

# ESA Meeting of National Associations

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# Slovene sociological Association

- SSA: established **1965**
- around **200 members**
- publish scientific **journal Družbosovne razprave**
- **10 working groups**
- **annual Conferences**
- this year chosen topic: **Economy and Society**
- internal discussion on **evaluation of our research and teaching activities** in academia.

# Research at UNI

- at UNI: teaching and researching;
- increased teaching part of the workload (Bologna) and additional focus on research activities;
- the competition for research money become stronger and stronger;
- competition for public financing of research among researcher in public and private research institutions and universities;
- but significantly different positions: researchers only reserach and profesors do both;
- we found this problematic.

# Evaluation of Slovene Research Agency

- SRA took over the funding function for public research sector;
- and evaluate all types of research projects by number of expert (quasi-expert) bodies;

## **Evaluation is based on 3 metrics, all weighted:**

- the number of publications (5 years)
- the number of citations WOS (10 years);
- the funding from non-Agency sources (5 years).

# Critical points

The critical points we found in all 3 areas of measurement.

## **1) the number of publications within the 5 last years**

- big differences between social sciences and humanities;
- monographs count much less than articles in the journals;
- the only criterion is to publish in journals with impact factor (IF);
- publications in Slovene language undervalued;
- highly rewarding memberships in editorial boards of international scientific journals.

# Critical points ...

## **2) the number of citations within the last 10 years**

- citations only within databases Journals of WoS and Scopus;
- citations in the books and from the books do not count;
- the critical points we found in all 3 areas of measurement.

## **3) the funding received from non-Agency sources within the last 5 years.**

- we found this principle problematic; again over weighted;
- scientific quality of the researcher? Or his/her managerial or organisational success?
- it privileges the researchers who can cooperate with business sector, which for sociology is not that easy to do.

# Negative effects on Sociology

- evaluation system encourages quantity;
- lead towards commercialization of science;
- leads to mediocrity of science and lowering the scientific criterion;
- authors omit interpretation or reflection of the processes in a specific environment or by subordinating it to contextualization, where the only role is “attraction”, from the periphery'.

# Some thoughts on the future of sociology in Slovenia

Some possible ways for improvement:

- collaboration of sociologists from small states;
- collaboration between of sociological communities of neighbour countries;
- collaboration of sociologists from different reinforcing “research infrastructures”: data facilities, research instruments, etc.
- support and additional research opportunities and mobility to young sociologists, through the creation of “new research networks”.



# In the context of national R&D evaluation systems ...

- To find the balance between the use of peer review and bibliometrics in ex-ante r&d evaluation procedures.
- To ensure the unbiased use of bibliometrics in social sciences.
- To find the balance between support of disciplinary and interdisciplinary oriented research groups in sociology?
- To find the balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches in formalized r&d evaluation procedures.