

Participants of WG3

At the moment, there are 33 participants involved in WG3 from 21 different countries. For 20 participants, WG3 is their main work group, meaning that they intend to focus the majority of their efforts in the COST action there.

Since the Poznan meeting, five new participants have joined the working group.

Achievements and work in progress

At the Poznan meeting, there were presentations about SSH databases and repositories in (in total) 12 European countries. This formed the first step towards a more systematic approach of getting an overview of databases of SSH research output across Europe. It was decided that a thorough overview of existing databases would be created. A 'database fact sheet' (a survey) was created as the product of an intensive collaborative effort by (in alphabetical order) Tim Engels, Raf Guns, Sven Hug, Jorge Mañana Rodríguez, Linda Sile, and Gunnar Sivertsen. The survey consists of two main parts: a part about the general context and a part specific to national databases. It was sent out to representatives of all 36 countries included in the COST action. The goal is to have most filled out fact sheets by the end of October, such that an overview can be made then. There are currently 9 completed fact sheets with 14 more on the way. The results will form the input to a policy brief and a research paper giving an overview of the European landscape of SSH research outcome databases. Furthermore, the survey also includes questions that will enable a study on the context and proposed uses of national publication databases and local repositories.

A first call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) in the context of WG3 has been launched. This STSM will take place at the Centre for R&D Monitoring (ECOOM) at the University of Antwerp, Belgium and is focused on comparing national and regional databases of social sciences and humanities research outcomes.

Next steps

After the database fact sheets have been completed, the results will be made available publicly, possibly in the form of an interactive website. Parallel to that, a research paper will be written on the results.

As explained above, the fact sheets will also provide the first input to a study coordinated by Sven Hug, on the context and proposed uses of databases. This way evidence can be found for intended as well as unintended effects of such databases.

An extension of the article 'Taking scholarly books into account' (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11192-016-1886-5>) to other countries will be written. This new paper will be structured by questions like 'What types of book publications are taken into account? How are publishers considered? What criteria are used per book or per chapter? What is the role of book series?' etc. This effort will be coordinated by Elea Giménez Toledo and Jorge Mañana Rodríguez.

Another initiative is a planned extension of the 2005-2009 comparison of the evolution of publication patterns in Flanders and Norway to 2005-2014, with among other things an analysis of (de)concentration as a measure of internationalization.