Outstanding Support NU2EU

Outstanding Support to the Early Stage Researchers: NU2EU

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Over 180 years of history

500 courses to choose

4 Facultes

18 Schools and Institutes,

95% graduate employability

What is NU2EU

- 10-12 Early Stage Researchers
- 4 Faculties
- Project Support Office
- UoW Brussels Office
- Consultants
- External Partners as and when needed…

A unique Partnership: Building Institutional Capacity

Research & Enterprise Associate Dean also Enterprise Educator =
- Educator, Faculty Leader gives Academic Career focus

Three Times Three company =
- Funding expert gives Researcher/Vitae focus

Horizon Europa Ltd company =
- Business expert gives Business / Commercial focus

European & Business Developer =
- EU Funding and Policy expert gives New Horizon 2020 / Brussels focus

University Project Support Office =
- EU Funding and bid management expert gives exploitation, commercial and Knowledge Exchange focus (and BUDGET)
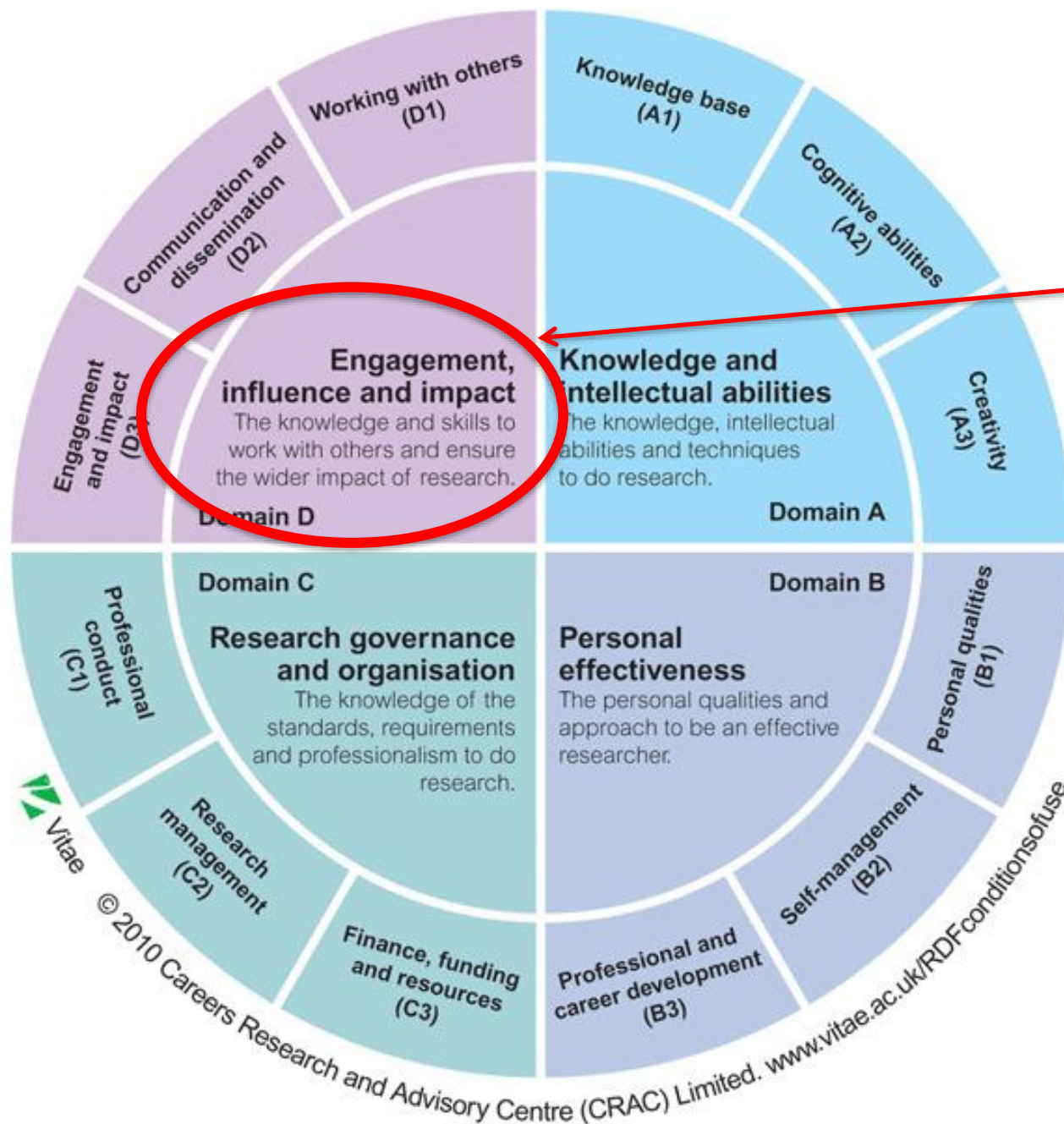
Our Assets

- ✓ UoW Brussels Office - a Research & Innovation gateway
- ✓ External consultants to support Research and Innovation
- ✓ University research strategic plan – 'commercialisation of research'
- ✓ University strengths in working with SMEs
- ✓ Operationally – Commercial awareness linked to the greater value of research
- ✓ Map to Horizon 2020 – excellence, exploitation and impact
- ✓ Timely University re-organisation and new University Framework

Designing a programme of support for researchers' **professional development**

The strategy is to grow research with funding and expertise but;

- We are research active so what about researchers that are new to this work?
- Growing Opportunity means growing capability and collaboration?
- Do we need a research programme or commercialisation training?

Thoughts?

We decided our need was increased confidence, understanding, partnerships and (non research) skills

Learning outcomes:

- Build <u>confidence</u> and <u>collaborative</u> relationships in relation to research and funding calls in Europe
- Achieve a full <u>understanding</u> of the EU research funding landscape
- Build skills in producing competitive <u>funding</u> proposals
- Increase understanding of how the <u>research</u> results can be taken to the <u>market</u> or society

Programme outcomes:

EU bid applications

Progress towards research publications

Collaboration with new researchers in Europe and internally and non-academic organisations.

Time commitment:

Approximately 100 hours with 50 hours matched by the candidates' Faculties and an additional 50 hours by the researcher using some Self Managed Research & Scholarly Activity (SMRSA) time. Attendance on all full days and participation in the directed activities is mandatory.

Mandatory pre-requisites for the programme.

• The ability to attend the entire programme.

• Prior experience of securing funding (in UK/EU).

• A track record of recent research publications.

• A credible track record of leading research projects and/or some experience of participating in externally funded research projects.

• A willingness to actively participate in reviewing the pilot and shaping future programmes.

How to apply:

An application from a researcher approved by the Dean of Faculty submitted to PSO for approval. This should include a profile of the candidate and outline how attendance on the programme will complement his/her career development and Faculty objectives.

Programme Example (NU2EU no 1):

Day 1, UK

Getting started, building networks for funding, understanding the funding landscape. An introduction to the EU funding calls.

Day 2, Brussels

Achieving an understanding of EU research funding and preparing a research pitch. A visit to the European Parliament.

Day 3, Brussels

Practitioners' event on Horizon 2020 with the EU Commission, researchers and businesses from Europe. Getting to know the EU in Brussels, networking with potential partners, discussion of project ideas with the EU officials.

Day 4, UK

Writing successful European bids. A practical day for participants to examine what success looks like and gain some top tips.

Day 5, UK

Progress updates, follow-up and evaluation – both personal and programme.

Programme Example (NU2EU no 3)

Day 1: Introduction, how EU works, pitch;

Day 2: Identifying and developing EU proposal. European consortium;

Day 3: <u>Excellence</u> (theory and practice);

Day 4: European orientation (Brussels);

Day 5: Presenting research, working with partners (Brussels);

Day 6: Working with successful peers (evaluators, grant holders) & MCSA training;

Day 7: <u>Impact</u> (theory and practice);

Day 8: Writing a competitive H2020 proposal (theory and practice);

Day 9: Internal procedures (Budgets, Approvals, Project Management, Open Access, Ethics, etc);

Day 10: <u>Implementation</u> (theory and practice).

Day 11: Brokerage event or meetings with partners and EU (Brussels);

Day 12: Proposal Development Day and reflection

Demonstrating the value of the NU2EU researcher development programme

How did we evaluate?

Question design:

1. Being able to look holistically at the individual against UK-wide development/skills – e.g. *vitae researcher development lens (D3)*
2. Understanding how the development related to the overall development of senior staff at professorial level or aspiring to this level against a recognised competency – e.g. *Professorial KPI's*
3. Being able to track the impact of the training directly relating to EU experience : and training e.g. The goal of the programme: *Understanding and Accessing European Research Funding*

Demonstrating the value of the NU2EU researcher development programme

How did we evaluate?

Evaluation Tool: Programme Effectiveness Tracker
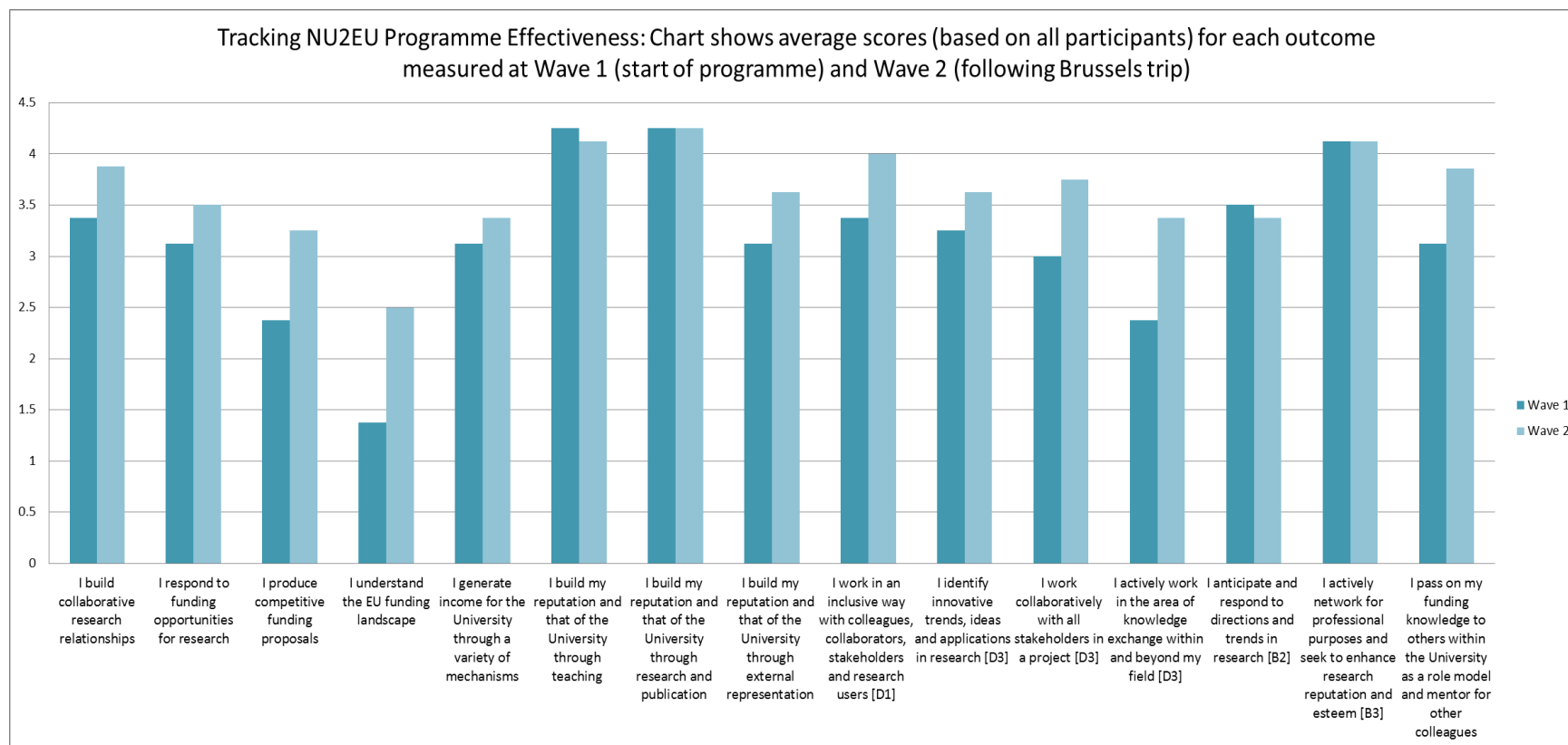
Survey – 4 stages

Example questions:
- I work in an inclusive way with colleagues, collaborators, stakeholders and research users [D1]
- I identify innovative trends, ideas and applications in research [D3]
- I actively network for professional purposes and seek to enhance research reputation and esteem [B3]
- I build my reputation and that of the University through research and publication
- I generate income for the University through a variety of mechanisms

Demonstrating the value of the NU2EU researcher development programme
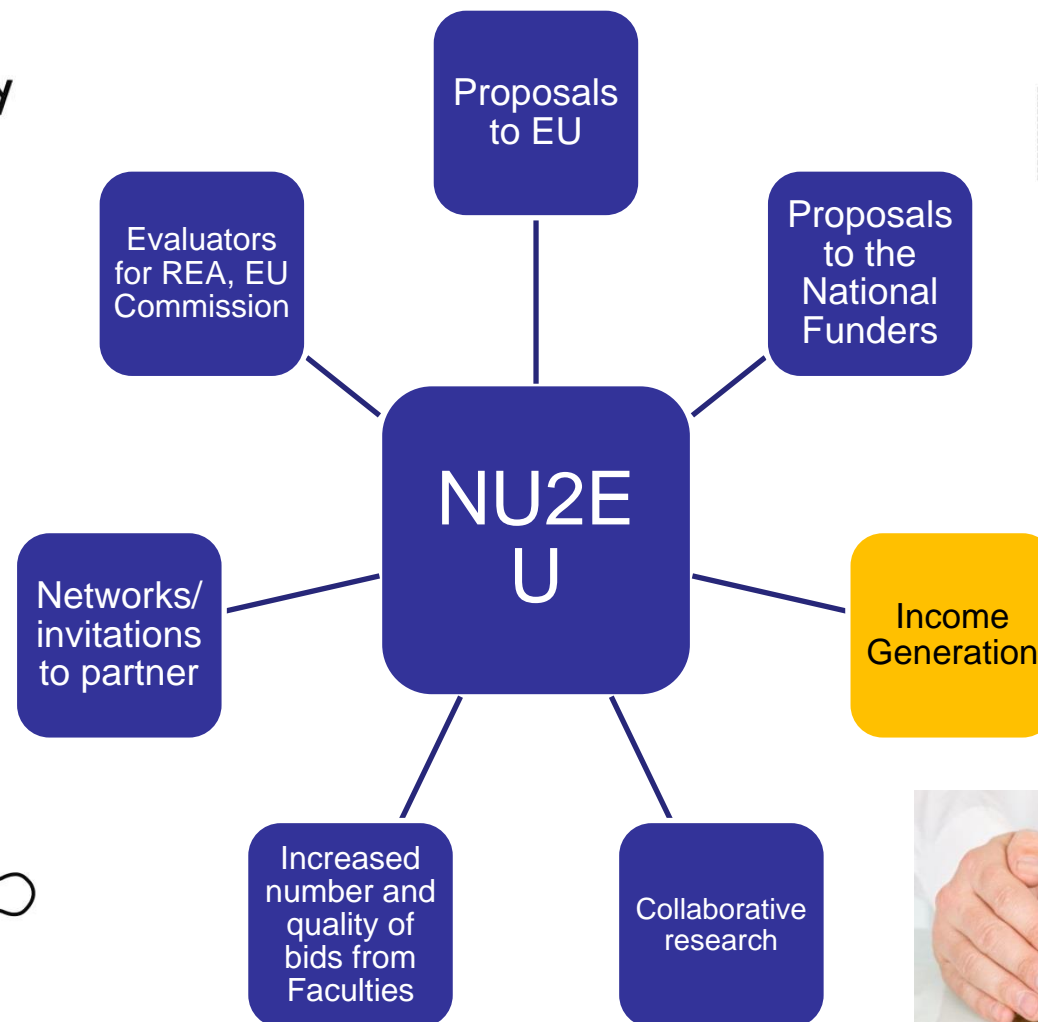
What were the outcomes? Benefits?

Tracking NU2EU Programme Effectiveness: Chart shows average scores (based on all participants) for each outcome measured at Wave 1 (start of programme) and Wave 2 (following Brussels trip)

What do you observe?
Any thoughts?

Key	
5	A clear strength
4	A developing strength
3	Neither a strength nor an area for development
2	An area where some development is required
1	An area where significant development is required

Some Results per cohort

- ✓ Increased confidence in all participants, 1 participant promoted within their field of expertise and 1 has been made a professor

- ✓ 10 new research collaborations with international partners

- ✓ 4 programmes to attract research fellows from international universities

- ✓ Participation as partners in 2 projects and lead applicant on 2 projects worth 998,936 Euros in total

- ✓ Participants developed increased scientific confidence to talk about their work in a wider EU and university context.

- ✓ Greater awareness of EU research opportunity within the participants enhancing their career potential; 5 strong collaboration opportunities in development with participants to further Research Activity worth 2.5M Euros in total

- ✓ 3 EU Experts/Evaluators for H2020

Some feedback

"The whole course has been invaluable, well organised and relevant".

"Now I feel confident about applying for funding and much more knowledgeable".

"We left with the feeling that we will be fully supported by the team in our future bids".

"The personal insight form Tatiana and Roger has been very useful for the future development of the project".

"This (Project Development Day) was the highlight of the course. A fabulous event! We had the best opportunity to make the most of it".

"The brokerage event has been extremely useful and a good opportunity to sharpen the focus on my project and meet some potential partners".

Thank you!

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