

JANUARY 2020 | ISSUE 2

RISIS

NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

Output and activities - 2

US VS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES, BEHIND RANKINGS
SIPER, WORLDWIDE POLICY EVALUATION DATABASE

Research Topics - 3

CWTS, CORE DATASET ON PUBLICATIONS
EUPRO, A WHERE TO STUDY R&D PROJECTS

Forthcoming Events - 4

RISIS WILL HAVE A PLACE IN ESOF2020
RISIS WEEK, TIME TO STUDY AND PLAN

Stakeholder Engagement - 5

FAST GROWING MID-SIZED FIRMS IN EUROPE
KNOWMAK, INTERFACE TO RISIS DATA

RISIS training activities - 6

IN A NUTSHELL

RISIS (Research Infrastructure for Science and Innovation policy Studies) is a project under Horizon 2020 programme. It gathers 18 partners aiming to transform the field of STI studies into an advanced research community.

RISIS datasets cover five critical dimensions: ERA dynamics, firm innovation dynamics, public sector research, research careers and a repository on research and innovation policy evaluations.

RISIS newsletter is scheduled every six month, and is an opportunity to talk about RISIS research topics, outputs and publications focusing on last RISIS results, events which involved our team.

We are proud RISIS activity is growing:
Have fun reading!



Universiteit Leiden



The University of Sheffield



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Nordisk institutt for studier av
innovasjon, forskning og utdanning



Samuel Neaman Institute
for National Policy Research



US VS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES, BEHIND RANKINGS

All of us, at least once in life, we have heard about “best universities”, both in Europe, and around the world. Yet, define excellence is not a simple job. Researchers of USI (Università della Svizzera italiana) in collaboration with University of Turin, have shown a strong relationship between university revenues and their volume of publications and citations, sweeping away some conceptions on university rankings. The study is published on PlosOne. To help them in their research, there was RISIS ETER dataset.

“Though often criticized for their intrinsic limitations, rankings have been used to provide so-called ‘excellence’ signals. Across countries, one model of research intensive institution, inspired by the US research university, has become the aspirational archetype for all universities that are increasingly involved in the battle for international ‘excellence’, with university managers keenly scrutinizing their position in international rankings. At the political level, the observation of a ‘transatlantic gap’ in bibliometric indicators between US and Europe has led to a wide debate on whether stronger policies rewarding ‘excellence’ would be needed”, said Benedetto Lepori, corresponding author of the paper.

However, as emerge in the paper, such an approach under evaluates the heterogeneity institutional and historical diversity of local higher education institutions (HEIs) and generates self-reinforcing cumulative mechanisms where the rich is becoming richer. “Beyond the obvious assumption that more resources translate into more output, we know little about the relationship at the institutional level between the amount of available resources on the one hand and scientific output and visibility on the other hand.

Results demonstrate that fighting for the top-positions in international rankings must be associated with the concentration of large amounts of resources in a few places. This could have relevant policy implications. Researchers suggest that, for some (large) European countries currently lacking internationally ‘excellent’ universities, dedicated policies should be designed that trigger the kind of cumulative mechanisms observed in the US, for example by attributing long-term institutional funding.

SIPER, WORLDWIDE POLICY EVALUATION DATABASE

Available on-line, from autumn 2019, the public version of SIPER (Science and Innovation Policy Evaluation Repository), a rich and unique database of science and innovation policy evaluations worldwide, and one of core dataset of RISIS project. “ The main goal of this database is to bring together all evaluation reports in the field of Science and Innovation policy, in order to make them accessible for policy-maker and analysts”, said Jakob Edler, director of Fraunhofer ISI and responsible of SIPER database. Effects and efficiency of science, technology and innovation (STI) policies are typically assessed through a process of evaluation and illustrated in the evaluation reports, so the main objective of SIPER is to identify, collect and characterise evaluation reports, present them to wider stakeholders, and to conduct academic research by analysing these evaluations. “We collect those evaluation reports, the underlying policy measure of this evaluation reports and then we characterise them following a uniform template, which results in the production of a number of variables each with one, or more associated values”, said Edler.



“

Stronger policies rewarding ‘excellence’ would be needed



CWTS, CORE DATASET ON PUBLICATIONS

Publications, daily bread of researchers. To study, consult, or share information, publication databases are populated every single day. And what about RISIS core dataset on publications? The dataset is called CWTS publications, and previously it was referred to as Leiden Ranking dataset. Initially it was introduced in RISIS as a dataset with key bibliometric statistics for the most prominent universities. Later on, this (aggregate) dataset was rather an entry to the detailed info at publication level, the data underlying the Leiden Ranking” said Ed Noyons, senior researcher at the Leiden University and RISIS project leader within CWTS.

The CWTS publication database is a full copy of Web of Science (WoS) dedicated to bibliometric analyses, enriched by enhancements and improvement to the original version. Main harmonized elements regard organisation names and matching cited references to source publications: “We are continuously working on improving the quality dataset: cleaning the data, harmonizing affiliations of authors, etc. In parallel we create links between our data and the other RISIS datasets, when possible, e.g., linking author affiliations to partner info in EUPRO, applicants in patents”, said Noyons.

CWTS Leiden Ranking comprises research performance statistics on more than 900 universities. These are universities with at least 1000 publications (counted fractionally) in 2014-2017 according to data from WoS. The ranking data is updated every year in May.

Services currently offered by the infrastructure include a public dataset to demonstrate the potential of the database, together with a complete documentation of data and methods used is available at leidenranking.com, and more details studies can be executed on-site at CWTS using the underlying database via a research visit.

EUPRO, A WHERE TO STUDY R&D PROJECTS

“EUPRO is the first systematic and standardized database to investigate project based R&D collaboration networks in Europe”, said Thomas Scherngell, senior scientist at the AIT Center for Innovation Systems & Policy, and coordinator of the central access manager to RISIS datasets. EUPRO, in fact, is a core RISIS dataset providing cleaned and complete information both on R&D projects and on participants over long time periods. Data included in EUPRO are numerous: in total, the dataset comprises 96,674 projects and 526,564 participations.

EUPRO data are on and from EU 28 Member States, 13 Associated countries, 14 Third Countries and International Cooperation Partner Countries. It offers the access to high quality data on R&D projects funded by different European funders. “EUPRO has been recently used intensively as a core facility in research activities that investigate structure, dynamics and impacts of project-based R&D collaboration, in particular to grasp and understand the development of the European Research Area (ERA). On the one hand, the integration of EUPRO within RISIS has been core to increase its scientific value for cross-dataset empirical analyses, and to be able to gain from RISIS developed facilities, such as geo-localisation tools, for the further advancement of EUPRO, on the other hand”.



“Over the coming two years we are implementing a new module of EUPRO, which is called NATPRO, facing increasing demand not only from research but also from policy, to look also at the national landscape”. The module has raised interest by the European Commission. With this new module, researchers will, for instance, be able to analyse complementarities between national and European R&D funding and differing resulting networks structures at the European vs. national level.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RISIS WILL HAVE A PLACE IN ESOF2020



RISIS will take part in Euro Science Open Forum (ESOF)2020, with a 90 minutes interactive round table aiming to discuss recent changes in knowledge production, and how they are likely to be empowered by using a research infrastructure.

We have imagined an interactive session, to get all participants close to RISIS project: at this purpose, a 'RISIS DEMO' will be created, directly linked to a QRCode. Users will be led during the session into RISIS data and resources, and will be introduced into the interdisciplinary approach of RISIS datasets families, in order to develop an effective and continuous process of interaction between Science, Technology and Innovation scholars, scholars from neighbouring fields and stakeholders.

The panel discussion will point out how data can be used for addressing research questions relevant for policy making: Is the delineation of national level actors still relevant if 200 multinational firms dominate the half of world industrial R&D? Can we consider universities as similar when in Europe 200 of them represent 80% of European university publications? How to monitor the progress of new sciences when frontier research becomes a policy priority and exceeds disciplinary borders?

ESOF2020 will be held in Trieste, from 5 to 9 July 2020. A relevant occasion to increase RISIS profile and to widen its community.

RISIS WEEK, TIME TO STUDY AND PLAN

The second year of RISIS is upon us.

It is time for the researchers of the STI community who are part of it to draw conclusions, reflect on the results achieved and plan the next actions, in terms of research, strategic approach, communication, dissemination and evaluation.

For a week, from 27 to 30 January 2020, ISI-Fraunhofer of Karlsruhe will host all 18 RISIS project partners, to discuss and study all together.

3 plenary sessions, 2 reflexive sessions, 4 parallel sessions, all RISIS datasets to focus on. In addition, space will be given to the new RISIS achievements, including the new datasets which will soon become part of the infrastructure.





FAST GROWING MID-SIZED FIRMS IN EUROPE

On 24 October 2019, the Club of associated research organisations (Clora) of Brussels hosted the first RISIS Policymakers' Session. The European Research Infrastructure for Science, technology and Innovation policy Studies (RISIS) will focus on European mid-size firms, with a half-day presentation and discussion around evidence from RISIS Cheetah data.

Massimiliano Guerini, representative of Politecnico di Milano (Polimi) in RISIS project and Cheetah access manager and Roberto Camerani, Research Fellow at Science Policy Research Unit of University of Sussex, presented a category of firms that may be relevant for policy debate: Cheetah firms.

Cheetah firms represent a critical dimension in employment creation and an important policy focus for the future. The event addressed this issue based on original data about a large sample of fast growing mid-sized firms in Europe. Speakers first described the methodology for data collection. Then, they moved to the main findings obtained when analysing the RISIS Cheetah database, with a descriptive analysis on the distribution of fast growing mid-sized firms in Europe, including a comparison with the distribution of mid-sized firms that did not experience fast growth, and an analysis on the regional-level factors that are associated to the emergence and agglomeration of fast growing mid-sized firms in European regions. In the final section, the audience discussed the policy implications of the analyses.



KNOWMAK, INTERFACE TO RISIS DATA

The second policymakers' Session of RISIS project was opened by Adam Tyson, Head of Research and Industrial Infrastructures at DG Research and Innovation of European Commission. During the session, held on CLORA (Brussels) on 19 December 2019, Benedetto Lepori, from USI University and Thomas Scherngell, from Austrian Institute of Technology, presented The RISIS-KNOWMAK tool as an interface to RISIS integrated data.

KNOWMAK is an interactive tool that allows for easy navigation and visualization of RISIS indicators across regions, actors and topics, as well as to download data for further analysis.



.....
Last POLICY MEETING was held on
December 19 and
DEDICATED TO KNOWMAK
.....

A demonstration of KNOWMAK tool has been given during the session, discussing the potential of the underlying RISIS-KNOWMAK data for various research and policy questions, exemplified by the characterization of knowledge production in the European regions. Finally, the session focused on future development of RISIS-KNOWMAK and open discussion.

RISIS TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Training provides basic and advanced knowledge on RISIS contents and infrastructure and how to use it, and the methodologies to effort the datasets for research aimed to produce evidences relevant for policy making.



PAST COURSE

RISIS Methodological course Application of Latent Class Modelling to research policy and higher education studies, organized by Università della Svizzera Italiana, took place in Lugano, Switzerland, 9-10th September 2019.

Objectives: Introduce basic concepts and rationales of Latent Class Modelling, understand applicability of the method, specifically to datasets in research policy and higher education studies and to know and practice the basic steps for conducting analysis with statistical software.

UPCOMING COURSE

The Methodological course on PANEL DATA METHODS AND APPLICATIONS, organized by Politecnico di Milano, will take place from 5th to 6th of March 2020.

The course objective is to introduce the main features of panel data econometric models and present use cases and examples based on the VICO dataset.



CALL for participation STILL OPEN!
DEADLINE: February 15th, 2020

Topics covered in the course include specification, estimation, and inference in the context of models that take into account unobserved heterogeneity and individual effects (e.g. fixed-effects vs. random-effects models).

Target audience includes PhD students, early career researchers, policy analysts

WHAT ABOUT?

RISIS offers training courses aim at developing skills in using the RISIS datasets and platforms, and we will further develop online tools, tutorials and courses to support users and stakeholders remotely.



No fees to be paid by European Participants, and venue of the trainees for on sites courses will be covered in case of researchers, early researchers and PhDs coming from European countries.



Training activities include the following type of course: Applied Courses on datasets, Methodological Courses and Summer Schools.

RISIS newsletter is published under the programme n° 824091

Coordinator of the project: Philippe Laredo, Université Gustave Eiffel

Editorial Secretariat: risis.communication@ircres.cnr.it

Responsible of RISIS Newsletter: Grazia Battiato, CNR-IRCRES | grazia.battiato@ircres.cnr.it

Newsletter Editorial Board: Emanuela Reale, CNR-IRCRES, Serena Fabrizio, CNR-IRCRES

Privacy statement: Personal data and other information entered in RISIS Newsletter will be treated according the general data protection regulation (GDPR) of 25 May2018

RISIS Newsletter is not for sale but is distributed for purposes of study and research and published online at : <https://www.risis2.eu/newsletter/>

To unsubscribe, please write to: risis.communication@ircres.cnr.it

To contact RISIS

contact@risis2.eu
<https://www.risis2.eu/contact-form/>

To follow RISIS



This project is funded by the European Union
under Horizon2020 Research and Innovation
Programme Grant Agreement n°824091