

Rethinking Impact – working with a broader definition of impact

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Rethinking Impact – working with a broader definition of impact

Definition of impact and impact at different levels

How might the definitions of impact be broadened to reflect greater SSH inclusion, interdisciplinarity and linkage to the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

Presentation of impact cases

How can researchers and research managers communicate about (proposed and achieved) impacts?

How could such broadened impacts be measured and reflected in FP9 indicators?



Rethinking Impact

Main tasks of Bettina Uhrig, Senior Adviser for Internationalisation

Informing colleagues on relevant European networks, programmes, policy papers, calls, research findings and events

Initiating, coordinating, leading and evaluating proposal processes

Supporting and facilitating projects during the contract phase, the project implementation and during the reporting phase

Participating in international conferences and networks, e.g. member of the **‘EARMA Policy & Representation Committee’**

Special focus on scientific and societal impact: Impact Manager in the Horizon 2020 SC6 project DARE (2017-2021)

Expert for DG RTD and the Research Council of Norway (RCN)



Rethinking Impact - Definitions of impact

‘Impact broadly defines the wider societal, economic or environmental cumulative changes over a longer period of time.’

(European Commission, *Horizon 2020 indicators – Assessing the results and impact of Horizon 2020*, Brussels 2015, page 6)

‘**Scientific consequences** (impact) are, for example, the advancement of knowledge and how the research landscape is influenced....’

Societal consequences include addressing questions, such as what does society gain in the form of better products, better services, healthier lives, better welfare, a sustainable development, etc.’

(European Science Foundation, *The challenges of Impact Assessment*, Strasbourg 2012, page 5)



Rethinking Impact - Definitions of impact

Horizon 2020

Scientific impact – spreading excellence

Innovation and economic impact –
involvement of the private sector

*Societal impacts – social improvements
in particular through section three ‘Societal Challenges’*
<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/h2020-sections>



Rethinking Impact - Definitions of impact

Horizon 2020 – interim evaluation

Towards Societal impacts – more needs to be done

Closer link to the UN SDGs

Gender equality and embedding SSH

Feedback from projects to policy-making



Rethinking Impact

Horizon 2020 – interim evaluation

‘There is a need for **greater outreach** to civil society to better explain results and impacts and the contribution that research and innovation can make to tackling societal challenges, and to **involve them better** in the programme co-design (agenda setting) and its implementation (co-creation).’

European Commission, *Key findings from the HORIZON 2020 interim evaluation*, Luxembourg 2017, page 21



Rethinking Impact – Lamy report, 2017

Investing in the European future we want

Recommendations aimed at maximising the impact of future EU research and innovation programmes

4. Design the EU R&I programme for greater impact

5. Adopt a mission-oriented, impact focussed approach to address global challenges (→ Mariana Mazzucato, *Mission-Oriented Research & Innovation in the European Union*, Luxembourg 2018)



Rethinking Impact – organisational level

Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Evaluation of research in the social sciences (SAMEVAL)

‘The self-assessments from the institutions will include factual information about the organisation, its resources and strategic plans, national and international research collaboration, dissemination and societal impact of the research, as well as education activities....

The Research Council will provide data on its funding of social sciences research and supplementary information on the societal impact of the social sciences in Norway.’

(Research Council of Norway, *Evaluation of research in the social sciences in Norway 2016 – 2018 – Terms of Reference*, Oslo 2016, page 3)



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

‘NOVA will combine scientific excellence with the practical policies needed for new knowledge. The knowledge we produce, interpret and communicate must have relevance for the challenges facing the welfare society.’ (NOVA’s Strategy 2015-2018)

NOVA’s strategy comprises scientific and societal impact.

Tools for scientific impact: e.g. academic publications, active participation in research conferences, **impact indicators:** e.g. citations in other publications and changes in research policies and programmes

Tools for societal impact: e.g. close collaboration with stakeholders, e.g. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), **impact indicators:** e.g. changes in laws and legal regulations



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups
(descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

Research group: Ageing Research

‘Our research on senior workers and labour force participation has informed policy documents and provided important input for political and public debates on raising of the mandatory retirement age in anticipation of the Pension Reform of 2011 and in the succeeding years.’

Project examples:

Multilinks (FP7) and ACCESS Life Course 2010-2014 (RCN)



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups
(descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

Research group: Young People at Risk (YPR)

‘For several years, NOVA has conducted important research on youth at risk, which provides valuable information to the society about the characteristics of the young people and their family and changes over time. This research involves also several publications in scientific journals and books. This research involves both quantitative and qualitative studies. ...NOVA’s high-quality data sets have facilitated the YPR-group’s scientific impact, which again has contributed to both expansion and improvement of these data sets’.

Project examples:

UNGDATA (National budget Norway - a cross-national data collection scheme, designed to conduct youth surveys at the municipal level in Norway), NEGOTIATE (H2020) and DARE (H2020)



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups (descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

Findings and questions arising from the descriptions of the research groups:

All research groups underline their relevance for achieving scientific and societal impact: scientific impact through academic publications; societal impact through collaboration with stakeholders and influencing policies.

Who are the stakeholders?

‘We work closely with governmental and non-governmental organisations and stakeholders (e.g. UNICEF, Save the Children and Forandringsfabrikken).’

(Research Group: Young People at Risk, SAMEVAL document, page 37)



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups
(descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

How do we collaborate with stakeholders?

‘Stakeholders are also increasingly included in user and/or advisory groups in our research projects.’

(Research group: Ageing Research, SAMEVAL document, page 13)

In EU funded projects we involve stakeholders at different levels and in different ways, for example:

as members in International Advisory Committees and in National Stakeholder Committees/Groups;

as Consortium Members in H2020 SC6 collaborative research projects, examples: NEGOTIATE, DARE.



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups
(descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

How do we communicate with stakeholders?

‘In our experience, many of the stakeholders prefer a presentation of research findings in popularized reports written in Norwegian, which is why the group also prioritizes this type of dissemination.’

(Research Group: Young People at Risk, SAMEVAL document, page 35)



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups
(descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

Impact on teaching

‘Although teaching is not one of the core activities of the group, our research is often used as curriculum for different university and university college courses both in Norway as well as abroad..... The data, which we produce, is used for teaching statistical methods and several members of the group are involved as teachers in courses in gerontology.’

(Research group: Ageing Research, SAMEVAL document)



Rethinking Impact – case study NOVA

Impact – reached by research groups
(descriptions provided for SAMEVAL)

Data-sets and impact

‘NOVA’s high-quality data sets have facilitated the YPR-group’s scientific impact, which again has contributed to both expansion and improvement of these data sets.’

(Research Group: Young People at Risk, SAMEVAL document, page 37)



Rethinking Impact – case study DISCIT

FP7, Social Sciences and Humanities, collaborative research project
01 February 2013 – 31 January 2016, € 2,957,131

Main objective: New knowledge on exercising and promoting Active Citizenship for persons with disabilities

10 Consortium Members from 10 different countries and several Committees: International Scientific Advisory Committee (six members), European level Stakeholder Committee (seven members), nine National Stakeholder Committees (three to six members each)

Coordinating organisation: NOVA,
Scientific Coordinator: Bjørn Hvinden, Project Manager: Bettina Uhrig



Rethinking Impact – case study DISCIT

Outcomes (April 2018)

<https://blogg.hioa.no/discit>

217 life course interviews and 85 expert interviews in nine different countries

25 scientific working papers (Deliverables), 12 peer-reviewed articles, two edited volumes, one dissertation, four thesis

Between February 2013 and January 2016, 60 different dissemination activities incl. the Final Conference in Brussels in November 2015. **09 November 2017, Oslo: presentation and discussion of the two edited volumes**

Nine Policy Briefs (some in different languages), three briefing notes for policy development, four videos, participation in public consultations

Knowledge development, new proposals and projects, 10 new jobs

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Rethinking Impact – case study DISCIT

DISCIT was one of the impact case studies in the FP7 project IMPACT-EV, <http://impact-ev.eu/>, and one of the case studies provided for SAMEVAL.

Who facilitates and monitors the impact during and after the end of the project?

Do we need **Impact Managers**?



Rethinking Impact – case study DARE

H2020 SC6

Dialogue About Radicalisation and Equality – DARE

The impact agenda of DARE is to use the knowledge it generates, in collaboration with policy and practice stakeholders at European, national and regional levels, to counter radicalisation at its social roots.’ (DoA, page 32)

Coordinator: University of Manchester, UK

17 consortium members, one International Advisory Group and twelve National Stakeholder Groups

2017 – 2021, <http://www.dare-h2020.org/>



Rethinking Impact – case study DARE

Core principles DARE (DoA, page 32):

...focusing on the long term causes and consequences of radicalisation.

...the ongoing connection by trained individuals with people at risk of radicalisation.

Societal challenge impact and scientific excellence impact are not separate spheres but mutually inform and reinforce each other.



Rethinking Impact – case study DARE

Measures to maximise impact

Stakeholder engagement, e.g. through National Stakeholder Groups (NSGs) and dialogue workshops

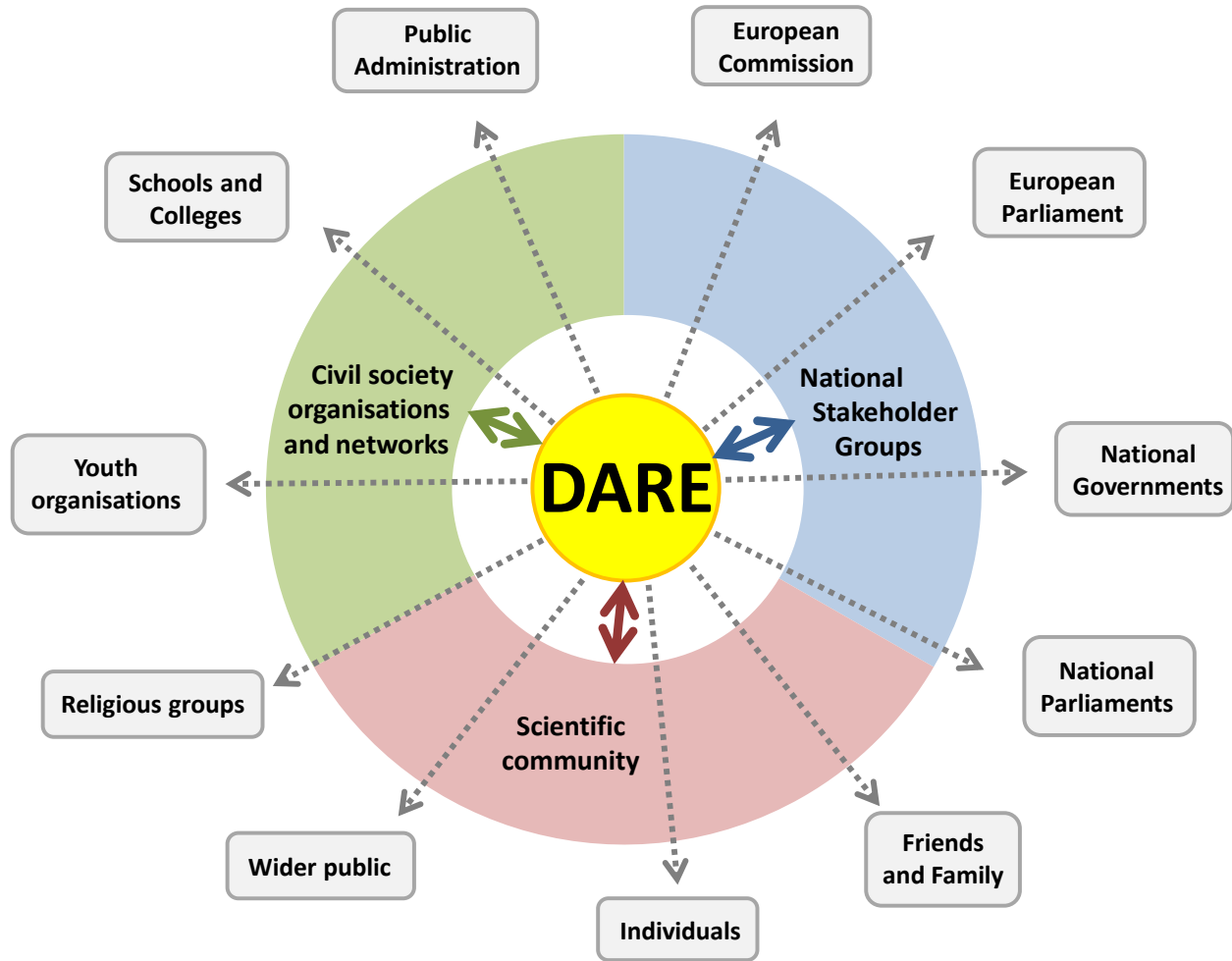
Impact sub-committee (ISG) and Impact Manager (monitoring and evaluating impact)

Public organisation consortium members: European Network Against Racism (ENAR, Belgium) and The People for Change Foundation (PfC, Malta)

Plan for Exploitation and Dissemination of Results (PEDR)



Rethinking Impact – case study DARE



Rethinking Impact – resume and more questions

What means a **broader definition of impact**?

How could it look? (Embedding SSH?)

Which **indicators** do we need to change and/or to develop?

Will the **mission orientation** and a stronger link to the **UN SDGs** help to create a wider impact?

Could it be useful to involve an **Impact Manager** – at which level (project, department, organisational, research programme)?

Which tasks could an Impact Manager have?



Rethinking Impact - Communication

Don't forget to celebrate your success

