



Seventh Framework Programme

NEWSLETTER - January 2016

Comparing SSH Research impact evaluation in 12 countries

The comparative analysis of the national SSH research evaluation systems of 9 European countries with different development of their evaluation systems has been completed. Particularly, the comparative analysis has covered 3 countries with a long tradition in impact assessment (Finland, The Netherlands and the UK); 4 countries with systems in process of development (France, Germany, Ireland and Sweden); and 2 countries not yet implementing impact assessment, or in their first steps of the process of development (Hungary and Spain). In addition, 3 non-European countries were analysed (Australia, Brazil and the USA) for having SSH research evaluation systems with significant practices of impact assessment. The interviews with major stakeholders, that are policy makers, researchers and representatives from the main agencies and research institutions served to provide a deeper understanding of the processes, challenges and ongoing debates in each country in relation to impact assessment.

Our analysis revealed the major development of evaluations in ex-ante stages in front of scarce ex-post evaluation practices, and confirmed the difficulties but growing concern for evaluating the social and political impacts of the funded research. The study also explored the open debate on the role of metrics and quantitative measures in these assessments, in addition to the widely assumed peer review processes. Stakeholders in different countries also coincide in highlighting emerging trends such as harvesting data from existing datasets and interconnections among different repositories or databases.

Impact evaluation of the FP7 Cooperation in SSH projects

During 2015, the IMPACT-EV team was commanded to conduct an impact evaluation of all the FP7 SSH research projects. Particularly, a total of 439 projects (funded under the last call of the FP6 and the FP7) were revised in terms of the achievements in scientific, political and social impact, as well as in reinforcing the European research area. In addition, an ex-post evaluation on the specific sample of FP7 projects was also performed and reported back to the European Commission, considering for outcomes, trends in the research teams or participating countries. The evaluation was conducted

following a mixed methods strategy, involving different data collection and analysis techniques. The research team gathered a variety and complementarity of the data, including a questionnaire, analysis of reports, interviews to main researchers and to scientific officers.

The team assessed the impacts of the projects using quantitative measures for different criteria and identified more than 20 examples of projects achieving impact in each of the dimensions analysed.

Assessing Impact: Open Seminar on the Scientific, Political and Social Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities

Past 2nd of October, the seminar Assessing Impact: Open Seminar on the Scientific, Political and Social Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities took place at the Catalan Academy of Sciences in Barcelona.

The seminar brought together international researchers from different European universities as well as politicians, representatives of the civil society and end users of the scientific knowledge. Among them, Rupert Gatti (professor at the University of Cambridge and co-founder of the Open Access book publishing), Peter van den Besselaar (professor at the University of Amsterdam), and Jerusalem Amador (member of the Drom Kotar Mestipen Roma Association and Assistant Editor of International Sociology) spoke about scientific impact and new developments in open access, humanities, and value of the scientific impacts for the society. Ignasi Pastó (Institute of Human Paleocology and Social Evolution, Spain), Johannes Theiner (Ambassador and former President of the European Parents Association) and Oriol Amorós (member of the Catalan Parliament) discussed on the political impact of the SSH research. Finally, Dirk Tänzler (main researcher of FP7 Project ALACS on corruption and transparency), Jaume Lanaspá (former President of La Caixa Foundation) and Maria Vieites (member of the Instituto Natura, from Brazil) provided examples on how SSH research may promote changes in the society.

The seminar was considered a step forward the public debate on the role of SSH and their actual and potential contributions to our societies.



SIOR, the Social Impact Open Repository

A year after the creation of the SIOR, the Social Impact Open Repository gathers initiatives from universities and research agencies located in different parts of the world, including the Harvard University, the University of Cambridge, the University of Tokyo, and the Moroccan National Shelter Upgrading Agency, among many others. Besides, the projects cover a wide range of scientific areas, including studies on health, education, gender, environmental sciences and palaeontology, among many others.

The Social Impact of Sciences SIS2016



The 1st Conference on Social Impact of Science (SIS2016) will be held in July, 2016, in Barcelona, Spain. The Conference will provide a framework where researchers from all scientific disciplines and domains will discuss, share and move forward into the evaluation of social impact of research. Furthermore, the SIS2016 will generate new bonds between the different actors involved in this initiative, namely researchers, scientific agencies, science stakeholders and civil society.

For more information about the Conference, please visit the following website: <http://socialimpactsience.org/sis2016/about/>

Webinar “ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SSH: Current situation and future prospects”

Next January the 20th, the first IMPACT-EV webinar will take place. Some of the first outcomes of IMPACT-EV will be presented, corresponding to the first two Workpackages of the project. In particular, the State of the Art on impact assessment in SSH, the results of the comparative analysis of different national SSH research evaluation systems and some of the latest developments and events addressing the SSH social impact assessment will be presented by leading members of the research team.

Coming Events

Webinar “Assessing the impact of SSH: Current situation and future prospects”. January 20, 2016. 4pm (CET - Brussels time). Register to attend the event at <https://goo.gl/ut4lCo>

European Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Centres. ECHIC Annual Conference. 20-22 April 2016, Macerata, Italy. <http://www.echic.org/>

SIS2016 (Social Impact of Sciences). July 25 - 29, Barcelona, Spain. <http://socialimpactsience.org/sis2016/about/>

21st International Conference on Science and Technology Indicators. 14 – 16 September 2016, Valencia, Spain <http://www.sti2016.org/>



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