

COST CA15137 (ENRESSH)
Work group 2
Intermediary report 1

30 September 2016

Participants of WG2

At the time of writing, there are 42 members of the working group. Four new participants have joined the working group since the Poznan meeting.

Achievements and work in progress

The Management Committee meeting in Brussels, April 2016, approved the appointment as co-ordinator of Paul Benneworth, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS) at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. The MC also formally approved the preliminary working plan for the four year period and also the interim working plan for Year 1.

The first WG meeting (Brussels, April 2016) agreed that WG members would provide two inputs to the WG over the course of the year. The first of these was to undertake a short preliminary questionnaire to scope a common understanding of the domain area – the valorization of SSH research. This was circulated in draft form amongst WG members, responses were given, finalised and circulated in final form. A total of 23 WG members completed this questionnaire and returned them to the co-ordinators, a total of 19 questionnaires contained substantive returns and there were a total of 24,000 words of responses that formed the basis for the initial analysis.

At the Poznan meeting (July 2016), the Work Group discussed the results of initial analysis of the preliminary scoping questionnaire. This was presented to the working group by Paul Benneworth and Julia Olmos Peñuela (Assistant Professor, University of Valencia). The WG then discussed these findings and identified a number of key areas requiring inclusion in any protocol for collecting standardised information on SSH Impact. Poznan concluded by identifying 10 of these areas for standardised information, and the mandating group coordinators to develop a standardised reporting fiche. Across both WG sessions there were an average of 25 WG participants active in the meetings.

This was produced in draft form in late July 2016, and in August 2016 this was submitted to a pilot group for attempted completion and further comment. A total of five sets of comments and one completed fiche were returned by the pilot group in September 2016. In October 2016, the questionnaire was circulated to all WG members, to a number of ENRESSH participants in other WGs with specialised relevant knowledge as well as to the other WG and SIG co-ordinators.

A first call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) in the context of WG2 was launched. This STSM will take place at the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies at the University of Twente, the Netherlands and is focused on producing a systematic typology of pathways to SSH research impact in society on the basis of analysing the fiche. An early career researcher has been appointed to this STSM and will take up her position on 3rd January 2017 (until 28th February 2017).

Next steps

There will be three main activities in the remainder of Year 1. The first is that the responses to the fiches will be collected from WG participants. We have set a target of receiving 100 fiches to be submitted by at least 25 individuals. These will be collated and held centrally in CHEPS at the WG, and presented to and made available to other WG members following the end-of-year WG meeting (March 2017).

The second is that there will be an STSM (Jan-Feb 2017) to be held at CHEPS, University of Twente, the Netherlands. The STSM will work on two main areas, firstly analysing the returned preliminary questionnaires and developing a working paper as a position piece on the key issues and tensions in SSH research creating impact. The second is to analyse the case study fiches and develop a first typology of SSH impact to be presented to the end of year WG meeting.

The third is that there will be a meeting of the WG held in March 2017 (provisionally to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria). This meeting will be primarily attended by those that have completed the questionnaire and/ or MC members and will undertake two main activities. The first is that it will receive the STSM. Secondly, and using the findings from the working paper, it will discuss the transition to year 2, gathering information on national policy contexts for stimulating SSH research impact.