# LUND UNIVERSITY
## School of Economics and Management

Lund February 16, 2021

**LUSEM response to the evaluation of the PhD program in Informatics**

The PhD program in Informatics underwent an evaluation by an external peer-review panel during fall 2020. It was based on a program self-evaluation report and interviews with the program management as well as a few selected teachers/supervisors and doctoral students at an online site visit in November 2020. The results of the evaluation were presented in a report, and based on the suggestions made by the panel, the department has outlined measures to improve the quality of the program. Doctoral students were invited to nominate a member of the peer-review panel as well as to write a response to the self-evaluation report.

Overall, the peer-review panel was positive regarding the PhD program in Informatics and pointed out what works, not least a welcoming and supportive research environment, and a broad industrial network that benefit the PhD candidates/graduates in Informatics compared to peers elsewhere. The panel found that overall, the goals of the program were fulfilled.

The panel also identified some challenges and gave three recommendations on how to improve the program. Some of the challenges relate to the small size of the Department of Informatics, and are general, whereas others are specific to the program at LUSEM. The panel believed that the Department of Informatics should safeguard and further develop collaboration within the Swedish Research School of Management and IT (MIT) because it strengthens the program in many respects. The department should also aim to strengthen the interdisciplinary perspective in the field of digitalization research by reaching out to other departments at LUSEM. Finally, the panel recommended that the department broaden its research focus, which now has a particular focus on eHealth.

In their response to the evaluation report, the department management addresses suggestions made by the panel, and explains how they will work strategically to develop the program. They state that they will make efforts to further develop collaboration within LUSEM (and mention already ongoing initiatives). They also explain the broader scope of the current (revised) research strategy, which extends to other areas than that of eHealth.

The LUSEM management agrees with the department's response, though it is brief, to the peer-review panel. It is important that collaboration within the Swedish Research School of Management and IT (MIT) is secured and further developed because it is an important resource for PhD candidates at LUSEM, a

way to attain a pool of peers (critical mass), and a quality-enhancing benchmark in relation to programs at other universities in Sweden. It is also important to make sure that PhD candidates have adequate resources in terms of supervision and academic guidance in a range of research areas, instead of a narrow and specific scope, which concerns the reviewer panel. This should be made clear to (potential) PhD candidates, for example by online as well as oral information regarding elective courses because they are not explicit in the General Syllabus for Third-Cycle Studies in Informatics at LUSEM. Finally, the LUSEM management looks favorably upon the initiatives to develop collaboration within LUSEM. This, and considering the PhD program within the broader scope of revising the department's research strategy is a good way to handle challenges regarding the program facing a small size department that is an important part of LUSEM.


On behalf of the LUSEM management team



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