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
Tuesday 2 April

19:30 Welcoming Dinner

Wednesday 3 April

08:30 Registration with coffee and tea

09:00 Word of welcome by AESIS

09:05 Opening:
Adolfo Morais Ezquerro  
*Deputy Minister for Universities and Research, Basque Government, Spain*

Rosa Santibañez  
*Vice-Rector for Research and Transfer at the University of Deusto, Spain*

09:25 Word of welcome by the course-coordinators:  
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?  
- Role of non-academic partners in impact  
- Research impact in the global context  
- Policies, services and networks to support impact: national, institutional

11:00 Break
Wednesday 3 April (cont.)

11:30  **Course-coordinators**

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

12:30  **Lunch**

13:15  **David Sweeney**  
*Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom*

**Instruments for a national impact strategy - Lessons and prospects UK**
- Research Excellence Framework (REF), development to 2021
- Strategic insights derived from impact assessment
- What are the challenges of assessment as incentive for impact
- Issues to consider in the International context

14:30  Follow up by Aleksander Dańda, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, on the new Polish provisions on evaluation of societal and economic impact of research

14:45  **Antonia Caro Gonzalez**  
*Head of International Research Project office, University of Deusto, Spain*

**The 6i Research Model: an innovative institutional impact-driven research and innovation STI policy framework - The case of the University of Deusto**
- How can universities integrate the increasing demands for delivering impactful research to society?
- Connecting the dots: universities rethinking their research activities to generate new creative dynamics
- Analysing the role of research institutions in responding to societal challenges from different stakeholders points of view

15:45  **Break**

16:00  **Harriet Bell**  
*Marketing Director, Emerald Publishing, United Kingdom*

**Creating an ecosystem in which impact can thrive**
- Why publishers need to pivot to support impact
- The space that Emerald is carving out and the reason why
- Working through the Institutional Impact Health check
Wednesday 3 April (cont.)

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

Impact as performance
- How do we define impact?
- How do academic excellence, societal relevance and impact relate to each other?
- The performative effects of research evaluation in general and impact assessment in particular

10:45 Break

11:15 Marta Natalia Wróblewska
Researcher at the Warwick University, United Kingdom & National Centre for Research and Development-NCBR, Poland

Developing frameworks for assessing impact in different academic cultures
- Impact case study - a new academic genre
- Impact narratives and why they are so different depending on the culture
- What can linguistics tell us about the reception of impact evaluation in academia?

12:30 Lunch
Thursday 4 April (cont.)

13:15  Claire Donovan  
Reader in Science Policy and Research Governance at Brunel University, United Kingdom  
Broader societal impacts: power, politics, and public engagement  
- Stakeholder perspectives on broader impacts  
- The politics of impact  
- Strategies for public engagement and research coproduction

14:30  Paula Adam  
Director 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  
Multi-faceted participatory research impact strategy  
- Cultural change management  
- Mutual learning approach  
- Combining retrospective with prospective approach

15:45  Break

16:00  Case Study Session 2: Brainstorm and preparation

17:15  Recap & remaining questions

19:00  Reception & 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
Friday 5 April (cont.)

11:30  
**Course-coordinators**  
Closing  
- Problem solving: going into collected practical issues of the past days  
- Discussion with summary & most important lessons

12:30  
**Lunch & End**

14:00  
**Social Programme - Guggenheim Museum Tour**

16:00  
**Social Programme - Bilbao Boat Tour**