

Update.

In this newsletter: An update on the 'Ontwikkelingsplan 3TU.Federatie 2009-2012' (Strategic Plan 2009-2012), the 'Bestuurlijke Jaaragenda 2009-2010 (Governing Board Agenda 2009-2010), the prestigious NWO grant for the 3TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology and more...



UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

NWO grant for graduate programme

The 3TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology has been awarded a grant of 800,000 euro for its graduate programme by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The grant is part of a new subsidy scheme for graduate programmes and research schools set up by Minister Ronald Plasterk of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW). Jeroen van den Hoven, research director of 3TU.Ethics, is delighted with the grant: "3TU.Ethics was established at the beginning of 2007, after an 'excellent' outcome of the external assessment of the three universities of technology in the Netherlands by the international assessment committee. The reports by the external assessors praise our centre as 'the best in the world in the area of technology and ethics'."

Virtual lecture hall for 3TU

3TU Master's students have since recently been able to follow virtual lectures using HD video conferencing. This means a lecture given at one university can also be 'attended' by students at the two other institutes. A virtual lecture hall has been set up at each university. The academic year started with a pilot in three courses, and this number will be increased later in the year. Lecturers in the 3TU Master's programmes will be able to use the new technology from September 2010. The numbers of students taking subjects at different universities are increasing, and thanks to this unique facility they will now have to spend less time travelling. The virtual lecture hall will be officially opened at the end of November/beginning of December. If you're interested in participating in the ceremony, please contact H el ene Bartelds, tel. +31 (0)15 278 1258, e-mail: H.M.Bartelds@tudelft.nl.

New names for the Managing Committees

The new names of the 3TU.Education, 3TU.Research and 3TU.Technology Transfer Managing Committees speak for themselves. These new names (formerly 3TU.Graduate School, 3TU.Institute of Science and Technology and 3TU.Innovation Lab, respectively) are derived from the spearhead areas in the 2009-2012 strategy of the 3TU.Federation, and reflect our focus on content.

Interview with... Amandus Lundqvist



The Strategic Plan 2009-2012 presents an ambitious future for the 3TU.Federation. Amandus Lundqvist, chairman of the federation and chairman of the TU/e Executive Board, explains the plans.

What has the 3TU.Federation already achieved?

"We recently held an evaluation of the progress that the 3TU.Federation has made. The outcome showed that we are further forward than we expected in 2004. That gives us very strong grounds for optimism. We are now all focused on the mutual interests of the federation, which makes it into a mature partnership based on trust. The practice is that there are now five joint Master's programmes. We now really do have a shared academic agenda, with semesters that start on the same dates. We have clustered some research aspects into five successful Centres of Competence, within which there are six Centres of Excellence. And as far as technology transfer is concerned, there are excellent partnerships with industry."

What does the Strategic Plan 2009-2012 contain?

"We are now going to operationalise and further extend the partnerships within 3TU. There are already plans for three new Centres of Competence. These initiatives – in the fields of logistics, building and applied mathematics – have arisen from contacts within the 3TU.Federation and industry. We are asking the government for 15 million euro to finance these partnerships. Another ambition is to bring the research infrastructure up to the required level. However this is under threat because of a structural decline in direct funding levels, which is potentially disastrous for scientific and technological research. We need 400 million euro in the coming years if we are not to lose ground to the competition, and we are asking the government for a structural contribution of ten per cent of that sum: 40 million euro. In addition, our ambition is to offer the whole technology transfer spectrum – from education with an entrepreneurial focus to helping start-up companies, providing preseed and seed capital and more – on a continuous basis. At present we do that with incidental financing. But to continue these initiatives the 3TU.Federation needs ten million euro a year."

What do you expect from the government?

"We are calling on government to support our ambitions. We are saying: government, work with us and support us in the interests of the knowledge economy in the Netherlands. Because what's at stake is the competitive strength of the country, the future of the knowledge-intensive industry, because that largely depends on what is happening in the scientific and technological domain. The response of the government will determine the speed with which we can implement our Strategic Plan. Because it is the availability of new investments that will decide whether we can accelerate this process or have to slow it down."

Events



Precision Fair

The 3TU.Centre for High Tech Systems will again be represented at this year's Precision Fair, a event for precision technology, to be held at the Koningshof congress centre in Veldhoven on 2 and 3 December. Around two hundred companies and institutes will take part in the show, which is free of charge to visitors. The featured topics include new markets, products and solutions, and there are independent lectures and suppliers' presentations. As well as the customary exhibition area, this year's event will again focus – at the 'Technology Hotspot' – on the links between knowledge from universities, technical colleges, knowledge institutes and industry. 3TU was also present at last year's Precision Fair in November 2008, and gained particular attention with the robots that were walking around the 3TU stand.

Career insights in sustainable energy

The Sustainable Energy Technology Master's Day was held in Eindhoven last May, specially for Master's students of the 3TU Sustainable Energy Technology (SET) programme, with the involvement of students from all three locations. During the day the students were informed about opportunities on the employment market in their own disciplines. The programme for the day included presentations by companies and a self-assessment workshop to help students find out the kinds of work to which they are best suited. A number of former students gave presentations about their work as consultants, researchers or PhD students, providing enthusiastic insights into the career opportunities for graduates of the programme. Taking part in the event were around a hundred students, as well as a number of companies.

Credits

3TU.Newsletter is a publication by the 3TU Federation (www.3tu.nl). The newsletter is sent to staff and external partners of Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology and the University of Twente. For more information, please contact: Corine Legdeur, 3TU communication advisor a.i., corine@legdeurcommunicatie.nl, tel. +31 (0)40-281 80 28.

3TU.NIRICT submits proposal to EIT

Together with a large number of partners, 3TU.NIRICT has submitted a proposal to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) for a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the field of ICT. The aim of a KIC is to accelerate innovation by removing barriers between research, education and industry. The proposal – EIT ICT Labs – is a unique one: it is the first time that top European universities, excellent research partners and leading companies have joined forces on such a large scale in the field of ICT. The operations of EIT ICT Labs will be based at five co-location sites: Berlin, Eindhoven, Helsinki, Paris and Stockholm. The most important partners in the Netherlands are the three Universities of Technology, Philips and Novay (formerly the Telematics Institute). The focus is on ICT in healthcare and wellbeing. Delegates from the European Union will decide at the end of December on the parties with which EIT will cooperate. For more information about EIT ICT Labs, see www.EITICTLabs.nl



Report 3TU.Research: Social Environmental analyses

Social environmental analyses carried out for the six 3TU.Centres of Excellence have been compiled in a report entitled 'Omgevingsanalyses van de researchcentra van de 3TU.Federatie' (Environmental analyses of the research centres of the 3TU Federation). In choosing the themes within the centres, 3TU.Research was guided by social demands which are reflected, for example, in the NWO and SenterNovem priority programmes and the EU Framework Programme. 3TU.Research commissioned these environmental analyses because it believes that a deeper analysis of the social needs for research is essential. The contribution by the Centre for Ethics and Technology takes the form of an essay about the social debate on the use of new technology.

3TU.Federation prominently represented at KIVI NIRIA conference

The annual conference of KIVI NIRIA (Royal Institute of Engineers in the Netherlands) will be held on the RDM Campus in Rotterdam on 26 November 2009. This year's theme is 'Hup Holland Hub'. The 3TU.Federation is involved in the conference in a number of ways. Three Centres of Excellence will give presentations to conference delegates in workshops. In addition, Prime Minister Balkenende will be presented with the first copy of the '3TU Staalkaart' (3TU Spectrum) during the morning programme. In this publication, which is currently in preparation, 3TU research within the Centres of Excellence is included. The conference is a great opportunity for 3TU to present its work to a broader audience! For more information, visit www.kiviniria.nl/hub

Report on 3TU.Education

A report entitled 'Graduate School, Eindverantwoording Impulssubsidie 2005-2008' (Graduate School, final report on starting grants 2005-2008) details the development and the activities of the education in 3TU. '

The next 3TU Newsletter features, amongst others, the '3TU Staalkaart' (3TU Spectrum).