

# **Bibliometric Research Assessment as Professional Jurisdiction? Insights from the History of the Leiden Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), 1980–2016**

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**BibPro:** Research Evaluation in Transition: The Institutionalization of  
Bibliometrics as a Research Field and Professionalization as an Expert Field

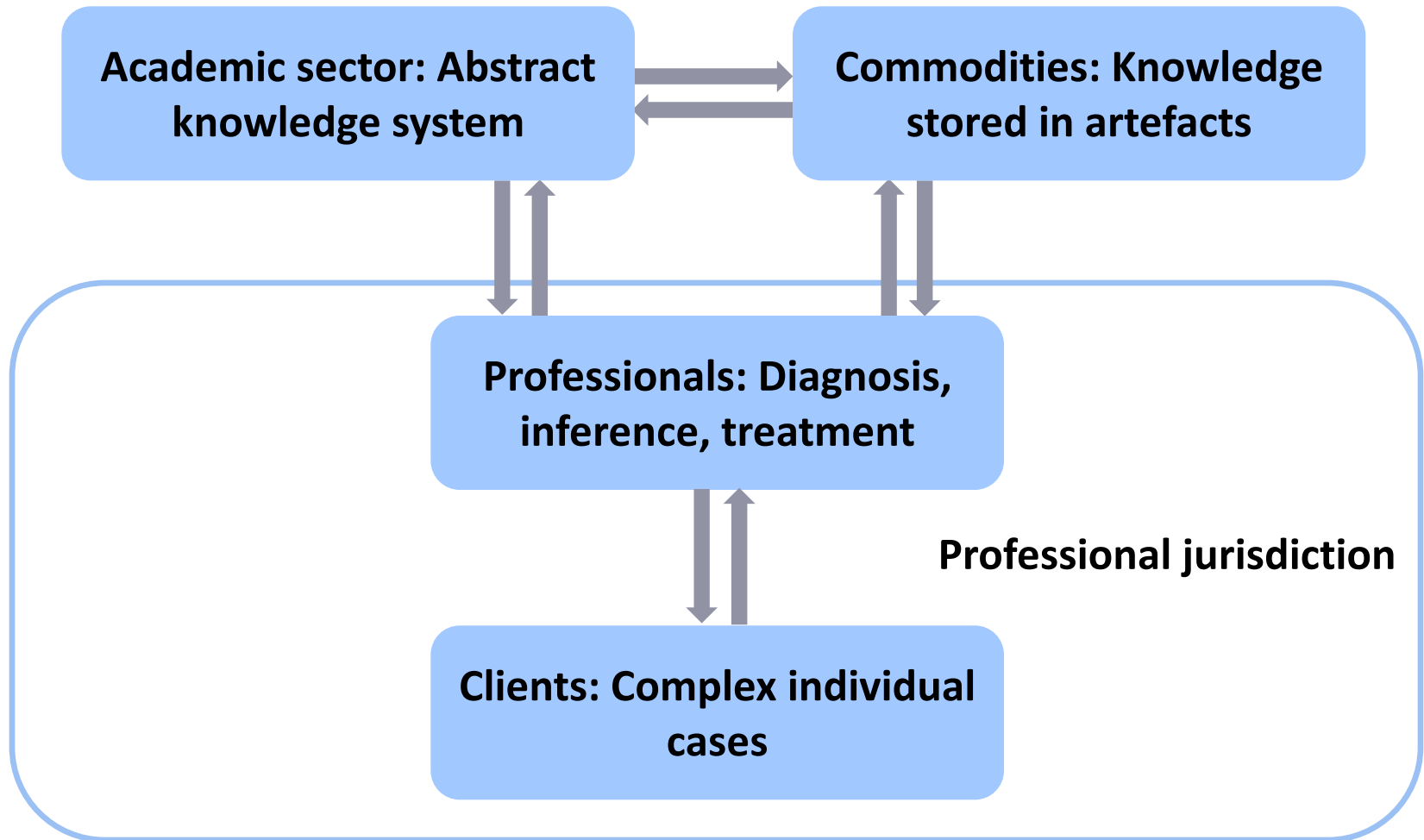


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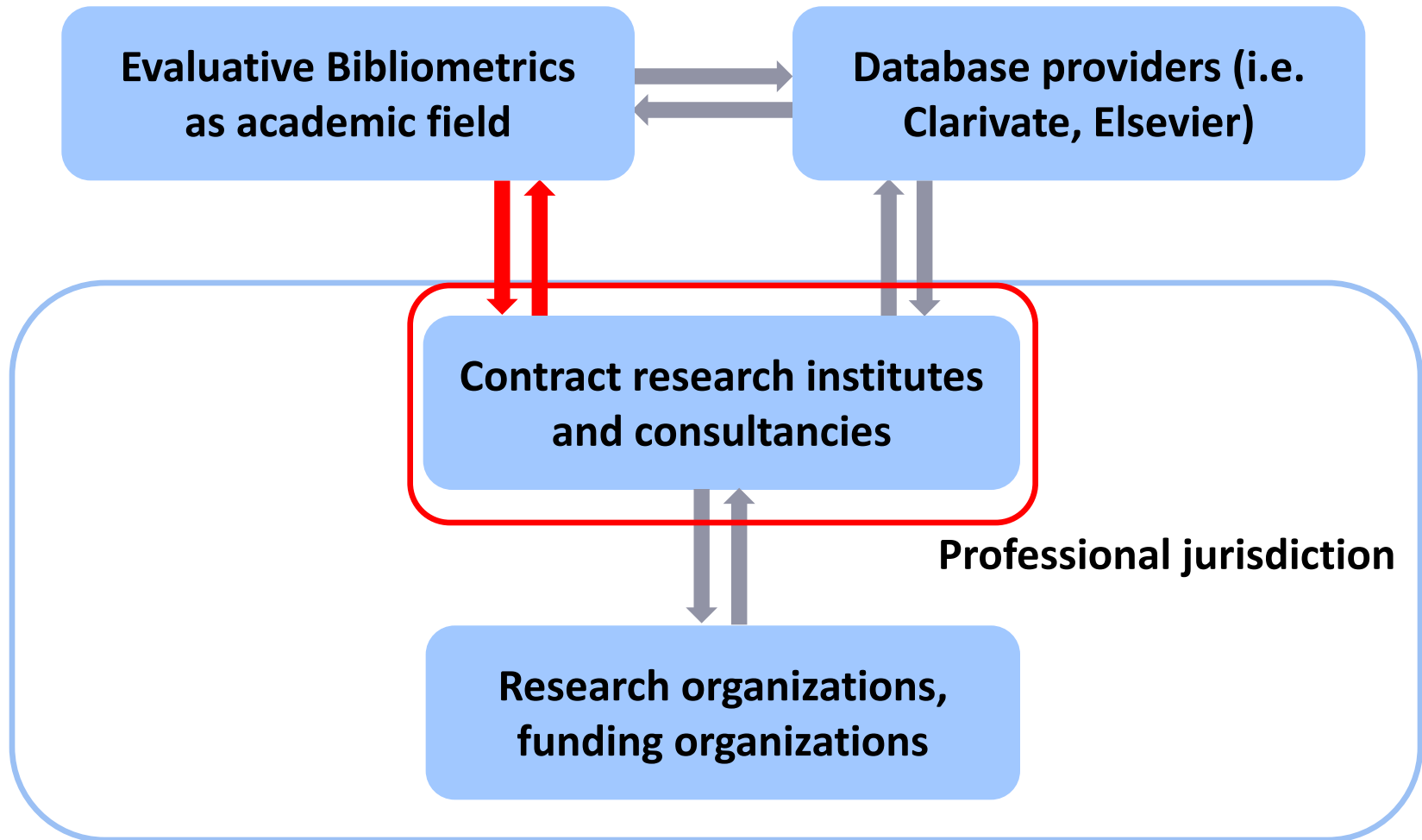


Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# Professional jurisdiction (Abbott 1988)



# Expert organizations in evaluative bibliometrics



# **Dataset**

## **Interview material**

- 12 expert interviews with current and former CWTS members and science policy experts from KNAW, VSNU, Rathenau Institute and QANU

## **Archival material**

- 492 CWTS contract research project reports
- CWTS Annual Reports 1986-2010
- Faculty Reports Leiden University 1995, 2000
- 295 evaluation reports issued during the VSNU protocol evaluations (1994, 1998) and SEP (2003, 2009)
- Evaluation protocols (VSNU 1993, 1994, 1998, SEP 2003, 2009, 2015)
- Legislative and policy documents

# Emergence of quantitative research assessment as a jurisdiction

- Technological change: Science Citation Index
- Science policy demands: Funding decisions, priorities and accountability
  - Netherlands: expertise in policy-relevant science studies was built up in a ministerial department, an advisory council and in science studies group at Leiden University
  - Ministry of Education and Science and Research Council NWO fund long-term research programs in Science and Technology indicators

# **Professional claim of CWTS as an expert organization**

Professional claim of CWTS – Bibliometrics as a diagnostic tool:

„The essence is that we came up with a tool that enabled experts in the field to identify emerging groups. That was what it was all about - emerging or declining.“ (Interview Henk Moed)

Bibliometrics as „quantitative core of peer review“ (van Raan 1996): “Therefore the support of peer review by bibliometrics is a (sic!) indispensable part of the evaluation procedure.“ (van Raan 1999: 418)

# Cognitive basis of CWTS claim to expertise

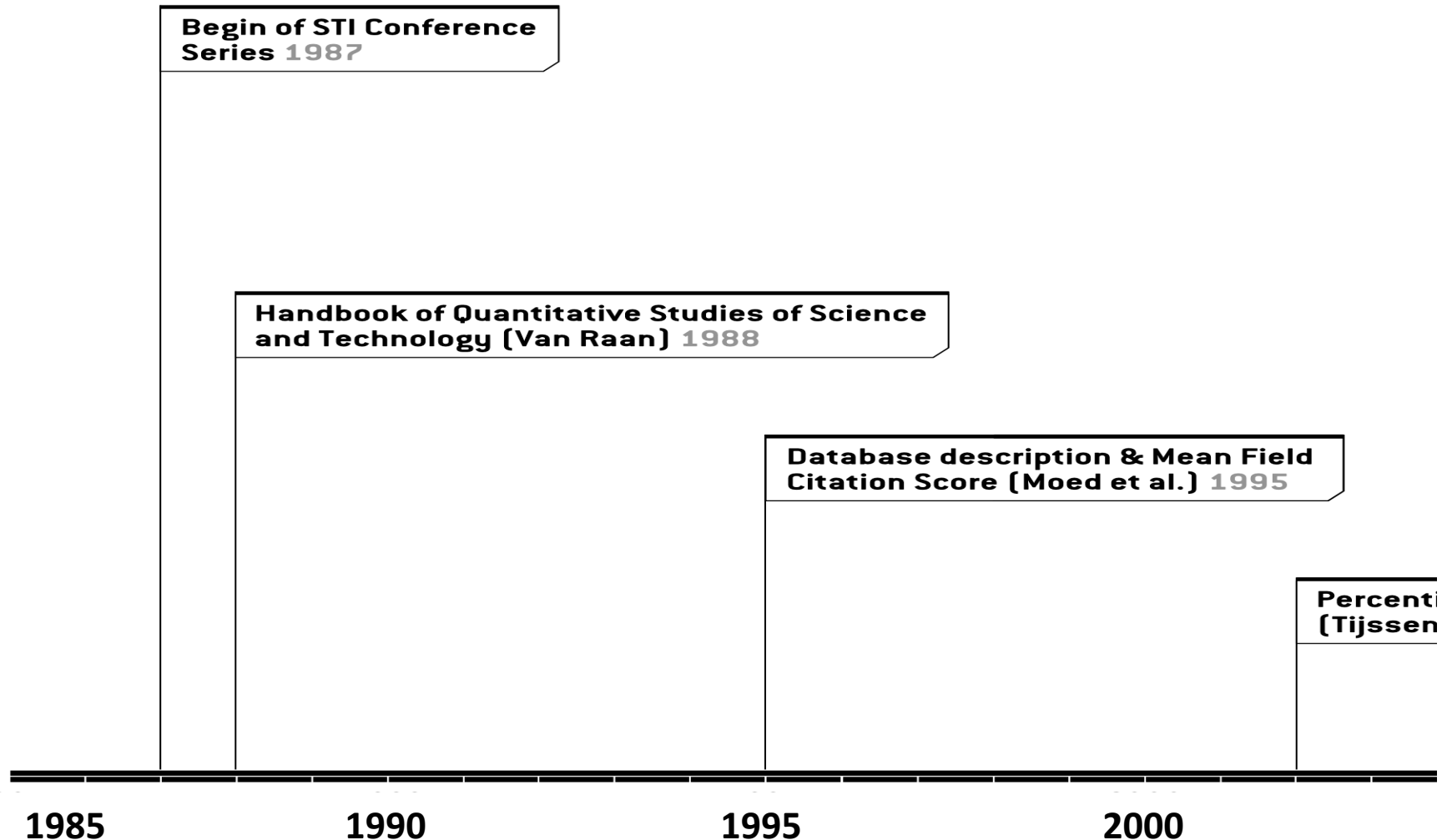
Cognitive claim based on

- Meticulous collection and careful processing of publication and citation data
- method of field normalization
- the creation of a modified in-house version of the ISI-databases specifically adapted to purposes of research evaluation

(Moed et al. 1995)

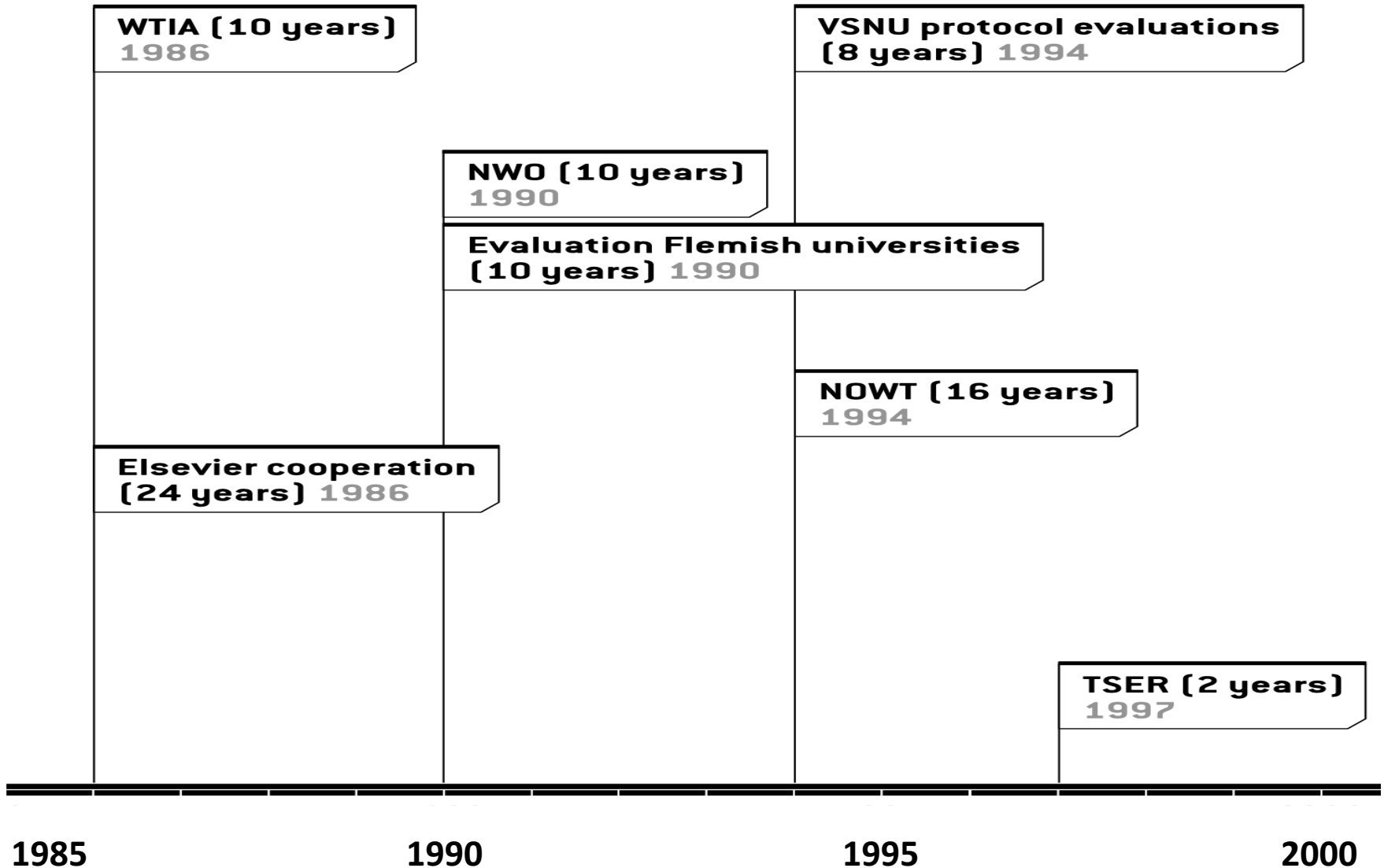


# Communication of CWTS cognitive claim in the academic field

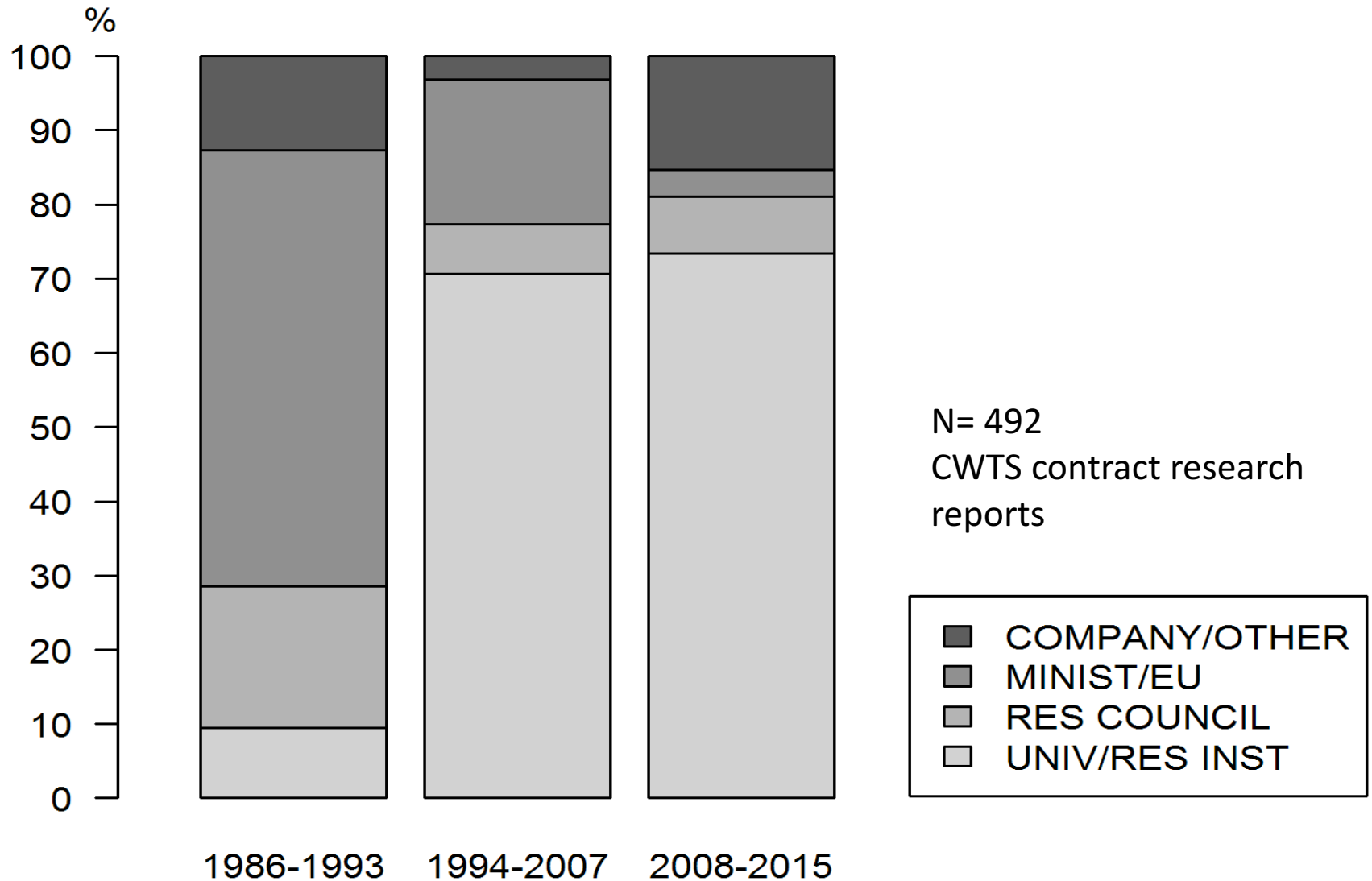




# CWTS social claim to expertise



# Acceptance of CWTS social claims –client structure



# Formative phase 1986-1993

**1986 - 1993**



**Netherlands**

**Germany**

**Belgium**



# Expansion phase 1994-2007

**1994 - 2007**

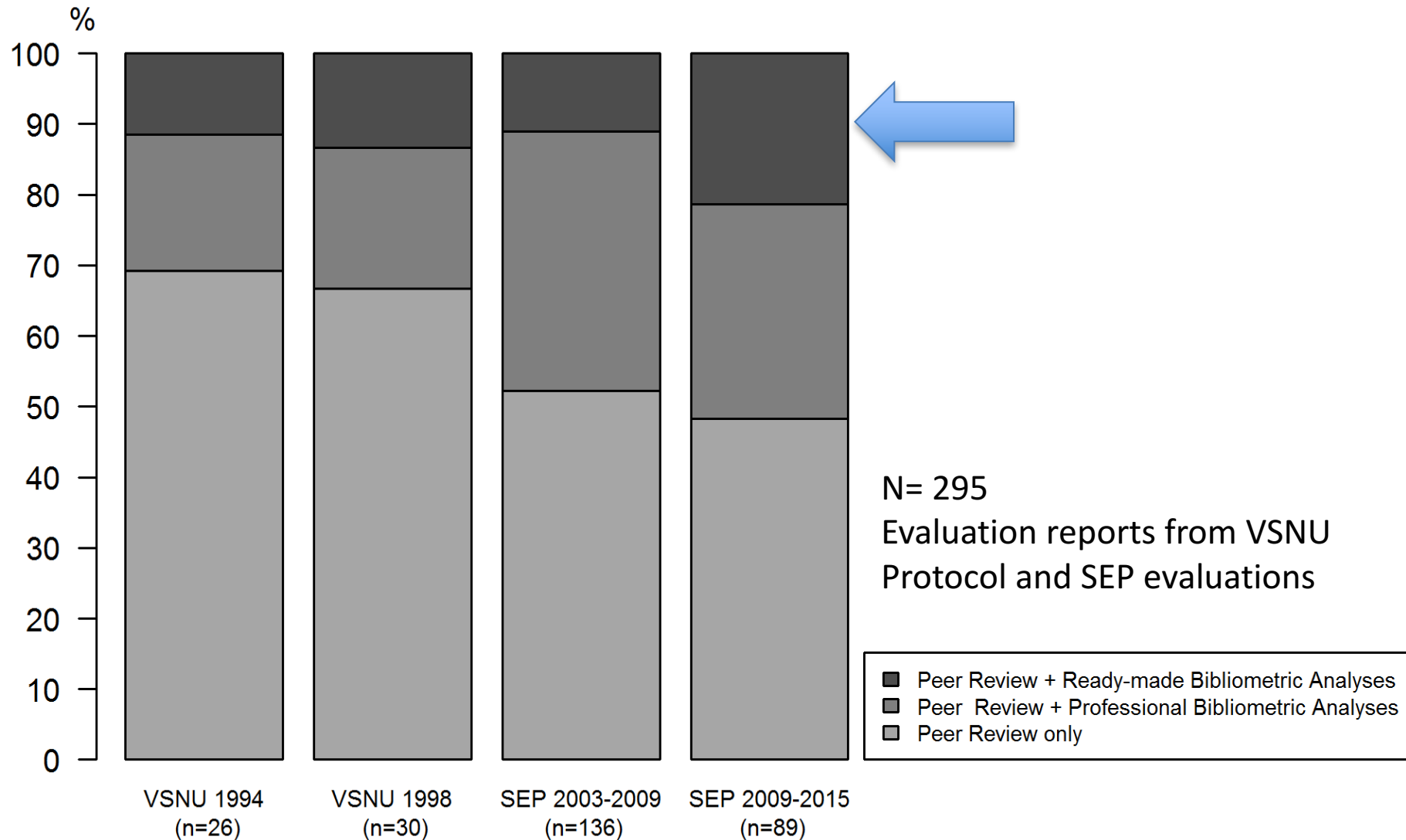


# Consolidation and diversification phase 2008-2015

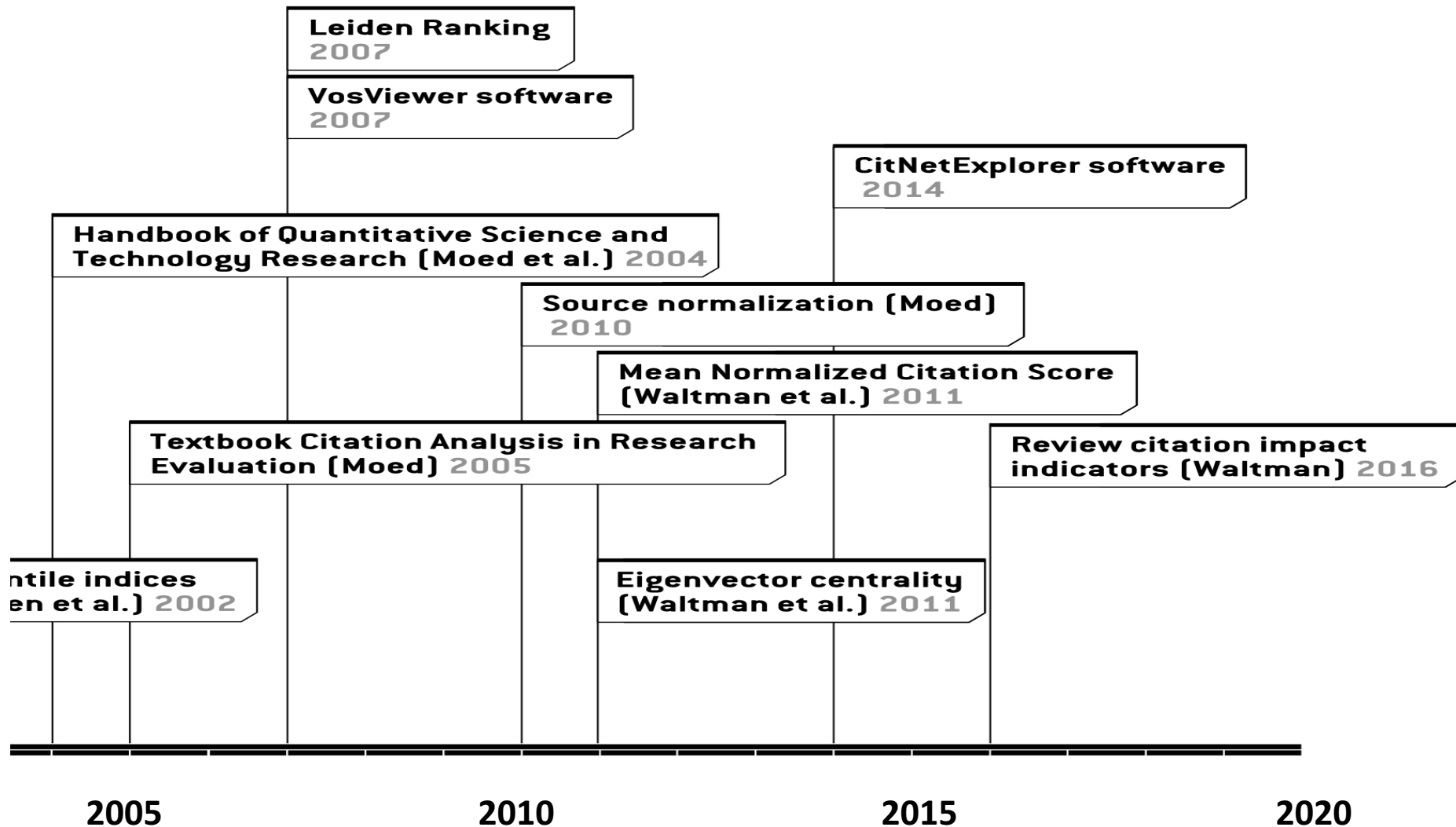
**2008 - 2015**



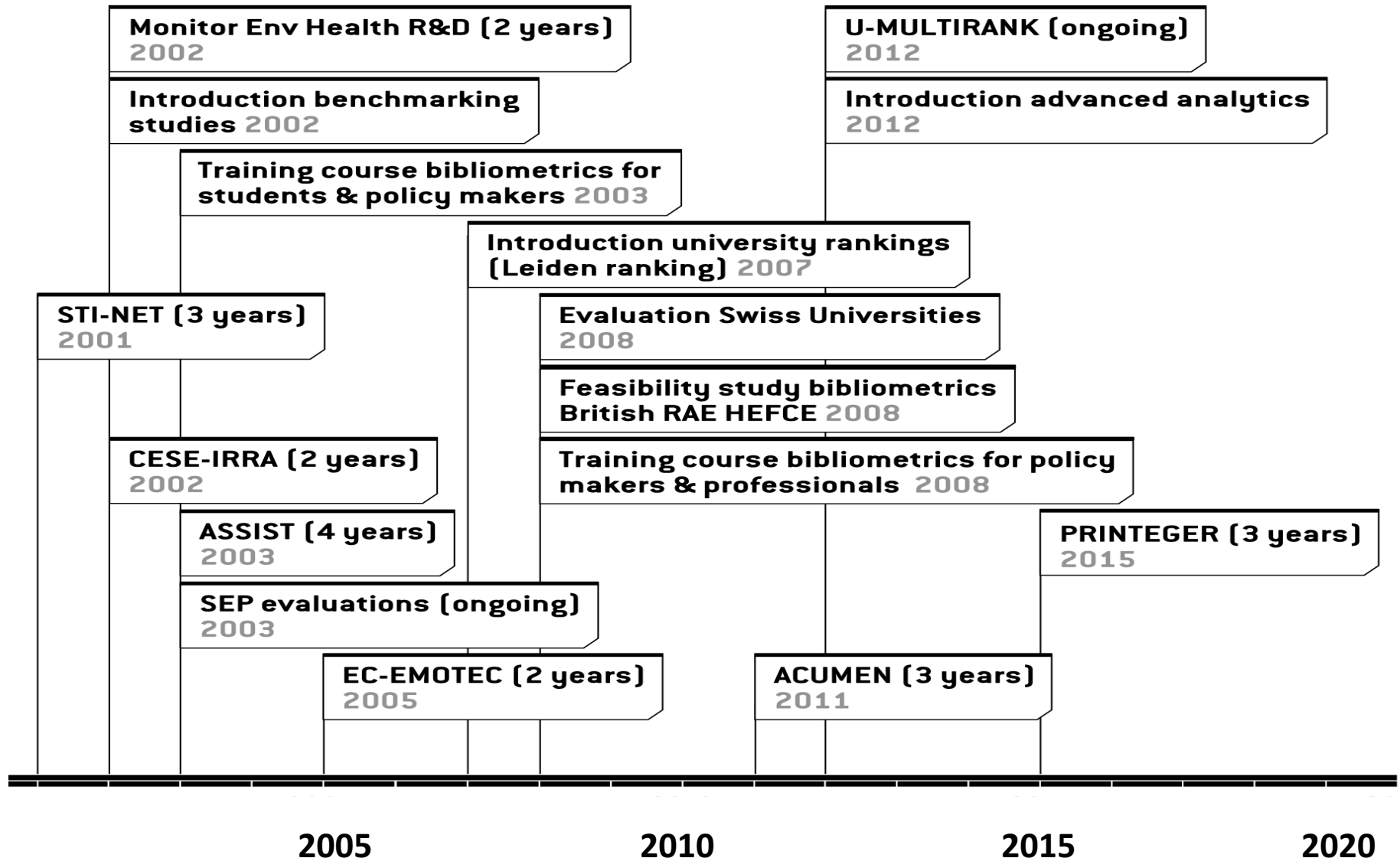
# Threats to CWTS position in the expert field of evaluative bibliometrics



# CWTS cognitive claims to consolidate its position in the expert field



# CWTS social claims to consolidate its position in the expert field





Thank you for your attention.

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# Project publications

Petersohn, S. (2016): Professional competencies and jurisdictional claims in evaluative bibliometrics: The educational mandate of academic librarians. *Education for Information*, 32(2), 165-193.

Jappe, A.; Heinze, T.; Pithan, D. (under review): Reputational Control and the Professionalization of Evaluative Citation Analysis.

Petersohn, S.; Heinze, T. (under review): Professionalizing Bibliometric Research Assessment? Insights from the Leiden Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS). (1980-2016).