Current work in Finland at national level towards a more responsible evaluation of research

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Open science coordination in Finland

"All members of the research community come together through coordination to ensure that Finland develops a research environment where Open Science aims can be reached and monitored."

Organisation

- Coordination: The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies

- Open Science Expert Panels:
  1. Open Access to research publications
  2. Open Data
  3. Open Education
  4. Open research community

- Open Science Steering Group: national guidelines and policies for open science

Expert panel in Open research community

Promotes and discusses issues concerning the openness of the research culture by, for example, writing recommendations and strategies and updating terminology and discussing **the role of open access to research results, data and publications in evaluating researchers and research.**

Working groups on specific themes:

- Responsible evaluation of researchers

- Responsible metrics

- Sharing best practices for Open Science

- Open science in society

- Open scholarship philosophy discussion forum

Responsible evaluation: three key developments

1. **Recommendation for the responsible evaluation of a researcher**

2. **Recommendation for the responsible use of research metrics**

3. **New theme: incentives for openness in research**

1. Recommendation for the responsible evaluation of a researcher

Created by a working group formed by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. Wide representation of the Finnish research community.

New ways of doing and sharing research, multidisciplinarity and the growing demands for societal impact of research all challenge the ways researchers are evaluated.

Emphasis on open science increases the need to look at the evaluation of researchers, and how well it fulfills the demands of responsible openness.

Evaluations have significant impact on individual researchers in terms of merit accumulation, funding or career paths. Researcher evaluation also enables, modifies and directs research

→the entire scholarly community must take responsibility for the principles and practices of researcher evaluation

Recommendation will be published in spring 2020.

2. Recommendation for the responsible use of research metrics

Evaluation of research and researchers is an integral part of the functions of the scientific community

→ evaluations steer research activities and science policy

Quantitative indicators are used more and more as part of evaluations and research metrics are an essential part of research evaluations

→ more focus on the responsible use of research metrics and the risks involved in evaluating research (see, e.g. DORA, Leiden Manifesto, Metric Tide)

International guidelines are useful, but they do not take into consideration the national context. Nationally it is also easier to make more concrete recommendations

Recommendation will be published in spring 2020.

3. New theme: incentives for openness in research

New working group starting in 2020

(some) Questions:
- How to incentivize openness in research?
- What kinds of obstacles there are currently to openness?

(some) Challenges:
- Collecting accurate data
- Weighing of merits in openness against more traditional scientific merits or against each other
- Commitment of research funders and science policy makers to acknowledge merits in openness
- Measuring openness (you get what you measure → not openness for openness' sake)

(some) Solutions
- Collecting data with a low threshold → let researchers decide themselves what is significant in terms of openness
- Not comparisons, but acknowledgment → recognizing the variety of possible merits in openness

Thank you for your attention!