European Network for Research Evaluation
in the Social Sciences and Humanities

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Comprehensive Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities

http://enressh.eu/

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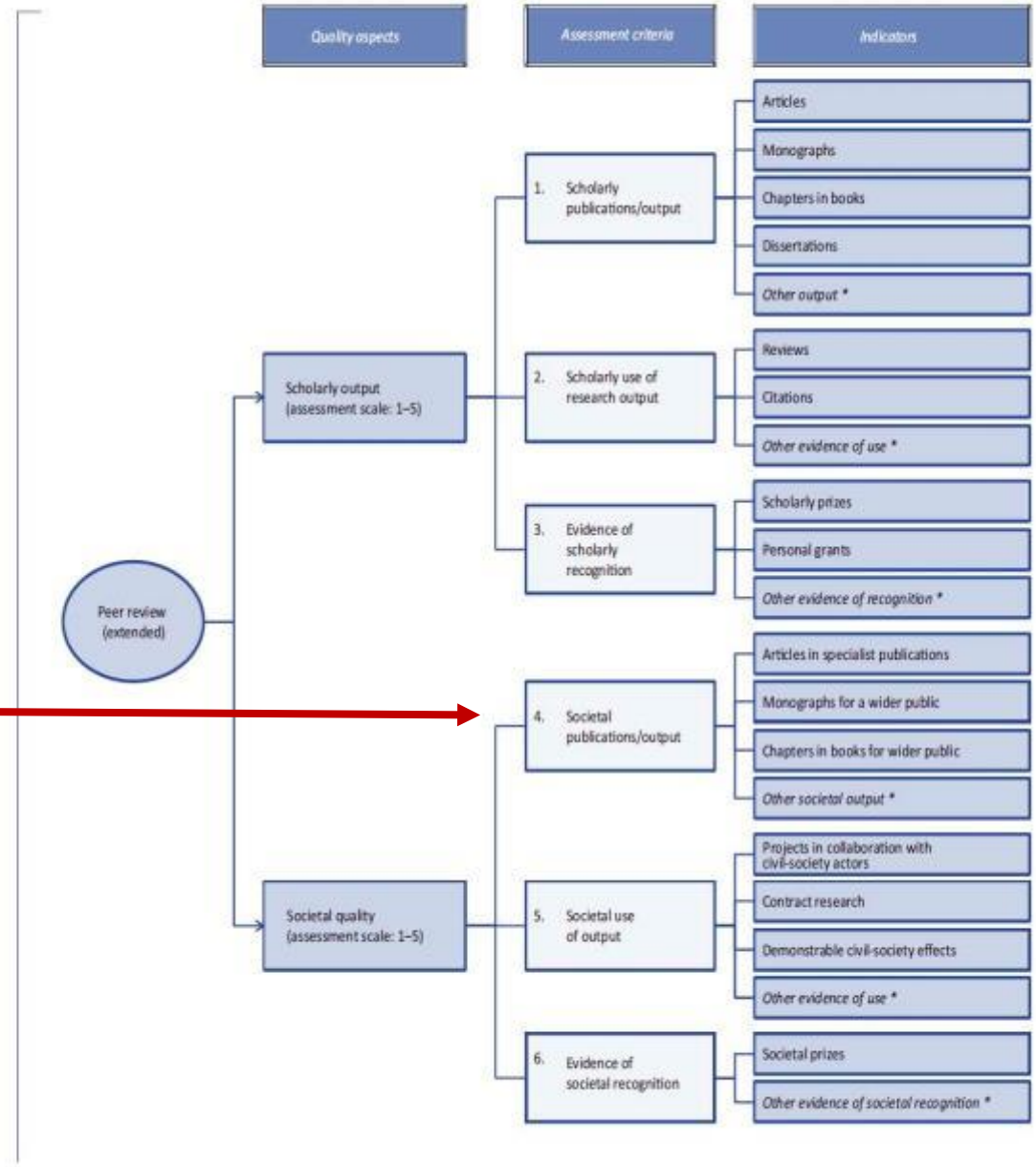
COST ACTION CA15137

The gist of ENRESSH

- Main ambition: to innovate comprehensive research evaluation (scientific quality and societal relevance), in particular for SSH research (to learn, not to judge); and to strengthen the value of SSH research for society
- What: review literature and work dedicated to SSH research evaluation, in different parts of Europe, to learn from each other, stimulate development and upscale results
- Who: evaluation experts from SSH, researchers from a variation of SSH disciplines, policy makers, 'hybrids'
- The network: More than 80 members from 30 countries, still counting

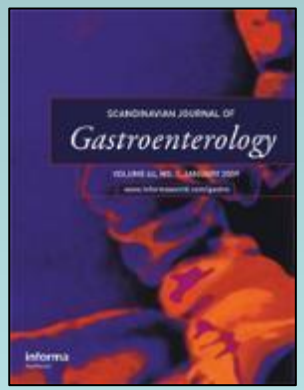
Example of comprehensive evaluation system covering both scientific quality and societal relevance

The standard evaluation protocol 2015-2012 in the Netherlands



References and WoS coverage: Sampled articles

	History	Linguistics	Sociology	Economics	Gastro-enterology
References	41	55	64	31	57
Average age of cited work	23 years	14 years	13 years	12 years	10 years
References to journals	17 %	27 %	56 %	74 %	96 %
References to WoS journals	2 %	20 %	50 %	68 %	93 %
Average citation rate in field (5 yrs)	0,27	1,69	1,90	2,36	6,78



Objectives

- **Research objectives:**
  - Review productive interactions (in science and society) characteristic for SSH; and quality representations in the SSH
  - Review dissemination patterns (impact pathways)
  - Review databases, use of data
  - Review conceptual frameworks for research evaluation
  - Propose comprehensive approaches to research evaluation

- **Capacity building objectives:**
  - Build a community of researchers whose tools and methods help in tackling problems of SSH evaluation;
  - Bridge the gap between scholars, research managers and policy makers;
  - Involve stakeholders in evaluation;
  - Create opportunities for young researchers to conduct scientific missions (STSM)

Deliverables

Deliverables for the field:

- Annotated bibliography on SSH research evaluation.
- Best practices manual for research evaluation and information systems.
- Website, conferences, workshops, stakeholder orientated

- Description of national evaluation systems.
- A directory of SSH research organisations and associations in Europe.
- Overview of peer review practices in the SSH.
- Overview of existing databases for SSH research evaluation.

Policy briefs and recommendations:

- Better criteria and indicators for evaluating the SSH;
- How to stimulating societally relevant research;
- Recommendations and guidelines for evidence-based impact narratives;
- Recommendations on classification of journals and publishers for the SSH

Scientific organisation

Work groups

WG1. Conceptual frameworks for SSH research evaluation

WG2. Societal impact and relevance of the SSH research

- Modes of engagement
- Impact creation

WG3. Databases and uses of data for understanding, monitoring and evaluating SSH research

- Roadmap for a European SSH research information system
- Develop alternative metrics

WG4. Dissemination: outreach, stakeholder conferences, website

+ transversal special interest group for early stage researchers.

Research Evaluation in SSH and ENRESSH

- Evaluation systems in Europe
  - Method
  - Typology
  - Results of first round
- Work Group 1: Conceptual Frameworks of Research Evaluation in the SSH
  - Issues
  - Dialectics
- Approaches in the ENRESSH WGs

Evaluation Systems in Europe

- Method
  - Delphi-like approach:
    - First step: Create Typology
    - Second step: Survey among members
    - Third step: Rework of typology
    - Fourth step: Second survey and study of official documents
- Typology
  - 9 Dimensions
    - Level of the evaluation protocol
    - **Differentiation**
    - Who is evaluating
    - Object of evaluation
    - Funding
    - Method
    - Timeline
    - **Transparency**
    - **Costs**

Evaluation Systems in Europe

- Results
  - 43 persons from 25 countries (RR: 70%)
    - AT, BE, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, GB, HR, IE, IS, IT, LT, MD, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SI
  - Dimensions of existing typologies do not suffice
    - Variance in added dimensions between countries
    - Use of comments
  - Variance within countries
    - Differences in perceptions
    - Definitions not clear, not enough aspects
  - Preliminary findings
    - Evaluations are more national than not (19 countries of 25)
    - 15 countries report funding depends on evaluation
    - 14 countries report adaptations to SSH (but sometimes only no use of citations)

Conceptual Frameworks for SSH Evaluation

Issues in SSH research evaluation

- Need to know more about SSH research practices (publication and citation patterns and practices)
- Relation between evaluation, indicators and behaviour (coverage)
- Mismatch between what evaluators/policy makers see as important and what scholars emphasise
- Translation from New Public Management/policy-language to SSH scholar-language and vice versa

Dialectics to tackle

- International exchange vs. local rootedness
- Cooperation vs. individual, erudite scholar
- Metrics vs. Peer Review
- Interdisciplinary exchange vs. disciplinary expertise

Approaches

- Overview of evaluation and peer review practices
- Evaluation criteria based on quality perceptions of scholars
- Knowledge on impact of evaluation on research
- Specific profiles of societal relevance
- Guidelines for impact narratives
- Standardization of Research Information Systems
- Adequate use of RIS
- Analysis of SSH publication patterns

SSH Research Evaluation

Questions for discussion

- What is the relation between impact and quality?
  - What about topics not yet known to be important?
  - Do we really know what has an impact in the future?
- How to evaluate without presupposing a hierarchy of languages and publication formats?
- How to cover the publication patterns of the SSH more comprehensively in bibliographic data sources?

Thank you for your attention!

ENRESSH

- www.enressh.eu

Speakers

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