

Institute Evaluations 2023

Purpose

The committee is asked to assess the targets set by the institute and its strategic plan in the broader context of international developments in scientific areas and society relevant to the institute. To that end, the institute will provide a self-assessment report reflecting on the previous six years. This qualitative self-assessment will be backed by quantitative figures. It is up to the institutes to decide what kind of quantitative figures are necessary to support its excellence and quality. Separate to the self-assessment, the institute develops a new strategic plan for the next six years, including clear targets.

Advice of the committee on:

The 3 main criteria:

1. Research quality:

- How does the assessment committee assess the scientific quality of the institute, in light of its own aims and strategy? Central in this assessment are the contributions to the body of scientific knowledge. The assessment committee is asked to reflect on the quality and scientific relevance of the research. Finally, the academic reputation and leadership within the field is assessed. Looking ahead into the future, which recommendations can the committee give to the institute regarding their research quality?
- How does the committee assess the institute's place in the national and/or international research landscape? Is the institute a frontrunner or a follower in its field? Does the committee see untapped opportunities?

2. Societal relevance:

- How does the committee assess the societal relevance in terms of impact, public engagement and uptake of the institute's research in economic, social, cultural, educational or any other terms that may be relevant? The assessment committee is asked to reflect on societal relevance by assessing an institute's accomplishments in light of its own aims and strategy. Looking ahead into the future, which recommendations does the committee have for the institute regarding its societal relevance?

3. Viability:

- How does the committee assess the extent to which the goals for the coming six-year period remain scientifically and societally relevant? It is also asked to assess whether its aims and strategy as well as the foresight of its leadership and its overall management are optimal to attain these goals. Finally, the assessment committee is asked to assess whether the plans and resources are adequate to implement their strategic plan. The assessment committee is also asked to reflect on the viability of the institute in relation to the expected developments in the field and societal developments as well as on the wider institutional context of the institute.
- How does the committee assess the way the institute fulfills their national role and does the committee have any recommendations regarding this?¹
- How does the committee assess the way the institute contributes to the vision on 'Dutch research in 2030' as is written down in the NWO Strategy 2023-2027 and does the committee have any recommendations?

¹ With respect to the reports from the PCNI, the portfolio committee and (where relevant) the exploration reports.

In addition there are also 4 important aspects contributing to the success of the institute:

4.1 Open Science:

The assessment committee is asked to consider to which extent the institute opens up its work to other researchers and societal stakeholders in the context of its strategy and policy. Furthermore, the committee is asked to consider whether the institute reuses data where possible; how it stores the research data according to the FAIR principles; how it makes its research data, methods and materials available; and when publications are available through open access.

The committee is specifically asked to give the institute and NWO-I recommendations on their Open Access and FAIR data and software policy. The assessment committee is asked to reflect on the current policies, and the practices with regards to the open availability of the publications, research data and methods and assess them in light of NWO's high ambitions (e.g. is the institute a frontrunner in its field with regard to Open Access and FAIR data and software?).

4.2 PhD policy and Training:

The assessment committee is asked to consider the supervision and instruction of PhD candidates. Furthermore, the committee is asked to consider whether the quality assurance system is functioning properly. The committee is asked for recommendations on how to enhance the supervision and education of PhDs (together with the universities), also in light of the three main criteria.

4.3 Academic Culture:

Openness, (social) safety and diversity & inclusivity: The assessment committee is asked to consider the openness, (social) safety and diversity & inclusivity of the research environment. The assessment committee is also asked to evaluate the actions and plans for the future of the institute with regards to (social) safety, diversity & inclusivity.

Research integrity: The assessment committee is asked to consider the institutes policy on research integrity as well as the way the institute facilitates the relevant actions and requirements formulated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

For both themes: Looking ahead into the future, which recommendations does the committee have for the institute regarding their academic culture, also in light of the three main criteria?

4.4 Human Resources policy:

Talent Management: The assessment committee is asked to consider the institute's policies on talent selection and development in relation to its aims and strategy. More specifically, it is asked to evaluate the institute's recruitment policies, opportunities for training and development, coaching and mentoring, as well as career perspectives for researchers and research support staff in different phases of their career. An important aspect of this is the (inter)national cultural change regarding recognition and rewarding in academia that NWO-I is implementing. What are the institute's plans to further the desired cultural change and which recommendations does the committee have for the institute and NWO-I?