

The goal of this Work Group is to further knowledge on research and dissemination practices as well as knowledge creation in the SSH as a basis for the development of evaluation practices adequate to SSH disciplines.

### **Achievements and work in progress**

As a first step, the Work Group collects current evaluation practices and creates an overview of evaluation procedures of SSH research. First preparations for this work started before the Kick-Off meeting of the Action in April. The leader of the Work Group, Michael Ochsner, developed a questionnaire to collect information of the participant countries' evaluation procedures in collaboration with a small dedicated group consisting of members of the Steering Group and co-proposers. The members of the Management Committee were asked to fill in the questionnaire before the Kick-Off meeting in order to get a first idea of what evaluations look like and whether the existing typologies fit the situation in the participating countries as well as to have a starting point for discussion.

The questionnaire received an adequate response rate and the results revealed that the existing typologies (Coryn et al., 2007; Hicks, 2010; 2012; Martin & Geuna, 2001;2003; von Tunzelmann & Mbula, 1999) do not suffice to adequately describe SSH evaluation procedures in the participating countries. Furthermore, the results showed also that there was variance between the answers within a country, meaning that either the situation is not clear-cut and that common definitions have to be worked out within the Work Group.

At the Kick-Off Meeting in Brussels on 8 April 2016, those members of the management committee that take part in Work Group 1 met and built sub-groups for the preparation of the first Work Group Meeting, in which were discussed how to conceptualise the bibliography, how to adapt the survey on research practices and to prepare an overview of research projects in the member countries.

Besides the work in the sub-groups, Michael Ochsner studied the bottom-up evaluation practices in the SSH in Europe and wrote and submit an article on this topic in collaboration with the chair of the Action, Ioana Galleron, and Sven E. Hug for a special issue on research evaluation of an open access journal.

At the first Work Group meeting in Poznan on 11. and 12. July, two sessions were held. The first session was organised together with Work Group 3 "Databases and uses of data for understanding SSH research" and focused on the research evaluation practices in the participants' countries. It was organised as a round table, where each person had 5 minutes to introduce him or herself and the countries' evaluation practice(s). It was concluded that there were many different practices in the countries ranging from no national coordination and different evaluation practices across disciplines at the same university (e.g. Switzerland) to a national point system being applied to all disciplines in almost the same way (e.g. Poland). However, some clusters of countries applying a

similar system were identified (e.g. Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland; Switzerland, Germany, Austria). The second session was devoted to organisational issues and the plan for the first grant period. Six sub-groups were built to organise WG1 work: 1) Legal and policy frameworks, 2) Overview of evaluation practices, 3) Methods of peer review, 4) Scholars' notions of quality and impact, 5) SSH scholars' attitudes towards and behaviour regarding evaluation and 6) Bibliography. It was later decided to create a transversal sub-group that focuses on gender issues within the sub-groups. The sub-groups met at the end of the session and discussed the planning and organisation of their work.

A call for STSM for the Work Group 1 was issued and distributed that focuses on the scholars' perception of research quality.

On 15. September 2016, Michael Ochsner presented the motivations, aims and the work in Work Group 1 in a session dedicated to the COST-Action at the conference "Science and Technology Indicators (STI)" in València, Spain. The session was jointly organised by Jack Spaapen, Gunnar Sivertsen, Michael Ochsner, Julia Melker, Tim Engels and Thed van Leeuwen.

## **Participants**

Until 30 September, the Work Group 1 is still growing with new members joining constantly as the COST-Action grows. The new members are asked to choose one of the sub-groups and to work within the sub-groups.

## **Next steps**

- receive workplans from each subgroup;
- prepare the presentation for the Open Evaluation conference in Vienna, as well as a scientific paper to be submitted to Research Evaluation;
- prepare the participation in the SSH stakeholder's conference;
- prepare the first version of the bibliography (in cooperation with WG4);
- contribute to the who's who list and expand the understanding of the various evaluation systems in Europe.