

Towards 2020:

New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

Parallel Session 1: Horizon 2020 - Focus on
Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
(27.3.2014: 14:15-15:45)

European trends in Social Sciences and the position of the Western Balkans

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Technopolis Group

technopolis_{|group|}

- ▶ Technopolis Group is the preeminent provider of evidence-based policy advice and support to decision making to organisations and people
 - ▶ with a mission to address environmental and societal challenges and achieve economic growth by means of science, technology, innovation and education.
- ▶ We provide services to EU level clients, international organisations and also advise national and regional policy makers:
 - ▶ Comparative policy research at multi-regional or country level in three main fields:
 - ▶ Innovation: SME support measures and eco-innovation
 - ▶ Research policies
 - ▶ Regional (knowledge economy) policies
 - ▶ Policy design and evaluation studies.

Monitoring European Trends in Social Sciences and Humanities

- ▶ Launched by the European Commission, DG-Research and Innovation in 2009
- ▶ Resource for decision-makers concerned with social sciences and humanities (SSH) and all stakeholders in the ERA
 - ▶ Increase awareness of SSH systems' structures, resources, ways of functioning and new developments
 - ▶ Support international collaboration in SSH
 - ▶ Support national level research decisions in awareness of EU context
- ▶ 42 countries covered throughout 2009-2013
 - ▶ EU27
 - ▶ Associated countries: Croatia, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Israel and (since 2011) Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, FYROM, Serbia, Iceland
 - ▶ Other countries: Japan, US, Canada, Brazil

2010

General R&D Indicators

Total GBAORD by socio economic objective (NABS 2007), R&D related to Social Sciences - financed from GUF and other sources in Euro per inhabitant

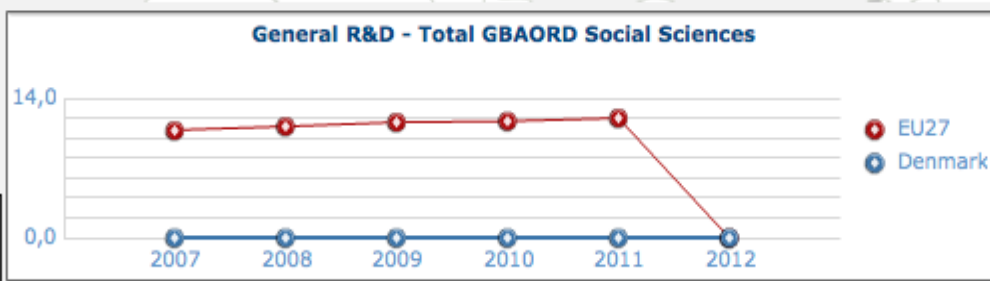
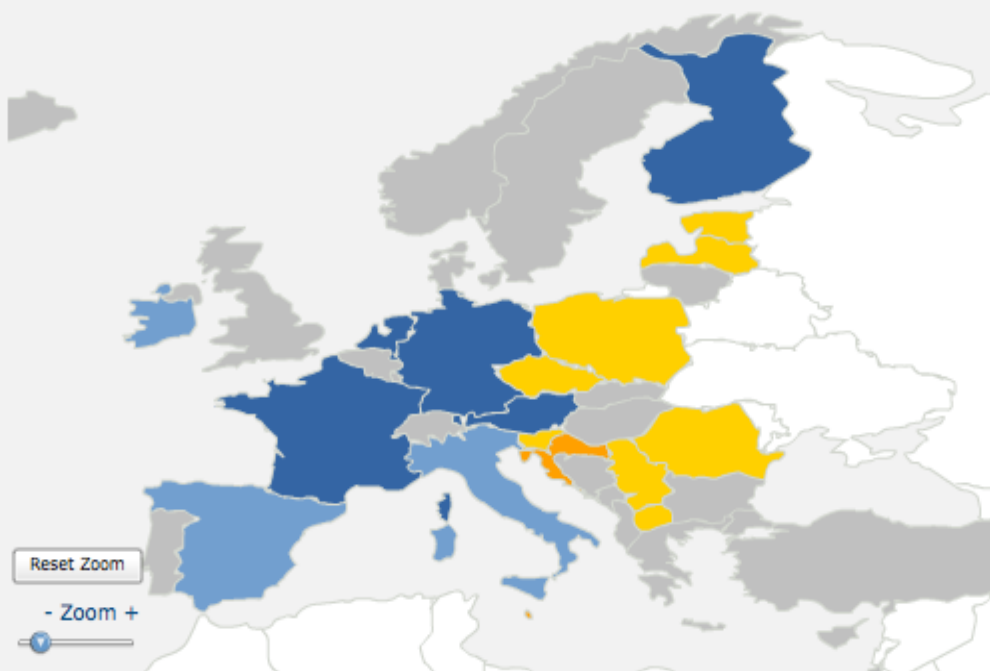
- Share of SSH in GBAORD
- Total GBAORD Social Sciences
- Total GBAORD Humanities
- Share of SSH in GERD
- Share of SSH in HERD

- All Countries
- Member States
- Other Countries

Legend :

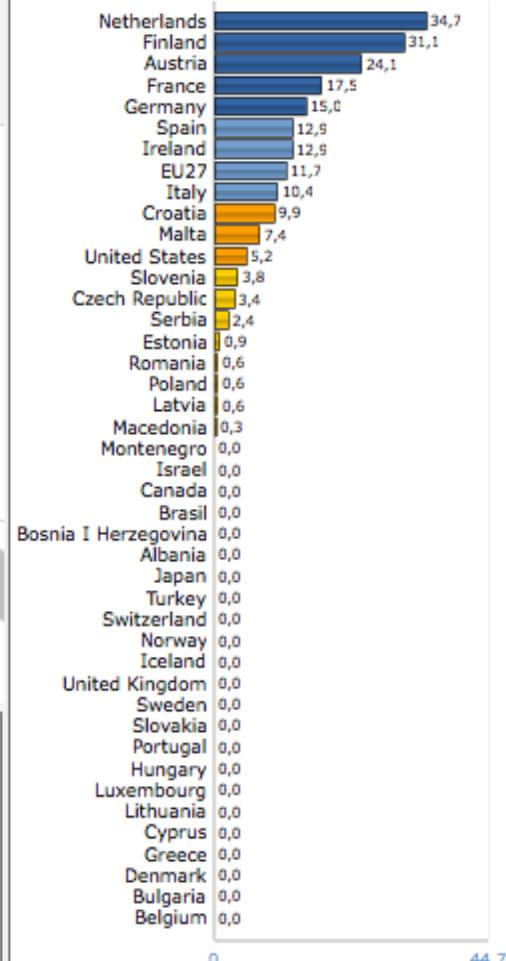
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Source :



General R&D - Total GBAORD Social Sciences

All Countries - 2010



2010

SSH researchers

Share of SSH researchers in the Higher Education sector, Head count

SSH researchers

- All Countries
- Member States
- Other Countries

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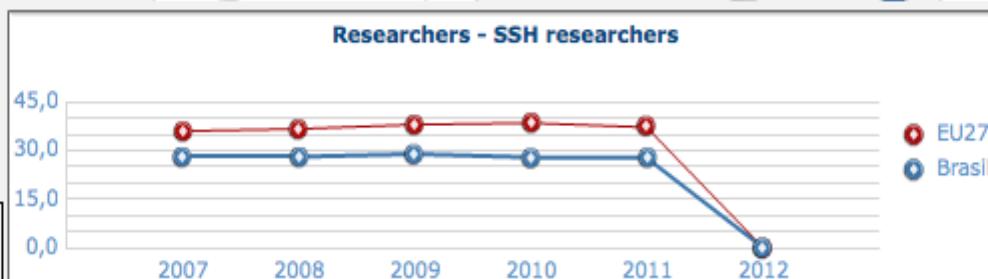
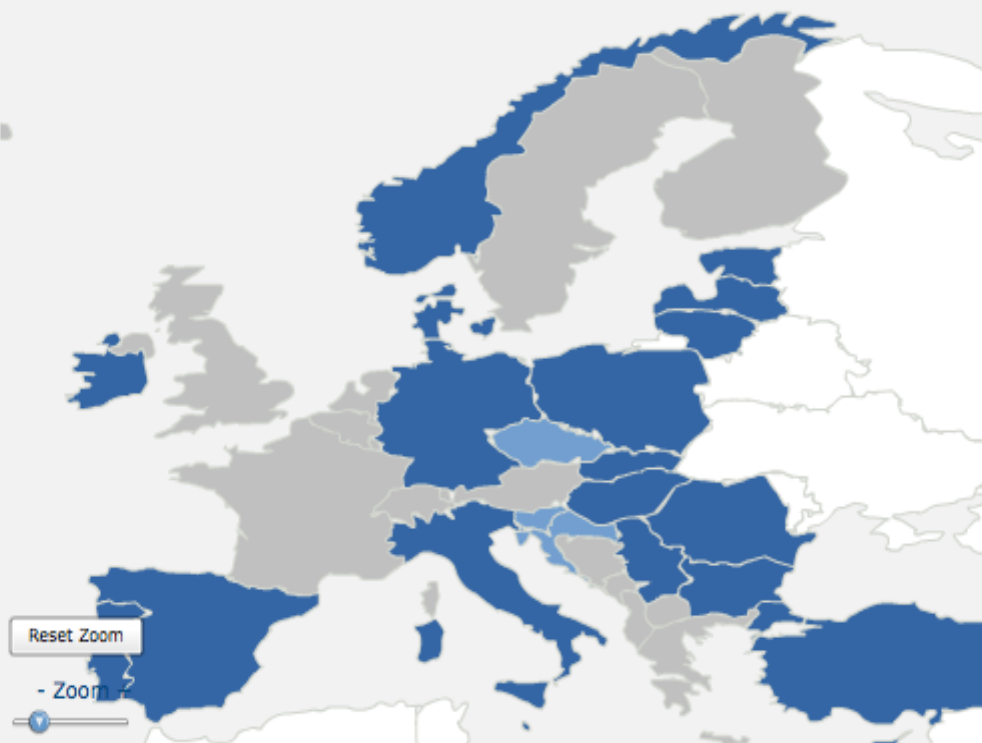
10 - 20

20 - 30

> 30

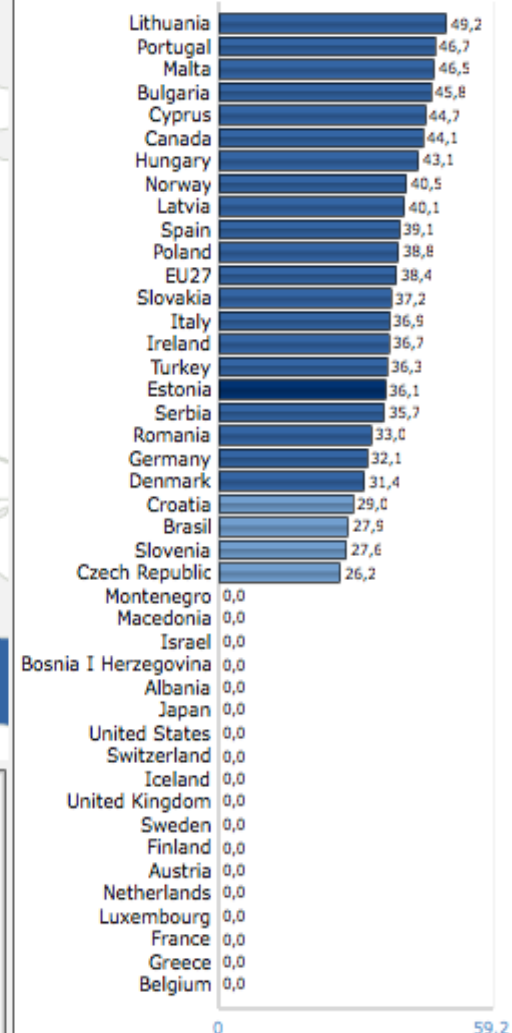
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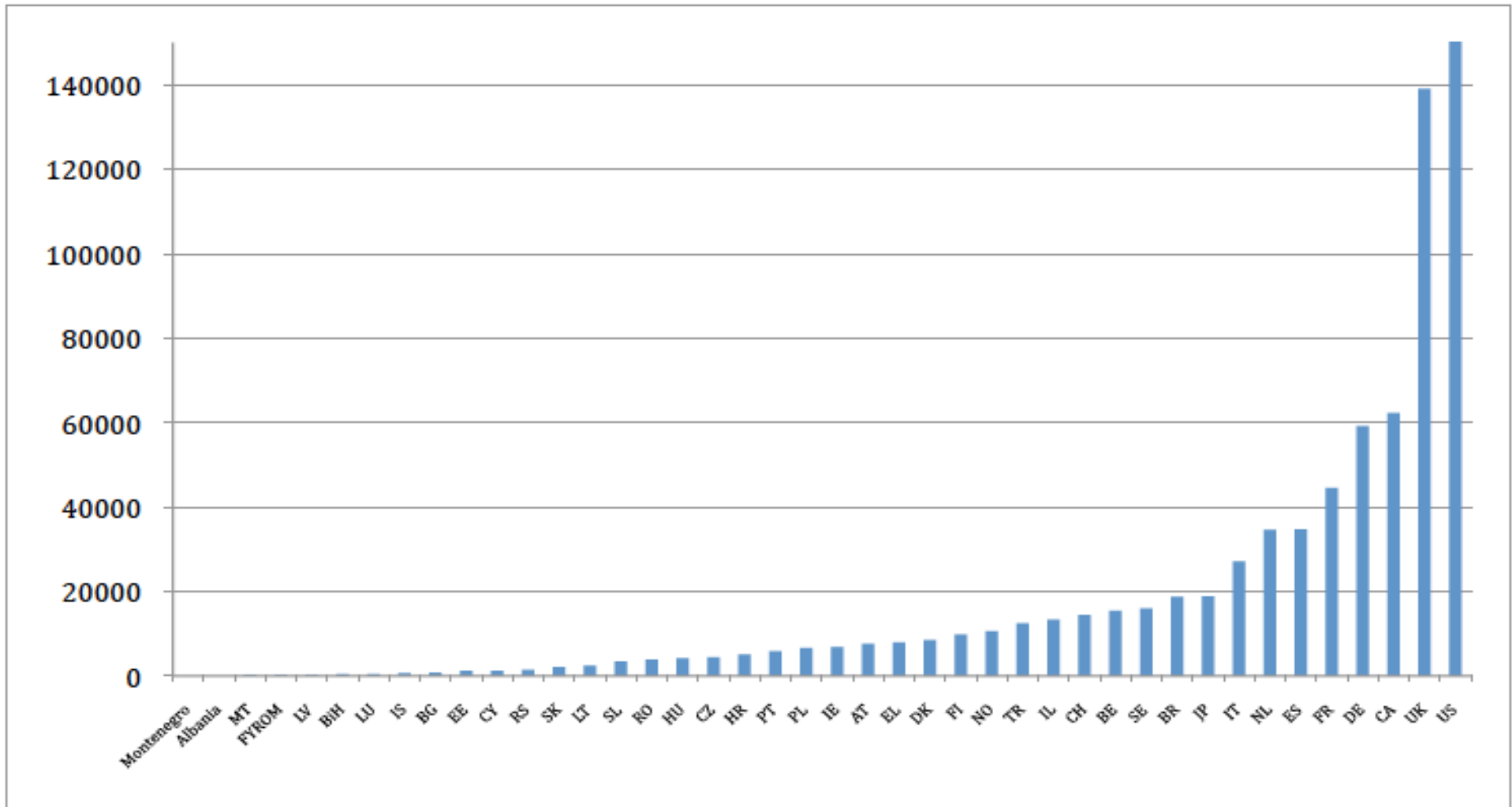


Researchers - SSH researchers

All Countries - 2010

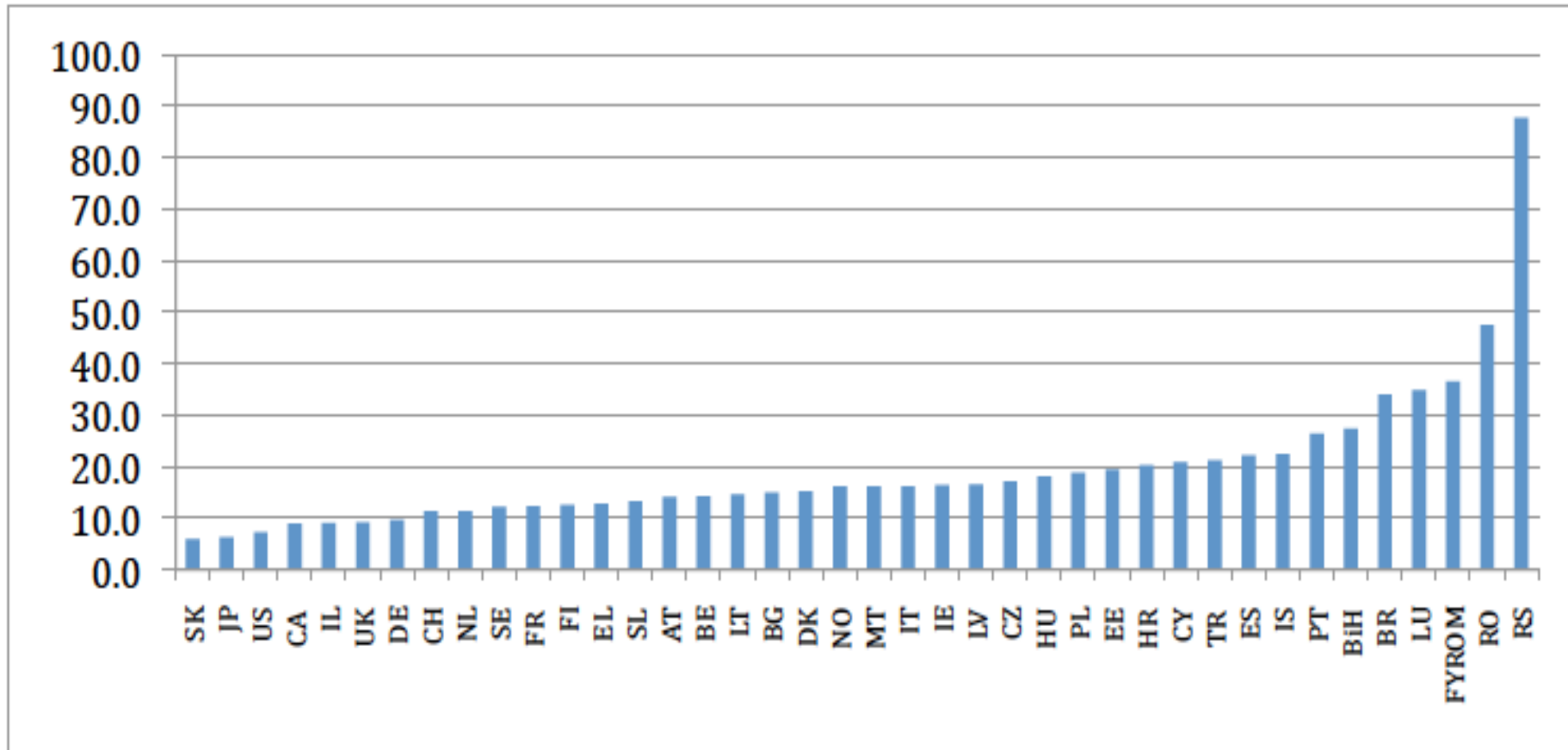


Research performance - SSH publications 2005-2011



Data: Scopus; extraction: Technopolis

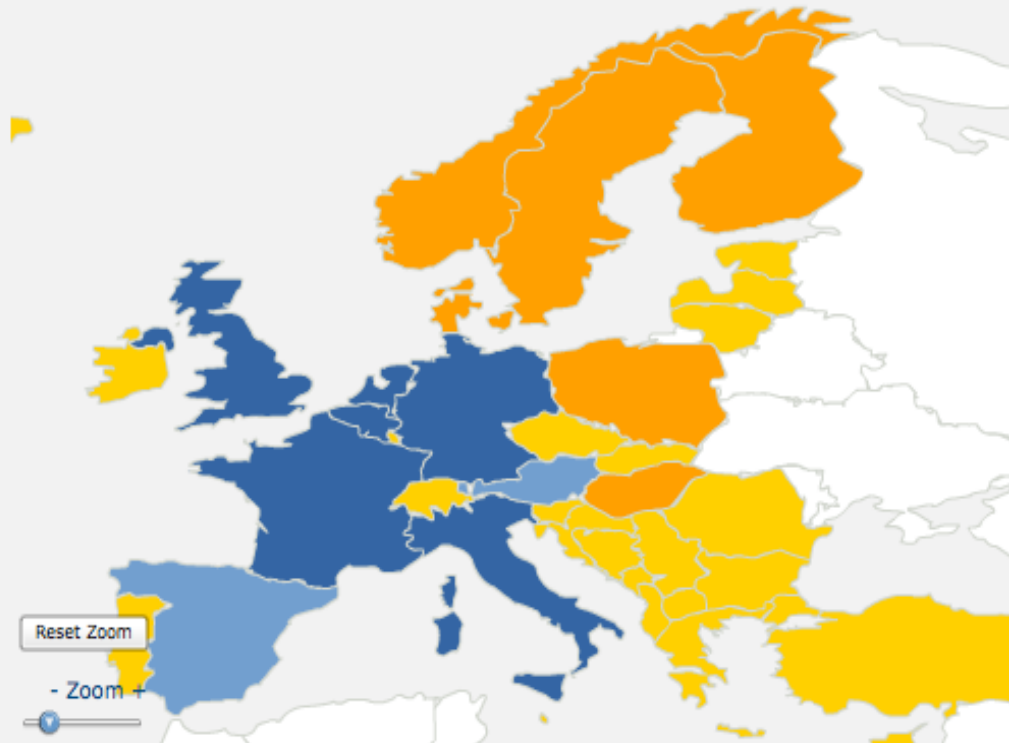
Research performance – growth of SSH publications 2005-2011



Data: Scopus; extraction: Technopolis

FP Participation

- FP 5
- FP 6
- FP 7



- All Countries
- Member States
- Other Countries

Legend :

No participation

up to 25

25 - 50

50 - 75

more than 75

Source :

DG-RTD, E-CORDA

You can choose between FP's and see the absolute participation rates by country by putting the cursor on a country. The city with the highest number of participations (absolute and relative) are equally provided.



Recent trends in SSH research in Europe

Higher education as research performer

- Clustering of universities as multidisciplinary entities based on geographic proximity and subject (e.g. Belgium and France)
- Eastern EU universities – low involvement in research, as most research is performed by public research institutes

Public research sector – diversified models

- Common model in EU: umbrella organisations or large research centres addressing either SSH only, or combining SSH research and other fields together
 - E.g.: AIT (SSH + non-SSH), WIFO (only SSH); Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (DE); CNRS (FR)
- National Academies of Science and their research institutes are the main research performers in SSH in Eastern EU

Private sector research in SSH is rather marginal in all EU countries



New challenges in SSH research

Blurring boundaries between SSH and other disciplines and within SSH research

- Cross-cutting, integrative, data-intensive research
- Oriented towards problem-solving
- Shift towards inter- and multi-disciplinary practices
 - However, still high rigidity of disciplinary structures of funding, recruitment, training & education

Policy changes & reform of SSH system

- Alignment of research funding with emerging societal challenges and competitiveness
- Innovation strategies & separate strategies for SSH designed to integrate multidisciplinary

Emerging thematic priorities of research programmes and strategy papers

Societal problems

- Health and welfare
- Ageing, demographic changes & pension systems
- Democracy, accountability
- Quality of life
- National security
- Quality of education
- Urbanisation & urban devt
- Information society & smart cities
- Gender issues
- Networks and social media
- Brain cognition, psychology of behaviour
- Ethical questions related to new technologies
- Criminality & safety

Global challenges

- Environmental sustainability
- Climate change & transition to low carbon economy
- Tensions between globalisation and national and local interests
- Terrorism and cyber warfare
- Nuclear proliferation
- Energy security
- Food security
- Global pandemics

Competitiveness

- Globalisation and national competitiveness
- Knowledge-based economy
- Resource-efficient, sustainable production & green economy
- Innovation, commercialisation & entrepreneurship
- Social capital & social innovation
- Labour market and employment
- Creative industries
- Agriculture & rural development
- Efficiency of public administration
- Regional disparities



New challenges in SSH research (II): Organisational and structural changes

“Business as usual” changes which hardly bring the efficiency gains expected

- Personnel changes in decision-making bodies
- Re-assignment of policy-making or of responsibilities of intermediate bodies
 - e.g. mergers of research councils in IR, & of 2 intermediate bodies in EE research council
- Experiments with new governance structures
 - e.g. Establishment of ATHENA in FR to improve coordination of SSH

Aiming for systemic impact but needing political commitment to ensure sustainability

- Adoption of performance requirements in research and higher education (e.g. CZ, EE, IS, PL, RO)
- New organisations for independent and transparent evaluations (e.g. BG, CZ, IT, RO, CH)

Challenges for the Western Balkans in an EU context

▶ Performance challenges

- ▶ Shaped by constraints in research inputs: human resources, research infrastructure and funding
 - ▶ Notable improvements in research infrastructures (e.g. current research information system e-CRIS in Bosnia & Herzegovina & Montenegro)
 - ▶ Needed wider access to scientific journals full text databases
 - ▶ Low participation in international research infrastructures (e.g. European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures)
- ▶ High growth in SSH publications but keep in mind modest starting point
- ▶ International cooperation and H2020 – key to upgrading research performance

▶ Policy challenges

- ▶ Shifting STI & SSH policies towards supporting integrated and “mission-driven” SSH research
- ▶ Aiming for systemic impact of organisational changes
 - ▶ Openness, transparency and integrity of the research systems
 - ▶ Data collection, monitoring and evaluation systems
 - ▶ Removing barriers to internal cooperation across disciplines

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Thank You For Your Attention!

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