

Update.

Featured in this newsletter: rankings (national and international), an interview with Paul Rullmann on the 3TU Master's degree programmes, the Education Day, the Coach Café for young alumni and much more.



UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



Interview with... Paul Rullmann

A number of the 3TU.Federation's five joint Master's degree programmes have undergone their first external assessment, with positive results. This is a confirmation of the benefit of the 3TU partnership, and an encouragement to continue with these programmes, says Paul Rullmann, member of the TU Delft Executive Board and Chairman of 3TU education.

What has been achieved in education?

"The 3TU Master's degree programmes are developing well. A number of the programmes recently had an external assessment, and were re-accredited. That is very gratifying.

In the past months our focus has been on making it easier for students to follow a part of their programmes at one of the other universities of technology. We have harmonised the semester calendar and the scheduling of the minors, and also made agreements about the quality of education, and the teaching skills of the lecturers.

A digital learning environment has been created to give the universities access to each other's educational environments. There are also virtual lectures where students at one university can follow lectures given at another and also ask questions. We have also noticed a growing interest among international students for the 3TU degree programmes."

What are the benefits of the 3TU partnership?

"We now prepare external assessment reports together and discuss ways to improve our education. This helps us to learn from each other, and be inspired by the different way we tackle things and our shared ambitions.

All three of the TUs face the same problems, such as the government plan to impose penalties on students who study longer than the set period. Technology students take the longest times to complete their studies. So if those students and their universities are fined for this, without taking into account the differences between the degree programmes, technological education will be hit hardest. And this is happening right when we have gone to great lengths to attract more students to these programmes. So the current plans will be disastrous for technological education and we are very pleased to see that they have been postponed for one year. We will be joining forces to look for ways to reduce study delays."

What do you expect from the government in relation to 3TU?

"The State Secretary has promised to invest 11 million euros per year for the coming years to further develop the 3TU partnership under the Sector Plan for Technology. This promise was probably led by the Veerman Committee report, which states that a stronger profiling of the universities will lead to better quality. The 3TU partnership is a step in that direction. The investment confirms that the partnership is valued – which of course we are very happy about. We have submitted the Sector Plan for Technology detailing how we intend to use the funds, and we are looking forward to the final confirmation. But don't think we're sitting back passively waiting for the cash to be delivered: in the meantime we are of course continuing to work on improving the education within the 3TU partnership."

Rankings

The three TUs score highly in national and international rankings. That is good and rankings are important, but unfortunately they aren't always reliable and easy to understand. For this reason 3TU has produced an overview of all the facts & figures and the do's & don'ts of rankings, making them easier to understand and hopefully also helping to improve the quality of the rankings. More information about this subject is available at www.3tu.nl/nl/over_3tu/publicaties/

Philips Research Asia Shanghai scouting for talent at the three TUs

In March, representatives of HRM Philips Research Asia in Shanghai visited the three TUs. The aim of the Chinese Philips delegation was to make contact with Chinese and other Master's students. Philips anticipates very strong growth in China in the coming years and over the next five years Philips Research Asia Shanghai is looking to fill some of its vacancies with both Chinese and non-Chinese talent. Fiona Xu, HRM manager at Philips Research Asia Shanghai, says she is looking for (Chinese) students who have studied abroad. She believes that their international experience will enable these students to think and act more independently, creatively and pragmatically. This is the first time that Philips Research Asia Shanghai has visited universities in another country,

Credits

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Events



AMI Health Day: 'maths is invisible'

In March the Applied Mathematics Institute (3TU.AMI) held a workshop with the theme 'Improving Healthcare by Mathematics'. The formula of this workshop was unique because the theme of 'health' was considered from both a medical and a mathematical perspective. Sixty people attended the workshop, of whom about one-third were from the medical world and two-thirds from academia.

Roel Fonville (Director of the Strategic Area 'Health' at TU/e) gave a lecture on the role and development of mathematics in biomedical developments. He concluded that mathematics plays an essential yet invisible role in healthcare. Christof Schütte, (professor at the Freie Universität Berlin and deputy chairman of MATHEON, the partnership between the mathematics departments of the three Berlin universities) gave a presentation on the areas of healthcare in which MATHEON is actively involved. 3TU.AMI and MATHEON are planning to continue their consultations on Healthcare & Mathematics.

Super TU/esday 'The Innovation Degree': 25th anniversary of Stan Ackermans Institute

The 3TU.School for Technological Design, Stan Ackermans Institute, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on 31 May with a symposium. On the programme are presentations of successful designs, an exhibition of interesting design projects, a keynote speech and a book presentation.

The day is intended for alumni of the designer programmes, representatives of companies in which design projects are executed, and other contacts. For more information, please visit www.3tu.nl/sai

Education Day

The annual Education Day held by and for the joint 3TU Master's degree programmes took place in Utrecht on 12 May. During the morning the visitors from the three universities discussed recent experiences, which was found to be very instructive. One of the hot topics was the re-accreditation of the degree programmes. The discussions continued in the afternoon, with subjects such as ways to further optimise the joint nature of the programmes. All of which resulted in a great deal of energy and a list of ideas which will be developed further. A detailed report is available from Veronique van 't Westeinde at beleidsmedewerker@3tu.nl

Making your dream come true

"Inspiring, food for thought, a new look at things." These were a few of the enthusiastic reactions from young alumni at November's Coach Café in Eindhoven. The TU/e Alumni Office organised the Coach Café together with colleagues from Delft and Twente. Experienced coaches (who were also graduates from one of the three TUs) helped the alumni, aged up to around 35, through the various rounds.

In groups of three alumni and one coach, more than 45 alumni and 15 coaches talked about their careers in three rounds, each lasting about 45 minutes. For each round the alumni changed tables, so there were new groups of coaches and alumni every time. Each round focused on a different subject: in the first round it was identifying your own talents; the second round was about your career dreams; and in the third round the alumni were challenged to discuss their next career steps. All under the leadership of professional coaches – engineers with training and experience in coaching.

The success of the evening and the high turnout means the concept will certainly be repeated says Joost van den Brekel of the TU/e Alumni Office. If you are interested in being a coach or participant, please contact Joost at j.v.d.brekel@tue.nl

Employee participation is win-win

Dineke Heersma, Chair of Employee Participation at 3TU and Chair of the TU Delft Works Council, is keen to emphasise the importance of employee participation. "Employee participation isn't a threat but a win-win situation", says Heersma. The Works Council and the board members engage in dialogue where they provide each other with information and act as sparring partners. "There's nothing wrong with healthy criticism, but the challenge is to find solutions together." Heersma advises everyone whose work requires a better understanding of the university's management tasks to take a look at the opportunities that employee participation offers.

Similar 3TU partnerships in Europe

The Niedersächsische Technische Hochschulen (NTH), the partnership between the TUs in the German state of Lower Saxony, held a symposium in January to mark its change of chairmanship. Here TU Austria, NTH itself, ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule) from Switzerland and 3TU were asked to give presentations about themselves and their experiences. There is a strong need to share experience, many people have the same questions and each partnership is looking for the best form of 'smart collaboration'. It is striking that there are now four countries in Europe with formal partnerships between universities of technology and also that Switzerland and Germany also have recognised innovation leaders. These examples show that attention for innovation and technology policy, and a well organised technology domain, are well worth while.

In the next newsletter, we hope to take a look at the new financial means and the implementation plans to further develop the 3TU partnership.