10 Netherlands Institute on Research on ICT

Scientific director	Inald Lagendijk (TUD); Mark van den Brand (TU/e) as from 1 Sept.
Programme manager	Eveline Vreede (TUD); Margje Mommers (TU/e) as from 1 Sept.
Board	Birna van Riemsdijk (TUD), Maarten van Steen (UT), Sander Stuijk (TU/e), Bedir Tekinerdogan (WU)

Information and communications technology (ICT) research at the universities of technology concentrates on refreshing and prioritising individual sub-disciplines. The 4TU research centre Netherlands Institute on Research on ICT (4TU.NIRICT) concentrates on bringing together, positioning and prioritising all aspects of ICT research through both multidisciplinary and chain approaches in this rapidly digitising world. Since more than 50% of research conducted at universities of technology in the Netherlands concerns ICT, the centre can effectively devote itself to strengthening the national ICT research network.

ICT Research Community

In order to promote cooperation between universities of technology, it is vital to build on a network in which all participants are aware of and have mutual respect for each other's ICT research. NIRICT organises an annual community day with an interactive and varied programme on joint educational and research efforts and national ICT developments.
As from 2018, the focus of NIRICT has been on the call to proposals for research community funding. The aim of this is to strengthen the collaboration between researchers and the NIRICT community, thus increasing the impact of ICT research in the Netherlands. NIRICT has made ten activities financially possible, with topics such as wirelessly powered smart dust, cybersecurity ethics, GPGPU applications, expressive robots and interdisciplinary insights into group dynamics.

ICT.OPEN

In 2018, NIRICT was a partner of ICT.OPEN, the biggest conference for the ICT research community in the Netherlands. NIRICT focuses on researchers who are at the start of their careers. That is why ICT Next Generation (ICTng), with the assistance of NIRICT, organised a 'share your failures' happy hour with the underlying message of admitting mistakes encountered on the way to success. As academics are usually focused on positive results and success, this event was refreshing and well received.

Big Software on the Run

In the 2014-2017 period, Big Software on the Run (BSR) was NIRICT's largest research programme. Several appointments and sub-projects will continue to operate in the coming years. The aim of BSR is to analyse software 'in the wild' using big data methods, and to use the results to improve software development methods. BSR Summer Schools will be used to convey the results to a large group of international, young researchers.
As a whole, the BSR project has led to a number of dissertations, several of which will be defended in 2019. In addition, the research has contributed to a better understanding of the behaviour and use of software and how insight into this can be gained. The techniques developed in the project will enable software engineers to automate the identification of software behaviour with a view to conducting a more focused search for possible errors or unexpected behaviour.

Agenda for 2019

In 2019, successful events such as Community Day, ICT.OPEN and ICTng Drinks will be organised again. The call for proposals for research community funding will also be continued. A number of current board members have indicated that they will be stepping down. In replacing these board members, the aim is to achieve a balanced board in respect of electrical engineering/computer science and gender.