



Driving assessment reform through collaboration – the approach of the EUTOPIA European University

Lennart Stoy & Elisa Maes – Vrije Universiteit Brussel & EUTOPIA European University

#OSFAIR2021 – @EUTOPIAuni – @lennrtsty

3rd OPEN SCIENCE FAIR CONFERENCE – 21 September 2021

A well-known problem...

The allure of the journal impact factor holds firm, despite its flaws

"Science needs a healthy dose of its own medicine, yet refuses to take the pill."

<https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/allure-journal-impact-factor-holds-firm-despite-flaws>

29 August 2019



Halt the h-index

May 19, 2021 • Science & Society • 2 comments • 7 min read

<https://www.leidenmadtrics.nl/articles/halt-the-h-index>

Deep impact: unintended consequences of journal rank

Björn Brembs^{1*}, Katherine Button² and Marcus Munafò³

¹Institute of Zoology—Neurogenetics, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany

²School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

³UK Centre for Tobacco Control Studies and School of Experimental Psychology, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2013.00291>

What's wrong with the h-index, according to its inventor

"Severe unintended negative consequences."

<https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/whats-wrong-with-the-h-index-according-to-its-inventor>

Published: 27 July 2016

Time to remodel the journal impact factor

Nature 535, 466 (2016) | Cite this article

408 Accesses | 22 Citations | 450 Altmetric | Metrics
<https://doi.org/10.1038/535466a>

What's wrong with the journal impact factor in 5 graphs

Scholars love to hate the journal impact factor, but how flawed is it?

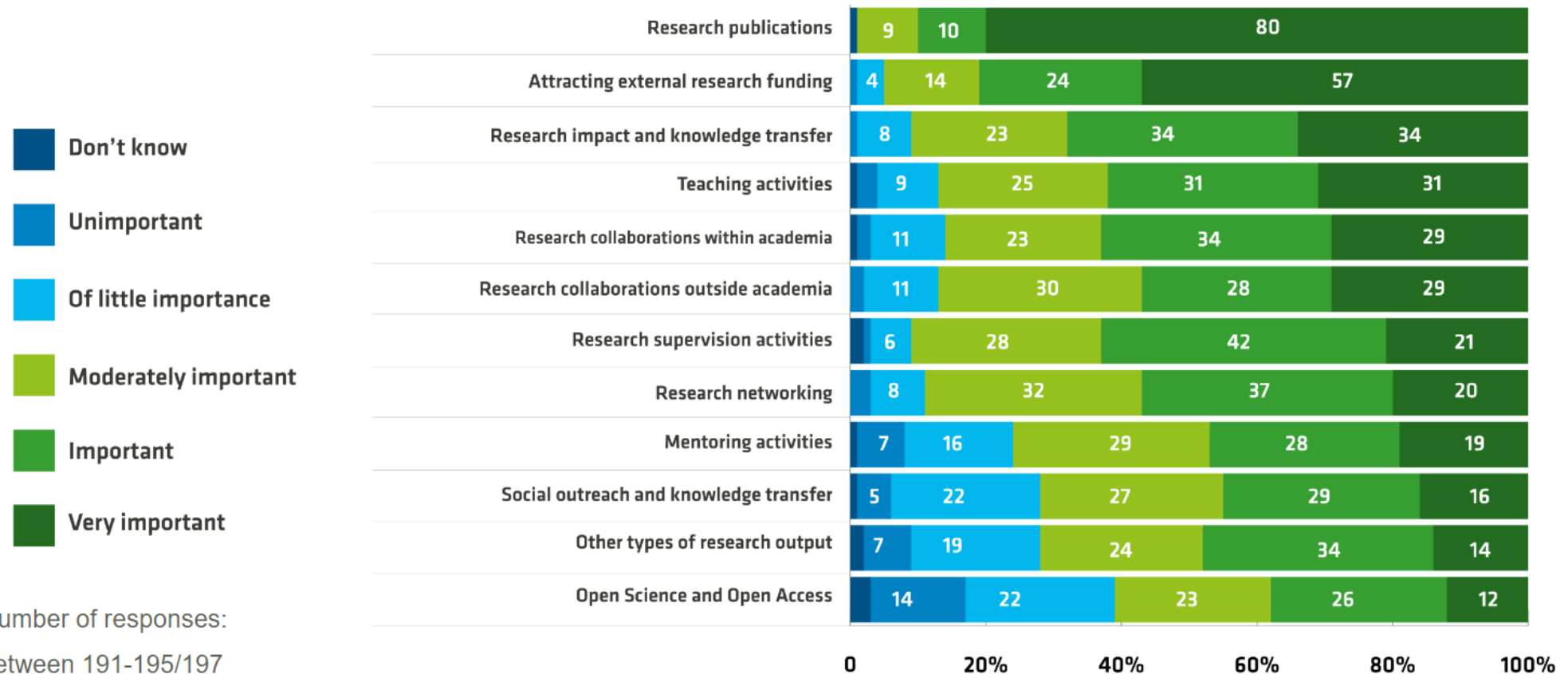
3 April 2018

<https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/whats-wrong-with-the-jif-in-five-graphs>

...with systemic proportions...

Which types of academic work matter most for research careers?

eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION



...requires collective action.

European Universities should*

- “develop academic career systems that support and reward researchers who participate in engaging with society and in a culture of sharing the results of their research, [...]”;
- set up strategies and institutional policies and mechanisms that enable, incentivize, measure and reward Open Science practices;
- enrich research and career evaluation systems through the introduction of additional indicators and metrics that can inform assessment on openness, including but not only on the broader social impact of research and at the individual level of a researcher (‘new generation metrics’);
- exchange best practice and mutual learning within the alliance”*

European Universities should be “‘testbeds’ for innovative teaching and for research, including academic career assessment and rewarding systems that take into account inter alia open science practices, quality of teaching, transfer of knowledge and outreach”. **



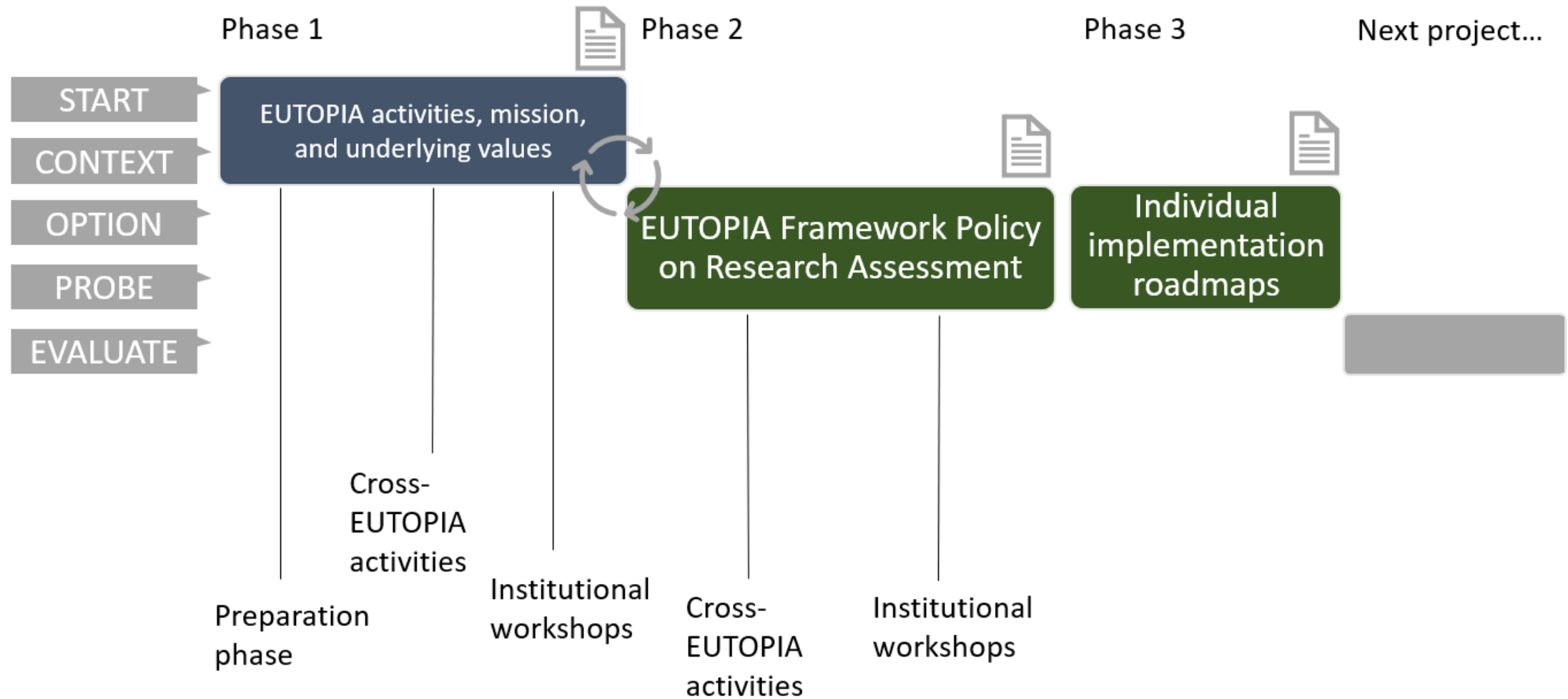
* https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/other-doc_h2020-iba-swafs-support-1-2020_h2020-iba-swafs-support-2-2020_en.pdf

** <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49659/st08658-en21.pdf>

From principle...



...to implementation.



Outlook



We want to build a framework policy for assessment that includes Open Science across all partners.



We want to formulate overarching principles and provide guidance to enable our members implement them.



We want to engage with all relevant stakeholders in the alliance in an open process and learn from international good practices.



We want to engage with other universities and alliances to make systemic change happen.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Thank you!

<https://eutopia-university.eu/>
[@EUTOPIAuni](#)

Lennart Stoy – 0000-0002-3827-9815 (lennart.stoy@vub.be)

Elisa Maes – 0000-0003-3946-9941