COUNTRY LEAFLET - SYRIA

Project n°INCO-CT-2004-510696
ESTIME
Evaluation of Scientific, Technology and Innovation capabilities in MEditerranean countries

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Update version - 2007

SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

The objective of the ESTIME project (6th Framework Programme of the European Commission: Project N° INCO-CT-2004-510696) is to propose a set of strategic policy instruments that can be built in order to establish a dynamic view of the research and innovation systems in Mediterranean Countries. This set of instruments should be understood as an aid for the better description of the research, technological development and innovation (RDI) institutions and RDI system as a whole. It will be developed in a close partnership between a European team and local partners.

Part of the project is the production of country leaflets devoted to macro-bibliometric analysis of each of the seven Mediterranean countries under study: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan.

As a result, each leaflet is a first quantitative approach on the RDI activity of the country studied, helping underlining the scientific and technological activity of the country under study, as well as the student mobility and intensity of participation in the FP programs. As such the resulting leaflet is complementary to the field study that other ESTIME members have been undertaking in each of the Mediterranean countries.

The macro-bibliometric indicators presented in the leaflets are extracted from international databases, such as the Web of Science for the scientific publications, OEDC databases on Education or the Cordis database for the Framework Programme of the European Commission. Each leaflet is such constructed on the same scheme:
- characteristics of scientific publications of each country registered in the Web of Science. (with scientific production and specialisation index, relative impact of publications, ans indicators on international co-publications);
- student modility from each Mediterranean country to the EU Member States and USA.
- intensity of participation of each country in the successive EC Framework Programme, and the analysis of countries in the 4th and 5th FP, including INCO.

For each leaflet produced, aside from the Mediterranean country, three so called "context" countries have been chosen and presented. For all leaflets these three countries are Chile, South Africa and Thailand, from three different continents, in order to confront the indicators built for the focus country (Syria in this leaflet) with other S&T systems. This also allows putting into context the overall bibliometric results of the country under study.

II. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYRIAN SYSTEM OF R&D

II.1. GENERAL DATA ON SYRIA

Table 1: General features of Syria (2004)

Syria: general socio-economical characteristics	
Capital	Damas
Currency	Syrian pound
Superficy (km^2 in thousands)	185
Population (million of inhabitants)	18
Population : annual growth	2,3
Population density (inh./km^2)	97
Percentage of 0-14 years old (%)	38,1
Global GDP (billions US$)	22
GDP per capita (US$)	806
Purchasing power parity (US$)	3 109
Inflation rate (%)	0,7**
Unemployment rate (%)	16*
Exports (billions of US$)	1,6
Imports (billions of US$)	1,6
Balance of payments (billions of US$)	0,0
World Perspective, index mundi data	*OST - 2007*

Table 2: General features of South Africa, Chile and Thailand (2004)

General socio-economical characteristics	South Africa	Chile	Thailand
Capital	Pretoria	Santiago	Bangkok
Currency	Rand	Chilian peso	Baht
Superficy (km2 in thousands)	1 221	757	513
Population (million of inhabitants)	46,0	16,1	65,1
Population : annual growth (%)	0,9	1,2	0,9
Population density (inh./km2)	38	21	120
Percentage of 0-14 years old (%)	31,1	26,3	24
Global GDP (billions US$)	183,0	89,6	176,5
GDP per capita (US$)	4 117	5 552	3 182
Purchasing power parity (US$)	10 492	10 206	7 580
Inflation rate (%)	4,3	2,4	4,3
Unemployment rate (%)	26,7	8,8	1,7
Exports (billions of US$)	45,3	32,0	113,5
Imports (billions of US$)	47,2	23,0	102,4
Balance of payments (billions of US$)	-1,9	9,0	11,1
World perspective, DREE data			*OST - 2007*

III. SYRIA'S SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Table 3: Number of articles in the publication database

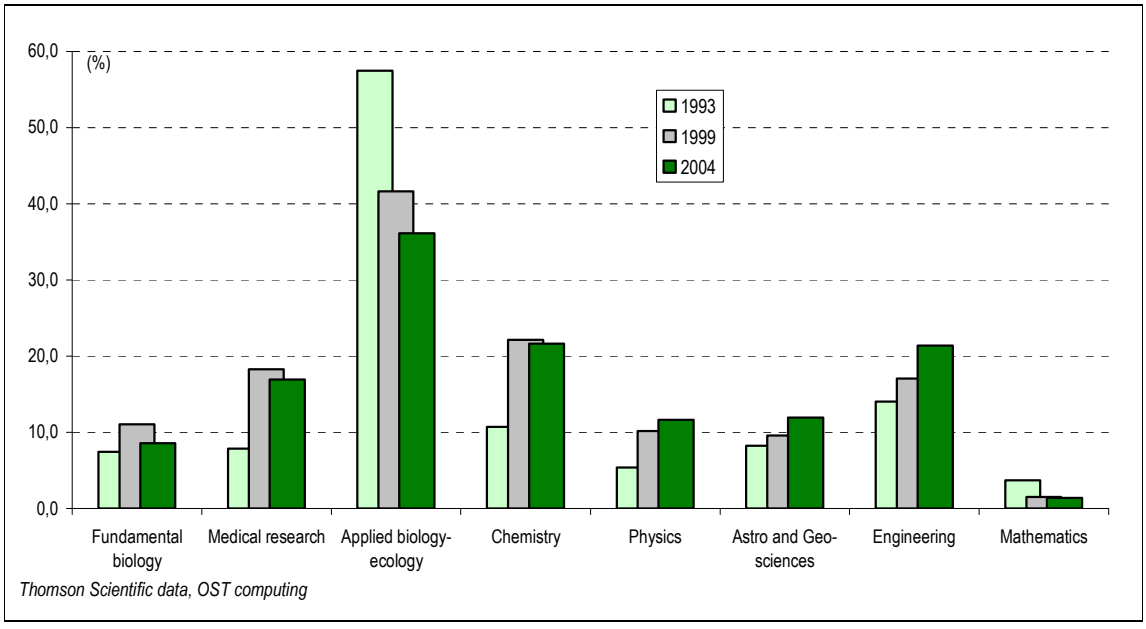
Number of publications in the world	1993	1999	2001	2004
	607 604	720 317	743 886	769 398

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

The indicators produced in this leaflet are calculated from the OST publications database that is itself founded on the Web of Science database, owned by Thomson Scientific (Philadelphia, USA). As a general context, we present in this table the total number of publications in "natural sciences" that are integrated in the database per year. For all the tables presented in this leaflet, the data for the year 2004 are not definitive. Due to the aggregative process of the database update, there is between 8 and 12% (depending on disciplines) of the total number of publications missing for the year 2004 in the version of the Web of Science database that Thomson Scientific delivered to OST in spring 2005. It is this version of the database that has been used to calculate the following indicators based on scientific publications. In annex II more details are given on the implications on calculated indicators.

III.1. SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Figure 1: Weight of disciplines in scientific publications for Syria (1993, 1999, 2004)



The weight of disciplines is calculated on fractional counts

The weight of disciplines in Syria's scientific publication highlights applied biology-ecology as the most important disciplines (36%) but with a strongly decreasing weight (57% in 1993)

(figure 1). Medical research (18%), chemistry (21%) and engineering (21%) are the following disciplines and their weight has been increasing during the 90's (figure 1).

III.2. SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION ALL DISCIPLINES

Table 4: World share (fractional and integer counts) of scientific publications of Syria for all disciplines (1993, 1999, 2004 and evolution); comparison with Thailand, Chile and South Africa for 2004

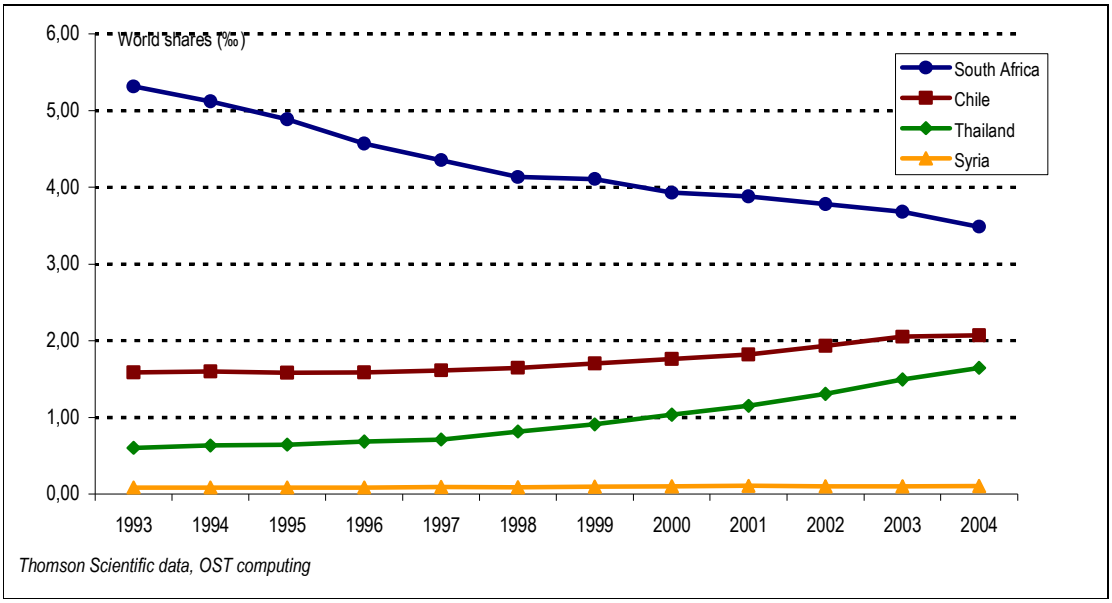
	Syria					South Africa	Chile	Thailand
	1993	1999	2004	Evolution 2004/1993 (%)	Evolution 2004/1999 (%)	2004		
	Publications in fractional counts							
World share (‰)	0,08	0,10	0,11	+ 26	+8	3,49	2,07	1,65
Number of publications	51	71	82	+ 60	+ 15	2 683	1 594	1 267
	Publications in integer counts							
World share (‰)	0,13	0,15	0,16	+ 18	+ 1	4,64	3,04	2,43
Number of publications	81	111	120	+ 49	+ 8	3 570	2 338	1 870

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

Fractional counts: contribution to world science. Each actor in co-published contributions is fractioned in order to obtain a count of one for each article (or 100% on the whole group of authors of the contribution). This type of counting, called "fractional counting", where each article has a unit weight, permits to make counts of publications for a country or a discipline, since all totals add-up. It is thus well adapted to macro analysis.
Integer counts: participation in world science. Each actor is credited with a unit as long as he is present in a publication. The number of participations does not add-up, because of multiple counts. This kind of count produces a sum of publications superior to 100% and the data vary with the scale changes. Despite this inconvenience, the integer count is well adapted to micro analysis and is easier to comment for co-publications.

The world share of scientific publication of Syria is quite low and stable (from 0,08‰ in 1993 to 0,11‰ in 2004) (table 4).

Figure 2: Evolution of world share of scientific publications from 1993 to 2004 of Syria; comparison with Thailand, Chile and South Africa



Thomson Scientific data, OST computing

The world share is calculated on fractional counts

The world share of scientific publications of Syria is low and stable during the whole period (figure 2).

III.3. SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION PER DISCIPLINE

III.3.1. WORLD SHARE OF PUBLICATIONS

Table 5: World share of scientific publications of Syria for 8 disciplines (1993, 1999, 2004 and evolution); comparison with Thailand, Chile and South Africa for 2004

	World share (‰) of scientific publications							
	Syria					South Africa	Chile	Thailand
	1993	1999	2004	Evolution 2004/1993 (%)	Evolution 2004/1999 (%)	2004		
Discipline								
Fundamental biology	0,03	0,03	0,03	- 19	- 11	2,27	1,76	1,60
Medical research	0,02	0,05	0,05	+ 153	- 5	3,05	1,61	1,87
Applied biology-ecology	0,67	0,54	0,52	- 23	- 5	10,59	3,98	2,77
Chemistry	0,04	0,09	0,11	+ 183	+ 21	2,43	1,96	1,69
Physics	0,02	0,06	0,09	+ 289	+ 56	1,46	1,52	0,54
Astro and Geo-sciences	0,07	0,13	0,16	+ 117	+ 21	7,22	4,55	1,69
Engineering	0,08	0,10	0,14	+ 82	+ 39	2,85	1,70	1,93
Mathematics	0,09	0,06	0,04	- 56	- 37	3,18	3,24	0,61
Total	0,08	0,10	0,11	+ 26	8	3,49	2,07	1,65
Number of publications	51	71	82	+ 60	+ 15	2 683	1 594	1 267

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

Fractional counts: contribution to world science. Each actor in co-published contributions is fractioned in order to obtain a count of one for each article (or 100% on the whole group of authors of the contribution). This type of counting, called "fractional counting", where each article has a unit weight, permits to make counts of publications for a country or a discipline, since all totals add-up. It is thus well adapted to macro analysis.

In 2004, the total number of publications of Syria is 82, increasing from 1993 (51 publications) (table 5).The discipline that has the highest world share is for applied biology-ecology (0,52‰). The other disciplines have very low world shares.

III.3.2. SPECIALISATION INDEX

Table 6: Specialisation index for Syria in 8 disciplines (1993, 1999, 2004 and evolution); comparison with Thailand, Chile and South Africa for 2004

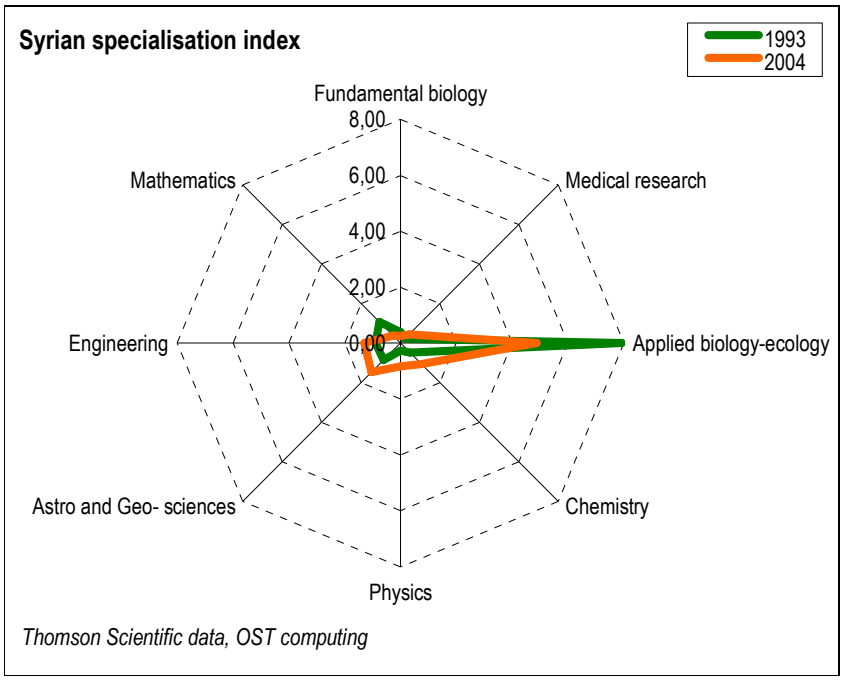
	Specialisation index							
	Syria					South Africa	Chile	Thailand
	1993	1999	2004	Evolution 2004/1993 (%)	Evolution 2004/1999 (%)	2004		
Discipline								
Fundamental biology	0,39	0,31	0,25	- 35	- 17	0,65	0,85	0,97
Medical research	0,22	0,50	0,44	+ 102	- 11	0,87	0,78	1,13
Applied biology-ecology	7,91	5,48	4,87	- 38	- 11	3,04	1,92	1,68
Chemistry	0,47	0,94	1,06	+ 126	+ 12	0,70	0,95	1,02
Physics	0,27	0,57	0,83	+ 210	+ 45	0,42	0,73	0,33
Astro and Geo-sciences	0,85	1,31	1,47	+ 73	+ 12	2,07	2,20	1,03
Engineering	0,89	1,00	1,29	+ 45	+ 29	0,82	0,82	1,17
Mathematics	1,08	0,64	0,38	- 65	- 41	0,91	1,56	0,37
Total	1,00	1,00	1,00	0	0	1,00	1,00	1,00

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

The *specialisation index* for a given discipline is the ratio of the world share of publications in the discipline considered to the world share for all disciplines. The index varies below and above one. When this index is above one, it shows a specialisation in the discipline, or a non specialisation if it is below one. By definition, the neutral value is 1.

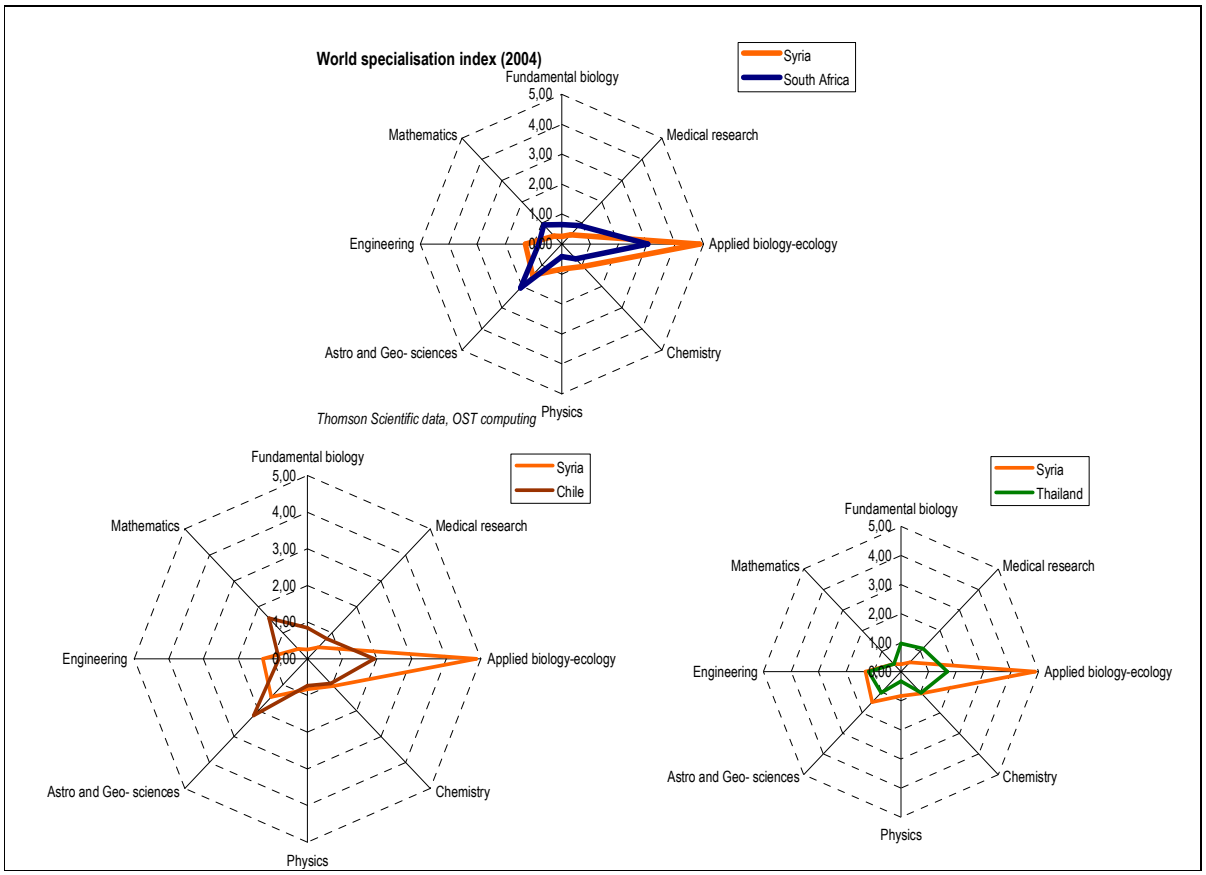
For the low number of publications of Syria, it is not very significant to see in details the share of specialisation index; nevertheless the main result of this table is the strong specialisation index, in 2004, in the applied biology-ecology (4,87), which the discipline in which Syria has its highest world share, compared to all other disciplines (table 6).

Figure 3: Specialisation index for Syria in 8 disciplines (1993, 2004)



The overall profile of specialisation of Syria hasn't changed from 1993 to 2004, mainly a lesser important specialisation index in applied biology-ecology due to more scientific publications in other disciplines (figure 3).

Figure 4: Specialisation index for Syria and the context countries in 8 disciplines (2004)



III.4. VISIBILITY INDICATORS PER DISCIPLINE

III.4.1. WORLD SHARE OF CITATIONS

Table 7: World share of citations (2 year window) of Syria for 8 disciplines (1993, 1999, 2004 and evolution)

	Syria: world share (‰) of 2 year window citations				
Discipline	1993	1999	2004	Evolution 2004/1993 (%)	Evolution 2004/1999 (%)
Fundamental biology	0,01	0,01	0,01	+ 28	+ 46
Medical research	0,00	0,01	0,02	+ 325	+ 20
Applied biology-ecology	0,53	0,24	0,27	- 49	+ 15
Chemistry	0,02	0,03	0,05	+ 209	+ 35
Physics	0,01	0,01	0,02	+ 135	+ 40
Astro and Geo-sciences	0,05	0,04	0,06	+ 40	+ 73
Engineering	0,07	0,03	0,04	- 45	+ 22
Mathematics	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0,03	0,03	0,03	- 1	+ 27

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

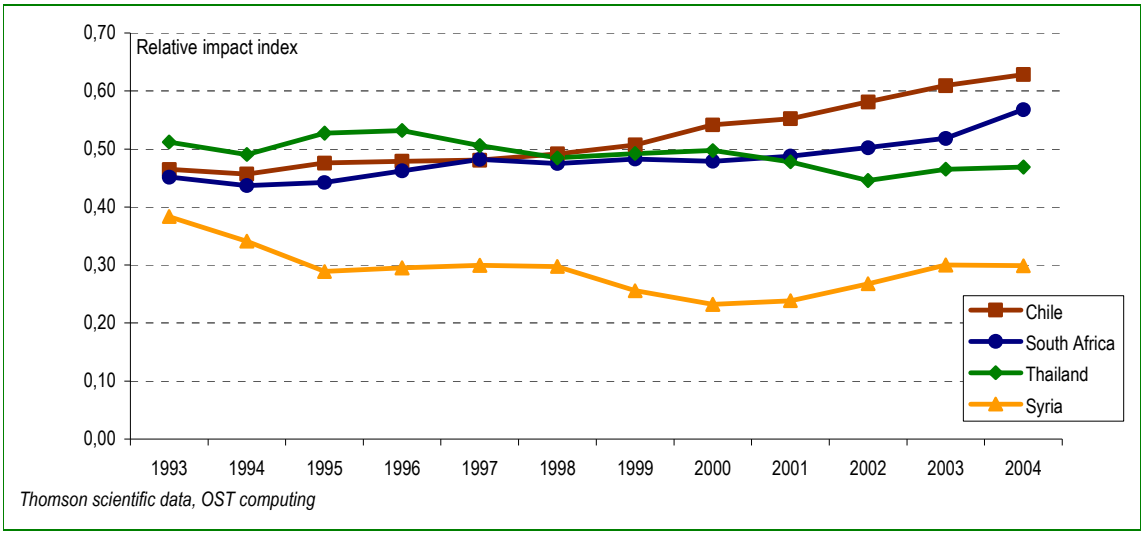
The *world share of citations* is the ratio of the number of citations received over 2 years (years N and N+1 for articles published in year N) by researchers of the country under study to the total number of citations received

for the same 2 years by all the worldwide publications of the database; it is a measure of visibility of science of this country.

The world share of citations of Syria, overall, is very low (0,03‰) in 2004 (table 7). Still the main result of table 7 is again to emphasize the fact that the applied biology-ecology is the discipline in which the world share of citation is the most important (0,27‰).

III.4.2. RELATIVE IMPACT INDEX

Figure 5: Evolution of relative impact index in scientific publications all disciplines from 1993 to 2004 of Syria; comparison with Thailand, Chile and South Africa



Thomson scientific data, OST computing

The *relative impact index* is the ratio of the world share of citations received over 2 years to the world share of publications of the year indicated. The neutral value of this index is 1. A value above 1 indicates that the country considered received more citations per publication (hence is more visible) than the world average. A value of less than 1 indicates that the country's publications are less visible than the world average.

The focus on the impact index highlights a continuous decrease until 2001, then a slight increase (figure 5). Still, the impact index is lower in 2004 compared to 1993 and its variation is largely due to the limited number of publication, which makes this index very sensitive. The quantitative details are in table 8.

Table 8: Relative impact index for Syria in 8 disciplines (1993, 1999, 2004 and evolution)

Discipline	Syria: relative impact index 1993	1999	2004	Evolution 2004/1993 (%)	Evolution 2004/1999 (%)
Fundamental biology	0,24	0,23	0,37	ns	ns
Medical research	0,23	0,30	0,38	ns	ns
Applied biology-ecology	0,79	0,44	0,52	- 34	+ 20
Chemistry	0,38	0,38	0,42	ns	ns
Physics	0,40	0,26	0,24	ns	ns
Astro and Geo-sciences	0,64	0,29	0,41	ns	ns
Engineering	0,90	0,31	0,27	ns	ns
Mathematics	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0,38	0,26	0,30	- 22	+ 17

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

The *relative impact index* is the ratio of the world share of citations received over 2 years to the world share of publications of the year indicated. The neutral value of this index is 1. A value above 1 indicates that the country considered received more citations per publication (hence is more visible) than the world average. A value of less than 1 indicates that the country's publications are less visible than the world average.
The grey parts are for the number of publications inferior to 20, meaning the impact index is not significant.

III.5. SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION PER SUB-DISCIPLINE

Table 9: World share of scientific publications for Syria, for 31 sub-disciplines (2001, 2004 and evolution)

Sub-disciplines	Syria world share (‰) of scientific publications 2001	2004	Evolution 2004/2001 (%)
Ecology, environment	0,18	0,19	+ 2
Plant science, agronomy	1,00	1,06	+ 6
Analytical chemistry	0,27	0,48	+ 79
Mechanical engineering, fluid mechanics	0,20	0,26	+ 32
Total	0,11	0,11	- 3
Number of publications	81	82	+ 1

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

Considering the low number of publications for Syria, we are showing here sub-disciplines with more than 10 publications. Specialisation and impact indexes are then not calculated.
The indicators must be interpreted with care considering the possible low number of publications per sub-disciplines.
see annexe II.

The highest share of scientific publications per sub-discipline is for the plant science and agronomy (1,06‰) (table 9). From the three other sub-disciplines with more than 5 publications in 2004, we can notice ecology, environment, which, despite a low world share, is complementary to the previous sub-discipline (plant science and agronomy).

IV. SYRIA'S INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IV.1. INTERNATIONALISATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Table 10: Share of international co-publications in the publications (integer counts) of Syria (1993, 2001, 2004 and evolution); comparison with Thailand, Chile and South Africa in 2004

	Share (%) of international co-publications							
	Syria					South Africa	Chile	Thailand
	1993	2001	2004	Evolution 2004/1993 (%)	Evolution 2004/2001 (%)	2004		
Discipline								
Fundamental biology	77,8	61,3	67,7	- 13	+ 11	51,6	51,4	63,3
Medical research	63,2	40,3	67,2	+ 6	+ 67	41,4	35,9	52,7
Applied biology-ecology	60,4	46,7	58,5	- 3	+ 25	38,2	44,2	66,7
Chemistry	65,4	45,7	37,2	- 43	- 19	40,7	47,5	55,5
Physics	76,9	53,8	33,3	- 57	- 38	58,2	55,0	60,3
Astro and Geo-sciences	70,0	57,7	60,5	- 14	+ 5	49,6	76,6	59,9
Engineering	67,6	45,3	36,4	- 46	- 20	33,1	48,0	52,7
Mathematics	66,7	50,0	60,0	- 10	+ 20	50,7	65,4	42,3
Total	64,5	48,5	54,2	- 16	+ 12	43,5	53,5	56,9

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

Integer counts are used for calculating co-publications since a co-signed article is presumed to be the result of ties between two or more institutions regardless of the total number of co-signing laboratories.
The *share of international co-publications* is the ratio of the number of Syria's international co-publications to the total number of Syria's publications.

The world share of international co-publications in national publications for Syria is decreasing from 1993 (64,5%) to 2004 (54,2%) (table 10). During this same period of time, the share of international co-publications of each discipline is decreasing, except for medical research which is quite stable (from 63,2 % in 1993 to 67,2% in 2004). Fundamental biology and medical research are the disciplines that have the highest share of international co-publications (respectively 67,7% and 67,2%).

IV.2. CO-PUBLICATIONS INDICATORS FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

Table 11: Share of Syria's international co-publications for the top 10 scientific partner countries (2001, 2004) all disciplines

	The top 10 scientific partners of Syria (all disciplines)			
	2001		2004	
Rank	Country	%	Pays	%
1	United States	19,0	United States	22,1
2	Germany	15,3	Germany	16,9
3	France	14,1	France	15,9
4	United Kingdom	12,9	United Kingdom	11,8
5	Egypt	ns	Egypt	ns
6	Netherlands	ns	Netherlands	ns
7	Japan	ns	Turkey	ns
8	Lebanon	ns	India	ns
9	Spain	ns	Australia	ns
10	Morocco	ns	Lebanon	ns
Number of international co-publications		54		65

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing — *OST - 2007*

"ns" : not significant if the number of co-publication is lower than 5
Integer counts are used for calculating co-publications since a co-signed article is presumed to be the result of ties between two or more institutions regardless of the total number of co-signing laboratories.

In 2004, Syria has 65 international co-publications (table 11). The very low number of co-publications doesn't allow us to go too far in the analysis of the top 10 partner countries. One main aspect is visible though, which is the four main partners of Syria for its scientific co-publications. They are the same throughout the period studied. Those four main partners which account for most of the Syrian co-publications (about two thirds) are France, Germany, United Kingdom and United States.

Table 12: Comparison with the top 10 scientific partners of Thailand, Chile and South Africa (2004)

	The top 10 scientific partners in 2004 of:					
	South Africa		Chile		Thailand	
Rank	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
1	United States	31,7	United States	36,9	United States	35,7
2	United Kingdom	21,7	France	15,4	Japan	24,5
3	Germany	12,2	Spain	15,0	United Kingdom	13,4
4	Australia	9,3	Germany	14,8	Australia	9,2
5	France	8,7	United Kingdom	10,3	China	5,5
6	Netherlands	6,6	Brazil	7,2	France	4,5
7	Canada	6,2	Argentina	7,1	Germany	4,1
8	Belgium	4,4	Italy	6,5	Canada	3,6
9	Switzerland	3,5	Canada	4,6	Myanmar	3,0
10	Italy	3,5	Mexico	3,8	Netherlands	2,5
Number of international co-publications		1 552		1 251		1 065

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Integer counts are used for calculating co-publications since a co-signed article is presumed to be the result of ties between two or more institutions regardless of the total number of co-signing laboratories.

IV.3. CO-PUBLICATIONS INDICATORS PER DISCIPLINE

Table 13: Share of Syria's international co-publications with its top 5 scientific partner countries (2004) for 4 disciplines (fundamental biology, medical research, applied biology-ecology, and chemistry)

Syria: the top 5 scientific partners in 2004								
	Fundamental biology		Medical research		Applied biology-ecology		Chemistry	
Rank	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
1	Germany	28,6	Germany	51,2	United States	15,8	France	37,9
2	United States	28,6	United States	31,7	United Kingdom	9,2	Egypt	20,7
3	United Kingdom	ns	United Kingdom	14,6	Netherlands	9,2	United Kingdom	ns
4	Australia	ns	Egypt	ns	Australia	7,9	Germany	ns
5	Canada	ns	Netherlands	ns	Germany	ns	Hungary	ns
Number of international co-publications		7		14		25		10

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"ns" : not significant if the number of co-publications is lower than 2 per discipline
Integer counts are used for calculating co-publications since a co-signed article is presumed to be the result of ties between two or more institutions regardless of the total number of co-signing laboratories.

Table 14: Share of Syria's international co-publications with its top 5 scientific partner countries (2004) for 4 disciplines (physics, astro and geo-sciences, engineering and mathematics)

Syria: the top 5 scientific partners in 2004								
	Physics		Astro and Geo-sciences		Engineering		Mathematics	
Rank	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
1	France	ns	United States	34,6	France	35,7	United States	ns
2	India	ns	France	26,9	United States	ns	France	ns
3	Egypt	ns	Turkey	ns	Egypt	ns	India	ns
4	United Kingdom	ns	Belgium	ns	United Kingdom	ns	Lebanon	ns
5	Argentina	ns	India	ns	Denmark	ns	-	-
Number of international co-publications		5		9		9		1

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

"ns" : not significant if the number of co-publications is lower than 2 per discipline
Integer counts are used for calculating co-publications since a co-signed article is presumed to be the result of ties between two or more institutions regardless of the total number of co-signing laboratories.

In 2004, the numbers of co-publications per discipline is too low here in order to be able to really draw lines among partners (table 13 and 14). Still, we see the same first four partners with the apparition of Egypt, as a local partner country, in four disciplines, but also Turkey and Lebanon. The discipline in which there are the most important number of co-publications is the applied biology-ecology, which is a specialisation of Syria (measured by scientific publications), followed by medical research and chemistry.

V. MOBILITY OF SYRIAN STUDENTS

Table 15: Foreign students enrolled in higher education (1998, 2002) for a selection of countries: number and share of total enrolled students

	Foreign enrollments in higher education		Ratio (%) of foreign enrollment to total students	
	1998	2002	1998	2002
Host country				
France	148 000	165 437	7,3	8,2
Germany	171 151	211 210	8,2	9,8
United Kingdom	209 550	227 273	10,8	10,1
Belgium*	36 137	40 354	11,9	13,2
Italy	23 206	28 447	1,2	1,5
Spain	29 000	44 860	1,7	2,4
United States	430 786	582 992	3,2	3,7
Japan	35 700	63 630	0,9	1,6

OECD data on education, OST computing — *OST - 2007*

* : data for Belgium in the column 1998 is in fact for 1999
Data used correspond to the "*tertiary education*" part, which is composed of both levels ISCED 5 and ISCED 6, established by UNESCO/UIS, the OECD, and EUROSTAT

In 2002, the United States welcomes the most foreign students amongst the countries presented, followed by the United Kingdom, Germany and France (table 15). Compared to the total number of students in each country, Belgium is the country whose ratio of foreign students is the most important, followed by the United Kingdom, Germany and France

Table 16: Syrian students enrolled in higher education for a selection of countries (1998, 2002 and evolution): number and share to total foreign students

	Syrian students enrolled in :			Ratio (%) of Syrian students to total foreign students		
	1998	2002	Evolution 2002/1998 (%)	1998	2002	Evolution 2002/1998 (%)
Host country						
France	1 261	1 568	+ 24	0,9	0,9	+ 11
Germany	803	955	+ 19	0,5	0,5	- 4
United Kingdom	177	224	+ 27	0,1	0,1	+ 17
Belgium*	78	60	-23	0,2	0,1	- 31
Italy	64	40	- 37	0,3	0,1	- 49
Spain	93	87	- 6	0,3	0,2	- 40
United States	478	735	+ 54	0,1	0,1	+ 14
Japan	22	36	+ 64	0,1	0,1	- 8

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* : data for Belgium in the column 1998 is in fact for 1999
Data used correspond to the "*tertiary education*" part, which is composed of both levels ISCED 5 and ISCED 6, established by UNESCO/UIS, the OECD, and EUROSTAT

The Syrian students who go abroad to study go mainly to Europe, and mainly to France (table 16). The number of Syrian students in France, Germany and United Kingdom has been growing also from 1998 to 2002 (respectively +24%, +19%, +27%). Nevertheless, the United-States have attracted also some Syrian student (more than UK) and the trend is a growth (+54%).

Table 17: World share of Syrian students enrolled abroad in higher education for a selection of countries (2002); comparison with South African, Chilean and Thai students

Host country	World share (%) of foreign students enrolled in higher education (2002)				
	Syria	South Africa	Chile	Thailand	Total foreign students
European Union (25)	76,5	56,6	65,0	38,6	55,5
Austria	0,9	0,2	0,4	0,1	1,5
Belgium	1,4	0,8	2,1	0,1	2,1
Finland	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,4
France	35,6	1,2	7,4	1,7	8,8
Germany	21,7	2,8	9,1	2,8	11,2
Italy	0,9	0,2	1,5	0,0	1,5
Spain	2,0	0,1	15,6	0,1	2,4
Netherlands	0,7	0,9	0,6	0,1	1,0
Sweden	2,3	0,6	5,0	0,3	1,2
United Kingdom	5,1	18,3	4,7	10,7	12,0
Czech Republic	0,7	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,5
Hungary	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,6
Poland	1,4	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,4
United States	16,7	39,3	31,0	51,5	30,8
Japan	0,8	0,3	0,7	5,6	4,0
Switzerland	0,4	0,3	1,5	0,1	1,6
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Number of students abroad	4 402	5 678	5 346	22 546	1 889 989

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Data used correspond to the "*tertiary education*" part, which is composed of both levels ISCED 5 and ISCED 6, established by UNESCO/UIS, the OECD, and EUROSTAT

Three quarters of Syrian students studying abroad are going to the EU countries and more than 16% to the United-States (table 17).

Table 18: Evolution between 1999 and 2002 of world shares of Syrian students in some European countries and the US in higher education, comparison with South Africa, Chile and Thailand

Host country	Evolution 2002/1999 (%) of world share of foreign enrollements in higher education				
	Syria	South Africa	Chile	Thailand	Total foreign students
European Union (25)	+25	-41	-33	-27	-24
Austria	-60	-11	-16	-5	-27
Belgium	-36	-71	-45	-65	-29
Finland	ns	ns	ns	ns	+7
France	+6	ns	-22	+35	-3
Germany	-7	-27	-27	+39	-9
Italy	-29	-78	+7	ns	-7
Spain	-4	ns	+5	+6	+5
Netherlands	ns	-9	-57	ns	+7
Sweden	+21	+1	-18	+7	-10
United Kingdom	-9	-48	-29	-36	-16
Czech Republic	-19	ns	ns	ns	+64
Hungary	-36	ns	ns	ns	+2
Poland	-41	ns	ns	ns	+0
United States	+17	-22	-11	-26	-1
Japan	-3	ns	-16	-3	+2
Switzerland	ns	ns	-10	ns	-11
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Number of students abroad	+19	+69	+47	+37	+30

OECD data on education, OST computing *OST - 2007*

ns : evolution of world shares not significant because number of students is too low (less than 20 per year)

Data used correspond to the "*tertiary education*" part, which is composed of both levels ISCED 5 and ISCED 6, established by UNESCO/UIS, the OECD, and EUROSTAT

The increase in the evolution of the welcoming of Syrian students from 1998 to 2002 is higher for the EU25 (+25%) than for the US (+17%) (table 18).

VI. SYRIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMS (FP)

VI.1. PARTICIPATION IN THE 4TH AND 5TH FP

Table 19: Number of participations in the 4th FP for Syria

	Participations in 4th FP (types of programs)
Country	INCO
Syria	10
Cordis data, OST computing	*OST - 2007*

Table 20: Number of participations in the 5th FP for Syria

	Participations in 5th FP (types of programs)		
Country	EESD	INCO 2	IST
Syria	1	20	1
Cordis data, OST computing			*OST - 2007*

The participation of Syria in both the 4th and 5th FP is mostly in the INCO (and INCO2) program which are devoted to international cooperation (table 19 and 20). There has been an increase in the total number of Syrian participations for the 4th to the 5th FP.

VI.2. CO-PARTICIPATION IN 5TH FP

Table 21: Number of co-participations in 5th FP between Syria and the EU25 countries

	Number of co-participations of Syria in 5th FP
Country	Syria
Italy	32
Turkey	31
Spain	28
Malta	26
France	18
Greece	9
Germany	8
Portugal	6
Cyprus	6
United Kingdom	3
Austria	2
Netherlands	1
Czech Republic	1
Slovenia	1
Cordis data, OST computing	*OST - 2007*

The *number of co-participations* corresponds to the number times an Egyptian partner co-participates with a partner from the European country. It is not the number of projects in which Egypt and the country are present together. The numbers can not be added.

The main co-participants of Syria are southern European countries such as Italy, Turkey, Spain and Malta.

VII. LIST OF TABLES

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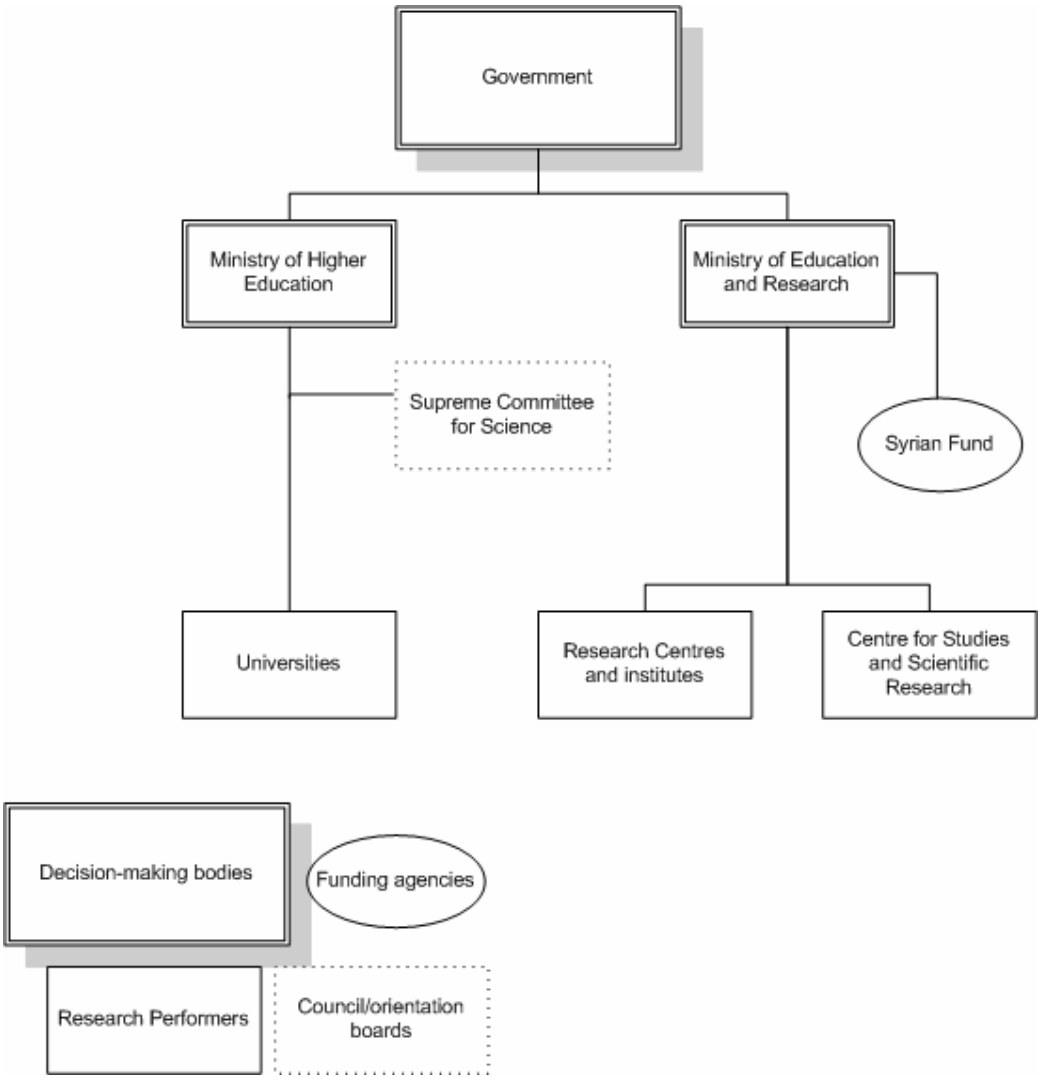
IX. ANNEX 1: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR SYRIA'S R&D SYSTEM

The following organisational chart of Syria's R&D system presents the situation in 2002.



X. ANNEX 2 : METHODOLOGY – INDICATORS BASED ON SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

It seems essential to explain the methodology used in this study, by first describing the source of information, the procedure of affectation of a scientific publication to a given country as well as the various indicators used and their construction process.

1. General points

Publications in scientific journals constitute for a researcher one of the main dissemination modes of his work. The information that describes each publication is registered in large bibliographic databases. The "bibliometric" analysis of such databases requires the use of statistics and data treatments in order to process that information: information on sources (journals, authors and their affiliations), descriptive texts (titles, key-words, abstracts…), field or disciplinary classification information and sometimes references to other publications (cited bibliographical references).
The exploitation of this data in order to produce indicators based on scientific publications includes an analysis of the volume of publications, the volume of citations received and of the scientific relationships through co-signed articles. The potential biases of the database used and statistical limits can make the resulting indicators very sensitive to methodological choices: therefore they must be interpreted with caution and the methodology used clearly explained.

2. Database used

The bibliographic database used by the OST is the Web of Science, produced by Thomson Scientific. It is considered as a reference tool for the production of indicators worldwide. The characteristics of this database are very important to understand since they have a consequence on most of the international statistics on scientific publications. In general, the statistical quality of this database – created as a documentary source and not as a source to be used to build indicators – is a non exhaustive survey of the best scientific journals throughout the world.
The choice of the Web of Science as a reference tool for the production of bibliometric indicators relies on its characteristics. It covers several thousands of scientific journals (about 8 000 in 2004), selected as having well known editorial management, a good scientific level, and a good international visibility level, which relies particularly on the average number of citations received by articles in the different journals. Nevertheless this journal selection is not necessarily a guaranty of a well-balanced representativeness between disciplines and sub-disciplines. The database has recently included more conference proceedings and electronic journals.
The most usual criticism on the Web of Science concerns favouring of Anglo-American science, but other influences also exist, like the over-representation of the national literature for some countries. The majority of the publications registered in the Web of Science are in English and the proportion is growing. This is the result of a linguistic favoritism of the database and the consequence of the domination of an international model of science.
The representativeness of Web of Science is generally accepted in the most internationalised fields such as physical sciences or fundamental biology. The situation can be less accurate for

scientific fields with a strong national specificity, those using dissemination other than "scientific articles", those with a high degree of application, and for small size fields.
Social sciences and humanities are excluded from the bibliometric indicators presented in the leaflets, because the corresponding bases produced by Thomson Scientific (Social Science Citation Index – SSCI, Arts & Humanities Citation Index – A&HCI) have potentially very important biases depending on the discipline and country considered.

3. From data to indicators

▪ Journals and documents selected

The journal coverage of the Web of Science changes with international visibility of the scientific journals. For calculating the bibliometric indicators, the OST follows the principle of a "dynamic group" of journals, more representative in time than the alternative solution ("constant group" of journals), but which limits short-term comparisons. For this reason, the indicators are smoothed on a three years basis (in the tables, the last year of information is used to date the indicator: 2004 for 2002 – 2004) where each year corresponds to the publication date of the articles.
At the same time, the OST, for indicator production, retains five specific types of documents of the Web of Science: articles, review articles, letters, notes and articles from meeting proceedings. The latter often appear as a selection in special issues. The proportion of meetings covered by the Web of Science is still relatively low.

▪ Gathering of journals within disciplines

The journals of the Web of Science are divided into eight major traditional academic disciplines, as defined from the subject category assigned to the journals by Thomson Scientific. The OST assigns each subject category to only one major discipline: for example immunology is filed in the "fundamental biology" discipline. Besides the eight disciplines a ninth field incorporates the "multidisciplinary" section, which is very heterogeneous but which includes some very prestigious general journals (*Nature, Science*…). This section is not isolated in the tables but contributes to the "all disciplines" totals.

This classification in these 8 major disciplines has the advantage of a good stability for the macro-indicators. Another disciplinary classification into 31 sub-disciplines is also used.

The journals can be attributed to different subject categories (up to 6). With fractional counts, the multi-attributed articles from the journals are fractioned among subject categories, whereas with integer distinct counts they are integrally counted in each category they belong to.

▪ The counting principle

The statistics by types of actors (country, region) are not calculated from the nationality of the authors but from the address of the laboratories and signing institutions. In other words, an Egyptian scientist working in UK will be counted as an UK scientist if he does not sign the address of his home institution.
The scientific articles are often co-signed by many acrors belonging to several laboratories and institutions. So several options of counting process can be chosen, in particular the fractional count and the integer count. In a logic of contribution to world science, the laboratories' contributions to each article are fractioned in order to get a total of 100% on the whole group of laboratories. This principle is also applied to the possible affectation of a scientific journal in several subject categories. This type of count, called "fractional", where

each article has a unitary weight, is additional in every scale and well adapted to macro-analysis. Extended to the relative impact indexes, this type of count is preferable for international visibility comparisons.
The other logic, the "participation" in world science, relies on "distinct integer" or "full integer" counts: each actor is credited with an unitary participation as long as he is present in a publication, and this logic is also extended to disciplinary affiliations of the journals. The summed data related to participations is necessarily superior to that of the contributions. For example, France can be present in 8% of the world publications but contributes to 5% when the fractional count is applied. Because of multiple counts, the integer count produces sums of actors' participations that are superior to 100% and the data vary with the scale changes. Despite this inconvenient, the "integer distinct count" is well adapted to micro-analysis and is easier to interpret for co-publications.
In order to produce more stable bibliometric indicators, The OST indicators are smoothed on a three years basis: the last year being used to date the indicator: 2004 for 2002 – 2004.
The following table presents the disciplinary repartition of the scientific publications registered in the Web of Science, for the three year averaged data, dated 1999 and 2004 and for the two types of countings.

Table M1: Disciplinary distribution of the OST publication database based on the Web of Science (1999, 2004)

	Fractional counts				Distinct integer counts			
	1999		2004		1999		2004	
Discipline	Number of publications	Disciplinary share (%)	Number of publications	Disciplinary share (%)	Number of publications	Disciplinary share (%)	Number of publications	Disciplinary share (%)
Fundamental biology	113 448	15,7	116 812	15,2	144 363	20,0	148 814	19,3
Medical research	222 535	30,9	229 672	29,9	247 212	34,3	255 695	33,2
Applied biology-ecology	50 756	7,0	51 199	6,7	65 442	9,1	64 240	8,3
Chemistry	100 497	14,0	111 893	14,5	123 066	17,1	139 159	18,1
Physics	83 398	11,6	88 762	11,5	97 641	13,6	106 489	13,8
Astro and Geo- sciences	42 253	5,9	48 940	6,4	49 772	6,9	57 427	7,5
Engineering	74 147	10,3	88 924	11,6	96 381	13,4	114 519	14,9
Mathematics	21 098	2,9	23 852	3,1	24 401	3,4	28 407	3,7
Total	**720 320**	**100,0**	**769 398**	**100,0**	**720 320**	**100,0**	**769 384**	**100,0**

Thomson Scientific data, OST computing *OST - 2007*

Important remark
In the leaflets, the most up to date indicators are proposed given that OST bibliometric database is updated once a year. When the leaflets were written, the most recent year for publications is the smoothed year 2004 (2002+2003+2004/3). At that time, the OST database was incomplete for those articles which were published in the year 2004.
Methodologically, this choice doesn't significatively impact on the value of the resulting indicators because they are calculated as a ratio between the country under study and the world (world share, impact index (share of citations divided by share of publications …) at the macro level (for countries and/or for large disciplines). It has been shown on a historical basis, that the indicators calculated with some missing data from last year are a very good approximation of those calculated with complete database.
When dealing with smaller entities (sub-disciplines for example), the indicators for 2004 must be considered as provisional and a note is written under the table to highlight that fact.

4. Indicators presented in the leaflet

One should be careful when interpreting indicators for small entities (small countries, small disciplines), which could be statistically sensitive, the variation of those indicators being potentially important.

4.1. Scientific production indicators

Scientific production indicators, also called scientific activity indicators, are calculated for all disciplines and for each of the eight standard scientific disciplines.

▪ World share of publications

The world share of publications is defined as the number of publications of an actor (a country, a region, an institution) divided by the number of worldwide publications, expressed as a percentage (%). It is the easiest comparable production indicator.

$$\text{Country world share (\%) in discipline "i"} = \frac{\text{Number of publications in discipline "i" of a country}}{\text{Total number of worldwide publications in discipline "i"}} \times 100$$

where discipline "i" is one the eight standard disciplines or all disciplines

The higher the value of this share (between 0 and 100 %), the more active is the country in world scientific production.

▪ Specialisation index

The specialisation index of an actor is the ratio of its world share in one particular discipline to its world share for all disciplines.

$$\text{Specialisation index in discipline "i"} = \frac{\text{Publication world share of the country in discipline "i"}}{\text{Publication world share of the country for all disciplines}}$$

A specialisation index of 1 in discipline "i" implies that the actor's world share for that discipline corresponds to his world share all disciplines combined. This is a neutral situation. When the specialisation index is greater than 1, the country is said to be specialised in disciplines"i", at the expense of those disciplines for which the index is less than one.

4.2. Visibity indicators

▪ World share of citations

The world share of citations is defined as the number of citations received by the publications of an actor (a country, a region, an institution) divided by the total number of citations received worldwide during a given period. Citations are received by an article for several years after the year of its publication. In the leaflets, the “citation window” used is two years, meaning that the indicators are calculated from the number of citations received for a period of two years following publication.

$$\text{Country world share (\%) of citations in discipline "i" for year N} = \frac{\text{Number of citations received by a country in discipline "i" during years N and N+1}}{\text{Number of citations received worldwide in discipline "i" during years N and N+1}} \times 100$$

The higher the value of the world share of citations for a country (comprised between 0 and 100%) the more visible that country is in world scientific production.

- **Relative impact index**

The relative impact index for an actor in a the world is defined as the ratio of the world share of citations for that actor to his world share of publications. The window used is that used for the calculation of the world share of citations.

$$\text{Relative impact index in discipline "i"} = \frac{\text{Citation world share of a country in discipline "i"}}{\text{Publication world share of a country in discipline "i"}}$$

A relative impact index of 1 in discipline "i" implies that the visibility of country's publications is equal to the average visibility of worldwide publications in that discipline. When the relative impact index is greater than 1, the country's visibility is better that world average. When the relative impact index is less than 1 the country's visibility hasn't reached world average visibility in disciplines "i".

4.3. Indicators of scientific cooperation

From a general point of view, the scientific community is strongly interconnected. A part of this cooperation takes the form of co-authored articles (co-publications).
The co-publication indicators are calculated in the leaflet using integer distinct counts, which is more "intuitive" regarding the notion of collaboration. Co-authoring an article means the existence of a "link" between the signing authors, independently of the other signing authors.

- **Level of internationalisation**

The level of internationalisation of a country is defined as the total number of international co-publications of that country divided by its total number of publications.

$$\text{Share of international co-publications (\%) in discipline "i"} = \frac{\text{Total number of international co-publications of the country in discipline "i"}}{\text{Total number of publications of the country in discipline "i"}} \times 100$$

The higher the share of international co-publications for a country (comprised between 0 and 100%) is, the more the country cooperates internationally.

- **International partnerships between countries:**

The share of co-publications of a country A, under study, with country B is defined as the number of co-publications between these two countries divided by the total number of international co-publications of country A under study. The indicator is expressed in percent, and in the leaflet the ten first scientific partners of country A are presented.

$$\text{Share of co-publicationsof country A with country B (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of co-publications of country A with country B}}{\text{Total number of international co-publications of country A}} \times 100$$

The higher the share of co-publications of country A with country B (comprised between 0 and 100%) is, the more the country B can be considered as a scientific partner of country A.