Reflective tool for research funders

When to use?

When preparing to fund collaborative research

Ask yourself...

- Were researchers across a spectrum of disciplines, and individuals from other sectors, fully involved in the development of this funding scheme or call?
- Were scholars with experience in inter- and trans-disciplinary research involved in the development of this funding scheme or call?
- Does the research call use language that encourages multiple approaches to the topic?
- If the proposed research is aimed at solving societal problems, does it leave the framing of these problems open, or does it suggest narrow framings that for instance assume they need technical solutions?
- Do your processes assume that each project or work package will be led by one senior academic? What might this mean for potential integration across the project?
- Does your call ask for an explanation of an application's underlying concept of interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity?
- Does your call ask them to clarify how key challenges of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research – like problem framing, integration or exploring how to have impact – will be addressed?
- Has the research call been widely advertised with enough time so that those who have not previously applied can submit a credible application?
- Is it easy for potential applicants to get advice about the aims of the funding scheme and how to develop a high-quality application?
- Would you consider offering seed corn funding to launch projects in new interdisciplinary directions?
- Or a two-stage process where feedback is given on outline applications before a full application is submitted?
- Do your funding schemes allow for the extra time necessary to undertake high-quality collaborative research due, for example, to larger research groups and greater uncertainties?

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- Do they also allow for the extra costs incurred when undertaking collaborative research, such as initial events to develop partnerships and to jointly develop problem framings, or facilitation to improve communication, to find common ground or for learning and integration processes to happen within larger projects?
- Who does your organisation use to evaluate collaborative research proposals? Are they experienced collaborative researchers, familiar with best practice in ID/TD evaluation?
- Are there ways in which you could help collaborative researchers develop networks and communities?
- How else do you support collaborative researchers and share best practice?

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