

Implementing a National Research Impact Strategy

A 2.5-day International Training Course

3 – 5 April 2019
Bilbao, Spain



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

In cooperation with:



Supported by:



Implementing a National Research Impact Strategy

April 3-5, Bilbao, Spain

Background and reasoning

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 politics. The pressure increases on governmental and non-governmental science funding organisations to demonstrate the economical and societal returns on their investments in science.

All around the world, experts are improving the process of measuring and communicating the impact of science on society. In the past years, new methods have been developed to better evaluate and prove the societal impact of scientific research by universities and research institutions. Nevertheless, impact methods, tools and assessment exercises and mechanisms serve as a means (never as an end in itself) to explain this process in its broader context of society as a whole.

Research with societal impact includes different stakeholders from researcher, policymakers, research councils, local municipalities and beyond, also different causal logics, different expectations for impact and different timelines for social impacts to occur, as well as different scale effects. Increasingly, research councils do not just ask to promise impact of new research ideas, but also to plan activities involving stakeholders and proving impact. There is a need for societal impact measurement in this regard to be pragmatic, focus on a direct causal chain of likely societal impact and within a sphere that can be measurable. Expectations need to be managed with regards to the level of feasible change from one research project or intervention to the other, in order not to set funders' expectations too high. As result, together policymakers, research councils and other stakeholders have to co-develop effective systems to adapt existing national or regional frameworks and guide coordinated actions involving academic and non-academic actors.

During this interactive training seminar, experts from multiple countries, leading the innovation in research funding approaches, will discuss their experiences. They will provide insights on how national or regional research impact strategy can be organised. The seminar brings together experiences of organisations, insights in the dynamics of research impact, as well as a hands on case study.

Themes

- ✓ Qualitative and quantitative assessment of research impact;
- ✓ Connecting societal impact in national research strategies;
- ✓ Gaining support for impact from universities and researchers;
- ✓ Lessons from international best practices for developing an impact strategy;
- ✓ Tailor made approaches; comparing Impact Strategies for different scientific disciplines
- ✓ Case study – How to implement a new strategy with all stakeholders?

Target audience

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

- ✓ Members of research councils and research foundations;
- ✓ Managers of University research;
- ✓ Regional, national and international policymakers
- ✓ Professionals involved in promoting the impact of science;
- ✓ Experts on innovation or scientometrics

The board is involved in composing and realizing the course programme.

David Phipps *Executive Director, Research & Innovation Services, Division of Vice-President Research & Innovation, York University, Canada*

David Sweeney *Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom*

Paul Wouters *Professor of Scientometrics & Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Leiden University, the Netherlands*

*** to be confirmed**

Wednesday 3 April

- 08:30** *Registration with coffee and tea*
- 09:00** **Word of welcome by Deusto University & AESIS**
- 09:05** **Opening**
José María Guibert
Rector of the University of Deusto, Spain
Adolfo Morais Ezquerro*
Deputy Minister for Universities and Research, Basque Government, Spain
- 09:15** **Word of welcome by the course-directors:**
David Phipps, David Sweeney & Paul Wouters
- 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?
- Overview:**
- What is a National Impact Strategy?
 - How can you initiate such a strategy and who needs to be involved?
 - Role of the Ministry of Science, the Research Councils, Universities, Research Partners
- 09:45** **David Phipps**
Executive Director, Research & Innovation Services, York University, Canada
- Policy Frameworks for impact of science. What are the conditions for embracing impact?**
- 11:00** *Break*
- 11:30** **Course-directors**
Case Study Session 1: Introducing the case study and group forming
- 12:30** *Lunch*
- 13:15** **Claire Donovan (case to be decided)**
Reader in the Division Health Sciences at Brunel University, United Kingdom

*** to be confirmed**

Wednesday 3 April (cont.)

14:30 **David Sweeney**
Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom
Instruments for a national impact strategy - Lessons and prospects UK

15:30 **Break**

16:00 **Harriet Bell**
Emerald Publishing Marketing Director
Comparing national performances

17:15 **Recap & remaining questions**

17:30 **Reception**

Thursday 4 April

08:30 **Registration with coffee and tea**

09:00 **Welcome & Summary**

09:30 **Paul Wouters**
Impact as performance

10:30 **Break**

11:00 **Marta Wróblewska**
Doctoral Researcher at the Polish National Centre for Research and Development & the Warwick University, Poland
Framework for Assessing Impact

12:30 **Lunch**

13:15 **Paula Adam* (case to be decided)**
Head of Research at the Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia, co-founder and co-chair of the International School on Research Impact Assessment, Spain

*** to be confirmed**

Thursday 4 April (cont.)

14:30 Deusto Representative

15:30 *Break*

16:00 Case Study Session 2: Brainstorm and preparation

17:15 Recap & remaining questions

18:30 *Dinner*

Friday 5 April

08:30 *Registration with coffee and tea*

09:00 Welcome & Summary

09:30 Case Study Session 3: Presentations of Participants

11:00 *Break*

11:30 **Course-directors**

Problem solving: going into collected practical issues of the past days

Closing presentation & discussion with summary & most important lessons

12:30 *Lunch & End*

*** to be confirmed**