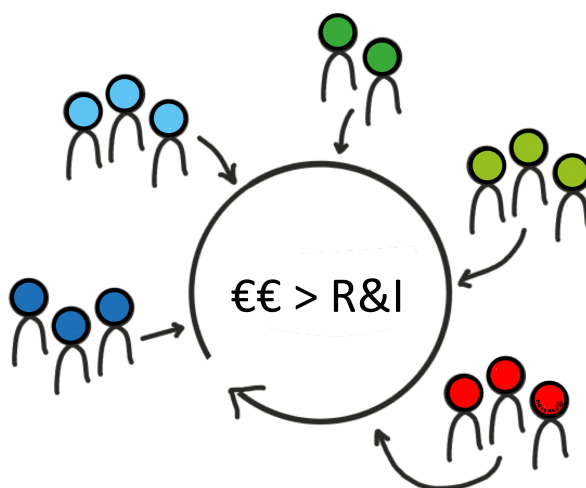




TRAINING AND REFLECTION MODULE FOR PROFESSIONALS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Research and Innovation (R&I) Funders Workshop



In a nutshell

This workshop will focus on the role that research funders can play in increasing the impact of the research that they fund. This supports R&I policy coherence and alignment for food system transformation.

What for?

To improve R&I policy coherence and alignment

How long?

2 hours (+ 8-16 hours of preparation)

For whom?

Facilitators, Funders, Policy Makers, Researchers, Businesses

Created by

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Something to share?

Leave us a comment about this tool on the platform. You can also contact Kristiaan Kok (k.p.w.kok@vu.nl)
This tool was developed as part of FIT4FOOD2030 project, see this tool and others on the FIT4FOOD2030 Knowledge Hub.

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How to cite?

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What will you gain from this?

This tool provides a script to facilitate a 2-hour workshop that focuses on the role that research funders can play in increasing the impact of the research that they fund. This is the body text, just select this caption text and start writing whatever you need, you can make it as long as necessary.

This workshop can lead to concrete outcomes such as a policy brief or an action plan, as well as to an increased engagement for food system transformation of participating stakeholders, in particular R&I funders, in delivering food system transformation



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (R&I) FUNDERS WORKSHOP

This tool provides a script to facilitate a 2-hour workshop that focuses on the role that research funders can play in increasing the impact of the research that they fund. Applying holistic - or systems - approaches and transdisciplinary R&I are ways to make the R&I system more effective, particularly when dealing with complex challenges like transition of the food system. It thus aims to contribute to support the uptake of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). The policy-science interface and the role of funding instruments are also addressed during this workshop.

R&I can play a key role in leveraging transformation towards more sustainable and healthy food systems. While R&I has been successful in addressing compartmentalized challenges in food systems, current R&I systems do not fully support urgently needed systemic transformation. This is partly due to a fragmented R&I landscape as well as too little financial support and alignment for transdisciplinary and systemic R&I efforts (see for instance, SCAR, 2018; den Boer et al., 2020).

Funders can play an important role in delivering on food system transformation through funding more holistic, integrated and transdisciplinary R&I projects and programs. This workshop aims to engage a multi-stakeholder audience, including R&I funders, in rethinking the way funding instruments and research programming can contribute to future-proofing food systems.

This workshop can lead to alignment of R&I policies and funding schemes through:

- concrete workshop outcomes such as a policy brief or an action plan
- increased engagement for food system transformation in participating stakeholders, in particular R&I funders
- increased awareness and adoption of holistic and transdisciplinary R&I approaches

Recommended readings related to food systems R&I (funding):

SCAR (2018). Assessment of Research and Innovation on Food Systems by European Member States. Standing Committee on Agricultural Research. Brussels.

Den Boer, A. C. L., Kok, K. P. W., Gill, M., Breda, J., Cahill, J., Callenius, C., ... & Broerse, J.E.W. (2020). Research and innovation as a catalyst for food system transformation. *Trends in Food Science & Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2020.09.021>

Thematic area

Research and Innovation Funding, Stakeholder Engagement, Policy Alignment and Coherence, RRI

Target audience

Mainly R&I funders, but also policy makers, researchers, businesses

Number of participants

± 20-50

Number of facilitators

4-10 (± 1 per 8 participants)

Prior knowledge required for participation

Participants should ideally have some knowledge on the local context of R&I funding, R&I programming and/or R&I projects.

GETTING PREPARED

This interactive workshop consists of two different rounds of interactive discussions as well as a plenary introduction and plenary wrap-up. The discussions focus around 4 different topics:

- i) Programming what: agenda-setting and program design
- ii) Programming how: how to incorporate RRI in programs
- iii) Project support for impact: monitoring and evaluating
- iv) Programme alignment across sectors

Materials

- Flexible room design with up to 5-10 tables
- Beamer with PPT
- Flip-chart
- Post-its
- Markers + pens
- Attendance list with possibility to fill in contact details to collaborate and follow-up after the workshop
- Informed consent forms
- If needed: 1 recorder per table to record the discussions

FLOW

STEP 0: Preparation.

- Make sure that the facilitators (1 per table), and presenters are well prepared and have the facilitation script.
- Divide the participants in groups in advance, OR, let people choose on the spot after you have explained the workshop outline during STEP 1.
- Make sure the set-up of the room supports the workshop: flexible set-up in 'banquet' or 'interactive workshop' style

STEP 1: Welcome and introductory presentation (30 minutes)

- Introduce the topic: the role of R&I funding in food system transformation
- Introduce the outline of the workshop
- TIP: have some guest-speakers giving innovative examples/pitches of how to do R&I funding differently

STEP 2: Workshop in 3 rounds (75 minutes)

- Round 1: why RRI?
- Round 2: identifying barriers for transformations
- Round 3: Plenary wrap-up: towards an action agenda
- See the detailed script below
- The workshop as a buffer/break of 15 minutes

FACILITATOR TIPS

This tool needs to be carried out together with the participants. During multi-stakeholder dialogues you as a facilitator (or moderator) have an important role to play to ensure the active participation of all the participants in the given time frame while also reaching the session goals.

As a facilitator you need several skills and competences, such as verbal and non-verbal skills, negotiating skills, flexibility, and leadership. You will need to create an environment in which all participants feel secure, are able to speak up and give their perspective on issues being discussed. This means that you may have to stimulate some participants to speak more often, while you may have to prevent other participants to speak too often or too long. It also means that you will need to avoid discussions on issues that are not directly relevant.

A brief guide with facilitation tips is provided along the this script on the Knowledge Hub.



FACILITATION SCRIPT FOR R&I FUNDERS WORKSHOP

DURATION: 2 HOURS (can be longer if necessary)

Round 0: introductory presentations

First, the topic is introduced and the themes of the workshop are outlined by the workshop facilitators:

- Introduction to the role of funders and Responsible Research and Innovation
- Introduction workshop/themes



TIPS & TRICKS

It works well to include a couple of brief presentations 'from the field': experiences from innovative funders. For instance: one 5-minute pitch by a private funder and one 5-minute pitch by a public funder, to increase engagement of the audience and stimulate creative ways of thinking.

The different tables of this workshop are:

- i) Programming what: agenda-setting and program design
- ii) Programming how: how to incorporate RRI in programs
- iii) Project support for impact: monitoring and evaluating
- iv) Programme alignment across sectors
- v) Make sure there are extra tables available (incl. back-up facilitators) in case the participant division

Appoint one **Lead Facilitator**, who oversees the overall timeline and workshop outline.

- The lead facilitator explains the informed consent forms and if applicable, the recorders at the tables and the purpose of those recordings.
- If the participants have not yet been assigned to a specific topic in advance, the lead facilitator indicates that everyone can choose a theme of their interest, points out which table is which theme in the room.

Round 1: Why RRI? (20 minutes)

In this round, participants of the different tables have the opportunity have the possibility to introduce themselves (in particular of course in relation to the theme). Within this round tables aim to discuss why it is important to incorporate (elements of) RRI in one particular theme?

- The facilitator introduces her/himself and the theme of the table. **(2 mins)**
- A round of introductions by the participants: **(8 mins)**



TIPS & TRICKS

In order to help the facilitators guiding the discussions, some specific questions that they can ask at particular points in the workshop are framed in → *italics*

→ *Can you introduce yourself, what is your relation to RRI/funding and to this theme in particular?*

- Appoint someone who takes notes on the big flip-over sheet on the table **(0 mins)**
- Start with inventorying the urgency for incorporating (elements of) in RRI funding schemes? **(10 mins)**

→ *Who of you would like to share why you think it is important to incorporate (elements of) RRI within this theme?*

→ *Can some of you share examples (best practices) of why this was needed?*

Round 2: identifying barriers for transformations (35 minutes)

- Please decide – together with the participants – whether it is convenient to have a brief (coffee) break in between the rounds.

In this round, the tables aim to identify barriers for incorporating elements of RRI within the themes, drawing from their own experiences. Participants can share lessons, stories and best/bad practices. Ideally, this discussion might already head in the direction of discussing pathways for transformation, based on the barriers and experiences. The detailed set-up of this round is as follows:

- Facilitators explain the purpose of this second round **(1 min)**
- Facilitators hand out post-its (2 to each participant)
- Identify barriers of incorporating important elements of RRI in the theme and ask the participants:
 - *Please write down two barriers to RRI-ing the [theme] on the post-its. (2 mins)*
- Facilitators start assembling the different barriers and drivers on the flip-over **(20 mins)**
 - *Who would like to share a barrier?* (let participant explain barrier and add to flip-over)
 - *Who has a similar barrier?* (the facilitator can start clustering barriers)
 - *Who has a different barrier?* (continue until all barriers are on the flip-over)
 - *Are we missing any important barriers?* (facilitator adds new barriers on post-its to the flip-over)
- The final part of this round focusses on seeing ‘the bigger picture’ of these barriers: how can we strategize to overcome the barriers? **(10 mins)**
 - *Does anyone have suggestions how we can strategize to overcome barriers in order to incorporate RRI to funding within [theme]?* (let participants discuss further on these strategies, make sure the note-taker takes notes on the flip-over)
- Wrap up and appoint person to summarize some elements of the discussion in the third (plenary) round **(2 mins)**
- Facilitator thanks all participants for their input in the discussions.

Round 3: [plenary] lessons and action-agenda (20 minutes)

In this round, lessons will be drawn from discussions at the different tables, and we will strategize towards follow-up steps: how to continue?

Lead: **one facilitator** will lead the plenary discussion. One other facilitator takes notes on the flip-over in the room to summarize the findings of the third session.

- Each group summarizes findings (**5 mins, 5 x 1 minute**)
- Facilitator aims to draw conclusions from the summaries together with the participants (10 mins)
 - ➔ How can we integrate these findings?
 - ➔ What lessons can we learn?
- Facilitator discusses how to continue with these findings. Suggestions for follow-up workshop, action-plan, policy brief etc. will be discussed in collaboration with the participants (**5 mins**)
- Facilitator points – again – to the informed consent forms
- Facilitator points out possibility to signing up on list to be contacted for follow-up actions
- Facilitator thanks all the participants and other facilitators and concludes session

Buffer/break-time (15 minutes)

EXPERIENCE WITH THIS WORKSHOP

This workshop was organized by the FIT4FOOD2030 project on the 5th JPI HDHL Conference “DIET AS LEVERAGE POINT TOWARDS A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM” on February 20, 2019 in the context of EU R&I systems and the FOOD 2030 policy framework. Around 40 people participated, including public and private funders, researchers, and policy makers on different levels and from different sectors. A brief report from this workshop is presented in the box below.

This workshop by FIT4FOOD2030 focused on the role that research funders can play in increasing the impact of the research that they fund. Applying a holistic or systems approach and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) are ways to make the R&I system more effective. Participants of this workshop discussed their experiences and identified barriers to implementation of RRI in small groups on four different themes: agenda-setting and program design, how to incorporate RRI in programs, monitoring and evaluating and program alignment across sectors.

Some key insights from this workshop on strategies to overcome the identified barriers include;

- Establishing multi/transdisciplinary European food research platform
- Identification of best practices from countries with good R&I infrastructure
- Building platforms for sharing results, experiences and narratives
- Fostering public-private collaborations, with a facilitating role for private foundations with public benefits
- Create political will to support overarching cross-sectoral programs
- Building new skills and competences for RRI & innovative funding



Coordinated by:



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