

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

HELSINKI INITIATIVE ON MULTILINGUALISM IN SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Janne Pölönen

NOAF-meeting

23 October 2020



Federation of Finnish
Learned Societies



U!R Universities
Norway



RECOMMENDATIONS

Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism

Hi!

1. Support dissemination of research results for the full benefit of the society.

- Make sure researchers are merited for disseminating research results beyond academia and for interacting with heritage, culture, and society.
- Make sure equal access to researched knowledge is provided in a variety of languages.

2. Protect national infrastructures for publishing locally relevant research.

- Make sure not-for-profit journals and book publishers have both sufficient resources and the support needed to maintain high standards of quality control and research integrity.
- Make sure national journals and book publishers are safeguarded in their transition to open access.

3. Promote language diversity in research assessment, evaluation, and funding systems.

- Make sure that in the process of expert-based evaluation, high quality research is valued regardless of the publishing language or publication channel.
- Make sure that when metrics-based systems are utilized, journal and book publications in all languages are adequately taken into account.

BALANCED POLICIES

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Multilingualism in scholarly communication: Endorsement of Helsinki Initiative

- “The Helsinki initiative brings forward the concept of ‘balanced multilingualism’, which promotes equality between different needs. For example, multilingual work should be fully acknowledged in scholarly assessments and English should not have more weight than other languages in communication”.
- “Balanced multilingualism is particularly relevant for Europe, as its research is characterised by geographic, cultural and linguistic diversity and the common principle of excellence”.
- “**The strength of European universities lies in aiming at international leadership while being locally anchored.** This also affects the use of language at higher education institutions”.

COVID-19

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- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted globally the need for multilingual and interdisciplinary scholarly communication not only between researchers, but also to reach decision-makers, professional and citizens.

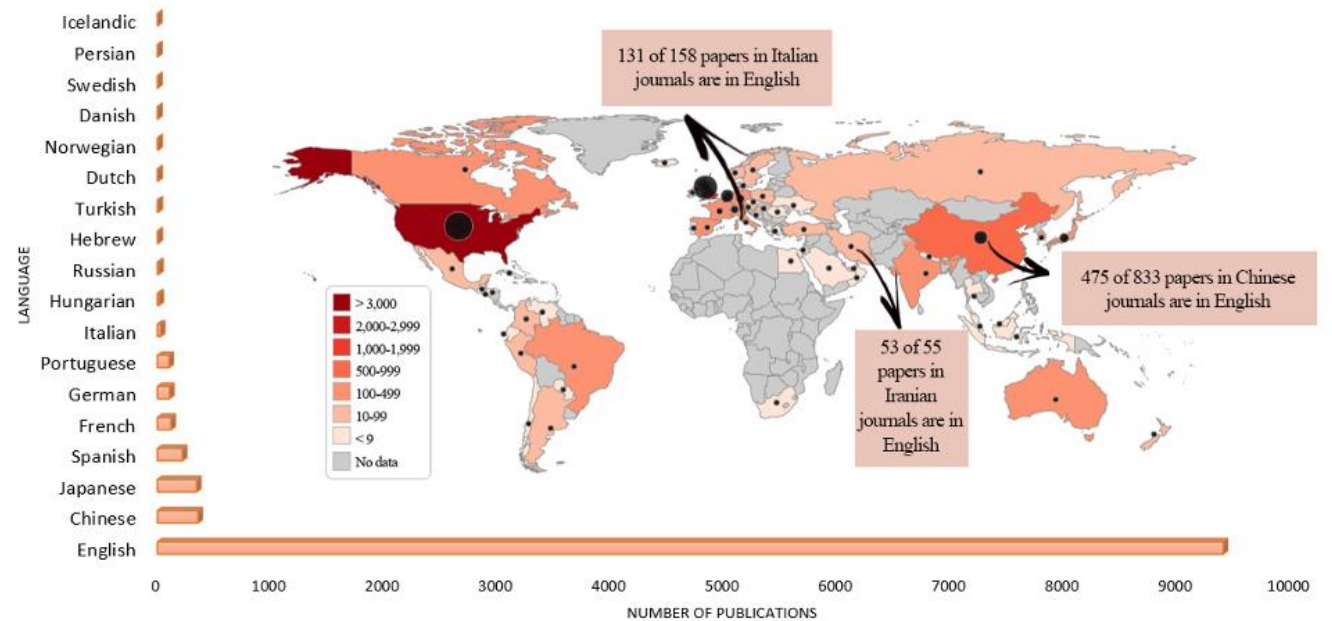


Figure 1: According to the World Health Organization, a total of 10,728 papers were published from the day of the novel coronavirus outbreak (now known as COVID-19) to April 28th, 2020. Up to 85% of the articles has been published in the English language. Source: Taşkın, Z., Doğan, G., Kulczycki, E. & Zuccala, A. (2020). "Science needs to inform the public. That can't be done solely in English", *LSE COVID-19 Blog*, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2020/06/18/long-read-science-needs-to-inform-the-public-that-cant-be-done-solely-in-english/>

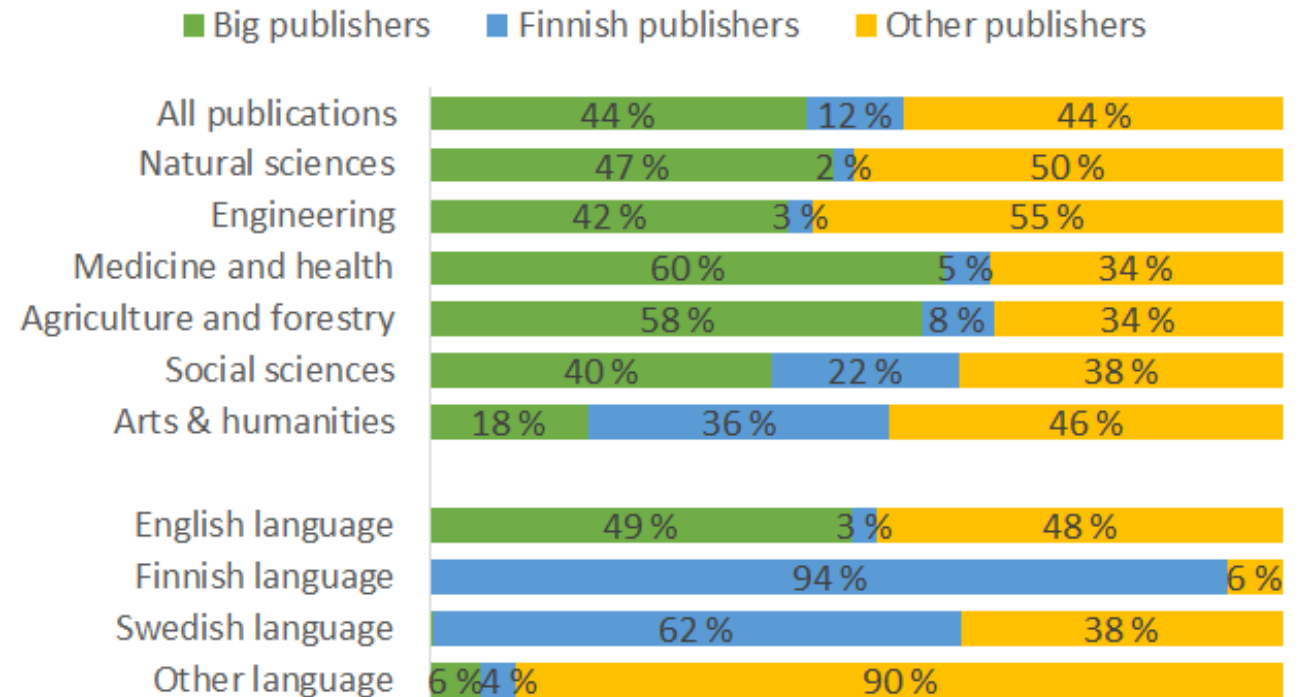
NATIONAL PUBLISHERS

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Hi!

- Especially in non-English-speaking countries, national journals and book publishers play a unique role in scholarly communication by making research results available in national languages to all sectors of society.

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*Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley-Blackwell, Taylor & Francis, Sage and ACS

Publisher shares of peer-reviewed articles in journals, conferences and books, as well as monographs of 14 Finnish Universities 2016-17 (N=48,177). Source: Pölönen, J., Laakso, M., Guns, R., Kulczykcki, E. & Sivertsen, G. (2020), Open access at the national level: A comprehensive analysis of publications by Finnish researchers, *Quantitative Science Studies*: https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00084

RESEARCHER LEVEL

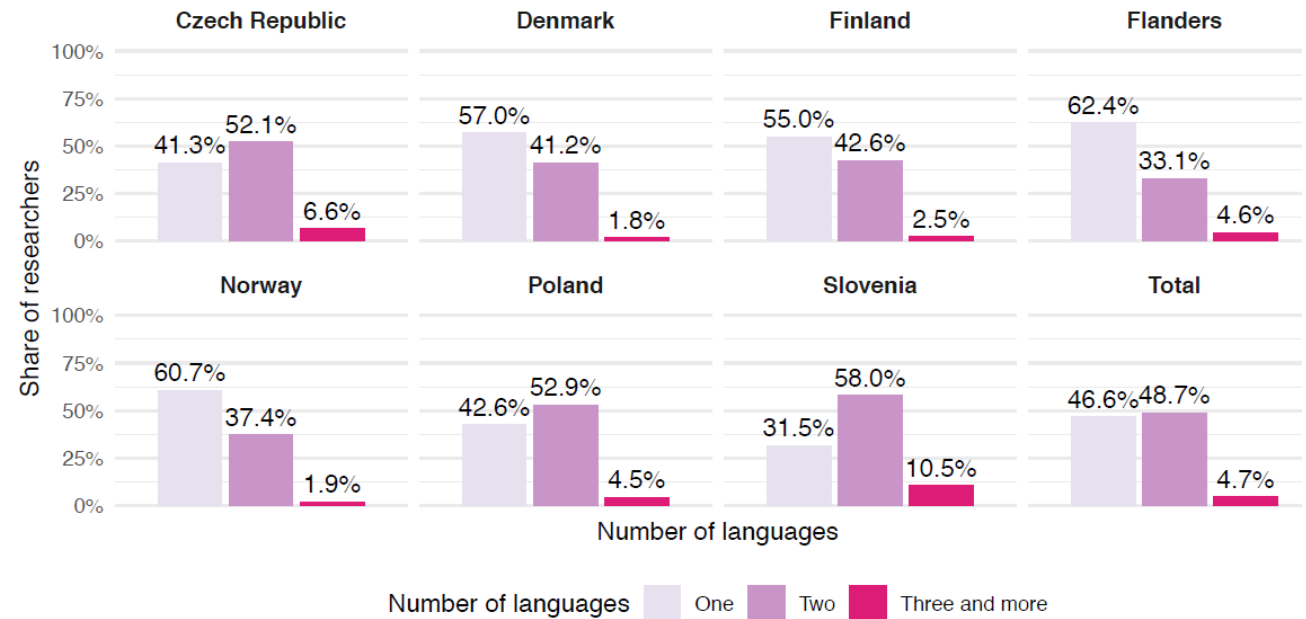
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- 53% of 25,365 SSH researchers in 7 European countries published in 2013-15 peer-reviewed articles in more than one language. Yet many evaluators and funders think that research of any value to science and society is published in international English language journals.

Language patterns of article publishing on the researcher-level across countries

Researchers who published at least three articles in 2013–2015



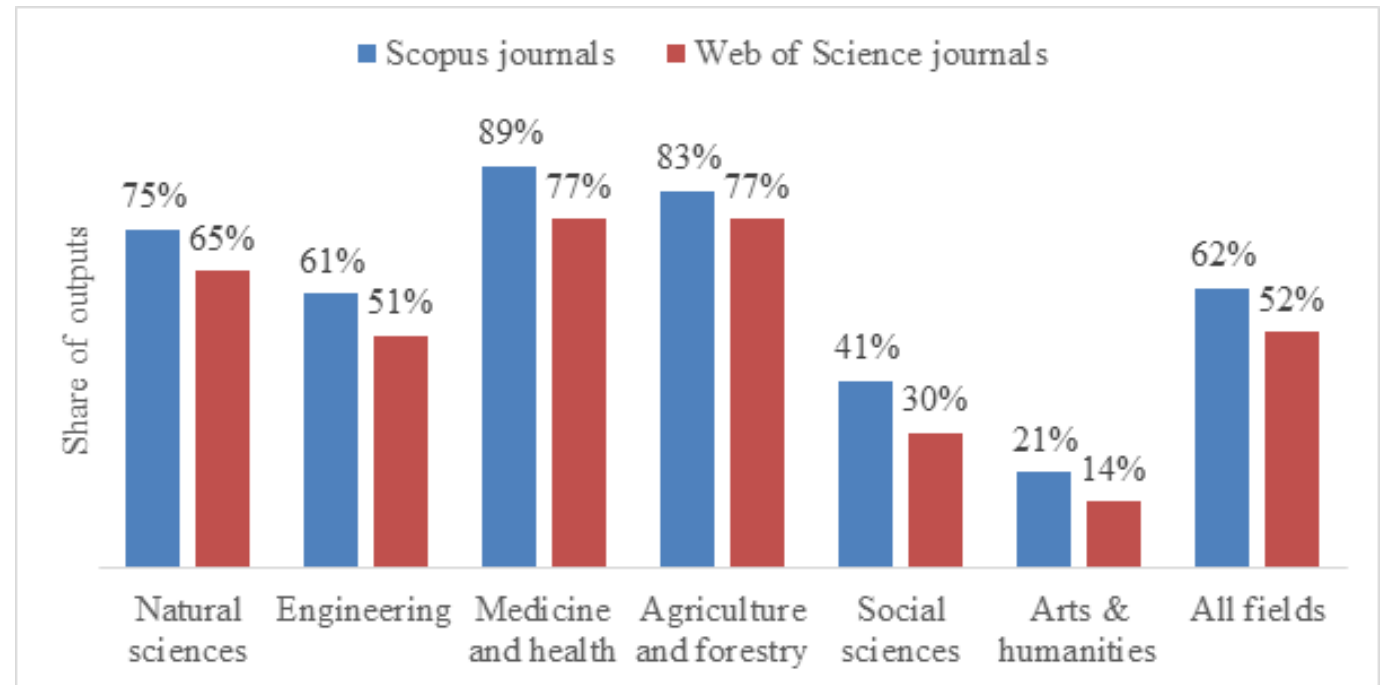
E. Kulczycki*, R. Guns, J. Pölonen, T. C.E. Engels, E. Rozkosz, A. A. Zuccala, K. Bruun, O. Eskola, A. Istenič Starčič, Michal Petr, G.Sivertsen, Multilingual publishing within the social sciences and humanities: A seven-country European study. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* (in revision).

WOS & SCOPUS

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Hi!

- International publication databases, such as Web of Science and Scopus focus on international journal articles
- A very limited representation of SSH output, especially books and languages other than English



Comparison of the 14 Finnish universities' publication list with Scopus and Web of Science data 2016-17. Source: Pölönen, J., Laakso, M., Guns, R., Kulckzycki, E. & Sivertsen, G. (2020), Open access at the national level: A comprehensive analysis of publications by Finnish researchers, *Quantitative Science Studies*: https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00084

MORE INFORMATION

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Hi!

Read and sign:

www.helsinki-initiative.org

Email:

helsinki-initiative@tsv.fi

Hashtag:

[#InAllLanguages](#)