



**ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY IN POZNAŃ**  
**Scholarly Communication Research Group**

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# **Multilingual Publishing in the Social Sciences and the Humanities**



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# Presentation plan

1. What do we know about SSH publication patterns?
2. Changing the point of view in bibliometrics: from publications to researchers
3. Multilingualism of researchers in SSH.

# Multilingualism from a perspective of scholarly communication

*Writing and publishing* in more than one language

*Having publications* in more than one language

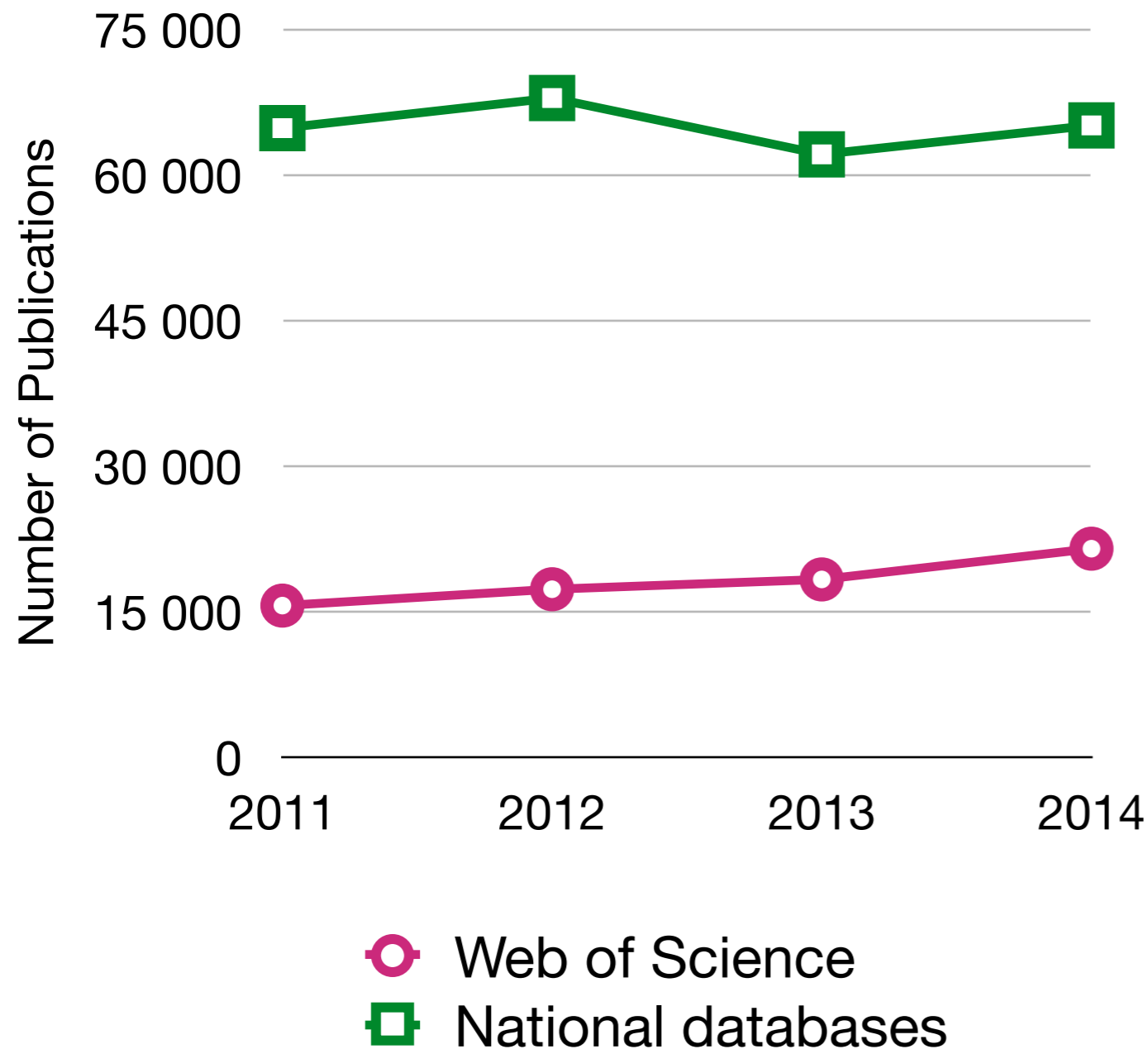
} during the analyzed period.





What do we  
know about SSH  
publication  
patterns?

## Publications in eight European countries in the Social Sciences and the Humanities



Country	% of coverage in WoS
Poland	14.98%
Slovenia	16.05%
Slovakia	25.86%
Czech Republic	30.25%
Finland	38.34%
Flanders	39.76%
Norway	44.15%
Denmark	50.94%

What is it?

**Publications of Polish  
scholars from social sciences  
and humanities  
according to Web of Science**

**14.98%**



Danish SSH publications  
according to WoS

50.94%



SSH coverage degree  
according to  
the Web of Science

„Core parts” of the whole  
scientific production





# Publication patterns

## Publication level

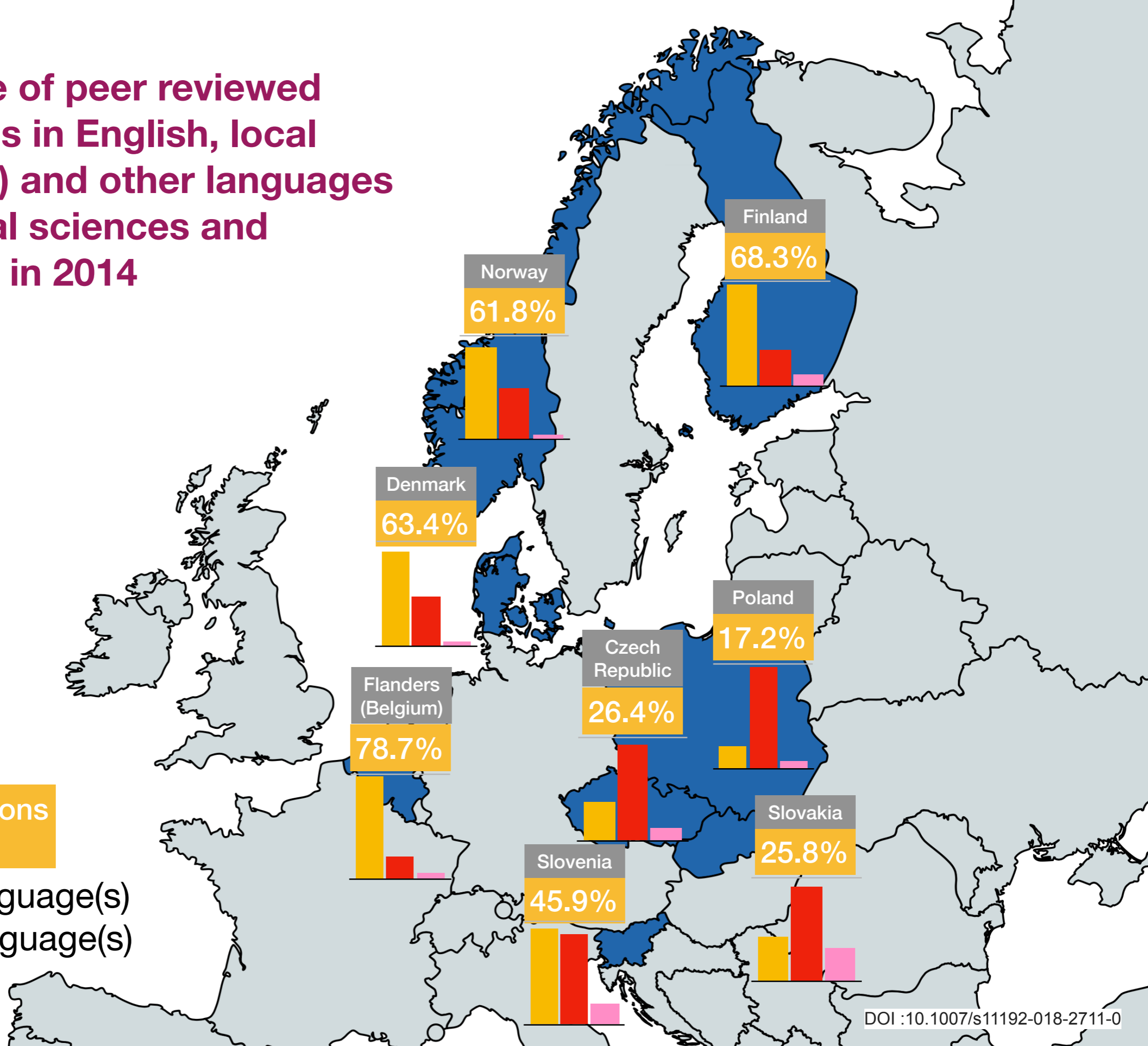
Kulczycki, E., Engels, T. C. E., Pölönen, J., Bruun, K., Dušková, M., Guns, R., Nowotniak, R., Petr, M., Sivertsen, G., Istenič Starčič, A., & Zuccala, A. (2018). Publication patterns in the social sciences and humanities: Evidence from eight European countries. *Scientometrics*, 116(1), 463–486. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-018-2711-0>



# Percentage of peer reviewed publications in English, local language(s) and other languages in the social sciences and humanities in 2014

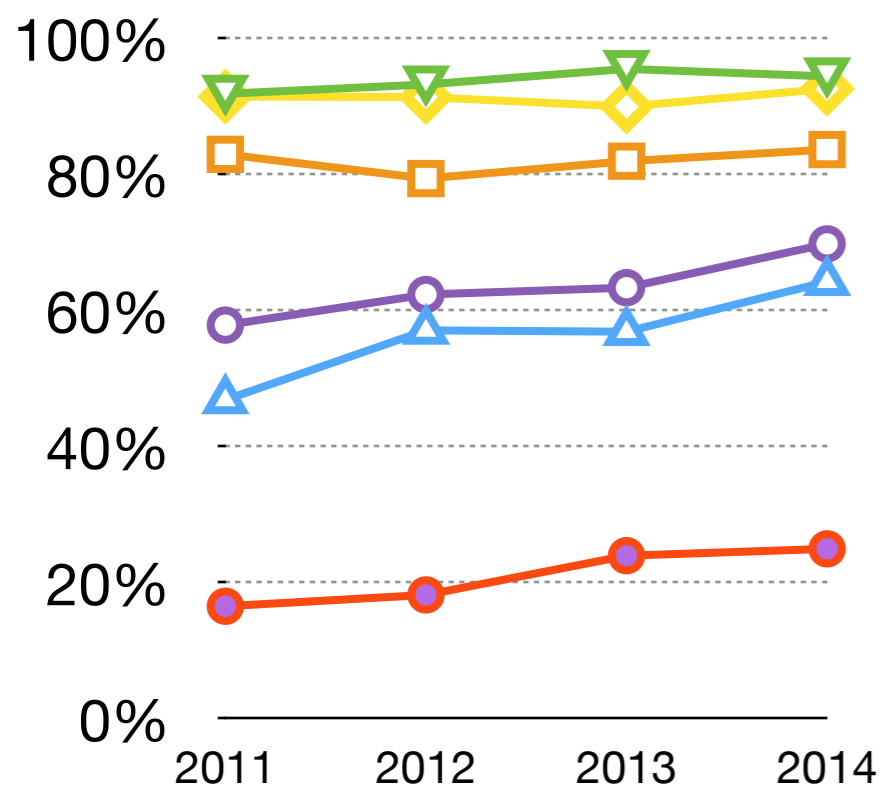
% of publications in English

- Local language(s)
- Other language(s)

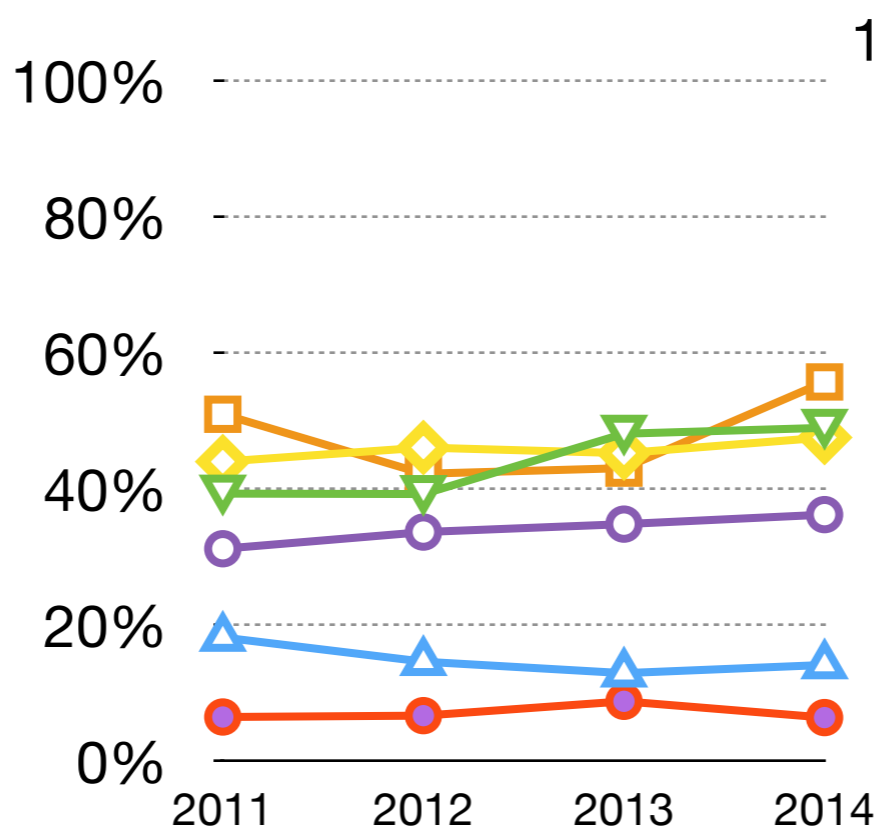


# The share of publications in English (all publication types) in the years 2011–2014

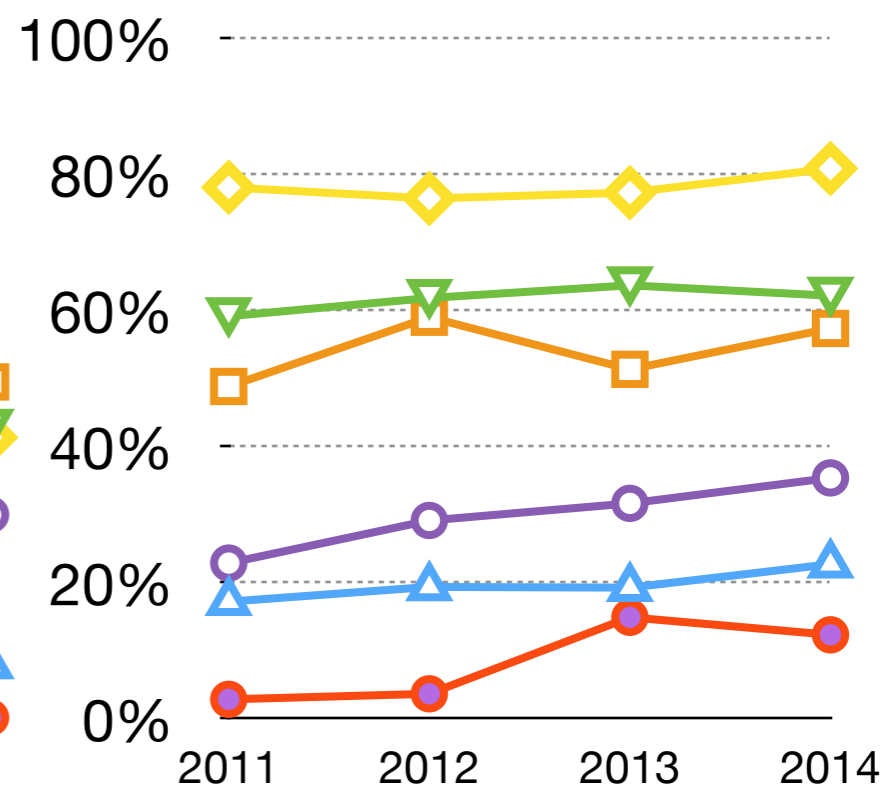
## Economics and Business



## Law



## Philosophy & Theology



▲ Czech Republic   
 ▼ Finland   
 ◇ Flanders (Belgium)   
 □ Norway   
 ● Poland   
 ○ Slovenia

# Bibliometrics is focused on publications



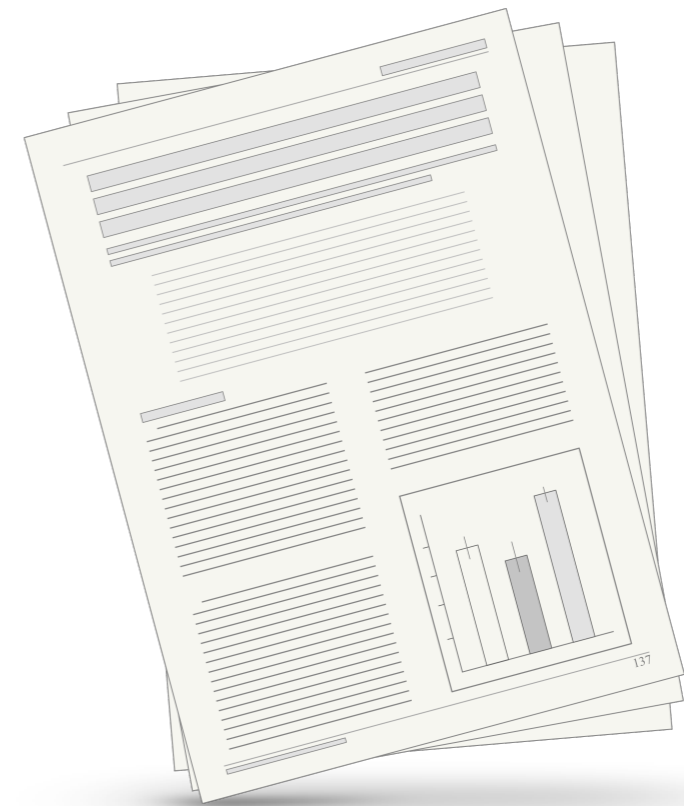
However, the picture of publication languages is substantially different, when we focus on researchers.





**51,063** of SSH researchers from 7 countries:  
Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Flanders,  
Norway, Poland, Slovenia

**164,218**  
peer-reviewed articles  
from 2013–2015  
published in  
over 50 languages



E. Kulczycki, R. Guns, J. Pölönen, T. C.E. Engels, E. Rozkosz, A. A. Zuccala, K. Bruun, O. Eskola, A. Istenič Starčič, Michal Petr, G. Sivertsen, (2020) Multilingual Publishing in the Social Sciences and Humanities: A Seven-Country European Study. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*. 10.1002/asi.24336



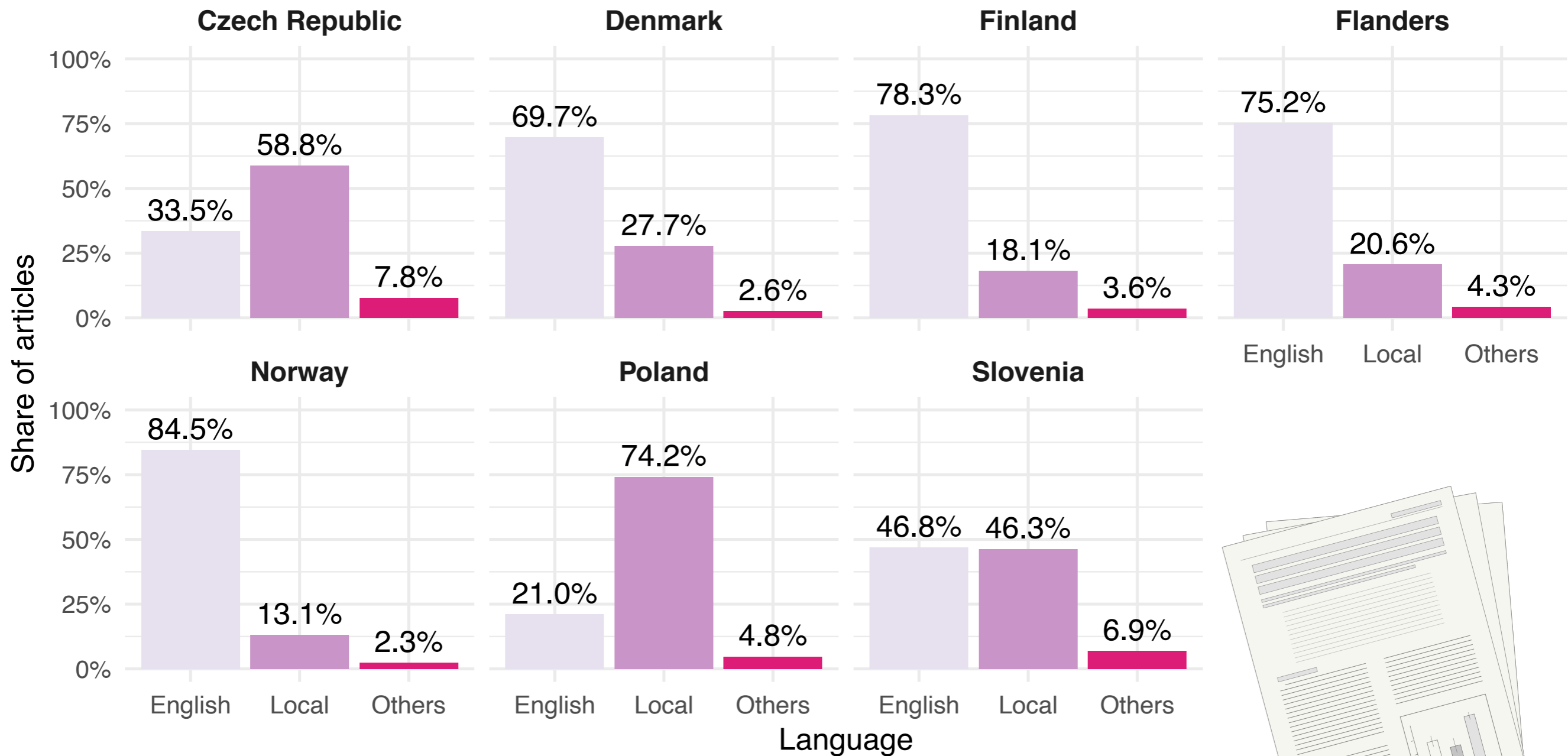


The majority of these peer-reviewed journal articles in Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Norwegian, Polish, Slovene and Swedish are invisible in international databases:



**97%** of articles are not indexed in WoS and **92%** of articles is not in Scopus.

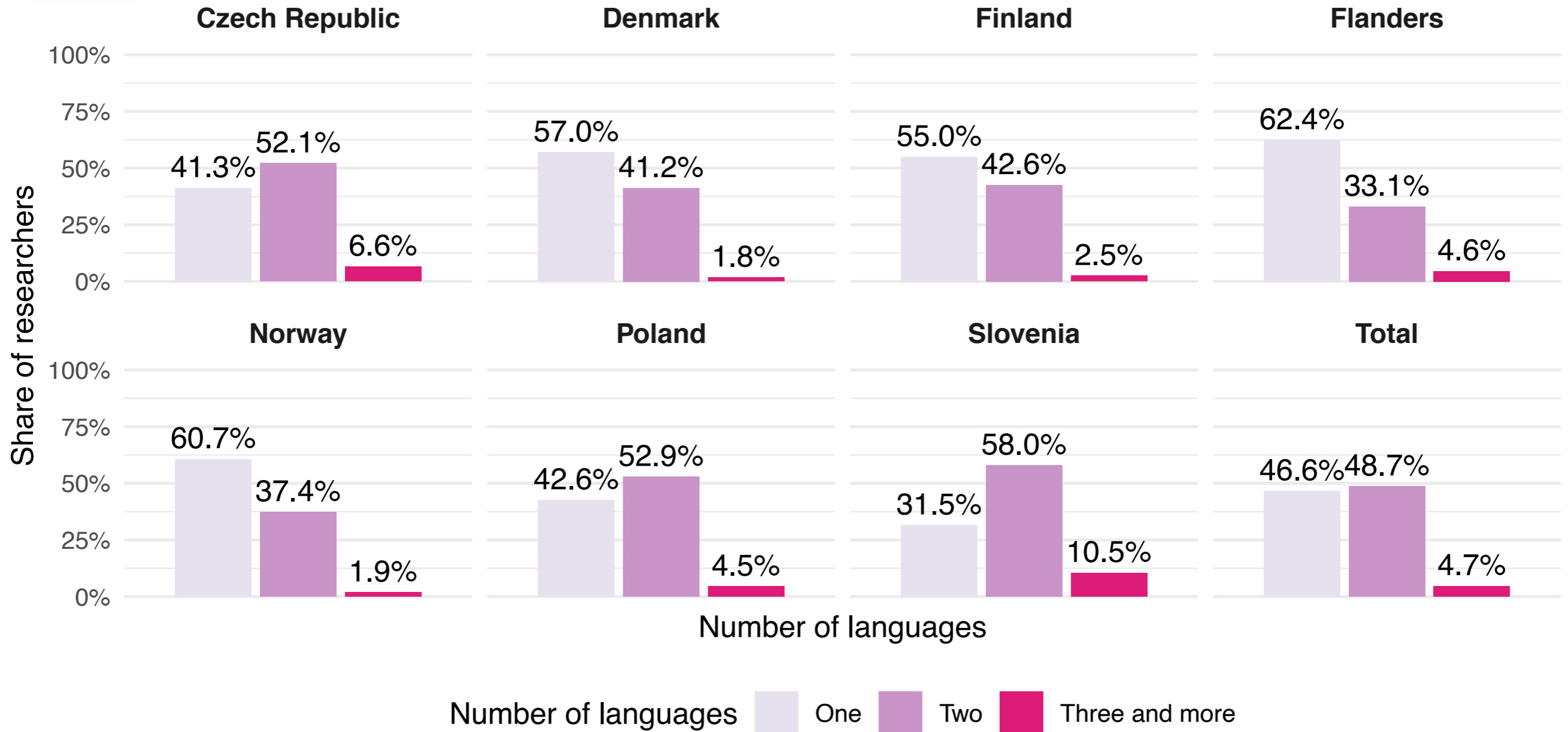
# The share of articles per article language across countries





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

Researchers who published at least three articles in 2013–2015

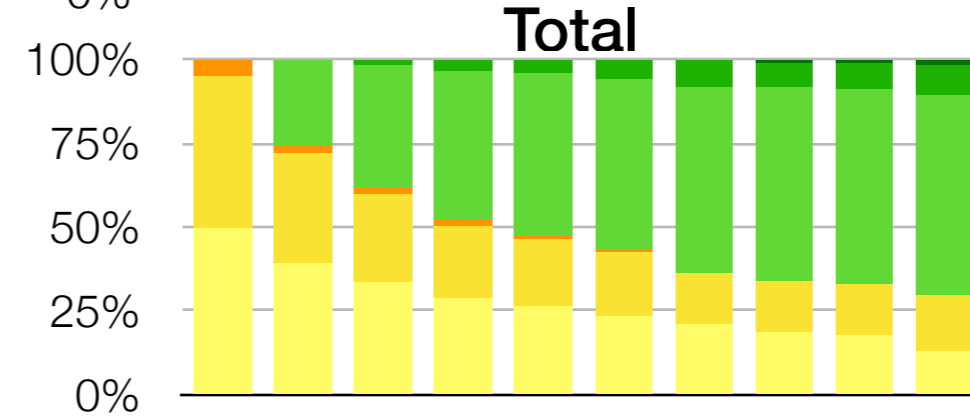
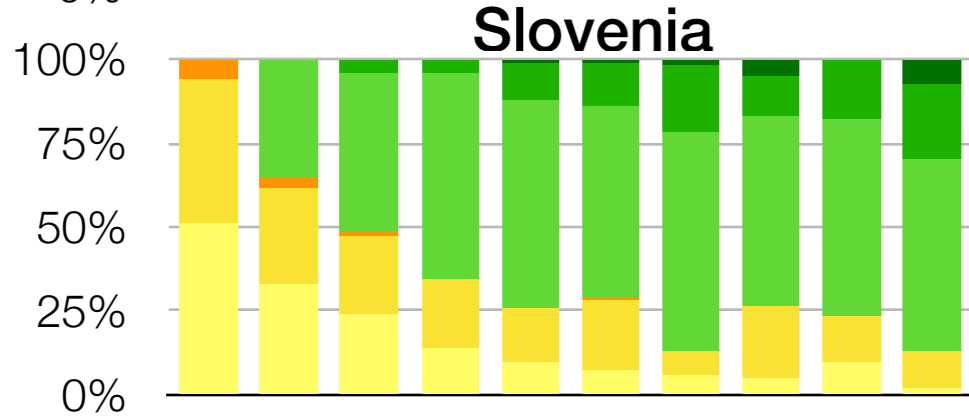
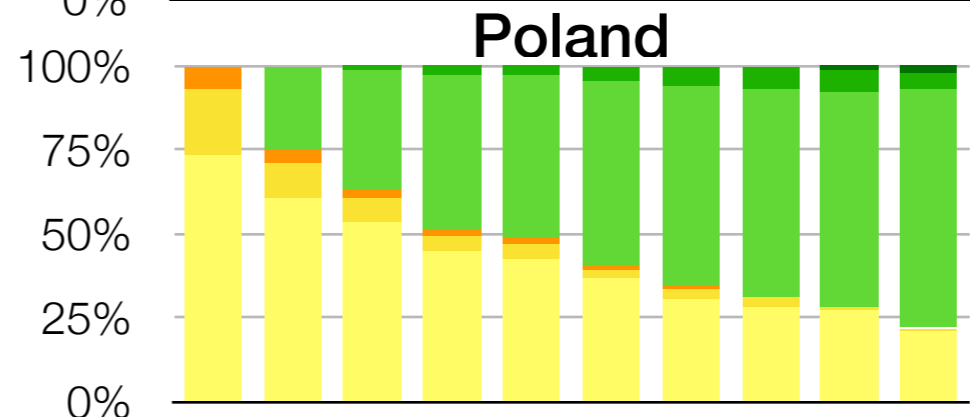
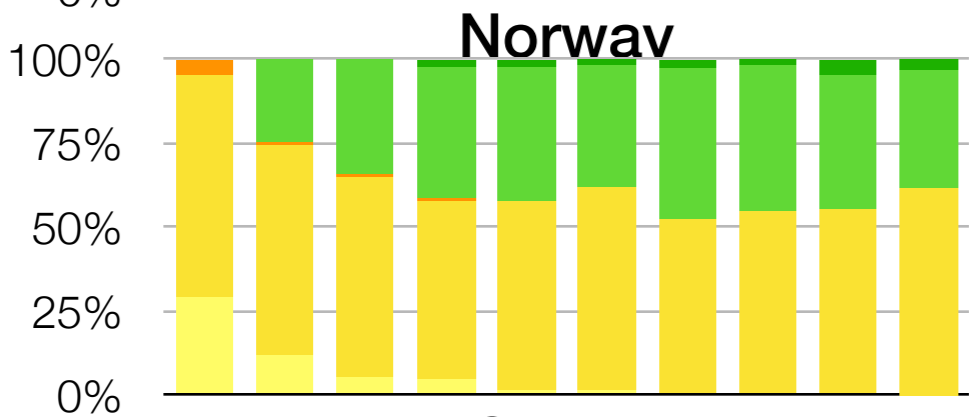
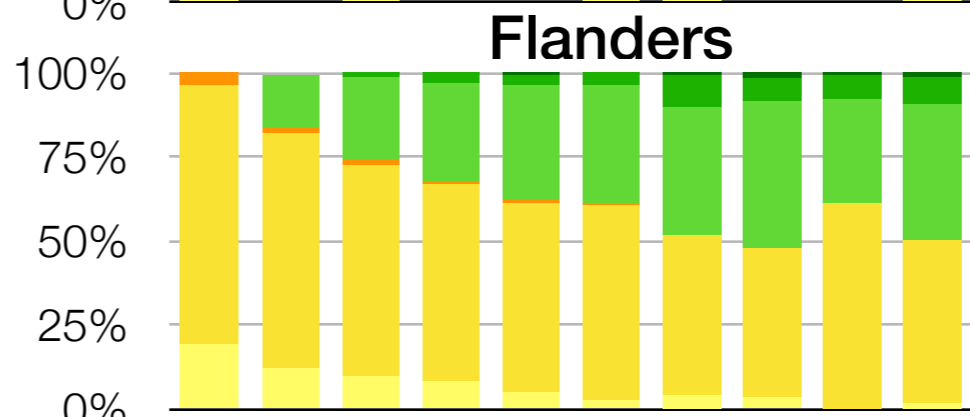
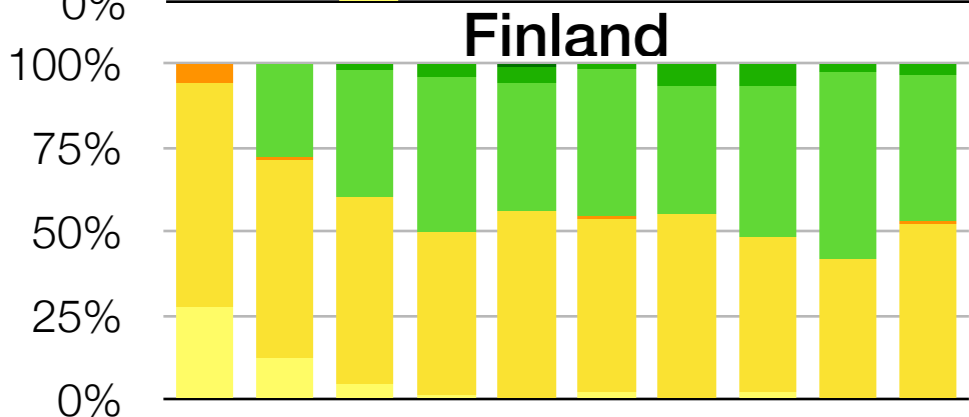
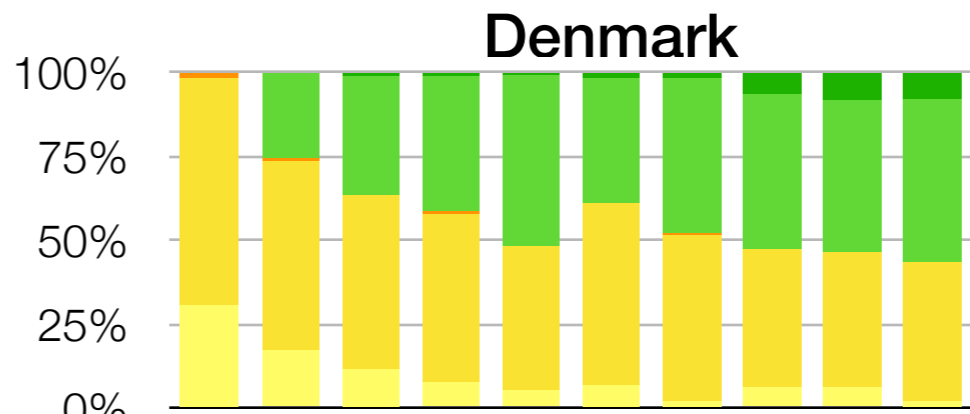
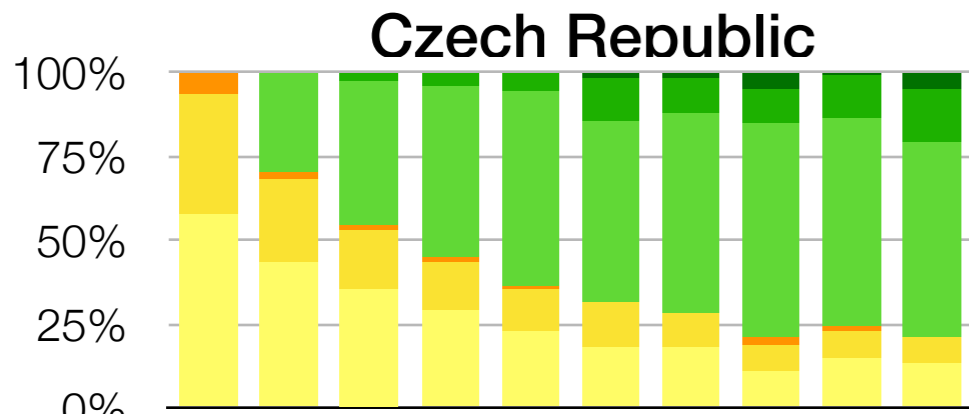


## The five most used languages in each of the seven countries relative to the total number of publications

Country	Number of languages	cs	da	de	en	es	fi	fr	hr	it	nl	no	pl	ru	sk	sl	sv
Czech Republic	33	58.8	<0.1	2.3	33.5	0.5	<0.1	0.8	<0.1	0.2	0.1	<0.1	0.7	0.9	1.4	0.1	<0.1
Denmark	16	0	27.7	1.1	69.7	0.5	<0.1	0.3	0	0.1	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	0	0	0	0.2
Finland	25	<0.1	0.1	0.7	78.3	0.3	17.3	0.7	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.9	0	0	0.9
Flanders	13	0	0	0.6	75.2	0.7	0	2.5	0	0.2	20.6	0	<0.1	<0.1	0	<0.1	0
Norway	19	0	0.3	0.5	84.5	0.4	<0.1	0.4	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	13.1	<0.1	0.1	0	0	0.3
Poland	44	0.1	0	1.7	21.0	0.3	<0.1	0.6	<0.1	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	74.2	1.0	0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Slovenia	25	0.2	<0.1	1.8	46.8	0.4	0	0.6	1.2	0.6	<0.1	0	0.2	0.4	0.1	46.3	<0.1
Total	53	8.1	1.7	1.5	37.9	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.3	1.7	1.0	41.1	0.8	0.2	2.3	0.1

*Note:* Colored cells represent the share of most used publication languages (i.e., the top 5) in a given country.

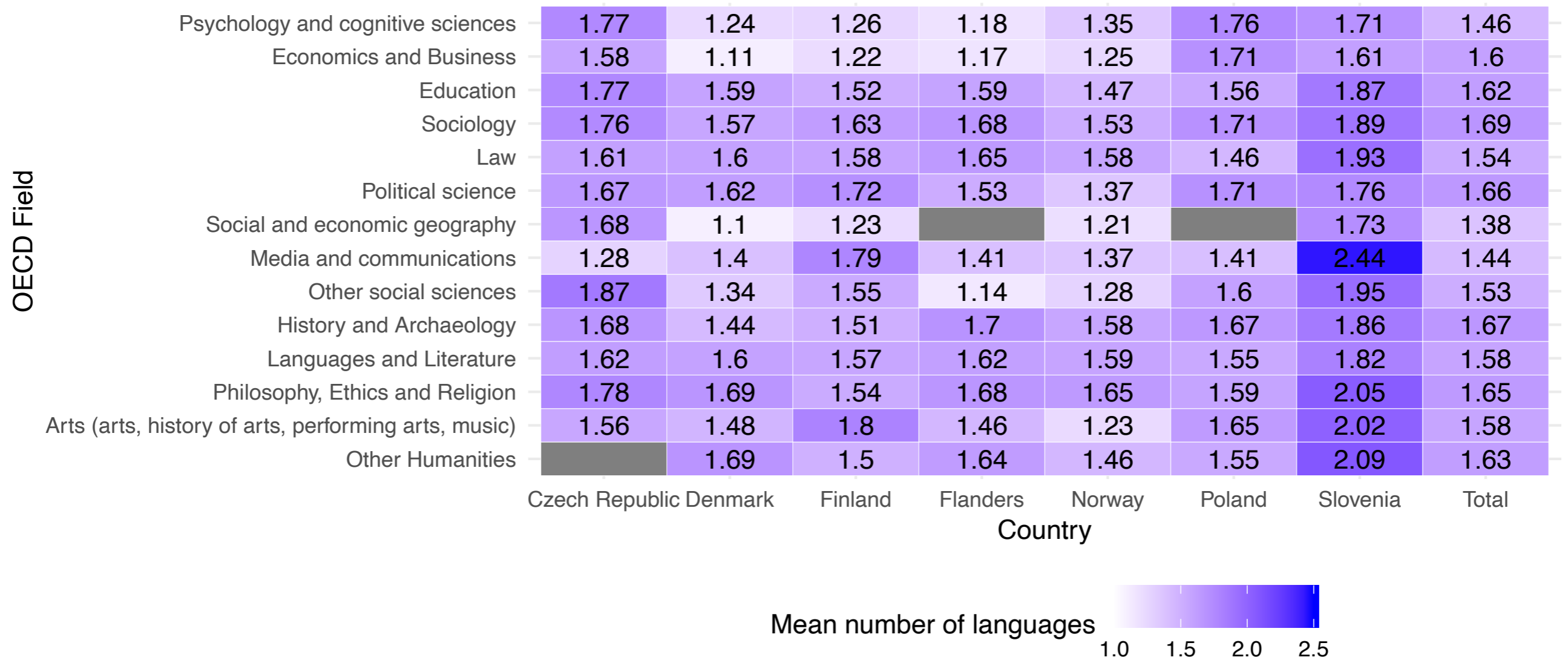
Languages: cs – Czech; da – Danish; de – German; en – English; es – Spanish; fi – Finnish; fr – French; hr – Croatian; it – Italian; nl – Dutch; no – Norwegian; pl – Polish; ru – Russian; sk – Slovak; sl – Slovenian; sv – Swedish.



- 4+ languages
- 3 languages
- 2 languages
- 1 language (Other)
- 1 language (English)
- 1 language (Local)

Differences between fields

# The mean number of languages in which **researchers** from a given OECD field published articles across countries



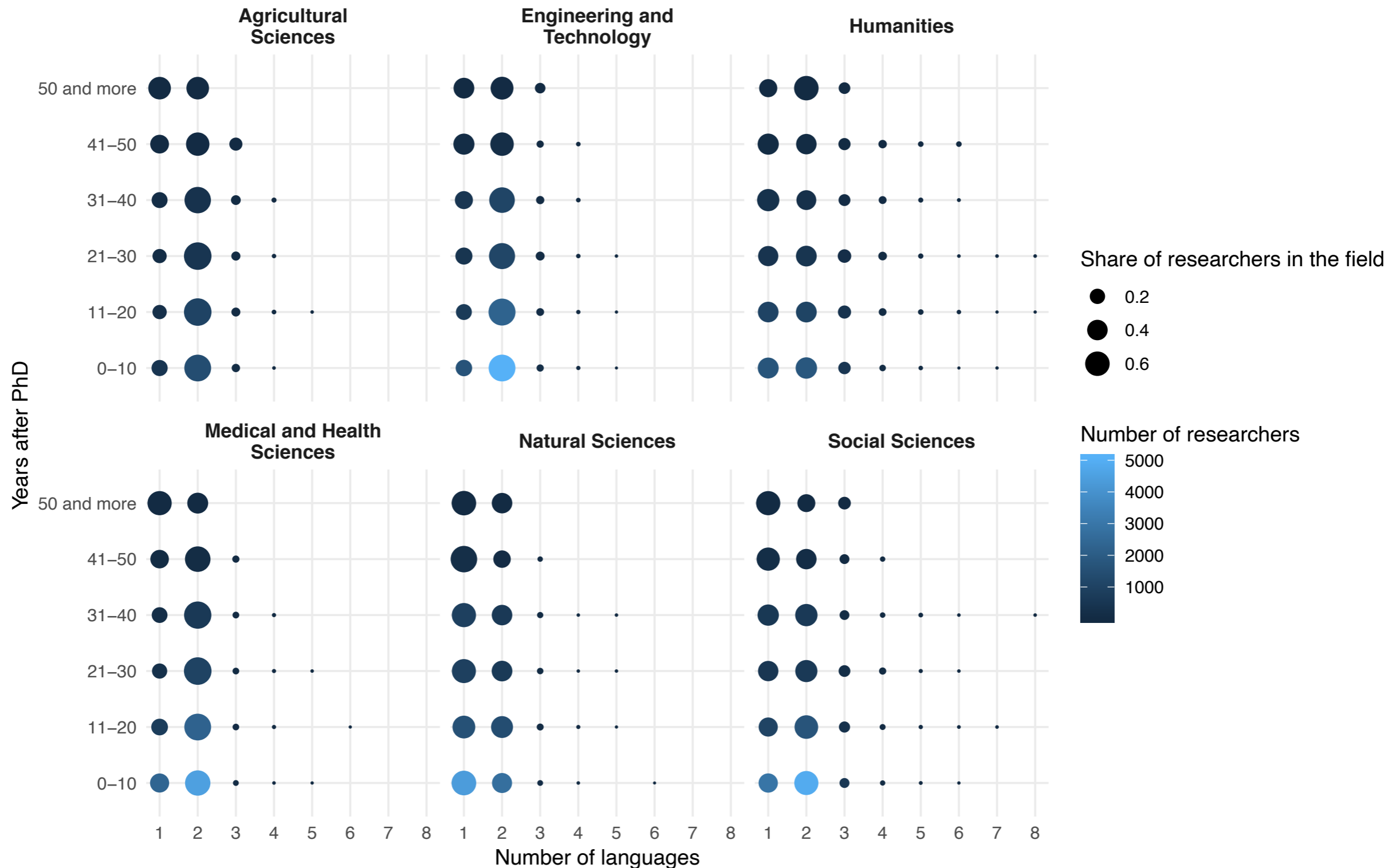
Fields are ordered according to the OECD classification

Data from one country  
but a comprehensive set of publications



# In how many languages have research published?

67,413 Polish researchers and their 1 mln publications  
(all types including books and chapters) from 2013-2016



# Conclusions

- ▶ Multilingual publishing is an ongoing practice in many SSH research fields regardless of geographical location, political situation, and/or historical heritage.
- ▶ Even in countries like Denmark, Finland, Flanders, and Norway, where the majority of articles are published in English, a substantial share of researchers have published in two or more languages
- ▶ In countries like the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovenia, where it is more common to use the local language in publishing, a considerable share of SSH researchers publish also in English
- ▶ **Our research calls to more fully recognize the value of multilingualism in scholarly communication, in order to foster a balance between the demands of international excellence and local relevance.**

# Thank you

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