

Executive Board EUR

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Subject

Position Paper

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Page

1/1

Appendix

1

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Dear members of the executive board,

We share with you the report of the 2018-2024 research assessment of Erasmus School of Philosophy. We enclose the report and in the remainder of this letter share our responses to the recommendations made.

We greatly appreciate the positive and detailed assessment of the ESPhil research programme by the committee.

The summary of the assessment is that "ESPhil combines high research quality with strong societal orientation and institutional ambition". We are particularly proud of the positive words about our "clear mission" and the "mission-aligned changes" that we have been making. Likewise, we are proud of the positive words about the quality and diversity of the research delivered by the different research themes in our Faculty.

We note that the committee has stressed the need for more attention to "engaged philosophy", an area in which we have made many improvements in recent times. We also note that the committee has praised the steps we have made in our PhD policy, faculty governance, HR policy and with regards to Open Science, and we respond to the suggestions for further improvement.

We are grateful for the careful suggestions of the committee that we are addressing in the below work plan in detail.

We are committed to contribute to the strategy of the EUR, in particular, to give substance to the EUR as an "engaged university" in the strategic period till 2030.

Yours sincerely,

Prof.dr. L.H.J. Noordegraaf Eelens
Dean Erasmus School of Philosophy

Prof.dr. H.C.K. Heilmann
Vice-Dean Research

ESPhil research assessment 2018-2024

Position paper

Main recommendations

Recommendations		Action points (with owner)
1	Define and operationalize engaged philosophy. Develop a shared conceptual framework that distinguishes monodisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary engagement, and align evaluation criteria accordingly. Position ESPhil to take intellectual leadership at university level in clarifying what meaningful academic engagement entails.	- Appoint a senior member of academic staff as the ESPhil engagement officer (0,2fte, potentially more) who will be a member of the EUR engagement board and liaise closely with the ESPhil management team (MT, Engagement Officer) - Support an emerging research theme that focuses on engaged philosophy with the aim of establishing it firmly as a fourth research theme within ESPhil (MT, Engagement Officer) - Hold a series of ESPhil-wide consultations together with strategic partners to define and operationalize engaged philosophy (Engagement Officer, new research theme) - Collaborate closely with all levels of EUR for events and projects that further EUR's position as an engaged university (MT, Engagement Officer, new research theme)
2	Clarify research excellence across profiles. Formulate transparent, theme-sensitive quality indicators that safeguard international competitiveness while accommodating diverse Recognition & Rewards profiles.	- Develop quality indicators in relation with R&R profiles (MT, in close consultation with the Faculty Diversity Officer and the four ESPhil research themes)
3	Consolidate and future-proof the thematic model. Formalize procedures for adapting themes and subthemes, safeguard continuity in 'The Making of Modernity', and ensure inclusive development of EIPT within 'Human Conditions'.	- Consultation and deliberation process on theme priorities (MT, and the four ESPhil research themes)
4	Further strengthen PhD training and integration. Fully implement supervision frameworks, improve onboarding, invest in supervisor training, and foster a supportive, welcoming academic culture across themes.	- Implement Graduate Office 2.0 that includes a plan of detailed measures for all highlighted points of improvement (MT, Director of Graduate Office)
5	Improve governance transparency and participation. Structure decision-making and communication through themes and centres, and formally embed the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in policy processes.	- Develop a joint approach to improved governance and communication within ESPhil (MT, Faculty Diversity Officer, Engagement Officer, Director Graduate Office, and the four ESPhil research themes)
6	Deepen cross-theme collaboration. Incentivize joint research, coteaching and co-supervision to reinforce ESPhil's internal coherence and distinctive profile.	- Develop a joint approach for cross-theme collaboration (Vice-dean research, the four ESPhil research themes)
7	Secure long-term financial sustainability. Combine continued grant acquisition with strategic development of lifelong learning and other revenue streams, while protecting core research strengths.	- Implement an "ESPhil acquisition strategy" (MT) - Implement life-long learning initiatives (MT)

Specific recommendations from the report (different sections)

Recommendations		Action points (with owner)
1 Research theme "Making of Modernity"	- Address viability challenges and develop thematic focus, such as by collaborating with other themes and groups	- Formulate a strategic approach to maintain viability (MT and research theme)
2 Research theme "Human Conditions"	- Address the coherence of the theme, and develop the Erasmus Institute for Philosophy of Technology (EIPT)	- Formulate a strategic approach to theme development (MT and research theme)

3 Research theme “Philosophy and Economics”	- Monitor the suitability of the sub-themes to maintain excellence, and develop strategy to sustain the level of external grant acquisition	- Formulate a strategic approach to maintain excellence (MT and research theme)
PhD policy and training	- Further improve PhD experience and PhD productivity, with “ESPhil as a whole [to be] involved in strengthening doctoral training and supervision.” - Introduce intervision meetings between supervisors - Further clarify PhD policies, procedures, and onboarding - Identify good practices for support of PhD students and share them between research themes	- Implement the “Graduate Office 2.0” action plan (Director Graduate Office)
Open science	- Maintain and extend the leadership of ESPhil in open access publishing to books and edited volumes	- Develop a strategic approach for open and responsible science in connection with engaged philosophy (Vice-dean research, ESPhil Open Science Ambassador, Engagement Officer, the four ESPhil research themes)
Social safety	- Broaden the social safety strategy and lower the threshold for reporting cases of misconduct	- Develop a strategic approach for social safety (MT, Faculty Diversity Officer and Diversity and Inclusion Committee)