

European Network for Research Evaluation
in the Social Sciences and Humanities



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The Diversity of Research Evaluation Systems

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Background and Outline

- **Background:** Evaluation is organised on national level. Not much is known except for lay knowledge on bibliometrics that is not always used.
- **Existing Typologies:** based on a few countries (where information on evaluation is easily available) and not focusing on SSH disciplines
- **Goal:** Identify evaluation approaches across Europe
- **Design:** Iterative, Delphi-like approach
- **Outline:**
 - method/design
 - descriptive results, classification
 - What is research evaluation in Europe?

What is a National Research Evaluation System?

- **Not that clear:** Evaluation happens in many situations at many places.
- **Evaluation situations:** Reading, citing, qualification works, jobs, appointments to professorships, manuscripts, evaluation of research proposals, institutional evaluation on university level, institutional evaluation on national level, prizes...
- **Agencies:** Scientific committees, institutions, national agencies, private funders, evaluation agencies (businesses)
- **Definition:** A national research evaluation system is the **particular combination and organisation** of evaluation practices in place that affect the researchers in doing research in their country and sets their context of accountability/evaluation.

Study on National Research Evaluation Systems

- **Decision for study:** Institutional evaluation, national career promotion, main national project funder
- **Focus:** Institutional evaluation
- **Not included:** Manuscripts, conferences, prizes, qualification on institutional level, job and professorship appointments, private funders, project funders other than the main national funder

Method and Design

- Step 1: Create initial dimensions for typology
 - Based on existing typologies (Coryn et al., 2007; Hicks, 2010; 2012; Martin & Geuna, 2001; 2003; von Tunzelmann & Mbula, 2003)
 - Expanded by members of Steering Committee of ENRESSH
- Step 2: Survey of MC-members of ENRESSH
 - 43 people from 23 countries
 - New suggestions
- Step 3: New questionnaire incl. new dimensions
- Step 4: **Survey 2 of ENRESSH members**
- Step 5: Qualitative studies to further investigate ideal types

Response Survey 2

- Sample: 132 individuals from 38 countries
- Response Rate individuals: 55%
- Response Rate countries: 87%
- Excluded: BE due to two regions, LU: partial answers
 - Effective response rates: 52%, 84%
- Participants
 - 68 individuals from 32 countries
 - 16 countries with only one individual

Dimensions for Classification

➤ Typology

➤ 3 Dimensions:

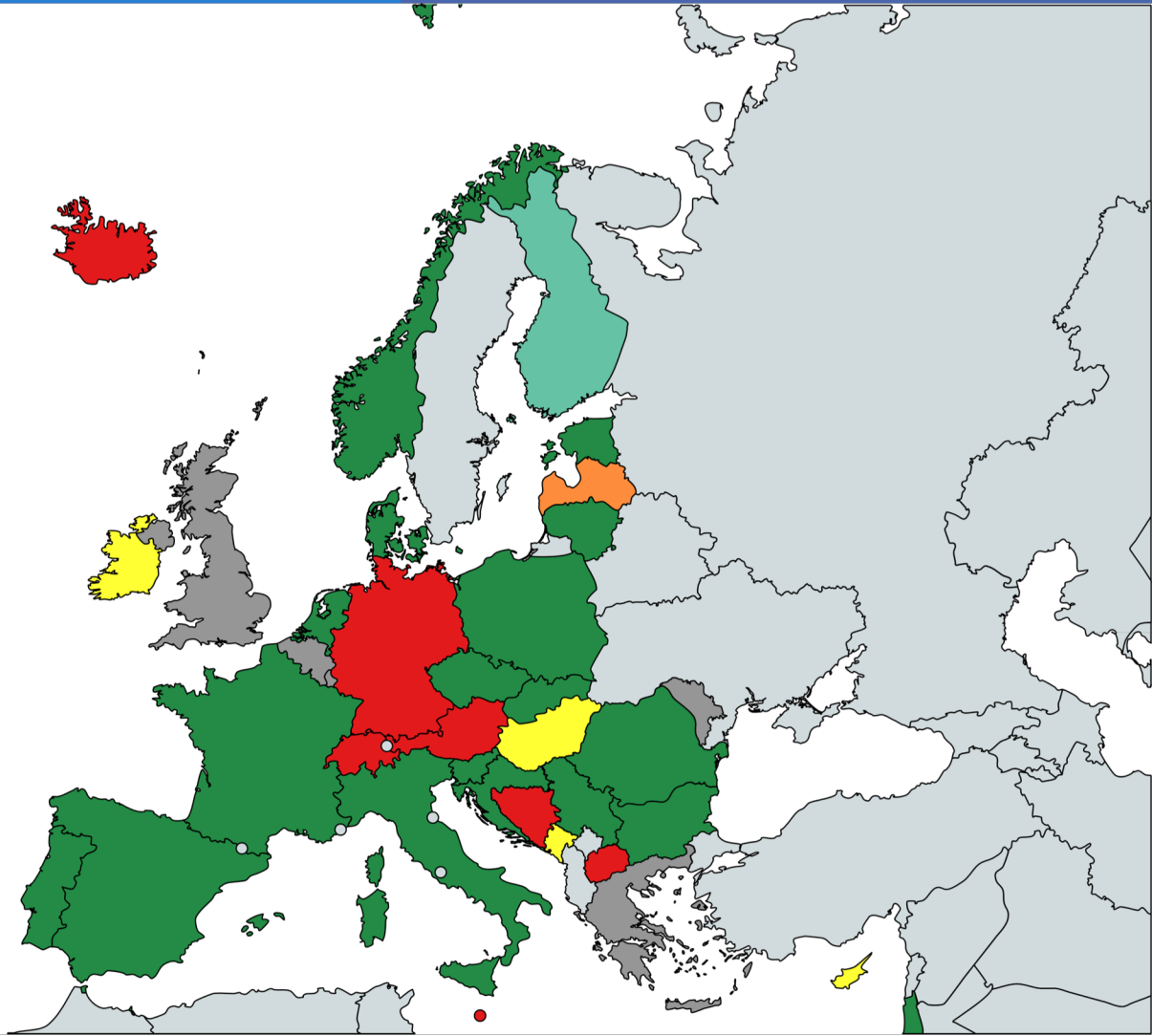
- Institutional Evaluation
- National Career Promotion
- Grant Evaluation

➤ 11 Aspects (Institutional Evaluation)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ Level of the evaluation protocol | ➤ Method |
| ➤ Differentiation | ➤ Language |
| ➤ Who is evaluating | ➤ Gender |
| ➤ Object of evaluation | ➤ Timeline |
| ➤ Funding | ➤ Transparency |
| | ➤ Costs |

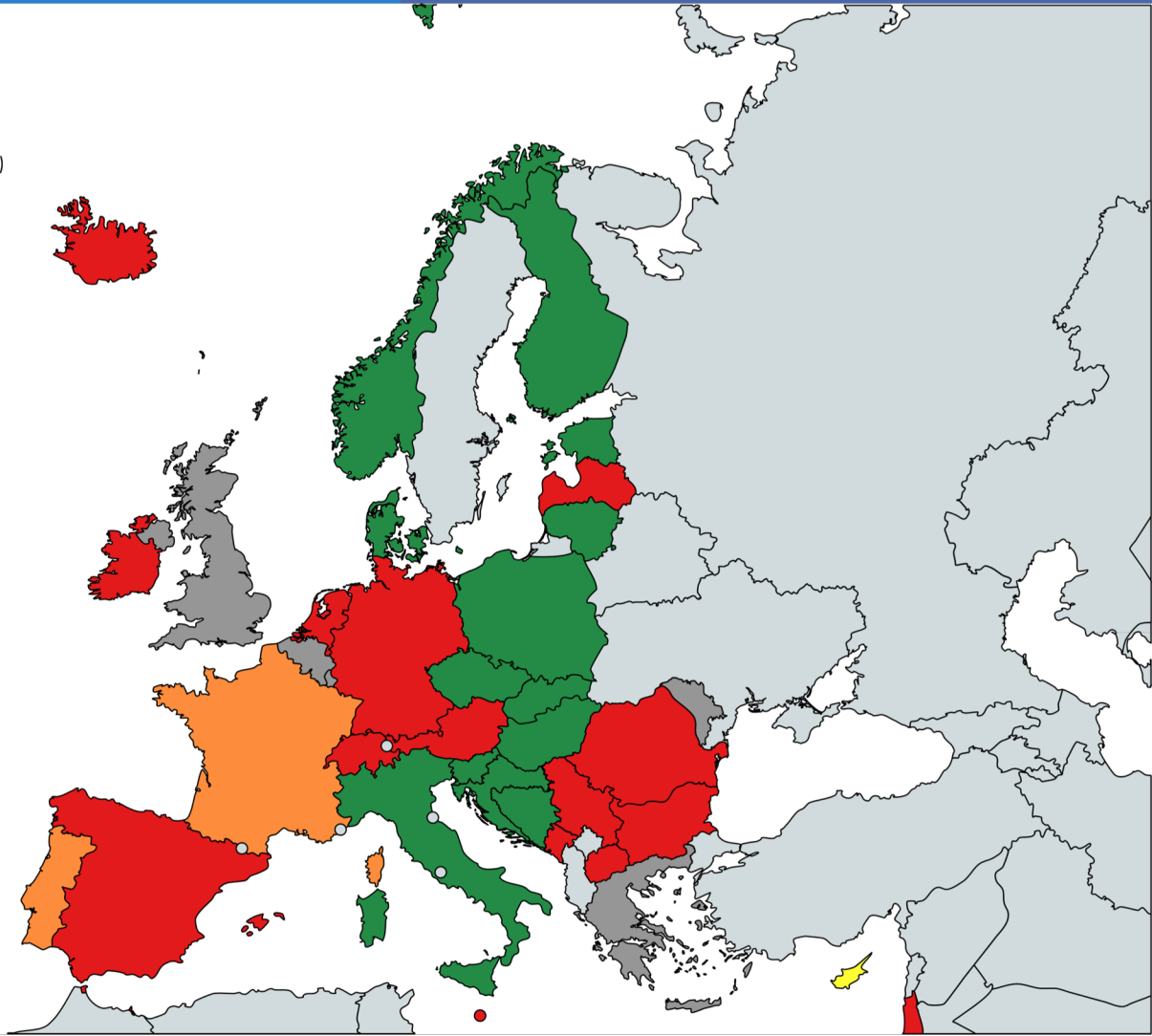
Results: Institutional Evaluation National Evaluation Procedure

- National Evaluation
- National Evaluation (rather)
- Undecided
- No National Evaluation (rather)
- No National Evaluation
- No Data



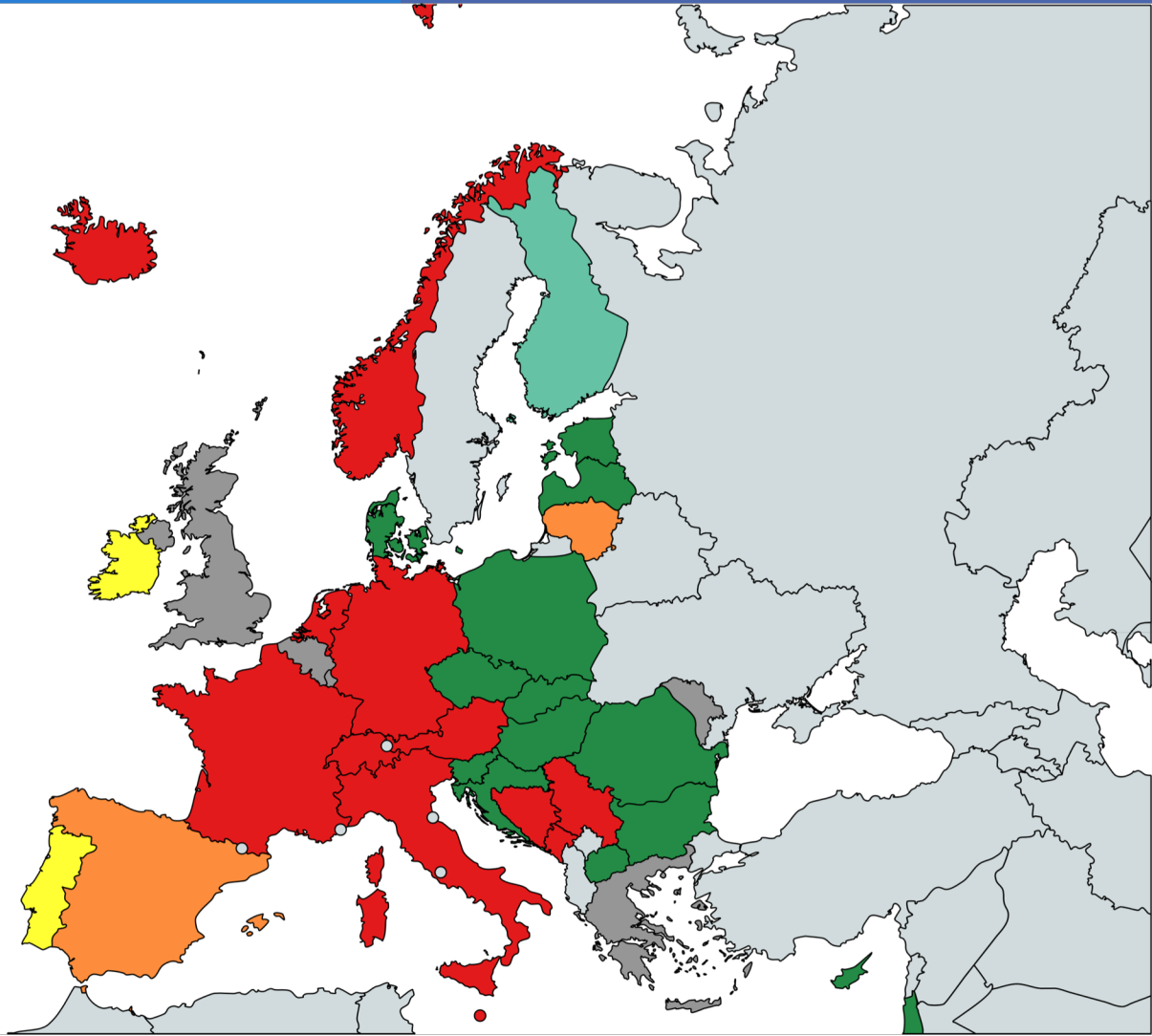
Results: Institutional Evaluation National Database

- National Database
- Undecided
- No National Database (rather)
- No National Database
- No Data



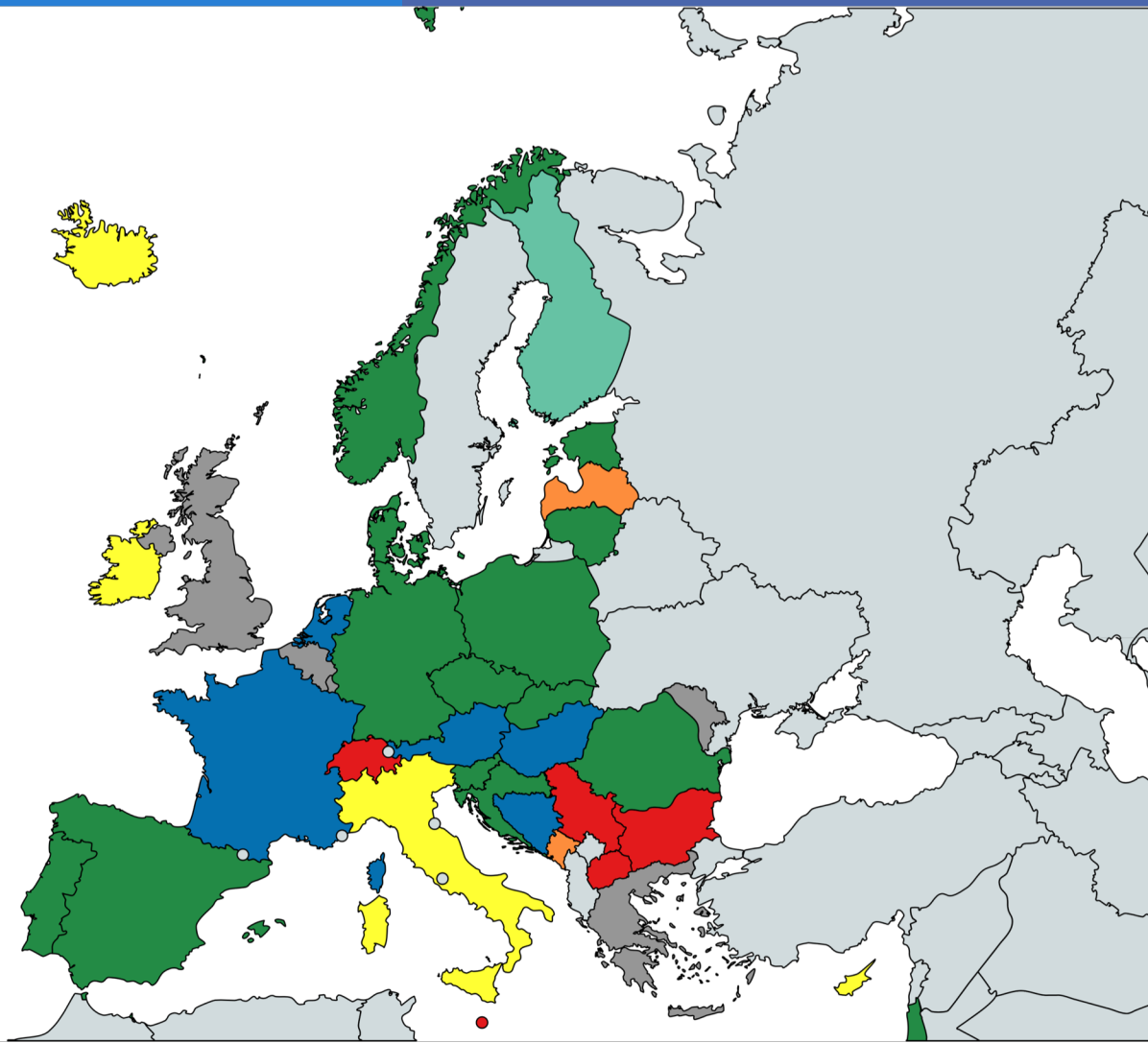
Results: Institutional Evaluation Principal Method

- Metrics
- Metrics (rather)
- Undecided
- Peer Review (rather)
- Peer Review
- No Data



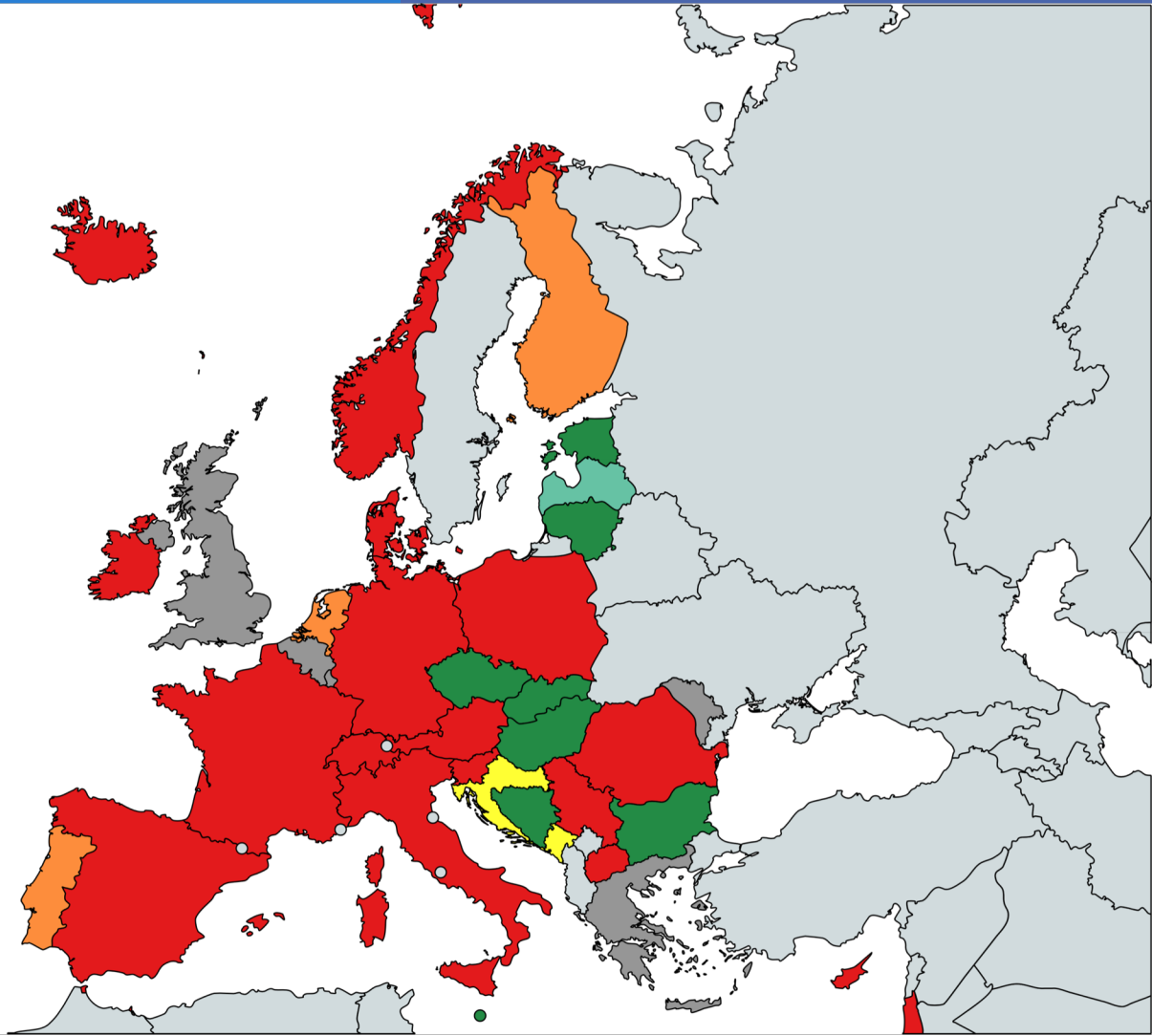
Results: Institutional Evaluation Evaluation link to Funding

- Performance based funding
- Performance based funding (rather)
- Undecided
- Evaluation not linked to funding (rather)
- Evaluation not linked to funding
- Officially not, but evaluation is used for funding
- No Data



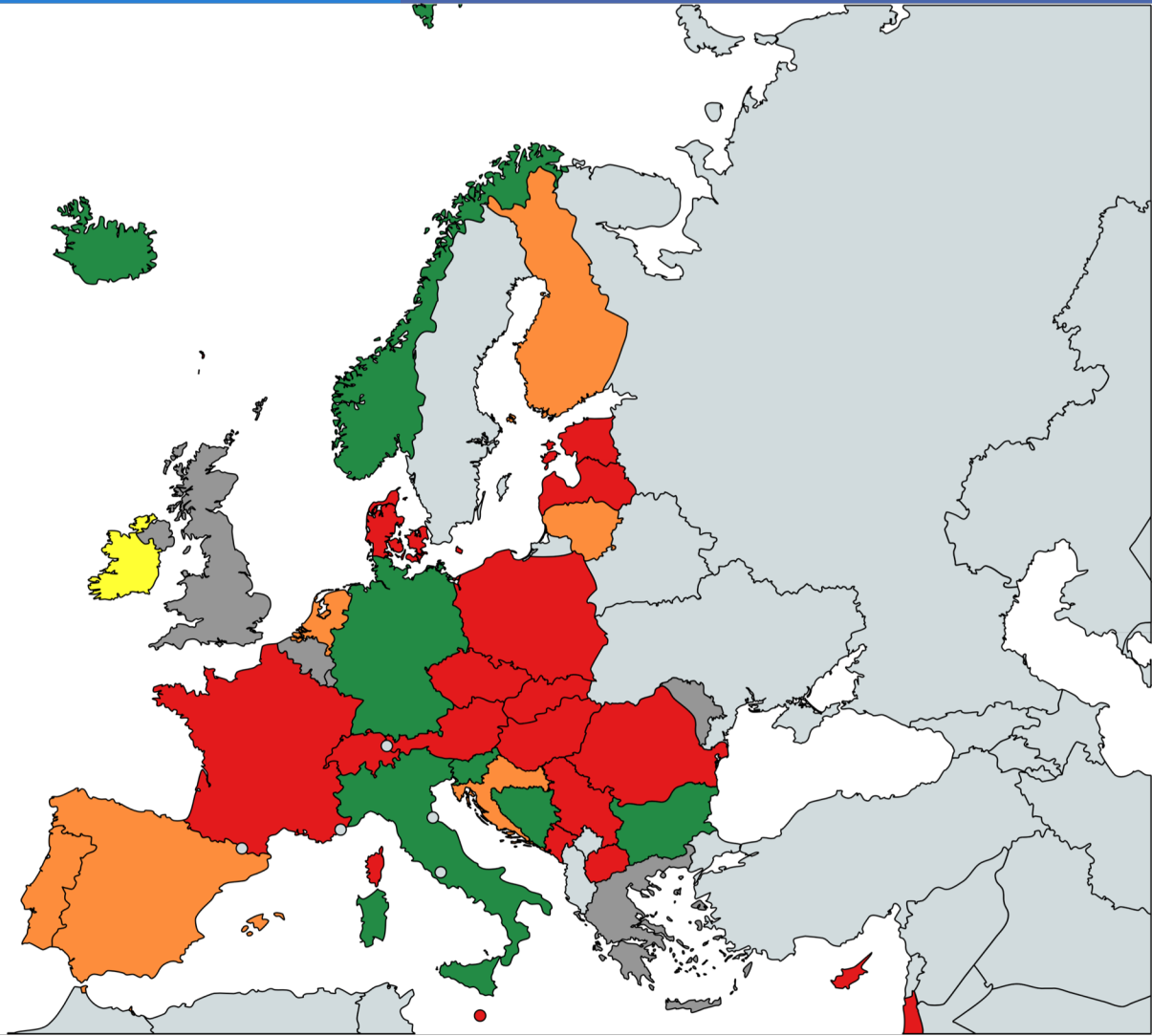
Results: Institutional Evaluation Push for English

- English push
- English push (rather)
- Undecided
- No English push (rather)
- No English push
- No Data



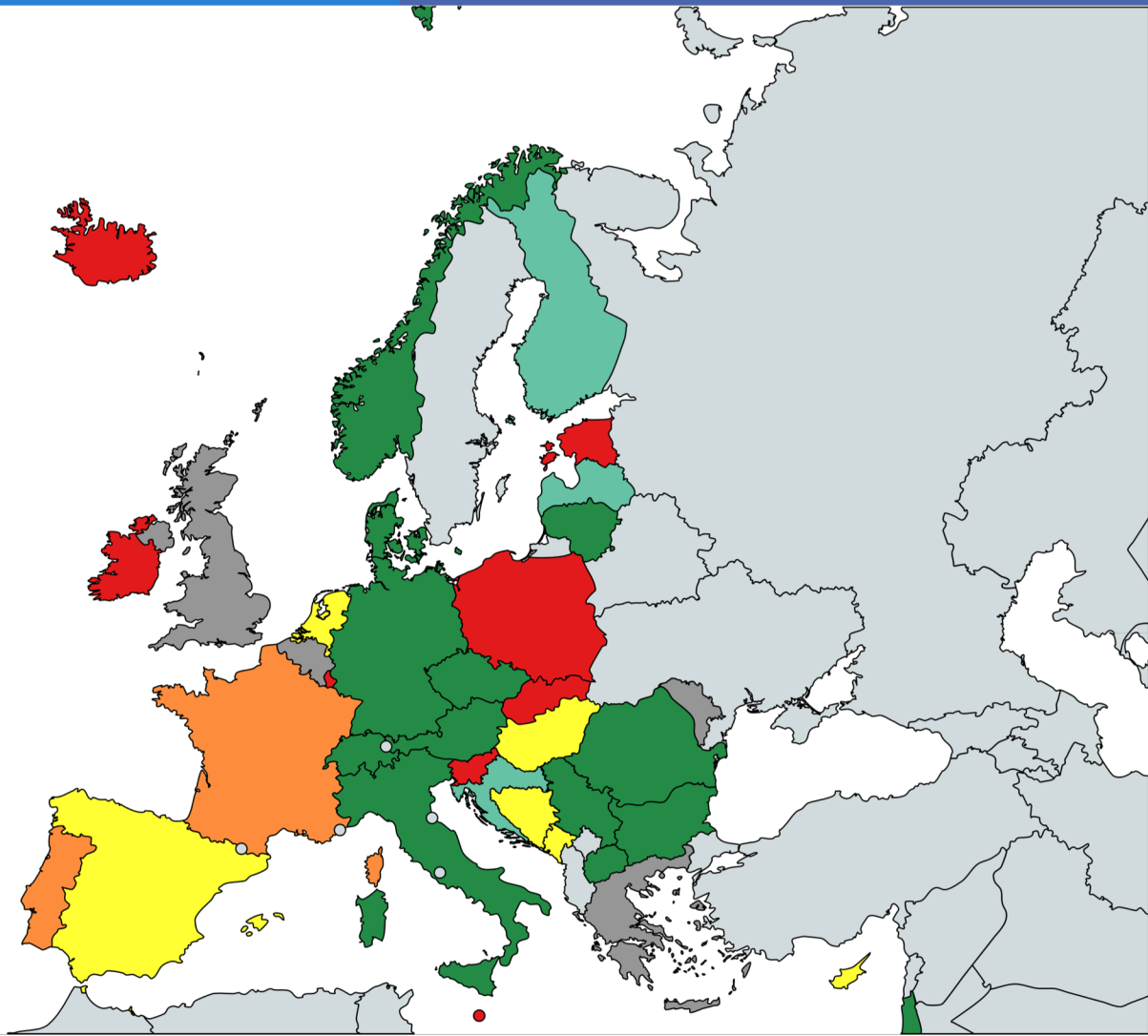
Results: Institutional Evaluation Gender Issues Addressed

- Gendered
- Undecided
- Non Gendered (rather)
- Non Gendered
- No Data



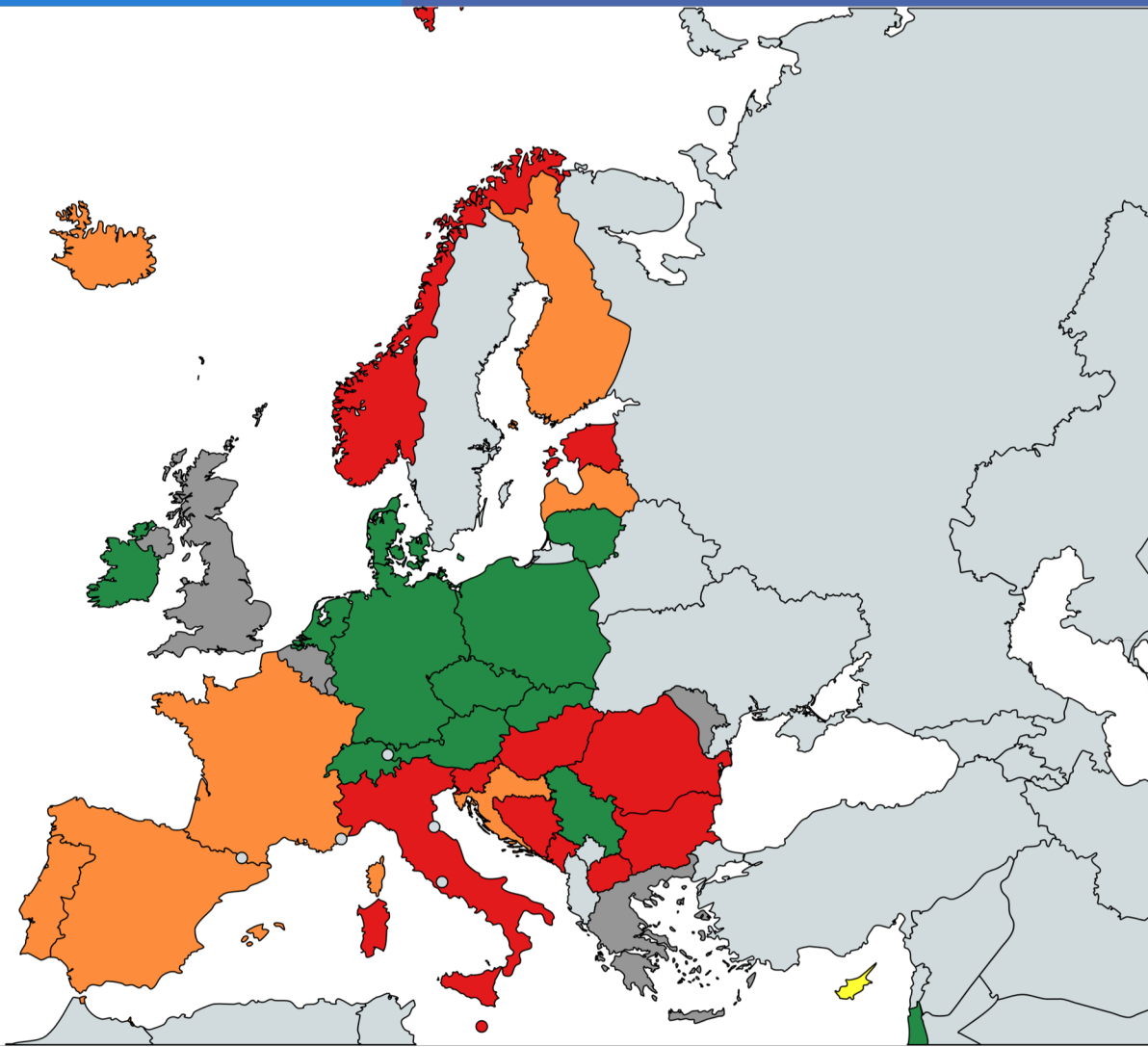
Results: Institutional Evaluation SSH specific

- SSH specific
- SSH specific (rather)
- Undecided
- Non SSH specific (rather)
- Non SSH specific
- No Data



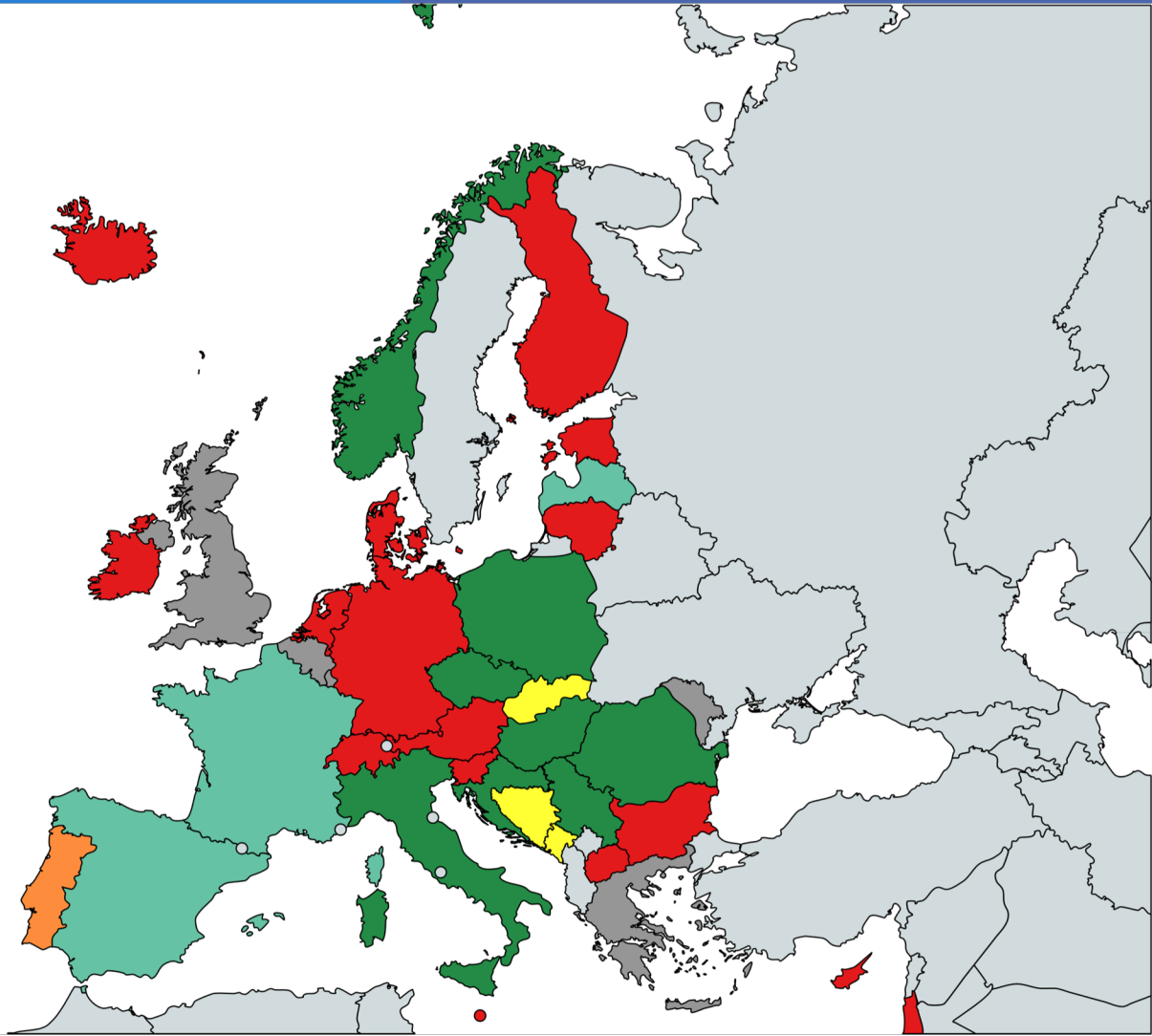
Results: Grant Evaluation SSH Specific

- SSH specific
- Undecided
- Non SSH specific (rather)
- Non SSH specific
- No Data

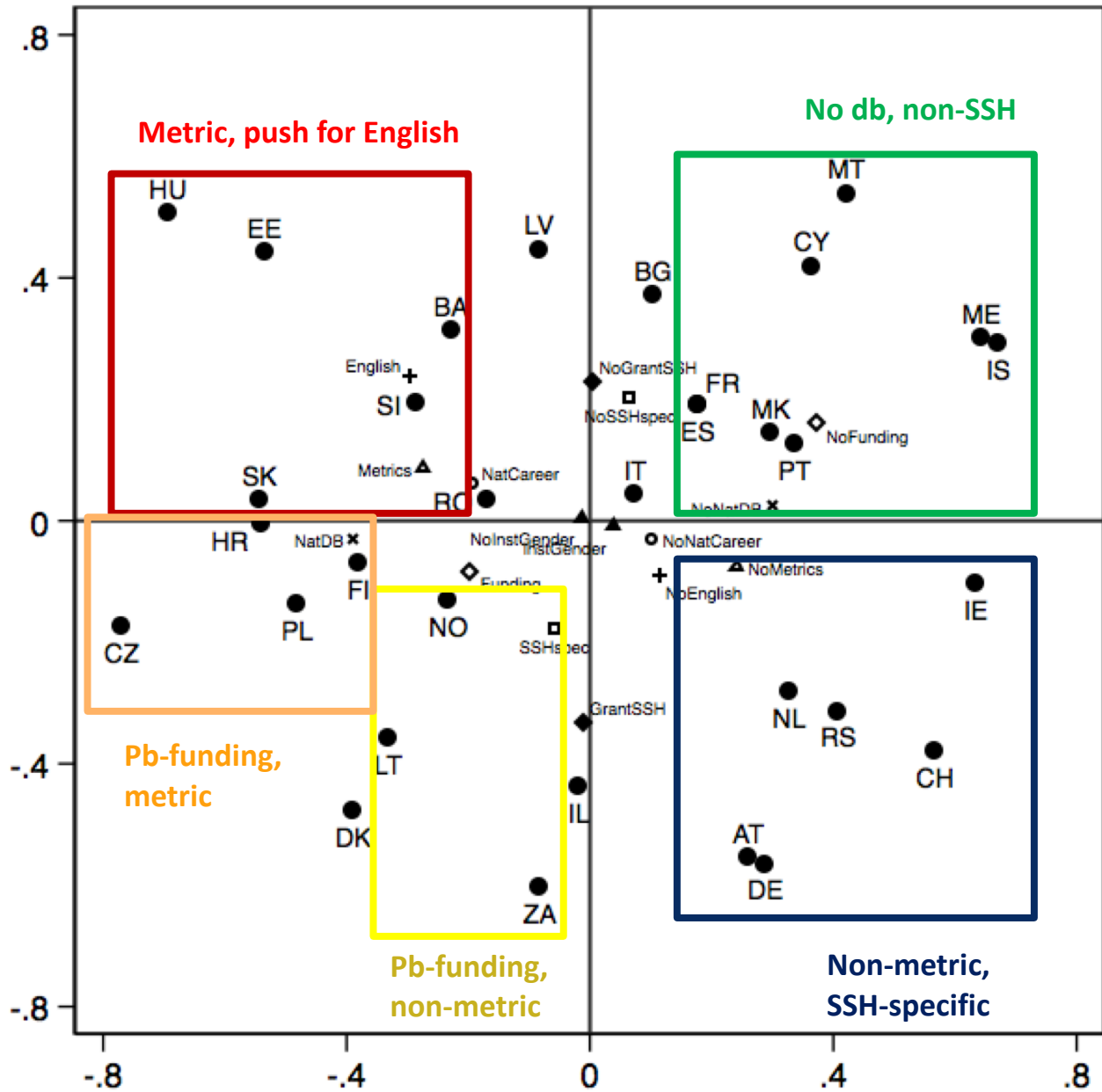


Results: Career Promotion Existence of National Institution

- National
- National (rather)
- Undecided
- Not national (rather)
- Not national
- No Data



Dim 2: SSH Adaptation



Evaluation Systems in Europe

➤ Typology

- 8 variables
- Two dimensions: database and metrics; SSH specific
- 5 clusters:
 - Non SSH-specific, non (biblio-)metric, no pb-funding
 - CY, FR, **IS**, MK, MT, ME, PT, ES
 - SSH-specific, non-metric, no push to English, no national DB
 - AT, DE, IE, NL, RS, **CH**
 - Pb-funding, non-metric, SSH-specific
 - LT, **NO**, ZA
 - National DB, metric, SSH-specific, no push to English
 - HR, CZ, **DK**, FI, PL
 - Metric, push to English, pb-funding, non SSH-specific
 - BA, EE, HU, SI, SK

Evaluation Systems in Europe

➤ **Conclusions**

- Systems are complex
 - Even experts do not agree
- Systems are divers
 - Link to situation in country
- Nevertheless commonalities
- Issues:
 - Researchers travel between systems
 - Evaluation systems create different incentives