

# FSS YEAR PLAN 2025 - MAIN PRIORITIES

The strategic priorities of the Faculty of Social Sciences remain in principle the same as in the previous year; however, the context has changed and contains implications for our speed and mode of implementation. Priorities, context and implementation are explained in this section.

- 1) The Faculty of Social Sciences remains committed to reforming its educational portfolio to better align with society and labour market of the future. The review has now been completed and resulted in a memorandum outlining a future picture of the portfolio of FSW and, from 2025, the School of Social Sciences. The impact of the “*Wet Internationalisering in Balans*” is already pre-emptively showing for individual programmes (drop in bachelor enrollment) while the nationwide budget cuts for higher education will require greater attention to the costs of education. We do not expect that the impending integration with FGW and FRT will require this outline to be substantially modified. It is possible that interdisciplinary programmes or tracks will be easier to realize as part of the faculty integration.
- 2) The faculty wishes to further expand its societal and academic impact (and make existing impact more visible).
- 3) The faculty wishes to attract larger-scale research funding and larger volumes from societal stakeholders via philanthropy. The former is progressing as planned. The latter has proved more difficult than expected and requires continued attention.
- 4) The faculty will implement the academic profiles linked to *Erkennen & Waarderen* (including as a catalyst to the abovementioned two priorities).

These priorities are an extension of those mentioned in the plan for 2024. However, relative to the current year, the organizational as well as the intellectual environment are set to change. This requires additional priorities:

- 5) Organizationally, the faculty will undergo a planned, selective process of integrating with professional staff teams from currently neighbouring faculties; intellectually, the faculty will gradually become part of a combined and confident academic environment of the social sciences and humanities.
- 6) The faculty board and department heads have all committed to multi-year fiscal scenarios to be implemented with planned turnover (instead of downsizing) while concurrently avoiding an increase in work pressure as far as possible.

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The faculty board acknowledges dilemmas posed by the sum of the abovementioned priorities. They require specific implementation goals. These are:

- The exploration and subsequent development of 2 new programmes and the start of an entirely renewed master in our educational portfolio while concurrently reducing the overall amount of academic faculty member contact time per student in the social sciences relative to 2024. (Following a possible merger new, volume-generating joint programmes can also be identified in 2025)
- The increase in media & policy-impact (relative to 2024) while concurrently increasing the volume of applications to hitherto new sources of external funding by ca. 15%
- The increase in published research output from the mission-specific labs founded in 2023
- The use of (E&W)-focus areas for all faculty promotion cases and professorial nominations; similarly, a roll-out of focus areas for regular yearly reviews
- The identification and eventual funding of ca. 3 major scholarly initiatives between existing faculty members of the future schools befitting a leading faculty of social sciences and humanities