

# Integrating societal impact in a research strategy

## A 2.5-day International Winter Course

29 November – 1 December 2017  
Vienna, Austria



### Target audience

- ✓ Research councils and research foundations;
- ✓ Managers of University research;
- ✓ All professionals involved in stimulating societal impact of science

### Course Directors

**Barend van der Meulen**

*Head of Science System Assessment, Rathenau Institute & Professor of Evidence for Science Policy, Leiden University*

**Kathryn Graham**

*Executive Director, Performance Management and Evaluation at Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions*

**Organised by:**

**AESIS**  
NETWORK FOR  
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE



## Description Summary

**Themes 2017** – for this year to be determined by Course-directors

- ✓ Committing stakeholders in a science funding system or research programme with societal impact components;
- ✓ Integrating societal impact ex ante, ex durante or ex post in research strategies;
- ✓ Capacity building on societal impact;
- ✓ All-inclusive or specific approaches for different scientific disciplines;
- ✓ Connecting societal impact in research strategies on an institutional, national and international level;
- ✓ Evaluation and use of possible societal impact indicators.

### Target audience

Professionals from science funding organisations or policy bodies that are considering to include or improve the integration of societal impact of science in the funding processes of scientific research.

- ✓ Managers of research programs at research councils or research foundations;
- ✓ Managers of University research;
- ✓ Supporters of “Societal Impact” at academic institutes;
- ✓ Intermediaries;
- ✓ Research strategists.

## Background and Goals

Science funders and research programme designers are constantly challenged to maintain an effective and efficient science funding system, while justifying the investments in scientific research towards their stakeholders. As a result of the economic downturn and the increased understanding of the limitations of existing justification frameworks, the pressure increases on governmental and non-governmental science funding organisations to increase the extent to which they demonstrate the socio-economical and societal returns on their investments in science.

In all parts of the world, experts are working on improving the process of measuring and demonstrating the impact of science on society. In the past years, new methods have been developed to better justify and demonstrate the societal impact of scientific research by universities and research institutions. Increasingly, research councils do not just ask to promise impact of new research ideas, but also to plan activities to involve stakeholders and realise impact. Universities develop impact strategies at regional and sectoral level.

The challenge is also for the science policymakers and the other stakeholders to address. Together they have to develop effective systems for the particular scientific climate in their country. A number of systems have been set up to address this challenge – often initiated or stimulated by the science funding organisations: The Research Excellence Framework (REF) in the UK, the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the US and the EU research program Horizon2020.

During this interactive training course, experts from multiple countries, leading the innovation in research funding approaches, will discuss their experiences. They provide insights on how you can organise a research strategy in such a way that it strengthens societal impact.

The course brings together experiences of organisations, insights in the dynamics of research impact as well as hands on exercises in order to move beyond single cases. The program will discuss:

- ✓ Best practices, such as REF, NSF, Standard Evaluation Protocol (NL), and more;
- ✓ Involving external stakeholders;
- ✓ Lessons from existing evaluation systems;
- ✓ New and developing systems in the Nordic countries

## Course layout design

**Tuesday 28 November: Welcome Dinner at eight PM**

### **Day 1: Wednesday 29 November**

09:00 – 10:45 **Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham**

*Barend is the Head of the Science System Assessment, Rathenau Institute (NL) and Kathryn the Executive Director of Performance Management and Evaluation at Alberta Innovates (CA).*

#### **Opening & General introductions by the participants**

- Why are you here, what do you want to take away?
- Where do you sit in the ecosystem of research activity?
- What are we talking about and why is it important?

*Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30 **Broad overview:** what are we talking about and why is it important

*Lunch*

13:30 – 15:30 **Mike Smith**

*Chairman at the Institute of Knowledge Transfer, Managing Partner at Harper Keeley, Dean of Research at the University of Leeds & Emeritus Professor of Medical Science at the Sheffield Hallam University (GB).*

#### **Research strategy & funding systems; optimising societal impact**

- Impact of research through commercialisation
- Impact on healthcare
- Impact on policy processes

Practical examples in these areas will be presented and implications for a university research strategy or responsive funding systems will be considered.

*Tea break*

16:00 – 18:00 **David Sweeney (invited)**

*Director Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange at Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)(GB).*

#### **Incentivizing Impact via Assessment and Funding**

- Using case studies to provide evidence of impact and the role metrics can play
- Assessment and funding as an incentive
- Lessons learnt from the REF and Stern review
- Next steps for impact in the UK and comparison with other countries

**Researchers' experiences** with systems

**Day 2: Thursday 30 November**

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome & Summary

09:15 – 10:45 **Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham**

*Barend is the Head of the Science System Assessment, Rathenau Institute (NL) and Kathryn the Executive Director of Performance Management and Evaluation at Alberta Innovates (CA).*

Case of a new/developing **Science funding system**, institutional experience and expectations

*Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30 Speaker to be announced  
**Government** and/or **Industry** perspective

*Lunch*

13:30 – 15:00 **Sara Matt-Leubner**

*Head of Transfocentre Science-Economy-Society at the University of Innsbruck (AUT).*

**How to optimise and implement impact in a university research program**

*Tea break*

15:30 – 18:00 **Hands-on practice:** How to set up an impactful research program. Introduction, reading time, breakout for groups of 4-5 people, presentations by the participants.

**Day 3: Friday 1 December**

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome & Summary**

09:15 – 10:45 Comparing implementation of Impact in **different countries**

*Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:00 **Problem solving:** going into collected practical issues of the past days

12:00 – 13:00 **Closing** presentation & discussion with summary & most important lessons