EU-LIFE

Building and promoting excellence in the life sciences in Europe

Excellence in research evaluation: perspective of research institutes

MARTA AGOSTINHO
SUPER MORRI AM 28 April 2022

IMPROVEMENT OF RESEARCH

- Science policy

- Develop /share institutional practices

- Each institute commits to IMPROVE

- Inspire others

EU-LIFE

Alliance of Independent Research Institutes

Responsible research

Funding strategies

Open Science

Career Development

Training & education

Knowledge transfer

Research infrastructure

EU-LIFE

Alliance of Independent Research Institutes

Hands-on guides & Policy briefs

Internal workshops

Research Career Support

Policy webinars & advocacy

European projects

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Research assessment & benchmarking

Share practices in how we recruit and promote researchers

Alignment of **EU-LIFE benchmarking** with Dora and Leiden Declarations

Monitoring equality & diversity, including diversity indicators in benchmarking

PI Career Progression
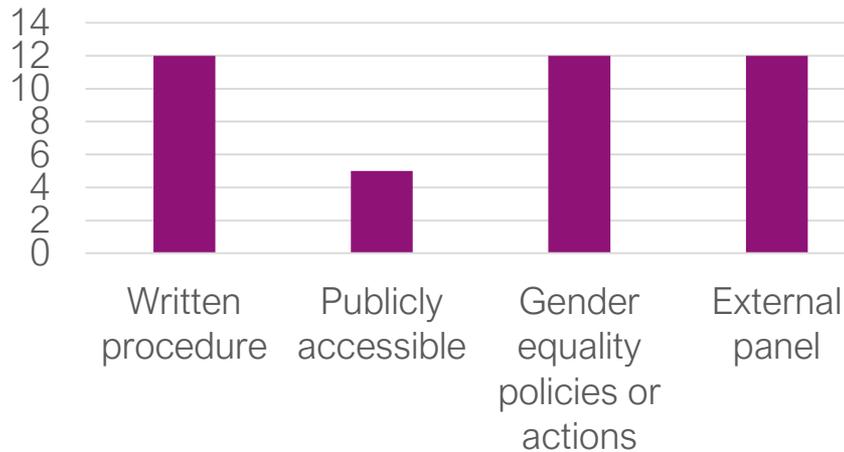
Qualitative and bibliometric measures

N. YES

Written procedure · Publicly accessible · Gender equality policies or actions · External panel

Qualitative… · N. publications · N. citations · Impact factor · H factor/… · Contribution to… · Field variation

■ Score 4   ■ Score 3   ■ Score 2   ■ Score 1
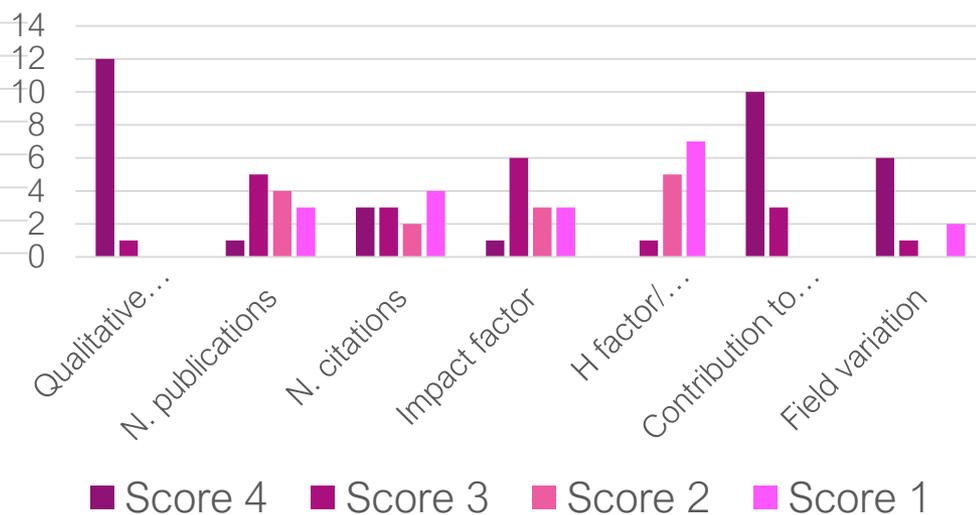
2017

Junior PI Progression Evaluation (2017)
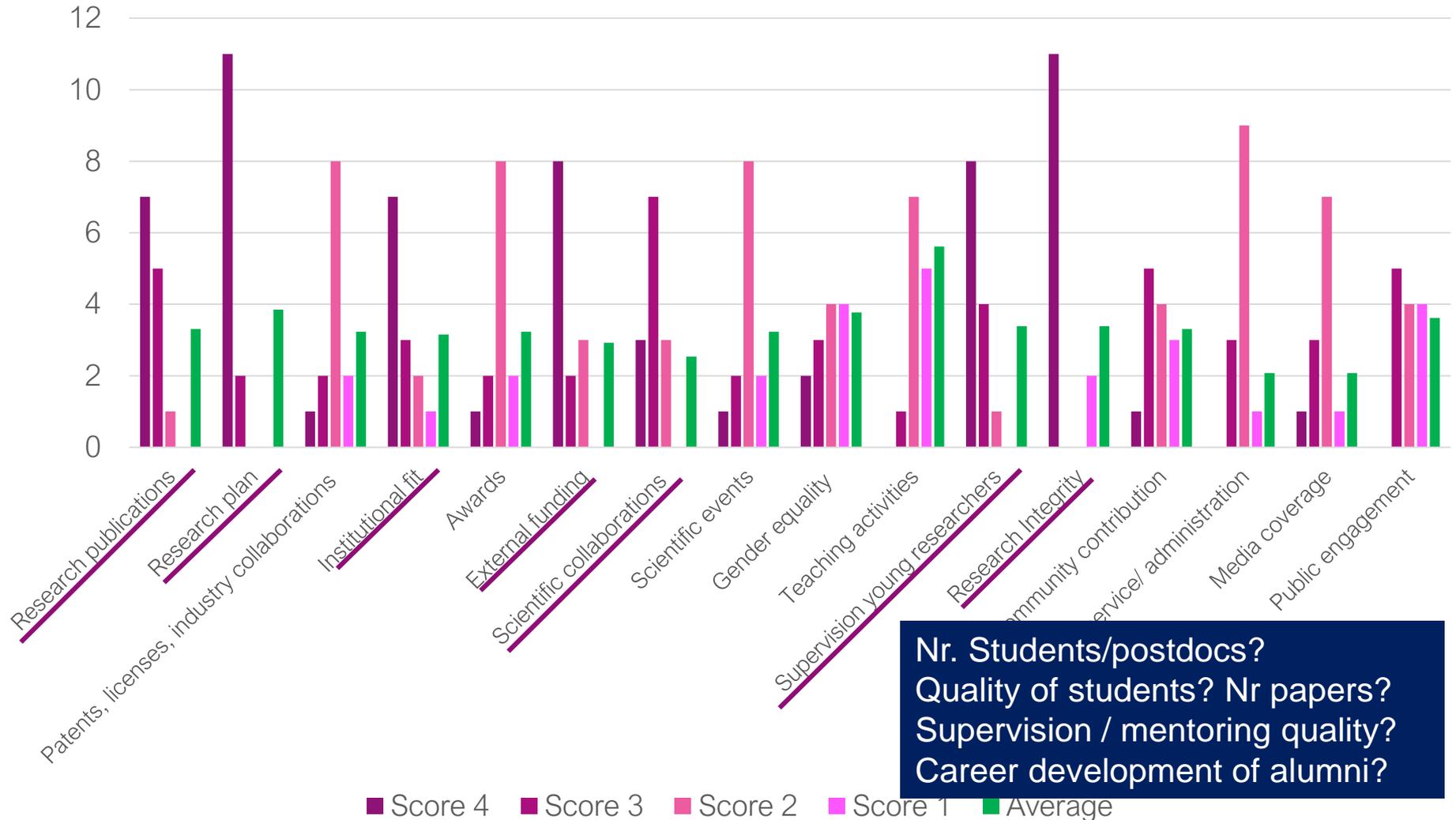
Nr. Students/postdocs?
Quality of students? Nr papers?
Supervision / mentoring quality?
Career development of alumni?

■ Score 4 ■ Score 3 ■ Score 2 ■ Score 1 ■ Average

EU-LIFE input: written, bilateral meetings & Webinar in 2021

European Commission Scoping Report

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/36ebb96c-50c5-11ec-91ac-01aa75ed71a1

Towards a reform of the research assessment system

Scoping Report

Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment

A way forward - A stakeholder-owned initiative

An **alliance/coalition** of funders, research performing organisations (including universities) and their associations, national/regional assessment authorities and agencies, as well as learned societies, all willing to take the lead in reforming the current research assessment system

Agreement on objectives, principles and actions

Committing signatories to act according to an implementation plan

Remain open to new signatories

EC role: facilitate the establishment of an agreement, and participate as a R&I funder

Building on DORA and other declarations

Joint ownership by the participating organisations and by researchers

Open to non-European signatories

European Commission

Jean-Emmanuel Fauré
Policy officcer – Unit Open science, DGR&I

Karen Stroobants
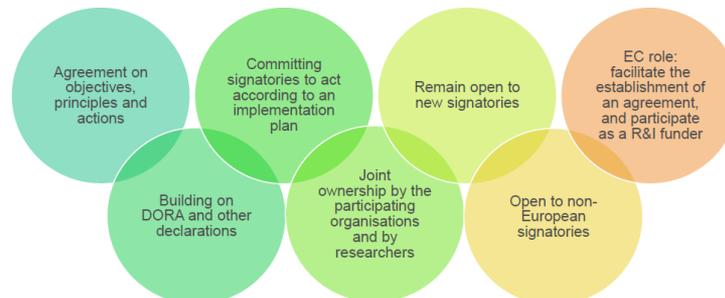
- Marta Agostinho, Alliance of research institutes advocating for excellent research in Europe (EU-LIFE)
- Noémie Aubert Bonn, researcher, research on research
- Roland Bertelmann, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres
- Mattias Björnmalm, CESAER
- Paola Bovolenta, European Research Council (ERC)
- Francesca Di Donato, Italian National Research Council (CNR)
- Pavel Doleček, Charles University, Prague
- Elena Domínguez Cañas, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- Silvia Gómez Recio, Young European Research Universities (YERUN)
- Tobias Grimm, German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Bernard Larrouturou, High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres)
- Frank Miedema, Utrecht University and UMC Utrecht
- Gemma Modinos, Young Academy of Europe (YAE)
- Deborah Oughton, European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA)
- Bert Overlaet, League of European Research Universities (LERU)
- Jan Palmowski, The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities
- Sylvie Rousset, French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- Toma Susi, researcher and representing the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE)
- Ludovic Thilly, Coimbra Group & FOREU2 European Universities Alliances
- Maria Thuveson, Swedish Research Council

10 Umbrella organizations
7 National organisations
(Fr, Sp, Ger, Sw, It)
4 Individual researchers

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SUCCESS

DIVERSITY

IMPACT

INEQUALITIES

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SUCCESS

What is SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS?
Definition and perceptions

What is a SUCCESSFULL PhD/postdoc?

IMPACT

What is scientific IMPACT?

Broader I Longer term

Project I Programme Levels

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PEOPLE

Character
Ethnicity
Gender
Background

TRENDS

UK: 10-15%
US < 8%
EMBL alumni (44 to 30%)

ROLES

Team science
Specialists
Infrastructures
Data
Interdisciplinarity
Interface of science

CAREER NEWS | 24 March 2022

How the career path to principal investigator is narrowing

Lab leader roles are proving more elusive as trainees seek opportunities elsewhere, two studies find.

DIVERSITY

SKILLS

Scientific
Technology
Communication
Management
Leadership

**SECTORS**

Industry
Consultancy
Policy
Management
Education

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(False) Dicothomy QUALITY versus DIVERSITY

Meritocracy in science
what is "pure meritocracy"?
How have we been assessing it?
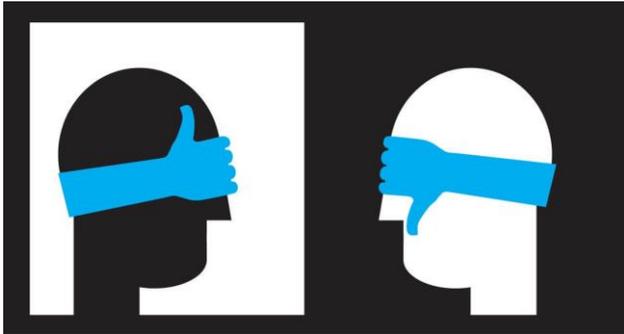
Biases in science: gender, age, geographical, institutional, resources-related

Priviledge is invisible for the privileged

Unconcious biases are universal

https://lattice.com/library/how-to-reduce-unconscious-bias-at-work

The devil is in implementation

EU-LIFE input: written, bilateral meetings & Webinar in 2021
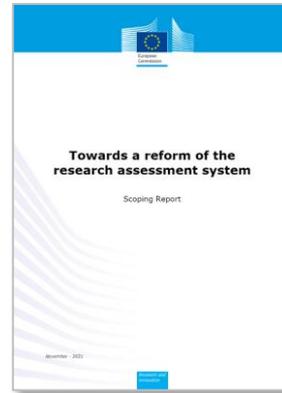
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Aim:

COORDINATED APPROACH

Not a single model
>>> PRINCIPLES & COMMITMENTS

ONLY the FIRST STEP (JUNE 2022)

European Commission

Jean-Emmanuel Fauré
Policy officcer – Unit Open science, DGR&I

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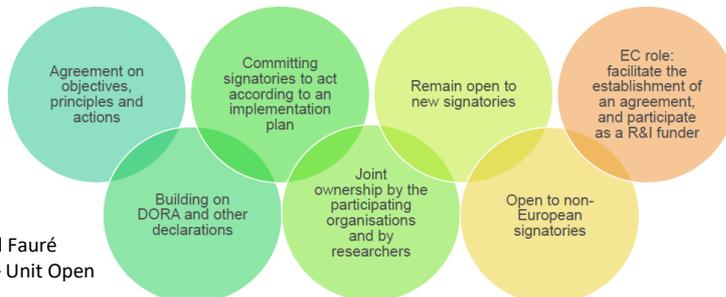
➢ Recognize that reduced and uncertain FUNDING of science is responsible for extreme competition and stretches on research assessment

➢ PEER-REVIEW + RESPONSIBLE USE of metrics

➢ DIVERSITY of contributions to research, OPEN science, TEAM science, COLLABORATIONS

➢ RESEARCHER AT THE CENTRE: consult, create and protect (ie no individual responsibility for systemic change)

➢ GRANULARITY: researchers, research and institutions. But also SPECIFIC GOALS. E.g. assessing a researcher is different if for promotion in career in the organization or if to ascertain her/him as PI of a grant to be funded

➢ FEASIBILITY & INTEROPERABILITY & FLEXIBILITY

➢ RESEARCH ON RESEARCH: make pilots & take evidence-based decisions

➢ Stretch on already stretched institutions: FUNDING / RESOURCES cannot be solely responsibility of institutes or universities

Diversify success

Adequate **definitions & levels** of impact

Sustainability: Fund **continuation**
                Fund what **already works**

Support Hire for change vs "volunteers"

Fund **institutional / transversal** approaches

Thank you and stay tuned!

🌐 www.eu-life.eu

🐦 @EULIFE_news

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