

Draft Programme for the interactive course on

Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment & Stimulation

21 - 23 April 2021

Online

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE



Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment

In the past years, experts have worked to improve the process of measuring and communicating the impact of science on society around the world. New methods have been developed to better evaluate societal impact of scientific research by science funders and research institutions. These impact assessment tools and methods have served as a means (never as an end in itself) to aid science funders and research programme designers in maintaining an effective and efficient science funding system, while justifying the importance of investing in scientific research towards society. There are rising pressures to demonstrate economical and societal returns on these investments on governmental and non-governmental science funding organisations; therefore, our 2021 Spring Course will focus on **Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment**, and explain impact evaluation processes in the broader context of society as a whole.

Diverse stakeholders — from researchers, policymakers, research councils, to local municipalities and beyond — are now included in research with societal impact, as well as different causal logics, expectations for impact, varying timelines, as well as different scale effects. Increasingly, research councils are asking for more than just the promise of impact in new research ideas, but also stakeholder engagement plans. In this regard, it is necessary for societal impact assessment and stimulation to be pragmatic, focused on a direct causal chain of likely impact, and within a sphere that can be measurable. The level of feasible change from one research project or research to the other may not always be mutually applicable, and funders' expectations should be managed accordingly. As a result, together policymakers, research councils, and other stakeholders have to co-develop effective systems to develop or adapt national or regional frameworks for impact and guide coordinated actions involving academic and non-academic actors.

Target audience

Members of ministries of science, research councils and research foundations

Regional, national and international policymakers

Experts in innovation or scientometrics

Any professionals involved in promoting or assessing the impact of science

This interactive online training seminar brings together international leading experts in innovating research funding approaches, to discuss their experiences and provide insights on how national or regional research impact strategy can be organised. Participants are able to put their training into practice at the end of the seminar with a case-study assignment.

Main Themes:

- ◆ Best practices for developing an impact strategy from international perspectives;
- ◆ Qualitative and quantitative assessment of research impact;
- ◆ Connecting societal impact in national research strategies;
- ◆ Gaining support for impact from universities and researchers;
- ◆ Tailor made approaches; comparing Impact Strategies for different scientific disciplines

Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment

Open to Delegations and Individuals

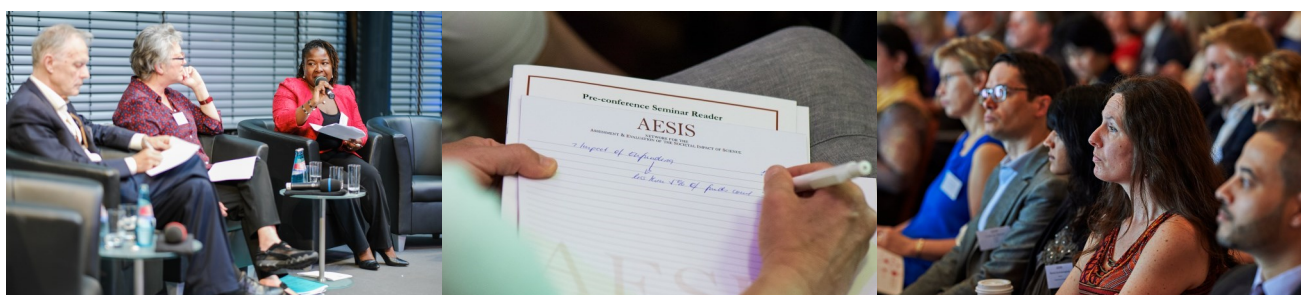
Any development or implementation profits from group-effort, especially when there are so many stakeholders involved with their own perspectives, language and needs. Therefore we invite you to register to this course with a team of colleagues inside and outside your organization, for maximum effect of the expert insights that will be shared. Furthermore, by bringing together delegations of several countries this course offers a platform for discussion and knowledge exchange of a vast variety of experiences.

Every delegation at the course will receive the opportunity to share the biggest challenges they face with AESIS, so that these topics can be included in the programme for maximum output. You will also receive your own slot to present your case and have both speakers and participants provide ideas and feedback to your team. This way we aim to have you return to your workplace fully prepared to take immediate steps towards developing and/or implementing your national impact assessment and stimulation strategy further and more effectively.

We look forward to meeting you!

AESIS Advisory Board

Koenraad Debackere	General Manager at K.U. Leuven, Belgium
Beverley Damonse	Executive of Science Engagement and Corporate Relations, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa
Luke Georghiou	Vice-President for Research and Innovation and Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Barend van der Meulen	Professor Institutional Aspects of (Higher) Education, Director CHEPS, Twente University, the Netherlands
Andrew Plume	Senior Director of Research Evaluation at Elsevier, United Kingdom
Susan Renoe	Assistant Vice Chancellor, University of Missouri & Executive Director of the NSF Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society
Toby Smith	Vice President of Policy at the American Association of Universities, USA
David Sweeney	Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom
Paul Wouters	Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director of CWTS, Leiden University, The Netherlands



Draft Programme

Wednesday 21 April

all times in CEST (GMT+2)

Day 1

SETTING THE IMPACT AGENDA

8.30 - 8.50 Walk-in

8.50 Word of Welcome by AESIS

Presentations

9.00 National Impact Strategy

- ◆ Policy Frameworks that enable research impact
- ◆ Research Excellence Framework (REF) developments

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

10.15 - 10.45 Break

10.45 Eco-System for Successful Impact

- ◆ Engagement and Impact Assessment (ARC)

Impact strategy specialist (representative, Australian Research Council)

12.45 - 13.30 Break

Delegation Presentations

13.30 Delegations 1 & 2

- ◆ Defining the purpose and need of your impact agenda
- ◆ Current barriers to achieving impact and strategies of breakthrough

Interactive discussion, exercise & conclusions

14.15 How to align national objectives with science-ecosystem for long-term effect

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 Challenges to assessment of impact as incentive
Performance-based research funding

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

16.30 End of Day 1

* confirmed speakers

Draft Programme

Thursday 22 April

all times in CEST (GMT+2)

Day 2

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH IMPACT

8.30 - 8.50 Walk-in

8.50 Recap of Day 1 & Introduction to Day 2

Presentations

9.00 Responsible Research Evaluation & Impact Assessments

- ◆ Operationalising impact for different sectors and disciplines
- ◆ Assessment criteria: Quantitative or Qualitative indicators

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

10.15 - 10.45 Break

10.45 Methods and Tools for Assessing Impact

Impact assessment specialist (tbd)

12.45 - 13.30 Break

Delegation Presentations

13.30 Delegations 3 & 4

- ◆ Current status of your impact assessment
- ◆ Current barriers to evaluating impact and strategies of breakthrough

Interactive discussion, exercise & conclusions

14.15 Assessment of impact at the institutional and national level
& Obstacles to effective impact assessment

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 The limitations of metrics - Mapping interactions or impact?

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

16.30 End of Day 2

* confirmed speakers

Draft Programme

Friday 23 April

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Day 3

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR IMPACT

8.30 - 8.50 Walk-in

8.50 Recap of Day 2 & Introduction to Day 3

Presentations

9.00 Gaining support on impact from stakeholders

- ◆ Diversified perspectives on the role of research and broader impacts
- ◆ Promoting impact strategies for universities
- ◆ Co-produced pathways to impact

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

10.15 - 10.45 Break

10.45 Circling back from science policy to science for policy

Stakeholder engagement specialist (tbd)

12.45 - 13.30 Break

Delegation Presentations

13.30 Delegations 5 & 6

- ◆ Current status of your stakeholder engagement
- ◆ Current barriers to gaining support in- and outside of science for impact

Interactive discussion, exercise & conclusions

14.15 Perspectives on and strategies for stakeholder engagement

Mapping the barriers to inclusive impact

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 Increasing your Research Impact Literacy to complete the strategy

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

16.30 End of the Course

* confirmed speakers