

## 5. Summary self-evaluation SOM

Founded in 1994, the research school SOM is the combined Research Institute and Graduate School of the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) of the University of Groningen.

Academic research is conducted in the Research Institute along disciplinary lines within six research programmes. These programmes reflect our focus within the disciplines of Economics and Business and form coherent and vibrant groups of researchers. All programmes perform very well in terms of output criteria (e.g., numbers of journal articles, PhD theses and citations) and have a respectable international reputation within their respective disciplines. The Research Master (ReMa) and PhD programmes are brought together in the Graduate School and score very well in national assessments.

During the review period (2015-2020), SOM has slightly adapted its strategic goals by focusing even more on research quality, stimulating multidisciplinary research initiatives, exploring ways to leverage the societal relevance of research, trying to increase external funding, fine-tuning the ReMa and PhD programmes, and further professionalizing research support.

While SOM already received very high scores in the 2015 national research review of Economics and Business, the international committee performing the 2018 midterm evaluation concluded that, between 2015 and 2018, research quality at SOM had further increased. This was evidenced by a growing number of top-level publications and improved positions in international rankings. The results of a CWTS analysis and an analysis of our research output suggest that especially the number of high-quality publications has increased during the review period. External funding for our research also increased and our ReMa programme continues to belong to the best-rated programmes in The Netherlands.

Despite these positive developments, it is clear that the research landscape in which we operate is changing. There is an increasing tendency to more strongly value the societal impact of research, there are pressures to publish research findings in open-access outlets, and (funding) policies are moving towards multidisciplinary research and qualitative rather than quantitative indicators of research performance. At the same time, due to policy measures at the national and university levels and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, pressures on research time and the way we conduct research are increasing. Therefore, a major challenge for the upcoming years will be to maintain our current (inter)national position.

An important goal for the next period is to effectively deal with the above-mentioned challenges and developments in our research environment. Our ambition is to remain an international top research school in Economics and Business in Europe. We will **'connect for impact'** by further stimulating collaboration and multidisciplinary research initiatives while maintaining and nurturing our strengths in the relevant Economics and Business disciplines.