

Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre

Evaluation of Research in Public Administration at the University of Tartu

Institute evaluated

University of Tartu

Department of Public Administration

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Expert team:



Prof. Ari Salminen (Chairman)
Department of Public Management
University of Vaasa
P.O. Box 700
FIN-65101 Vaasa
FINLAND
E-mail: ari.salminen@uwasa.fi



Prof. Juris Rozenvalds
Department of Political Science
University of Latvia
Lomonosova 1
LV-1011 Riga
LATVIA
E-mail: rozenv@latnet.lv



Prof. Jonas Hinnfors
Department of Political Science
Göteborg University
Box 711
S-40530 Göteborg
SWEDEN
E-mail: jonas.hinnfors@pol.gu.se



Prof. Kjell Goldmann
Department of Political Science
University of Stockholm
S-10691 Stockholm
SWEDEN
E-mail: kjell.goldmann@chello.se

Part I

General Overview and criteria of evaluation

At the request of the Estonian Higher Education Accreditation Centre, Tallinn (EHEAC), the evaluation team (hereafter named the “Team”) visited an institute in Estonia, carrying out research activities in public administration. The evaluation team comprised Prof. Ari Salminen (University of Vaasa), prof. Jonas Hinnfors (Göteborg University), prof. Juris Rozenvalds (University of Latvia) and prof. Kjell Goldmann (University of Stockholm). The institution to be evaluated was:

University of Tartu (UT)

Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences

- Chair of Public Administration and Government (Head: Prof. W. Drechsler)
- Chair of Public Management (Docent Tiina Randma-Liiv)

The Team was provided in advance with a self-assessment report from the institution, prepared by the members of their research groupings.

After a brief orientation meeting at EHEAC, the Team visited the institution over one day. At these meetings staff members of the various Chairs 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 Team was 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.
2. Identify deficiencies in the activities of research and development unit.
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 a self-evaluation report created by the Department.

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

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

Regarding the grading of the research activities, the 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):

	Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2
Originality/novelty of past and ongoing research activity	descriptive, no novelty	some novelty/originality	original/novel
The strategy and perspective of research	no or bad strategy, no or unclear perspective for further research	fair strategy and perspective for further research	clear strategy and very perspective for further research
Multidisciplinarity and relevance for other research areas	no multidisciplinarity, no relevant for other research areas	some multidisciplinarity, some relevance	good multidisciplinarity, good relevance for other research areas
The competence of research groups and their capability for development	low competence	there is competence, but no young postgraduate and postdoctoral students	there is competence and postgraduate and postdoctoral students
National and international co-operation	no particular national and international co-operation	some national/international co-operation	good or tight national/international co-operation
Success in applying for funds and grants	no particular success	fair success	applying successfully for grants and funds

Excellent - 12-10 (total grade), **Good** - 9-7 (total grade), **Satisfactory** - 6-4 (total grade) and **Unsatisfactory** - 3-0 (total grade).

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

The general evaluation of the resources of the Department

The Department of Public Administration, headed by Taavi Annus, is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences in the University of Tartu. In the Faculty level, the Department has close connections to the Department of Political Science.

The structure, main research areas, scientific personnel and projects are shortly described below.

The main fields of scientific work of the Department

1. PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND THEORY OF ORGANISATION (DR. TIINA RANDMA-LIIV, KRISTINA TÖNNISSON, VEIKO LEMBER)

- ANGLO-AMERICAN TRADITION IN PA
- CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN ESTONIA, CEE, AND GENERALLY
- COMPARATIVE CIVIL SERVICE CAREER PATTERNS
- EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS IN THE PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE SECTOR
- ADMINISTRATION OF SMALL STATES
- PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
- NPM THEORY
- POST-POST NPM THEORY

2. HISTORY AND THEORY OF THE STATE AND PA (PROFESSOR WOLFGANG DRECHSLER, PROFESSOR RAINER KATTEL)

- PA ETHICS
- PA AS *STAATSWISSENSCHAFT*; PA AS THE 'STATE IN ACTION'
- INTEGRATED PA; GOVERNANCE APPROACHES
- THE CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN TRADITION OF PA AND ITS APPLICATION TODAY (WOLFF, STEIN, HISTORICAL SCHOOL)
- *POLIS* THEORY
- HERMENEUTICAL (GADAMERIAN) THEORY OF BUREAUCRACY
- PA AND SOCIAL SCIENCE THEORY

3. INDUSTRIAL AND INNOVATION POLICY AND PA (PROFESSOR WOLFGANG DRECHSLER, PROFESSOR RAINER KATTEL, DR. TOOMAS GROSS, MERIKE KOMPUS – VAN DER HOEVEN, TARVO KUNGLA)

- THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH; PA IN THE SCHUMPETERIAN ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK
- INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PUBLIC FINANCE
- SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RAMIFICATIONS OF GENETIC TECHNOLOGY
- E-GOVERNANCE, AS SUCH AND IN ESTONIA; THE INFLUENCE ON PA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- GOVERNMENT AND INFORMATION
- ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION; ECONOMICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

4. EUROPEAN STUDIES (TARVO KUNGLA, KADRI KALLAS)

- MUNICIPAL SELF-ADMINISTRATION IN EUROPE
- MUNICIPAL UNIT REFORM
- THE EFFECTS OF EU INTEGRATION ON ESTONIAN PA AND GOVERNANCE
- EU ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING

5. PUBLIC LAW

(TAAVI ANNUS, LENO SAARNIIT)

- LAW AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
- ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
- STATE AUDITING; TRANSPARENCY; EFFICIENCY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS
- LAW & ECONOMICS ANALYSIS IN PA
- CIVIL SERVICE CODES OF ETHICS

The staff of the department

<i>No</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Employee</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>Scientific degree</i>
Current					
1.	Professor	Wolfgang Drechsler (since 1995)	Male	1963	PhD (Marburg)
2.	Senior Researcher, Docent (on leave)	Tiina Randma-Liiv (since 1995)	Female	1968	PhD (Loughborough)
3.	Lecturer, Head of the Department	Taavi Annus (since 1999)	Male	1977	LL.M (Marburg), candPhD
4.	Lecturer	Tarvo Kungla (since 2001)	Male	1977	MPol (Jena), candPhD
5.	Researcher (extraord.)	Kristiina Tõnnisson (since 2001)	Female	1976	MSc (New York), candPhD
6.	Researcher (extraord.)	Merike Kompus – van der Hoeven (since 2001)	Female	1976	MA (Tartu), candPhD
7.	Researcher (extraord.)	Kadri Kallas (since 2001)	Female	1978	MA (Tartu), candPhD
8.	Researcher (extraord.)	Leno Saarniit (since 2001)	Female	1976	MA (Tartu), candPhD
9.	Researcher (extraord.)	Veiko Lember (since 2003)	Male	1977	MA (Tartu)
10.	Lecturer	Karsten Staehr (since 2001)	Male	1962	PhD (Copenhagen)
Other recent faculty					
11.	Docent	Charles O. Kroncke (1995- 1999)	Male	1967	PhD (Auburn)
12.	Senior Researcher (extraord.)	Toomas Gross (1997-2003)	Male	1971	PhD (Cambridge)
13.	Senior Researcher (extraord.)	Rainer Kattel (1997-2003)	male	1974	PhD (Tartu)

The main target financed projects of the Department

SOCIALISM OF THE CHAIR IN TARTU, TSOAH0545, 1998-2000. Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Drechsler. Full-time investigators: Wolfgang Drechsler PhD, Toomas Gross PhD, Rainer Kattel PhD. Funding 728 000 EEK.

THE INFORMATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF ORGANIZATION, TP1TL0556, 1998-2002

(The grant was administered by the University of Tartu Competence Centre). Principal investigators: Dr. Merik Meriste, Prof. Dr. Jüri Allik and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Drechsler. Full-time investigators: Wolfgang Drechsler PhD, Toomas Gross PhD, Rainer Kattel PhD. Funding: 509 000 EEK. CIVIL SERVICE IN SMALL STATES: ORGANISATION, RESEARCH AND TEACHING METHODS, TSOAH1439, 2000-2001. Principal investigator: Dr. Tiina Randma-Liiv. Funding 340 000 EEK.

CONSENSUS AND CONFLICT IN THE DIVIDED SOCIETY: A QUALITATIVE STUDY IN THE EXAMPLE OF RELIGIOUS FRAGMENTATION, TSOAH2165, 2002-2003. Principal investigator: Dr. Toomas Gross. Funding: 300 000 EEK

THE ESTONIAN STATE AS STATE, TSOAH2126, opened in 2002. Principal investigator: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Drechsler. Full-time investigators: Wolfgang Drechsler PhD, Tiina Randma-Liiv PhD, Kristiina Tõnnisson MSc, Veiko Lember MA. Funding 2002 - 360 000 EEK, 2003 - 357 000 EEK, 2004 - 360 000 EEK

Some preliminary conclusions

The self-evaluation report was useful for the work of the Team. The Team site visit was informative about the resources and capacities of the Department.

The team noticed that the large work in developing public administration research unit during the last five years has been done. There has been a lot of development work in research since the institution was established within Tartu University in 1994.

Concerning the Public Administration research at the international level, the scientific work of the Department could be considered very relevant. Issues of public management, theories of public sector organisations and European studies could be mentioned here as good examples. Still, in the framework of long term research projects, more proper monographs are necessary. Now almost all work seems to be concentrated on articles and shorter publications.

The research staff of the Department has made remarkable efforts in publishing books and articles and participating in scientific projects in Estonia and abroad, including development work in the Estonian government.

The Team also noticed, that the Department has been successful in getting external funding for its own research purposes. In 2000 – 2004 The Department received 11 targeted projects (2 164 000 EEK in sum), 53 target financed doctoral students' projects (598 000 in sum), 13 Estonian Science Foundation grants (896 229 EEK in sum), and 25 grants from abroad and other grants (4 453 400 EEK in sum). Altogether funding for research was 8 111 629 EEK in five years.

Part III

Final conclusions and recommendations

1. First of all, the Team got the impression, that the Department has been active in establishing public administration as a separate research field at the University of Tartu. One of the strengths of the Department seem to be a high degree of motivation and commitment to scientific work. Furthermore, the issues they are analyzing seem to be relevant within the Estonian government and society as well as an international context.

2. The Department has a high potential for development of research activities that may be used in a better way if the degree of fragmentation of the research were lower.

3. In the development of doctoral studies the Department relies mainly on networks established within the University of Tartu and on an international scale. The internal network of doctoral studies is not very developed. The Team recommends the strengthening of the system of doctoral studies. The Department should also encourage young researchers to participate in regular meetings for administrative sciences (for example EGPA and IIAS).

4. In the current situation, the shortage of library services becomes one of the main obstacles for conducting research at an international level. The library problem must be solved by decisions at the university level.

5. The Team judged the overall quality of the research of the Department to be **good**. The overall capability of the research was also found **good**.

	Grade
Originality/novelty of past and ongoing research activity	2
The strategy and perspective of research	1
Multidisciplinarity and relevance for other research areas	1
The competence of research groups and their capability for development	2
National and international co-operation	1
Success in applying for funds and grants	2