

The diversity of SSH publications and its implications for evaluation of SSH

Seminar 'Current challenges in the evaluation of social sciences and humanities'
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Purpose

To provide an overview of diversity of publication patterns in the SSH and the implications for evaluation of social sciences and humanities, including the need for monitoring of publications and balancing societal relevance and impact with internationalization

Why are book publications important for the SSH?

Book publishing takes a prominent role in SSH, e.g. for epistemic reasons

Prestige associated with publishing a monograph, edited volume or book chapter

Findability and visibility of publications

However, research evaluations said to be at odds with book publishing

What share of scholarly SSH publications are book publications? Some results from

Engels, T. C. E., Istenič Starčić, A., Kulczycki, E., Pölönen, J., & Sivertsen, G. (2018). Are book publications disappearing from scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities? *Aslib Journal of Information Management*, 70(6), 592–607. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AJIM-05-2018-0127>

Data from

VABB-SHW (Flanders, Belgium), VIRTATA (Finland), NSI (Norway), PSB (Poland) and COBISS (Slovenia)

Details of those databases described in Linda Sile et al 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1093/reseval/rvy016>

Some numbers

336.681 peer reviewed publications

2004-2015 for Flanders and Slovenia

2005-2015 for Norway

2009-2014 for Poland

2011-2015 for Finland

Monographs in humanities and social sciences

Table 1. Share of monographs in the humanities (%)

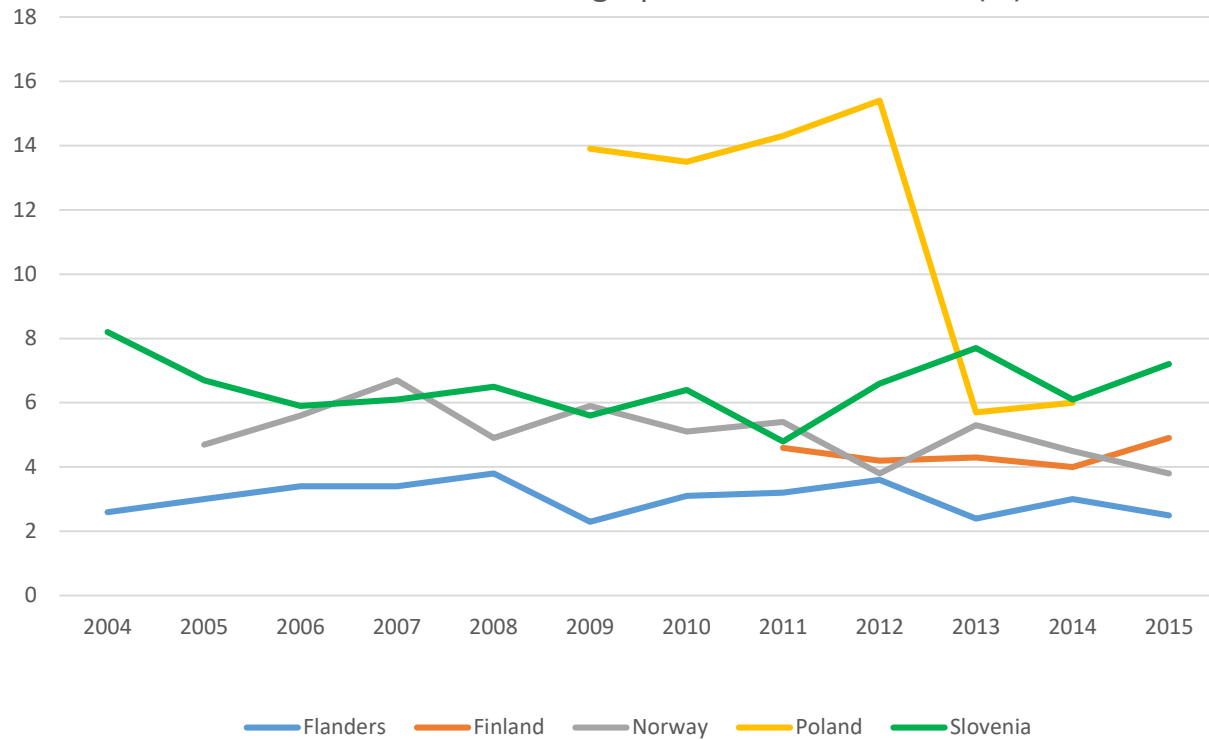
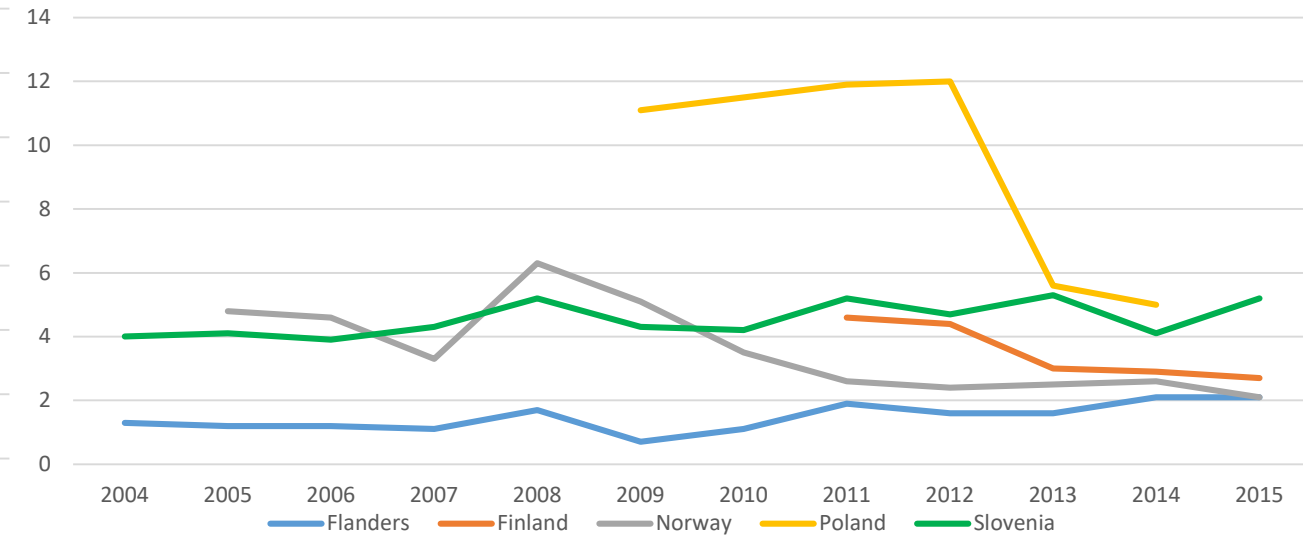


Table 5. Share of monographs in the social sciences (%)



Monographs in history and economics & business

Table 3. Share of monographs in the field of history (%)

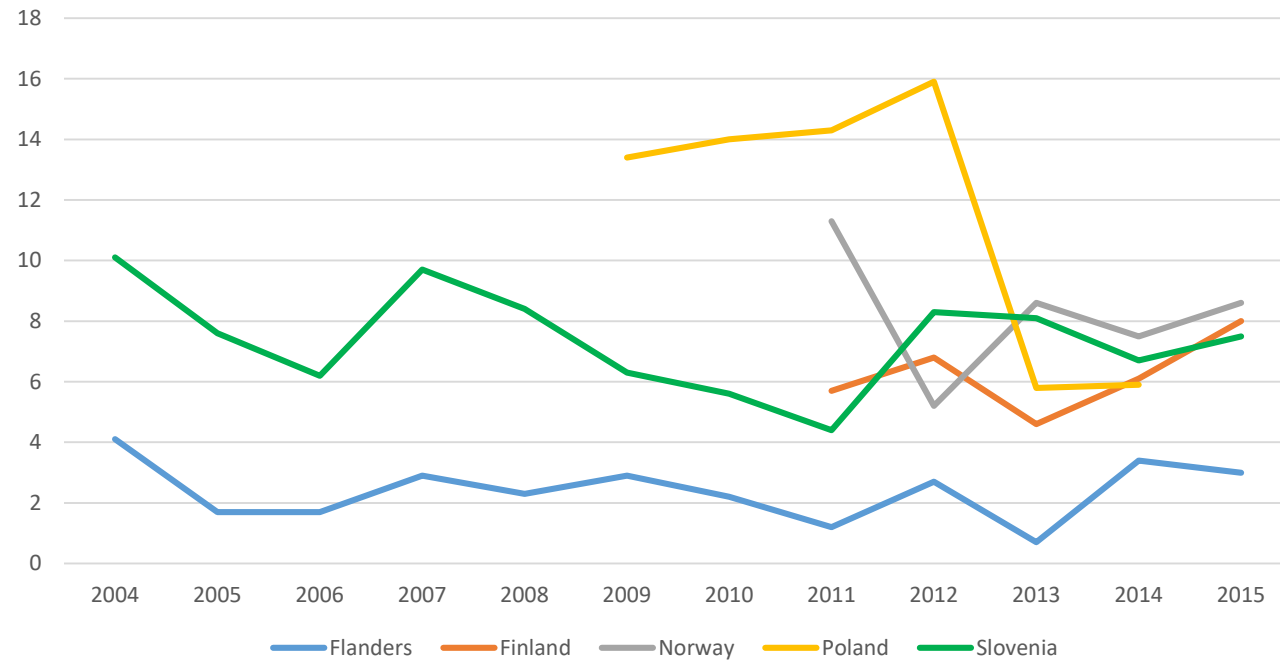
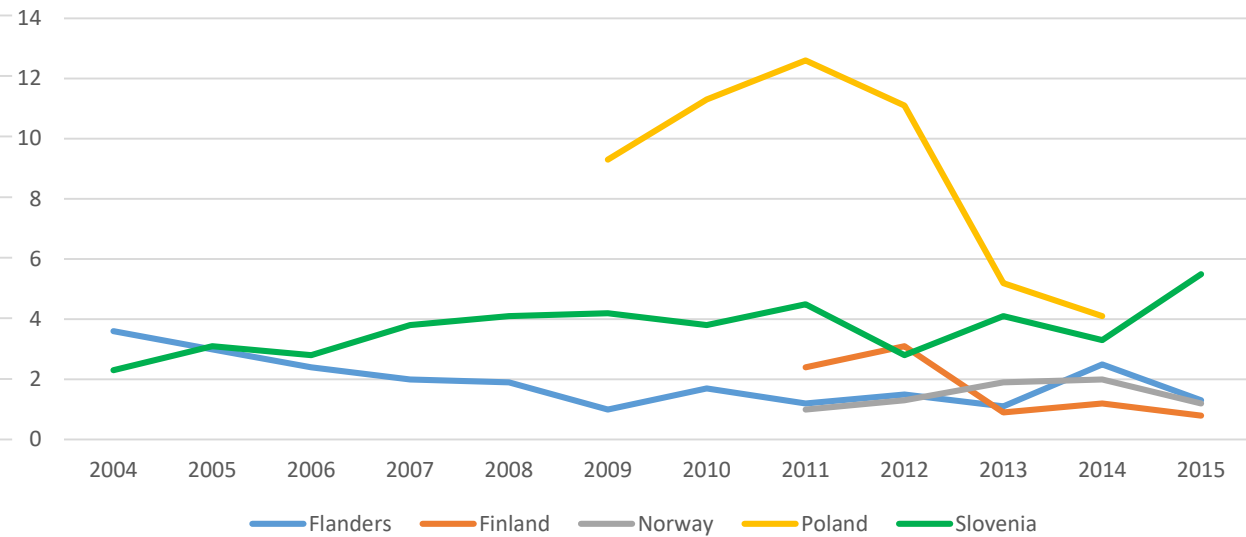


Table 7. Share of monographs in the field of economics and business (%)



Book chapters in humanities and social sciences

Table 2. Share of book chapters in the humanities (%)

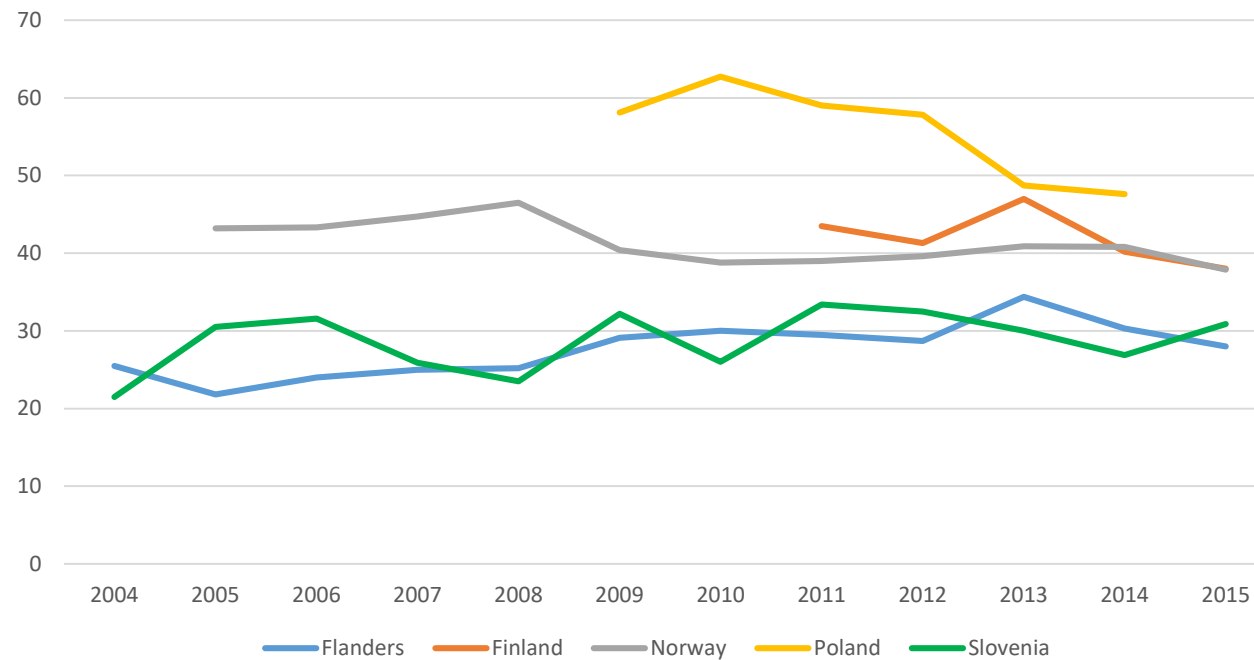
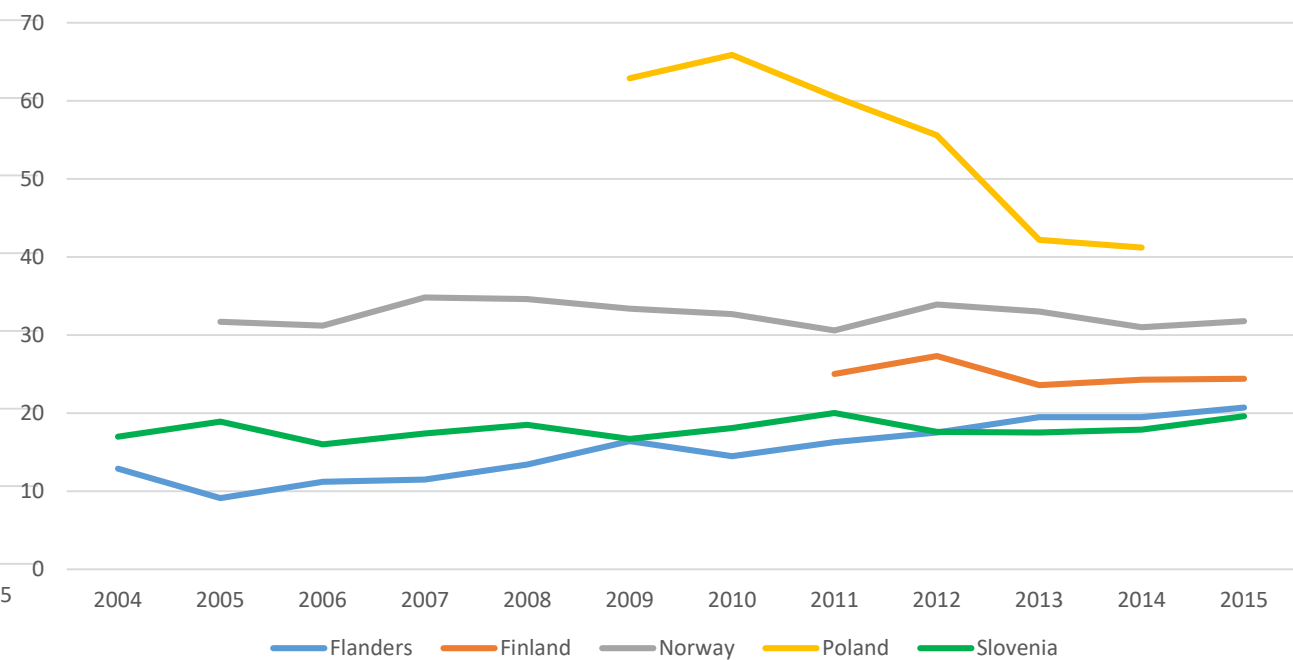


Table 6. Share of book chapters in the social sciences (%)



Book chapters in history and economics & business

Table 4. Share of book chapters in the field of history (%)

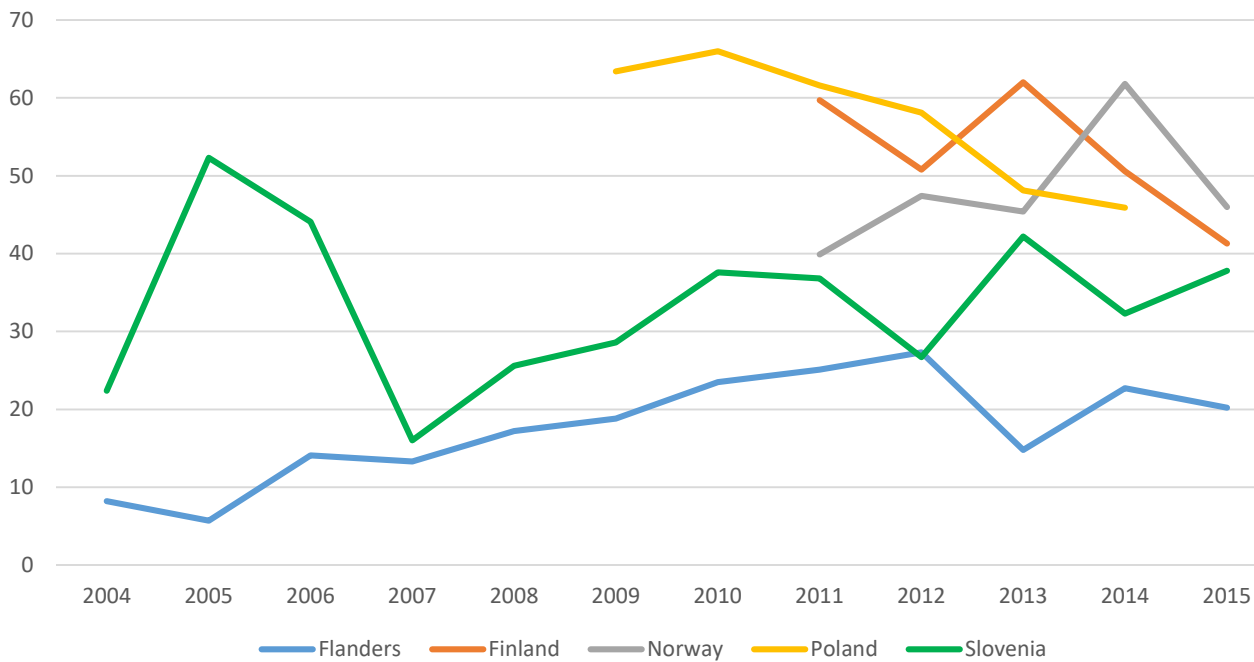
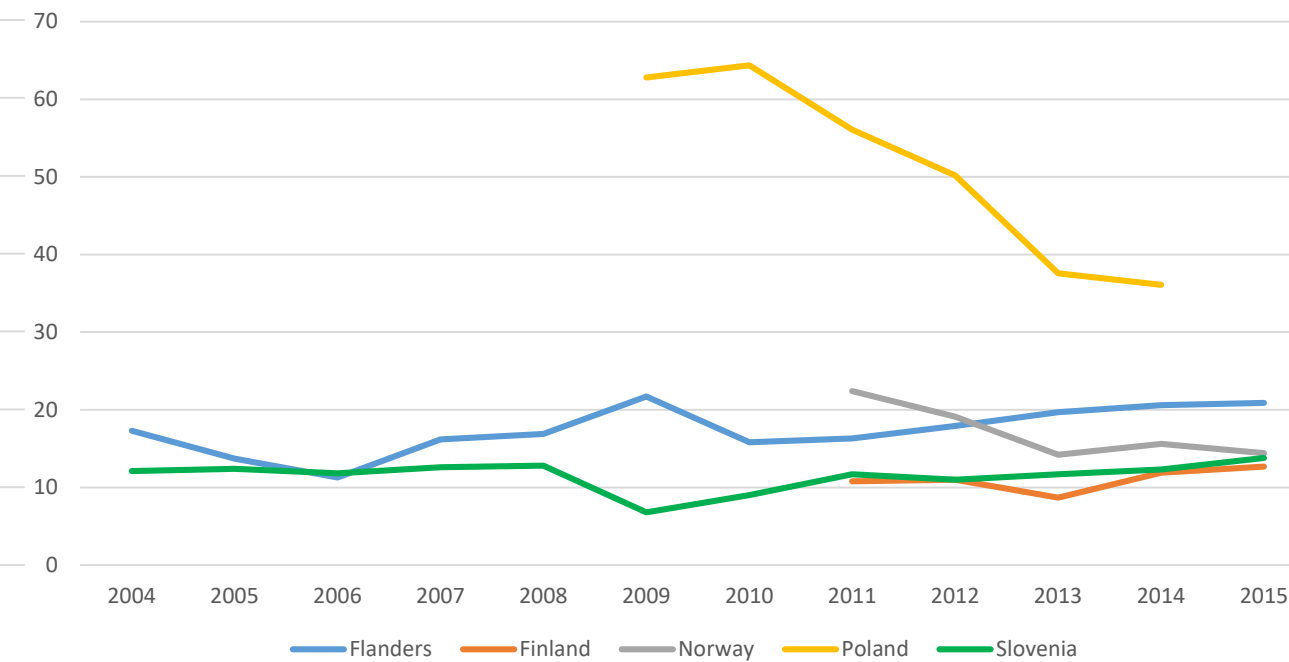


Table 8. Share of book chapters in the field of economics and business (%)



Intermediate conclusions I

Book publishing is not about to disappear from SSH
scholarly publishing

Research evaluation regimes are not necessarily in conflict
with book publishing

More generally

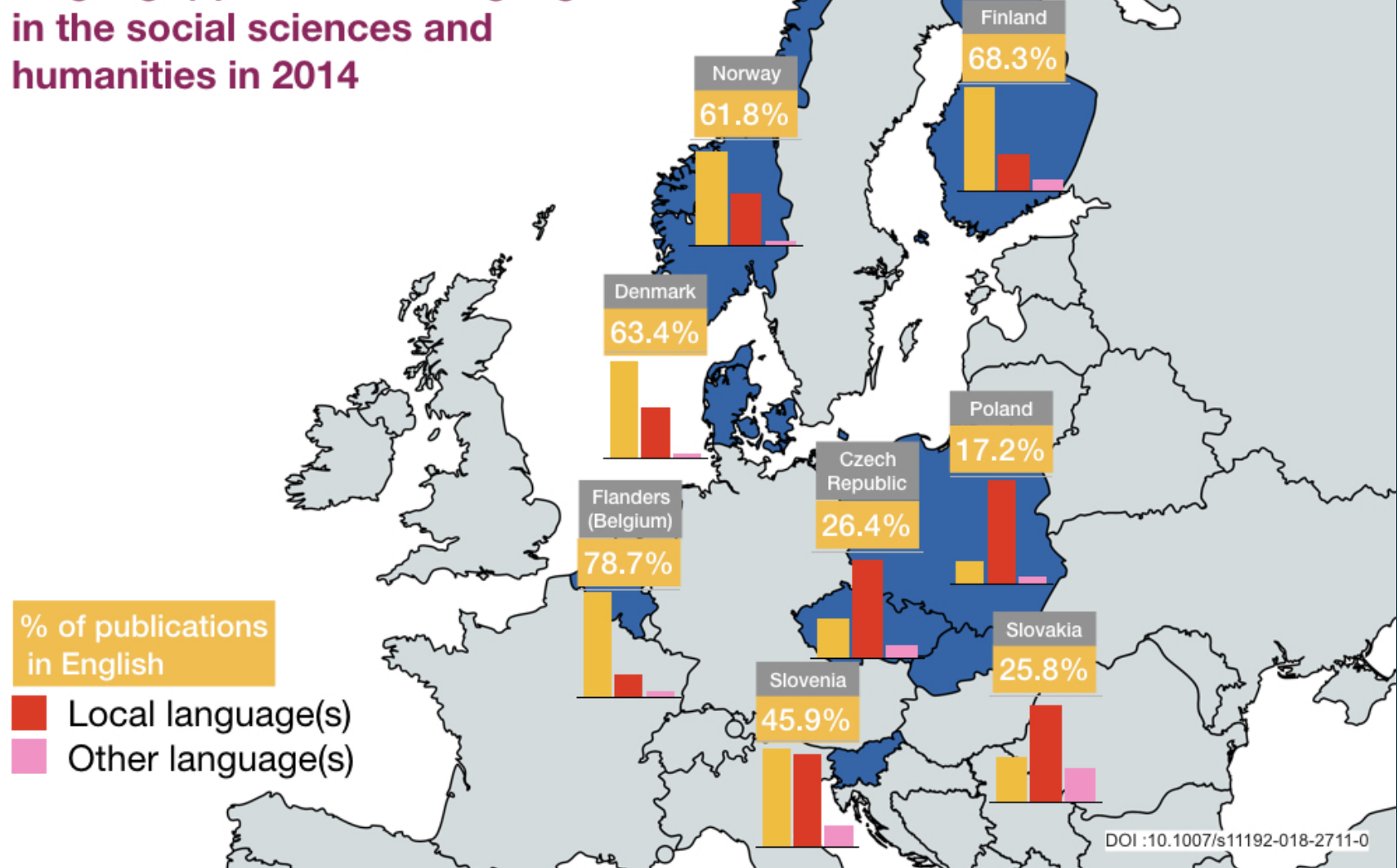
Publication patterns in SSH are peculiar in several respects, including book publishing and publishing in several languages, see e.g.

Kulczycki, E., Engels, T. C. E., Pölönen, J., Bruun, K., Dušková, M., Guns, R., ... Zuccala, A. A. (2018). Publication patterns in the social sciences and humanities: evidence from eight European countries. *Scientometrics*, 116(1), 463–486.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-018-2711-0>

Sivertsen, G. (2018). Balanced multilingualism in science. *BiD: textos universitaris de biblioteconomia i documentació*,
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1344/BiD2018.40.25>

More
generally

Percentage of peer reviewed publications in English, local language(s) and other languages in the social sciences and humanities in 2014



Intermediate conclusion 2

Social sciences and humanities have diverse publication patterns, e.g. in terms of publication types and in terms of language use

This leads to a plethora of relevant journals and publishers, both at national and international level

And, consequently, low coverage in international citation databases such as Web of Science and Scopus

Note that this is not unique to SSH, and applies to large parts of the applied sciences (engineering), computer science, product development and several other fields too, especially for research that is conducted outside of the Anglo-Saxon countries or Western Europe

Ways to tackle this low coverage: national
bibliographic databases

ENRESSH working group 3

Focusses on *Databases and uses of data for understanding SSH research*, see also <https://enressh.eu/working-group-3/objectives/>

In addition to publication patterns, the members of this working group study national bibliographic databases, among others through in depth studies set up by Linda Sile

21 of those databases are described in Sile et al, <https://doi.org/10.6084/M9.FIGSHARE.5172322>

The comprehensiveness of 13 of those databases is further analyzed in Sile et al, <https://doi.org/10.1093/RESEVAL/RVY016>

A web overview of national bibliographic databases for publications is available at <https://ecoom.uantwerpen.be/sshdatabases>

European
expert
community on
national
bibliographic
databases

Met at University of Antwerp, 10-11 September 2018 with 17 presentations on

- Identification of scholarly publications
- Integration of data from different sources
- Metadata accuracy control
- Classification of research output
- Collaboration with stakeholders

Full program and presentations on

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/nl/centra/ecoom/programme/>

Brief discussion on

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2018/11/13/towards-more-consistent-transparent-and-multi-purpose-national-bibliographic-databases-for-research-output/>

What are good practices for national bibliographic databases ?

publication



record in a national
database for research
output

I Data input

II Data processing

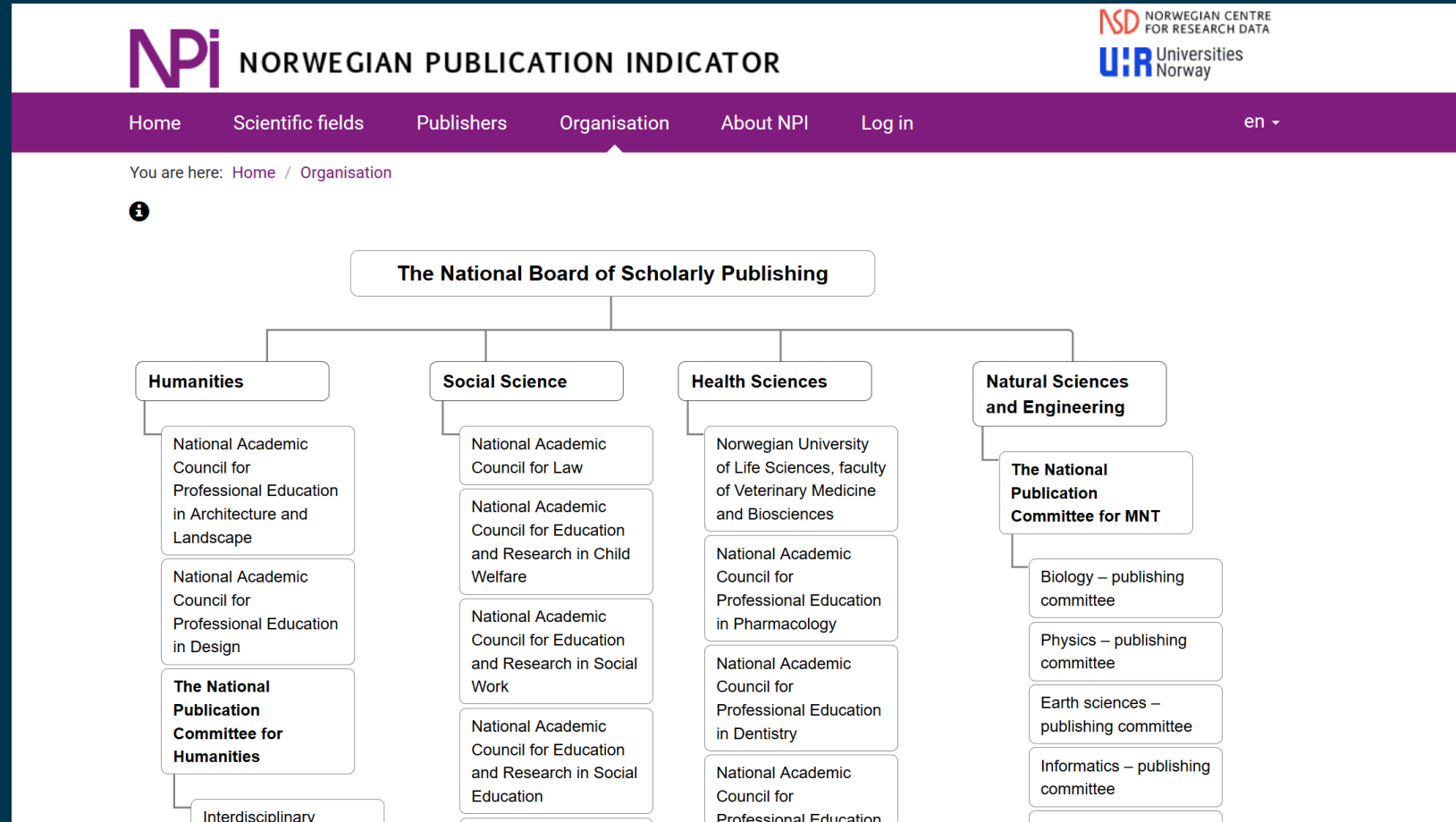
III Organisation of data collection and processing

#1 Bibliographic control

COBISS in Slovenia

Nation-wide standardized practice for bibliographic control
Education and license for data entry

#2 Coordination between stakeholders



#3 Documentation (also in English)

VIRTA (Finland), Norwegian Science Index (Norway), BFI (Denmark)
Elaborated manuals and guidelines on bibliographic record input

COBISS (Slovenia), RIV (Czech Republic)
Detailed description of research output type classification

#3 Documentation (also in English)

TYPOLOGY OF DOCUMENTS/WORKS FOR BIBLIOGRAPHY MANAGEMENT IN COBISS

30 September 2016

ARTICLES AND OTHER COMPONENT PARTS

1.01 Original Scientific Article

An original scientific article is only the first-time publication of original research results in a way that allows the research to be repeated, and the findings checked. As a rule, it follows the IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion) scheme for experimental research, or it is organised in a descriptive way for descriptive scientific areas. The article must be published in a scientific journal with a peer-review system of accepting articles and must be peer-reviewed. The peer-review system must be evident from the instructions for authors.

Conference contributions, even if published in a scientific journal, are not classified into this type, but into type 1.06 or 1.08, **with the exception of articles, written after the conference upon the journal's editorial board's invitation for a regular issue of the journal, and accepted for publication according to the same peer-review rules and procedures as other articles published in the regular issue of the journal, that comply with the definition for type 1.01.**

1.02 Review Article

A review article is an overview of the latest works in a specific subject area, the works of an individual researcher or a group of researchers with the purpose of summarising, analysing, evaluating or synthesising the information that has already been published. A review article brings new syntheses, which also include the results of the author's own research. The review article must be published in a scientific journal with a peer-review system of accepting articles and must be peer-reviewed. The peer-review system must be evident from the instructions for authors.

Conference contributions, even if published in a scientific journal, are not classified into this type, but into type 1.06 or 1.08, **with the exception of articles, written after the conference upon the journal's editorial board's invitation for a regular issue of the journal, and accepted for publication according to the same peer-review rules and procedures as other articles published in the regular issue of the journal, that comply with the definition for type 1.02.**

#4 Legal framework

VABB-SHW (Flanders, Belgium)

Detailed legal framework that specifies the need to implement and maintain a database for research output

#5 Collaboration with publishers

RINC (Russia)

Data transferred from publishers.

Reduced necessity for manual data input by research organizations.

#6 Interface for information retrieval

Croatian Scientific Bibliography CROSBİ

Surname, Name

author/editor institution title/abstract/keywords
 include mentorship

188944 97146 92442
Journal articles Theses Conference proceedings papers

BROWSE

- Browse by **author**
- Browse by **institution**
- Browse by **project**
- Browse by **discipline**
- Browse by **type of publication**

LATEST ADDITIONS

Cijepljenje sorti kestena za dobivanje visokokvalitetnog ploda
Drvodelić, Damir

Misurazione, controllo e difesa degli opposti versanti litoranei adriatici: le torri costiere dal XVI secolo ad oggi
Bulfone Gransinigh, Federico; Mazzanti, Claudio; Darka Bilić

MEDITERATRI – Praćenje neonikotinoida i bakra kroz trofičke interakcije u integriranoj i ekološkoj poljoprivredi Mediterana
Šerić Jelaska, Lucija; Andelić, Barbara; Bahun, Vedran; Franin, Kristijan

Katalog zbirke arhitekta Budimira Pervana
Bobovec, Borka; Ceraj, Iva; Kučan, Maja; Moser, Mateja

STATISTICS

Year	Journal articles	Authored books	Conference papers
1991	~10,000	~5,000	~5,000
1994	~20,000	~5,000	~5,000
1997	~30,000	~5,000	~5,000
2000	~45,000	~5,000	~10,000
2003	~60,000	~5,000	~15,000
2006	~80,000	~5,000	~25,000
2009	~100,000	~5,000	~35,000
2012	~120,000	~5,000	~45,000
2015	~140,000	~5,000	~55,000
2018	~190,000	~5,000	~65,000

Intermediate conclusions 3

National bibliographic databases have been and are being set up in many countries

Many of the issues are similar across countries, e.g. when it comes to

- persistent identifiers (for authors, institutions, projects, outputs and more)
- development, implementation and maintenance issues
- challenges in terms of linking data, avoiding data silos

ENRESSH good practices manual forthcoming

Societal relevance/impact and internationalization:
impossible to reconcile for the SSH?

Tensions between

International competition (e.g. the European framework program H2020) and national / regional / local visibility (e.g., in the case of sociology, Pineiro & Hicks, 2015)

Skills to describe and discuss research in native or regional language versus foreign languages

Languages that are widely spoken (e.g., for the case of Spanish, Chavarro, Tang & Rafols, 2017)

Possible solutions

No a priori preference for publications in English

Actively embrace multilingualism in scholarly communication, cf. the Helsinki Initiative www.helsinki-initiative.org

Monitoring of the language of publications in order to have an information basis of the globalization process at work

Open science, i.e. making publications freely available online (cf. PlanS)

Intermediate conclusions 4

Societal relevance and impact needs to be included in all research policies and evaluations

Language use in science needs to be monitored (rather than ignored, cf. Sivertsen 2018)

Increasingly the tools and publication channels to make open science a reality are available: let's not wait for PlanS, let's do it

Conclusions

Publication patterns differ vastly between fields and between countries

National bibliographic databases are needed to understand what is happening in terms of science in a country

Societal relevance and impact needs to be included in all research policies and evaluations

Research should be as open as possible, as closed as necessary

Thank you!

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