



COST ACTION CA15137

1st Stakeholders' Meeting, Prague, 19th of January 2017

European Network for
Research Evaluation in
the SSH

Creating a network: from EvalHum to ENRESSH

- At the beginning of ENRESSH, the EvalHum Initiative
 - A summer discussion over a beer.
 - A stolen computer.
 - A Breton crêperie.

SSH position and SSH evaluation are complex issues, creating a considerable amount of incomprehension and tension, but solutions exist or can be imagined.

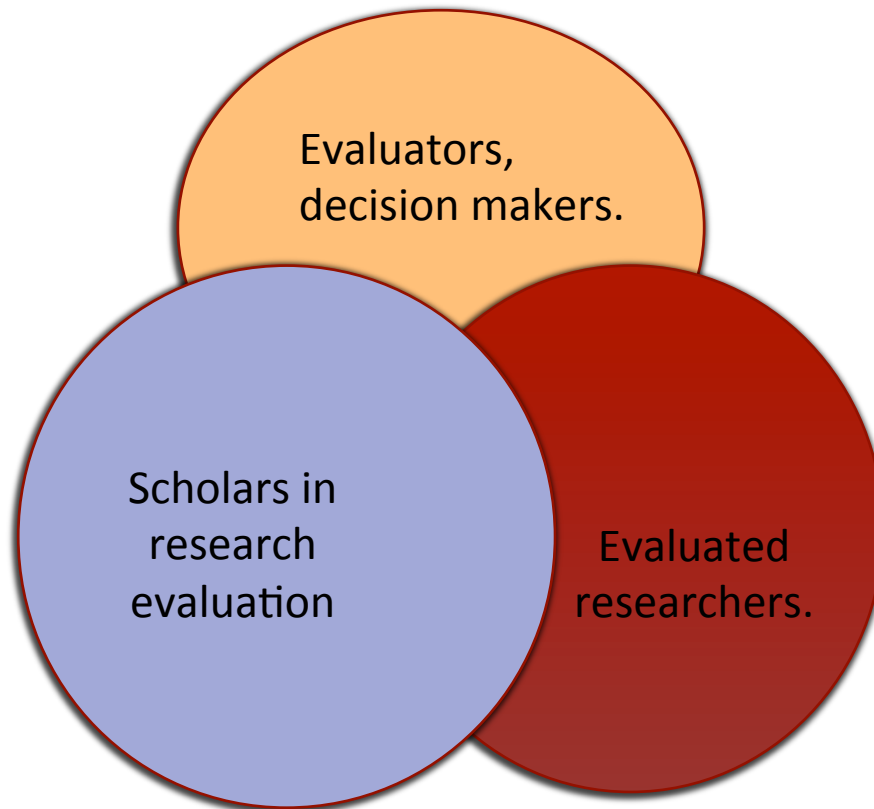
Creating a network: from EvalHum to
ENRESSH

EVALHUM

Working for the SSH

Creating a network: from EvalHum to ENRESSH

Different goals, but not different worlds.



Creating a network: From EvalHum to ENRESSH

➤ EvalHum Initiative

- Creating a community of evaluators and stakeholders.
- www.evalhum.eu

➤ RESSH Conferences

- Bringing researchers together.

➤ ENRESSH

- Widening the net.

Objectives and deliverables of ENRESSH

➤ Three observed needs:

- to improve evaluation procedures for the SSH;
- to make a robust case for the way the SSH add value to the society;
- to help SSH scholars better appropriate their research agenda and overcome fragmentation.

Objectives and deliverables

➤ Research coordination objectives:

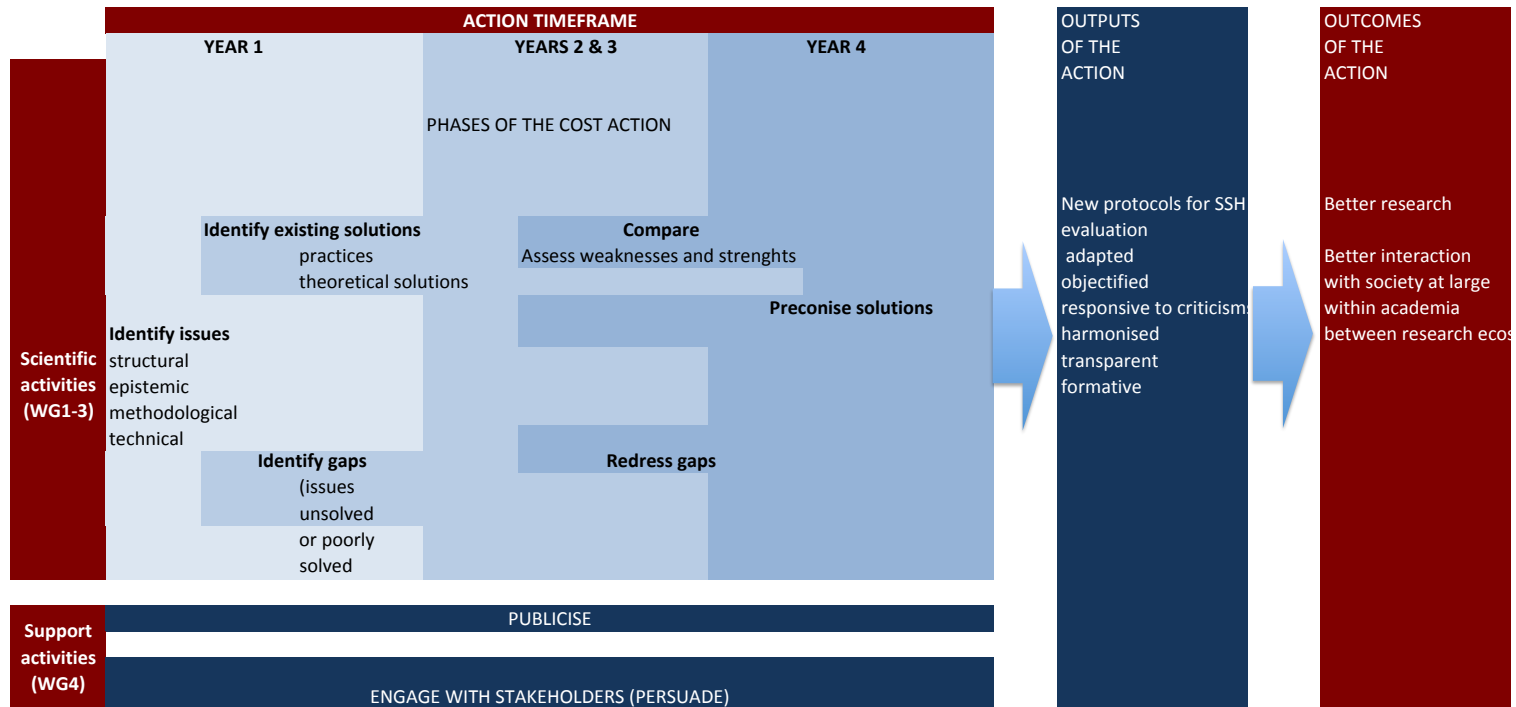
- to improve the understanding of how SSH fields generate knowledge;
- to upscale research conducted in local, national or bi-national contexts;
- to observe what kind of scientific and societal interactions characterize SSH;
- to observe patterns of dissemination and quality representations in the SSH
- to contribute to the standardisation and the interoperability of current research information systems dedicated to the SSH research outcomes.

Objectives

➤ Capacity building objectives:

- to bring together all types of researchers whose tools and methods help in tackling problems of SSH evaluation;
- to bridge the gap between scholars in SSH research evaluation, research managers and policy makers;
- to put together a pool of specialists upon which stakeholders may call to solve questions linked to evaluation of SSH research.

ENRESSH: an overview



Scientific organisation

Work groups

WG1. Conceptual frameworks for SSH research evaluation.

WG2. Societal impact and relevance of the SSH research.

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

WG4. Dissemination.

+ transversal special interest group for early stage researchers.

Challenges of SSH research evaluation

- Shortcomings of bibliometrics, ill adapted to the SSH.
 - the tiers classification of publications channels does not apply in many SSH disciplines (Bradford's law): "no core literature in a field can be identified" (Nederhof et al., 1989)
 - poor coverage of SSH publications in major international databases (WoS, Scopus): under-coverage of books, coverage of journals biased with regards to the "language, country, publisher size and age" (Hicks, 2011)

Challenges of SSH research evaluation

➤ Problems of peer – review

General biases:

- Blind or not, prior to publication peer-review may be anti-innovative, can lead to gatekeeping.
- In small countries/ small disciplines, the pool of evaluators may not be sufficient.
- Better do it internationally, but criteria and expectations are not the same.
- It is time consuming (costs may exceed benefits).

Challenges of SSH research evaluation

Problems of peer-review

➤ Specific SSH biases

- Lack of transparency about methods and criteria, selection of reviewers, treatment of Col.
- In some cases (countries, disciplines), low degree of organisation and quality control over peer-reviews.
- Acute intra- and interdisciplinary conflicts about quality.

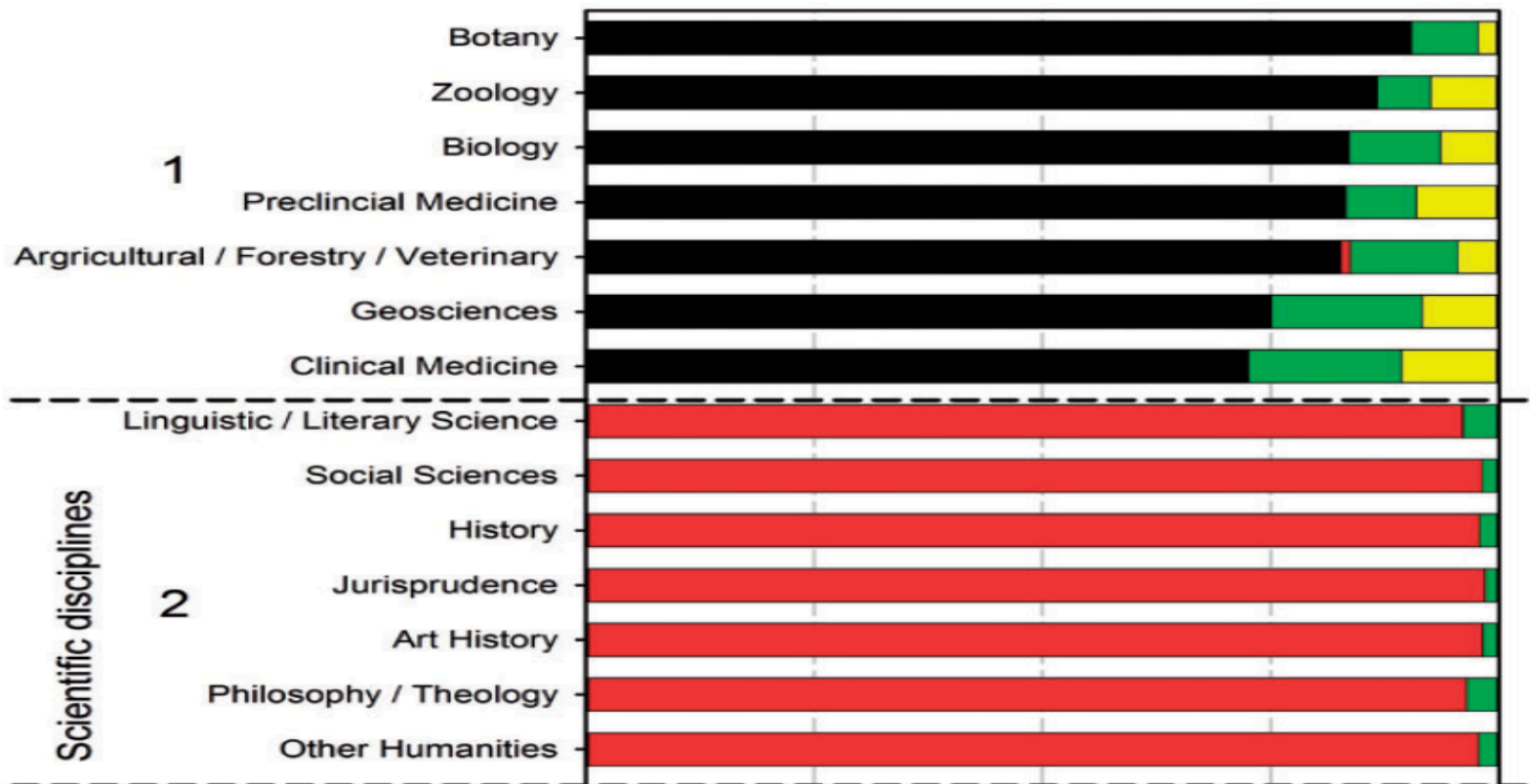
Challenges of SSH research evaluation

Diversity of the SSH

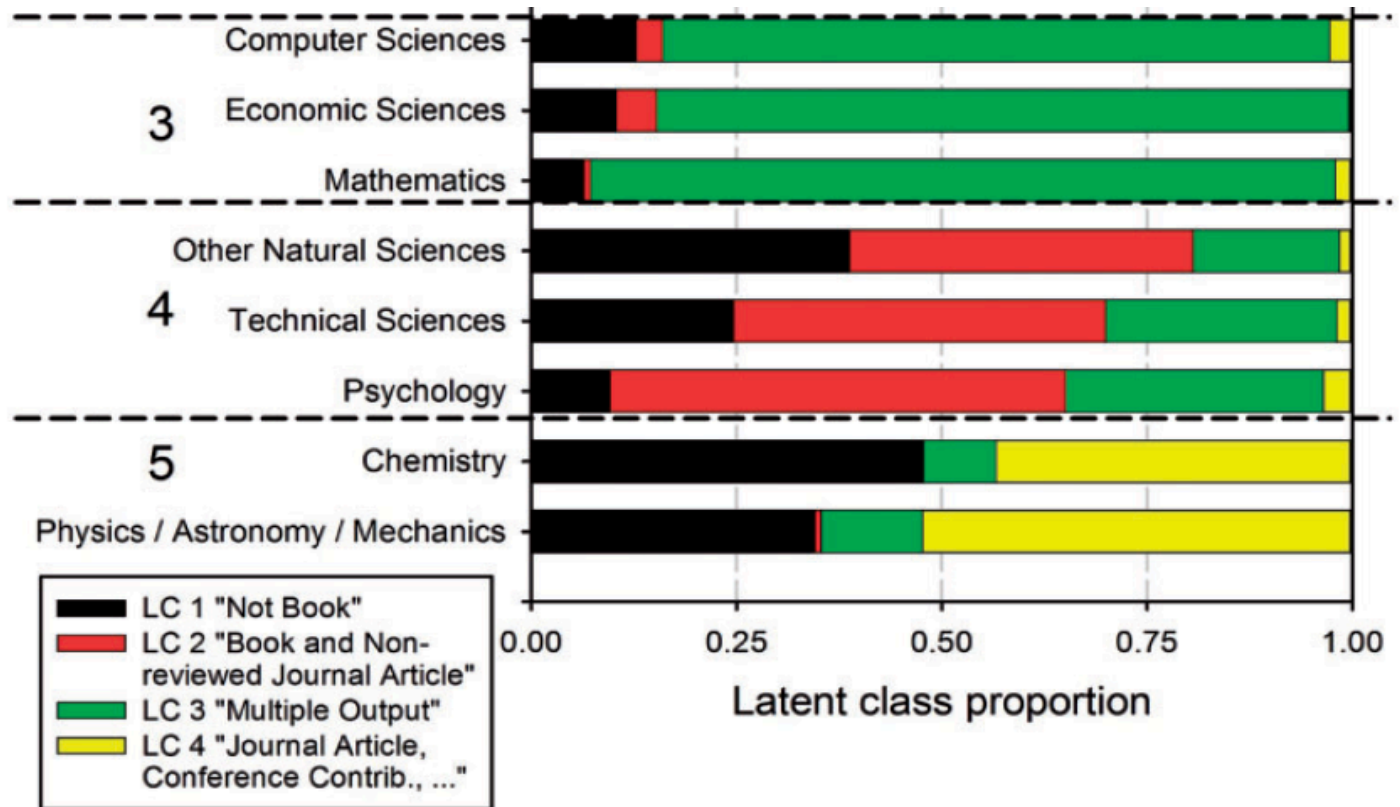
- A general umbrella for a very contrasted landscape with regards to the publishing habits and underlying representations of quality
- Traditional classification in STEM/ SSH disciplines not verified when looking at publication habits

(see Mutz et al. “Types of research output profiles: A multilevel latent class analysis of the Austrian Science Fund’s final project report data”, 2013)

Diversity of the SSH



Diversity of the SSH



Why a stakeholders' event?

- Looking at European Policy
 - EC funding streams count and every country wants some, but they can't have it alone
- Looking at National Policy
 - National contexts address national issues, but good practice is still good
- Interacting with policy makers
 - To find out what is happening elsewhere, people need to meet

The Quadruple Helix

- Open Innovation 2.0 (OI2) is a new paradigm based on a Quadruple Helix Model where government, industry, academia and civil participants work together to co-create the future and drive structural changes far beyond the scope of what any one organization or person could do alone [...].
- We talk about principles of integrated collaboration, co-created shared value, cultivated innovation ecosystems, unleashed exponential technologies, and extraordinarily rapid adoption [...].
- <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/open-innovation-20#Article>

Providing the RNA: ENRESSH

- DNA only works because RNA is making the strands interact
- ENRESSH can be the RNA
- Key goals are
 - Networking;
 - Collaboration: involving partners, competitors, universities, and users;
- But who are the partners?
- ENRESSH seeks to find who stakeholders actually are, and to then try and identify their motivations, perceptions and goals.

Disconnected strands

- Scholars: their objections against STEM geared evaluation approaches have rarely been taken seriously up until now.
- Policy makers and funders: a group which might be as heterogeneous as the SSH themselves.
- Society: even more diverse! Public organisations, NGO's, small and big industry, the public at large, valuing the SSH for very different reasons:
 - Understanding of cultural heritage;
 - Stability of democracy;
 - Source of concrete products and economic impact (not feasible for many disciplines; short term impact)

Building effective connected solutions for added value

- Effective RNA repairs:
 - Analysing the strands to find out where and how they are connecting, and where they are not.
 - Raising awareness across the board so that common ground can be found.
 - Bridge building to promote for acceptance of policy and encouraging truly innovative outcomes.
- ENRESSH is already working towards this and this stakeholder meeting is key to the improvement of SSH research evaluation.

Willing white mice and ongoing discussions

- Understanding your view on the SSH position in academia and challenges of SSH evaluation.
- Better conceptualising your needs.
- Presenting existing solutions.
- Getting feedback about SSH research evaluation in your different countries.
- Working towards a pocket version of guidelines for SSH research evaluation.

Willing white mice and ongoing discussions

- Plenary morning session
- Guest speaker:
 - Dr Erik Arnold, Technopolis Group
- Parallel working sessions
- Feedback sessions
- Feeding and coffee sessions
 - Just another word for networking!

Topics day one

- In the context of your country, how do you differentiate, if at all, an evaluation exercise so as to adapt it to SSH production and communication practices and other aspects that may differentiate the SSH?
- In the context of your country, how do you deal with acceptability issues when putting into place SSH evaluation? By acceptability, we mean how the SSH researchers themselves perceive the evaluation exercise and methods.
- In the context of your country, how do you document impact of the SSH? What definition of impact do you apply ?

Topics Day 2

- In the context of your country, how is data about SSH research production collected, standardised and used?
- In the context of your country, what is the impact of evaluation on early stage investigators, for example in terms of recruitment, promotion and career path
- In the context of your country, how do you encourage interdisciplinarity and the embedding of SSH in other programs