

To: Executive Board
cc. Nathalie Smit and Nick den
Hollander

Date

30 October 2025

Subject

Formal response on research assessment
ERMeCHS 2019-2024

Our reference

ESHCC-05952

Appendix

Action plan

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Dear members of the Executive Board,

On behalf of the Erasmus Research Institute for Media, Culture, History and Society (ERMeCHS), we hereby present our response to the committee's findings and recommendations. We greatly appreciate the recognition of our institute's achievements in research quality, societal impact, and interdisciplinary cooperation.

We are particularly encouraged by the committee's acknowledgment of our strong academic community, successful track record in securing competitive funding, and the tangible societal contributions achieved through stakeholder engagement. These affirmations strengthen our resolve to further consolidate ERMeCHS's position at the intersection of the social sciences and humanities.

We also take note of the constructive recommendations regarding external communication (a.o. the naming of our institute), the need to reinforce internal communication across clusters, and the importance of ensuring supervision quality and timely completion within the PhD programme. These are areas we recognize as priorities, and we are committed to addressing them systematically in the coming years. We have added our action plan regarding the main recommendations as appendix.

The committee's recognition of our enhanced governance structure, professionalized research support, and commitment to diversity affirms that ERMeCHS is on the right trajectory. At the same time, we acknowledge the challenges posed by external and internal financial pressures and the importance of preserving dedicated research time to maintain academic excellence.

In conclusion, we are committed to further developing our new strategic plan for 2026–2030. With the continued support of the Executive Board, we are confident that the institute will strengthen its reputation and make a lasting contribution to Erasmus University Rotterdam's strategic ambitions.

Prof. dr. Stijn Reijnders
Vice Dean Research

Prof. dr. Martine van Selm
Dean