



Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven



40 YEARS



ANNUAL REPORT **ETF LEUVEN**

2021

**For forty years ETF Leuven
has contributed to church
and society by training
theologians.**

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INTRODUCTION



A celebratory year. When people ask me what kind of year 2021 was for ETF Leuven, this is the answer. ETF Leuven had something to celebrate. The opening of the academic year on September 27 marked the start of a special period for ETF Leuven: an anniversary year celebrating ETF Leuven's 40th anniversary as an academic institution.

This annual report covers the most recent period of those forty years. For forty years, as an academic institution for theology and religious studies, ETF Leuven has contributed to church and society by training theologians to take positions as pastors in congregations or leaders in other organizations.

What this annual report underscores is that over forty years ETF Leuven has grown into a very strong academic institution for education and research in the field of theology and religious studies. ETF Leuven thus can be recognized by four essential characteristics: our Protestant Evangelical identity, our interdenominational character and community; and pursuit of academic excellence which at ETF Leuven goes hand in hand with attention to both personal and communal spirituality.

Community and communal are important words at ETF Leuven. This communality was again challenged in 2021 by the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictive measures that had to be applied in that context. In the 2020 Annual Report, we dedicated a separate chapter to the impact of these measures on working and studying at ETF Leuven. The current annual report does not have such a chapter. That is not because there was no impact, on the contrary. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis is weighing more heavily on society as a whole and ETF Leuven. At the same time, the presence of the COVID-19 virus and COVID-19-related measures have become part of our daily work and study practices. Absence of a separate chapter on the impact of COVID-19 shows above all that in 2021 ETF Leuven was blessed with sufficient resilience and inventiveness to teach, conduct research and shape academic services in spite of this.

Since the opening of the academic year in September 2021, we have been celebrating our 40th anniversary. We will continue to celebrate in 2022 and hope to bring the anniversary year to a festive close in September 2022. We continue to celebrate. And we continue to work. With the ambition of ETF Leuven to make a sustainable contribution to coming generations.

Prof. dr. Jos de Kock
Rector ETF Leuven



STRATEGIC DIRECTION



2021 was the second year of the five-year policy period 2020-2024. For that policy period, ETF Leuven established a multi-year policy plan entitled *Continuing to Build Sustainably Together: Investing in Theology and Religious Studies*. The policy plan is based on seven objectives that steer the strategy of ETF Leuven for this period. This chapter gives a brief impression of how the strategic direction developed along the lines of these seven policy goals in 2021.

Unique profile

ETF Leuven does its work from a unique profile: rooted in a Protestant Evangelical while simultaneously focussing on ecumenism and dialogue. A working group preparing a future curriculum revision is giving attention to ecumenism and dialogue in its plans. The Educ8 conference ([see chapter 4](#)) is a typical example that reflected our profile in 2021: Flemish secondary school religion teachers gathered at our campus on how to promote respectful interconfessional dialogue in education.

Internationally oriented

ETF Leuven is a strongly internationally oriented theological faculty in the Low Countries with a wide variety of partnerships with foreign institutions. The internationalization working group identified focus countries and partners important for intensifying collaboration in 2021. The Research Committee also considered where priorities could be set for specific international research collaboration.

Robust education

ETF Leuven offers a classical theological education, complemented by a reinforced religious studies component, both on campus and through blended learning. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again highlighted the importance of having good digital didactics and appropriate technology available for all education. In 2021, therefore, the Education Committee and a professionalization meeting of teaching staff reflected on the use and improvement of online teaching practices. The newly formed educational developments working group (see chapter 3) will also explicitly include this point of attention in view of the future curriculum revision.

Relevant research

ETF Leuven is an ambitious and high-quality research institution for theology and religious studies. This ambition requires good cooperation with partner institutions within and outside Flanders. In 2021, a series of executive consultations was held with existing and potentially new partner faculties in North America in particular. In addition, an exploration was started into how the quality of our international doctoral program (see chapter 4) could be further enhanced.

Academic services

Academic services at ETF Leuven have partners in mind from various domains: church, society, and education. In addition to regular field consultations, conversations with alumni and other stakeholders were planned and carried out in 2021 to reflect on our service offerings and valorization activities. The goal is to create a future offer that fits the unique character of ETF Leuven and responds to a need among theologically interested people.

Sustainable organization

As an institution of academic higher education, ETF Leuven strives to be a professional organization and, in addition, to make its facilities sustainable. Regarding the first aspect, in 2021 needed attention was devoted to perceived work pressure and how both to contain it in the future and keep it manageable. ETF Leuven is an ambitious institution that wants to accomplish a lot with relatively few resources. Add to that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the daily lives of everyone and this point needs to be taken seriously. With regard to the second aspect mentioned (sustainable facilities), 2021 was an important year: we acquired sufficient funds to start phase 1 of our solar panel project (see chapter 7). In concrete terms, this means that half of the solar panels can be installed on the roof of our building at Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg in early 2022.

Financially stable

During this five-year policy period, ETF Leuven strives to develop into a sufficient, stably funded organization with adequate room for investment. However, we had to close the reporting year with a negative financial result (see chapter 8). Partly against this background, 2021 was also the year in which sustainable obtaining of sufficient revenue for our core tasks of education, research and academic service was high on the agenda. Wage costs continue to rise sharply but revenue development is not keeping pace. Various short- and long-term strategies were discussed and priorities set.



2



GOVERNANCE



2.1 Structure

The Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven (ETF Leuven) is an institution of higher education, located at Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg 97 in Heverlee (Leuven). The faculty is organized as a non-profit organization with two governing bodies.

The first is the General Assembly. This body appoints trustees, amends statutes, and approves the budget. The General Assembly meets once a year. For this reporting year they met on April 8.

The second is the Board of Trustees. Alongside other responsibilities, this board is authorized to appoint academic staff and the Executive Administration. It also has the authority to amend the Internal Regulations and the Education and Examination Regulations. Students also have representation on this board. The board meets four times a year. In the reporting year, the Board of Trustees met on February 11, April 8, June 10 and November 10.

The Executive Administration is responsible for the daily administration and consists of the Rector, the Academic Dean, and the Administrative Director. In the reporting year, the Executive Administration consists of the Rector, the Academic Dean, and the Interim Administrative Director (see § 6.4). The Academic Vice-Dean participates in the executive meetings to offer advice. The Executive Administration is present at the meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Trustees to offer advice.



The faculty has six departments. In addition to these departments, there are three important organs: the Education Committee, the Research Committee, and the Faculty Council. The Education Committee consists of the chairs of the six departments, the Academic Dean, the Academic Vice-Dean and the Rector. This committee coordinates all activities regarding development of the educational programs. The Research Committee, like the Education Committee, consists of the chairs of the six departments along with the Academic Vice-Dean, the Academic Dean, and the Rector. This committee coordinates all activities

related to the development of research. Both the Education and Research Committees can invite students for agenda items that directly concern them.

The Faculty Council consists of all resident academic personnel who have at least a half-time assignment at ETF Leuven, representatives of the administrative and technical staff, and one or more student representatives (at least 10% of the Faculty Council). All important decisions at ETF Leuven need to be agreed on by this council.

More complete information regarding the composition and powers of the different bodies can be found in the Internal Regulations of ETF Leuven. Since ETF Leuven highly values interests of students, it applies the co-management model. This means student participation at the highest level of governance, the Board of Trustees. In addition, students are also represented in the Faculty Council and, for relevant agenda items, in the Education Committee.

2.2 Composition

Board of Trustees

Dr. Gottlieb Blokland, Koen Celis, Dr. Filip De Cavel (chair), Dr. Jessie Dezutter, Prof. Dr. Henk Jochemsen (vice-chair), Sarah Morton, Chris Sebrechts, Dr. Richard Toes, Anne van Olst, and student representative(s). The Executive Administration participates in an advisory capacity.

General Assembly

Dr. Gottlieb Blokland, Koen Celis, Dr. Filip De Cavel (chair), Dr. Jessie Dezutter, Diederick Eikelboom, Prof. Dr. Henk Jochemsen, Michael Künnemann, Hans Maat, Sarah Morton, Prof. Dr. Phil Roberts, Chris Sebrechts, Jean-Claude Thienpont, Dr. Richard Toes, Anne van Olst, Kees van Velzen, and student representative(s). The Executive Administration participates in an advisory capacity.

Government Commissioner

In 2014 the Flemish government appointed a government commissioner to oversee spending of government funds and compliance with the regulations of government procurement. The government commissioner attends the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly. Since July 1, 2018, Marleen Deputter is designated as Government Commissioner.

Executive Administration

Prof. Dr. Jos de Kock (Rector), Prof. Dr. Andreas Beck (Academic Dean) and Jeroen Le Jeune (Interim Administrative Director). The Academic Vice-Dean participates in an advisory capacity.

Education and Research Committees

Prof. Dr. Jack Barentsen (until September 27), Prof. Dr. Andreas Beck (chair), Dr. Jelle Creemers, Prof. Dr. Jos de Kock, Prof. Dr. Jacobus (Kobus) Kok, Prof. Dr. Ronald Michener, Prof. Dr. Koert van Bekkum, and Dr. Maria Verhoeff.

Faculty Council

Dr. Bosco Bangura, Prof. Dr. Jack Barentsen, Prof. Dr. Andreas Beck, Dr. David Courey, Dr. Jelle Creemers, Prof. Dr. Jos de Kock (chair), Dr. Philip Fisk, Prof. Dr. Jacobus (Kobus) Kok, Jeroen Le Jeune, Dr. Matthias Mangold, Dr. Creighton Marlowe, Prof. Dr. Ronald Michener, Prof. Dr. Michael Northcott, Dr. Jeremy Otten, Anne-Catherine Pardon, Cees Tulp, Prof. Dr. Koert van Bekkum, Dr. Steven van den Heuvel, Dr. Jermo van Nes, Bernard Vantieghem, Dr. Maria Verhoeff, Prof. Dr. Martin Webber, Elsie Wilms and three student representatives.



3



EDUCATION



3.1 Introduction

ETF Leuven offers academic education on three different levels: Bachelor, Master and Doctor. These programs are recognized by the Flemish Community, Codex Higher Education (Codex), Art. II.105, and accredited by the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO).

ETF Leuven does not offer its programs as purely theoretical scholarship in a neutral context, but rather strives for a connection between theory and (vocational) practice.

One way this occurs is through reflection in a classroom setting on subject-specific knowledge related to current societal issues raised by the lecturers, students and those in the field.

The methods used in teaching and the educational resources are intended to connect with the three core values of the educational concept on the structure of the curriculum: (1) gradual learning process, (2) importance of diversity, and (3) learning in dialogue. The aim thereby is not only widely to inform students about the disciplines of theology and religious studies but also to teach an exemplary and methodical approach with attention to understanding and potential applications.

The following sections will expand more on the general policy (§ 3.2), educational offerings (§ 3.3), quality control (§ 3.4), Education and Examination Regulations (§ 3.5), students (§ 3.6) and cooperation with other educational institutions and internationalization (§ 3.7).

3.2 General Policy

3.2.1 Assignment and General Objective

The Flemish Community recognizes ETF Leuven as an officially registered institution of higher education, able to award the degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor in the field of Theology and Religious Studies (Codex Art. II.105). The programs are included in the Higher Education Register (www.hogeronderwijsregister.be).

In addition to providing higher education, academic research is carried out and academic services are provided, which is also true for other institutions of higher education. ETF Leuven wants to train students theologically to qualify for ministry in church and society, such as becoming ministers, particularly in denominations connected to the Federale Synode van Protestantse en Evangelische Kerken in België [Federal Synod of Protestant and Evangelical Churches in Belgium] and teachers of Protestant Evangelical Religious Education, particularly for schools organized by the Flemish government.

In accordance with its authorization, ETF Leuven also offered a teacher training program in the reporting year until the establishment of a new Master of Teaching program (CHO, art. II.400 §3). This was approved by a committee of the NVAO, which prepared a positive draft decision following an (online) site visit to ETF Leuven on February 22 within the framework of its Initial Accreditation.

3.2.2 Specific Objectives of the Programs

The specific objectives of each program are mentioned in the education regulations (§ 2.1, art. 12 bis, 13 bis, 13 quater and 15 bis) and in the Study Guide. In 2013 an educational assessment took place, during which the



recently revised program learning outcomes (OLR) of the ETF programs were tested against domain specific learning outcomes (DLR) for Bachelor's and Master's in Theology and Religious Studies as established by Flanders in 2012. The OLRs were thereby evaluated as 'good'. Revised OLRs have been in force since the 2013-2014 academic year.

In January of the reporting year, the educational developments working group, a subcommittee of the Education

Committee, prepared a proposal to revise the OLRs in preparation for the NVAO education evaluation in 2023.

In 2012 the objectives of the teacher training program were assessed positively by the external assessment panel. During the 2015-2016 academic year a limited revision in the program was implemented, as a result of which specific objectives better complemented the general core competencies of the teacher. Since the 2021-2022 academic year, the newly designed Master of Teaching in Religion is offered (see § 3.3.1) and the teacher training program is being phased out.

3.2.3 Vision on Education

The educational concept articulates the vision of ETF Leuven on education as it relates to the development of academic thinking and work of students. The concept is applied at various levels, from the organization of the overall program to the design of individual courses. The educational concept of ETF Leuven can be consulted in the Study Guide.

ETF Leuven greatly values learning in a context of diversity. An international team of specialists in their own fields with attention for interdisciplinary input gives the students guidance. Didactic models offered in core and auxiliary disciplines help ensure that critical thinking is stimulated in different ways and levels and that students learn to define their own positions in a nuanced way.

The six departments in the field of Theology and Religious Studies do not primarily attempt to cover their respective subject areas comprehensively ('knowledge as goal'), but rather to provide an exemplary and methodical approach with the necessary emphasis on insight and possible application ('knowledge as tool').

As an academic institution, ETF Leuven directly links education to continuing developments in academic research. For this, use is made of ETF's own research, as well as external research relevant to the study of religion and to the Protestant Evangelical movement in Flanders, the Netherlands and Europe.

Students are encouraged to participate in research projects. During the later years of their studies they can get an independent researcher's role in a team, coached by a professor.

3.2.4 Education Committee

The Education Committee develops the curricula of the educational programs, accepts students, establishes the programs for individual students, including granting exemptions and approval to follow a course or semester at a different institution, and evaluates the educational activities of academic personnel. In the reporting year, four meetings were held in accordance with the internal regulations.

As usual, the committee delegated activities that concern individual students to the Bachelor's and Master's subcommittee ('administrative committee').

3.3 Educational Offerings

3.3.1 Programs and Conditions of Admission

Bachelor

During the 2020-2021 academic year, ETF Leuven offered a three-year academic Bachelor's program accredited by the NVAO. The Bachelor's program has three specializations: Bible and Theology, Church and Pastoral Ministries, and Religion and Education.

The Bachelor's program, with lectures presented in Dutch, consists of 180 credits and leads to an academic Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies. A complete description of the program can be found in the Study Guide.

New students, along with those continuing or joining the Master's program, meet the conditions of the Codex Art. II.178-II.183. The conditions of admission can be found in the Education Regulations of ETF Leuven available in the Study Guide and on the ETF Virtual Campus.

Part of the Bachelor's program is offered in a more flexible format via the ETF Open University (see § 3.3.3).



Master

During the 2020-2021 academic year ETF Leuven offered a two-year Master's program in accordance with its accreditation by the NVAO. The Master's program has three specializations: Bible and Theology, Church and Pastoral Ministries, and Religion and Education. These specializations correspond to the Dutch language equivalents in the Bachelor's program mentioned above.

The Master's program, with lectures presented in English and the option of taking examinations in Dutch, consists of 120 credits and leads to a Master of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies. An exhaustive description of the program can be found in the Study Guide.

A large part of the Master's program is offered in a more flexible format via the ETF Open University (see § 3.3.3).

Doctorate (PhD)

The doctoral program of ETF Leuven usually takes between three and four years of full time study. The program consists of two phases. In the examination phase research skills are sharpened and a specific research proposal is worked out. In the dissertation phase the dissertation is written based on original research. A number of doctoral students are residential and connected to ETF Leuven as assistant academic personnel (AAP) or as special academic personnel (SAP) through a research grant.

Conditions of admission and other relevant information can be found in the Education Regulations (§ 2.1, art. 10 and 10bis) and the PhD Handbook. Both can be found on the website, www.etf.edu.

Master of Teaching

During the 2020-2021 academic year, ETF Leuven offered an academic teacher training program for students wanting to pursue a career in Protestant Evangelical Religious Education. This program (60 credits), with lectures

presented in Dutch, was offered in the field of Theology and Religious Studies. The theoretical component (30 credits) could be fully integrated into the Master's program; the practical component (30 credits), however, is separate from this. Further information concerning this program can be found in the Study Guide. Since the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, a newly designed Master of Teaching in Religion is offered at ETF Leuven and the teacher training program is being phased out. This Master of Teaching should (continue to) meet the need to train teachers for Protestant Evangelical Religious Education for upper secondary level (2nd and 3rd stages).

3.3.2 Continuing Education

ETF Leuven offers continuing education in different forms. In the context of 'lifelong learning' anyone who is interested and meets the requirements may register to follow courses under a credit contract.

The ETF Summer Colloquia are particularly well suited for continuing education: students and teachers from various backgrounds meet for an intensive study week (see § 3.3.3).

In 2017 in consultation with the governing body for Protestant Evangelical Religious Education in Flanders, the PEGO committee, a Basic Package Academic Theological Education (PEGO) was developed. This package contains seven Bachelor's courses. (Prospective) teachers PEGO who do not have a recognized degree in theology and/or religious studies can receive a 'PEGO certificate' from the PEGO committee on the basis of this package, which serves as proof of professional training for the recipient.

Every year various professional study days are organized. Most study days at ETF Leuven are open to interested parties who wish to further develop in their work and/or church practice. On October 16 a study day was held entitled "Interlevensbeschouwelijk gesprek op school en 'hot potatoes'" (see § 5.2 Study Days). The pastoral training

day organized annually for students in cooperation with the Department of Practical Theology was postponed another year due to the COVID-19 crisis.

3.3.3 Educational Renewal

Curricular Revisions

The current curricula of the Bachelor's and Master's programs were implemented in the 2009-2010 academic year and slightly revised in 2014-2015. In accordance with the Quality Manual, the educational programs will be re-evaluated and possibly revised prior to the planned educational assessment in 2023. In preparation for this assessment, the educational developments working group, a subcommittee of the Education Committee, was established. This working group met eight times during the reporting year, in addition to the regular meetings of the Education Committee.

ETF Open University

The ETF Open University offers a flexible variant of a large part of the residential Bachelor's and Master's programs. The ETF Open University focusses on students who have already completed another degree and have a job. The education is organized as blended learning, using electronic aids for online training via the ETF Virtual Campus combined with traditional teaching methods.

In the Bachelor's program the specialization Bible and Theology is offered entirely via ETF Open University. In the Master's program this specialization as well as the specialization Church and Pastoral Ministries is offered through ETF Open University.

During the 2020-2021 academic year four (online) training days were held for the part-time Master's program; also four (online) training days were held for the part-time Bachelor's variant. For students of both programs a Summer Colloquium was held from August 9 to 14. This is an intensive



study week with a diverse range of elective courses, taught by internal and external specialists. This year once again three (online) courses were offered. Daniel Timmer (Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA / Faculté de théologie évangélique, Montreal, Canada) presented a series of lectures entitled “Minor Prophets, Major Theologies.” Michael Northcott (Universitas Gadjah Mada Graduate School, Yogyakarta, Indonesia / ETF Leuven) offered the course “Economy, Ethics, and Theology.” A third series was given by Filip De Cavel (ETF Leuven) en Ciska Stark (Protestant Theological University, Amsterdam and Groningen, the Netherlands), entitled “Voorgaan, vieren en verkondigen.” There were 35 participants in total.

Electronic Learning (e-learning) Environment

In addition to traditional forms of education, staff and students use an electronic learning environment: the ETF Virtual Campus. This learning environment is not merely used as a possibility to distribute documents, submit assignments and post announcements. Teachers also use learning paths, videos, videoconferencing and forums, especially for the ETF Open University. The continuing COVID-19 crisis has given the Executive Administration extra motivation in the reporting year to further reflect on the future role that the electronic learning environment can and should play in education offered by ETF Leuven. It tasked the educational developments working group, a subcommittee of the Education Committee, with researching new possibilities and applications.

Language Education

Since 2017, a revision of the educational approach to Hebrew and Greek languages has been worked on under the leadership of Jermo van Nes, involving all teachers of these language courses. During the reporting year, all teaching modules developed in 2020 were slightly revised based on user feedback. On March 23, an online training evening was organized to learn how to work better with Logos Bible Software. In addition, on June 18 and September 3, two



seminars were organized on the newly launched platform DaDEL (Database Driven E-Learning). This NWO-funded program was developed by colleagues at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Protestant Theological University. During the reporting year, a pilot project was started using DaDEL in Hebrew and Greek courses.

Internationalization

ETF Leuven believes in the importance of learning processes taking place in dialogue with others, outside its own context. That is why ETF Leuven also participates in the “Brains on the Move” program (including the European Erasmus+) of the Flemish government to promote international student mobility. Staff mobility also takes place, in particular through the Erasmus+ exchange program (see § 3.7). The internationalization working group maintains an overview of various mobilities and implements actions set by the Executive Administration in the annual plans in the context of international cooperation. During the reporting year, this committee met four times.

3.4 Quality Control

3.4.1 Internal Quality Control

Policy and Quality Manual

The quality control of education at ETF Leuven takes place within traditional frameworks and is based on an evaluation of the results of the learning process. For this evaluation, ETF Leuven questions all parties involved. Changes are implemented and plans adjusted following the results of this evaluation.

The support base of various stakeholders - such as students, representatives of Christian organizations, teaching staff, administrative and technical staff and experts in the field of education and theology - is important. They are all involved in the process of maintaining quality. It is important that this process delivers information adequately and efficiently so that the information gained can be optimized and respective adjustments can be made smoothly.

Procedures used to maintain quality are described in the Quality Manual of ETF Leuven. All staff can consult this



manual via the ETF Virtual Campus. During the reporting year, educational developments working group, a subcommittee of the Education Committee, proposed a revision of the Quality Manual.

In the context of the internal quality assurance, ETF Leuven also regularly participates in networks that contribute to quality awareness and organization of quality systems.

Student Council Contribution

The Student Council plays an important role in quality assurance at ETF Leuven. Monitoring of the curriculum is

done mainly by the Student Council in collaboration with the Academic Secretariat. During the reporting year the Student Council once again checked the study load of each course. Course evaluations were discussed in a meeting with the Academic Secretariat and delegates of the Executive Administration. Together with the Education Committee the course evaluations were critically evaluated and adjusted.

Four times a year a joint meeting takes place in which any concerns raised by the Student Council are discussed with the Executive Administration and the Academic Secretariat. The mental health of students during the COVID-19

crisis received particular attention during the reporting year. The Student Council is represented in the Faculty Council and participates actively in the Education and Research Committees (see § 2.1).

Didactic Formation of the Academic Personnel

During the reporting year, a training session was held for academic personnel. On April 21, Greet Gevaert gave an online lecture on the theme “How to Stimulate Deep-Learning with students, so that the Subject Matter Will Take Root,” which was followed by an interactive discussion among members of the academic personnel. In addition, during the reporting year, a tool was implemented to help teaching staff on an ongoing basis to work on developing their own didactic qualities.

Field Consultation Flanders and the Netherlands

As a rule, field consultations are held every other year, alternately in Flanders and the Netherlands. Because the intended 2020 field consultation with Christian organizations from the Netherlands had been postponed due to the pandemic, this consultation took place online on March 1 with 29 participants. There were 28 participants at a similar online consultation that took place with Christian organizations in Flanders on May 21.

3.4.2 External Quality Control

Educational Assessments and Accreditations

The three specializations offered in the Bachelor’s and Master’s programs of ETF Leuven are accredited by the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). The accreditation report of October 2014, based on a rigorous screening, puts ETF Leuven at the top of academic theology programs in the Dutch language area, together with the programs of Theology and Religious Studies at KU Leuven. The external assessment panel

judged every quality guarantee as “good” and also assessed ETF Leuven overall as “good.” The current accreditation of the Bachelor’s and Master’s program covers the period 2015-2016 to 2022-2023.

During the reporting year, the educational developments working group, a subcommittee of the Education Committee, made first preparations for the planned educational assessment in 2023. In this context, there were online consultations with the Flemish Higher Education Council (VLUHR) on January 18 and November 16 about the procedures surrounding this educational assessment. The religious teacher training program of ETF Leuven received a positive assessment in the report of December 2015, following a reevaluation. No accreditation was attached to this assessment. With the new Master of Teaching in Religion program being offered starting in the 2021-2022 academic year, the teacher training program is being phased out. This newly designed program was positively assessed by an NVAO committee on February 22 after an (online) site visit. NVAO rendered its positive assessment on May 4, 2021, with the Flemish government granting recognition on June 25, 2021.

3.5 Education and Examination Regulations

3.5.1 Education Regulations

Tuition Fees

The tuition fees of ETF Leuven are listed in the Study Guide. With full-time education, a distinction is made between residential and ETF Open University students and between students from Belgium, the Netherlands and other EEA countries.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the following rates applied:

	Belgian Student Rate	Dutch Student Rate	EEA Student Rate (incl. CH)	Non EEA-Student Rate
Fulltime BA/MA	€ 947.20	€ 1,680	€ 2,400	€ 6,340
BA/MA ETF Open University	€ 245.20 + € 11.70 /credit	€ 245.20 + € 23.90 /credit	€ 245.20 + € 35.90 /credit	€ 245.20 + € 101.60 /credit
Doctorate (PhD)	€ 1,580	€ 1,580	€ 2,330	€ 5,200

ETF Leuven receives a limited subsidy for its educational and research activities but receives no investment subsidies for housing or contributions for student infrastructure. To achieve a balanced budget, slightly higher tuition fees than usual are still applied for foreign EEA students. The Executive Administration and the Board of Trustees of ETF Leuven are not pleased with this situation, but up to now they see no other possibility to finance operations. A legally determined reduced rate applies to Belgian scholarship and near-scholarship students. This is made possible through private donations to the George and Dora Winston Fund.

Entry Requirements

Entry requirements are described in the Education Regulations (Study Guide, Education and Examination Regulations § 2.1, art. 7, 8, 9, 9bis, 10, 10bis and 11). In line with the Codex, Art. II.177 different admission requirements may apply in specific situations.

Student Recruitment

ETF Leuven organized four (online) “Open Days” for potential residential students, each on a Wednesday during the 2020-2021 academic year. These Open Days were recorded in the Academic Calendar and announced through

the website, social media and newsletters. In addition, prospective students were able to access video lectures on the ETF Leuven website. During these virtual sessions, the academic secretariat was available to answer questions about the program.

For the ETF Open University variant, five Open Days were held throughout the academic year. Due to the COVID-19 measures, these took place entirely online. ETF Leuven also





organized day visits for prospective students, during which they could spend a night on campus (as far as the COVID-19 measures allowed).

Study Guide and PhD Handbook

The Study Guide contains information regarding the work of ETF Leuven as an academic institution of higher education and a detailed description of the programs as well as each course offered. The Study Guide is available in two languages, Dutch and English. The PhD Handbook is published separately. Both the Study Guide and the PhD

Handbook are available on the website and the ETF Virtual Campus.

Study Guidance

ETF Leuven places a high value on adequate study guidance. More information regarding study guidance can be found in § 7.3.

Internship Year

In addition to the regular internship in the third year of the bachelor's program, ETF Leuven also offers internship or seminar years following the Master's program for students who want to work in churches. Students can also do an internship abroad with support from Erasmus+ after obtaining their Bachelor's or Master's degree.

Evaluation of Study Progress

The Academic Secretariat is responsible for monitoring student progress through use of the software program BaMaFlex. This system promotes unequivocal administration. Student progress and most issues can be monitored and dealt with more efficiently based on set protocols.

Flexible Programs

In line with the Codex, ETF Leuven offers students the option to agree to a diploma contract with a part-time study plan. In addition to the set full-time and part-time degree courses, students can also opt for a credit or examination contract (in conformity with the Flexibility Decree). Almost all possible contracts or model trajectories were used by various students during the reporting year with the exception of examination contracts (see also § 3.6.1).

3.5.2 Examination Regulations

Education and Examination Regulations

The Education and Examination Regulations can be found in the Study Guide, and can also be consulted by all staff

and students via the ETF Virtual Campus. During the reporting year, at the request of the Academic Dean and with approval of the Faculty Council and Board of Trustees, a number of changes were made to the regulations.

3.6 Students

3.6.1 Input

Numbers

The total number of students (224) for the new 2021-2022 academic year is divided as follows (as of October 15):

	2021-2022	vgl. 2020-2021
Bachelor	86 (57 m / 29 f)	81 (53 m / 28 f)
Master	94* (79 m / 15 f)	103** (75 m / 28 f)
Master of Teaching/Teacher Training	5 (4 m / 1 f)	6 (6 m)
PhD	39 (34 m / 5 f)	38 (33 m / 5 f)

* 25 are (partly) following the Linking or Preparatory Program

** 30 were (partly) following the Linking or Preparatory Program

The total number of students has slightly decreased in 2021-2022. The number of Bachelor's students increased (by 5); the number of Master's students decreased (by 9). In the teacher training program or newly established Master of Teaching program there was 1 fewer student, and in the doctoral program 1 more. The number of students who continue from the Bachelor's to the Master's program remains limited.

On December 31 approximately one in four students was female (22%). In total, students of 27 nationalities from five continents participate in the various programs.



3.6.2 Output

Graduation

The annual graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, November 13 for students who had completed their Bachelor's, Master's or teacher training programs in the 2020-2021 academic year. Doctoral diplomas were presented during several promotion ceremonies throughout the reporting year (see § 4.4.2). 13 graduates received a diploma:

Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies	4
Master of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies	4
Teacher Training	3
Doctor in Theology and Religious Studies	2

Follow up of Alumni and Employment

ETF alumni are informed by e-mail and social media of conferences and seminars organized by the faculty.

ETF Leuven sends out a survey to alumni who graduated two years or five years earlier, to gain further insight into prospective work opportunities. This information is important for current students. Alumni generally work as pastors, church leaders, lecturers at an institution for higher education, teachers of religion (PEGO), youth-workers, care givers, pastoral workers or development aid workers (NGO).^{3.7} Samenwerking en internationalisering

Contracts

Most students in the 2020-2021 academic year were enrolled with a diploma contract. This form of contract best suits the norm (fulltime Bachelor's and Master's students). A number of students opted for more flexible credit contracts, which can later be converted to a diploma contract. In the 2020-2021 academic year no students were enrolled with examination contracts.

Funds for Belgian Students

The George and Dora Winston Fund was established in 2008 to help support Belgian students. This fund is mainly used to provide Belgian scholarship students and near-scholarship students with a statutory reduction in tuition fees. In addition, Belgian students can also apply for support from this fund for other purposes. In 2021, five students benefited from the fund.



3.7 Cooperation and Internationalization

In the reporting year, ETF Leuven was involved in inter-university collaboration with other Flemish and international universities and institutions for higher education.

(International) Cooperation

At this moment, ETF Leuven has agreements with the following accredited institutions of higher education:

- Asia Center for Theological Studies and Mission (South-Korea)
- Augustana-Hochschule (Duitsland)
- Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad (Romania)
- Christelijke Hogeschool Ede [Christian University of Applied Sciences] (The Netherlands)
- Durham University (United Kingdom)
- Evangelical School of Theology (Poland)
- Faculté Libre de Théologie Evangélique (France)
- Faculteit voor Protestantse Theologie en Religiestudies (Belgium)
- Giessen School of Theology (Germany)
- Handong Global University (South Korea)
- Heidelberg University (Germany)
- Highland Theological College at the University of the Highlands and Islands (Scotland, UK)
- Institut Protestant de Théologie – Faculté de Montpellier (France)

- Institutul Teologic Baptist din Bucuresti (Romania)
- Korea Theological Seminary (South-Korea)
- Kosin University (South-Korea)
- KU Leuven (Belgium)
- Lyon Catholic University (France)
- Matej Bel University (Slovakia)
- McMaster Divinity College (Canada)
- MF Norwegian School of Theology (Norway)
- National Pedagogical Dragomanov University (Ukraine)
- North-West University (South Africa)
- Protestant Theological University (The Netherlands)
- Slavic Research and Resource Center (Ukraine)
- Staatsunabhängige Theologische Hochschule Basel (Switzerland)
- Theological University in Kampen (The Netherlands)
- University of Bucharest (Romania)
- University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyńskiego (Poland)
- University of Edinburgh (Scotland, UK)
- University of Pretoria (Zuid-Afrika)
- VID Specialized University (Norway)
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- Yale University (USA)

Cooperation KU Leuven

We maintained our existing contacts with KU Leuven, also on an executive level. There is regular contact between professors from both institutions and colleagues invite each other for guest lectures. Jelle Creemers, for instance, gave

a guest lecture about the evangelical movement during the course “Nieuwe Religieuze Bewegingen” on March 2. In the reporting year, all first-year Bachelor’s students again took at least one module at KU Leuven, namely “Godsdienstige Ontwikkelingspsychologie” [Developmental Psychology of Religion]. Other Bachelor’s and Master’s students have also used the possibility of taking elective modules at KU Leuven.

Cooperation Theological University in Kampen (TU Kampen)

Collaboration with TU Kampen has existed for some time, mainly in the area of lecturer exchange. During the reporting year, executive consultations took place between the Executive Administration of ETF Leuven and the Executive Board of TU Kampen. On September 27, a significant number of the academic staff of TU Kampen attended the inaugural lecture of Koert van Bekkum on the occasion of his promotion to professor at the ETF Leuven.

Various activities also took place within the co-founded Center of Excellence for Reformed and Evangelical Theology (CERET) (see § 4.7.2).

Cooperation Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam)

On the one hand, cooperation between ETF Leuven and VU Amsterdam focuses on facilitating joint doctoral projects. On the other hand, there is cooperation in research projects,



in particular within the framework of the Jonathan Edwards Center Benelux (see § 4.7.4).

Cooperation Protestant Theological University (PThU)

There is good cooperation with PThU, the official institution for the education and training of ministers of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, in terms of education, research and student transfers. Since the 2017-2018 academic year, ETF Bachelor graduates (Bible and Theology) can start the ‘PThU-predikantsmaster’ directly and students with an ETF Master’s degree (Bible and Theology) have more flexibility entering the ‘PThU-predikantsmaster’. In this context, it was also decided to invite a PThU professor to give one of the annual ETF Summer Colloquium courses starting in 2018 (see § 3.3.3). During the reporting year, executive consultations were held with the Executive Board of PThU.

Mobility Programs

ETF Leuven participates in the Erasmus+ program, both for study and for internships. Students and staff are encouraged to make use of such exchange programs. In the second and third years of the Bachelor’s program and the first year of the Master’s program there are opportunities to study abroad for (part of) the academic year. During the 2020-2021 academic year, three ETF students made use of this exchange opportunity. All of these cases involved internship mobility, one of which being a post Master’s internship. There were also three incoming Erasmus+ students from

Germany and the Czech Republic. In terms of staff mobility, no outgoing mobility were realized due to the pandemic. One teacher did visit ETF Leuven for guest lectures through Erasmus+. The KA107 exchange projects with institutions in Georgia, Ukraine and Malawi were postponed due to the pandemic. The projects were extended to July 2022 and there is hope that they can yet be realized in 2022.

Other Exchanges and Contacts

During the reporting year, there was participation in various seminars and colloquiums on the theme of inter-university cooperation or exchange. Many of these were held online during the reporting year. Specific institutional collaborations were discussed and/or intensified.

Students from Developing Economies

In the 2020-2021 academic year twenty-four students from sixteen different countries with emerging and developing economies (IMF) studied at ETF Leuven. A number of these students received a scholarship from or via ETF Leuven while others provided their own fees.

ETF Leuven has established a number of scholarship funds for talented students, including the John Hus Fund (for students from Eastern and Central Europe) and the Augustine Fund (for students from the Middle East and Africa). Funds are received for this purpose from both organizations and individual donors in Belgium and abroad. At the end of the fiscal year, ETF Leuven has €120,664 in scholarships

to be allocated. This amount enables current students to complete their studies and also provides the opportunity to admit new students in the next academic year. The scholarship committee grants scholarships and monitors the scholarship students. In the 2020-2021 academic year twelve students received scholarships through these funds.

ETF Leuven has much experience in training and educating students from Eastern and Central Europe, partially because a number of ETF’s teaching staff teach regularly in these regions. Upon completion of their studies, all these students have returned to their home countries and started or resumed their careers as theologians.

Financial donations to scholarship funds are spent entirely on scholarships. Donors and other individual partners of ETF Leuven are informed through the ETF newsletter.

ETF Leuven has a strategic partnership with, among other, the Langham Partnership. It sees ETF Leuven as an important partner for leadership development in Europe and around the world, and recommends ETF programs to its other partner institutions.

4



RESEARCH



4.1 Introduction

In regard to research, ETF Leuven wants to contribute to the development of theological scholarship. An institution of higher education cannot fulfil its purpose without the support of solid research. This research happens in constant interaction with education and service: research provides the expertise for both, but is also stimulated by both. This chapter covers General Policy (§ 4.2), research programs, including the three research institutes of ETF Leuven (§ 4.3), the doctoral program (§ 4.4), an overview of the research output in the reporting year (§ 4.5), externally funded research (§ 4.6) and cooperation and internationalization (§ 4.7).

4.2 General Policy

4.2.1 Research Assignments of Academic Personnel

Each year the department chairs produce descriptions of their respective departments, noting available academic personnel. Based on these annual reports the Executive Administration forms a developmental plan for each department in collaboration with the chairs. This results in the individual annual assignments. Academic personnel have a research assignment, in most cases involving 30-40% of their total work time. ETF Leuven strives to connect the time spent on research to a greater extent with results, especially as measured in relation to both quality and quantity.

Academic personnel are encouraged to collaborate on an international level with researchers from other institutions of higher education. They have the opportunity to request full or partial compensation of expenses of attending academic conferences. These requests are granted as far as possible if personal research is presented that is later also published.

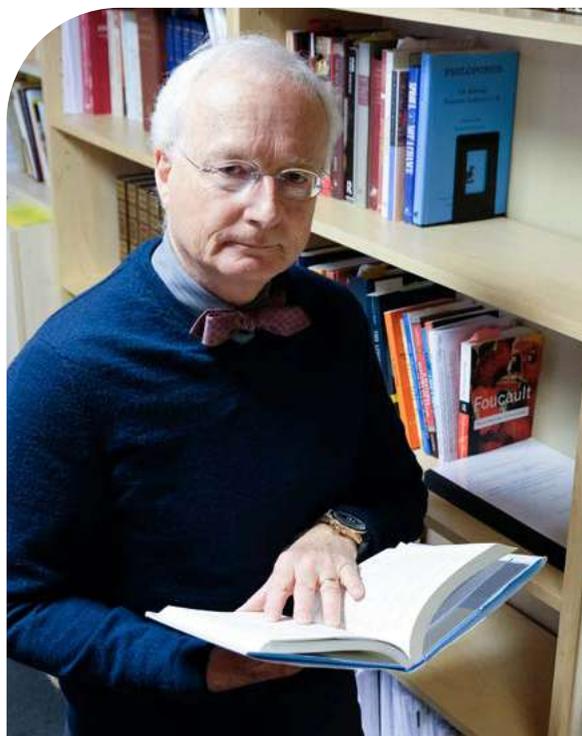
4.2.2 Quality Policy for Research

Annual evaluation meetings with academic personnel are conducted using the individual yearly assignments and are part of the overall Quality Policy. At these meetings the Academic (Vice-)Dean and/or the respective department chair discuss with personnel results and achievements in the areas of research, education and academic service. The meetings are often a good starting point to stimulate academic personnel to grow in certain areas.

Regarding research, research output of the preceding five years (with special attention to the 2020-2021 academic year) and annual assignments were discussed during the evaluation meetings.

In consultation with researchers, the Executive Administration and the Board of Trustees have formulated and communicated clear demands regarding research output. The Board of Trustees attaches consequences to independent academic personnel (IAP) who fail to achieve predetermined criteria.

In addition to the evaluation meetings, and other forms of contact with the Academic (Vice-)Dean and department chairs, the Research Committee is another important component for guarding the quality of research. The Academic Vice-Dean supports the Academic Dean in promoting and facilitating quality research at the faculty. Encouraging and guiding the writing of applications for external research funds is an important part of this.



In light of creating a good research context for second-year Master's students, doctoral students, academic personnel of ETF Leuven and guest researchers (junior and senior), in 2017 the Dean's office launched a new initiative of Into Religion Talks as a pilot project. Weekly meetings of one hour were held with presentations and joint interaction with the purpose of broadening perspectives on faith and theology, creating a platform for exchange and feedback on current research (internal and external), and offering an open space dialogue in an academic context on themes outside of one's own research. This project has proven successful. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 crisis, no Into Religion Talks could take place in the reporting year.

4.2.3 Research Committee

The Research Committee stimulates and coordinates research in the faculty and evaluates the research activities of the academic personnel.

During the reporting year the committee met four times according to the Internal Regulations. The committee has been working on an inventory of existing research expertise and further development of research programs. Also research surrounding the Master's theses was coordinated by the committee, while coordination of doctoral theses in the reporting year was the responsibility of a subcommittee, the Doctoral Committee (see § 4.4.4).

4.3 Research Programs

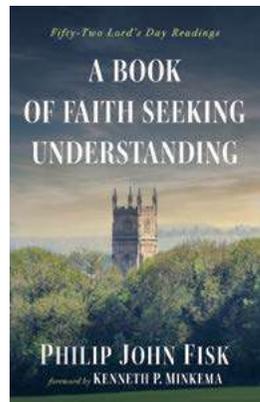
4.3.1 Research Lines

Since the positive assessment of the external research evaluation in 2020, ETF Leuven has been working with three lines of research: (1) formative sources, (2) church, history and theology, and (3) religion and church in contemporary society. The first line of research studies biblical, intertestamental, and early Christian sources, specifically how these sources in their context expressed social and religious identity formation of communities and how this study can contribute to discussions about related themes and issues in contemporary society. The second line of research examines the history, doctrines, and ethical teachings of Christianity with particular attention to the formation of the Protestant Evangelical tradition in an ecumenical perspective. Especially the relationship between faith and reason and themes related to theological anthropology in the pre-modern, modern and post-modern eras are studied. In this way, ETF Leuven aims consciously to seek connection

with the Flemish and Dutch academic agendas. The third and last line of research focuses in particular on the role and influence of religious sources, movements and institutions in a post-Christian and pluralistic society. These religious actors are studied in contexts where they represent both majority and minority positions.

4.3.2 Research within the Departments

The three lines of research of ETF Leuven are primarily studied within the six departments: (1) Old Testament, (2) New Testament, (3) Historical Theology, (4) Systematic Theology, (5) Practical Theology, and (6) Religious Studies



and Missiology. In all these departments, a variety of academic, professional and popular articles are written each year and published in (peer-reviewed) journals and books. Listed below are a number of significant results achieved in the reporting year by each department, such as publication of (edited) monographs and noteworthy activities.

Old Testament

The inaugural lecture of department chair Koert van Bekkum “*But as for Me and My House, We Will Serve YHWH: Joshua 24 and Christian Theology in a Context of Religious Plurality*,” was self-published by ETF Leuven. Creighton Marlowe, along with Charles Savelle, wrote *The Wisdom Psalms* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel). Markus Zehnder’s monograph *The Bible and Immigration: A Critical and Empirical Reassessment* was published (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock). Wouter Wakker published a revised version of his course book *Hebrew Seminar* (Leuven: Acco). In addition, a number of articles were also published.

New Testament

Jeremy Otten published his PhD dissertation as *I Alone Am Left: Elijah and the Remnant in Luke-Acts* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock). Dogara Ishaya Manomi also published his dissertation as *Virtue Ethics in the Letter to Titus: An Interdisciplinary Study* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck). He also spent three months at Ashbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, USA, for a research stay. The book *Off the Beaten Path: A Festschrift in Honor of Gie Veugels* (Zürich: Lit Verlag) was edited by Jacobus (Kobus) Kok together with Martin Webber and in collaboration with Jeremy Otten and Mark Paridaens. Furthermore, Jermo van Nes together with Mark Paridaens and Elbert Kroon published a revised version of their course book *Greek Seminar* (Leuven: Acco). In addition, a number of articles were also published.

Research activities of the Department of New Testament also took place within RCEC (see § 4.3.3).

Historical Theology

The Department of Historical Theology collaborates with others in some areas of its research.

For research on the 16th and 17th centuries (Protestant orthodoxy and scholasticism), there is collaboration with the Research group Classic Reformed Theology. The theology of Jonathan Edwards (18th century) is studied in collaboration with the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University (see § 4.7.4). The department also has a tradition of research into the history of the evangelical movement and Protestant Churches in Flanders and the Netherlands in the 19th and 20th centuries. For this, collaboration has been developed with Evadoc (see § 4.7.3).

Robert Sturdy’s PhD dissertation, defended at ETF Leuven in 2020, was published during the reporting year as *Freedom from Fatalism: Samuel Rutherford’s (1600-1661) Doctrine of Divine Providence* in the Reformed Historical Theology series (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht). Philip Fisk published his study *A Book of Faith Seeking Understanding: Fifty-Two Lord’s Day Readings* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock). Viacheslav Lytvynenko’s translation, *Athanasius of Alexandria, Oration III contra Arianos: Old Slavonic Version and English Translation* appeared in the *Patrologia Orientalis* series (Turnhout: Brepols). Donald Fairbairn published the book *The Global Church - The First Eight Centuries: From Pentecost through the Rise of Islam* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic). A number of articles were also published.

Research activities of the Department of Historical Theology also took place within the institutes RCEC, IPRS (see § 4.3.3), Evadoc (see § 4.7.3) and JECB (see § 4.7.4).

Systematic Theology

Michael Northcott, together with Zainal Bagir and Frans Wijzen, edited the book *Varieties of Religion and Ecology: Essays from Indonesia* (Zürich: Lit). *God’s Future for*

Animals: From Creation to New Creation (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock), a translation of the Dutch original by Raymond Hausoul, was also published. Furthermore, *Hoop als kunst van verantwoord leiderschap* (Antwerp: Garant) was published by Patrick Nullens. A number of articles were also published. In 2008 the Departments of Systematic Theology and Practical Theology together founded ILSE. ILSE research activities are included in reports of the research institutes (see § 4.3.3).

Practical Theology

In the reporting year department chair Jos de Kock and Jack Barentsen participated as members of the organizing committee of the biennial conference of the International Academy of Practical Theology, held in Leuven from July 8 to 10 in cooperation with colleagues from KU Leuven and the Université Catholique de Louvain (UC Louvain). During the reporting year a number of articles were published.

The Departments of Systematic Theology and Practical Theology are jointly responsible for ILSE. In addition, the Department of Practical Theology is responsible for ISREYM. ILSE and ISREYM research activities are included in the reports of the research institutes (see § 4.3.3).

Religious Studies and Missiology

Jelle Creemers stayed at the Centre for Law and Religion at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam for research in January. In the framework of the Educ8 project he and Samuël Velinga developed teaching materials for teachers and students in secondary education (to be found at www.redu8.eu). *Christian Faith and the Making of Europe: Yesterday and Today* (Nuremberg: VTR) by Evert van de Poll appeared in a revised edition. Furthermore, Tabitha Moyo with the support of the Netherlands School for Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion (NOSTER) organized the online symposium “African Female Theologians in Europe” on February 4. In addition, a number of articles were published.

ISFORB research activities are included in reports of the research institutes (see § 4.3.3).

4.3.3 Institutes and Research Centers

The three research lines of the ETF Leuven mentioned above are studied secondarily in cross-departmental research institutes. These are mainly intended for interdisciplinary research. Currently, there are five research institutes at ETF Leuven: Research Center for Early Christianity (RCEC), Institute of Post-Reformation Studies (IPRS), Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE), Institute for the Study of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (ISREYM) and Institute for the Study of Freedom of Religion or Belief (ISFORB).

In addition, ETF Leuven has an institutional anchoring in different (inter)national research groups and institutes, such as the Jonathan Edwards Center Benelux (JECB), the Research Group John Duns Scotus (RJDS), Classic Reformed Theology (OGTh), and the documentation and archive center Evadoc (see § 4.7).

Research Center for Early Christianity (RCEC)

RCEC focuses its research particularly on the development of early Christian identity in its different dimensions (creeds, spirituality, liturgy, church order, etc.). The institute is a collaboration of researchers from the Departments of New Testament and Historical Theology led by Jacobus (Kobus) Kok and Maria Verhoeff.

Researchers affiliated with RCEC had several publications during the reporting year.

Fourteen researchers, including two doctoral students, are connected to RCEC.

Institute of Post-Reformation Studies (IPRS)

Under the leadership of Andreas Beck IPRS, which explores the riches of various reformation streams, has expanded further. Special attention is given to (the origins of) the evangelical movement, Puritanism, and early modern reformed theology. Also how these streams relate to Catholicism is of special interest in view of their common roots in the Middle Ages.

Researchers linked to IPRS have undertaken several activities in 2021 in addition to writing academic publications. Four researchers are also affiliated with the international Classic Reformed Theology Research Group (OGTh), which met several times under the leadership of chair Andreas Beck. Currently they are working on a project which aims at an edition and translation of a series of Leiden disputations between 1605 and 1616 on the doctrine of providence. Matthias Mangold received his PhD in the context of IPRS at ETF Leuven during the reporting year. In addition, a number of articles were published.

Thirteen researchers, including five doctoral students, are currently connected to IPRS.



Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE)

Led by Steven van den Heuvel, ILSE aims to cultivate and develop a Christian perspective on leadership and this in a broader context of a just and sustainable society.

In addition to research and education, ILSE focuses on service to society, government, and church. The steering committee had three online meetings in the reporting year.

In addition to work on publications, a hybrid conference was organized during the reporting year on October 8 and 9 on the theme “Bridge-building Leadership in a Polarizing World.” During this conference, several ILSE researchers presented a paper, including Jack Barentsen, Patrick Nullens, Emilio Di Somma and Cees Tulp.

Furthermore, in the framework of The Hope Project, ILSE organized two webinars in cooperation with the Trends Chair Economy of Hope at the University of Antwerp and the University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp (UCSIA). In the same context, an (online) writers’ conference was organized on December 2 and 3 for all those who will contribute to the Oxford Companion of Hope, to be published by Oxford University Press, edited by Steven van den Heuvel and Anthony Sciolì. Arttu Mäkipää received his PhD in the context of ILSE at ETF Leuven during the reporting year.

Currently there are multiple ongoing research projects within ILSE. Many of them are externally funded, in particular by the Goldschmeding Foundation (see § 4.6.2).

Twelve researchers, including four doctoral students, are connected to ILSE.

Institute for the Study of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (ISREYM)

ISREYM is an initiative from the Department of Practical Theology and has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it wants to develop and translate academic research into practices of religious education and Christian-inspired children and youth ministry; on the other hand, it wants to bring about community learning of professionals, professional organizations and scholars on the themes of religious education and children and youth ministry.

Currently there are various ongoing research projects within the institute, including two doctoral projects. On February 17, ISREYM researchers presented their work to each other and on October 21, an online meeting was organized in this context with Steve Argue (Fuller Theological Seminary, CA, USA) as guest speaker. In addition, several articles were published during the reporting year.

ISREYM is led by senior researcher Jos de Kock. During the reporting year, three junior researchers were connected to ISREYM, of which two were working towards a PhD.

Institute for the Study of Freedom of Religion or Belief (ISFORB)

ISFORB focuses on the interplay between social developments, human rights discourses and religion/belief at local

and global levels, with a special focus on religious persecution. As a multidisciplinary research group, ISFORB thematically engages with religious freedom and the broader field of religion-state relations from a variety of perspectives.

There are several ongoing research projects within ISFORB. Most of these are externally funded, including by the Langham Partnership and the European Commission (see § 4.6.2). In the context of ISFORB, the first international conference was organized on May 6 and 7 on the theme “Freedom of Religion in Europe Today: Under Critical Investigation.” Unfortunately, the conference had to take place online due to the pandemic. Over 50 experts from about 20 countries participated in the conference.

ISFORB is led by Jelle Creemers and Tatiana Kopaleishvili. In addition, four other senior and four junior researchers, including three PhD students, are connected to ISFORB.

4.4 Doctoral Program (PhD)

4.4.1 Introduction

ETF Leuven has been offering a doctoral program for almost 40 years and at the end of 2021 counted 39 doctoral students. The doctoral program forms an important stimulus for ETF Leuven to conduct research. Every year numerous



applications are received for the program but only some of these can be accepted. Periodically, the PhD Student Council and the administration regularly publish a newsletter for participants in the doctoral program, to inform them about relevant developments and important issues.

4.4.2 Annual Colloquium and Promotions

Promotions can take place at ETF Leuven throughout the year, but they usually happen during the weeklong doctoral colloquium. This occurs every year in the first week of September. During this week, doctoral students in the different phases of their studies present papers. The 36th doctoral colloquium took place from September 6 to 10 with the theme “The Old and the New.” Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this year’s colloquium was once again held online, which meant only the student presentations and farewell lectures could take place.

On September 7, Hendrik Koorevaar gave his farewell lecture, entitled “The Structure of the Book of Isaiah: A Proposal for a Formal Author-Oriented Approach.” Two days later, Gie Vleugels gave his farewell lecture, entitled “*Isā Rasūl Allāh* - Jesus, Messenger of the Only God in the Gospel of John and in the *Qur’ān*.”

Outside of the doctoral week, two promotions took place during the reporting year. On May 25, Arttu Mäkipää defended his dissertation “The Narrow Path from Human Capability to Social Progress: Insights from the Theological Anthropology of Emil Brunner for Contemporary Economic & Social Sciences,” with Patrick Nullens and Steven van den Heuvel as promoters. On December 10, Matthias Mangold obtained a doctorate with his dissertation “Towards a Reformed Enlightenment: The Cartesio-Cocceian Synthesis in the Theology of Salomon van Til (1643-1713)” under the supervision of his promoter Andreas Beck and co-promoter Aza Goudriaan.

4.4.3 Evolution of the Number of Doctoral Students

During the reporting year, two candidates started in the doctoral program and one was accepted to start in 2022. There were two withdrawals. Several initiatives are being taken to attract good new students for the doctoral program. In 2017 a predoctoral program was developed for potential doctoral students who do not yet meet the admission requirements (two year accredited master or equivalent) and who can follow part of the Master’s program as a predoctoral program. In the reporting year six students followed this program.



Among the applications, the Doctoral Committee (see § 4.4.4) selected the most promising and best candidates. One joint doctorate is in preparation under CERET (see § 4.7.2).

4.4.4 Doctoral Committee

Given the relatively high number of doctoral students, the coordinating task of the Doctoral Committee, is of great importance. The Doctoral Committee, a subcommittee of the Research Committee, held seven meetings in the reporting year. For the most part it is composed like the Research Committee. In addition to representation of all six departments, a doctoral student representative and the Academic Vice-Dean participate as members of the committee. Key tasks of the committee include quality control of the doctoral program, creating balanced promotion committees including external referees, mostly professors of Western European universities, and deciding on the admission of students into the doctoral program at ETF Leuven.

4.5 Research Output

4.5.1 Introduction

For compiling the list, the usual categories of academic publications, professional publications and popular publications were used. Academic publications are based on academic research and speak to the (international) forum of researchers. They usually appear in the form of articles in peer reviewed journals or compilations or as a monograph in peer reviewed series. Professional publications are also based on academic research, but speak to the professionally interested. Popular publications are distilled from academic research as well, however for these the target audience is different, namely non-theologians.

4.5.2 Overview of Publications

The following tables give an overview of all publications of researchers working at ETF Leuven in 2021. To avoid double counting, the output of researchers who also have an appointment at another university is counted pro rata their appointment at ETF Leuven. The tables are specified according to the six departments: Old Testament (OT), New Testament (NT), Historical Theology (HT), Systematic Theology (ST), Practical Theology (PT) and Religious Studies and Missiology (RM).

Academic Publications

Department	OT	NT	HT	ST	PT	RM	Total
Monographs	1	1	2	1	0	0	5
Articles	10	14	5	10	7	4	50
Edited books/ collections/ proceedings	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Dissertations	0	0	1	1	0	0	2

Professional Publications

Department	OT	NT	HT	ST	PT	RM	Total
Books	2	2	0	3	0	13	20
Articles	2	2	1	3	1	12	20
Edited books/ collections/ proceedings	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Reviews	5	6	0	2	2	0	15

Popular Publications

Department	OT	NT	HT	ST	PT	RM	Total
Books	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Articles	5	0	2	3	1	1	12



4.5.3 Scholarly Conferences and Academic Lectures

Normally, almost all members of the academic personnel give lectures nationally and/or internationally throughout the year at academic congresses, conferences, symposia, colloquia or study days. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis many of these events were either cancelled or postponed. Some however were held online, allowing several ETF professors to still present their research. The following is a selection of presentations from the residential academic personnel:

From the Department of Old Testament, chair Koert van Bakkum gave several lectures at international conferences, including “The Nature and Logic of God’s Love” at Theological University Apeldoorn, the Netherlands (June 9), “The

Bavinck Centenary Conference” at Brisbane School of Theology, Australia (December 7) and “Philosophy in the Reformed Tradition” at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands (December 21). He also delivered his inaugural address at ETF Leuven on September 27. Geert Lorein also presented a lecture at ETF Leuven on May 7 at the “Religious Freedom in Europe” conference organized by the Institute for the Study of Freedom of Religion or Belief (ISFORB, see § 4.3.3).

Department chair Jacobus (Kobus) Kok provided an lecture from the New Testament Department at the conference “Inclusion and Exclusion in Religious Texts,” an interdisciplinary expert symposium organized by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands (May 17-18). He also organized an international expert symposium entitled “Confronting

Decolonial Realities,” which took place on October 1. Martin Webber, Jeremy Otten, and Jermo van Nes attended the symposium on behalf of the department. In addition, Jermo van Nes gave lectures at the monthly meeting of the Linguistics Circle at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (April 9), and the annual meeting of the Tyndale Fellowship in Cambridge, UK (June 25).

From the Department of Historical Theology, Andreas Beck, who chairs the department, gave a presentation to the Vereniging voor Theologie (March 9). He also gave a lecture at a meeting on March 18 as part of the project “A Disregarded Past: Medieval Scholasticism and Reformed Thought,” organized by the Institut d’histoire de la Réformation at the University of Geneva. In addition, he gave a lecture at the annual REFORC conference on Early Modern Christianity in Budapest, Hungary (May 6-8). On June 15, Philip Fisk gave a lecture at the University of Liverpool, UK, in the context of the Jonathan Edwards Centre, UK, established in 2017. Maria Verhoeff gave a lecture at the 8th Lustrumcongres Stichting Oudchristelijke Studiën in Driebergen, the Netherlands (September 24-25).

From the Department of Systematic Theology, Ron Michener, as department chair, gave a lecture at the biennial Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology at KU Leuven (October 22). Steven van den Heuvel, as secretary of the Study Group Theological Ethics, gave a lecture at its meeting at ETF Leuven (October 1-2). He also gave a lecture at the annual meeting of the international forum Ecumenical Social Week (October 5-9). He also gave two presentations during webinars (May 26 and October 28) organized by the Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE, [see § 4.3.3](#)) in collaboration with other partners. Furthermore, Patrick Nullens and Cees Tulp gave lectures during the “Bridge-building Leadership in a Polarizing World” conference organized by ILSE, which took place at ETF Leuven (8-9 October).



Department Chair Jos de Kock gave a lecture from the Department of Practical Theology at the “International Knowledge Transfer in Religious Education & Religious Educational Leadership” conference, organized by several colleagues from international institutions (February 26). He also presented at the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry European Biennial Conference in Helsinki (April 7-8) and the International Academy of Practical Theology conference at KU Leuven (July 8-10). Jack Barentsen organized the conference “Bridge-Building Leadership in a Broken World” on October 8-9 in the context of ILSE ([see § 4.3.3](#)), which he introduced, as well as presented a lecture there.

From the Department of Religious Studies & Missiology, department chair Jelle Creemers organized the conference “Religious Freedom in Europe: Under Critical Investigation,” in which he was one of the main speakers, on May 6 and 7 in the context of ISFORB ([see § 4.3.3](#)). He also gave a lecture at the Freedom of Religion or Belief



Roundtable Brussels-EU meeting (June 2). Besides giving presentations at various study days in the context of inter-confessional education, he also gave lectures at meetings of the International Academy for Practical Theology at KU Leuven (July 8-10) and the European Association for the Study of Religion in Pisa, Italy (August 30-September 3). He contributed to the symposium “Religious Freedom and Forced Faith,” organized by Fjellhaug International University College in Oslo, Norway (September 22-23). Furthermore, Bosco Bangura gave two lectures at Universität Hamburg, Germany (January 6 and December 9). He also gave a lecture at the “Religion and the Experience of Nature: Comparative Perspectives” conference, organized by the Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany (April 9-11).

Often these presented papers are published in proceedings, collections or academic journals. It is also not unusual for staff members to chair or moderate sessions at international conferences (Creig Marlowe, for example, chaired

a session of the Institute of Biblical Research during the annual conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Antonio, Texas, USA, on November 19). Growing networks with researchers from other universities often lead to interesting invitations to conferences and seminars. Also, members of the academic staff of ETF Leuven occasionally are involved in the organization of (inter)national conferences and regularly participate in the evaluation committee of a PhD dissertation at universities in Belgium and elsewhere.

4.6 Externally Funded Research

4.6.1 Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)

As a statutory registered institution of higher education that may also grant doctoral degrees, ETF Leuven can submit mandates and projects to the FWO on its own initiative. In the context of promoting quality research, during 2016 an internal procedure was followed to identify potential FWO applications early on, to monitor them, and further integrate them into existing instruments for the development of research policy. For the application round ending on December 1, an application for a postdoctoral fellowship was submitted from the Department of New Testament. During the reporting year Anne-Catherine Pardon (promoter: Andreas Beck, co-promoter: Ann Peeters, VUB) resumed her PhD fellowship entitled: “Gerhard Kittel, Lutheran Theologian of the Third Reich? An Evaluation of His Ideology through Critical Discourse Analysis” after a period of maternity and parental leave. The (renewed) postdoctoral fellowship of Jelle Creemers, entitled “We All Share the Same Secular Values - Right? An Investigation into the Employment of Human Rights and Citizenship Discourses in the Belgian Public Management of Religion and the Effects on the Protestant Minority” ended during the reporting year.

4.6.2 Other Externally Funded Research

During the reporting year, two research projects were submitted from the Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE, see § 4.3.3) to the John Templeton Foundation and the Templeton World Charity Foundation. Both projects were highly rated, but were ultimately not honored. During the reporting year, Jos de Kock took part in the Seminary Formation Assessment Project, a project on spiritual formation among young people led by David Wang (Biola University, USA) and funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

The following is a brief description of other ongoing externally funded research projects.

The Hope Project

At the beginning of 2016 a research project on hope started, financed by the Goldschmeding Foundation. Steven van den Heuvel is connected to this project as senior researcher. During the reporting year the fifth phase was carried out in which new hope interventions were implemented using The Hope Barometer, developed at an earlier stage of the project in collaboration with colleagues at Erasmus University (Rotterdam). Several presentations and trainings were also given to companies. Furthermore, together with Anthony Scioli work was done on editing an international handbook on hope. During the reporting year, *Hoop als kunst van verantwoord leidinggeven* by Patrick Nullens was published by Garant publishers as part of the project.

Homo Florens

The Homo Florens project started in June 2018 and aims to develop a new anthropology for economics. The project, also funded by the Goldschmeding Foundation, has now entered its third phase and is led by Steven van den Heuvel. During the reporting year, he worked with Patrick Nullens and Jermo van Nes on several publications. They also gave an online course entitled “Human Flourishing and New Economic Paradigms” to students of Windesheim Honours

College in Zwolle, the Netherlands, and of the Institute for Leadership and Communication Studies in Rabat, Morocco. During the reporting year, Emilio Di Somma was involved in the project as a researcher.

EDUC8

This two-year project (2021-2022), financed by the European Commission, was committed to sound religious education as an antidote to religiously inspired extremism. Its main goal was to develop a curriculum for interconfessional education on radicalization and polarization. The project was implemented by multiple partners and higher education institutions, including the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), KU Leuven and ETF Leuven. From the latter institution, the project was led by senior researcher Jelle Creemers. In support, Samuël Velinga was temporarily appointed as junior researcher. In the reporting year, they developed a





textbook on Protestantism and Protestant perspectives on violence and polarization (available at www.redu8.eu). In the context of the project, a study day took place at ETF Leuven on October 16 on the theme “Interlevensbeschouwendijk gesprek op school en ‘hot potatoes’,” in which teachers of Protestant Evangelical, Islamic and Orthodox religious education participated.

4.7. Cooperation and Internationalization

4.7.1 Netherlands School of Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion (NOSTER)

This Netherlands School of Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion (NOSTER), accredited by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), is a major platform for research and training in the fields of theology and religious studies in the Dutch speaking area. Jos de Kock is on the School Board of NOSTER and in that capacity attended online meetings on February 1, June 7 and October 4. Tabitha Moyo organized the online symposium “African Female Theologians in Europe” on February 4 with the support of NOSTER.

4.7.2 Center of Excellence in Reformed and Evangelical Theology (CERET)

In 2014 ETF Leuven and TU Kampen set up CERET for further collaboration with the aim of jointly promoting excellence in research and education in the broad spectrum of Reformed and Evangelical theology. An important aspect of this cooperation agreement is to encourage joint doctorates between the two institutions. The steering committee of CERET had an online meeting on June 15. A joint doctoral research project was worked on within the framework of CERET during the reporting year.

4.7.3 Evadoc

Evadoc is the Belgian archives and documentation center for churches, religious organizations and people belonging to the Protestant Evangelical faith community. Evadoc

works closely with KADOC (KU Leuven). Andreas Beck is chair of the board of Evadoc as well as a member of the steering committee KADOC-Evadoc and the KADOC advisory board. He attended online meetings of this steering committee on January 26, May 18 and August 31 and of the advisory board on October 21. He also chaired the General Assembly of Evadoc on June 9.

4.7.4 Other Research Cooperation

During the reporting period, there was inter-university cooperation between ETF Leuven and both Flemish and foreign universities.

Faculteit voor Protestantse Theologie en Religie-studies (FPTR)

ETF Leuven and FPTR have a joint research responsibility in the context of research funding. At the end of 2017 a new joint research plan (2018-2022) was submitted to the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training based on which the research funding is calculated. During the reporting year, executive consultations took place between the Executive Administration of ETF Leuven and FPTR.

The Dean’s office prepared the annual report of joint research performance by ETF Leuven and FPTR including relevant output (conferences, articles, doctorates). On March 26 the annual report was submitted to the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training.

Giessen School of Theology (FTH)

FTH and ETF Leuven collaborate in various ways in the fields of education and research. In addition, Andreas Beck is chair of the Hochschulrat (academic advisory board) of FTH, which met online on May 20 and November 3.

Jonathan Edwards Center Benelux (JECB)

During the reporting year, cooperation took place within the framework of the Jonathan Edwards Center Benelux. This is a research institute established in cooperation with the VU Amsterdam and affiliated with the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University. It encourages and facilitates research on Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758).

KU Leuven

Intensive cooperation exists within the framework of Evadoc and KADOC (see § 4.7.3).

Collaboration also takes place between the Anthropos Research Group, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven and ILSE (see § 4.3.3). Jos de Kock and Jack Barentsen were involved in the organization of the International Academy of Practical Theology's conference "Coping with Crisis: Hospitality, Security, and the Search for Faithful Connections," which took place online at KU Leuven (July 8-10).

Classic Reformed Theology (OGTh)

Originally founded at Utrecht University in 1982, this inter-university research group exists for the purpose of studying early modern scholastic theology. The research group OGTh met online on February 26, May 28, September 24 and November 19. Andreas Beck chaired these meetings. Work is currently underway on a project aiming to edit and translate a series of Leiden disputations between 1605 and 1616 on the doctrine of providence.

Protestant Theological University (PThU)

Executive consultation occurs between PThU and ETF Leuven on a regular basis and when necessary. During the reporting year, this took place on October 5. There is currently one joint doctoral project between the two institutions. A proposal has been prepared to continue such collaboration in the future.

Refo500 and RefoRC

ETF Leuven is a partner of Refo500 and RefoRC, the international platform that offers knowledge, expertise, ideas, products and events, in connection with the five hundred year legacy of the Reformation.

During the reporting year, contacts were maintained.

Theological University in Kampen (TU Kampen)

In 2014 ETF Leuven and TU Kampen co-founded CERET, in which some research is carried out jointly (see § 4.7.2).

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam)

During the reporting year, various interpersonal collaborations took place. For example, Jelle Creemers gave a presentation to two research groups of the Faculty of Religion and Theology as part of a research stay in January. Executive consultations also took place.



5



SERVICE



5.1 Introduction

Academic service and valorization in addition to education and research are important tasks for a university faculty. Scholarly knowledge receives added value not only when it grows and is shared with professional colleagues, but also to the extent it serves society and the workplace.

ETF Leuven considers this kind of service important and undertakes many activities that can be placed under this heading. The following overview gives an impression, but does not aim to be comprehensive. This chapter will expand more on service-oriented activities (§ 5.2), the Leuven Center for Christian Studies (§ 5.3), and collaborations in this context (§ 5.4).

5.2 Service-Oriented Activities

ETF Summer Colloquium

From August 16-21 ETF Leuven held its annual Summer Colloquium. In the reporting year there were a total of 36 participants, of which two non-students, particularly professionally interested parties (see § 3.3.3 ETF Open University).

Study Days

ETF Leuven annually organizes a number of conferences and/or study days on current issues for churches, religious education, Christian organizations and other interested people.

The purpose of these conferences is to support participants with their biblical and theological reflection on contemporary questions and issues in church and society. On October 16, a study day was held on the theme “Interlevensbeschouwelijk gesprek op school en ‘hot potatoes’.” Lectures were given by Jos de Kock, Samuël Velinga, Didier Pollefeyt (KU Leuven), Jelle Creemers, Philip Quarles van Ufford (teacher Protestant Evangelical Religious Education), Brahim Bouzarif (CIRRA), Judith Hermans (teacher Orthodox religion) and Kobus Kok. FACE2FACE, the recently developed educational package within the Educ8 project, was presented to the more than 50 teachers of Protestant Evangelical, Islamic and Orthodox religious education that were present at the study day. On October 30, a study day was organized in cooperation with the Nederlands-Vlaams Bijbelgenootschap on the occasion of the revised version of the Nieuwe Bijbelvertaling that appeared in October of the reporting year. 50 people took part, half of whom followed online. On November 12, 19 religious teachers from Christian secondary education in the Netherlands participated in a study day on the theme “Investeren in theologie, hoe leuk kan het zijn?”

Other

In many areas ETF staff are able to use their academic expertise to serve the Church and society. In the recent past, a number of Dutch Bible translations have been published to which ETF staff contributed. In addition, popular publications appeared in the fields of religious history, ethics, religion and society. Frequently they also contribute to commentary series, Bible commentaries, encyclopedias and dictionaries.

In addition to these services to printed and digital press, staff members regularly provide services to church and parachurch organizations, by speaking engagements, administrative expertise and Sunday preaching.

5.3 Leuven Center for Christian Studies (LCCS)

5.3.1 General

ETF Leuven has many facilities at its disposal, including conference rooms and guest rooms. ETF Leuven established the Leuven Center for Christian Studies (LCCS) to give clearer shape to part of its service with respect to these facilities.

Specifically LCCS facilitates conferences, small meetings and sabbaticals, with or without a contribution from ETF Leuven as an academic institution. LCCS is led by a hospitality manager and has at its disposal as facilities 18 guestrooms, five conference rooms, two kitchens, a large chapel, the five classrooms of ETF Leuven, the dining hall, a coffee bar and a lounge. With that it can accommodate groups of up to 250 people. If necessary LCCS also uses facilities of KU Leuven. LCCS is attractive because of its central, accessible location, the academic connection with ETF Leuven (including the theological library of ETF Leuven), and the proximity of KU Leuven with its extensive



theological library. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the operation of LCCS was considerable. Nevertheless, a number of activities were able to go forward despite the COVID-19 measures.

5.3.2 Activities in 2021

While due to the COVID-19 pandemic numerous conferences, retreats and meetings had to be postponed to a later date, nevertheless many events still took place at LCCS.

EJV (Evangelisch Jeugverbond) regularly used the facilities of LCCS to organize courses. ECV (Evangelische Christengemeenten Vlaanderen) and EAV (Evangelische Alliantie Vlaanderen) also organized meetings and gatherings at LCCS.

During the reporting year, many alumni made use of guest rooms and additional facilities to return to ETF Leuven for a weekend. Some youth groups from churches also came to stay for a weekend and several pastors had a (short) study stay.



Despite the pandemic, many researchers and students also made regular use of LCCS facilities in connection with an (extended) research/study stay.

Furthermore, the Evangelische Kerk Leuven rents different rooms of LCCS for their weekly meetings and other activities. Several rooms of ETF Leuven are rented to the Jerusalem Community of Leuven once a month on Sunday afternoon for their prayer meetings.

Additionally, LCCS provided logistical support for a few conferences, seminars, as well as educational activities organized by ETF Leuven and its research groups and institutes. These activities are mentioned elsewhere in the annual report.

5.4 Collaborations

Instituut voor Bijbelse Vorming (IBV)

IBV [Institute for Biblical Formation] offers a three-year, part-time, higher education level training program to benefit church work and education. ETF Leuven facilitates by providing administrative and technical support. In October 2021, 69 students were enrolled in this three-year program.

Evadoc

The archives and documentation center for the Protestant Evangelical movement, Evadoc, was established by the Federale Synode and ETF Leuven. ETF Leuven attaches importance to archiving, recording and documenting the development of the field that belongs to this movement. Evadoc was established after close consultation with KADOC and from the beginning there has been a cooperation agreement between these institutions. The professor of ETF Leuven who is involved in the governance of Evadoc also participates in the advisory board of KADOC. The annual report of KADOC includes activities organized by Evadoc.

Protestants-Evangelisch Godsdienstonderwijs (PEGO)

ETF Leuven also provides training for a teacher's degree for religious education, in Flanders within PEGO [Protestant Evangelical Religious Education]. Periodically the PEGO committee is consulted on developments in the field of religious education. In this context, a basic curriculum has been established for theological training of (prospective) teachers in PEGO (see § 3.3.2). ETF Leuven is sometimes asked for advice concerning the assessment of diplomas attained elsewhere.



6



PERSONNEL



6.1 Introduction

The ETF staff is the most important asset of the institution. Whether it is about performing an educational or research assignment, or the support thereof, the commitment of motivated employees plays a crucial role in the realization of the mission of ETF Leuven.

The following paragraphs deal successively with the system of internal quality control (§ 6.2), internal communication (§ 6.3), workings of the Executive Administration (§ 6.4), workings of Academic Personnel (§ 6.5) and workings of Administrative and Technical Personnel (§ 6.6).

6.2 Internal Quality Control

To guarantee and maintain quality of work and participation of personnel, yearly assignments were agreed on with all residential academic personnel, just as in previous years, and evaluations of the previous yearly assignments were held. Non-residential academic personnel are usually formally evaluated after five years, with a mid-term evaluation after two or three years. These procedures are all recorded in the Quality Manual of ETF Leuven.

In the assessment of academic personnel with a teaching assignment, course evaluations completed by students are taken into account.

The annual evaluation meetings concerning 2021 with residential academic personnel (AP) and administrative and technical personnel (ATP) are scheduled for spring 2022.

In the summer of the reporting year the annual personnel survey was held. It is used to keep the staff satisfaction level and consequently the good functioning of ETF Leuven up to mark.

Due to the measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19, the annual staff retreat could not take place on June 4. Because of the many digital meetings and classes, no online alternative was provided, but staff members were given an additional day off on June 4. On Friday, July 2, a barbecue was organized for staff after deliberations.

6.3 Internal Communication

Four times a year, a staff meeting is held during which staff is informed about the policy carried out by the Board of Trustees. In addition, every week on Wednesday the Executive Administration holds a short meeting with the staff, after which the topics discussed are communicated through an internal e-mail. In May/June, an annual retreat is held with the Executive Administration and staff. This was replaced by an additional day off. During the reporting year the weekly meeting with staff on Wednesdays only took place a few times due to COVID-19 measures.

In spring, the Executive Administration produces an annual report summarizing the results of education, research and services provided.

6.4 Executive Administration

In 2021 the Executive Administration consisted of: Jos de Kock (Rector), Andreas Beck (Academic Dean) and Jeroen Le Jeune (Interim Administrative Director). In principle, the Executive Administration meets biweekly. The Academic Vice-Dean participates in an advisory capacity.

6.5 Academic Personnel

The academic staff (AP) is divided into six departments and falls under the following categories: Independent Academic Personnel (IAP), Assistant Academic Personnel (AAP) and Special Academic Personnel (SAP).

At the end of 2021 the AP consisted of 25.9 fte (full time equivalents), of which 11 fte IAP, 1.7 fte AAP and 13.2 fte SAP.

The following paragraphs give the totals at the end of 2021, as well as the most important changes that took place during the year.

6.5.1 Department of Old Testament

2.2 fte IAP;
0.3 fte SAP.

- Hendrik Koorevaar retired and was accorded emeritus status on September 27.
- The appointment of Koert van Bekkum as professor has been increased to 0.8 fte from October 1.



6.5.2 Department of New Testament

2.5 fte IAP;
2 fte SAP.

- Jermo van Nes was appointed as assistant professor (IAP) with a workload of 0.5 fte effective January 1. His appointment as senior researcher (SAP) was reduced to 0.5 fte.
- Gie Vleugels retired and was accorded emeritus status on September 27.

6.5.3 Department of Historical Theology

1.7 fte IAP;
1.5 fte AAP;
4.2 fte SAP.

- The appointment of Aaldert Prins changed to affiliated researcher (SAP) on September 1.
- The appointment of Rostislav Tkachenko as affiliated researcher was reduced to 0.2 fte on September 30.

6.5.4 Department of Systematic Theology

1.8 fte IAP;
3 fte SAP.

- The appointment of Leslie Herrmann for 1.0 fte as junior researcher ended simultaneously with the project "Towards an Environmental Ethic of 'Fittingness'" on December 31, 2020.
- Cees Tulp was appointed as junior researcher (SAP) of the department with a workload of 0.5 fte effective January 1.

6.5.5 Department of Practical Theology

1.6 fte IAP;
0.2 fte AAP;
0.6 fte SAP.

- Ben Van Acker was appointed as affiliated researcher (SAP) of the department with a workload of 0.2 fte effective January 1.
- The appointment of Jack Barentsen as professor was reduced to 0.6 fte on September 1.
- Jos de Kock was appointed chair of the department effective September 27.
- Practical assistant Greet Gevaert joined the department in the context of the Master of Teaching program on September 27.

6.5.6 Department of Religious Studies and Missiology

1.2 fte IAP;
3.1 fte SAP.

- The appointment of Bosco Bangura as senior researcher has been interrupted for 0,5 fte from April 12 for one year for a temporary assignment at RWTH Aachen University.
- At the end of the FWO mandate on October 1, the appointment of Jelle Creemers as associate professor was increased to 1.0 fte.

6.5.7 Teacher Training and Didactical Support

There are no changes in staff to report.

6.5.8 Retirement Age of Personnel

In accordance with article 3.3.4.1 of ETF's Internal Regulations, the Board of Trustees has allowed the (guest) professors Pieter Boersema, David Courey, Creighton Marlowe, Michael Northcott, Mart-Jan Paul, Evert van de Poll and Martin Webber, who reached the age of 65 or older before the 2021-2022 academic year, to continue their activities in the areas of education, research or service in the 2021-2022 academic year usually within the context of Special Academic Personnel. In the case of professor Marlowe, who reached the age of 70 or older in the 2020-2021 academic year, special permission was given to continue.

6.6 Administrative and Technical Personnel

Periodically there is consultation with the administrative and technical personnel (ATP). In the reporting year there have been several changes within the ATP.

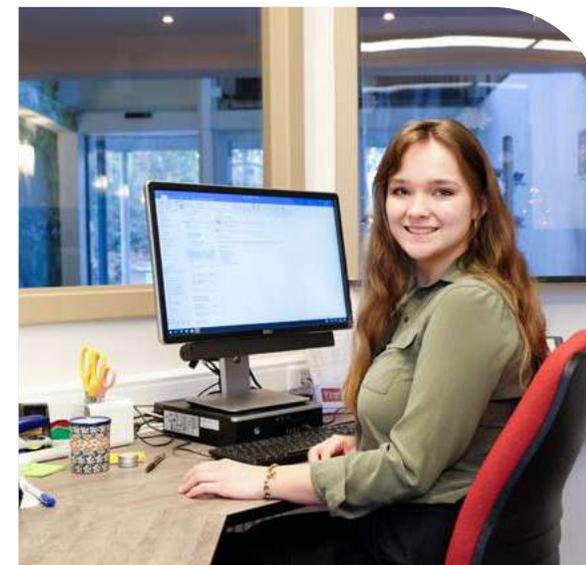
- On August 31 Paul de Pender resigned as assistant bookkeeper.
- In July Sherry Marlowe ended her work as a volunteer in the library.
- Guy Mathieu ended his work as a volunteer in the library on August 9.
- Lucia Thomesová started as assistant bookkeeper on August 2.
- Cees Tulp finished work as administrative assistant of ILSE on December 31, 2020.
- Mirjam Vantiegheem was hired as librarian on September 1.
- Jiska Van Dingenen started as receptionist on September 1.
- Alexandra Vedrashko finished work as librarian on June 10.

ETF Leuven also employs various student workers for, among other things, the reception and cleaning activities.

ETF Leuven has a few open vacancies (for volunteers).

6.7 Diversity

In the reporting year, 59 of the 82 staff members (including volunteers) had a non-Belgian nationality. The five most common non-Belgian nationalities are Dutch, American, German, South African and Ukrainian. The academic staff has a higher percentage of non-Belgians than the administrative and technical staff. Almost one in five academic staff members is female. The male-female ratio of the administrative and technical staff is approximately equal.



7



FACILITIES



7.1 Introduction

The ETF campus is located in Heverlee, a district of Leuven. The ETF campus with its student rooms, apartments, guestrooms, chapel, and dining hall, formerly housed a French-speaking Jesuit seminary (see § 7.2). The 'book tower' built later by the Jesuits and then used as a library, now functions as the academic center.

For ETF Leuven it is of vital importance that students study in an environment where they are stimulated in both their academic and personal development. ETF Leuven is a relatively small institution and within the existing possibilities it offers a modest range of support services. ETF Leuven has a campus with housing for students and fosters community building within its walls from a Christian identity.

The following sections will discuss the infrastructure (§ 7.2), guidance (§ 7.3), student activities (§ 7.4), communication (§ 7.5) and automation (§ 7.6).



7.2 Infrastructure

7.2.1 Housing

In the academic center, on the ground floor, ETF Leuven has six lecture and seminar rooms, varying in capacity from eight to sixty persons. Offices of staff are in the academic building on the fourth and fifth floors. 26 workstations are available for academic personnel and 11 workstations for administrative and technical personnel. The library, located in the academic building, has three workstations for personnel. The main entrance and the reception are located between the academic building and the former seminary building.

In the former seminary building ETF Leuven has a chapel that can accommodate up to 250 people. A dining hall on the ground floor can accommodate large groups for receptions and dinners. Next to the dining hall is a large student kitchen.

In the former seminary building ETF Leuven also provides student accommodation with sixty rooms that vary from furnished single rooms to large studios, suitable for two people, with private kitchen and bathroom facilities. Rental prices vary from € 3,130 to € 6,589 for the year. Included in this price are some communal commodities.

At the end of 2021 the campus housed 64 people. ETF Leuven thus reached an occupancy rate of nearly 100%. ETF Leuven receives no government support for student rooms, so rental prices are not subsidized. However rent for a student room at ETF Leuven is lower than the average price on the rental market in Leuven.

Since ETF Leuven organizes and hosts many international events, it is important for it to be able to provide accommodations for foreign guest lecturers and students who come through the Erasmus exchange program. For



this purpose, ETF Leuven has 18 guestrooms with a fully equipped communal kitchen permanently available through the Leuven Center for Christian Studies (LCCS). The same applies to the five conference rooms and two kitchens.

ETF Leuven also has study areas, a prayer chapel, a student lounge and a recreation room for staff. Some offices in the building are rented out to other organizations. ETF Leuven employs a concierge who manages the buildings and rental of student accommodations.

In 2021 some investments were made in infrastructure. Acoustic panels were installed in the chapel and the dining hall was painted. From the proceeds of fundraising activities, 275 solar panels were delivered in the reporting year and will be installed in the spring of 2022.

7.2.2 Library

The academic library contains more than 100,000 items, primarily focusing on Protestant Evangelical academic works in Dutch and English, yet also including important works in German and French. During the reporting year 2,285 materials were added to the collection. In the autumn, a number of small and large book donations were received, among which the unique collection of Jan H. Karelse on Protestantism in Europe from the 19th century onwards. The library offers access to an increasing number of e-books and a number of digital academic databases such as ProQuest Religion, EBSCO Religion and Philosophy Collection, and Atla Serials. These resources can be accessed both in the library and remotely by all ETF students and teaching staff.

The library's core team consists of part-time staff, dedicated volunteers, and student workers. Since September 2021 the library has external support for the integrated library system from PTFS-Europe, who performs yearly upgrades. Online services through the library website are expanding every year. There is a self-checkout module to borrow and return materials during opening hours.

The library offers a comfortable and quiet environment for reading in the central room and research area, equipped with study desks and wireless internet access.

The library is accessible to all ETF students, staff and alumni. Non-ETF patrons with a yearly membership can also use the same physical and digital resources on the ETF campus.

ETF students and staff can apply for free membership in KU Leuven libraries and KU Leuven students and staff have the same privilege at the ETF library.

7.2.3 Self-storage Sint-Jansberg

ETF Leuven has decided to rent out unused space for storage. In the first phase, eleven units were prepared for use. This service is offered through the website www.selfstorage-sint-jansberg.be.

7.3 Guidance

7.3.1 Community Building

ETF Leuven purposely pays attention to the personal and spiritual development of students in relation to their environment. For this reason ETF Leuven holds a weekly service in the chapel, involving staff and students, followed by a communal meal. Each week there are shared times for announcements as well as a daily joint coffee break for students and staff.



The committee on spirituality sets a framework and provides tools for staff and students to encourage fellowship and spiritual growth. Periodically, the activities of the committee are evaluated.

From February to June, on-campus chapel services were replaced by online services, also accessible for non-residential students and staff. On September 29, following the opening chapel on campus, a barbeque was organized for residential students and staff to promote mutual relationships. On December 22 the annual Christmas celebration for staff and students took place.

André Le Roux, Christy Otten (temporarily) and Anne-Catherine Pardon function as student pastors. Jeremy Otten was responsible for coordinating weekly chapel services. Jacobus (Kobus) Kok is the contact person for small groups and mentoring.

It is strongly emphasized that each student remains responsible for his or her own personal and spiritual growth. Students are also encouraged to participate in activities and groups, both inside and outside of ETF Leuven, which can contribute to personal and spiritual growth.



7.3.2 Study Guidance

Study support is largely expressed through mentoring and small groups. During the reporting year all full-time first year Bachelor's students were assigned a mentor. The first year Bachelor's students were also divided into small groups led by a member of the independent academic personnel or the assistant academic personnel. Additionally second and third year Bachelor's students can sign up voluntarily for mentoring. The voluntary sign up also applies to Master's students. Apart from this study focused approach, Master's

students are encouraged to form their own small groups, similar to the Bachelor small groups.

Surveys of students show that many students are positive about study guidance. In addition, the Student Council and the Academic Secretariat are readily accessible if problem situations arise. Accessibility of the teachers is generally ample. Students who require psychosocial support can contact the student pastors or be referred to appropriate counseling.

7.3.3 Enrollment Guidance

The application procedure is a useful method to compare motivation and expectations of prospective students with the range of available educational programs. Thus, the dropout rate during the first year of the Bachelor's program can be reduced substantially. In the 2020-2021 academic year there was one withdrawal from the full-time residential program. The ETF Open University (part-time) Bachelor's program had five withdrawals in the first year.

Enrollment of Master's students who have obtained a Bachelor's degree elsewhere is also guided. For these students, as is the case for first year students, an introduction to the building, program, services and the city is offered. There were no withdrawals in the first year of the full-time residential Master's program during the 2020-2021 academic year. In the ETF Open University (part-time) Master's program there were two withdrawals.

7.3.4 Ombuds Service

At ETF Leuven three ombudspersons are appointed (one for the Bachelor's, one for the Master's and one for the Doctoral programs) as mediator between individual examiners and individual students. Prior to the examinations it is always clearly announced how the ombudspersons can be reached.

In 2021 ombudspersons were able to solve all complaints through mediation. No external appeals were required.



7.4 Student Activities

7.4.1 Student Council

The Student Council consists of a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve members. In 2021 three meetings between the Executive Administration, Academic Secretariat and the Student Council were held. The Student Council is a member of the Vlaamse Vereniging van Studenten (VVS).

7.4.2 Student Association

In 2011 the student association PAAP (Per Aspera Ad Perfectiora) was established. ETF Leuven has made a large room available for students to hold their activities. In 2021 several activities were organized by PAAP. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, activities were limited. The annual PAAP symposium on May 12 was held online. The theme was "Relationships and Sexuality" and the speakers were Mieke van Velzen, Christy Otten, Eleonora Hof, Nicolas Langer & Lisa-Joy Rentschler and Arthur Rebel. The PAAP gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of the student association scheduled for December 10 could not take place then but was moved to spring 2022. Students once again elected a steering committee that is renewed annually. ETF Leuven provided supplies and meeting facilities.

7.4.3 Introductory Weekend

The yearly introductory weekend for new Bachelor's and Master's students was held on September 25-27. The weekend for first year Bachelor's students was organized by second and third year students. The weekend for new Master's students was organized by second year Master's students.

7.5 Marketing and Communication

ETF Leuven regularly sends newsletters to its support base, including many alumni, who make an important contribution to the financial framework of the institution. Furthermore, ETF Leuven is actively present on social media.

ETF Leuven was visible through dozens of press articles in the Flemish and Dutch press.

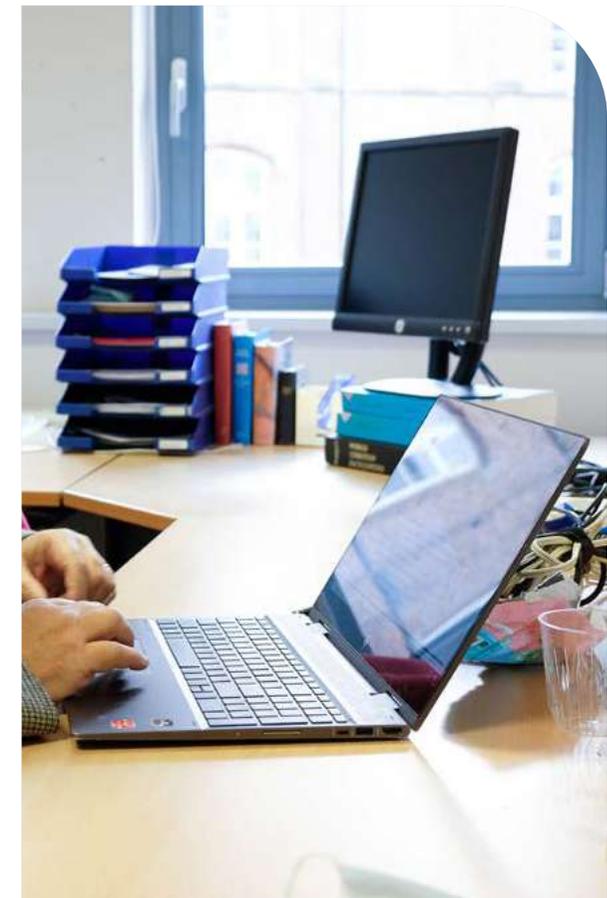
A fundraiser has been hired to raise donations for scholarships for international students and sustainability of the buildings. This is partly financed by the foundation Agaton Ergon.

In addition, Cees Tulp assists the Executive Administration with fundraising for ETF Leuven.

7.6 Automation

ETF Leuven has approximately 46 workstations with the necessary computer equipment. In addition, a number of servers are operational for such things as digital learning environment, student administration and file storage. Wireless internet access is available throughout the campus. The network is protected against threats. In 2021 ETF Leuven took further measures concerning the new European privacy legislation General Data Protection Management (GDPR) which became effective on May 25, 2018. The digital learning environment is based on the Chamilo Learning Management System. Koha, an open source integrated library system, is used to manage the library catalogue. In the reporting year, the system received a major upgrade and was outsourced to PTFS Europe. ETF Leuven has also continued to focus on mobile video conferencing functionality used for distance learning among other things.

During the reporting year, ETF Leuven continued to put emphasis on distance learning and a number of events such as the opening of the academic year and the farewell lectures were offered via livestream. The mail server was migrated to Office 365.



FINANCES



8.1 Introduction

In this chapter figures are presented for the financial year that runs from January 1 to December 31, 2021. These figures have been audited.

The approved report of the auditor is included in the appendix of this annual report. The following sections include an overview of the revenue and expenditures (§ 8.2), the balance sheet (§ 8.3), and funding (§ 8.4).



8.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 2021	EURO	DOLLARS
Revenue	2,046,352	2,317,780
Turnover	1,519,176	1,720,680
Government Subsidies	880,290	997,052
Tuition Fees	294,579	333,652
Accommodation Fees	245,502	278,065
Room Hire	31,104	35,230
Conference Fees	23,104	26,169
Books and Other Course Materials	44,597	50,512
Gifts and Donations	256,166	290,143
Gifts from Belgium	33,920	38,419
Gifts from the Netherlands	71,888	81,423
Gifts from Europe and USA	1,991	2,255
Designated gifts / Legacies	148,367	168,046
Fourth Stream of Funds	271,010	306,957
Donations for Research Projects	271,010	306,957
Financial Income	17,296	19,590
Extraordinary Income	1,748	1,980
TOTAL REVENUE	2,065,396	2,339,350
Expenditures	2,249,062	2,547,378
Commodities and Materials	10,057	11,391
Goods and Services	596,451	675,564
Salaries	1,435,425	1,625,820
Depreciation	195,271	221,172
Devaluation	7,402	8,384
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges	-3,629	-4,110
Other Expenditure	8,085	9,157
Financial Costs	5,563	6,301
Extraordinary Costs	6,597	7,472
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,261,222	2,561,151
RESULT	-195,826	-221,801



8.3 Balance sheet

ASSETS (31 DEC 2021)	EURO	DOLLAR
FIXED ASSETS	2,243,550	2,541,134
Intangible Fixed Assets	0	0
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,243,451	2,541,022
Grounds and Buildings	2,121,645	2,403,060
Machinery and Equipment	76,009	86,091
Furniture and Vehicles	40,856	46,275
Assets under Construction	4,941	5,596
Financial Fixed Assets	99	112
Other Fixed Financial Assets	99	112
CURRENT ASSETS	1,221,449	1,383,461
Stock and Orders	27,544	31,197
Amounts Receivable within One Year	276,388	313,048
Cash	858,490	972,360
Deferred Charges and Accrued Income	59,027	66,856
TOTAL ASSETS	3,464,999	3,924,595

EQUITY AND LIABILITY (31 DEC 2021)	EURO	DOLLAR
EQUITY	2,677,318	3,032,437
Capital	4,443,545	5,032,937
Starting Capital	3,190,055	3,613,184
Permanent Financing	1,253,490	1,419,753
Specific Reserves	45,061	51,038
Reserve for Projects	0	0
Reserve for Maintenance	17,184	19,463
Reserve for Salaries	27,877	31,575
Accumulated Profits (Losses)	-1,863,259	-2,110,402
Investment Grants	51,971	58,864
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	63,787	72,248
Provisions for Liabilities and Charges	63,787	72,248
LONG TERM LIABILITIES	723,894	819,910
Liabilities for More than One Year	681	771
Financial Debts	681	771
Liabilities for a Maximum of One Year	538,180	609,564
Debts > One year, Concluded within One Year	0	0
Outstanding Invoices	115,717	131,066
Advance Payments Received	102,927	116,579
Taxes, Renumeration and Social Security	164,214	185,995
Scholarships to be allocated	120,664	136,669
Other Debts	34,658	39,255
Accrued Charges and Deferred Income	185,033	209,575
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	3,464,999	3,924,595

8.4 Financing

As a statutory registered institution of higher education, ETF Leuven receives limited funding for education and research amounting to € 780,004 (so called first stream of funds) from the Flemish Government. Regarding funding for education, the legislature chose a mechanism that closely matches what is common for universities in Flanders. Regarding funding for research, a joint research plan exists, together with the Faculteit voor Protestantse Theologie en Religiestudies (FPTR) in Brussels, for which again a progress report was sent to the government in the reporting year. ETF Leuven also received a 'Covid 19' grant of € 62,825 to compensate for additional costs and reduced income due to the pandemic and COVID-19 measures that had to be taken.

ETF Leuven is making extra efforts to supplement this limited funding with resources from the so-called second, third and fourth streams of funds. Two staff members are doing fundamental basic research funded by the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO, second stream of funds). Three externally funded applied scientific research projects amounting to € 271,010 (fourth stream of funds) were carried out in the reporting year. In addition, several other research projects are being carried out and financially supported jointly with other universities. There are also a number of externally funded staff appointments.

Other income sources include individual and institutional donors, income from student fees, rent of student accommodations, and LCCS operations.

As a result of the decree of the Flemish Government dd. October 9, 2015 relative to inspection and single audit (in effect since January 1, 2016) ETF Leuven manages a permanent file. ETF Leuven is audited by a company auditor according to the single audit structure and reports to the government according to the ESA-code (European System of National and Regional Accounts).





CLYBOUW Bedrijfsrevisoren

Auditor's report to the general meeting of members of the association Evangelische Theologische Faculteit vzw for the year ended December 31, 2021

(Free translation)

In the context of the audit of the annual accounts of the organisation Evangelische Theologische Faculteit vzw (the Organisation), we hereby present our auditor's report. This report is not provided within the context of a statutory audit mandate. It includes our opinion on the audit of the annual accounts.

We have been appointed as auditor by the board of directors. Our mandate will expire on the date of the general meeting of members which will deliberate on the annual accounts closed on December 31, 2021. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of Evangelische Theologische Faculteit VZW for nine consecutive years.

Report on the audit of the annual accounts

Unqualified opinion

We have audited the annual accounts of the Organisation, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2021, as well as the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterized by a balance sheet total of 3.464.999 EUR and a profit and loss account showing a loss for the year of 195.826 EUR.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net equity and financial position as at December 31, 2021, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

Basis for unqualified opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts" section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.



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We have obtained from the board of directors and the officials of the Organisation the explanations and information necessary for our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the board of directors for the annual accounts

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium, as well as for such internal controls as the board of directors deems is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the Organisation's ability to maintaining continuity, disclosing, if applicable, of matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the Organisation or to cease-operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a statutory auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or aggregated, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

In conducting our audit, we comply with the legal, regulatory and normative framework applicable to the audit of the financial statements in Belgium. However, an audit does not provide any assurance as to the future viability of the association, nor as to the efficiency or effectiveness with which the governing body has undertaken or will conduct the association's business operations.



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As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the given circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's ability to maintain its continuity. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may lead to the Organisation no longer being able to maintain its continuity;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that leads to a true and fair view.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.



CLYBOUW Bedrijfsrevisoren

Use of this report

Since this report has been issued in the context of a contractual assignment, it is only intended to inform the General Assembly. Under no circumstances can this report be the subject of a filing with the balance sheet center of the National Bank of Belgium.

Antwerp, March 23 2022

Clybouw Bedrijfsrevisoren BV

Represented by

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**We continue to celebrate.
And we continue to work.
With the ambition of ETF
Leuven to make a sustainable
contribution to coming
generations.**

”





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