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In a recent Swedish report (Karlsson & Persson, 2012), the ability of certain countries to recruit new top scientist is estimated by use of a bibliometric approach. The method is not without problems, especially when it comes to identifying researchers. Before 2008, authors and their addresses are in most of the cases not directly linked in the bibliographic data from WoS, which means that name linking and disambiguation becomes difficult and results are therefore to a considerable degree subjected to uncertainty. The present analysis is based on a recent large scale evaluation of Danish Centers of Excellence (CoE) funded by the Danish National Research Foundation. We basically explore the same question as in the Swedish report, namely to estimate the rate at which new top researchers are ‘recruited’. However, in our case, the unit of analysis is scientists that through their CoEs are funded by DNRF and therefore they function as a proxy for the overall ability of DNRF to ‘recruit’ or produce new top scientist. Compared to the Swedish analysis, we use a substantially different approach centered upon an advanced name disambiguation algorithm developed at CWTS, Leiden University. We compare the ‘recruitment rate’ for DNRF to country benchmarks: Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. We use countries as benchmarks in this analysis because country as a data entity in name matching procedures is much more affordable and reliable to handle compared to institutions.