

# UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

To whom it may concern

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### SUBJECT

Position of the Executive Board of the University of Twente regarding the research assessment of Civil Engineering

In June the research unit Civil Engineering at the UT was visited by an international review panel as part of the research review of Civil Engineering. The site visit, together with the self-evaluation report, formed input for the assessment of the committee. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the Standard Evaluation Protocol (SEP) 2015-2021. The committee consisted of: prof. A.E. Mynett (UNESCO-IHE, Delft University of Technology), prof. N. Dodd (University of Nottingham), prof. S.L. Handy (University of California – Davis), prof. J. Whyte (Imperial College London). The committee was supported by B. van Balen (QANU).

### Summary of the evaluation

The department civil engineering was established in 2016 when the four groups that provided courses for the education programme civil engineering merged. The committee observed that while the department in its current form is relatively young, it already functions as a real department where co-operation among the groups is stimulated and facilitated. The cross-cutting themes of sustainability, efficiency, safety and resilience are visible in the research programmes of all four groups.

The research committee positively evaluated the interdisciplinary approach and the cross-cutting themes. The committee concluded that quantity and quality of research is very good across the four groups. The committee noted that the department has a number of star performers of world leading quality. The research committee appreciates the efforts and results the civil engineering department achieves regarding informing policy and practices. According to the committee, the department makes "obvious and great, in some cases outstanding, contributions to society." The committee was impressed by the efforts and achievements of creating a new department over the last years. The department is seen as setting the right priorities and fostering an important talent management strategy which will foster the viability of the department in the long term.

The committee was impressed with the quality of the PhD students and the evidence of their opportunities on the job market. The committee asked for attention towards improving the success rate of the PhD

students. The committee concluded that the department adheres to university-wide policies and procedures for integrity. PhD students are very aware of the topic. The committee observed that diversity in staff is increasing and offered suggestions to stimulate its further development.

The committee assessed the overall performance of the research unit as very good. Research quality: very good; relevance to society: very good; viability: good.

### Recommendations

The committee offered a number of recommendations regarding improving the quality and performance of the department. The recommendations are presented in the table below.

Topic	Recommendations of the committee
Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee underlines that department needs sufficient basis of tenured staff to maintain its current position. Provision of seed money is recommended in order to develop innovative and new interdisciplinary projects.</li><li>• Establishment of an advisory board for the department in order to help setting the agenda for the future.</li><li>• Stimulate social interaction among the groups to build an interdisciplinary community.</li></ul>
Research quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance promotion of CME group, showcasing significance and promotion of publications.</li><li>• Develop connections between Centre for Transport Studies with other groups, in particular regarding smart cities.</li></ul>
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducting an analysis to determine background of applications of MSc and PhD students, staff vacancies. Develop diversity recruitment policy.</li></ul>
PhD programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organise monthly meetings for PhD students where they discuss their work.</li></ul>

The Executive Board highly values the thorough and careful assessment of the committee of the research conducted at Civil Engineering at the UT. The Board values the appreciating comments of the committee and the recommendations offered by the committee which will support Civil Engineering in its further development. The Executive Board will discuss the recommendations with the faculty and stimulate the uptake of the recommendations in its quality management processes.

The Executive Board of the University of Twente expresses its gratitude to the international committee for its efforts and the unit for preparing the research assessment.

On behalf of the Executive Board



Prof.dr. Thom Palstra  
*Rector Magnificus*