The Flemish Research Discipline Standard

One Step Towards Harmonised Research Information in Flanders

Hanne Poelmans
ECOOM

Centre for Research & Development Monitoring in Flanders

- Mission: develop a consistent system of R&D and Innovation (RD&I) indicators for the Flemish government. This indicator system has to assist the Flemish government in mapping and monitoring the RD&I efforts in the Flemish region.

- Interuniversity consortium
  - ECOOM-Hasselt:
    - Reduction of the administrative burden of research reporting
Research reporting

Peters et al. 2011. *De vereenvoudiging van onderzoeksverslaggeving, een analysetraject uitgevoerd door de Vlaamse universiteiten en hogescholen en de VLIR, in opdracht van de Vlaamse Overheid (EWI).*
Research classifications

- Classification is a process related to categorisation, the process in which ideas and objects are recognised, differentiated and understood. *(Definition Wikipedia)*
Research classifications

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- Research classification
  - Research information objects
    - Organisations
    - Persons
    - Grants/scholarship
    - Projects
    - Data
    - Publications
    - Socio-economic impact (patents, …)
Research classifications
Multiple discipline classification systems

- Researcher
- Host institution
- Funding agency

- FWO disciplines
- FRIS/IWETO
- FORD disciplines
- International government
- National government
- VLIR disciplines
- FWO disciplines

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Multiple discipline classification systems

- **FRIS/IWETO discipline codes**
  - (5<~400<1182)
  - Flemish government
  - FRIS report

- **FWO discipline codes**
  - (5<41<1029)
  - Administration and registration
  - Identification external referees

- **FOS/FORD codes**
  - (6<40)
  - EU reports

- **VLIR Scientific disciplines**
  - (34)
  - Annual report
  - Personeelsstatistieken
Uniformisation discipline classifications

Flemish Research Discipline Standard (FRDS)

1. A single Flemish classification for research disciplines that:
   1. covers all research in Flanders
   2. provides a semantic definition for all disciplines
   3. provides concordance maps to the most prevailing (inter)national classification systems

2. Implementation of the Flemish research discipline code list by Flemish agencies and stakeholders

3. Classification governance and quality control
Flemish Research Discipline Standard v2018

- Specifications
  - 4 hierarchical levels
    - Level 1: 7 codes
    - Level 2: 42 codes
    - Level 3: 382 codes
    - Level 4: 2866 codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector (Level 1)</th>
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<td>Architectural engineering is the discipline concerned with the design and construction of buildings and other structures. Structural design is the discipline concerned with the method of designing structures.</td>
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<td>Design practice is the research field that studies the practices.</td>
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  - 3 “interdisciplinary topics”
    - Visibility
    - Architecture, mobility, nanotechnology

Research reports
Expertise
Flemish Research Discipline Standard v2018

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    - Architecture, mobility, nanotechnology
  - Concordance tables (!)
    - 1 FRDS code → n codes
    - N codes → 1 FRDS code
Flemish Research Discipline Standard: users

- **FRIS**
  - Visualisation portal (level 4)
    - Researchers
    - Organisations
    - Projects
    - From 2022 on: infrastructure, datasets
  - Financiale reports (level 2): expenditure per discipline

- **Annual reports of universities**
  - Expenditure per discipline (level 2)
Flemish Research Discipline Standard: users

- Funding agencies (e.g. FWO)
  - Labelling of project disciplines (level 4)
  - Labelling expertise researchers (level 4)

- VLIR report on staff statistics
  - Report staff (level 2)

- Human Resources in Research Flanders (HRRF)
  - Monitoring researcher careers (level 4)

- Ad hoc: labelling of research expertise in Flanders
  - e.g. Sciensano
More information

**ECOOM@uhasselt.be**

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- Sadia Vancauwenbergh (project leader)
- Hanne Poelmans (researcher)
- Jana Cuyvers (researcher)

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