

DANCING IN THE DARK: SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS IN THE CONTEXT OF CROATIAN SCIENTIFIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

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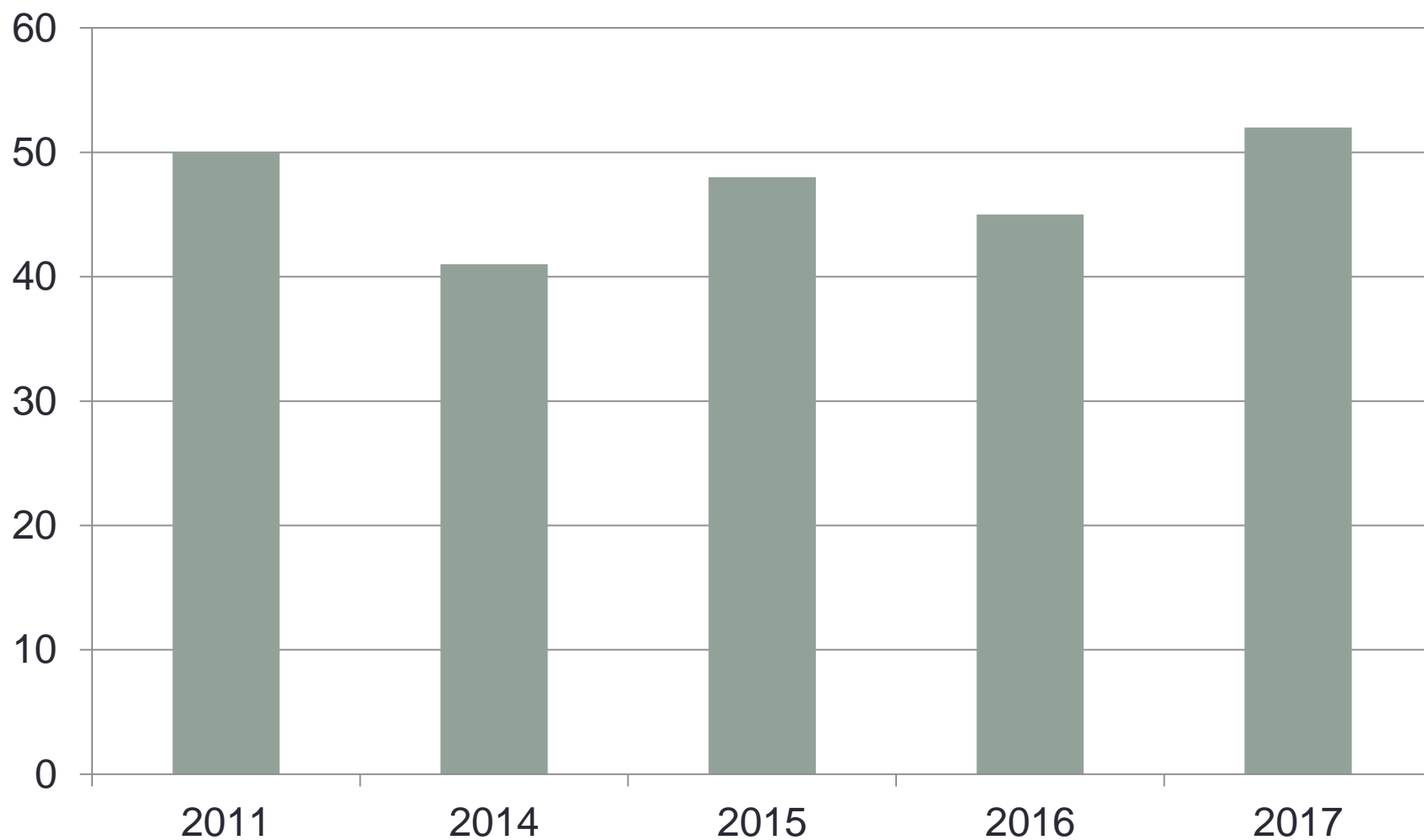
**MZO - Povjerenstvo za znanstveno-izdavačku
djelatnost**

5.travanj 2018.

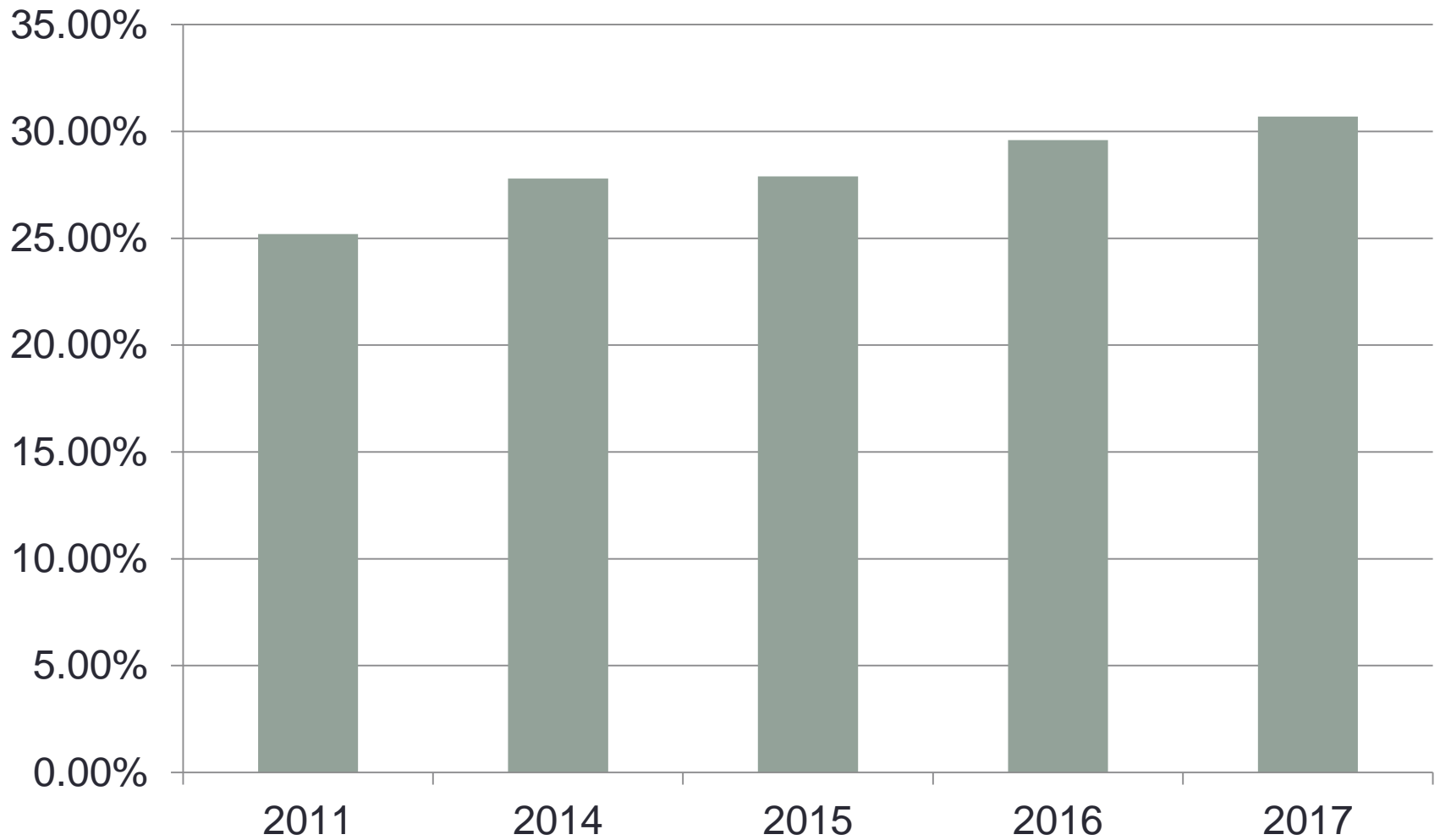
Overview

- Basic data
- Funding criteria, 1997-2018
- Progress and the context: Still dancing in the dark and why?

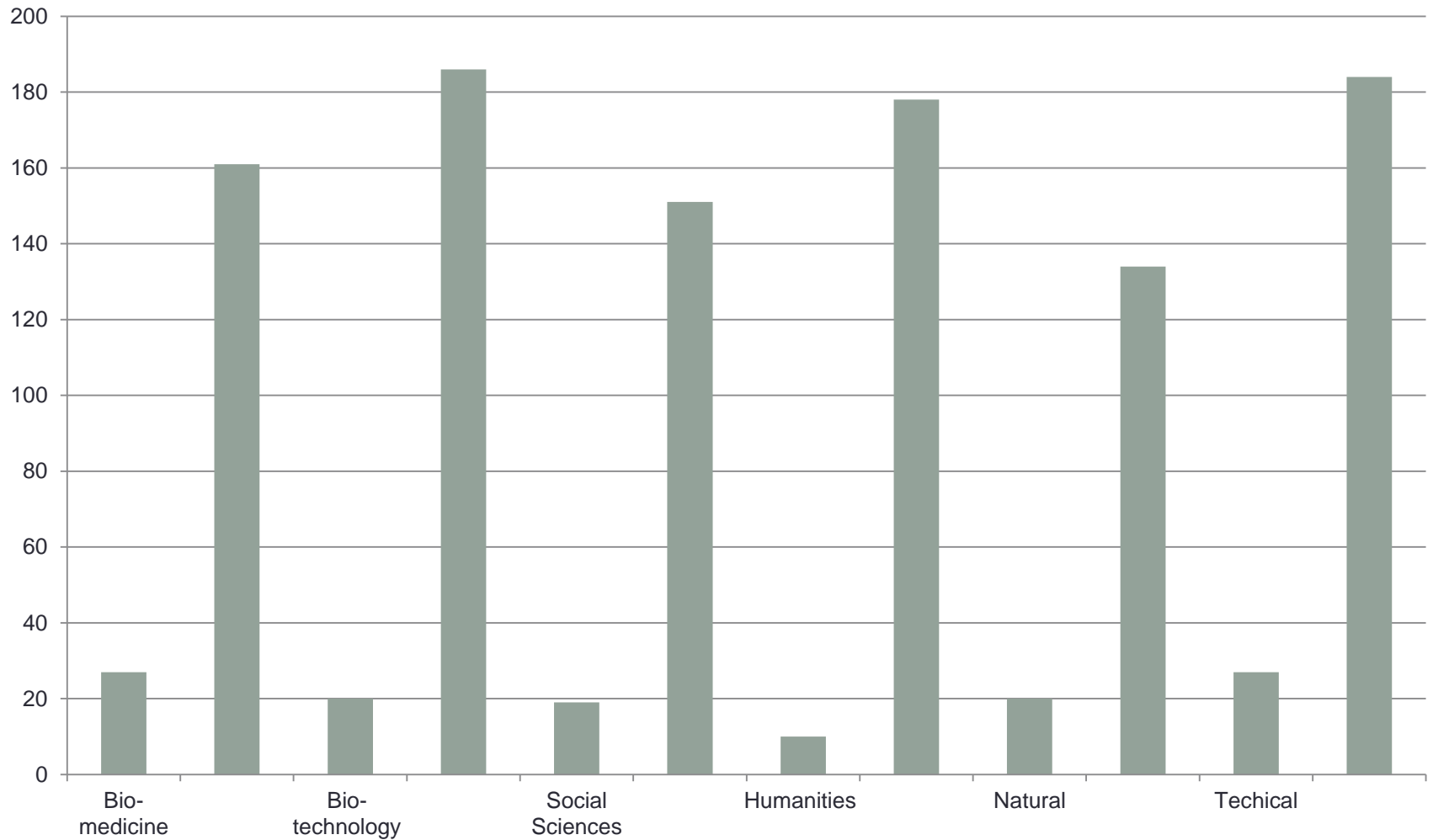
No. of social sciences journals funded



% of all journals funded



The least and the best funded, 2017, in 000 HRK



Criteria: Context + questions

- Peculiar mix of continuation and change
- Many changes – particularly in last few years – and not previously discussed with stakeholders, though there is a basic continuation in criteria
- Still, unpredicted and frequent changes, mainly caused by changes in the Ministry
- Uncertainty about funding – amount and time
- (Relatively) independent position of the Publication Committee but no role of the scientific community itself

1997

- Introduction of objective / scientific criteria + (very) subjective evaluation (last item):
 - - Following of guidelines of editing of scientific journals
 - - Regularity of publishing of issues (without delays)
 - - Peer-review process
 - - Rejection rate
 - - Indexing in international secondary databases
 - - Indexing in ISI databases – SCI, SSCI, CC
 - - International cooperation and international peer-review
 - - Croatian and / or other international languages
- + Evaluation of the journal by Scientific Councils and reviewers from the list proposed by Scientific Councils but established by the Ministry

- + technical elements: volume (no of pages / issues per year), special characters / pictures....
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- Formula: qualitative + technical!
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- Subsequent changes – only key ones ...
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- 2002
- Just small changes in specifying of criteria and the weight of technical elements
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2006/2007

- Major changes, clear vision of promoting excellence
- Preconditions:
 - - Regularity
 - - Following of guidelines of editing of scientific journals
 - - Per-review (at least two peer-reviews per article, wide circle of reviewers)
 - - Indexing in at least one “relevant” databases
 - - Web-page of the journal (new!)
- Elements of scientific quality:
 - - Share of scientific articles
 - - The quality of review process – for all scientific fields – based on the insight into documentation

- - Share of international reviewers
- - Indexing in WoS
- - Indexing in a number of other databases
- - Open-access on the journal web-page (not as a precondition, but stimulating open access)
- - Quality of the editorial process in general
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- Technical elements
- - same as before + publishing in other languages (as a channel of being internationally recognised)

2011

- Changes in specifying of technical elements
- Changes in allocating money for each scientific field – based on the share of published scientific papers in one scientific field in relation to all published papers in the previous year
- But - at least one peer-review per article (preferably two)
- Quality evaluation – slightly different for journals in different scientific fields
- New elements introduced:
 - - JCR (except for humanities) + SRJ (for natural sciences)
 - - Number of visits at Hrčak
 - - E-editing

2012

- Major change: formula abolished!
- Evaluation according to criteria, but decision about money based on evaluation of „real costs” of each journal!
- Two reviews for each article re-established, except only one in mathematics!
- Different tables for journals in different scientific fields
 - - JCR + SJR quartiles introduced
 - - SNIP introduced
 - - DOI introduced
 - - Promotion of Hrčak by higher points
- + Evaluation of peer-review / editorial process only for humanities and social sciences journals

- 2013 + 2014
- Minor changes
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- 2015
- Major change: formula re-introduced
- Evaluation of review process held for humanities and social sciences journals
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2016

- Major change – criteria not changed, but:
 - - Free on-line access on Hrčak as a precondition
 - - At least 15% of contributors with the Croatian institutional address in last three years
 - - Lessening of the share of technical elements in formula
 - - Request for stating of APC in financial plan, along other financial sources
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2018

- Some change:
- Further lessening of technical elements in formula
- At least 15% reinserted (as was temporarily suspended by the Ministry decree)
- No of articles in the review process per year
- DOAJ, ORCID, XML introduced
- -Evaluation of the editorial-review process in other disciplines introduced

Social sciences

- General criteria – 14 points - same as in other disciplines
- Indexing and quotations – 14 points
 - - Indexing – from WoSCC to specific databases for each scientific field
 - - JCR quartiles
 - - SJR quartiles
 - - SNIP
- Quality of peer-review and editing process – 12 points
 - - Quality of peer-reviews
 - - Rejection rate
 - - Number and range of peer-reviewers
 - - Domestic / international board
 - - Transparent editorial policy

Some preliminary conclusions

- Real / substantive change in 20 years by promoting standards and quality
- Well established criteria
- However:
- Weak consultation with stakeholders / role of the scientific community
- Weak technical / expert support to the Publishing Committee and to journals
- No national policy on scientific publishing
- Need of inclusive funding # promoting excellence
- Need to differentiate between funding of journals and scientific promotions

- „A scientific field that did not achieve some capacity for autonomous judgement, that was merely heteronomously controlled by other would not merely lack authority, but lack credibility.”
- C. Calhoun (2005) The promise of public sociology, *The British Journal of Sociology*, 56,3:357.