A European panorama of SSH evaluation: an ENRESSH approach

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What is ENRESSH?

COST Action 15137 "European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and the Humanities.

COST "is an EU-funded programme that enables researchers to set up their interdisciplinary research networks in Europe and beyond."
A diagnosis of systems and practices in SSH evaluation in Europe

Data gathering by our WGs:

- a list of European institutions, associations, bodies involved or interested in SSH Research evaluation;
- a detailed description of how research evaluation is organised at the national level ("country reports");
- a survey about European databases and repositories for SSH research output;
- More than 50 case studies of impact.
Some observations from the country reports
Research evaluation: principal method
Overview of national databases for SSH research output

Dark blue: national database exists
Light blue: national database is being implemented
Yellow: no national database
Content of the databases

- Doctoral theses
- Conference proceedings
- Book chapters
- Edited books
- Books
- Journal articles

The graph shows the distribution of content across different types of publications, with journal articles having the highest number, followed by edited books and books. Conference proceedings and book chapters are also significant contributors.
Content of the databases
Uses of databases

- Bibliographic reporting
- Research and monitoring
- Access to information
- Evaluation and funding allocation
Link evaluation - funding
Evaluation SSH specific
Five types of systems

- Pb-funding
- Metric
- Non-metric
- SSH-specific
- No db, non-SSH

Metric, push for English
Pb-funding, metric
Pb-funding, non-metric
Non-metric, SSH-specific
No db, non-SSH
What about impact?

- Systems and methods are ill adapted to evaluating the societal benefits of research:
  - What units of evaluation?
  - What scales of measurement?
  - Expectations of outcomes?
  - Impact vs. scientific quality?
National approaches to impact

- Standard set of measures of research impact:
  - patents/patent income
  - License income
  - Contract research income
  - Commercial income
  - Spin-off companies
- More recently, altmetrics seen as a solution for capturing impact
  But there is a risk of "data foam" (Penny C. S. Andrews)

>>> need to understand impact and its various pathways, so as to identify precisely what (and if!) we want to measure
SSH pathways to societal impact

- The usual pipeline model

- Alternative models uncovered by Muhonen, R., Benneworth, P. & Olmos-Peñuela, J. (2018) From productive interactions to impact pathways: understanding the key dimensions in developing SSH research societal impact (CHEPS working paper series; vol. 2018, no. 02)
SSH pathways to societal impact

Alternative models

- Dissemination
  - Interactive dissemination
  - Media dissemination
- Cocreation
  - Cocreation
  - Public engagement
  - Expertise & evaluation
    - Anticipating anniversaries
    - Seize the day
- Reacting to societal change
  - Research engagement as therapy
  - Engagement activities/"creep"
- Driving societal change
  - Building new epistemic communities
ENRESSH recommendations

- See our Guidelines for SSH RE evaluation

- Strengthen research performing institutions participation in SSH evaluation > relate evaluation procedure to the research practices in the SSH

- Clarify roles and overlaps with regards to evaluation

- Diversify actors involved in evaluation (and funding)
Thank you for your attention!

Questions, more information?

- www. enressh.eu
- ENRESSH newsletter
- Facebook, Twitter
- galleron@evalhum.eu