

# Corrections to journal articles supported by European and US research grants: a cross-sectional study, 2014-2022

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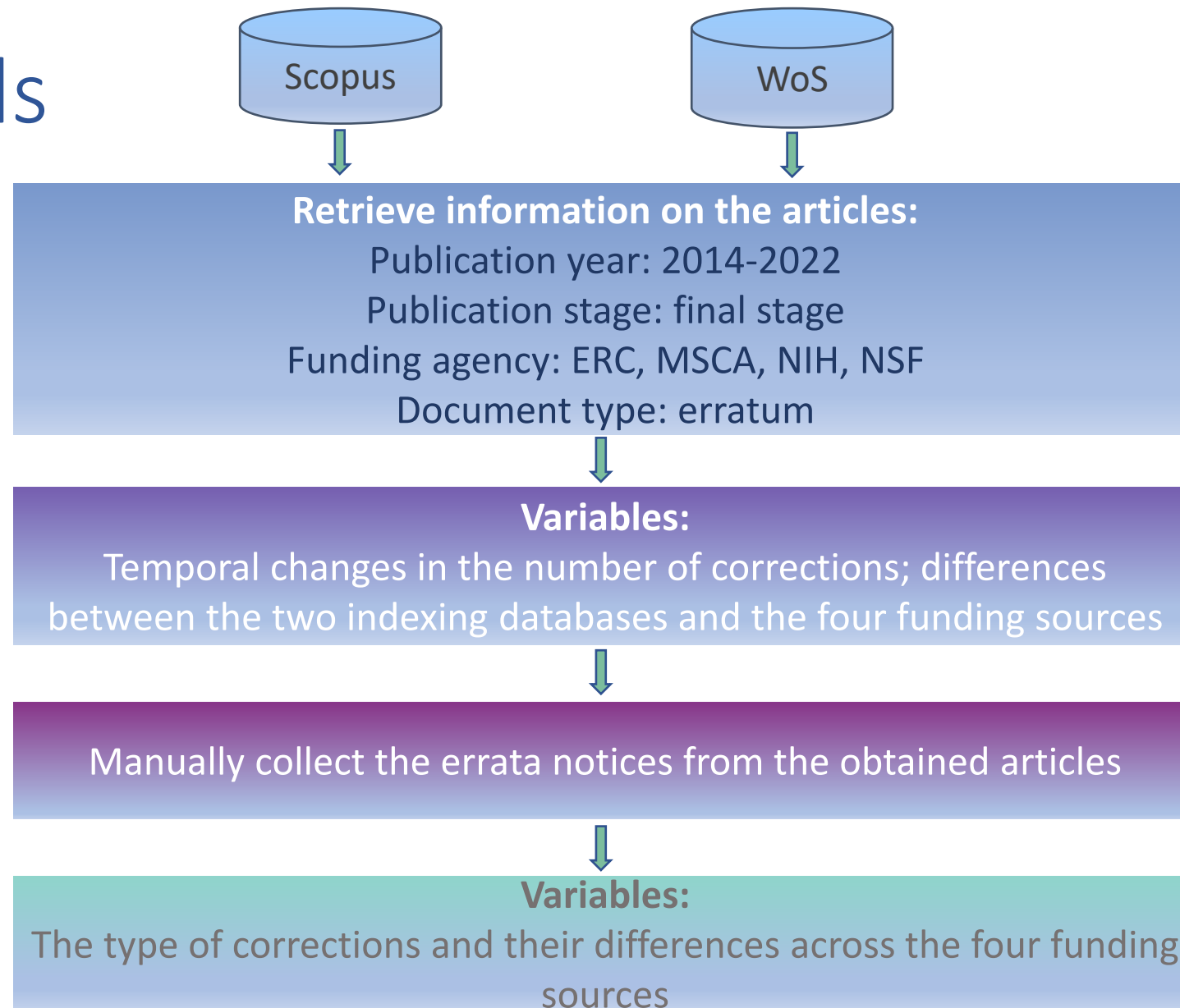
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# Objective

- To assess the number and content of corrections to publications supported by two EU and two US funding agencies.
  - EU H2020 programmes:
    - MSCA
    - ERC
  - US funding agencies:
    - NSF
    - NIH



# Methods

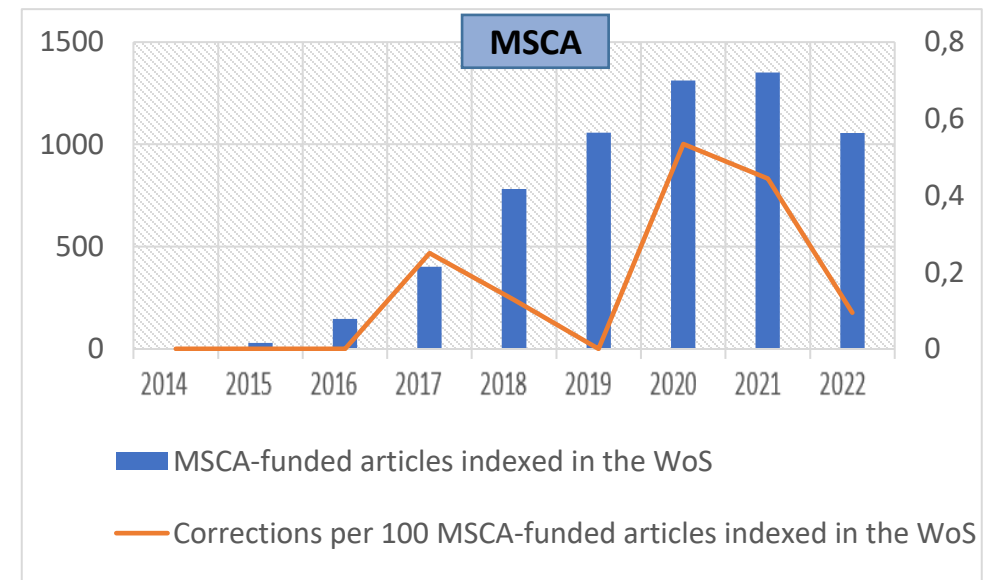
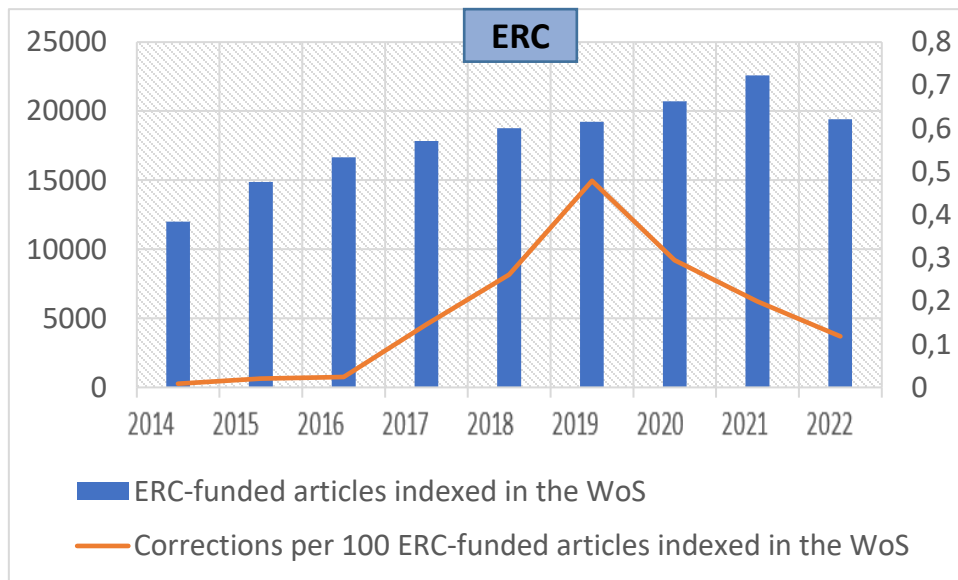
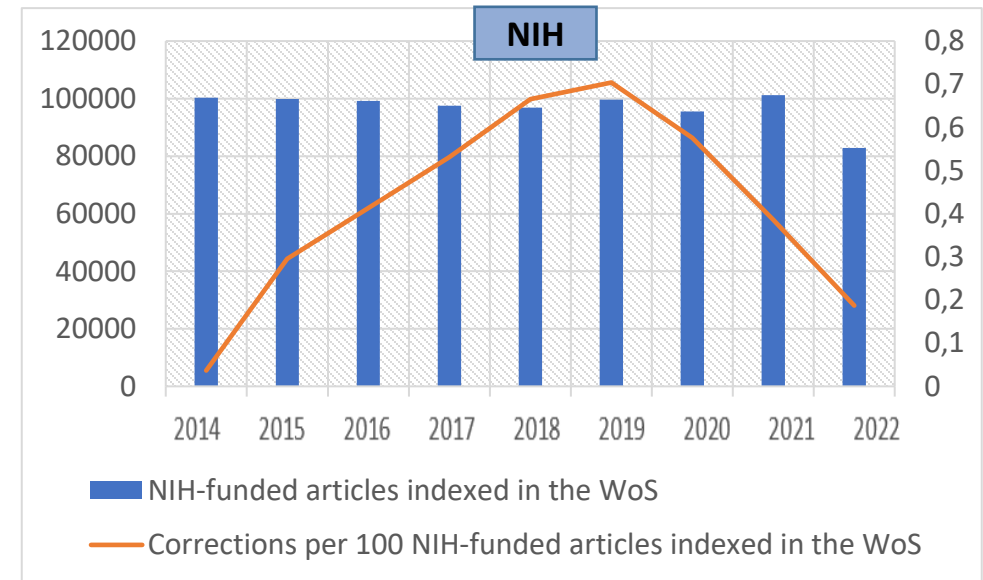
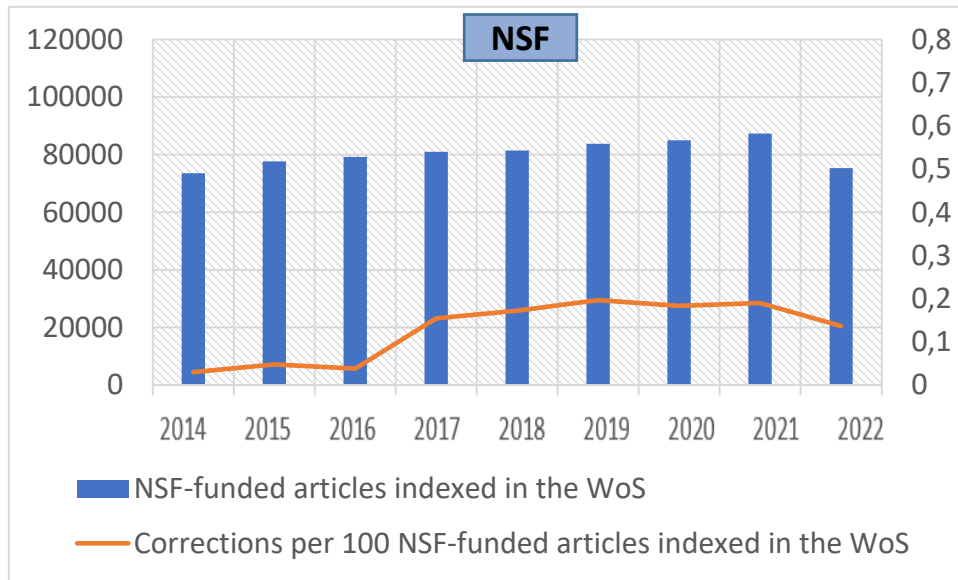


“Erratum is a report of an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper” (from Scopus)

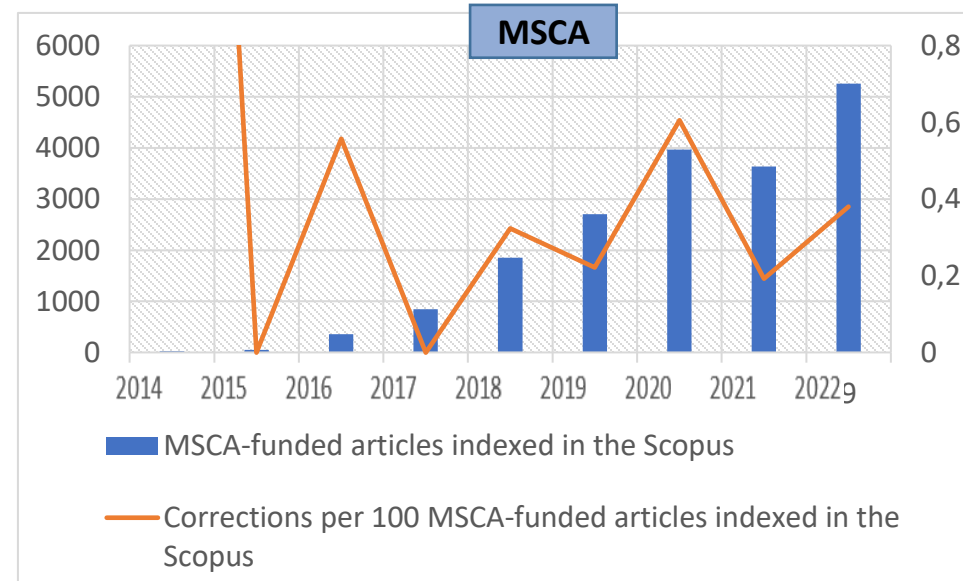
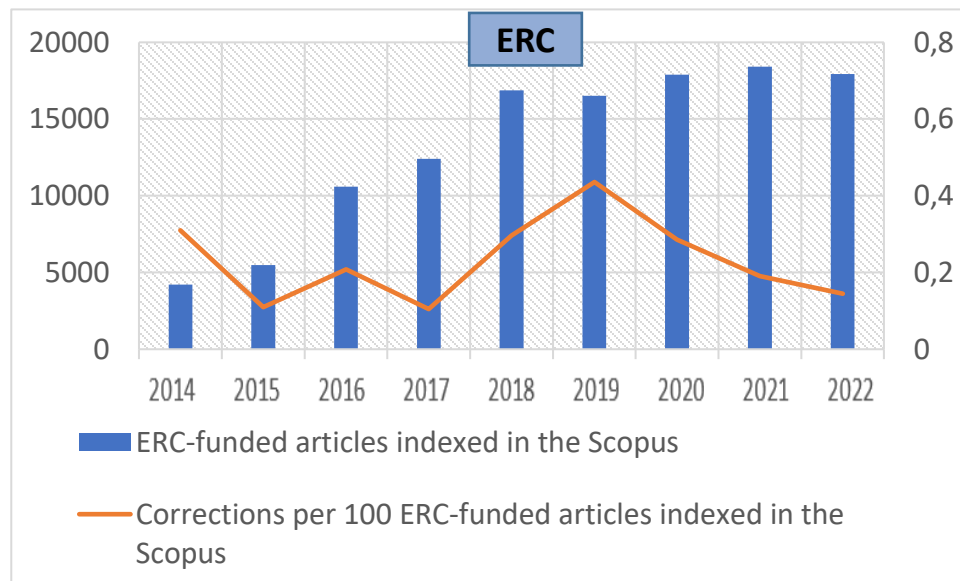
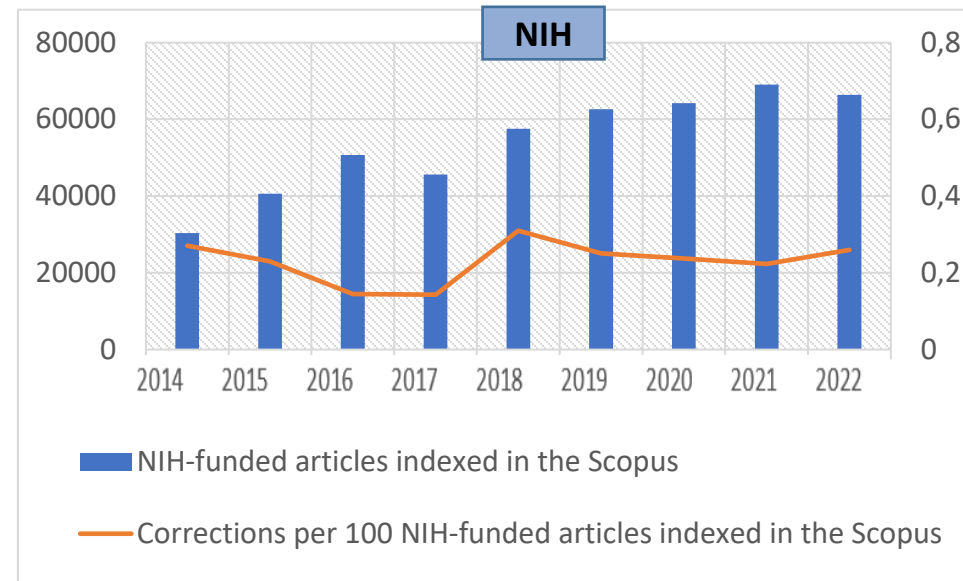
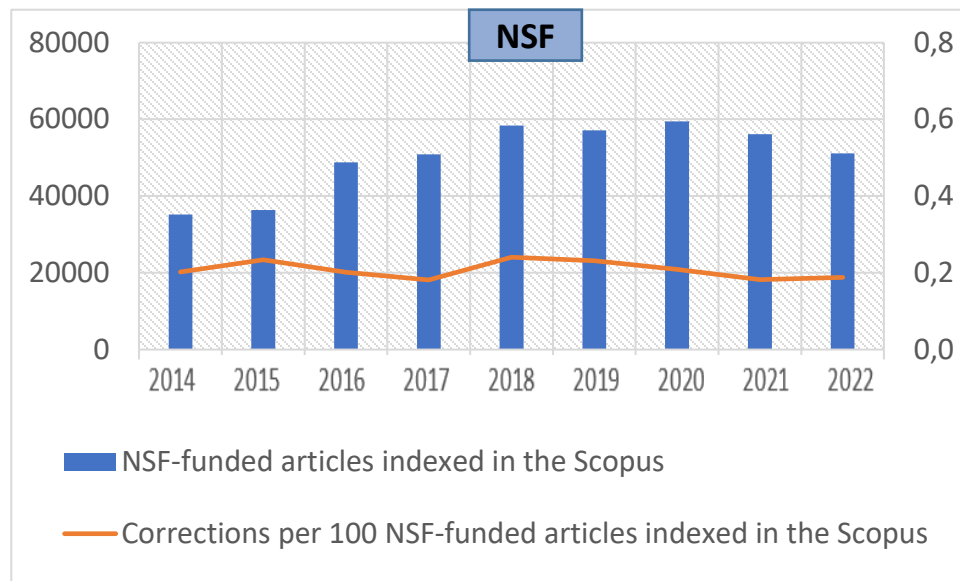
# Results

**Table 1.** The number (percentage) of corrected articles and total number of indexed articles funded by the four major funding agencies, across the two databases

|               | MSCA             |                          | ERC              |                          | NIH              |                          | NSF              |                          |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|               | Number of errata | Total number of articles | Number of errata | Total number of articles | Number of errata | Total number of articles | Number of errata | Total number of articles |
| <b>WoS</b>    | 16<br>(0.26%)    | 6 132                    | 304<br>(0.19%)   | 162 047                  | 3 700<br>(0.42%) | 872 587                  | 944<br>(0.13%)   | 724 406                  |
| <b>Scopus</b> | 66<br>(0.35%)    | 18 698                   | 288<br>(0.24%)   | 120 275                  | 1 126<br>(0.23%) | 486 862                  | 940<br>(0.21%)   | 453 279                  |



**Figure 1.** Percentage of corrected articles and total number of WoS-indexed articles funded by the four major funding agencies, 2014-2022.



**Figure 2.** Percentage of corrected articles and total number of Scopus-indexed articles funded by the four major funding agencies, 2014-2022.

# Correction notices

## Funding



Missing declaration; Omission of a funder or grant number;  
Misspelled funder or grant number

## Authors list



Incomplete list of authors;  
Missing, misspelled, or incorrect author's name, affiliation or title

## Article errors



Mislabeled tables and figures;  
Typos and errors in the article's text, formulas, or code; Missing references; Statistical errors

## Publication



Changed copyright or license;  
Republished in a special issue;  
Production error

## Misconduct



Image manipulation; Data fabrication; Taking credits

## COI



Missing conflict of interest (COI) statement; Error or omission in the COI statement

# Correction notices

- 2 286 notices in total:

- EU: 329 (14.4%)
- US: 1939 (84.8%)
- Both EU and US: 18 (0.8%)

EU:

- ERC: 265 (12.24%)
- MSCA: 58 (2.7%)

USA:

- NIH: 1019 (46.8%)
- NSF: 835 (38.4%)



# Correction notices

**Table 2.** The number (%) of corrected articles by reason of correction, between US and EU-awarded research grants

| Reason for correction | Total        | EU          | US           | EU+US funder | P ( $\chi^2$ ) |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Funding               | 1473 (64.4%) | 268 (81.5%) | 1193 (61.5%) | 12 (66.7%)   | <.001          |
| Author list           | 147 (6.4%)   | 9 (2.7%)    | 137 (7.1%)   | 1 (5.6%)     | .012           |
| Article error         | 662 (29.0%)  | 54 (16.4%)  | 604 (31.2%)  | 4 (22.2%)    | <.001          |
| Publication           | 15 (0.7%)    | 2 (0.6%)    | 13 (0.7%)    | 0 (0%)       | .934           |
| Misconduct            | 2 (0.1%)     | 0 (0%)      | 2 (0.1%)     | 0 (0%)       | .836           |
| COI                   | 19 (0.8%)    | 0 (0%)      | 18 (0.9%)    | 1 (5.6%)     | .020           |

# Correction notices

**Table 3.** The number (%) of corrected articles by reason of correction, across the four major funding agencies

| Reason of correction | Total        | ERC         | MSCA       | NIH         | NSF         | P ( $\chi^2$ ) |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Funding              | 1389 (63.8%) | 208 (78.4%) | 52 (89.7%) | 695 (68.2%) | 434 (52.0%) | <.001          |
| Author list          | 136 (6.2%)   | 9 (3.4%)    | 0 (0%)     | 74 (7.3%)   | 53 (6.3%)   | .025           |
| Article error        | 644 (29.6%)  | 46 (17.4%)  | 7 (12.1%)  | 246 (24.1%) | 345 (41.3%) | <.001          |
| Publication          | 15 (0.7%)    | 2 (0.8%)    | 0 (0%)     | 7 (0.7%)    | 6 (0.7%)    | .934           |
| Misconduct           | 2 (0.1%)     | 0 (0%)      | 0 (0%)     | 1 (0.1%)    | 1 (0.1%)    | .946           |
| COI                  | 18 (0.8%)    | 0 (0%)      | 0 (0%)     | 15 (1.5%)   | 3 (0.4%)    | .018           |

# Conclusions

- Funding is the major reason for article correction, followed by errors in article text.
- EU- funded articles were more often corrected due to funding related issues, compared to US-funded articles.
- US-funded articles were more often corrected due to article errors, compared to EU-funded articles.
- The number of corrections is low compared to the volume of publications funded by major global funding agencies.
- However, the differences among the indexing databases create problems in identifying corrected literature.
- This may have adverse effect on the integrity and trustworthiness of literature sources.

*Thank you for  
your attention*

