

R E K T O R S K A
K O N F E R E N C A
R E P U B L I K E
S L O V E N I J E



Univerza v Ljubljani



R E C T O R S '
C O N F E R E N C E O F
T H E R E P U B L I C
O F S L O V E N I A

invites employees and students of Slovenian
and foreign higher education institutions as well
as interested members of the general public to the

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Assessment of academic research:
finding a balance between quantitative
and qualitative indicators**

Maribor, 22 October 2021

Where?

The conference will be held in MS Teams. The attendance of the conference can be applied for through a [web link](#). The applicants will receive the day before the event an e-mail with direct links to all of the individual workshops, which will enable “transitioning” between individual workshops. You can access the event using MS Teams or MS Edge and Google Chrome browsers.

Applications

By 19 October 2021 through the following [web link](#).

About the conference

In spite of the generally recognized academic freedom, there is a growing global discussion of the research performance supported by public funds. Higher education and research form part of today's competitive world and the public expects answers on whether the research is “worthwhile”. Therefore, public funding of academic research is increasingly dependent on assessing the research performance. This limits the researchers' freedom to decide which topics they will focus on in their work and where they will publish their scientific publications. Consequently, the so-called new public management requires scientists to be monitored as other public sector employees and to increasingly compete with scientists from other scientific fields in order to obtain funding for their research. This requires a certain form of research performance assessment.

Since many research organizations do not ground their decision on the progress and funding of research work in a substantive assessment of a candidate's work, but only in bibliometric indicators, controversial research practices have expanded which direct researchers towards publishing for the sake of publishing; towards publications in predatory journals; abandonment of book writing in the fields of research where books are regarded as the most important research re-

sult; towards fragmentation of publications into the smallest publishable units (salami slicing); plagiarism; citation cartels; forced co-authorships (superiors); guest co-authorships (as a favour); co-authorships without the knowledge of the (recognized) co-author; towards unwillingness to cooperate with co-authors in areas where co-authorship is common, but only the first authorship is taken into account; towards an increasing number of co-authors in areas where co-authorship is not common, but equivalent to independent authorship; towards manipulation of research results in order to achieve a high-profile publication, etc.

Contrary to these practices, the European Commission emphasizes science for the benefit of society in the context of the HR Excellence in Research and Open Access policy, advocating a departure from the quantitative assessment criteria for scientific publications and their visibility and a move toward qualitative assessment, evaluating the substantial contribution of each researcher to the development of the research area and the progress of society. The European Commission supports the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and the Leiden Manifesto on responsible science. It refers to them, in its January 2019 report on the future of scientific publications in Europe, as flagship initiatives to improve quality in science and urges both the researchers and the universities to respect them. However, since also the review systems of the evaluation of scientific work have weaknesses, the need for an appropriate balance between quantitative and qualitative approaches to research evaluation is being brought to the forefront.

The objective of the 2021 National Rectors' Conference of the Republic Of Slovenia is to examine good practices of finding a balance between qualitative and quantitative criteria for evaluating research performance so as to increase the importance of research with regard to nature, society and individuals therein as well as to increase the researchers' satisfaction with their work.

You are cordially invited to join the event.

The Conference Programme

9:00–9:45 Welcome addresses:

- prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič (Rector of the University of Maribor)
- prof. dr. Simona Kustec (Minister of Education, Science and Sport)
- assoc. prof. dr. Robert Repnik (Director of the Slovenian Research Agency – ARRS)
- prof. dr. Franci Demšar (Director of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education SQAA)

9:45–11:15 Panel with invited speakers:

(moderator: prof. dr. Janja Hojnik, University of Maribor)

- prof. dr. James Wilsdon (University of Sheffield, the United Kingdom):
From responsible metrics to responsible research assessment: progress, obstacles and the way ahead
- prof. dr. Ludo Waltman (CWTS in Leiden University, the Netherlands):
Responsible research assessment: Experiences from the Netherlands

11:15–11:30 Break

11:30–13:30 Parallel workshops:

Workshop A: In search of balance between pedagogical and research indicators in assessment of HE teachers

Moderator: prof. dr. Tomaž Deželan (University of Ljubljana)

Instructors: prof. dr. Damjana Rozman, prof. dr. Miha Škerlavaj,
prof. dr. Janez Vogrinc (all from the University of Ljubljana)

Workshop B: Open science - the necessary structural changes

Moderator: prof. dr. Jozsef Györkös (University of Maribor)

Instructors: Mojca Kotar (University of Ljubljana), dr. Ana Slavec (Slovenian Eurodoc Open Science Ambassador), mag. Dunja Legat (University of Maribor)

Workshop C: Evaluating science in Europe: the case of the European Research Council and the Swiss National Science Foundation

Moderator: prof. dr. Gvido Bratina (University of Nova Gorica)

Instructors: dr. Ahmad Zein Assi (Swiss National Science Foundation),
dr. Andreja Umek Venturini (Science Directorate, Ministry of Education,
Science and Sport)

Workshop D: Are the rules of the game really the same for everyone? Research assessment in the case of humanities and computer science and informatics

Moderator: prof. dr. Andrej Brodnik (University of Primorska)

Instructors: assoc. prof. dr. Gregor Pobežin, assoc. prof. dr. Jonatan Vinkler,
assoc. prof. dr. Marko Tkalčič, assoc. prof. dr. Matjaž Kljun, assist. prof. dr. Klen Čopič
Pucihar (all from the University of Primorska)

13:30–13:45 Break

13:45–14:15 Reports from workshops and concluding thoughts

Workshop instructors

Language of the Conference

The working languages of the Conference are Slovene and English. Translation will not be provided.

Programme Committee

prof. dr. Tomaž Deželan (University of Ljubljana), prof. dr. Tanja Dmitrović (University of Ljubljana), prof. dr. Janja Hojnik (University of Maribor), prof. dr. Mihaela Koletnik (University of Maribor), Robert Presker (University of Maribor), prof. dr. Iztok Arčon (University of Nova Gorica), mag. Frenk Mavrič (University of Primorska),
prof. dr. Darjo Felda (University of Primorska)

Organizing Committee

Danilo Majcen (University of Maribor), Joanna Tekavc (University of Maribor),
Katja Breznik (University of Maribor)