



SENSE Benchmarks

for Publication Output 2007–2013

As a national research school with international ambition, the Netherlands Research School for the Socio-economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment (SENSE) requires standards to assess the quality of its scientific output. Such performance standards are important:

1. As a yardstick for the evaluation of the overall progress of the School;
2. As a benchmark for the membership of researchers and institutes in the School; and
3. As a jointly agreed comparative measurement for the 6-year external evaluation of institutes and research departments.

SENSE has developed in 2006 a first set of performance criteria that was used for the 2007 evaluation. These criteria have met support but also some criticism from the SENSE community, and the School has decided to adjust the system. Drafts of the (modest) adjustments have been circulated to all research group leaders of SENSE, and many comments and suggestions have been incorporated. This final system of the 'SENSE Benchmarks' is supported by the SENSE General Board, the SENSE Research Commission, and the SENSE Board of Directors. It is valid for the period 2007–2013.

SENSE grants credit points for:

- *Authors* of scientific books (with more than 80 pages), articles in scientific journals and chapters in scientific books;
- *Editors*, namely editors-in-chief of a journal, editors of special issues and editors of books; as well as
- *Promoters, co-promoters* and *PhD candidates* for the successful defence of a doctoral dissertation.

Each author or editor of a publication receives the same credit points.

SENSE distinguishes between A, B, and C journals:

- An 'A journal' is a journal listed in the Web of Science (ISI) that belongs to the top 25% of all journals in any ISI domain, ranked according to citation impact factor.
- A 'B journal' is any other journal listed in the Web of Science.
- A 'C journal' is any other journal that maintains a professional system of peer review.

The list of ISI journals including impact factors, journal ranking per domain and quartile ranking will be available on the SENSE website and updated every year. The list is based on the data provided by the METIS database used by all universities for registration of scientific publications.

As for books, SENSE distinguishes between A, B, and C publishers:

- 'A publishers' are the world top of publishers,
- 'B publishers' are the world's semi-top of publishers,
- 'C publishers' are other scientific publishers.

The current list of publishers is available on the SENSE website. SENSE will revisit the lists of publishers in consultation with SENSE research group leaders and finalise this by early 2009. The list will be updated by the end of 2010 again.

SENSE members are expected to achieve **8 credit points per year**, measured on average over three years and based on a full-time position. For part-time positions—including maternity or paternity leave—the benchmark is adjusted accordingly.



SENSE will assess the research output of all SENSE members in the upcoming period twice, 2010 and 2013 (the latter one in the context of the overall external evaluation of SENSE).

The following table lists the credit points for each category of publication output:

Credit Points for Publication Output (2007–2013)

Classification		A	B	C	Comments
Journal Articles	Description	Top-25% of domain in ISI Impact factor	All other peer-reviewed journals covered by ISI	Peer-reviewed journal, no ISI Impact factor	The classification of journals is updated every year. Articles are rated based on the classification in year of publication
	Score	5	4	2	
Journals	Editor-in-Chief	3	2	1	
	Editor Special Issue	3	2	1	
Book Chapters	Description	World class publishers	Semi world class	Other publishers	
	Score	4	3	1	
Books	Description	World class publishers	Semi world class	Other publishers	Books > 80 pages
	Score	12	9	3	
Edited books	Description	World class publishers	Semi world class	Other publishers	
	Score	3	2	1	
Other Activities	Promotor		2		In year of successful defence of PhD thesis.
	Co-promotor		2		
	PhD Candidate		4		