



Message from ENRESSH to early career investigators

Marc VANHOLSBEECK, PhD

with the help of Jolanta SINKUNIENE, PhD, ENRESSH SIG Chair

Seminar 'Current challenges in the evaluation of social sciences and humanities'
Université Saint-Louis, Brussels, April 30th 2019

Tasks and Deliverables

Interviews and questionnaires with ECIs (PhD + 8) around Europe about evaluation and impact of SSH

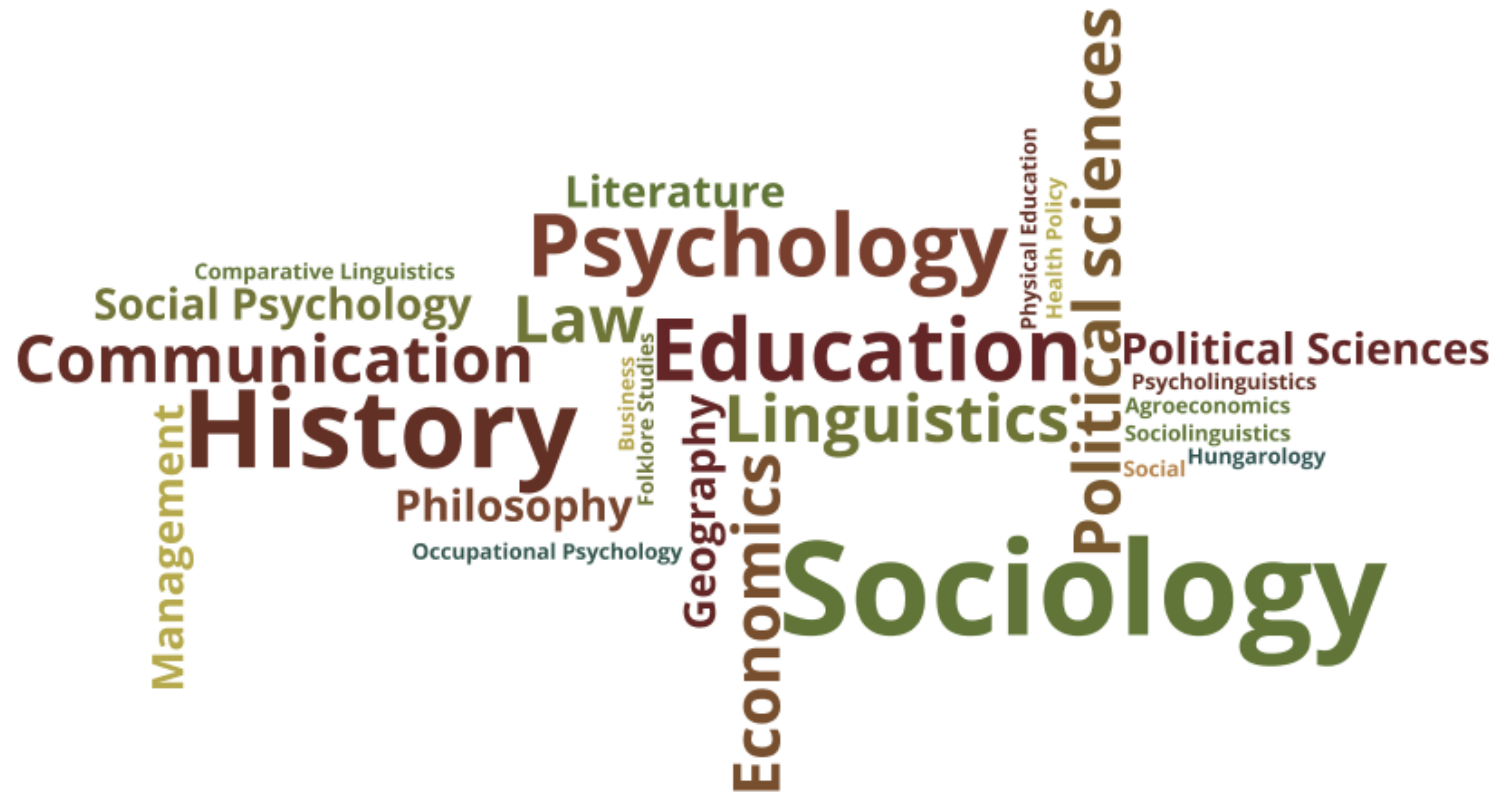
- (1) to generate ideas for 3 **training schools** organized within the Action;
- (2) to prepare a **manual** with helpful ideas for the future ECIs in SSH, to draw the attention of evaluators and stakeholders to ECI position and problematic issues related to research evaluation in SSH;
- (3) to publish **article(s)** on the topic of SSH ECIs' challenges concerning evaluation.

Interviews (1)

- **59** interviews in **16 countries**



Interviews (2)



Questionnaire

- **Respondents:** ECIs from various disciplines in SSH;
- **Geography to be covered:** all COST Action countries;
- 130-150 respondents per country;

- Seven **main topics**, namely: Sociodemographic information, PhD period, Career development, Funding, Publication strategy, Peer review and Societal impact.

Training school (1)

- 3 training schools
- Vilnius training school:
 - 7-11.01.2019
 - 29 participants from 14 countries
 - 24 disciplines
 - 15 men - 21 women

Training school (2)

« It was a pleasure not only for the knowledge also for the networking. »

« It has enabled me to broaden my knowledge about different evaluation systems and standards that I will certainly need to adhere to in the near future. »

« The parts related to bibliometrics and peer review were absolutely enlightening. »

Research articles planned

4 focus groups covering interview material:

- (1) Gender & geopolitical perspective on evaluation
- (2) Organisational vs individual perception of quality
- (3) Information channels in early career building
- (4) Identities, audit cultures & societal impact

Work in progress on Early Career Building Information Ecosystems

- Subgroup of the SIG: Marc Vanholsbeeck, Jolanta Sinkuniene, Karolina Lendák-Kabók and Haris Gekić
- Based on a corpus of 53 interviews in 14 European countries
- Information Ecosystems as perceived by ECIs to build a career and deal with evaluation processes
- Information Ecosystem model by Susman-Peña et al. 2015
 - Attention to communication channels (human and non-human), context, perception and experience of information users

Not yet published!
(Don't quote without authors' authorization)²

Some preliminary results

- Information needs about how to publish successfully, in particular in the context of the first publication (article or monograph);
- Mostly informal learning of what makes a quality publication (epistemic contents and choice of journal);
- General lack of institutionalized/formal professional training;
- PhD director is not always perceived as providing satisfying information, both at an epistemic and relational level;
- Support of “likeminded colleagues” at institutional, national and international level;
- Evaluation and peer review reports as important sources of information (if constructive).

Not yet published!
(Don't quote without authors' authorization)

Recommendations and guidelines (1)

- (to ECIs) Take into consideration – and the sooner the better – that academic careers imply the production and dissemination of excellent research but also the building and maintenance of interpersonal networks involving relevant actors in your field.
- (to PhD Directors) Keep abreast of the latest pedagogical development in PhD mentorship and inform yourself about the academic and non-academic perspectives for PhD holders in your field.

Recommendations and guidelines (2)

- (Peer reviewers) Be aware that article peer reviews and feedbacks from grant peer review are deemed by ECIs as important sources of information. Hence it is important to provide feedbacks also to those who did not receive the grant.
- (Policy Makers and funders) Provide sustainable funding for the organisation of training schools, training sessions and workshops in matters that relate to career building in – but also outside of – academia.