

Title of the report/ deliverable: Intermediary report 3

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WG to which the report/ deliverable is related: WG2

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Executive summary

In this grant period activity has focused on the consolidating the GP1 work (identifying common definitions of SSH Impact & developing a typology of SSH Impact) and identify the avenues of future work for the WG in GP3-4. Activity undertaken within the WG includes:

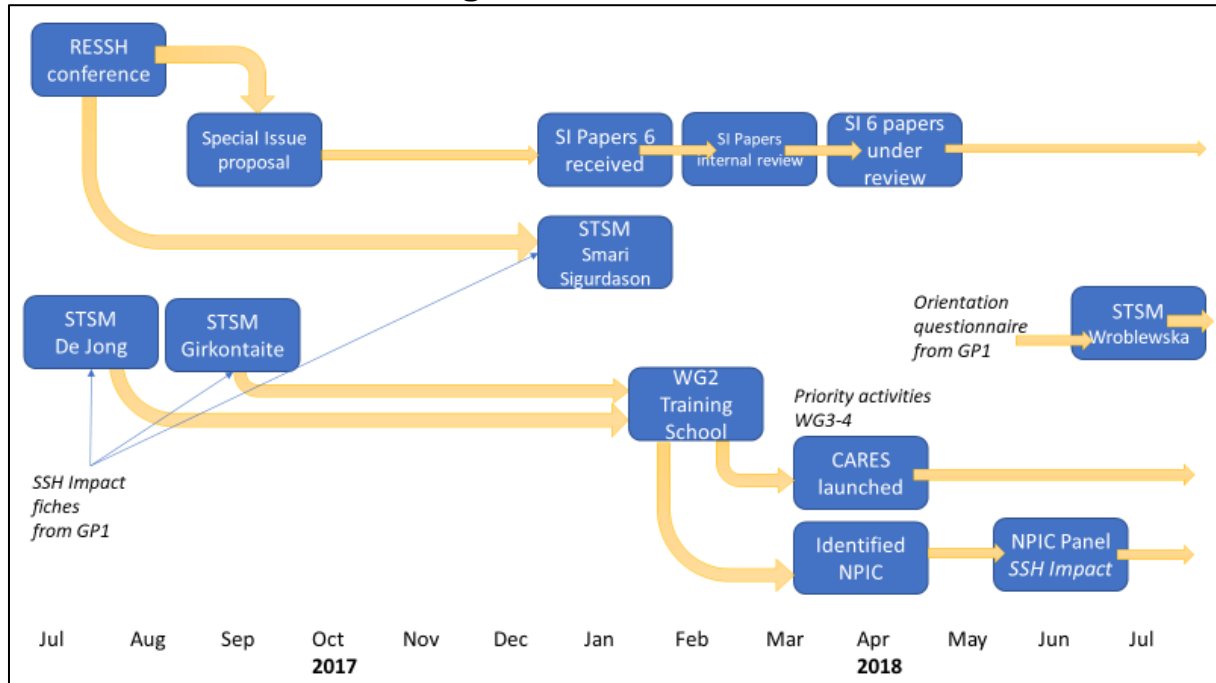
- WG2 sessions at ENRESSH meetings (Antwerp, July 2017; Lisbon, April 2018)
- WG2 participation at the Book Evaluation session in Helsinki (Nov 2017)
- A special session on evaluating the societal impact of SSH research
- A Special Issue of Research Evaluation on evaluating the societal impact of SSH research
- 3 STSMs completed with a fourth approved to begin at the start of following Grant Period
- The Winter Training School on Evaluating SSH Impact in Croatia (12-15 February 2018).
- The launch of the “Careers and Research Evaluation Systems for societal impact” initiative (CARES), jointly with SIG Early Career Investigators
- Development of a panel session on Evaluating SSH Research Impact in Societal Context, for the Austrian EU Presidency SSH Impact Conference, 29-30 November 2018.

The work identified two priority areas for GP2

- Creating future impactful SSH research careers
- Understanding SSH research impact in non-paradigmatic impact contexts (NPIC).

The activities in GP2 have extended the activities in GP1 and have created a solid and expanding activity base that gives confidence that momentum will be continued into GP3.

Workflow of WG2 in GP2 linking WG1 to WG3-4.



RESSH Special Session (06.07.2017)

A special session was held within the Research Evaluation in Social Sciences and the Humanities conference (6-7 July 2017, Antwerp, Belgium), entitled Societal Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities. Five papers were presented at this special session:

- Nelius Boshoff and Mpho Sefatsa Creating impact through ‘productive interactions’: An example from South African research on maritime piracy
- Eiríkur Smári Sigurðarson Drowning by Numbers: Evaluating Social Capacities
- David Budtz Pedersen, Jonas Grønvad and Rolf Hvidtfeldt Mapping the societal impact of SSH – a literature review
- Gunnar Sivertsen & Ingebord Meijer Frameworks for understanding the societal relevance of the humanities
- Paul Benneworth, Julia Olmos-Peñuela and Reetta Muhonen Towards a common understanding on the societal impact of SSH research

Special Issue of *Research Evaluation*.

Arising from the special session of WG2 in the RESSH conference, Jack Spaapen and Gunnar Sivertsen arranged with the journal *Research Evaluation* for the production of a special issue on “Evaluating the impact of SSH research”. All five of the participants in the RESSH Session submitted a paper as well as one additional paper which came out of the STSM held immediately after the RESSH conference..

- Stefan P.L. de Jong & Reetta Muhonen, Who benefits from ex ante societal impact evaluation in the European funding arena? A cross-country comparison of societal impact capacity in the social sciences and humanities. Completed, ready to publish

STSMs

Three STSMs were held for WG2 in this period

Stefan de Jong (22.07.2017-19.08.2017; hosted Reetta Muhonen: paper published in RE SI)

This STSM used the fiches gathered in GP1 as the basis for an analysis of whether there were structural differences in approaches to impact. An afternoon was devoted at the Antwerp WG meeting to identifying potential structural differences in SSH Impact generation, including national, disciplinary, by gender, by career stage, by level of experience & training; this formed the basis for the STSM; the most significant finding was identifying a structural national split in impact, between highly-performing countries, where impact was dense, multidisciplinary and . A version of the final report was presented at the WG2 Training School in Zagreb (see below)

Agne Girkontaite (17.08.2017-23.09-2017)v

(With Reetta Muhonen & Paul Benneworth, remotely: Working paper published and being finalised for journal submission).

The focus of this STSM was in seeking to create a conceptual framework for understanding why SSH researchers might be resistant to creating social impact from their research, specifically asking whether it was a result of structural incompatibilities between academic environments and the societal environments where that research might be used. The STSM resulted in a literature review and the construction of a conceptual model to set out the problem, and identifying that the key to solving the problem was in making interaction with societal users a more intrinsic component of academic formation processes. A version of the final report was presented at the WG2 Training School in Zagreb (see below) and a working paper was prepared and released at the start of GP3.

Eirikur Smari Sigurdarson

(With Elena Castro Martínez & Paul Benneworth, remotely, 28.01.2018-14.02.2018, Valencia, Spain).

This STSM took the paper presented at RESSH and augmented that with data gathered from fiches gathered in GP2. Those fiches were analysed specifically to the humanities, to explore the ways in which they were developing societal capacities. Societal capacities were conceptualised in terms of hermeneutic and testimonial justice, in cases of social injustice, the way that research can both make victims of those injustices aware of those injustice and help to give them a voice in societal

decision-making. A version of this paper was submitted to the *Research Evaluation* special issue.

Marta Wroblewska

Marta participated in RESSH 2017 and gave a paper on the effects of the REF2014 in the UK on structuring impact identities amongst academics. She was invited to participate in the Training School, and resulting from discussions at the training school, recruited for STSM continuing the work done in GP1 on identifying the ways that SSH Impact was structuring into a field of expertise. This STSM was approved by the Steering Committee in GP2 and will be carried out in GP3, to produce a working paper and journal article in GP4.

Training School Feb 2018

A training school was held in February 2018 in Zagreb entitled Understanding and stimulating SSH impact and engagement with society. The 6 trainers for this were Leonie van Drooge, Judith Bar-Ilan, Paul Benneworth, Jack Spaapen, Reetta Muhonen & Jon Holm. There were 30 participants drawn from across Europe and one participant from South Africa. The focus of the TS was a think-tank reflecting on the conceptual, policy and practical implications of the evaluation of SSH impact; each day included a mix of keynote lectures, practical group exercises and discussion seminars. The School also included a public engagement event, the “Social Science Slam”, hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Education. One of the practical exercises has been turned into a working paper by four authors, and was submitted to the SSH Impact conference (Vienna, 2018). As well as including contributions from three WG2 STSMS (Muhonen, Girkontaite & De Jong), a presentation was also given based on a RESSH 2017 presentation from Wroblewska. This presentation and subsequent discussions led to the creation of the STSM 3-2-1, analysis of orientations of SSH researchers towards impact generation.

Launch of the “Careers and Research Evaluation Systems for societal impact” initiative

One of the main findings emerging from the Training School was the identification of the tensions that the evaluation of impact in SSH research created for early career researchers. A team of trainers and participants (Muhonen, Benneworth, Lendak-Kabok, Faria) proposed to undertake a study amongst WG2 participants of the nature of these impacts. In WG2, a work plan was developed to gather data by launching a questionnaire, to analyse that via 2-3 STSMs (in GP3), and present it at the RESSH Valencia conference (GP4). During GP2, a questionnaire was developed, and will be presented to the WG meeting in Ljubljana (July 2018, GP3).

Planning involvement in Austria SSH Impact conference

WG2 were invited by the organisers of the SSH Impact conference to organise a Roundtable concerning evaluating the societal impact of research. The proposal “Building strong knowledge exchange ecosystems to stimulate SSH valorization: Reflecting the value of diversity of European SSH impact contexts” reflecting the findings emerging in GP1 and also the discussions in the Think Tank within the



Training School, in particular the need to avoid one-size-fits-all approaches to research evaluation and to take properly into account different national impact environments. Paul Benneworth & Jack Spaapen also participated in the Scientific Committee of the conference on behalf of ENRESSH.