

WP 2

Scientific mobility under conditions of inequality

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WP Rationale

The production, utilisation and commercialisation of scientific knowledge is underpinned by the availability, and effective use, of human resources. But human capital in science and technology is not equally distributed within and across countries and regions of the world. With the increasing globalisation of S&T, longstanding concerns about the (unbalanced) flows of human capital moving from less developed countries (regions) to developed countries (regions) have become even more pronounced and are being relooked. The received wisdom on 'brain drain' and 'scientific migration' is increasingly being challenged with recent studies looking more systemically at notions of 'brain circulation', 'diaspora networks' and the like. Nevertheless, there are still important questions to be asked about the impact of researcher mobility on the sustainability of science and technology labour markets, in both 'sending' and 'receiving' countries.

This study addresses these issues by considering the implications of mobility on: the production of scientific knowledge, the reproduction of knowledge in relation to the training of the next generation of researchers and the sharing of knowledge through transfer across sectors.

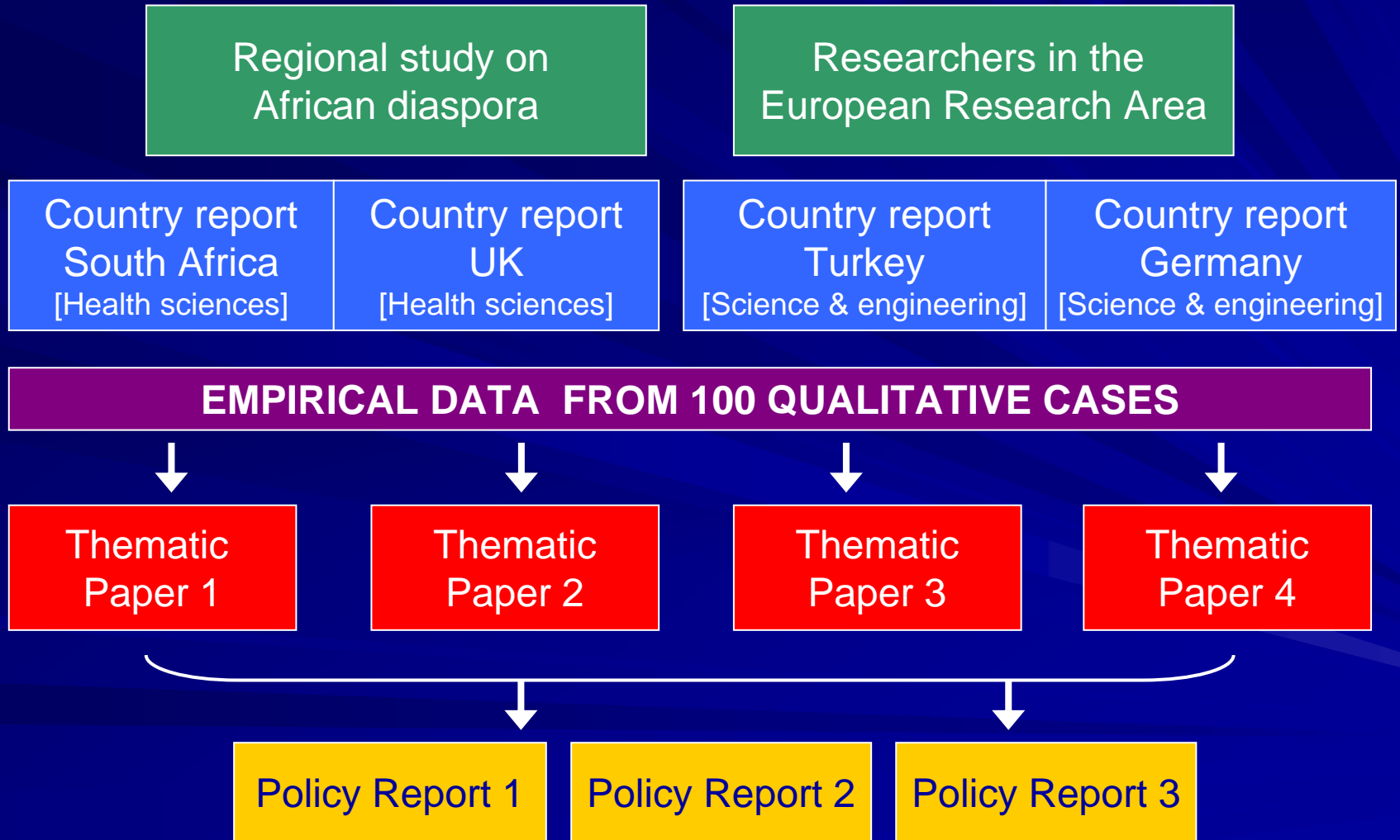
WP Research objectives

- To study human capital flows between EU Member States and “Third Countries”;
- To consider the impact this kind of scientific mobility has on the individuals and regions concerned both in terms of individual equity and regional equality;
- To identify the appropriate policy and resource environment capable of supporting sustainable and reciprocal human mobility;
- To encourage a closer alignment between policy in the fields of science and technology, and migration.

Project Outline

- *Task 1: Policy analysis and regional contexts*
- *Task 2: National studies*
- *Task 3: Empirical work: 100 Qualitative case studies*
- *Task 4: Production of thematic papers and policy briefs*

WP 2 Deliverables



“Equality and inequality” in WP2

- **Individual (level) inequalities**
 - Science Career progressions and effects (e.g. late career entry and its effects on scientific mobility)
- **Field-specific structural inequalities** (e.g. S&E versus Health)
- How **within country inequalities** (sending and receiving countries) shape scientific mobility and career outcomes
 - Gender/nationality/religion
 - Family and partnering (“social glue”)
 - Accumulated personal academic capital and access to resources (networks)
 - Differential access to institutional/university resources and labs/equipment)
 - Research and resources (cluster) policies
 - Stratification effects due to returning scientists get better wages on return
- **Between country inequalities/ Between region inequalities**
 - Individual country immigration policies/citizenship (rights)
 - Cultural differences (xenophobia)
 - Research and resources cluster policies (EU)
 - Supranational policies and agreements/ financial incentives/scientific visa’s
- The **tension(s) between these different levels**, e.g. individual, field, country and region