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## **New rules of evaluation of scholarly journals and scholarly institutions in Poland**

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# NEW RULES OF EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS IN POLAND

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# PRESENTATION PLAN

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1. Recent amendments to laws on Polish science.
2. The financing of Polish scholarly units.
3. The new rules of evaluation of institutions.
4. The new rules of assessment of scholarly journals.
5. Misunderstandings and allegations made against the evaluation.
6. Conclusions.

# 2010 – AMENDMENTS TO LAWS ON POLISH SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION



- × Changes effective as of October 2011.
- × New procedure of habilitation.
  - + Habilitation thesis is not required anymore.
- × New regulations for conferring doctoral degree.
  - + Secondary tutor is allowed.
  - + Set of articles may be presented as a doctoral thesis.
- × Double employment is prohibited.
- × New rules of financing science.
- × New rules of evaluation.

# THE CHAIN OF EVALUATION



## The evaluation of scholarly journals

Conducted by the Commission for Evaluation of Scholarly Journals



## The evaluation of research institutions

Conducted by the Commission for Evaluation of Scientific Units (KEJN)



## The distribution of financial resources

Conducted by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education

# THE FINANCING OF POLISH RESEARCH UNITS



- × The majority of research units in Poland are **public and are funded from public resources.**
- × Only few private universities conduct research (only in areas of humanities and social sciences).
- × The most important part of the funding is a so called ***basic subsidy (aka subsidy for maintaining research potential)*** .

# OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

- × The subsidy for the development of young researchers and Ph.D. candidates.
- × The subsidy for special research devices.
- × The stationary subsidy (for university units offering tuition-free studies).
- × Grants (Main sources: The National Science Centre, The National Center for Research and Development).

# WHAT IS THE BASIC SUBSIDY?

$$B_i = \frac{q_i w_i \sum_{j=1}^l k^j N_i^j}{\sum_{i=1}^n S_i} F + p W_i$$

„**The category coefficient**” - the only part of the formula related to the evaluation of scientific units.

A+ category units:  $q=1.5$   
A category units:  $q=1.0$   
B category units:  $q=0.7$   
C category units:  $q=0.4$

$W_i$  – the amount of the subsidy given to a unit in a previous year ( **$B_i$  from a previous year**)

$p$  – „**The transfer coefficient**”, a number from a range of  $\langle 0.6; 0.9 \rangle$ , annually announced by the Ministry.



# THE EVALUATION OF UNITS

## HOW TO GET A CATEGORY?



- × **Stage 1:** Units are grouped according to their type and field of research => „**Groups of common assessment**”.
  - + Units of the same type, and conducting research in the same field are assigned to the same group of common assessment.
- × **Stage 2:** Units submit questionnaire on their achievements.
  - + A computer system will collect the questionnaires.

# THE SETS OF CRITERIA



Groups of criteria	Selected criteria	Weights (different for different groups of common assesment)
1. Research achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles in journals (score depends on the list of scored journals),.</li> <li>• Monographs (fixed score – 25/20 points).</li> <li>• Patents.</li> <li>• <b>The total score is divided by the number of researchers working in a unit</b></li> </ul>	60%-75%
2. Scientific potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entitlements to conferring academic degrees.</li> <li>• Academic degrees obtained by reserchers from a unit.</li> <li>• Membership in international research organizations</li> <li>• Journals published by a unit.</li> </ul>	5%-20%
3. Material effects of scientific activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External fundings acquired by a unit.</li> <li>• Financial results of research activities (sold technologies, licenses, professional opinions).</li> <li>• <b>The total score is divided by the number of researchers working in a unit</b></li> </ul>	5%-15%
4. Other effects of scientific activities	<p>* Other important achievements - organised conferences, popularization of science etc. (Subjective assesment of KEJN).</p>	10-15%

# THE EVALUATION OF UNITS - HOW TO GET A CATEGORY?



- × **Stage 3:** Units from the same group of common assessment are compared in pairs in the scope of four sets of criteria.
- × **Stage 4:** Points are weighted and the final score of a unit is calculated.
- × **Stage 5:** Categories are assigned to units (thresholds are not yet known).

# THE LIST OF SCORED JOURNALS

## LIST A



- ✘ Journals covered by Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports (i.e. journals with Impact Factor).
- ✘ Journals ranked within JCR subject category by 5-years Impact Factor
- ✘ Scores from 15 (lowest 23%) to 50 (top 2%).
- ✘ The result: diversity of scores within a subject category and similarity in the mean scores between subject categories.

Top 2%	50
Next 5%	45
Next 8%	40
Next 11%	35
Next 14%	30
Next 17%	25
Next 20%	20
Bottom 23%	15

# THE LIST OF SCORED JOURNALS

## LIST C



- × Journals from European Reference Index for Humanities („ERIH list”).
- × INT1 → 14 points
- × INT2 → 12 points
- × NAT → 10 points

**WARNING:**

**„Do not use this information for evaluation!”**

# THE LIST OF SCORED JOURNALS

## LIST B



### Selected criteria:

- Predicted Impact Factor (calculated on the basis of WoK) .
- Number of articles published in recent years.
- Issue frequency
- Indexation in reference databases
- Statistical and linguistic editor

- ✘ Journals from outside List A and List C, that submitted **journal questionnaires** at the beginning of 2012 (most of them are Polish journals).
- ✘ Scores from 1 to 10 points.
- ✘ Three groups of assessment (Science, Social science, and Humanities).
- ✘ The same criteria, but different weights for each group of assessment.

# ALLEGATIONS

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- × Should we judge the paper by the journal?

## Evaluation of journals

Points are assigned to the Journal X.

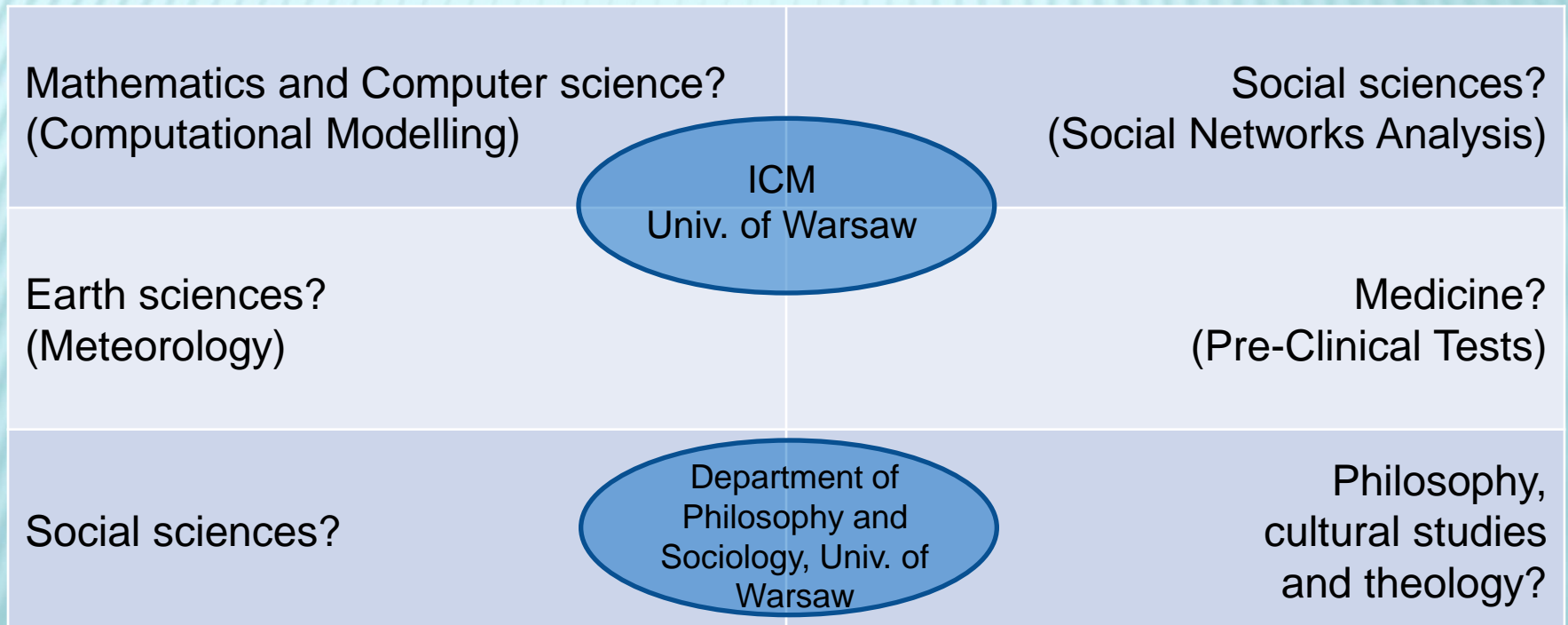


## Evaluation of units

The same points are assigned to the papers published in the Journal X.

# ALLEGATIONS

## × How to assign interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary units?





- × Formal criteria of evaluation of journals from list B
- × „*Does the journal have a statistical editor?*” => rapid increase in the number of statistical editors in Poland
- × Artificial adjustment to the criteria.
- × Predicted Impact Factor as the only „hard” criterion.
  - + Problem of the coverage of Thomson Reuters citation indexes.

# ALLEGATIONS

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- × The whole process of evaluation is backward-looking, not forward-looking.
  - + What about Open Access?
  - + What about Open Data?
  - + What about new forms of scientific activities, such as scientific blogs?

# MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- × „How many points for publications do I need for my habilitation”?
  - + „The Points” are not mentioned in the law on academic degrees.
  - + The list of scored journals is an important point of reference for Polish scientists.

# CONCLUSIONS



- ✘ The evaluation of scientific units in Poland is mostly quantitative – *parametric evaluation*.
- ✘ The results of the evaluation only slightly affect the distribution of public subsidies.
- ✘ Some details of the process of evaluation are questioned by overzealous analysts.

Thank you for listening!

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