
Czech research centres' publication performance in the period 2008-2012, by field of research

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Summary

Three years ago, we were the first in the Czech Republic to offer, in IDEA study 3/2012¹, a comparison of research publication performance (not productivity) based on data about the results of research and development in the period 2006-2010 for the research fields whose outputs are largely recorded in the *Web of Science* database run by *Thomson Reuters* (WoS). For each field of research, we showed which Czech centre has the most results published in journals with a high impact factor (IF). In this study, we bring that comparison up to date for the period 2008-2012.²

This type of comparison, which is based on the Information Register of R&D Results [*Rejstřík informací o výsledcích*] (RIV) collated by the government's Council for Research, Development and Innovation (RVVI), identifies the research centres with the most prolific output of excellent results in a given field in the Czech Republic. It also enables us to compare fields in terms of the concentration of their journal publication output in individual research centres, and to look at the relationship between "points-based" RIV assessment and excellence of results.³ In our original study, we discussed in detail the limitations of assessing research centres and fields based solely on simple bibliometric indicators. Despite clear recommendations to the contrary by the International Audit of Czech Research and Development⁴ the Czech Republic has, since 2009, operated a unique system through which it allocates almost all public financial support for R&D (VaV) to universities, nearly 5 billion crowns per year, on the basis of simple bibliometric indicators alone. Hence we also illustrate the consequences this system is having on the way researchers approach their work.⁵

¹ http://idea.cerge-ei.cz/documents/studie_2012_03.pdf and http://home.cerge-ei.cz/munich/idea/Doplnek_studie_CERGE_EI_IDEA_Tabulka.pdf

² In July 2015, at the time of writing this study, data from the Evaluation in 2014 was not yet available.

³ Towards the end of this study, we also illustrate the need for field-specific international comparisons.

⁴ <http://audit-vav.reformy-msmt.cz/>

⁵ We would like to thank the RVVI secretariat and many colleagues for their comments.