

Gábor B Makara, April 16, 2015

BIOMEDICINE B2 PANEL

Introduction

- 16 units of assessments
- International panel from 5 countries
 - Hungary, Croatia, Finland, Belgium, Great Britain/Singapore
- The Panel worked by consensus
 - after detailed discussions
- Research assessment \neq education or health care assessment

Observations

- Vigorous biomedical research
- The elite is of international good standing
- Some promising organisational changes
 - Merging former units in new institute(s)
- A snapshot – cause of uncertainty
- Good PhD students

General problems

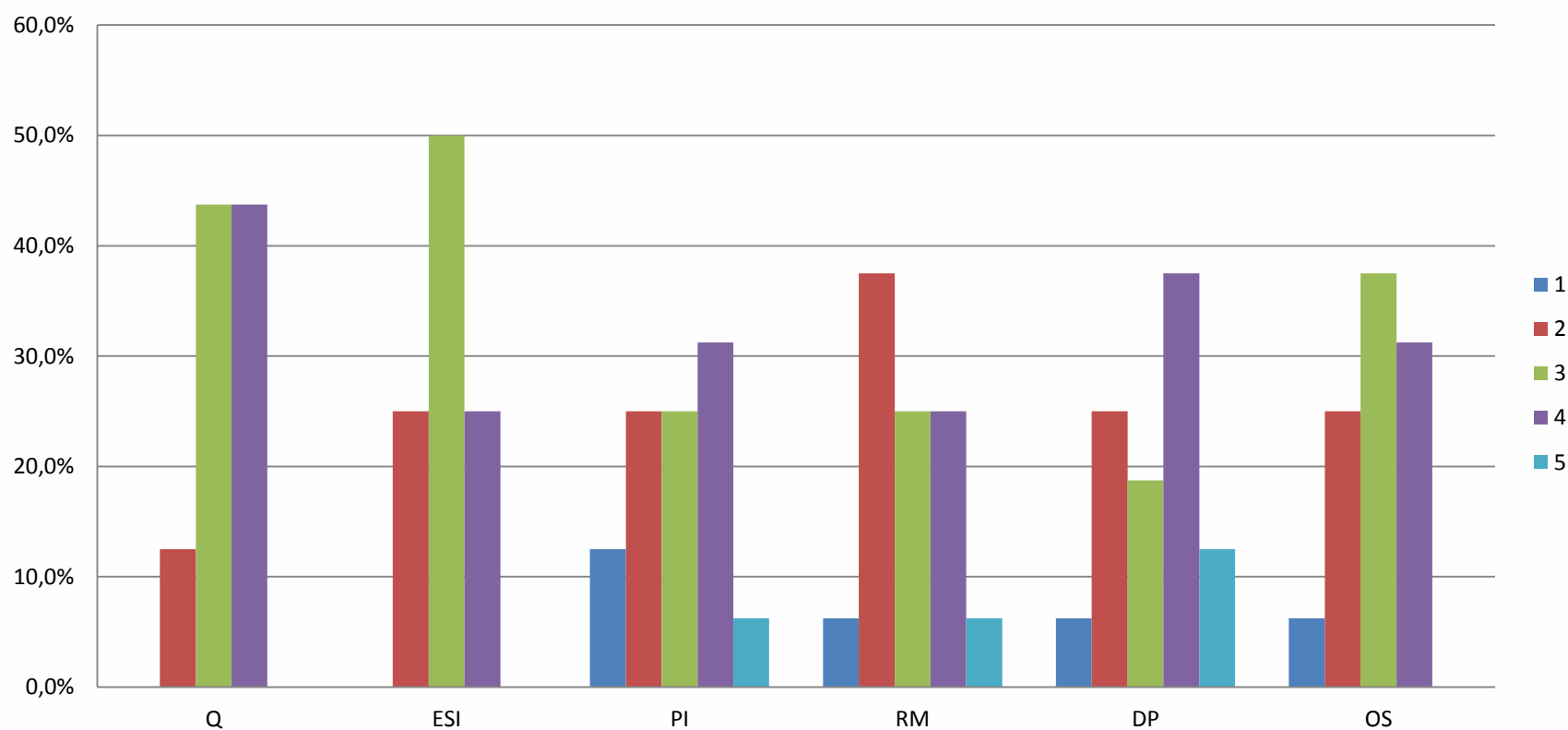
- Participation in large multicenter studies
 - Often, members of collaborations **only**
 - Contributing (patient) data
 - This is not original scientific activity
- Framework for doctoral (PhD) studies
 - Studies last too long
 - Stipends not enough for subsistence
 - Dissertations in Lithuanian

General problems – cont.

- Career path is broken at the postdoctoral stage
- Journals in Lithuanian
 - Primary scientific reports – should be in English
 - Professional articles – knowledge dissemination should be in Lithuanian!!!

Distributon of assessment scores

Medicine



Research quality

- 7/16 units scored 4 – very good (internationally)
- 7/16 units scored 3 – strong national leader
- 2/16 units scored 2 – nationally good

Recommendations:

- Score 4: resist fragmentation, maintain focus
- Score 3: focus on a few topics, decrease fragmentation
- Score ≤ 2 : organise,
focus on a few very good topics

Economic and social impact of research

Scores are much lower than research quality, easily explained by biomedicine's social role, which usually is not considered a productive activity.

Infrastructure for research

- In general, reasonable or good infrastructure
- Excellent use of the structural funds
- Some units still in transition from old to new
- It will take time to have an effect...

Research management

- Score ≥ 4 is somewhat less frequent than score 4 for quality or potential
- In general, management skills need improving
 - may be the root cause of fragmentation.

Recommendation:

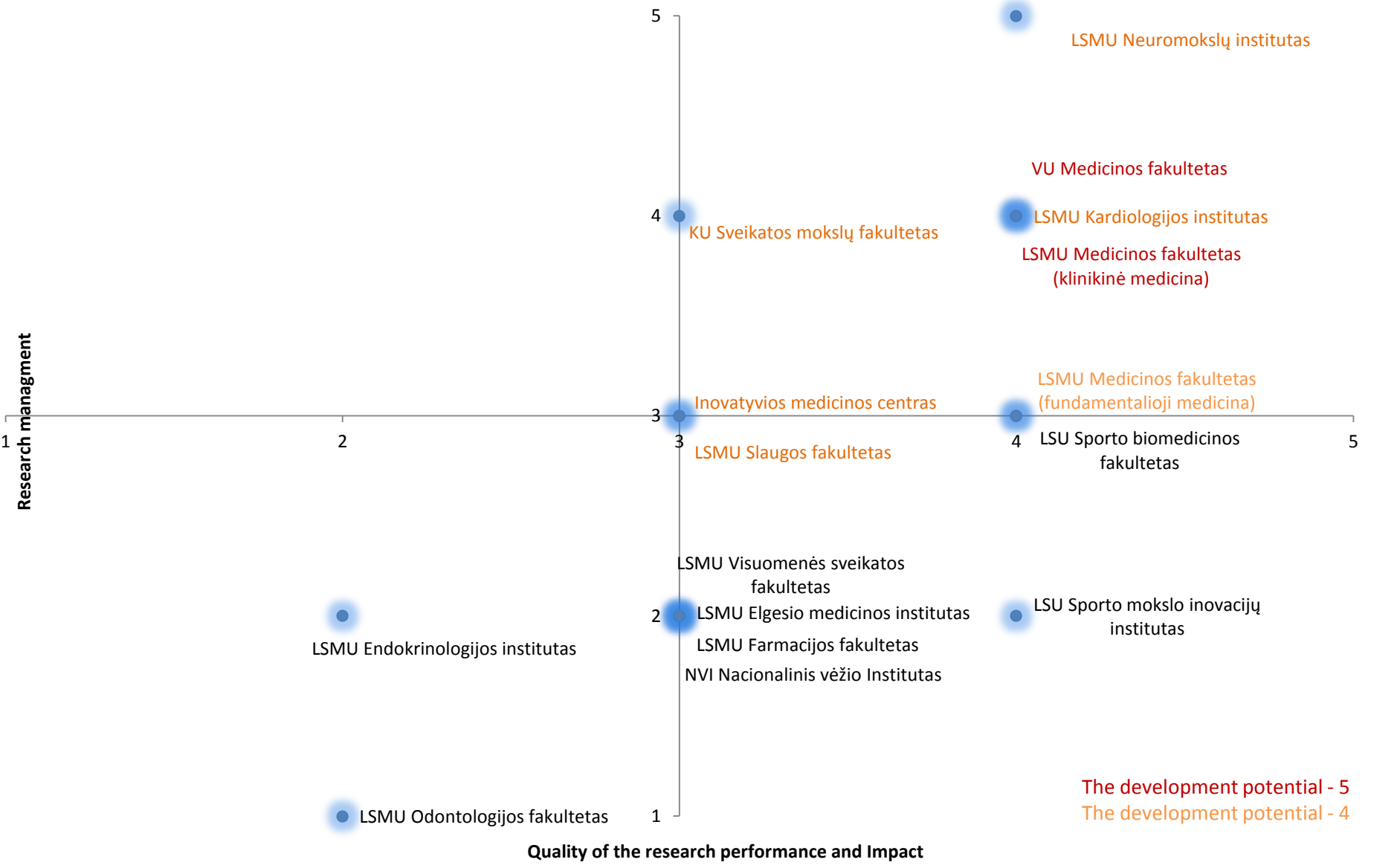
- Invest in formal training for potential leaders
- Management coaching should be considered

Development potential

- 8/16 scored ≥ 4 , a **very good** finding
- Transitional stage was considered
 - where consistent information was available
- Good management is needed to develop to potential

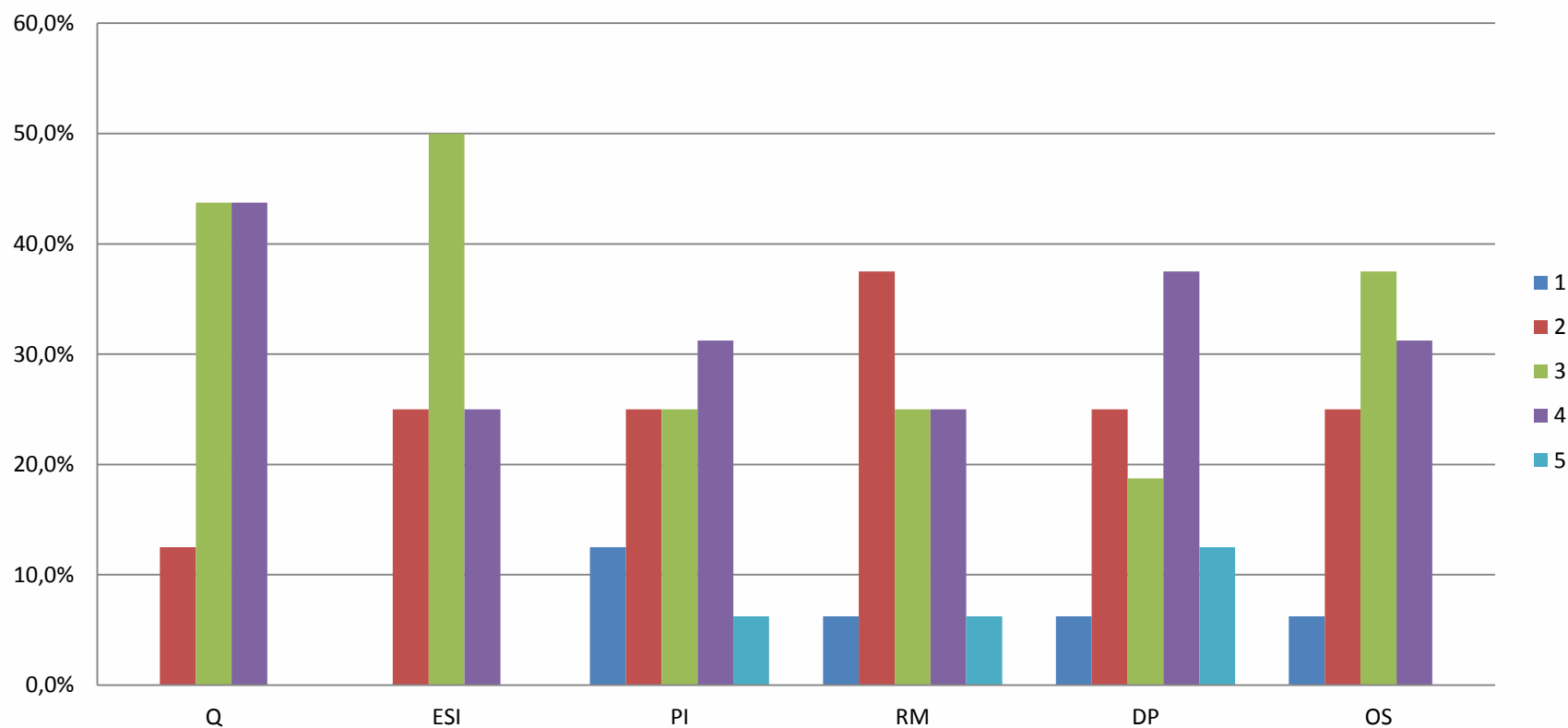
- Caution: large units may not have uniformly good potential

B2 (Medicina)



Distributon of assessment scores

Medicine



Excellence in many subject areas

Examples:

- Gastroenterology
 - Cardiology
 - Neurosciences
 - ... and some others
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- Odontology in Kaunas –
no research infrastructure

General Policy recommendations

- Clear research mission for the larger units
- Reconsider doctoral studies
 - Special attention to clinical research fields!
- Reconsider research career path
 - an emphasis on the postdoctoral phase,
 - stipend, research money,
- Take special care of the young elite postdocs (1 to 5%, with international excellence)

Clinical research – special aspects

- Clinical PhD
 - A liability, needs attention and policy change.
 - Not a Lithuanian speciality
 - The policy makers usually do not allow for length of medical studies and **specialization** together.
 - A unique solution for the PhD in clinical sciences.
- Clinical university departments should do (clinical) research
- Teaching hospitals may not do appreciable research

Summary

If science policy, local management and the researchers will do what is necessary, the Panel foresees a bright future for Lithuanian biomedical science



OUR EVIDENCE – YOUR DECISIONS

