

KNOWLEDGE SERVING THE CITY? PRODUCTION, SHARING & BROKERAGE IN BRUSSELS

1st UNICA 'University, Culture and the City' Conference

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'A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY SHOULD BE ABLE TO INTEGRATE ALL ITS MEMBERS AND TO PROMOTE NEW FORMS OF SOLIDARITY INVOLVING BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. NOBODY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES, WHERE KNOWLEDGE IS A PUBLIC GOOD, AVAILABLE TO EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL'

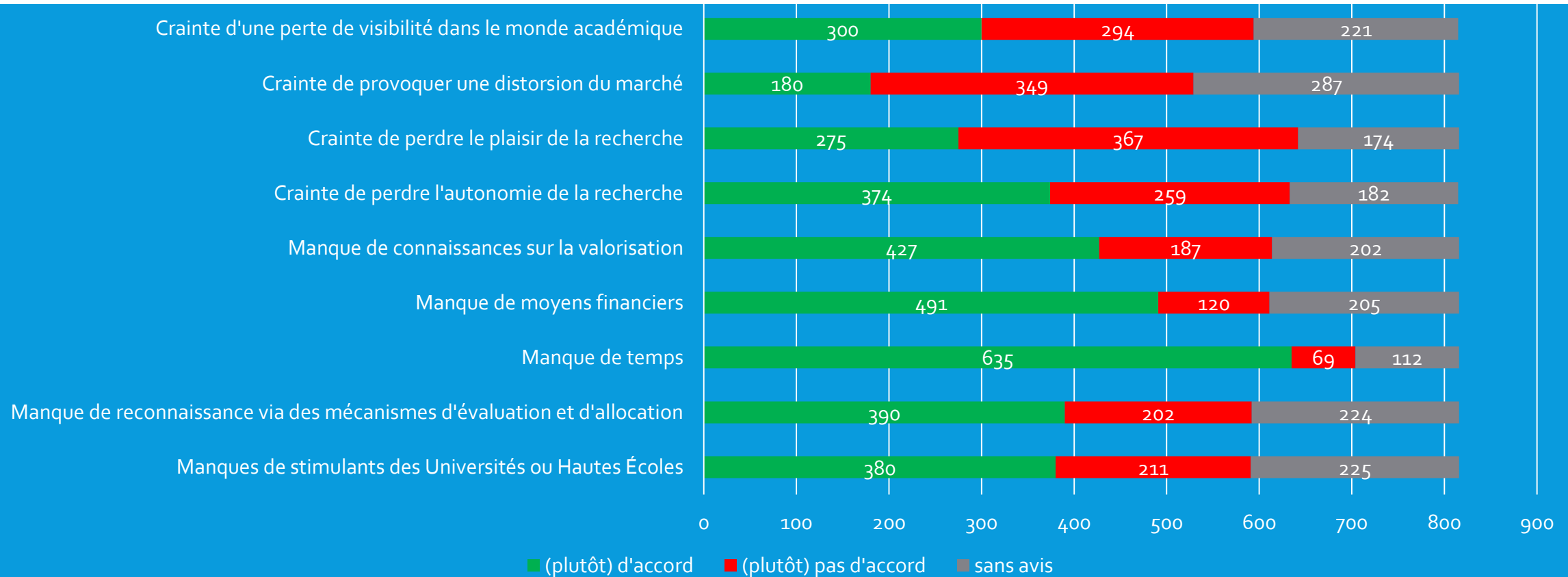
UNESCO World report, 2005, 18

KNOWLEDGE IN / ON / FOR BRUSSELS?

- Knowledge **in** Brussels?
 - Exceptional concentration of knowledge producers
Cf. 51 Institutions of Higher Education (100.000 students) – RDI-sector BRU: N = 15.000
 - Complex & fragmented system? Cf. # actors, territorial delineation, societal cleavages...
- Knowledge **on** Brussels?
 - Working in Brussels ≠ working on Brussels (role of “contextual knowledge”?)
- Knowledge **for** Brussels? Dealing with urban societal challenges?
 - Brussels Studies Institute (° 2012): clustering & fostering of academic knowledge on/for Brussels
 - Integration of non academic knowledge?

HOW TO CAPITALIZE ON THE (ACADEMIC) RDI-POTENTIAL IN BRUSSELS?

FACTORS INHIBITING VALORIZATION ACTIVITIES (2013 BSI SURVEY)



YES WE CAN / YES WE WANT TO, YET:

NO TIME – TOO LIMITED FUNDING – UNSUFFICIENT ACADEMIC REWARDS

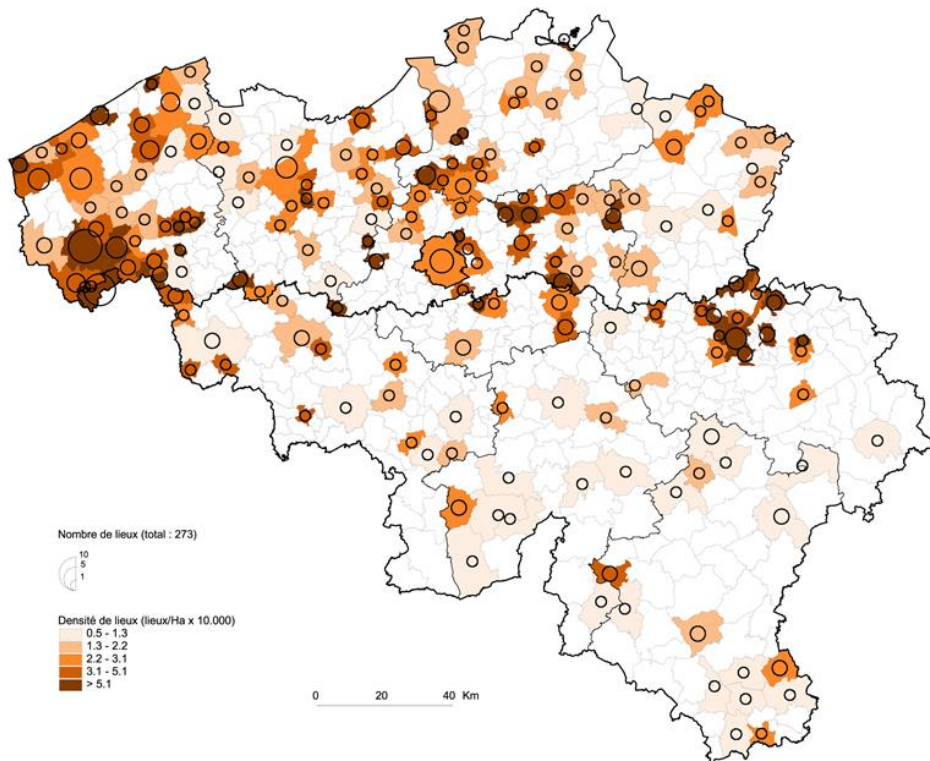
IS ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE USEFUL FOR/USABLE BY SOCIETY/URBAN ACTORS?



- Epistemological positions on history & history education (Goegebeur & Van Nieuwenhuysse, 2010, 70/1):
 1. History as a social construct (postmodernism);
 2. Historicism: the study of the past for the past;
 3. Presentism: looking at the past through the eyes of the present;
 4. Historical Presentism: understanding the present from the past.

WWI REMEMBRANCE TOURISM AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LINK-UP BETWEEN PAST & PRESENT?

SITES MENTIONED IN WWI-PUBLICATIONS 1985-2000 (Jaumain e.a., 2016)



- Lag academic/professional (historical) knowledge & societal users

Cf. current use of (post) WWI 'heroes' (limited content innovation), narrow geographical focus ('Flanders Fields'), superficial narratives (WWI as an absurd, useless & traumatizing war) ...

⇒ reduction of historical complexity & instrumentalization of the past?

- Relevance? Complexity of the past to (better) understand current processes (propaganda, violence, conflict management, radicalization, ...)

USEFUL & USABLE (ACADEMIC) KNOWLEDGE FOR THE CITY? TWO ONGOING CASES.





Diversity of Work in the Creative and Cultural Industries

Research, Ongoing

Making it work for Brussels. Innoviris Prospective Research for Brussels funding

- Case 1: socioeconomic value of media sector focusing on the organizations, workers & community practices ('collective learning?')
- Case 2: functioning of the cultural & creative industries with focus on work & diversity in an urban setting
- Common Features:
 - interuniversity (3 universities involved) & multi-disciplinary in order to address complex urban societal challenges
 - collaborative/co-creative: actively engaging urban stakeholders

BSI: TOWARDS INTEGRATED (MULTI-DISCIPLINARY) MULTI-ACTOR RESEARCH & VALORIZATION

- Knowledge **Production & Brokerage** (25 research centers)
 - Integrated Multi-Actor Research = multi-perspectivity
 - Co-creative partnerships with urban actors (e.g. research agenda setting, knowledge governance processes ...)
- Knowledge **Sharing**, in partnership with:
 - 1) Scientific e-journal 'Brussels Studies' (open access, trilingual): articles, BSI-synthesis notes (4.500 downloads in average), fact sheets ... 
 - 2) Urban University 'Brussels Academy' – (free) education & training for a broad (urban) audience => 9.000 participants since april 2013 



“... OUR SOCIETY NEEDS STRATEGIES AND POLICIES THAT ARE UNDERPINNED BY A STRONG SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE BASE. BUT MANY BELIEVE THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE POLICY AND SCIENCE COMMUNITIES IS INADEQUATE OR EVEN DETERIORATING, AND THAT THIS ‘BROKEN BRIDGE’ IS HINDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOLUTIONS THIS PROBLEM REQUIRES A NEW LOOK AT THE WAY SCIENCE IS ORGANIZED AND HOW THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE CAN BE IMPROVED”

UNEP:21 ISSUES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. NAIROBI, 2012, V.



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