

POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF GEOSCIENCES, 2015-2020

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the departments of Geoscience & Engineering (GSE) and Geoscience & Remote Sensing (GRS), of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences (CEG) in the period 2015-2020. The assessment was carried out in 2022 by an international peer review committee, using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027. Chair of the peer review committee was ir. H.C. Klavers (Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority, the Netherlands). The full report of the peer review committee is available on the TU Delft website.

The Executive Board has accepted the report and wishes to express its gratitude to the peer review committee for their work and for delivering a valuable assessment report. On the basis of the assessment report, additional information and the fruitful conversations during the site visit, the committee has provided comprehensive insights and recommendations that the departments and Faculty can use to their advantage.

The Executive Board is pleased that the committee considers the Geosciences departments at TU Delft to be at the forefront of scientific research, working on highly societally relevant research topics. The Executive Board appreciates that the committee applauds the very well-equipped infrastructure and facilities, healthy financial situation and outstanding young as well as senior research staff. The core message of the committee to the departments, to "cherish, involve and train your talents", is a very valuable one that the Executive Board would like to ask the departments to take to heart.

In its report, the committee touches upon a number of subjects that can be improved or require attention. The committee recommends the GSE department to pay attention to the impact of its experience, the importance of formal communication, and rethinking the themes. The committee recommends the GRS department to pay attention to building stronger internal interactions, putting emphasis on the contribution to more operational products, investing in strategic collaborations, rethink the section and theme names, and a stronger focus on monitoring and predicting risks and natural hazards. The Executive Board recognizes these remarks and would like to see the recommendations being addressed.

Also, the Executive Board suggests to embrace the committee's recommendations for both departments regarding PhD policy and training, contributions to public debate, extending internal and external collaborations while paying attention to the risks involved, distribution of education, choices regarding tenure policy, involvement of young staff, attention for diversity and female role models, and an active outreach strategy. The Executive Board will further discuss the recommendations, as well as the observations and remarks concerning the specific departments, with the management of the departments as well as the Faculty.

On behalf of the Executive Board of Delft University of Technology,



Prof.dr.ir. Tim van der Hagen
Rector Magnificus / Voorzitter