

How an impact plan can build on the success of your project – from proposal to legacy

Sofia Alexiou (1), Ivo Grigorov (2), Eleanor Ashton (1), Georgia Bayliss-Brown (3), and Cliona NiCheallachain (3)

(1) National Oceanography Centre, United Kingdom, (2) DTU Aqua, Denmark, (3) AquaTT, Republic of Ireland

Research Impact is often defined as the ‘demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy’. Impact is important as it demonstrates the value of funding agencies’ investment into science. Measuring impact is an essential of project management, from proposal phase to output. However, impact can mean a range of things to different people and organisations. When applying for funding, it is critical to check and understand the type of impact recognised by the relevant funder and to consider opportunities for building in multiple benefits. In 2015, it was observed that the drive to ‘get stricter on impact’ had a direct effect on the evaluators’ instructions and subsequent proposal ratings. As funding agencies are reshaping assessment processes and implementing new indicators of impact and new innovation actions, it is clear that a need to demonstrate performance, impact and added-value must be included within the proposal phase.

Within this EOS21 Session we address common questions on:

- What do the funders want and where are they going?
- How do these new indicators affect the Research Evaluation Framework (REF)?
- How is ‘societal impact’ of research measured?
- How do I write an impact plan?