

Date
February 28, 2024

Our reference
Position Executive Board

General Affairs
Executive Board

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Position of the Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology regarding the assessment of the Built Environment

In the period March – May 2023 an international review committee assessed the scientific research of the Department of the Built Environment (BE) at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) conducted in the reference period 2016-2021. The assessment was carried out using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027 (SEP) for the research assessment of public organizations in the Netherlands.

The committee assessed the research in light of the proclaimed aims and strategies. The committee considered the three main SEP criteria in the assessment: research quality, relevance to society, and viability. Also, the four SEP aspects were incorporated: Open science, PhD policy and training, academic culture, and human resources policy. Upon request, the committee paid special attention to the Department's ambitions and the mechanisms it has introduced (or intends to introduce) to reach these ambitions.

The assessment committee consisted of:

- Prof. Jacqueline Glass (full professor and vice dean research, UCL Bartlett) (chair)
- Dr. Stephan van Dijk (director of innovation, AMS Institute)
- Ir. Mar Muñoz Aparici (PhD candidate, TU Delft)
- Prof. Claudia R. Binder (full professor and dean ENAC, EPFL)
- Dr. Francesca Causone (associate professor, Politecnico di Milano)
- Dr. Meike Schalk (associate professor, KTH)

The Executive Board highly appreciates the work of the committee and the recognition of the excellent quality of the research of the Built Environment at TU/e.

- “The quality of the research at the Department is strong and recognised by the international scientific community and local stakeholders. The Department has a distinctive research profile, grounded in rigorous technical and scientific disciplines.”
- “The laboratories are excellent: they are large, properly equipped and managed, thereby supporting work with local stakeholders on societal challenges and collaboration with international partners on high-scientific-level projects.”
- “The Department has a clear ambition to better connect with societal challenges, ... The Department has the potential to become an influential connector and changemaker.”

The Executive Board takes the concrete recommendations at heart. The highest priorities are discussed with the management of the Department.

- "Identify with the Department's community a small number of key priorities/themes which can drive future research and strongly support interdisciplinary thinking and collaborative working, and overtly invite disruptive thinking."
- "Refresh the impact narrative (and associated communications plan) to reflect the breadth of collaborations and capability, making more use of design as a way to envision new ways to approach to societal challenges."

The Dean and the Faculty Board are in charge of the education, research and valorisation policy of the faculty in line with the university policy. The Executive Board takes ownership for HR policy at university level and will ensure that this policy is built together with the faculties and built on the three core tasks of the university. This includes the EDI policy, promotion criteria and the PI-model mentioned by the committee. The domain specific elements will then be developed and implemented by the Department.

The Executive Board of TU/e has accepted the report and its recommendations and wishes to thank the assessment committee for the considerable time and effort it has spent on this assessment.

According to the schedule for the assessment process the Executive Board will appoint owners for the follow-up actions and monitor its progress during the Bilo's in the coming years as part of the quality assurance cycle.

On behalf of the Executive Board,



Prof.dr. S.K. Lenaerts
Rector Magnificus Eindhoven University of Technology