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SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSESSMENT

Some general considerations on SSc.

- **A pot with many and diverse ingredients**
 - Large range of disciplines
 - But Same set of assessment criteria
- **Politically and socially undervalued**
 - Key role to play in addressing societal challenges
 - However, Emphasis on STEM subjects
- **Underfunded**
 - Emphasis on teaching
 - Overall levels of research funding in Lithuania .
- **A natural tendency to be local**
 - Focus on national issues but still international recognition possible

Benefits and consequences of the assessment

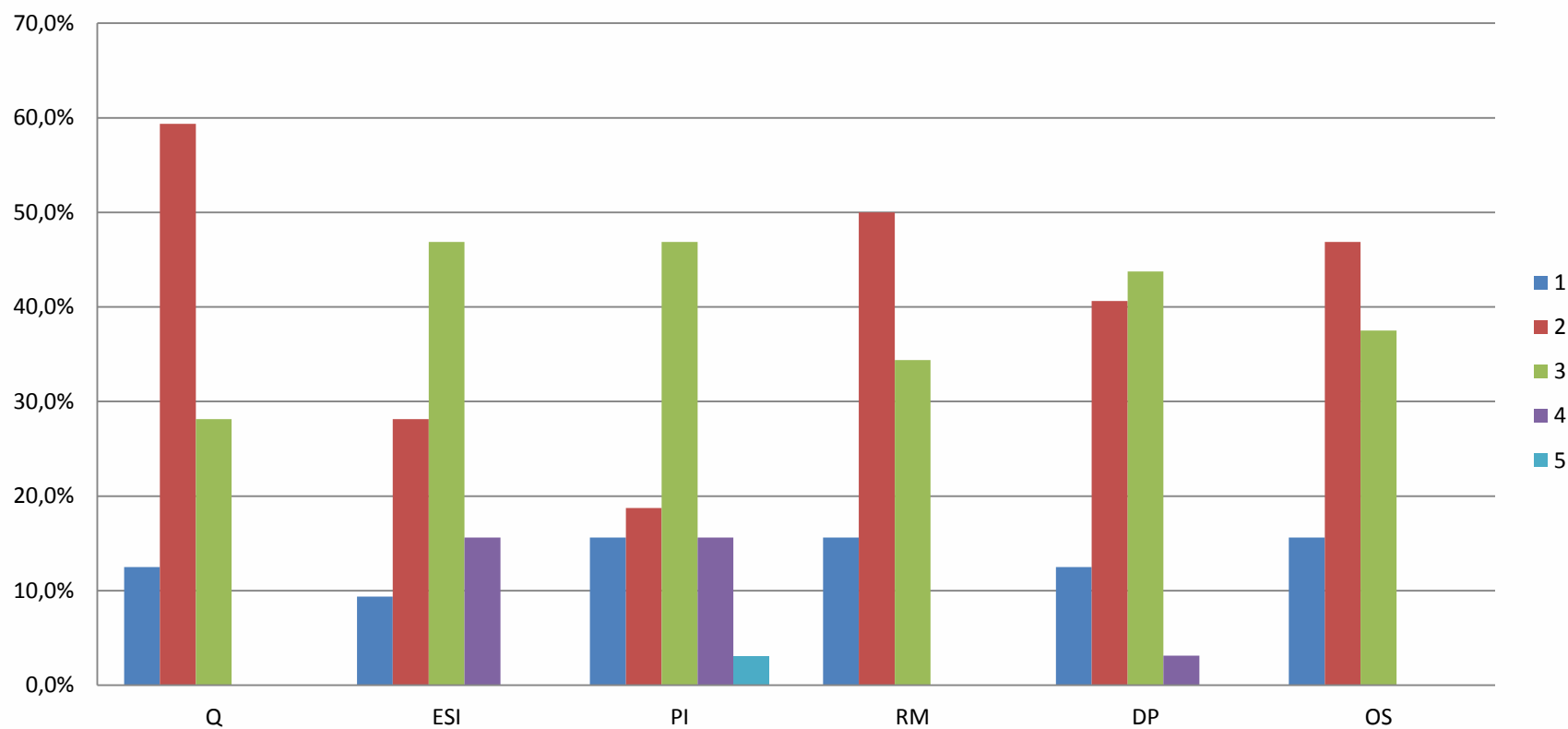
- Opportunity for self reflection
- Primary focus should be on improvement of the quality and management of research
- Not about ranking units in Lithuania!

Scores overview

Score	Quality of the research performance and impact	The economic and social impact of the research	The physical infrastructure	Research management	The development potential	Overall score
1	4	3	5	5	4	5
2	19	9	6	16	13	15
3	9	15	15	11	14	12
4	0	5	5	0	1	0
5	0	0	1	0	0	0

Overview: percentages

Social sciences



Subject Overview

- 3 Education units have been assessed as good, potential will be maximized by greater cooperation.
- 11 units of Economics, Business and Management assessed as good or acceptable, though variance
- Communication and Public Management international research considered by the panel as acceptable

Subject Overview (cont).

- 3 Psychology units assessed as good with very good potential to become strong international players.
- 5 Law units assessed as good national players but in need of more internationalisation
- Political Science international research at acceptable levels but potential for more visibility (heavy national focus)
- Sociology, very good contribution to society, somewhat low international visibility.

Special Commendations

- 1) Very valuable contribution to Lithuanian society (even if not fully appreciated!)
- 2) Considerable pool of talent at PhD level
- 3) Infrastructure, in many instances, at good international standard
- 4) Development potential clear

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overarching Themes

1. Need for restructuring and reorganization of research management
2. Need for greater Internationalization of Lithuanian Social Science research.

Specific Recommendations (1)

Developing a mobility plan for staff and doctoral students

- International mobility through routinized sabbatical system
- Reverse Mobility through fellowships for attracting international researchers

▪ **Publication Strategies**

- Consideration of Journal/Publishing House Rank
- Avoid further expansion of In-House Journals

• **Reorganising doctoral training**

- More use of joint doctoral programmes
- A national PhD school?
- Competitive living wage stipends
- English language thesis
- Paper based theses, where appropriate
- Greater use of Postdoctoral Schemes

Specific Recommendations (2)

National Research Funding Competitions

- assessment of proposals should be conducted by international panels of experts
- Use of such schemes to create networks across units working in same field and interdisciplinary fields.
- Larger grants (even if fewer).

Increasing the socio-economic impact/visibility of Social Science research

- Creation of Knowledge Transfer Offices at institutional level.
- better strategic focus to manage external relationships with public and private organisations.

Broader/System issues:

1. Over-teaching in social sciences
2. Mobility low , both within Lithuanian and without
 - Language requirements in hiring
3. Overall level of pay/funding of higher education low by international standards



OUR EVIDENCE – YOUR DECISIONS

