



# ACUMEN

**Academic Careers Understood through Measurements and Norms**

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14 November 2013

# ACUMEN

## *Academic Careers Understood through Measurements and Norms*

European 7th Framework collaborative project  
Capacities, Science in Society 2010  
Grant Agreement: 266632

9 institutional partners, in 7 countries



# Presentation Outline

1. Evaluation Gap
2. Evaluation Machines
3. ACUMEN research domain
4. ACUMEN portfolio concept
5. Shared concerns
6. Things we can do together

# Evaluation Gap

- ➔ discrepancy between evaluation criteria and the social and economic functions of science
- ➔ evaluation methods (esp. qualitative) have not adapted to increased scale of research
- ➔ available quantitative measures are often not applicable at the individual level
- ➔ lack of recognition for new types of work that researchers need to perform
  
- ➔ evaluation is disconnected from that which is being evaluated:
  - *separated from the work being evaluated*
  - *design of the evaluation is separated from its actual operation*

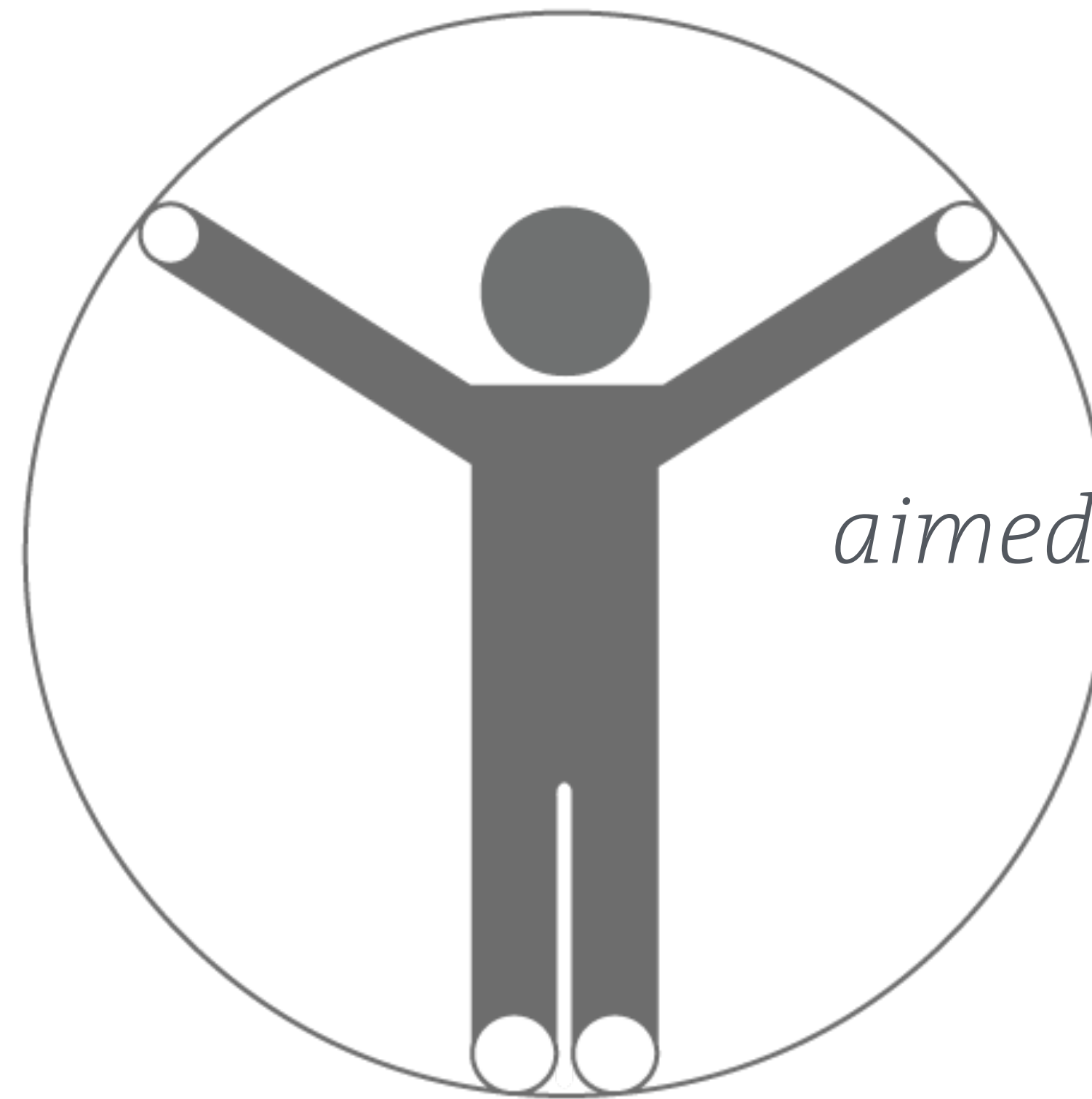
Dahler-Larsen (2011) *The Evaluation Society*.  
Stanford University Press

# Evaluation Machines [1]

- researchers cannot opt out of evaluation
- decreased openness to question evaluation practices
- institutional support for evaluation is often stronger than evidence about its use
- pressure to do evaluation is often stronger than the pressure to do good evaluation

[1] Dahler-Larsen (2011) *The Evaluation Society*. Stanford University Press.

# ACUMEN research



*aimed at empowering researchers  
(and evaluators)*

# ACUMEN research

assessment of scientometric  
indicators in performance evaluation

assessment of webometric  
(and altmetric) indicators

comparative analysis of peer  
review systems in Europe

analysis of gender dimension  
in researcher evaluation

ethnographic study of  
important evaluation events





# ACUMEN research

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Common Data Strategy

assessment of webometric (and altmetric) indicators

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ethnographic study of important evaluation events



## 15 European countries

Bulgaria	France	Netherlands
Czech Republic	Germany	Poland
Denmark	Hungary	Slovenia
Estonia	Israel	Spain
Finland	Italy	United Kingdom

## 4 Academic Disciplines

- (a) astronomy and astrophysics
- (b) public and occupational health
- (c) environmental engineering
- (d) philosophy (including history and philosophy of science)



# ACUMEN Portfolio

## Career Narrative

Links expertise, output, and influence together in an evidence-based argument; included content is negotiated with evaluator and tailored to the particular evaluation

### Expertise

- scientific/scholarly
- technological
- communication
- organizational
- knowledge transfer
- educational

### Output

- publications
- public media
- teaching
- web/social media
- data sets
- software/tools
- infrastructure
- grant proposals

### Influence

- on science
- on society
- on economy
- on teaching

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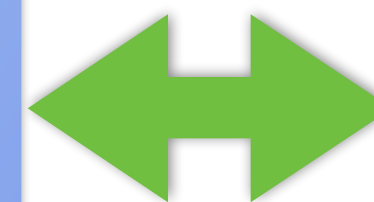
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## Evaluation Guidelines

- aimed at both researchers and evaluators
- development of evidence based arguments (what counts as evidence?)
- expanded list of research output
- establishing provenance
- taxonomy of indicators: bibliometric, webometric, altmetric
- guidance on use of indicators
- contextual considerations, such as: stage of career, discipline, and country of residence

# Aims: Portfolio & Guidelines

- ➔ Instrument for empowering researchers in the processes of evaluation
- ➔ Taking in to consideration all academic disciplines
- ➔ Suitable for other uses (e.g. career planning)
- ➔ Able to integrate into different evaluation systems

# Potential Obstacles

- evaluation practices emerging with use of CRISs
- in particular, assessment of individuals on the basis of available machine operations
- increased quantity of evaluations, and added pressure on evaluators
- data validation processes, provenance of research objects, especially with regard to non-standard research output

# Things we can do together

- euroCRIS members: 7-minute survey: [bit.ly/HSg2r1](http://bit.ly/HSg2r1)
- ACUMEN Stakeholder workshop: *Brussels, 24 January 2014*
- initiate euroCRIS Task Group on evaluation of individuals
- ACUMEN-2: collaborative project aimed at implementing the portfolio and guidelines as a component of CRISs

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# thank you!

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