

Are the social sciences from the European post-socialist countries integrated in the "Western social sciences"?

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Introduction

Bibliometric studies of the social sciences, as opposed to those of the natural sciences, are represented to a much lesser extent. The reasons vary from the conventional opinion that the paradigm of scientific communication is a different from STEM areas, limitations of bibliographic and citation databases (Arunachalam et al., 2006; Nederhof, 2006; Butler & McAllister, 2009; Ossenblok & Engels, 2015) to the specific features, such as cultural and linguistic differences, national traditions, state-centred institutionalization and research themes of local interest. (Mosbah-Natanson & Gingras, 2014). According to Garneau (1985) social sciences until the end of the 1980s, were divided between Western social sciences or 'first world social science' and 'second world social science' from the communist countries. All Central and Eastern European post-socialist countries (CEE) are an integral part of the ERA (European Research Area), as EU member states or EU candidate countries. One of the aims of ERA is a complete integration of the former communist countries of central Europe into the European Union Framework Programmes for Research and Development (Bruhns, 2012), as well as other programmes. In this research we intend to shed light on the integration of social sciences of European post-socialist countries (N=15; 11 EU countries and 4 candidate EU countries) based on publishing and citations account in international/domestic journals.

Sample and Methodological Approach

Sample was obtained from the Scopus database, and it consists of social science papers with at least one of the authors having an address from one of the 15 European post-socialist countries: 11 EU members states: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, and 4 EU candidate countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Analysed papers (N=33.837) were published in 2587 international and 157 CEE journals (from sampled countries) in

the period 1996-2013 and reclassified according to the Croatian science classification which was based on OECD classification fields (economics, education, information and communication science, law, political science, psychology, sociology, and 3 interdisciplinary fields). We analysed paper distribution in international/CEE journals during the period 1996-2013, publishing orientation depending on international journals' publisher country, representation of papers by subject fields in international/CEE journals, and CEE countries productivity in the international /CEE journals.

Results

Although the overall productivity has an expected growth, due to a relative high number of CEE journals indexed by Scopus, increasing trend of publishing in international journals after 2004 is visible (Fig. 1). Share of the papers published in international journals is 56%.

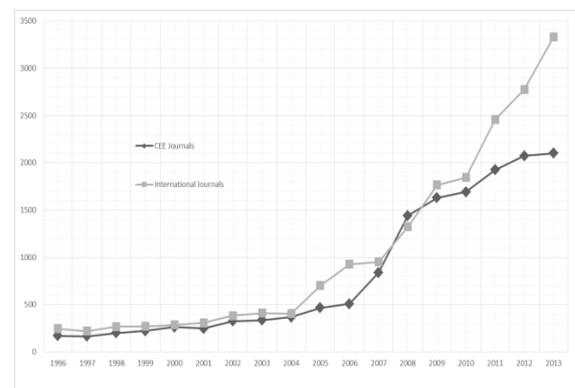


Figure 1. Distribution of papers published in international /CEE journals in the time span 1996-2013 (source Scopus)

European post-socialist countries predominantly published their research results in social sciences in Western countries journals (Fig. 2). UK's, Netherlands' and Germany's journals represent 90% of journals from EU-15 countries.

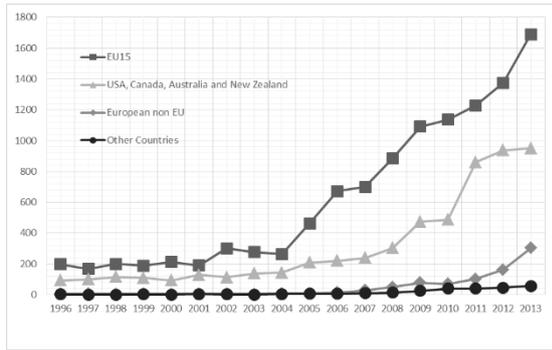


Figure 2. CEE countries distribution of papers by journals' publisher country

Economics is the most productive subject field in the both set of journals, with 32,5 %. However political science, information science and all interdisciplinary social science are the most internationally oriented scientific fields (Fig. 3).

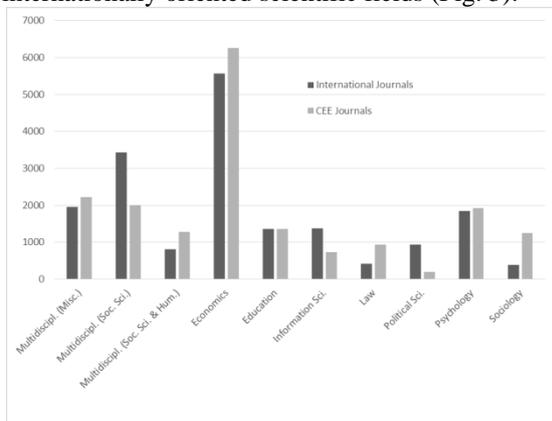


Figure 3. Distribution of papers per social science subject fields in international/CEE journals

Country productivity normalized by the number of inhabitants show that Estonia, Slovenia, Hungary and Lithuania are the most internationally oriented countries (Fig. 4).

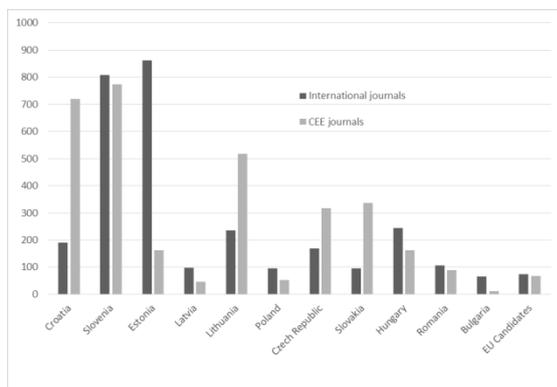


Figure 4. Participation of papers from CEE countries in international/CEE journals

One of the aspects of measuring integration is citedness which in international journals is 7,4 citations per paper, and in CEE journals 2. For a more comprehensive insight there is a need for more detailed citation analyses.

Conclusion

Results indicate a gradual integration of European post-socialist social sciences in Western social sciences. Significant increase occurs after the most of CEE countries joined the EU in 2004. Political science, information science and interdisciplinary social sciences are fields that are frontrunners in this integration. CEE countries that are most oriented towards international journals are small CEE countries and Hungary. The project is planning more detailed bibliometric analysis, co-citation analysis as well as analyses of the degree of institutionalisation which all have a significant influence on integration (Keim, 2011).

Acknowledgments

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