theatre, and conservation. It is not possible to place them under any one heading or to apply any one formula of evaluation. In the way of an introduction, some observations can be made that seem to apply in general.

First of all, we are impressed by the way our Estonian colleagues have succeeded in integrating the results of the lifework of the emeriti, who have had to work decades under restrictive conditions, into the research and educational schemes of the present institutions. The efforts to give the “middle generation”, who have had to bear the brunt of the organising work and the creation of new projects and academic curricula, opportunities to update their research training can be noted with due respect.

These groups of researchers and teachers have been joined by a younger generation of researchers, who seem just as indefatigable in their work to establish and develop Estonian academic institutions as their teachers and mentors. The academics are moreover actively publishing, besides research papers and books, presentations to the general public of various aspects of Estonian culture, as well as working for cultural and professional organisations.

Estonian scholars are also very active in participating and in presenting papers in international scholarly or scientific conferences and seminars. Some have staid abroad in order to do research and gain academic qualification or and to gather knowledge and train themselves in order to set up academic specialities that have not previously existed in Estonia.

The evaluators have met professors, other academic teachers, researchers, and postgraduate students in the following institutions: the Chair of Art History at the University of Tartu, the Institute of Art History, the Faculty of Architecture, and the Faculty of Cultural Heritage and Conservation at the Estonian Academy of Art, the Department of Art History of the Institute of History, the Department of Musicology at the Estonian Academy of Music, and the Higher Theatre School.

Professor Lars Olof Larsson has acted as leader of the evaluation team, except at the Department of Musicology, where Professor Matti Huttunen has led the interviews.

Part III

Evaluation of institutions and research groups

3.1. University of Tartu, the Chair of Art History (*Chair: Prof. Jaak Kangilaski*)

Main research fields

- Estonian art and art life within the second half of the 20th c. in the context of the world and the USSR;
- Medieval Old-Livonian architecture;
- Estonian art in the 19th c. and at the beginning of the 20th c.

General Comments

The Chair of Art History adds to the variety of the academic disciplines within the humanities, especially as a complement to the other Chairs of the Department of History, as it approaches questions of Estonian cultural heritage and development from visual and architectural aspects. The unique milieu of the university and the town of Tartu and their historical landmarks support research and study at the Chair.

The academic staff consists of one professor and two lecturers, and, as a result of the manifest popularity of Art History among the students, the teaching load of the faculty is heavy and leaves little time for research. The necessity to prepare and write textbooks and study material on Estonian art has been an additional burden on the academic staff. Nevertheless, all of the teachers are participating in the project of writing a new history of Estonian art and architecture, which involves the majority of the art historians of the country and generates a demand of original research.

The current projects are connected to the intellectual and cultural heritage of the first Estonian republic and specifically to that of Tartu and to the medieval architecture of Estonia, which are also well represented in and around the university.

The reference library presents great gaps and is not adequate as support for the research of the Chair. The tiny slide library has been collected through the efforts of the teachers and is kept by them individually as there is neither space nor staff to assemble into a special unit.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The standard of research activities at the Chair of Art History is judged to be *good*.

The involvement in the study of medieval architecture fills a gap in the knowledge of art history of that period.

On the whole, the topics of the students working for PhD's and MA's show an interest in art and politics, questions of medieval art, etc. that can have significance in an international perspective.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability of the academic staff is *good*. Because of the peculiar historical situation of Estonian Art History after the Soviet period, all teachers do not have full formal academic competence.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The research results are regenerating discourses of Estonian artistic, cultural, and Medieval heritage in the interest of national identity and making them known to academic and cultural audiences outside Estonia.

Recommendations

The possibilities of the academic staff to concentrate on research ought to be improved by, for instance, sabbaticals or enlargement of the teaching staff.

The slide library could be developed as a resource for the research work of the postgraduate students.

A line a research which could be developed, as there are both material and potential interest, locally and nationally, is the period from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century.

3.2. Department of Musicology, Estonian Academy of Music (*Head: Prof. Urve Lippus*)

Main research fields.

Musicological research at the Estonian Academy of Music is coordinated by joining different smaller theme-groups into one target-financed project under a common cover title. At present, the second year of the project "Application of New Analytical Methods in the Study of Estonian Music and Music History" 2002–2006 has just started and it was preceded by the project "Music in Estonia and Some Methods of Its Research" in the years 1998–2001.

Musicological research at the Estonian Academy of Music can be divided into three main fields of research: (1) research in music history, (2) music theory (especially Schenkerian analysis and the analysis of post-tonal music), and (3) research in music psychology, especially in the perception of music.

General Comments

Musicology has been practised at the Tallinn Coservatoire (nowadays the Estonian Academy of Music) since the 1940s. The Department of Music History was founded in 1990, and in 1995 it was combined with the Department of Music Theory to become the Department of Musicology.

At the Department there work 13 members of the academic staff, who have participated in target-financed projects: three of them are professors (Urve Lippus, Jaan Ross, and Mart Humal), four of them docents, three of them lecturers and three of them researchers. A number of other people have also participated in these projects.

The new premises of the Estonian Academy of Music are excellent, and the equipment of the Department of Musicology is very good

There is an active musicological society in Estonia. Both the Musicological Society and the Estonian Academy of Music have been very active in organizing domestic and international conferences. Estonian scholars have participated a number of conferences abroad. Estonian musicologists have been able to get many grants and other funds for their research.

The main fields of musicological research (music history, music theory, perception of music) stem from the competence and interests of the leading professors of the department. There are several projects going on the field of the history of Estonian music. Much of this research is orientated to archival research, but there is also interest in the methodological questions of the historiography of music. Music theory is influenced both by Russian and, during the past decade, by Anglo-American methods of music analysis. Modern analytical methods has been applied both to Estonian and international repertoire. Besides analyses of the works of particular composers there is interest in general theoretical questions especially in Schenkerian analysis and pitch-class set theory. The study of the perception of music uses latest computer and measurement technology and has a lot of international connections. A project aiming at the publication of a critical edition of the works of Eduard Tubin has been started.

There is not a scholarly journal or a yearbook for musicology in Estonia. Articles on music are mostly published in the journal *Teater. Muusika. Kino*. The Estonian Academy of Music publishes two series of books: *Publications in Estonian Music History*, and the series *A Composition as a Problem* dedicated to music theory. A number of articles has been published in international journals, especially in the field of the perception of music. It seems that there is international interest in Estonian music and musicology, and many leading international music researchers have visited Estonia during the past few years.

There are four doctoral dissertations in progress, and a few Estonian doctoral students study at universities abroad.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Excellent to good

Evaluation of Overall Capability

Excellent

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

Estonian musical life is highly appreciated both in Estonia and abroad, so musicological research should have a strong cultural position in Estonia. However, it seems that it is not easy to publish or distribute books on music in Estonia. Studies in music history and projects like the Tubin edition have a national value. Questions concerning the music of peripheric countries and the migration of musicians form a constant part of international discourse.

In music theory and analysis Estonian scholars have to create a national vocabulary. A strenght of Estonian theorists is their knowledge of Russian and Continental musicology.

The study of the perception of music is an international field, to which Estonian scholars have contributed with their publications. Research in musical perception have connections to acoustics as well as to psychological and physiological research.

All areas of musicology mentioned here have a big educational value, especially thanks to the position of the Department of Musicology as a part of a music academy.

Recommendations

It would be good to increase the number of people involved in research, as well as having more doctoral students at the Department of Musicology.

Discussions concerning the balance between general scholarly competence and specialisation in certain fields will probably arise in Estonia. The present state where there is strong emphasise on a few special fields is fruitful, but it might be good to extend academic teaching at the Department of Musicology to new approaches.

The latest discussions in British and American musicology (the so-called critical or new musicology) has not yet affected Estonian publications much, but in discussions with the faculty members of the Department of Musicology it became evident that Estonian scholars are well aware of these questions. Analysing Estonian music may, together with theoretical considerations, pave way for more flexible use of the methods of music analysis. Perception studies have a close relationship to fundamental questions of music theory, as well as to other branches of music psychology (personal and developmental psychology, psychodynamics etc.). Encouraging students to increase their interdisciplinary skills will help developing these enterprises.

Strengthening ethnomusicological research, and possibly including it in the teaching of the Department of Musicology, should have good prospects, because of the wealth of folk music documents and because of the growing interest of the younger generation in the study of popular music.

3.3. Higher Theatre School of Estonian Academy of Music (*Head of the research group: Prof. Lea Tormis*)

Main research areas of the school are:

- history of theatre;
- speech;
- directing;
- acting.

Target-financed research project "Estonian Theatre 1965-1985" 1993-2003. Principal investigator: Prof. Lea Tormis.

General Comments

The Higher Theatre School is only at the beginning of developing its potential for research and postgraduate programs. Consequently, the target-financed project to write the history of the Estonian theatre 1965-85 is being implemented through the efforts of scholars from the University of Tartu and representatives of the Estonian theatre world under the direction of an academically qualified professor of the School. The work of the team has produced an impressive amount of material and publications, most of which, however, cannot be classified as scientific or scholarly. On the whole, the methodological approach of the team is sensible and even interesting in view of the fact that an important part of the material consists of living memory and that the researchers have been working on the project in addition to their normal jobs.

Evaluation of Research Activities

We estimate the research activities as *good to satisfactory*. There is no question that the project of writing the history of the Estonian theatre 1965 – 85 has achieved important results in a national context and can now form a basis for further work in the area.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability of the team is *satisfactory* although somewhat uneven as far as academic merits go.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The research results will strengthen the awareness of the theatrical professions of being part of a continuing cultural mission. The general public will also be informed of the past of an important artistic institution.

There is a potential for international interest.

The results can be used in teaching at the Higher Theatre School, and also in secondary schools (Estonian literature).

Recommendations

The project could be developed to greater sophistication by giving more thought to the methodological problems of oral history.

The background, which is now almost exclusively in Literature, could be expanded to include questions pertaining to the visual and architectural (spatial) aspects of dramatic productions. The possibilities of a multidisciplinary approach ought to be

considered in order to make the project more viable and to give it more scope as a background for developing the postgraduate program of the School.

3.4. Faculty of Cultural Heritage and Conservation, Estonian Academy of Arts (*Dean: Prof. Juhan Maiste*)

Main research fields

- The Faculty of Restoration has launched a number of new research topics:
- Writing of a history of Estonian restoration (with the main focus on 1945–1953, the so-called Stalin period of restoration) on student papers level, the aim being formulation of master theses topics and defence of the theses;
- Ruins from the philosophical, conservational and political aspects. The topic was introduced with an international conference, Ruins. From the Mediterranean to the Baltic;
- Analysis of conservation techniques by different conservation spheres. Evaluations and re-evaluations;
- Building archaeology investigations in the present-day scientific mirror;
- Problems of the storage and conservation of contemporary art (a respective conference has been planned in connection with the completion of a new building for the Estonian Art Museum).

Complex scientific research in co-operation with other scientific institutions functioning in the sphere of research into cultural heritage and restoration makes up a sphere of its own:

- Study of conservation materials (Tallinn Technical University)
- Environmental research (Estonian Agricultural Academy Environmental Protection Institute)
- Art history studies (EAA Art History Institute and Tartu University)
- Research into painting conservation (Estonian Art Museum and Kanut Restoration Center)

General Comments

Because of the rich architectural and artistic heritage of Estonia, a general demand arose, after the political changes around 1990, for skilled professionals in the field of conservation. The lack of trained specialists was not only in the field of architecture, but also on murals, paintings, stone, metal, and other artefacts. By the end of the 90^s the School of Conservation was established, within the framework of the Estonian Academy of Art. The education on MA level started in 1999, and the independent Faculty of Cultural Heritage Conservation started its work in 2001 with 4 chairs. Because of the multidisciplinary nature of the subject close collaboration was necessary with the Estonian Board of Antiquities and the Technical University of Tallinn.

The staff of the Faculty consists of one full time professor (PhD); two extraordinary part time Associate Professors (MA); two heads of studios (one with MA); one project leader and one assistant.

The Faculty is accommodated in the Old Town of Tallinn, taking a part of a floor of a historic building. The spaces are an office for the staff and a lecture room, which is also used for demonstrating student work. The need for more space is obvious and even urgent.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The Faculty of Cultural Heritage and Conservation represents a new branch of the Estonian Academy of Arts. It was formally established only in 2001, after ca 5 years of preparatory teaching. The Master program started in 1999. Therefore, so far only four (4) Master theses have been defended (with good results), others are in preparation. For this reason the expert group decided not to assess the research achievements of the conservation faculty but only to state that the mostly art historical scholarly oeuvre of Professor Maiste, the Head of the Faculty, is “remarkable”, i.e. very good. In order to amplify and specify this general statement the following remarks may be added: The expert group considers the academic staff of the faculty well qualified and very committed to its task. As far as teaching methods are concerned, the annual spring conferences (2.4.1) seem to set up a promising basis for generating future research in different fields of conservation. The close cooperation with national and international institutions already put into practice also sustains the favorable impression received by the expert group. The variety of topics dealt with in the master theses is remarkable and an indication of the high ambitions of the Faculty. In the future however, a greater concentration on a few specialties seems advisable.

These remarks can be summed up in an assessment of the research achievements of the Chair of Conservation and Antiquarianism (Prof. Juhan Maiste) as being *excellent to good*.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The organising of the Faculty and its educational program is an example of great creativity and determination. Several fields of conservation are covered. We consider the overall capability as *excellent*.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The opportunities for implementation are *excellent*. The demand for skilled conservators who approach their task from a scientific perspective is, if anything, growing.

Recommendations

To the Dean of the Faculty:

It is obvious that the areas of architectural conservation attempted should be restricted to the conservation of metallic, stone, brick, painted, etc. surfaces and details of buildings, and that structural problems should be left to other experts.

Reconsider the list of the main research topics listed above. For a newly organised team and educational form the most important thing is to establish a high level of education in postdoctoral studies. Instead of creating new basic research projects, some applied work must be carried out to support the study programs, i.e. among the fields mentioned in the list of architectural conservation topics: *Analysis of conservation techniques by different conservation spheres. Evaluations and re-evaluations; Building*

archaeology investigations (Bauforschung techniques). Some new topics that would support this program are also suggested, such as, Measurement techniques of buildings; Historic building structures and techniques, Building morphology, etc.

Enlarge the staff with a permanent or part time scholar.

To the administrative direction of the Academy:

Enlarge the premises and staff of the Faculty to an appropriate level.

By enlarging the academic staff, establish the possibility of internationally acceptable, high quality research activities in the Faculty and within the framework of the other institutions of the Academy and create possibilities for foreign exchange of conservators.

There is in Estonia no forum for publication in the field of conservation. To establish such a periodical could serve on one hand to further a better understanding of the principles and the results of conservation by the public and society on the whole and give a forum for the specialists as well.

3.5. Faculty of Architecture, Estonian Academy of Arts (*Dean: Prof. Jüri Soolep*)

Main research fields

There are two main research areas within the department of architecture: Firstly: urban design and planning. Secondly: epistemology of architectural phenomena. The research area of urban design and planning can be divided into two topics: history of urban design in Tallinn (“land and city Reval”), and current problems of urban design and planning.

General Comments

The University level education of architecture was established in Estonia partly on a more technical basis in the Tallinn Technical High School and later at the Technical University; since 1951 it followed the French *École des Beaux-Arts* system at the Estonian Art Academy. The self-evaluation report of the Faculty states that there were no doctoral programs in Estonia in the field of the architectural sciences. Within the frame of the Art Academy, there is no necessity to create doctoral programs in the fields of related technical sciences, i.e. statics, building structures, technology, etc., but a doctoral school in the history and theory of architecture and urban planning is essential.

For architectural design, not a scientific degree, but a degree in the arts could be more effective. As educational practises within architecture in Switzerland, Hungary, and the USA make clear, for an academic career in the arts, the Doctor of Liberal Arts (DLA) degree is a solution to the problem of formulating standards for postgraduate studies in architecture and art. The quality of the achievements of the artist or architect can be judged on the basis of a presentation of their work. The necessity of hiring research staff should be considered against the background of the importance of architectural practice for teachers and researchers in the field.

Neither the academic staff nor the students have adequate room for carrying out their teaching and required scientific work.

The staff of the faculty consists of three full time professors who are architects, among them one doctor (PhD) and two MA's as well as one professor emeritus.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The research achievements of the Faculty of Architecture are difficult to assess with one single grade. It is obvious that the long-time work on the building history and archaeology of the town of Tallinn by Professor Zobel is very impressive, and he has now turned to research on vernacular rural sites, which also has brought in results. Professor Soolep's main achievement is his dissertation, the subject of which is more oriented to elucidating the design process and the thinking of the designer than to architectural questions as such. The teachers of the Faculty publish actively and take part in architectural competitions. These professional activities seem to be mostly of the kind that benefits the teaching programme of the Faculty; a well defined research programme that would focus on problems of present-day architecture and urban planning still needs to be worked out.

The expert group assesses the research achievements of the Prof. Rein Zobel as a whole as *good to satisfactory*.

The research activity of the academic staff as a whole can not be assessed at this stage because of the short time that the Faculty has been in existence.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The main research achievements are provided by the investigation of the medieval urban structure of Tallinn. On that basis and using the results of the practical work, the capability of the Faculty is evaluated to be *good*.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The results of the study of the historic urban character of the city of Tallinn are internationally acknowledged achievements. Continuing on the basis of this work, together with practical design, creates possibility to carry out research in urban studies. The Dean of the Faculty has earned his PhD with research carried out in the UK. His work in theoretical questions gives a basis for establishing a line of research in the theory of architecture in Estonia.

Recommendations

To the Dean of the Faculty:

Enlarge the academic staff with full time and/or part time members.

Involve students into practical work, i.e. organising on-site workshops, documenting the architectural heritage of Estonia. The work could be focused primarily on medieval ruins and redundant buildings. The work could provide an introduction into documentation techniques of architecture as well as some preliminary research skills in collecting data on building in archives and map and drawing collections.

The classification of the urban character of Estonian towns and villages provides a new field of research activity. The work could be carried out by students in MA programs, with the possibility for them to get topics for their thesis.

To the administrative direction of the Academy:

Provide more working space for the Faculty.

The undefined status of architecture in between art and science is mainly responsible for the difficulty of getting support from the Science Foundation and from the Cultural Endowment. Some scientific forum (periodical) for presenting practical and scientific achievements, which would work closely with the Academy, would be desirable.

3.6. Institute of Art History, Estonian Academy of Arts (*Head: Prof. Mart Kalm*)

General Comments

At this institute art history is taught and art historical research is done within the context of an art academy, which is also and mainly devoted to the education of artists of different fields. This necessarily also affects research in comparison to the situation at a conventional university.

At the moment, the Institute employs 11 art historians engaged in Estonian target financed research engaged in projects and in teaching on MA and PhD levels: 4 professors, 1 professor em. and 6 part time researchers. All researchers have the necessary academic qualification for their posts. The majority of the researchers have good or excellent international connections; some are engaged in international cooperation projects.

The premises of the Institute are insufficient and to a large degree in a neglected condition.

The working facilities including the technical equipment seem to be satisfactory. Less satisfactory are the collections of the library, which is shared with all other Faculties of the Academy. They are still far from meeting the standards of middle size research libraries. On the other hand, the library has recently moved into very agreeable premises and it seems to be well organized. Thanks to the collection of other research libraries in Tallinn and Tartu and a fairly well functioning system of inter-urban lending, the situation may, however, be regarded as acceptable at the present time.

The main research fields are:

- Questions in Environmental Aesthetics and representation
- Research in History of Estonian Visual Arts
- Questions of 20th century built environment and urbanism in Estonia

3.6.1 Environmental aesthetics and questions of representation (*Principal investigator: Kaia Lehari, PhD; researchers V.Sarapik, M.Laanemets, E.Näripea*)

Main areas of research

Relations between different forms of representation (pictorial/visual vs. verbal); use of writing in visual art (V. Sarapik, K. Laansoo); use of new mediums/media in art and

the question of material and ephemeral aspects in art (R. Kelomees); research of comic strips and animation (M. Laaniste; A. Trossek in BA level); questions of rhetorics in visual arts (M. Laanemets – Allegory in Contemporary Art); urban environment in film (E. Närepea)

Conventional-iconic signifying practices (Ants Juske's doctoral thesis "Inverted perspective: semiotic, culturological and perception psychological modes of its origin"; Peeter Linnap's MA thesis "Looking at Estonian photography 1940-1990") questions of mimesis and representation (V. Sarapik)

Estonian Science Foundation grant No 2710 (1997–2000) "Language and Mind" Principal investigator: Kaia Lehari, PhD; research associates: V.Sarapik, PhD, V.Oja, MA.

General Comments

This project is a welcome addition to Estonian Art History, which has strong antiquarian and historically oriented traditions. It is especially appropriate in an institution of higher learning that trains experts for the visual arts, architecture, design, and visual media.

The variety of issues from semiotics and aesthetics to art theory and questions of word-image relationships makes it hard to discern in what direction the project will develop, but there is no question that there is a great potential for continued research in this area.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Researches activities are rated as *good*.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capacity of the team is *excellent*.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The immediate opportunity for implementation of results lies within the Academy of Art itself in the art, architecture, media etc. programs, especially with a view to their present and future postgraduate work, where interdisciplinary issues could be developed between the Institute and the various faculties.

Recommendations

A future chair in visual culture, which has been requested by the Institute, would greatly help in giving these studies coherence.

3.6.2. Questions of built environment and urbanism in the 20th century Estonia

(Principal investigator: Prof. M.Kalm, research associates: L.Gens, D.Vseviiov, A.Kurg)

Main research fields

- The influence of political processes in the post II World War Soviet Union onto urban restructuring of NE Estonian cities
- The monograph on 20th Century Architecture in Estonia

- Research on the aspects of the built environment, everyday life and domestic interior

ESF grant No 4748 (2001–2003) On the social determination of the built environment in Estonia. Principal researcher: Mart Kalm, PhD; research associates: A.Kurg, MSc, T.Oja, BA, E.Lankots, BA

General Comments

This field of research can be considered especially well developed, its results meeting very high international standards.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Are rated *excellent to good*.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

Capability is considered to be *excellent*.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The members of the group have succeeded in publishing their research results in a both convincing and attractive form. The success of sophisticated scholarly publications like Mart Kalm's recent book on 20th century Estonian architecture proves the potentially great public interest in questions of architecture and urban environment and the relevance of further research and publications in these fields.

Recommendations

The planned project on visual culture, etc. seems to be a logical continuation of the project discussed so far. However, the description given of it does not allow any precise comments. It is recommended to investigate the potential of a connection with the research project commented upon under 3.6.1.

3.6.3. On history of visual arts in Estonia (*Prof. K.Kodres, Prof. M.Kalm, H.Treier, PhD student, T.-M.Kreem, PhD student*)

Main research projects

- History of Estonian art (K.Kodres, M.Kalm)
- Expressionism in Estonian art (E.Lamp)

General Comments

The research field contains two very different but related projects: a restricted one person investigation of expressionism in Estonian art of the early 20th century and a monumental 6 volume History of Estonian art.

The History of Estonian art in fact constitutes a project in which most of the leading art historians of Estonia are engaged. Presenting the production of a handbook as a research project may seem surprising, but this work could not be written without extensive primary research considering the general state of art historical research in the country.

The structure of the work is convincing and proves the team's familiarity with the current international discourse on the principles and methods of writing national art histories.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Excellent

Evaluation of Overall Capability

Excellent

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

Comparable projects in the Scandinavian and other countries prove that comprehensive and scholarly well founded national art histories meet a public demand, probably as an outcome of the European unification process.

This work, once published, probably will constitute a basis to start from for all further research in Estonian art history. At the same time, it is a contribution to the formation of the consciousness of the cultural heritage and as such must be considered important.

Recommendations

Considering the great scientific and cultural importance of the project the volumes should be published as soon as possible. In order to meet undoubtedly existing international interest in Estonian art and monuments, summaries of sufficient length in English (and Russian) should be added to the text.

3.7. Department of Art History, Institute of History (Head: Kersti Markus, PhD, associates researchers: A.Hein, A.Mänd, R.Loodus)

Main research fields

- Medieval studies;
- Baltic German culture and History of art life and art criticism in Estonia;
- Life in Estonian manors etc.

General Comments

After the reorganization of the Estonian research institutions the Department of Art History of the Institute of History is now a governmental research institution. The Department at present employs 3 researchers, all of them with a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification.

Of the listed research fields one represents a nearly finished project whereas the two others will be continued for a longer period of time.

The research on Baltic German art and Estonian art life has ended temporarily with the publication of Jutta Keevallik and Rein Loodus. As far as the most important and internationally relevant project in this field, the edition of art critical and art historical writing in Estonia, is concerned, the first of the planned 4 volumes is already published while the second volume is ready for printing. The editorial work on the two following

volumes is advanced but not finished. As the two researchers devoted to this task have left the institute, it will lose its relevance as a central project although the publishing remains its responsibility.

A recently published volume on 19th and early 20th century manors concludes an important section of the research project devoted to Estonian manors. The project will continue with an investigation of Estonian manors of the 16th and 18th century to be published in two volumes.

As a main research field, the Department has recently started to establish an interdisciplinary Center of Medieval Studies. Two researchers of the permanent staff are engaged in this task, which will probably dominate the Department's activity for some years to follow.

The members of the department traditionally have good and even excellent international connections. In the case of the Medieval Center an international and well functioning network covering all countries around the Baltic Sea has already been established.

The premises of the Department are insufficient. All researchers have to share one small room. Due to the historical past, the library does not meet international standards of a comparable research institution.

The coexistence of art historians, archeologists and historians in the same building opens up good opportunities for interdisciplinary discourse and research and constitutes an excellent basis for a future center of medieval studies.

Evaluation of Research Activities

Research achievements are rated as *excellent to good*.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The overall capability is considered to be *excellent*.

The implementation opportunities for the research results and their importance for the Estonian society

The implementation opportunities seem to be fairly good. The members have succeeded in publishing their research in an adequate and even attractive form, in books and periodicals as well as in exhibitions. They have sometimes been engaged in restoration projects. The relevance of the research done and planned is considered very high in the context of scholarly discourse as well as in promoting a general consciousness of Estonian cultural heritage.

Recommendations

The experts support the plan to establish a multidisciplinary Center of Medieval Studies. The possibility of including musicology, not mentioned in the self-evaluation of the Institute, should be considered. In view of the specific local situation as regards the historical environment and the good and not yet fully exploited archive collections in addition to the well advanced preparations for the Center, the auspices for a successful development seem to be good. However, a serious obstacle must be mentioned: the lack of beginning young scholars. If realized, the Tallinn University

may give the Department the opportunity to develop interdisciplinary BA and MA programmes in order to solve this problem.

Part IV

Summary of evaluation

The overall view of the research done and the academic programs for developing it further is very good even if there are institutions or research units which seem to have difficulties to get started. This concerns institutions which have not traditionally had theoretical or other research skills included in their programs, such as the Faculty of Architecture and the Higher Theatre School.

The planning and implementing of research oriented programs in these institutions is hampered by the lack of physical facilities and an adequately qualified teaching staff. Except in the case of the Department of Musicology, which is housed in the new and adequately equipped building of the Academy of Music, the physical facilities are nowhere satisfactory, the main problem being the lack of working space.

The Institute of Art History and the Faculty of Musicology seem to have enough academic staff, but it must be kept in mind that these teachers have to teach in the other programs of their respective Academies besides teaching and supervising their own students. The Chair of Art History in Tartu is clearly understaffed.

All institutions that we visited had libraries of their own, but these were of varying quality and mostly quite inadequate.

On the whole, the age distribution of the academic staffs seems to be developing in a favourable direction with young researchers joining the older members. It will be interesting to see how the doctoral programs now being implemented will affect the development.

Part V

Recommendations

The recommendations of the evaluators are mostly stated for each unit evaluated separately. Some observations have led to recommendations on a general level.

Except for the Department of Musicology, the facilities and equipment of the institutions should be seen to, in some cases very soon if the unit in question is to function properly.

Developing the libraries to function as proper supports for research is essential.

The possibilities of the institutions to obtain grant funding should be seen to. The unclear status of the Faculty of Architecture in between art and science has placed it in the margin of both categories of funding. Art historians which are not connected to art schools and therefore must try to obtain grant money mainly from the Estonian Science Foundation are at a disadvantage since there is only one decision-making body that distributes the money, and the humanities are forced to compete with the “hard-core sciences”.

VI. Acknowledgements

We thank the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre and the staffs of the visited institutions for the invitation to participate in this demanding but valuable experience and for the warm hospitality with which we were received. The self-evaluation reports we read before coming to Estonia gave us a complete view of the important processes of change and cultural construction that are going on in this country. At the institutions, we met with representatives of teachers, researchers, and postgraduate students and were given all the information we asked for. The discussions were held in an open and friendly atmosphere and made our stay an enjoyable one.

Tallinn, 15. 03. 2003

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