RISIS
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION POLICY STUDIES

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Press release

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4# RISIS POLICYMAKERS SESSION
How advanced bibliometrics reveals cancer research dynamics

On Thursday, **9th of July**, the **4th RISIS POLICYMAKERS SESSION** entitled **"Mapping R&D to policy goals and societal challenges"** took place online on the GoToMeeting platform with the participation of **40 among experts, policy analysts, and academics**.

The conference focused on the results of a study conducted by **CWTS, Leiden University** titled **Revealing dynamics, structure, and societal connections. How advanced bibliometrics support science policy analyses**. The team took into consideration the example of **cancer research** to illustrate the potential of bibliometric data to reveal information beyond counting publications and citations, and specifically to gain insights into the dynamics of a research field or organization, its structure and its different ways in which research is connected to societal processes. For this study, CWTS Leiden University selected **26 different types of cancer** with a higher burden of disease according to the WHO. The study evaluated the **correlation between research efforts and the burden of disease in European countries** to find out about potential mismatches, i.e., relatively low knowledge production with a high disease burden or vice versa. The bibliometric analyses have been conducted using the **RISIS CWTS publication Dataset.**
The power of advanced bibliometrics is its capacity to analyse and contextualize a research group, a university, a discipline, regions, countries, or groups of countries. Thus, the study encourages science policy analysts to make use of advanced scientometric techniques to support **decision making**. The conference began with an **Opening** of Dr. **Alessia Fava,** Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth, National Research Council of Italy, mainly focused on **RISIS dissemination and communication ongoing activities.**

Dr. **Ismael Rafols** (CWTS, Leiden Universities) introduced the study conducted by CWTS Leiden University, underlining the **approach and the importance of mission-oriented innovation policy** to respond to the societal challenges. Dr. **Alfredo Yegros Yegros** illustrated how the combination of bibliometrics with additional information (e.g. burden of disease) increases its potential to support decisions in R&D priority setting. Dr. **Ed Noyons** described the resources of the **CWTS Publication Dataset** and illustrated the concept of the Area-based Connectedness (ABC) to describe the distribution across all science.

The second part of the conference was dedicated to the contribution of three discussants on how advanced bibliometrics analyses reveal the scientific production, medical innovation, and the various funding system. Dr. **Michael M. Hopkins** (SPRU, The Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, UK) talked about the use of bibliometrics as a lens to explore corporate innovation in cancer diagnostics. Dr. **Jarno Hoekman** (Universiteit Utrecht) highlighted the challenges we should take into

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consideration asking the question on how advanced bibliometrics can support science policy analysis as the fact that the role of scientific research in mission-oriented policy depends on nature of the problem. Finally, Dr. **Lennart Stenberg** (Vinnova Sweden's innovation agency) underlined the use of bibliometric in the development of missions focusing on how to capture policy-relevant research fields.

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