

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) – SCIENTIFIC REPORT

The STSM applicant submits this report for approval to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA15137

STSM title: Coverage of SSH publications in major international indexes (WG3)

STSM start and end date: 01/10/2018 to 14/10/2018

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PURPOSE OF THE STSM/

(max.500 words)

A recent comparative study of eight European countries (Kulczycki et al, 2018) revealed important differences across countries and SSH disciplines in terms of language use and publication types. Building on this work, this STSM contributes to the further understanding of those differences by studying the coverage of journal publications from Central European Countries in major international indexes.

The aims of the STSM can be expressed by four research questions and sub-questions:

1. The share of journal articles in various fields of research in the Czech Republic with a comparison to Slovakia, Poland, Norway and Flanders. Is the number of articles in SSH growing or decreasing in CEE countries?
2. Coverage: Is the number of articles in SSH published in WoS-indexed journals growing or decreasing in CEE countries? Dynamics of this trend in various fields of research (Frascati classification) and between observed countries (cross-country comparison). What are potential influences that could have influenced this trend?
3. Dynamics of using WoS-indexed journals with a certain reputation (number of articles in journals ranked in four quartiles according to the IF and to other citation indexes – AHCI, ESCI). What are potential influences that could have influenced this trend?
4. Development of citation impact. Is the trend in normalized citation impact in parallel with the dynamics in publishing in WoS-indexed journals?

The observations will be also compared with the outputs of the national evaluation in the Czech Republic which has recently provided a very limited view at the productivity of the fields. From that point of view, the output of this STSM, thanks to the comparison of publication output of several countries from a few perspectives, may have also a big relevance to the discussions about the future development of the national evaluation in the Czech Republic.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

(max.500 words)

The Short Term Scientific Mission was carried out at the University of Antwerp in the period from 1st October to 14th October. Apart from individual work on the research project, I had a chance to meet members of the Flemish Centre for R&D Monitoring (ECOOM Antwerp) and discuss research topics. At the very beginning of my stay, I attended the meeting with a broader group of ECOOM members (University of Antwerp and KU Leuven). At this meeting, I presented the research project and discussed some details with the ECOOM group, who provided me with many useful suggestions for the research.

Prior to the STMS, in July 2018, I asked partners from Flanders (Raf Guns), Norway (Gunnar Sivertsen), Poland (Emanuel Kulczycki) and Slovakia (Marta Dušková) for providing the data from national databases. The data consist from the total counts of publications in a timeframe 2008-2017 (final timeframe depends on the database) distinguished to 3 groups of publication types (articles, books and chapters + proceedings) and organized by the research field in Frascati classification. Further, I asked for the detailed list of articles in a given timeframe with basic bibliographic details and indication of WoS indexing. Together with the data about publications, I had sent to the collaborators a brief questionnaire to understand the influences that can influence the choice of a certain publication type in different countries.

In the first week of my stay, I was cleaning, deduplicating and classifying the Czech data which proved to be, directly after the export from the national CRIS, incomparable with other databases. As a side product, this research will lead to some recommendations to managers of the Czech national CRIS.

In the second week, I analyzed the data from the national databases from the perspectives of:

- the share of articles in all SSH fields in the Frascati classification;
- coverage in Web of Science (for Norway, Slovakia, Flanders);
- the reputation of the publication channels in Web of Science (for Norway, Slovakia, Flanders);
- citation impact of the SSH fields in all analyzed countries.

The part of the analysis (coverage of articles in the Czech Republic and Poland) needs to be finished after the stay since the data contain a journal-level indication of WoS coverage. Therefore, thanks to the decision to analyse the coverage on the article level, further matching to WoS items is needed for Czech and Polish data.

For the comparison with the citation data about SSH fields, I used the data from InCites. With this data, I showed the trend in the value of the Category Normalized Citation Impact in the period 2008-2018. The indicator was calculated for 3-year publication window (2008-2010, 2009-2011 etc.) to avoid the fluctuations and to have the curve smooth.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

(max. 500 words)

As a result, I studied the trends in the mutual relationship of above-mentioned perspectives.

Looking at the share of articles, in most fields, Flanders has a significantly higher share of journal articles in its publication record than the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. In the international comparison, The trends in the Czech Republic are (with some fluctuations) similar to Norway in **5.8 Law, Media and Communications, 6.1 History and Archaeology and 6.3 Philosophy, Ethics and Religion**. Remarkably, in Poland, in nearly all fields, the number of articles as well as the share of articles is stable or on its decline.

In most of the fields in the SSH in the Czech Republic the number, as well as the representation (the share) of articles, grows in the period 2008-2017 with some differences in the intensity of this trend. The number of articles in the Czech Republic has grown in the fields **5.3 Educational Sciences, 5.5 Law, 5.6 Political Science, 6.1 History and archaeology, 6.3 Philosophy, Ethics and Religion** with the highest dynamics between all compared countries. However, a certain milestone is to be observed in 2014 or 2015. In the

previous period, the number of articles had grown significantly, since 2014 or 2015, in many fields in the Czech Republic the trend changed to the decrease of a number of articles.

During the STSM, the coverage of publications from Flanders, Norway and Slovakia was studied. The analysis needs to be finished after the stay for the Czech Republic and Poland.

The data for studying citation impact was obtained from the analytical tool InCites™ for articles and reviews published in all countries and fields in 3-year periods (from 2008-2010 onwards). The curves show a clear trend. The citation impact of SSH publications from Norway and Flanders remains stable on above-average values. The trend in the development of the citation impact in CEE countries (Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia) increased from 2008 to 2017 from the values around 0,4 to nearly the world average (=1).

As this data indicates, in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the overall rise of the number and the share of articles does not mean the simple explosion of scientific outputs but may be in parallel with the scientific impact. In the case of Poland, in contrary to the overall decrease in the number and share of the articles, the citation impact grows with the same dynamics as in the Czech Republic.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

(max.500 words)

Meeting and discussing with researchers at the University of Antwerp was a great chance to learn and to get an experience for my profession and future work in general. Especially, I would like to express the gratitude to Raf Guns and Tim Engels for mentoring and Linda Sile for useful discussions and insights.

Future collaboration with all countries mentioned in this report is intended. After finishing all analyses, the results of this STSM will be firstly summarized in the extended report as a basis for the article manuscript which is planned to be submitted to LIS journal in collaboration with all partners. Results of this study are also planned to be presented at a conference.

