

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

Organised by:

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE



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Background and Goals

Science funders and research programme designers are constantly challenged to maintain an effective and efficient science funding system in order to allocate resources, while justifying the investments in scientific research towards their stakeholders. As understanding of the limitations of existing justification frameworks grows, the pressure rises on (non-)governmental 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 and its programs: The Research Excellence Framework (REF) in the UK, the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the US and the EU research programmes, such as Horizon2020 and the upcoming FP9.

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 programme will discuss:

- ✓ Best practices, such as REF, NSF, Standard Evaluation Protocol, new and developing systems in the Nordic countries and more, Comparing these systems in Austria and surrounding countries;
- ✓ Involving external stakeholders in academics, government, industry and society;
- ✓ How to most effectively structure research program to link scientific excellence to the needs of society.
- ✓ Integrating societal impact ex ante, ex durante or ex post in research strategies;
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.

The Pre-Course Lecture

On November 28 at 17:00 (the day before the Winter Course) the University of Vienna in cooperation with AESIS will organise a Pre-Course Lecture. In this lecture more general themes concerning the Impact of Science and the state of Societal Impact of Science in Austria will be discussed. The Pre-Course Lecture will take place at the main building of the University of Vienna (Universitätsring 1, Vienna) from 17:00 till 19:00. The Pre-Course Lecture will consist of presentations from three speakers, a discussion round and a wine reception. Participants of the Winter Course are, of course, invited to join this lecture as part of the course.

The speakers for the Pre-Course lecture will be:

Kathryn Graham

Kathryn: Executive Director of Performance Management and Evaluation at Alberta Innovates

Christiane Spiel

Prof. Christiane Spiel is co-leading the third mission project at the University of Vienna

Celine Loibl

Dr. Celine Loibl: Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of Austria

Tuesday 28 November

20:00

Welcoming Dinner

Wednesday 29 November

09:00

Word of welcome by the course-directors:

Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham

Barend: Head of the Science System Assessment, Rathenau Institute (the Netherlands).

Kathryn: Executive Director of Performance Management and Evaluation at Alberta Innovates.

09:15

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?

10:45

Break

11:00

Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham

Overview: a pragmatic approach to research impact

Case Study Session 1: Introducing the case study and group forming

12:30

Lunch

13:30

Mike Smith

Chairman at the Institute of Knowledge Transfer, Managing Partner at Harper Keeley & Dean of Research at the University of Leeds.

Research strategy & funding systems; optimising societal impact

Interactive exercise

15:30

Break

16:00

Steven Hill

Head of research policy at the Higher Education Funding Council for England,

Making impact: lessons from the UK's Research Excellence Framework

- Incentivizing impact via assessment and funding

Interactive exercise

17:15

Recap & remaining questions

17:30

Reception

Thursday 30 November

- 09:00 **Welcome & Summary**
- 09:30 **Sabine Mayer**
Analyst at the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG).
Agency perspective on societal impact
- 10:30 *Break*
- 11:00 **Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham**
Tracing impact for evaluation and monitoring
- 12:00 **Case Study Session 2: Lessons learned**
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 **Sara Matt-Leubner**
Head of Transfocentre Science-Economy-Society at the University of Innsbruck.
Involving external stakeholders in setting up and maintaining an impactful research program
Interactive exercise
- 15:30 *Break*
- 16:00 **Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham**
Case Study Session 3: Reading time and preparation
How to set up an impactful research program
- 17:45 **Recap & remaining questions**
- 18:00 *Dinner*

Friday 1 December

- 09:00** **Welcome & Summary**
- 09:15** **David Budtz Pedersen**
Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Humanomics Research Centre, University of Copenhagen & former Strategic Adviser to the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science
Policy perspective
- 10:15** **Panel: Sabine Mayer (chair), Mike Smith and**
Case Study Session 4: Presentations of Participants
- 11:30** ***Break***
- 12:00** **Barend van der Meulen & Kathryn Graham**
Problem solving: going into collected practical issues of the past days
Closing presentation & discussion with summary & most important lessons
- 13:30** ***Lunch & End***