





# Importance of national language publishing in Europe

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### Structure of Presentation

- I. Three eras of languages in science and humanities.
- 2. Publication languages across Europe.
- 3. Publishing in national journals.
- 4. Conclusion

1.

Three eras of languages in science and humanities

## Historical eras of language landscape in science

# PERNICI TORINENSIS

Habes in hoc opere iam recens mato, & zedito, fludiofe lector, Motus ftellarum, tam fixarum, quam erraticurum, cum ex ueteribus, tum etiam ex recentibus obferuationibus refititutos: & notuis infuper ac admirabilibus hypothefibus ornatos. Habes etiam Tabulas expeditifsimas, ex quibus cofdem adquoduis tempus quâm facili me calculare poteris, lgitur eme, lege, fruere.

Kyrapithere Shie earts.

Norimberge apud leh, Petreium, Anno M. D. XIII.

# Era of actual *linga franca*, i.e. Latin which was nobody's native tongue.

Latin was the primary language up to 19th century in science and the humanities.

# Era of national languages which are native tongues for the upper classes.

Since the mid-19th century, there are a few primary national languages (English, French, German) which have served for international scholarly communication instead of one *linga franca*.

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#### Die Plancksche Theorie der Strahlung und die Theorie der spezifischen Wärme; von A. Einstein.

In zwei früheren Arbeiten 1) habe ich gezeigt, daß die Interpretation des Energieverteilungsgesetzes der schwarzen Strahlung im Sinne der Boltzmannschen Theorie des zweiten Hauptsatzes uns zu einer neuen Auffassung der Phänomene der Lichtemission und Lichtabsorption führt, die zwar noch keineswegs den Charakter einer vollständigen Theorie besitzt, die aber insofern bemerkenswert ist, als sie das Verständnis einer Reihe von Gesetzmäßigkeiten erleichtert. In der vorliegenden Arbeit soll nun dargetan werden, daß die Theorie der Strahlung - und zwar speziell die Plancksche Theorie zu einer Modifikation der molekular-kinetischen Theorie der Wärme führt, durch welche einige Schwierigkeiten beseitigt werden, die bisher der Durchführung jener Theorie im Wege standen. Auch wird sich ein gewisser Zusammenhang zwischen dem thermischen und optischen Verhalten fester Körper ergeben.

Wir wollen zuerst eine Herleitung der mittleren Energie des Planckschen Resonators geben, die dessen Beziehung zur Molekularmechanik klar erkennen läßt.

Wir benutzen hierzu einige Resultate der allgemeinen molekularen Theorie der Wärme.<sup>1</sup>) Es sei der Zustand eines Systems im Sinne der molekularen Theorie vollkommen bestimmt durch die (sehr vielen) Variabeln  $P_1, P_2 \dots P_n$ . Der Verlauf der molekularen Prozesse geschehe nach den Gleichungen

$$\frac{d P_{\nu}}{d t} = \Phi_{\nu}(P_1, P_2 \dots P_n), \quad (\nu = 1, 2 \dots n)$$

und es gelte für alle Werte der P, die Beziehung

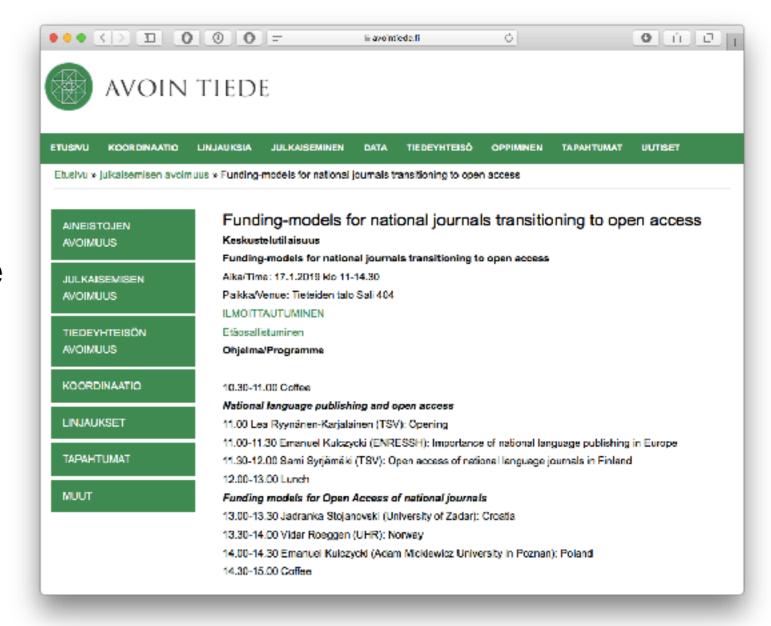
(1) 
$$\sum \frac{\partial \Phi_{\nu}}{\partial P_{\nu}} = 0.$$

A. Einstein, Ann. d. Phys. 17. p. 132, 1905 u. 20. p. 199, 1905.

# Era of standard English which is not *lingua franca* because is asymmetric:

- English is native tongue and the national language for the so-called central societies.
- English is foreign language for the rest of world and most often for "peripheral societies"

The domination of English is clearly visible since the Second World War.



# Proportions of languages in publications of the natural sciences worldwide 1880–2005

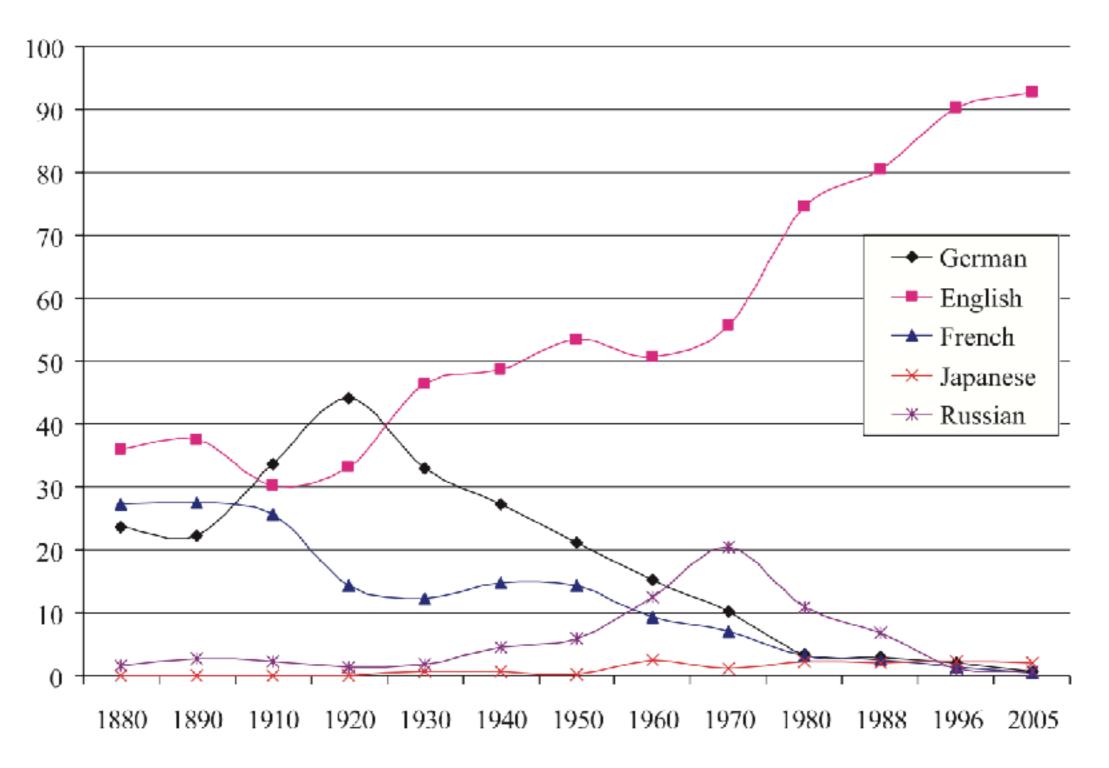


Figure from Ulrich Ammon's article (2012)

2.

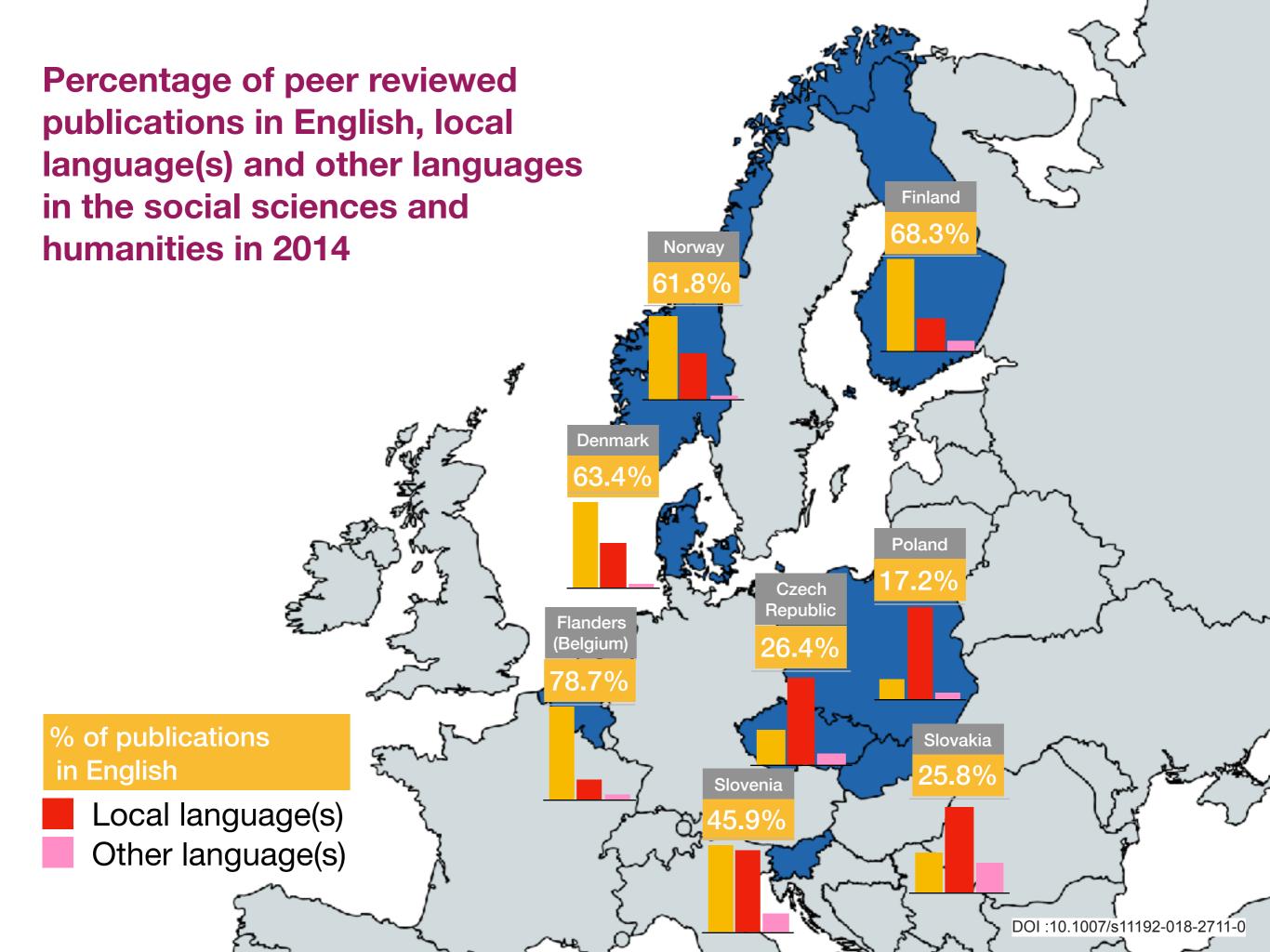
Publication languages across Europe

### Role of national languages in scholarly communication

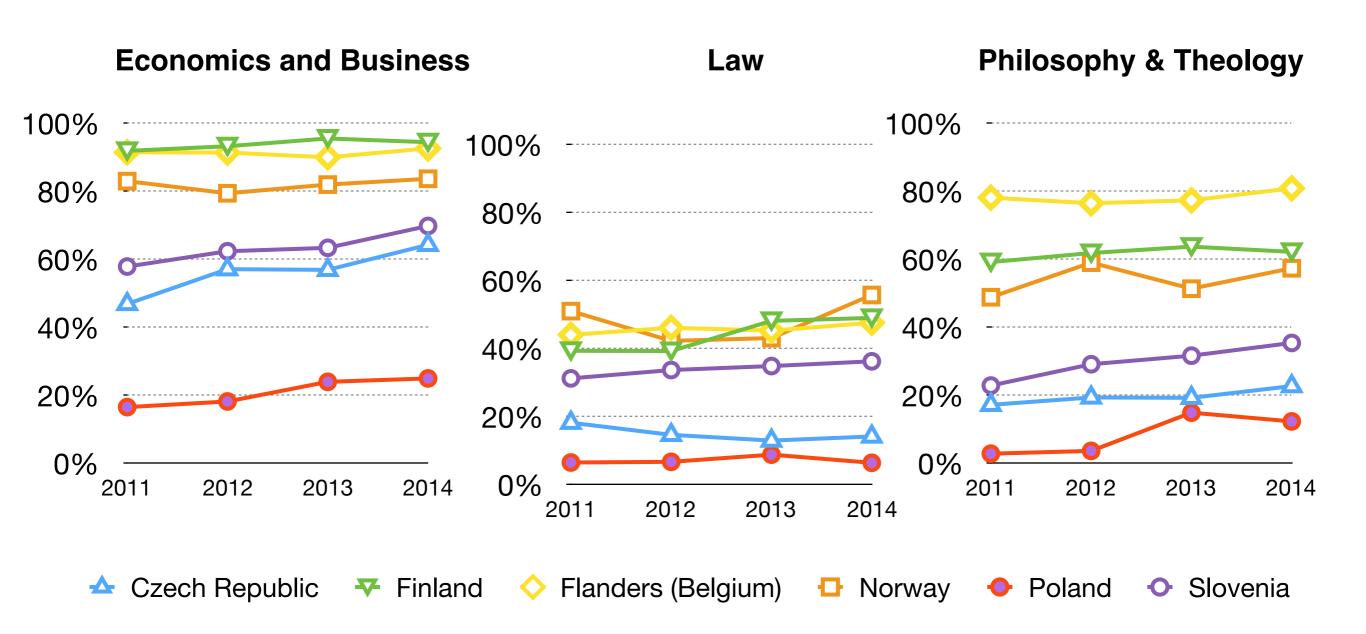
- 1. The choice of publication language is often a matter of choosing the recipient of scholarly communication.
- 2. On one hand, scholars communicate with other scholars within academia. On the other hand, scholars communicate with society. In this second case, they often argue that national languages as the best medium.
- 3. However, argument that scholars publish in national languages to communicate with society sometimes is too simplistic because national languages do not guarantee that recipients beyond academia can understand scholarly communication.
- 4. In other words: we cannot say that publications in English differs in their quality whereas publications in national languages are always good because they are devoted to the society. All those kinds of publications varies and can be evaluated.
- 5. However, evaluation methods should be fitted to different types and languages of publications.

## Evaluation of national language publications

- I. All international databases like Web of Science or Scopus are English biased. It means that publications in national languages constitute the small share of the total volume.
- 2. Therefore, it is crucial to use national databases (Current Research Information System) which allow us to build a more adequate picture of publication patterns in science and humanities.
- 3. Since several years, this is possible in Czech Republic, Finland, Norway, Poland, among others.
- 4. In our network (ENRESSH), we investigate how to better design fair and balanced regulations for the evaluation of the social science and the humanities. The language issue is a crucial one.



# The share of publications in English (all publication types) in the years 2011–2014



## Evaluation of national language publications

- 1. Publication patterns differ both across fields (e.g. law differs from economics and business in the same way in Flanders and Finland) and across countries (e.g. publication patterns for law in the Czech Republic differ from those for law in Finland).
- 2. Western and Northern European countries have different starting points than Central and Eastern European countries.
- 3. Cultural and historical heritage play an import role in publication patterns.

3.

Publishing in national journals

Publishing in national languages and multilingualism is a very complex issue.

We need to investigate many dimensions of this subject to design policy recommendations.

In Poland,
there are 632 researchers (at least PhD level)
(of 67 thousand who were analyzed)
from all fields of science
who published in at least 4 languages (max.
8 languages) in the four years period (all peer-review publications types).

3,850 researchers (~5% of the total) published in at least three languages.

4.
Conclusion

### Conclusion

- I. The internationalization policies in non-English speaking countries should be designed with consideration of current publication patterns.
- 2. Publications in national languages should be documented, evaluated, and used in the funding regimes.
- 3. Publications in national languages are societally relevant but their scientific quality also should be assessed (not every publication in national language is societally relevant).
- 4. Balanced multilingualism in science (Gunnar Sivertsen's idea) allows the policies for increasing quality, globalization, and societal responsibility in research to come together with less contradictions in practice.

### References

#### Slide 7

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#### Slides 11–12

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# Thank you

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