

European experiences with national research evaluation systems

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Outline

1. Definitions

- National research evaluation systems
- Performance-based institutional funding systems

A typology:

- Four types: United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands
- More examples: Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Portugal

Experience-based advice:

- Evaluations and funding based on peer review
- Indicator-based funding systems
- General advice

- National research evaluation system
 - A policy tool to advise, manage and improve the activities of public sector research organisations.
 - May also be used to change the distribution of funding among research organisations.
- Performance-based research funding system (PRFS)
 - The part of the organisational level (institutional) funding system that is allocated on a competitive basis.

The dual funding system Our focus is on institutional level evaluation and/or funding

Government

Competetive grants

Projects and Programmes
Evaluation of individual
applications for external
funding

Institutional funding

Historical, Political Strategic

Performance-based

Research organizations

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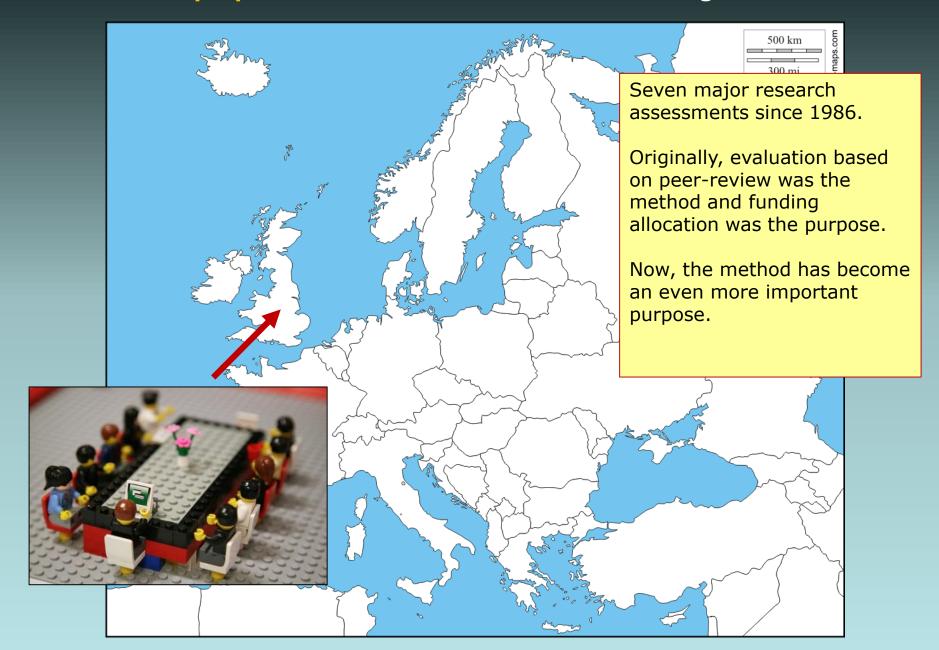
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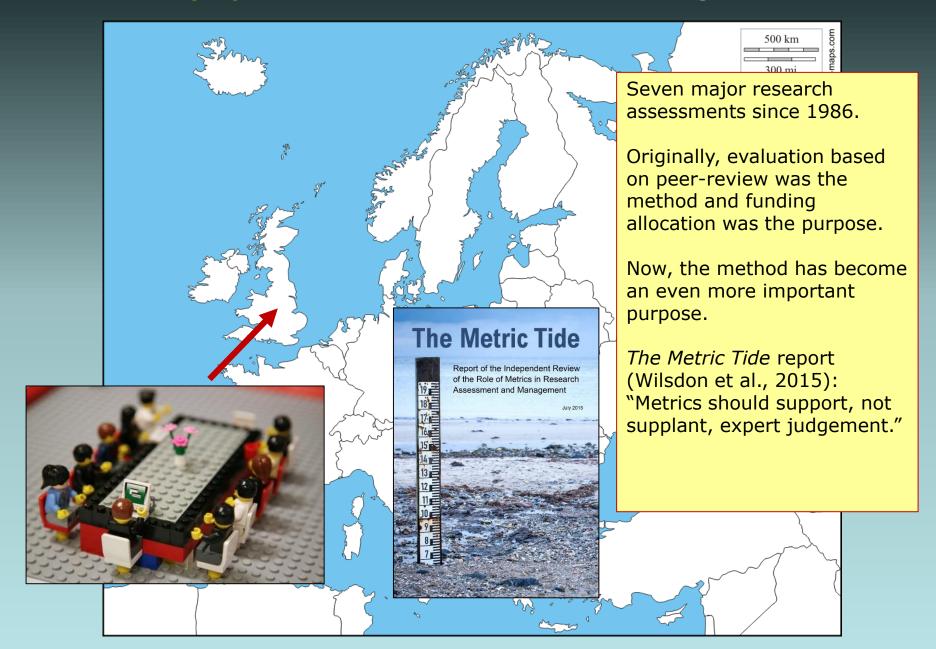
Four types: United Kingdom

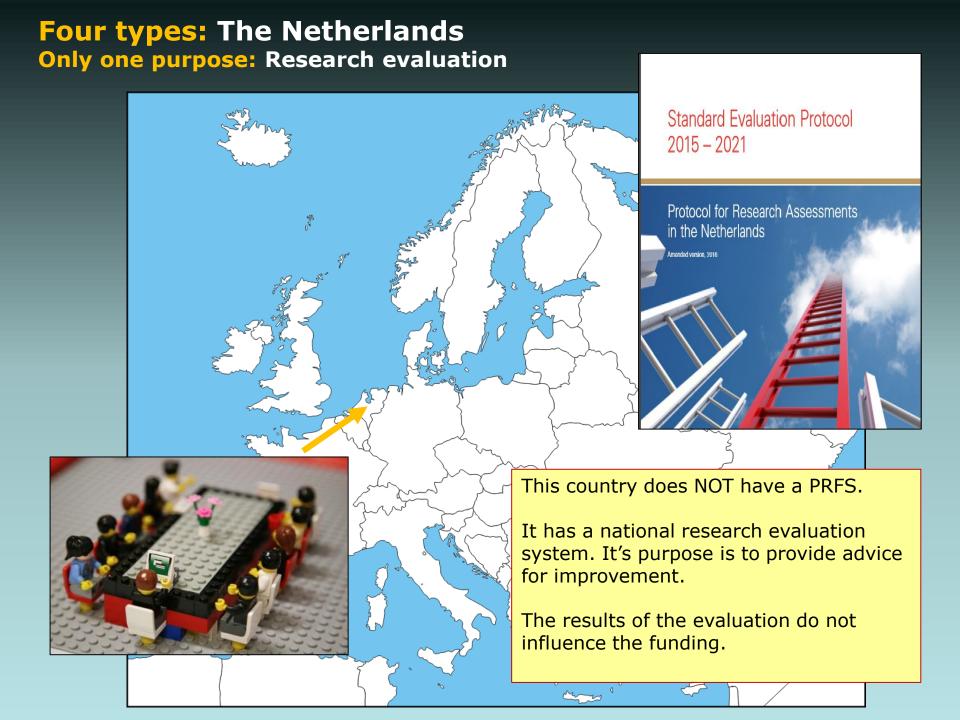
Combines two purposes: Research evaluation and funding



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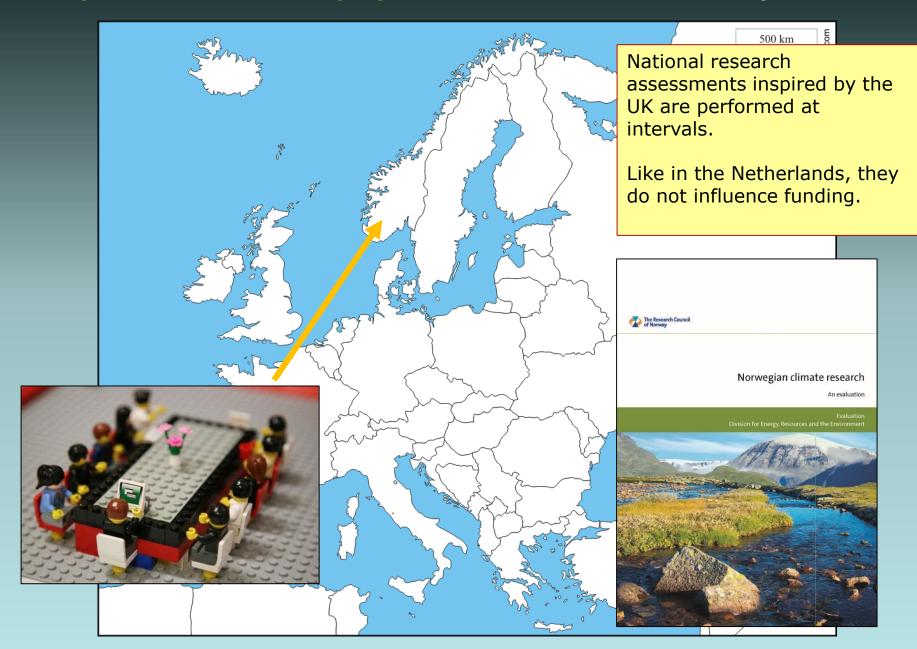
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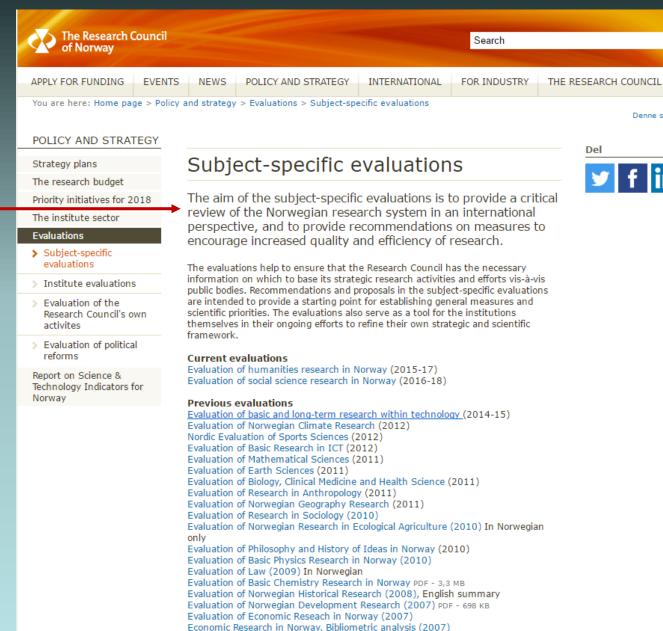
Four types: Norway (1)

Two systems, one for each purpose: The research evaluation system



Four types: Norway (1) Two systems, one for each purpose: The research evaluation system

The aim of the subject-specific evaluations is to provide a critical review of the Norwegian research system in an international perspective, and to provide recommendations on measures to encourage increased quality and efficiency of research.

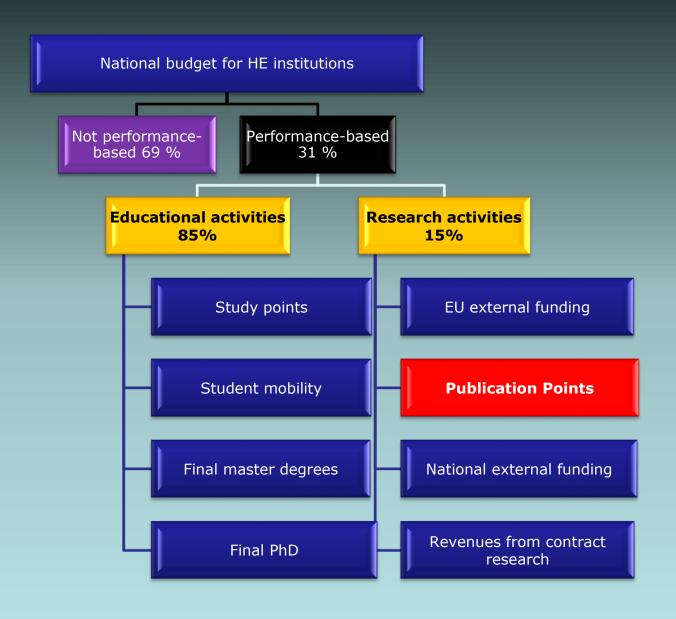


Evaluation of Pharmaceutical Research in Norway(2006)

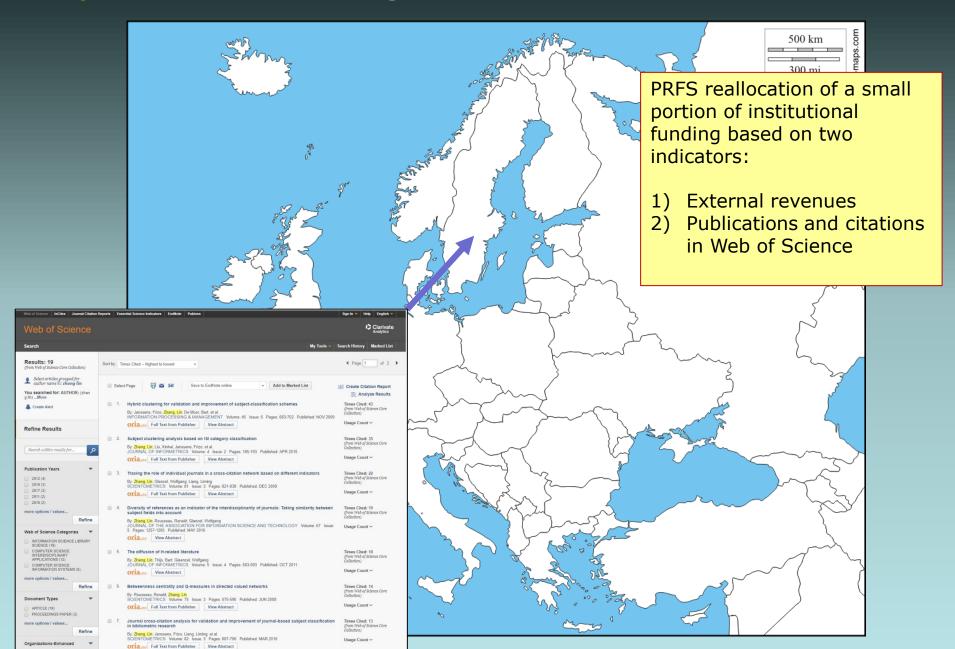
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Denne siden på norsk

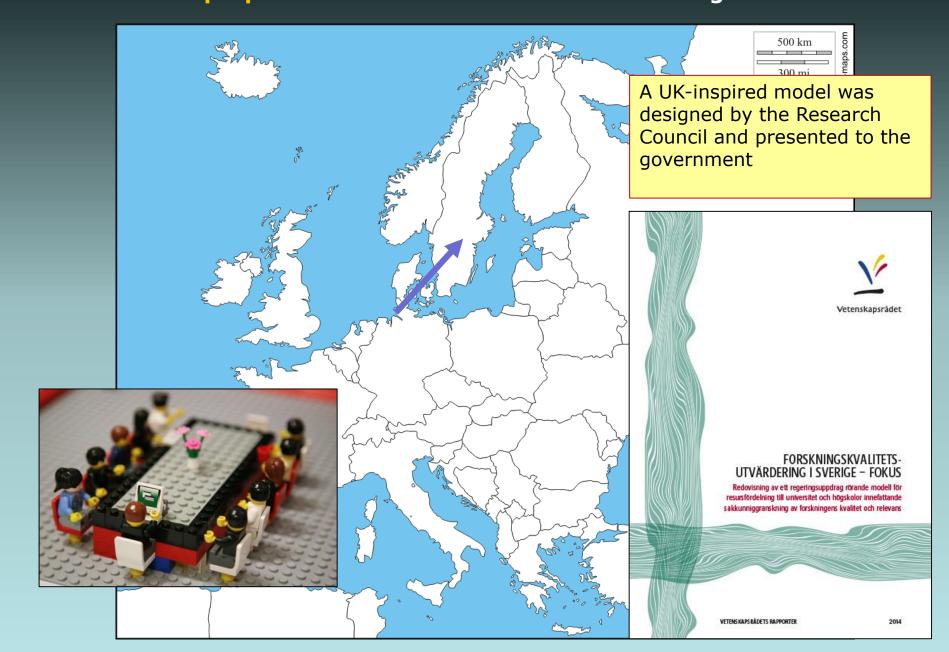
Four types: Norway (2) Two systems, one for each purpose: The indicator-based funding system



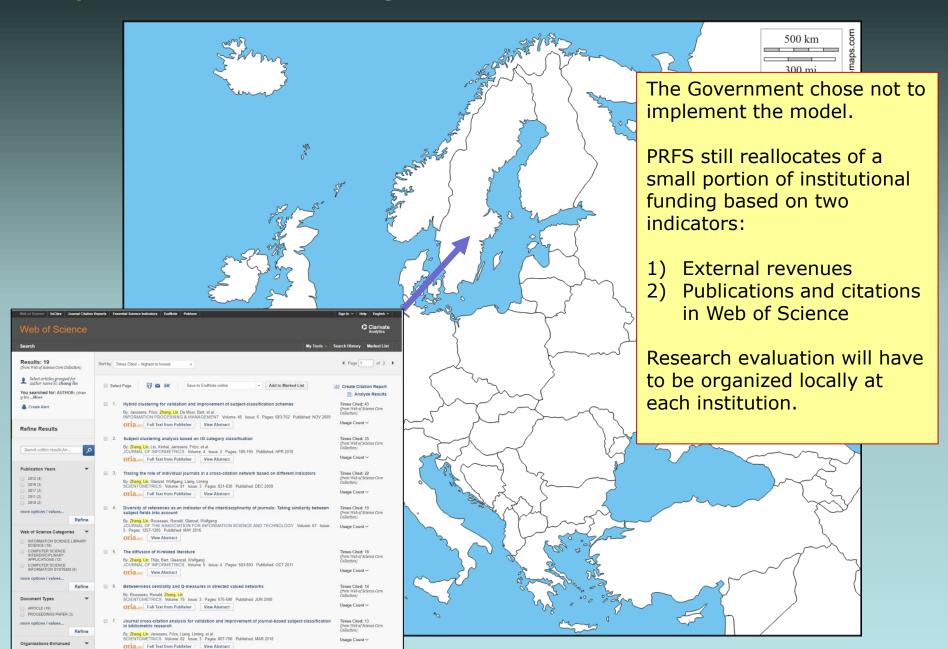
Four types: Sweden 2009-2014 Purpose: Institutional funding



Four types: Sweden in 2014: A change of model? Combines two purposes: Research evaluation and funding



Four types: Sweden Purpose: Institutional funding



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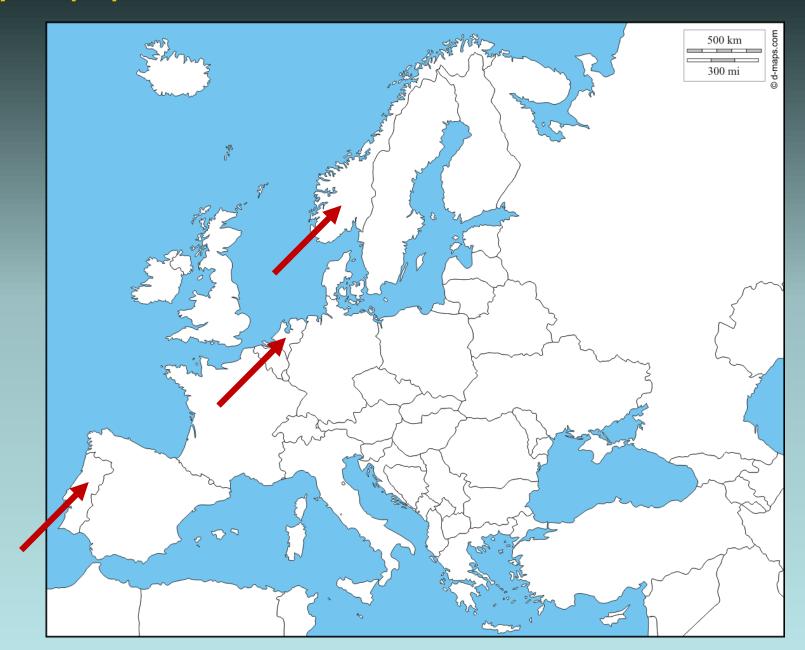
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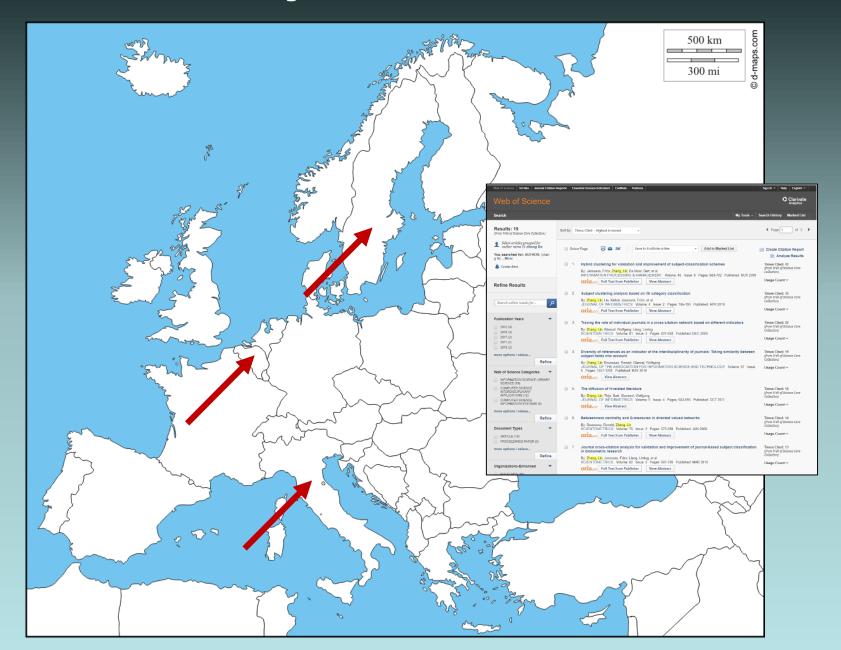
Four types: United Kingdom, Czech Republic?, (Italy) Combines two purposes: Research evaluation and funding



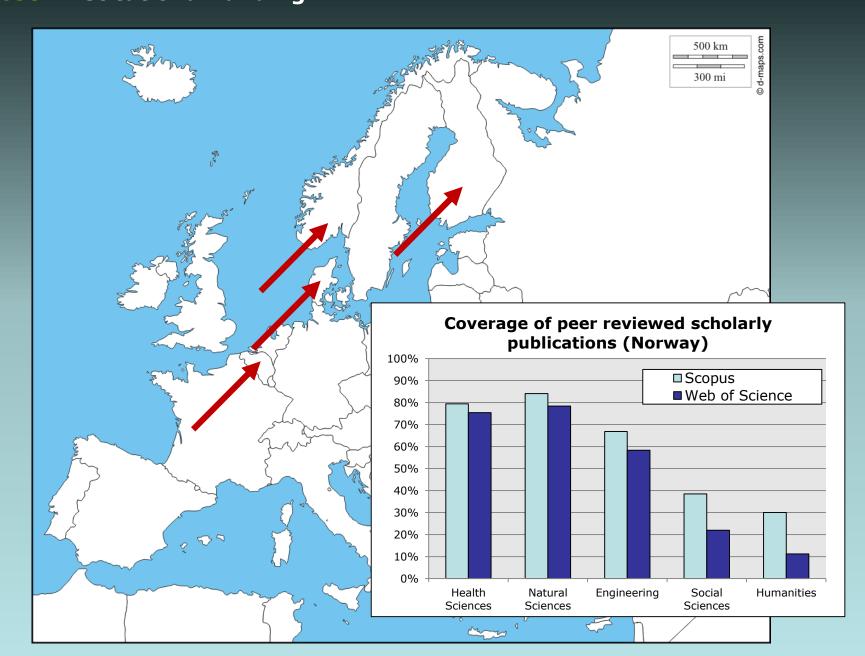
Four types: The Netherlands, Norway (1), Portugal Only one purpose: Research evaluation



Four types: Sweden, Belgium (Flanders) until 2009, (Italy) Purpose: Institutional funding



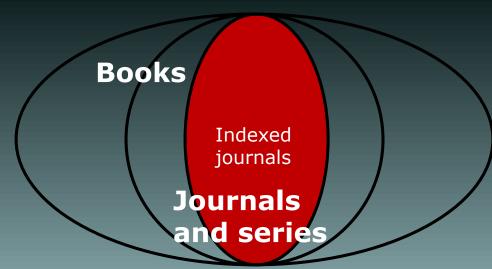
Four types: Norway (2), Belgium (Flanders) from 2009, Denmark, Finland Purpose: Institutional funding



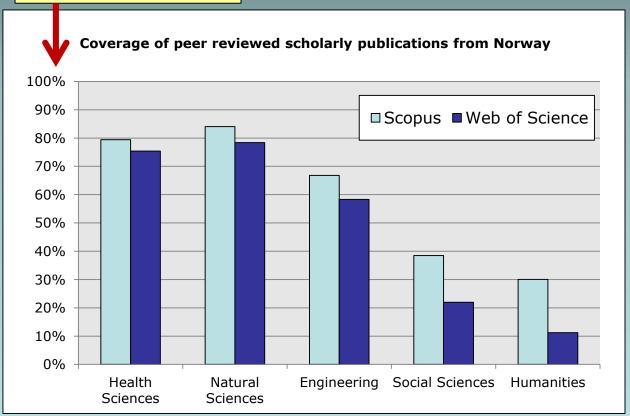
Incomplete coverage of international journals in the social sciences and humanities.

Very limited coverage of books.

Random or no coverage of the national level (books and journals)



100 per cent?



UCD Dublin and Swedish universities Purpose: Local needs





Implementation of the Norwegian Model in University College Dublin: **Processes and Challenges**

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Introduction

Performance-based funding systems are designed to encourage research and innovation. The Norwegian Model has been implemented in Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Finland, Norway, among others, at aggregated level. Whilst the long-term effects of Norwegian model are still in question, it is generally agreed and expected that the number of publication in prestigious channels and their impact will increase. University College Dublin in the Republic of Ireland has recently adopted the model, implemented at individual level. The Output-Based Research Support Scheme (OBRSS) rewards individual researchers based on number of publications and supervision of doctoral students. A "ranked publication channel list" was created for all research areas, including peer-reviewed journals and academic book publishers. Each publication is ranked as level 1 or 2, largely based on the Danish, Finnish & Norwegian ratings, but also factors such as journal impact factor and inputs from consultation with academic staff.

Interim Report

*UCD Academic staff receive additional grant monies to help support their research activities

0.7% of Research Budget

· in new research funding was allocated to academic staff to support their research activities using this scheme

85% of academic staff updated their profiles

 More complete and up to date information is available in the Research Information System for reporting purposes. This leads to time saving in report production.

3% of academic staff queried the results of the scheme

. This compares with 50% on other internal funding schemes

Challenges, Evaluation, & Questions

Construction of Database

- *38,847 Journals, 2,435 Book Series, 2,392 conferences & 2,524 publishers on publication channel list
- · Over 13,969 academic publications were matched to the channel list
- 3,214 publications from 515 publishers, 974 conferences, 77 journals not on the

'Prestigious' and 'Normal' Level

- Norwegian 2017, Finnish 2017, Danish BFI Level 2016-2017
- *2017 Source Normalised Impact Factor (SNIP)
- 2017 CiteScore
- · Dutch Ceres Codes for publishers only

- · Percentage change in top-ranking journals (measured by SciVal)
- Number of total research outputs (measured by SciVal)
- · Expenditure reports (36% of awards spent after 1 year; 3 year limit to funds)

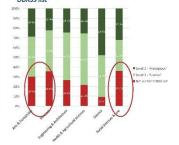
- . What are the implications on research practices and knowledge production?
- . How to ensure the construction of the database of publication channels to be fail and transparent?
- · Are performance-based funding systems more effective at aggregated or

How does it work?



What we've learned so far

23% of UCD reported publications are not on the **OBRSS list**



Selected Bibliography

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Mutual Learning Exercise on PRFS in 2017 Organized by the European Commission for member states



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Best practice or mutual learning?

PRFS need to be examined in their national contexts to understand their motivations and design. While research is mostly international, research funding is mostly national. Country differences in the design of a PRFS and its motivations should be expected and respected.

The Metric Tide report (Wilsdon et al., 2015): "Metrics should support, not supplant, expert judgement."





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MLE on Performance-based Research Funding Systems

Performance-based Research Funding Systems (PRFS) are one of the mechanisms through which countries try to increase the performance of their public sector research systems. The nature of these systems - based on peer reviews, metrics or a combination of both - varies considerably among countries. The MLE will provide a learning opportunity for countries willing to better understand the advantages and drawbacks of various options, improve ongoing PRFS and deepen the assessments of the impact of different systems.

Date ## 12 January 2017 to 11 September 2017

Exercise type • Mutual learning

Geo coverage 2 Austria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Italy Armenia Moldova Norway

Portugal Slovenia Spain Sweden Turkey

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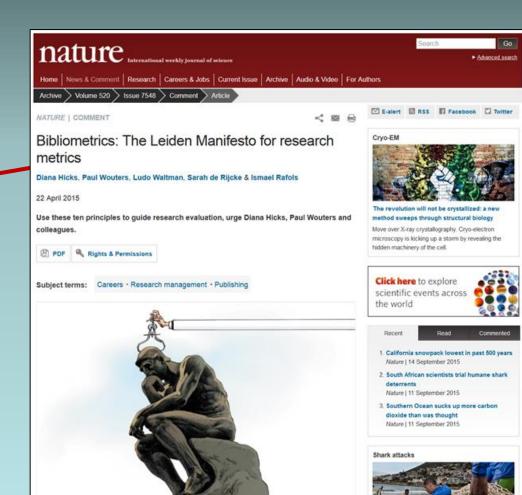
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Principle 1 in the Leiden Manifesto



1. Quantitative indicators cannot replace the judgment of expert assessors, but they can be used to help support them.



The "Leiden Manifesto" Bibliometrics for evaluation-based PRFS: Ten useful guidelines

- 1. Quantitative indicators cannot replace the judgment of expert assessors, but they can be used to help support them.
- 2. Evaluation of research activity has to adapt to the mission and objectives of the institution, individual or group being evaluated.
- 3. Indicators need to be developed that reflect the impact of research activities locally and regionally, and those that are developed in languages other than English.
- 4. The data collection and analysis processes have to be open, transparent and simple.
- 5. Those evaluated have to be able to verify the analysis of the indicators being used for the evaluation and, if they disagree, request re-evaluation.
- 6. The differences existing in terms of impact in different fields of research have to be taken into account when producing indicators.
- 7. Individual evaluation of researchers has to be based on qualitative assessment of their portfolio. Indicators cannot be used without taking into account the researcher's context.
- 8. False precision and misplaced concreteness must be avoided.
- 9. The effects of certain indicators as incentives for certain activities and disincentives for others must be taken into account.
- 10. The indicators have to be reviewed and updated regularly.

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Bibliometrics for indicator-based PRFS: Ten considerations

- 1. **Bibliometrics is not 'objective'.** Use independent expertise and avoid power games in the design process.
- 2. Design the indicators in **dialogue** between the funder and the funded organisations and represent all areas of research in the process.
- **3. Economic incentives** are inherently strong. Should not be stronger than necessary.
- **4. Data sources.** Try to provide comprehensiveness and a balanced representation of all fields and publication practices.
- **5. Definitions and delimitations.** Any chosen data source or indicator represents a definition and delimitation. Discuss definitions and their limitations.
- **6. Indicators.** Discuss the dimensions of performances that indicators may represent, and whether they are available and valid across all fields.
- 7. Field normalization is needed because institutions have different research profiles. Field normalisation methods for citation indicators need to be supplemented with a balanced representation of productivity across fields.
- **8. Counting methods.** They should be balanced between fields with different co-authorship practices, and should promote collaboration without stimulating the inclusion of authors with minimal contributions.
- **9. Weighing of publication types.** Again: Balance the indicators across subfields with different publication practices, and stimulate a favourable development of those practices
- 10. Ranking of publication channels. Stimulate quality and societal relevance at the same time.

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ARTICLE

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Unique, but still best practice? The Research Excellence Framework (REF) from an international perspective

Gunnar Sivertsen¹

ABSTRACT Inspired by *The Metric Tide* report (2015) on the role of metrics in research assessment and management, and Lord Nicholas Stern's report *Building on Success and Learning from Experience* (2016), which deals with criticisms of REF2014 and gives advice for a redesign of REF2021, this article discusses the possible implications for other countries. It also contributes to the discussion of the future of the REF by taking an international perspective. The article offers a framework for understanding differences in the motivations and designs of performance-based research funding systems (PRFS) across countries. It also shows that a basis for mutual learning among countries is more needed than a formulation of best practice, thereby both contributing to and correcting the international outlook in *The Metric Tide* report and its supplementary Literature Review.



Performance-Based Funding of University Research

MLE on Performance-based Research Funding
Systems (PRFS)

orizon 2020 Policy Support Facility



STI Conference 2016 · València Peripheries, frontiers and beyond

Proceedings of the 21st International Conference on Science and Technology Indicators | <u>Valencia</u> (Spain) | September 14-16, 2010 DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.4995/STI2016.2016.xxxx

A bibliometric indicator with a balanced representation of all fields

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Abstract

As research in progress, we present two studies aimed at redesigning the bibliometric indicator of the "Norwegian Model" as response to an evaluation in 2013. The indicator is supposed to give a balanced representation of all fields, also those that are constructed as "peripheral" in traditional bibliometrics because of limited coverage in databases. The first study deals with balancing between different field-dependent co-authorship practices in the indicator, the other with the possible addition of a measurement of citation impact that could be applicable across all fields.

PALUKAY

¹ Nordic

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General advice:National institutional evaluation and/or funding systems

- Recognize that such systems are necessarily embedded in national contexts and policies: Seek mutual learning rather than 'best practice'
- The system may do harm or may have positive effects, depending on how it is designed and implemented
- The system should be only one policy tool among several others. Create an ecology rather than a monoculture of funding mechanisms and incentives
- Consult several independent experts