What is the Round Table Computer Science?

The Round Table Computer Science represents the computer science research community in the Netherlands and serves as a platform for dialogue between the field and national research funding bodies. We actively invite researchers to share both solicited and unsolicited input and to draw our attention to important scientific, structural, and societal developments. Your contributions enable us to advocate for the field in a well-informed, evidence-based, and credible manner.

What we have achieved

In recent years, the Round Table Computer Science has worked to strengthen the position and visibility of computer science as a **core and independent scientific discipline**, with its own theoretical foundations, methodologies, and research practice.

A key achievement is the development of a **document on common practices in Computer Science**, which supports fair and informed evaluation of computer science research—particularly by reviewers and panels from outside the field. This document helps to clarify field-specific quality criteria, research outputs (including software and systems), and impact pathways, and contributes to more balanced assessment across disciplines.

Members of the table have, a.o., been involved in setting the agenda for the NWO ENW Strategy Day on AI, improving the rubrics for the Talent Programme, providing input to the new strategy of NWO (2027-2030), and advising on many of the existing and upcoming funding schemes (e.g., KICs).

The Table is well connected to other informatics initiatives in the Netherlands, such as the IPN. While the IPN is the broader community platform, the Table is the interface to NWO. The table is also connected to NWO colleagues in the TTW domain.

What we aim to achieve next

A) Despite our efforts, acceptance rates for computer science proposals in broad and open funding calls remain lower in the open competition than in many other disciplines. Addressing this imbalance is a key priority for the coming years. Therefore, the Round Table, with the support of the ENW board, will continue to work towards a **robust and fair assessment process** for computer science by:

- Improving the visibility and understanding of computer science quality standards in broad review settings;

- Advocating for funding instruments that better reflect computer science research practice, including longer-term support for open software, data, and research infrastructure;

- Evaluating the impact of policy changes on success rates relative to other disciplines in ENW through e.g. the NWO Research-on-Research initiative.

B) At the same time, we will actively promote the role of computer science in **interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research**. The field is uniquely positioned to contribute to integrated solutions for complex or even "wicked" societal challenges. Computer science is ready to connect its own theory and methods with those of other fields. Meaningful collaboration requires appropriate conditions, such as support for consortium building, impact-oriented activities, and sustained engagement with external partners.

Call to action

We invite the computer science research community to actively engage with the Round Table Computer Science:

- Share experiences with funding and assessment processes;

- Signal emerging scientific developments and bottlenecks in the field;

- Use and disseminate the common practices document;

- Contribute ideas on how funding instruments can better support computer science research.

Your input directly strengthens our ability to represent the field and to work towards a fair, visible, and sustainable future for computer science research in the Netherlands.

The strength of computer science in the Netherlands lies in its community. By sharing insights, experiences, and ambitions, you help shape the conditions under which our field can continue to excel—scientifically, societally, and internationally. The Round Table Computer Science looks forward to working together with the community to strengthen our discipline.

On behalf of the Round Table Computer Science,

Nava Tintarev (UM)(Chair), Loek Cleophas (TU/e), Przemyslaw Pawelczak (TUD), Yasamin Nazari (VU), Kerstin Bunte (RUG), Jacco van Ossenbruggen (VU), Lejla Batina (RU), Irene Viola (CWI), Stratis Gavves (UvA)

If you have questions/discussion points for the round table you can send them to Nava Tintarev with enwtafels-informatica@nwo.nl in CC.