

Update.

In this newsletter, you can read more about the evaluation report entitled '3TU.Federation: review and progress report'. The evaluation report provides an overview of the coordination and cooperation that has taken place over the past six years between the three Dutch universities of technology and summarizes the current state of affairs and the results achieved so far.



Evaluation report: 3TU.Federation a success

The organizational structure chosen for the 'Federation of Technical Universities in the Netherlands', better known as the '3TU.Federation', has proven successful at fostering the desired climate of coordination and collaboration. Simply put: the 3TU.Federation is a success. Thanks to the trust and support of the government and the business community and the commitment of our academic and support staff. The report, published today, used the objectives formulated in the 2004 Science & Technology sector plan as a framework for the evaluation.

Increasingly close cooperation

The three universities have recently intensified their collaborative efforts. In 2002, after a period mainly characterized by intense competition, the three Dutch universities of technology began to cautiously seek a rapprochement. In 2004, they produced a joint Science and Technology sector plan entitled 'Slagkracht in Innovatie' ('Strength in Innovation'), in which they declared their intention to form a federation before 2010. In fact, the federation was already operational by early 2007.

Optimal division of responsibilities

The creation of the joint Centres of Competence and Centres of Excellence has laid a solid foundation for the three universities to coordinate and reinforce existing research themes in close consultation with one another, as well as develop new research themes. For example, new positions have been created for twenty-seven full professors and five associate professors in five of the joint Centres of Excellence (Multiscale Phenomena, Bio-Nano Applications, Intelligent Mechatronic Systems, Dependable ICT Systems, and Sustainable Energy Technologies). These positions will gradually be filled as existing positions are phased out over time. This pooling of resources fosters an ideal environment for innovative research and allows for an optimal division of responsibilities among the three universities of technology, thereby enabling each institution to develop greater depth and focus.

Greater mobility for students

The 3TU Federation provides for five joint Master's degree programmes: Construction Engineering Management, Embedded Systems, Systems & Control, Sustainable Energy Science and Technology Education and Communication (teacher programme). However, the Federation's involvement in Master's education is not limited to just these five programmes. For example, the periodic visitations of the 3TU Master's programmes will take place within the context of the 3TU Federation. Furthermore, a 'Model Course & Examination Regulations' has already been drawn up for the various 3TU Master's programmes, along with a set of 'Joint Regulations for 3TU Master's Degrees'. These regulations will allow the establishment of a joint Board of Studies and Board of Examiners. The three universities of technology have also agreed to match their academic calendars for all study programmes starting in the 2009-2010 academic year. By continuously exchanging knowledge and experience and by coordinating regulations with one another, the three universities of technology are making significant improvements to the quality of education they provide as well as removing obstacles for students to move among the universities and make use of each university's educational facilities.

Stimulating knowledge valorization

In close cooperation with regional companies and government bodies, each of the three universities of technology has given a major boost to knowledge transfer and valorization, collaboration with business and industry, promotion of entrepreneurship and support for high tech start-up companies.

3TU.Federation

With the foundation of the 3TU.Federation, the three Dutch universities of technology aim to earn their place among the most prestigious European universities in terms of education and research. They will accomplish this goal by bringing forth highly skilled people and delivering innovations that will strengthen the dynamic and competitive nature of the Dutch knowledge economy. For more information, please see the 3TU.Federation website: www.3tu.nl

Internal coordination

The three universities are learning from one another and expanding their collaborative efforts on a growing number of projects relating to business operations, including but not limited to ICT matters. The 3TU members are constantly exchanging the necessary information, knowledge and experience and sharing many of their 'best practices'.

Clear added value

In the future, it will be even more important for new joint initiatives to present clear added value. Examples could include improved quality of education and range of choice for students, better career perspectives for talented young scientists, greater relevance for the business sector, more new high-tech activity and the ability to achieve greater results with the same financial investment. In order to achieve such added value, it is vital that we foster sufficient support within the 3TU universities to sustain mutual cooperation. With this aim in mind, it is important to make clear that our cooperation offers benefits to both students and staff. In the coming period, the federation will work hard to achieve the desired level of support.



Policy

The evaluation report formed part of the basis for federation policy as defined for the next four years. The strategic vision for 2009-2012, the communication policy plan and the 2009-2010 administrative calendar will be ready for publication by the end of this year.

Confidently moving forward



"We are proud of what we have achieved so far", says Amandus Lundqvist, chairman of the board of the 3TU Federation, in response to the evaluation report published today. "In this regard, we believe it is essential to promote and support bottom-up cooperative initiatives by our professors in areas which are relevant to the knowledge economy in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we are specifically committed to improving the position of our constructive and design disciplines, which are not only unique but also highly relevant. In order to reinforce the ability of the Netherlands to attract top-class scientific talent, we need to invest jointly in large-scale research facilities. To realize these objectives, we need the ongoing support of the government and other stakeholders. Therefore, we are very pleased with the structural contribution of two million euros per year granted to the 3TU Federation by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science".

For the full evaluation report, '3TU Federation: review and progress report', please see www.3tu.nl (About 3TU - Publications).

The next 3TU.Newsletter will focus on 3TU research

Publishing details

3TU.Newsletter is a publication of the 3TU.Federation. The newsletter is sent to the staff and external contacts of TU Delft, TU Eindhoven and the University of Twente.

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