

Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre

Evaluation of Research in History (6.1) in Estonia

Institutes evaluated

University of Tartu

Chair of Archaeology and the Kabinet of Archaeology
Chairs of History (Estonian History, General History, Contemporary History and Archival Studies)

Estonian Institute of Humanities

Department of History and Estonian Cultural History

Institute of History

Department of Archaeology
Department of 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 history (6.1). The evaluating team consisted of Prof. Harry Dickinson (University of Edinburgh), Prof. Peter Clark (University of Helsinki), Prof. Frands Herschend (University of Uppsala), Prof. Jukka Korpela (University of Joensuu) and Prof. Christopher Whatley (University of Dundee).

The institutions to be evaluated were:

University of Tartu

Archeology:

- Chair of Archaeology and the Kabinet of Archaeology

History:

- Chair of Estonian History
- Chair of General History
- Chair of Contemporary History
- Chair of Archival Studies

Estonian Institute of Humanities

- Department of History and Estonian Cultural History

Institute of History

- Department of Archaeology
- Department of History

The evaluators were provided in advance with self-assessment reports 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 three 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 given by the expert team.

Part II

General Comments

Introduction

Current state of research in archaeology and history

In evaluating the Departments and Institutes discussed in Part III below, we have focused on their research and have attempted to assess this from an international perspective. In attempting to make this evaluation we have had the benefit of five self-assessment reports and a large number of publications to assess. We also had three days of discussions with a wide range of senior scholars, middle-rank researchers and postgraduate students, and we examined various libraries, archives and archaeological laboratories.

In terms of institutional arrangements in history and archaeology, there is currently only one research university, together with a variety of small research Institutes. This provided us with a fragmented view of the research work carried out in the two disciplines.

It is clear that the researchers whose work we have been evaluating - in both archaeology and history - are highly intelligent, industrious and committed individuals who have published a very considerable number of publications as books, chapters and articles. Most of these publications have been published in Estonia, in the Estonian language, though some of these have short English language summaries. A minority of these publications have been published abroad, in Russian, German and English. Some researchers have made good contacts with scholars and archives in neighbouring countries, but only a few have contacts with scholars and resources in Western Europe or North America. There are indications that some of the younger researchers are keen to publish abroad and to make contact with foreign scholars who are producing the best work using the latest research methods. Some of the publications that we examined were of international standard and were influenced by the latest research methods and by an international perspective. Most however were of a good national standard, undoubtedly of considerable benefit to Estonian society since they concentrated on Estonian history and archaeology, but these were not likely to make a major impact on the wider scholarly world of historians and archaeologists.

Constraints

In a small country such as Estonia there will inevitably be major financial constraints on research activity. These limitations are reflected in the shortage of office space in a number of the departments visited by us and in the variable level of library provision and access to current foreign books and journals. A further problem is the high incidence of short-term contracts for researchers which inhibits the development of a career structure for younger researchers and militates against strategic research planning. There is a bias in the current system which works against the appointment of new young scholars. There is a notable unevenness in the gender balance amongst researchers in Estonia. All this may limit the effective participation of Estonian

historians and archaeologists in European and other international research programmes and activity.

Evaluation challenges

In evaluating the units discussed in Part III the team of evaluators has adopted an international perspective.

Although we were unable to judge the quality of those publications written in Estonian, we have been able to gain an accurate impression of the research activities of the various units.

Part III

Evaluation of institutions and research groups

1. The Chair of Archaeology and the Kabinet of Archaeology, University of Tartu (*Chair: Prof. Valter Lang*)

Main research fields

- the Bronze and earlier Iron Ages; settlement archaeology
- the Stone Age
- Medieval times
- Middle Ages

Target-financed projects: Processes of Popular Culture in Estonia in the Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (1998-2002) TFLAJ 0531

(Project leader prof. E. Vunder, principal investigators H. Valk, A. Tvauri, M. Konsa, etc)

- a) Estonian rural cemeteries in Medieval and early Modern times
- b) Prehistoric Tartu
- c) Prehistoric and medieval Viljandi
- d) the reflection of antiquities in oral tradition
- e) the problems of Christianisation and syncretism
- f) Ethno-cultural processes in Estonia and neighbouring countries in the early Iron Age and medieval times
- g) Southern-Estonian settlement history and archaeological monuments

General Comments

The research group is relatively large, nine employees headed by a professor. Five are teachers and four of these have a PhD. Together they cover the archaeology of prehistoric, medieval and early modern times. Within these wide time-frames several of the researchers do original research in thematic fields of archaeology. The links to the methods of field and artefact archaeology are secured by the employees of the Kabinet of Archaeology and by the technician working with digital methods.

The strength of the research group is its breadth with a number of competent senior researchers still in their forties and the ability of the group to do research and teach within the whole field of archaeology reaching from theory to excavation and artefacts. Although the facilities have improved immensely since the last evaluation by Prof. Mats Malmer, there is still, from an international perspective, a lack of office space for teachers and PhD students.

The situation of MA and PhD students varies considerably; some have close links to the department, others have much weaker connections. This is not to say that they do not benefit from the strength of the department, but there is still reason to point out the situation. The research group has the capacity to create a strong scientific milieu.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research to be *good*.

Archaeology by its nature is not a nation-state discipline. It is, on the other hand, a regional one. Seeing Estonia and its past in a Baltic, Scandinavian and North European perspective is therefore appropriate. Still, the need to inform Estonians of the past is paramount. This situation is reflected by the fact that a little more than half of the publications are in a foreign language, English or German.

There is a great need within Estonian archaeology to publish new material. In these kinds of publications interpretations ought not to dominate above clear descriptions. This being the character of the genre such publications are difficult to rate more than "satisfactory". Systematising source material and bringing it into a wider perspective will, however, allow for the rating "good". "Excellent", on the other hand, should be a rating reserved for articles and monographs with a clear theoretical and methodological awareness combined with a conceptual understanding of the past. The research group has been able to publish peer-reviewed manuscripts in both national and international publications which can be rated in the categories "satisfactory", "good" and "excellent". None of the material is rated "unsatisfactory". The vast majority of the publications are good and the ones rated satisfactory are virtually all presentations of excavations. Some publications are indeed excellent when seen in an international perspective. Given the recommendation for the rating "excellent to good", the group should belong to the best fourth of European research groups. The group has still to take the last step to enter that category.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The team of evaluators judged the overall capability to be *good*.

There is certainly novelty and originality in the research work, but (owing to situation of Estonian archaeology and its obligation to present its material) a certain amount of it is still descriptive.

Existing and new targeted-funding projects demonstrate a fair strategy for the future and so does the emphasis on the teaching of theory and methodology.

There are multi-disciplinary links, e.g. with history, archaeobotany, geography and osteology. They can still be developed to a good standard, but they have not reached this standard yet.

There is competence, as well as postgraduate and doctoral students.

The national and international co-operation is clearly visible and it can in the spirit of the rating formula, be said to be good.

The group has been fairly successful in applying for funds and grants with some targeted-funding projects financed, a number of smaller grants and some other funding obtained from international sources.

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

The group has been relatively successful in implementing its results. None the less, it would seem essential for the group and other archaeologists in Estonia to co-operate in the writing of a new a synthesis of Estonian prehistory and the early middle ages.

Recommendations

The research group has the capacity to develop, but it needs further support and a more conscious strategy within Estonian archaeology. The work situations for the PhD students should be improved and there should be a continuation of the development of the digital archaeological methods and the research milieu in Tartu. In this context, the research group should seek to develop an internationally competitive group, without neglecting its overall duties within the educational system.

2. Department of History, University of Tartu (*Head: Prof. Tiit Rosenberg*)

Chair of Estonian History (*Prof. Tiit Rosenberg*)

Chair of General History (*Assoc. Prof. Mati Laur*)

Chair of Contemporary History (*Prof. Jüri Ant*)

Chair of Archival Studies (*Prof. Aadu Must*)

Main research fields.

History of Estonia:

- Estonian social and economic histories from the early Modern times to Modern times (T. Rosenberg)
- Estonian history of culture from the Middle Ages to Modern times (S. Vahtre, A. Andresen, A. Raudsepp)
- Estonian political history, military history, in particular, in the 19th c. – the 20th c. (T. Tannberg, A. Pajur)
- Estonian (Baltic) historiography of history (T. Rosenberg, S. Vahtre).

General History:

- Social and political development of the Baltics as well as spiritual life in the European and Russian contexts (Helmut Piirimäe, Mati Laur, Anti Selart, Sirje Tamul, Veiko Berendsen)
- Enlightened absolutism in Russia and the Baltic countries (Mati Laur)
- Emancipation of peasantry (*Bauernbefreiung*) in the Baltic countries (Mati Laur)
- Formation of the medieval eastern border of Livonia and its cultural significance (Anti Selart)
- Tartu University in the history of Estonian science and culture (esp. in the latter half of the 19th c. (Sirje Tamul)
- History of Ancient Greece in the Archaic period (Mait Kõiv)
- Digital archival research and electronic management (Veiko Berendsen)

Centre for Oriental Studies (Linnart Mäll, Märt Läänemets):

- Research into Oriental classical texts; humanist base texts
- Theory of sources; historical-semiotic methodology
- Culture and history of minor nations

Contemporary History:

- Political history of the Republic of Estonia (Jüri Ant)
- History of economy of the 20th -c. Estonia and European countries (Jaak Valge)
- History of the international relations in the 20th century. History of diplomacy and foreign services of the Republic of Estonia. The Estonian consular policy. Contacts of the Republic of Estonia with international organisations (Olaf-Mihkel Klaassen, Vahur Made, Eero Medijainen)
- Estonian relations with Africa. The reception of Africa in Estonia (Karin Hiiemaa, Olaf-Mihkel Klaassen)
- International relations after WW II and the cooperation among the countries of Southeastern Asia (Martin Hallik, Olaf-Mihkel Klaassen)
- History of Humanist Oriental Studies in Tartu University (Martin Hallik, Olaf-Mihkel Klaassen)
- Iberian-Americanistics and Hispanistics (Sirje Krikk de Mateo)

Archival Studies:

- Crown estate in Estonia (the period of tsarist Russia) (Aadu Must, Anu Lepp, Lea Leppik);
- Soviet mass repressions in Estonia: history and sources (Aadu Must, Aigi Rahi, Indrek Paavle);
- Estonian – Russian cultural, economic, political and national relationships (A. Must, A. Rahi, O. Mertelsmann).

Target-financed theme: Estonian-Russian cultural, economic, political and national relations in the 18th-20th centuries (Conductor: prof. Aadu Must)

Target-financed projects: Historiography of Estonian History (Project leader prof. Tiit Rosenberg, PhD)

General Comments

The History Department at Tartu University has seven professorships: in Estonian History, General History, Contemporary History, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Art History and Ethnology. This evaluation is based on the first four of these. The Chair of Estonian History focuses on the history of Estonia from prehistoric times to the present, but the main emphasis is on the modern period (19th and 20th centuries). In addition to the professor, there is an emeritus professor, two associate professors and three lecturers. The Chair of General History is unfilled at present and is headed by an associate professor. Three of the researchers work on Estonia or the east Baltic region, two work on Oriental studies (mainly on texts), and one is an expert on Ancient Greece. The Chair of Contemporary History has five researchers, three of whom work on some aspect of Estonian history or on Estonia's relations with the outside world (including Africa and the Orient). The Chair of Archival Studies is the smallest unit, and its expertise lies in Estonian and Soviet history.

The History Department is quite well provided with lecture and seminar rooms, and some senior staff have quite good individual study rooms, though many staff do not. Computing facilities and technical support is quite good. There are excellent primary source materials for Estonian history in the well-maintained Estonian Historical Archives. On the other hand, the university library is not well-endowed with books in other fields of history.

Given these circumstances, these four chairs have published a commendable volume of work. They have produced 17 monographs, 77 essays in books or peer-reviewed journals and 82 other publications (besides 14 conference abstracts). The professor of Archival Studies leads the editorial team that produces the peer-reviewed *Historical Journal*. Many of the staff are involved in producing history textbooks for schools. The four chairs have also been successful in securing state funding for target-financed themes: to complete the History of Estonia 1700-2000; to work on the historiography of Estonian history; to make a comparative investigation of base religious texts; and, from 2003, to study Estonian-Russian relations between the 18th and 20th centuries. Research on these themes has already produced a significant number of publications. In addition, some 15 researchers have secured 22 grants from other sources.

The four chairs have significant strengths in Estonian history and in Estonia's relations with other countries, both near and far. The emphasis however is largely on modern Estonian history. While this is understandable, it does mean that Estonian history in the medieval and early modern periods is relatively little studied. The General History chair does some research in Oriental studies, but not in traditional or mainstream historical areas. Research is conducted on Ancient Greece, but not on Ancient Rome. There is a surprising neglect of research on western European history and North American history.

These four chairs make great use of Estonian archival material and some historians have visited archives in neighbouring countries, but few researchers have visited major archives and libraries elsewhere in the world.

Most of the publications by the researchers in these four chairs are on the history of Estonia and they are written in the Estonian language. Some of these works have an English summary and some work has been published in Russian, German and English.

There are many postgraduate students, at PhD and MA levels, and a good number have successfully passed their degrees. Their advisers have been accessible and have conscientiously read the drafts of their theses.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research to be *good*.

The publications on Estonian history are clearly impressive in number and they are of great value to Estonian culture and society. Much of it appears rather traditional in approach and methodology, and little of it is published in a major language. A few of the younger scholars are trying to publish abroad and in Russian, German or English.

The work published in German and English is evaluated as being of a good scholarly standard. Given our lack of expertise in the Estonian language, we could only estimate the quality of much of the published work that we did see. It appears that about one-third of the publications listed in the self-evaluation report are on a high scholarly

level, about one-third are on a quite good scholarly level, and the rest can be regarded as of moderate quality. The research in Archival Studies is rated excellent to good, the research in Estonian History is rated good to satisfactory, the research in General History is of such varied quality that some is rated good and some satisfactory, and the research in Contemporary History is rated satisfactory. The overall evaluation for all four chairs is good, but at the lowest point on this grade

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The team of evaluators judged the overall capability of the four chairs to be *good*.

The research activity in all four chairs shows some novelty and originality, but this varies between chairs and is not uniform across all the researchers being assessed in any one chair.

Efforts are being made to devise a strategy for further research and for further funding, though there is no clear strategy yet in place, partly because these four chairs are quite distinct and partly because two of them (General History and Contemporary History) lack internal coherence.

There is some evidence of multi-disciplinarity, though this is not a major feature of any of the four chairs. Some of the research being produced does have relevance for other research areas: in religious studies, language studies, economics and education, for example.

The four chairs all reveal a reasonable level of competence. Between them they have an impressive number of recent and present postgraduate students. Some of these younger scholars look very promising indeed, and the future for historical studies in Estonia looks bright.

There is clearly a degree of national co-operation with those working in other higher education institutions, archives, libraries, and schools, and with those in local and national government. There is however a degree of isolation and unhelpful rivalry with other historians in different chairs and in different institutions which may inhibit progress in some areas of research. At the international level co-operation is varied. There are some good contacts with Russia and some other Baltic countries, but very little contact with countries beyond this region.

Taken together these four chairs have had reasonable success in applying for state funding and rather good success in applying for other kinds of funding. Some chairs have had more success than others.

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

The research achievements of these four chairs are commendable, chiefly, though not exclusively, in Estonian history. Research at the University of Tartu on Estonian history and on Estonia's relations with its neighbours is clearly very important for Estonian society and culture. It is vital that the wider public, at school level and beyond, is provided with scholarly accounts of their nation's history. Even here

however it has to be noted that only a limited amount of research is being conducted by these four chairs on medieval or early modern Estonian history.

It is also important that a good number of MA and PhD theses are being produced by these four chairs to boost the number of well-educated Estonian citizens.

It is also important that the Estonian archives at Tartu are being preserved and catalogued, and are being extensively utilised by scholars working in these four chairs.

Estonian society however does need to know more about the history of western Europe and North America.

Recommendations

The evaluation team, while acknowledging that it is vitally important that Estonian history is given priority and that it should be written in the Estonian language for Estonian citizens, believes that it is also vital that it should be published in major languages accessible to many more people. It is surprising how many researchers in these four chairs concentrate in this area of history and publish only in the Estonian language. The neglect of western European and North American history is surprising and more efforts need to be made to make contact with scholars from these regions and to publish in the language of these regions.

The division of the History Department at Tartu University into so many chairs with small groups of researchers may well inhibit a clear business plan, a coherent research strategy and a really lively research culture. Some thought might be given to how these four chairs can co-operate more fully, particularly in creating a better balance of research expertise and a more vibrant research culture for the excellent young scholars coming through the system. Urgent consideration should be given to creating a single, more coherent History Department, even if distinct branches survive.

3. Department of History and Estonian Cultural History, Estonian Institute of Humanities (Head: Prof. Riho Saard))

Research group: Jaan Tamm, Riho Saard, Mait Kõiv, Tiina Kala, Anu Mänd, Indrek Jürjo, Rein Helme

General Comments

Two members of the research group are attached permanently to the Institute, Professor Riho Saard (Professor of the Chair of the History of Estonian Culture, Head of the Department of History and Estonian Culture) and Assistant Professor Mait Kõiv. Jaan Tamm is full-time Rector of the Institute but is also active in research in urban

archaeology and the grantholder for the Hansa Network project, funded by the Estonian Science Foundation. The other members of the group are attached to the Institute, usually as short-term contract Lecturers. Efforts have been made to give coherence to the group by concentrating research activity into three main research programmes: 'Church, society and education in Middle Age Livonia' (Jaan Tamm, Tiina Kala, Anu Mänd); 'Baltic churches at the crossroads of east and west/past and present' (Riho Saard); 'Formation of statehood in Ancient Greece' (Mait Kõiv).

The team of evaluators was impressed by the quality of the individual researchers (most have PhD's) and by their enthusiasm and vision. There is some genuinely innovative work taking place, for example by Anu Mänd. All the named researchers are highly productive (some 88 works have been published during the review period) and in most cases efforts have been taken to disseminate their work within and beyond Estonia by publishing not only in Estonian journals but also by writing and presenting research findings in English and German.

The small size of the research group is a disadvantage. Expertise is fragmented and some researchers are working very much on their own, e.g. Mait Kõiv. The physical research environment is poor (researchers use their homes in which to read and write rather than offices in the Institute). Library resources within the Institute are inadequate. While members of the group have managed to attract some research funding they are strongly disadvantaged by not being allowed to compete for targeted funding from the state. The small number of postgraduate students (there are no PhD students and only a handful of MA students) is another weakness and inhibits the group from creating synergetic critical mass.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research to be *good*.

Especially impressive was the scholarly nature of much of the research which was original and based on extensive use of archival material. A sizeable proportion of the work was directed towards historians outside Estonia and contributed to significant research issues e.g. the nature and place of ritual in medieval society, the social history of religion and military history. There is potential within the group to develop more work of high international quality.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The team of evaluators judged the overall capacity of the research group to be *satisfactory*, although at the highest point of this grade.

The team found no aspects of the research group's activities which were poor (or Grade 0). There was a higher than normal (in Estonia) level of originality as well as a greater level of interdisciplinarity (e.g. the Hansa project). There is some international co-operation (particularly with Finland) but less national co-operation than might be expected, particularly in the case of Estonian history. Given the limitations on Institute researchers as regards targeted funding the number of research grants obtained is commendable. If the research strategy is to be implemented successfully current plans to establish an integrated University of Tallinn must be carried forward.

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

The work being carried out in Estonian history and archaeology is of fundamental importance for the identity and self-confidence of Estonia's citizens particularly given Estonia's current status as a recently-emergent independent state. The production of high quality work in history regardless of topic will enhance the status of Estonian higher education – and of Estonian society generally – elsewhere in Europe and the wider world.

Recommendations

Within the new University of Tallinn a single integrated Department or School of History be created, with professors and lecturers being encouraged to engage in collaborative activity. Especially within the field of Estonian history it is important that there should be two national centres of excellence. While the degree of internationality at the Institute is impressive more effort should be put into this aspect of the group's activity by submitting articles for publication (even and perhaps especially on Estonian history) in high-ranking international journals and attending conferences overseas. It is important too that younger researchers are encouraged to adopt a comparative approach to their work.

4. Department of Archaeology, Institute of History (*Head: Marika Mägi, PhD*)

Main research fields

- settlement archaeology
- burial archaeology
- development of material culture
- ancient technology and conservation
- anthropology
- palaeo- and archaeozoology
- palaeobotany and –geography

Prehistoric settlement and economy (Valter Lang, Ain Lavi, Mare Aun, Gurly Vedru)
Settlement archaeology. The relationship between centres and hinterlands (Valter Lang, Marika Mägi, Gurly Vedru, Mare Aun, Ain Lavi)
Burial archaeology. Graves as reflection of prehistoric society (Marika Mägi, Valter Lang, Mare Aun)
Development of material culture (Heidi Luik, Ülle Tamla, Erki Russow)

Land, sea and people: Estonia on its way from the Iron Age to the Medieval Period. North-Estonia, West-Estonia and Estonian islands 600-1600 (Headed by Marika Mägi, PhD)

Interaction between the natural environment and man from the geographical, historical and technological aspect (Headed by Lembi Lõugas, PhD)

General Comments

The Department of Archaeology at the Institute of History is an administrative body that has various functions concerning the pre-historic culture of Estonia. The responsibilities of the department are not limited to research work. It has to keep an open collection for visitors and also take care of materials and finds from excavations, including rescue excavations, in the Estonian republic. The main explanation for the variety of the tasks is the administrative inheritance from the former Academy of Sciences. These functions are essential in every developed society but the present legislative and administrative framework in Estonia does not enable the effective fulfilment of these obligations.

The strengths of the department are clearly the competence of the staff, the work of the laboratory (despite the lack of modern equipment), and the quality of research work. The Department also publishes two peer-reviewed journals (*The Journal of Archaeology* and *Archaeological Field Works in Estonia*). The former has an international reputation. evident weaknesses are the lack of a “business-plan”, the absence of a teaching function, and the wide variety of public tasks undertaken without proper funding.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research to be good.

The members of the Department have been very active in publishing their work during the evaluation period. Many of the published studies have been written in international languages and published in international periodicals or other publications. In the technical calculations one has to take into account that among the basic tasks of the department is the publication of yearly records of excavations (*Archaeological Field Works in Estonia*). It is not possible to include these articles in the category of “high international level”, but this is an essential type of scholarly activity in every country. Overall, some part of the publications belong to the highest international level, but the major part, although published in international periodicals, are in part descriptive, but none the less are of a good standard.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The team of evaluators judged the overall capability to be good.

Among the projects, there is certainly some originality, but, because of the diverse responsibilities of the department, one can hardly say that the work is predominantly

original. The overall strategy of the department is unsatisfactory, but, with regard to the research work, the strategies and perspectives are clear and the standard fair. There is, especially in the work of the laboratory, multi-disciplinarity and the research work has relevance to other fields of historical studies. One would expect however better collaboration with historians especially in the medieval period. The competence of the research group is very high, but there are no younger students in this department. National co-operation is good. International co-operation is not at the highest level, but higher in standard than in most of the departments visited by the evaluation team. Members of the department have published in foreign publications, participated in international congresses, and worked in foreign institutions. The department has had fair success in applying for research funding.

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

Excavation work and the presentation of its historical results for the national audience as well as for foreigners belong to the basic functions of every civilised society. The various high-qualified multi-disciplinary research projects as well as an active archaeological laboratory enable the development of these to a high international level. These studies could be important for the marketing of Estonian society and the promotion of its scholarly image.

Recommendations

The reorganisation of the department is crucial. The collections should be separated to an independent museum, possibly a new national museum, that would have the mission of explaining the Estonian past to Estonians as well as to foreigners. This reorganisation would also ensure that the collections remain available for use by scholars. Excavation work in the future should be closely linked to the new museum.

It would be possible to fund the collection on an effective basis, in part through entrance tickets and other activities and in part from the state budget.

The research function of the Department should be transferred to the proposed University of Tallinn so that it can become the new Department of Archaeology of the University. The teaching and supervising of MA and PhD students must be attached to research projects there.

5. Department of History, Institute of History (*Project leader: Toomas Karjahärm*)

Main research areas

The main research areas were regulated in the frame of officially certified projects *The Republic of Estonia: Modernisation and Integration into Europe* (1998-2001) and

Estonia at the Borders of East and West: Statehood, Identity, Culture (2002-2006), financed by Ministry of Science and Education.

The research theme frame work involved a study of the following topical issues of the political, economic, social, cultural history in Estonia as well as that of theoretical thinking: modernisation-Europeanisation, social changes, the development of Estonians into an official nation with its own professional native culture. The main focus lied in writing monographs and dissertations presenting generalisations. Several major projects were completed on the international level: *The Estonian Intelligentsia and Public Thinking in 1850-1940* (T.Karjahärm, V.Sirk), *Industrialisation in Estonia, the Economic Policy and Foreign Trade in the Republic of Estonia* (M.Pihlamägi), *Foreign Policy in the Republic of Estonia in the 1930s* (M.Ilmjärv), *Estonian-Russian Relations 1850-1917* (T.Karjahärm), *Everyday Life in the Medieval Tallinn* (I.Pölsam), *The History of England During the Medieval Ages* (P.Raudkivi), *The Architecture of Estonian Manor Houses* (A.Hein) - all these research works were documented as monographs. Unique documents about the Medieval history of the city of Pärnu were published (both in Estonian and German) as well as documents about Russification in Estonia (both in Estonian and Russian) and two volumes of selected works by President Konstantin Päts.

General Comments

The research group for which detailed submissions were made is quite small, comprising three researchers with DSc or PhDs and two with MAs. The two ethnologists (evaluated in 2002) and one administrator (Raudkivi) were not evaluated. The head of Department, Dr Sirk, was ill and could not be interviewed. Research activity is divided between the Middle Ages (1 researcher) and the Modern Period (4 researchers); there is no significant research work on the early modern period. Almost all the research work is on Estonian history. Approximately 12 books and 33 articles have been published during the period 1998-2002. Since 1997 the Department has issued (with the Estonian Academy of Sciences) the yearbook *Acta Historica Tallinnensia*.

The group appears to lack scientific leadership and effective business and research plans. It has, however, two good younger scholars with considerable potential. The Department has (by Estonian standards) above-average facilities (space, IT, access to books). The current absence of teaching activity and its associate funding means that financial support for the group is inadequate and the group is in danger of falling below the critical mass of scholars necessary to sustain its research function into the future. The group's participation in the proposed University of Tallinn is essential for its survival.

Evaluation of Research Activities

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research to be satisfactory.

The group's output includes a significant number of publications in foreign languages (Russian, English, German) or with English summaries. The quality appears variable;

many are of a fair international standard, but there is evidence of repetition of topics and a descriptive approach; the output of one person appears low and unsatisfactory; at the same time, the output of two persons is of a good international standard with clear evidence of use of a wide range of foreign published and/or archival sources. The rating overall is at the top end of satisfactory. There would be no change in this rating if a national standard were applied.

Evaluation of Overall Capability

The team of evaluators judged the overall capability to be *satisfactory*.

The group's work showed some originality but there is no clear research strategy or modern scientific vision. Nor is there much indication of multidisciplinary links with other departments (such as Archaeology) or with other institutions. The group displays research competence, but is not engaged in the training of young postgraduate students. It has some national and international links, but these are personal and not on an organised basis. It has enjoyed some limited success in obtaining targeted-funding research grants (one at a time) and some ESF grants, but this has been insufficient to enable the group to expand into new areas or employ new staff.

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

The publications on Estonian history in the medieval and modern periods make a significant contribution to Estonian culture and national identity.

Recommendations

The future of the research group depends on its successful integration in the proposed University of Tallinn and it is our view that this should involve a restructuring of the current institutional arrangements in Tallinn so that a single department of history is created. The present group needs to expand its involvement in the international scholarly community and put this on a more organised basis. It should also increase the number of publications in foreign languages and in Western journals and book series. Funding permitting, the group should appoint new younger staff in fields outside Estonian history and its research on Estonian history should also cover the early modern period and have a more explicitly comparative dimension.

Part IV

Summary of evaluation

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research at the Chair of Archaeology and the Kabinet of Archaeology at the University of Tartu as *good* and its overall research capability as *good*.

The team of evaluators took the four evaluated Chairs of Department of History at the University of Tartu as a group and judged the overall quality of their research as *good* and their overall research capability as *good*.

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research at the Department of History and Estonian Cultural History at the Estonian Institute of Humanities as *good* and its overall research capability as *satisfactory*.

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research at the Department of Archaeology at the Institute of History as *good* and its overall research capability as *good*.

The team of evaluators judged the overall quality of the research at the Department of History at the Institute of History as *satisfactory* and its overall research capability as *satisfactory*.

Part V

Recommendations

1. All the research groups in archaeology and history, particularly in Estonian history, should further develop their international and comparative work. It is important that Estonian scholars publish in international languages.
2. The current pattern of historical research in Estonia is too fragmented with too many small units. It is our recommendation that there should be two integrated Departments of History, one at the University of Tartu, the other at the proposed University of Tallinn. These Departments should seek to develop as international centres of excellence, both competing and collaborating in their specialist fields.
3. There should be two separate centres of archaeology, one at the University of Tartu and the other at the proposed University of Tallinn. The centre in Tartu should engage in the full range of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral teaching; that in Tallinn should concentrate on graduate and doctoral studies with a stress on laborative archaeology. Related to this, the management of the archaeology and museum collections, currently at the Institute of History, Tallinn, should be organised as part of a new central museum for the benefit of the general public as well as of researchers.
4. There is a general absence of work on the early modern period of Estonian history and historians need to address this, given the wealth of printed and archival sources, especially at Tallinn. There also needs to be greater emphasis on the historical study of West European and non-European societies.
5. There should be much greater scholarly collaboration among historians and archaeologists which could be channeled through a national association, which would promote debate and innovation in the respective fields.

VI. Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the hospitality of the institutions we visited and the pleasant conversations we had on all occasions. We also acknowledge the administrative and other support of the staff of the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre.

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