

**WORKING TOGETHER TO
CO-CREATE KNOWLEDGE:**
A unique co-creation tool



A UNIQUE CO-CREATION TOOL

This tool has been developed by a collaboration between a University, Industry, a Local Authority and the Voluntary and Community and Social Enterprise (VSCE) Sector.

It follows our involvement in the Horizon2020 ACCOMPLISSH project where we worked with 11 other European countries and learned about how people from different sectors can work together to create the maximum impact from research (grant agreement no. 693477).

More information about ACCOMPLISSH can be found at www.accomplish.eu/

We found that very few guides focus on the co-creation of research or target an audience from more than one sector. Many guides and tools concentrate on co-production between a sector and its users. This tool is designed to address the gap by focusing on co-creation by people engaged in what is commonly referred to as a 'quadruple helix'. What is unique is that this tool has itself been developed by such a partnership. A key message from our co-creation process was that partners prefer to engage with a variety of different tools, rather than a single handbook or toolkit. This booklet has been produced as part of a suite of resources that includes infographics and a video.

OUR PRINCIPLES OF CO-CREATION



1.

Some challenges are too big and complex for one organisation to tackle alone, and need multiple perspectives



2.

Time is needed to build trust, and everyone's time and knowledge needs to be valued



3.

Once trust is established, the project should have a united and clear sense of purpose which is understood and shared by partners



4.

Each partner needs to benefit from the co-creation, but this benefit can take different forms

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Working together to co-create knowledge and research can achieve lots of things.

It can:

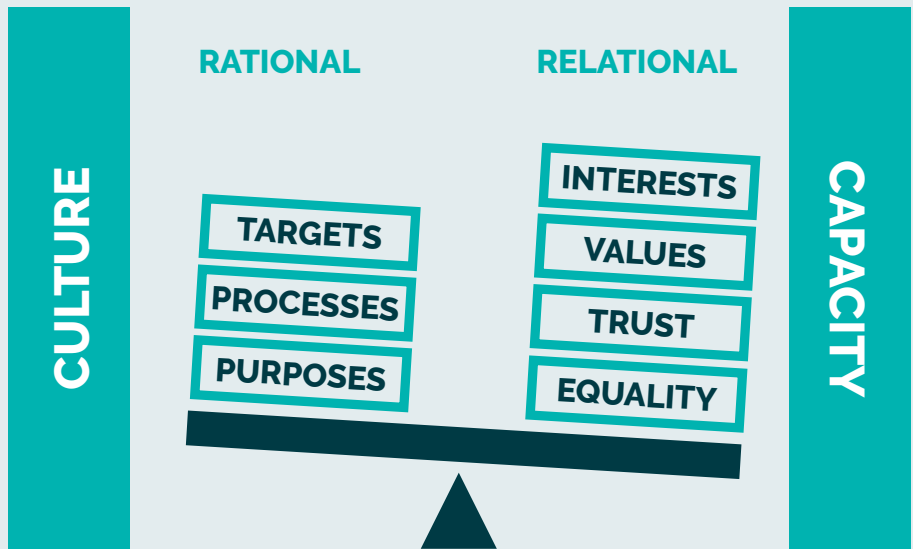
- Help to make sure that lots of different kinds of knowledge are applied to an issue or problem;
- Enable researchers to do research that is relevant to partners and produces findings that they can use to change their practices or their policies and inform their work;
- Make it more likely that research has real world impact;
- Be personally satisfying;
- Provide ways of tackling big societal challenges that we cannot tackle alone;
- Build longer-term relationships for tackling further challenges.

This booklet is aimed at those partnerships that try to span boundaries and contain members from Universities, Businesses and Industry, Local Government and policymaking organisations, and voluntary, charitable or social enterprises.

Working in this way can be hard. Everyone brings something different to the partnership. People (or the organisations they are part of) may want to get something different from the partnership. They may ask questions in different ways, or use different words and have different ways of working. This tool will help.

SUCCESSFUL CO-CREATION

A balance of the rational and relational



Partners need to understand each other, the contexts they come from, and the 'life-worlds' they are part of. We have drawn on the work of Julia Unwin¹ and hope that by using this booklet together, partners can come to understand more about each other. Partners can realise that working together is about both the 'rational' side of a partnership, and the 'relational' side.

The rational side of a partnership involves deciding and carrying out agreed processes and tasks to satisfy particular targets and outcomes. The relational side involves acknowledging and understanding each other's interests, values and standpoints, and developing relationships of trust.

Balancing these two aspects are crucial in a successful multi-partner collaboration.

¹ Unwin, J (2018) Kindness, Emotions and Human Relationships: The blind spot in public policy. CarnegieUK Trust: Dunfermline.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

On the next page you will find a set of key questions that can form the basis of both personal reflection, and group discussion.

Personal reflection in advance:

- How would you answer these questions for yourself?
- How would your organisation want you to answer these questions?
- How do you think others in your collaboration might answer these questions?

Personal reflection after group discussion

- What assumptions did you make about how others would answer?
- What surprised you about your partners?
- Are there any points of conflict? How can these be tackled?

Group discussion:

- Use these questions to stimulate discussion as a group. Allow plenty of time – this may take more than one meeting!
- Ensure you hear from each member of the collaboration
- Explore how your answers differ
- Be respectful – there are no right and wrong answers.

THE CO-CREATION COLLABORATION TOOL



The rational (or how to get things done)

Who knows what?

What do you know about
the issue?

What timescales do you expect?

What capacity do you have?

How supportive is your
organisation of this work?

How are you expecting to
contribute?

What do you need to deliver?

What do we want to achieve?



The relational (or how to work together)

How do they know it?

What do you think and feel about
the issue?

Why do you want to do this?

What do you hope to get out of it?

What support do you need from
others to succeed?

What do others need to know
about you?

Who benefits from this work?

How do we differ in our responses?

Credits:

This booklet was developed by:

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Thanks also go to all those too numerous to name who took part in our discussions around what a toolkit for co-creation might look like. We are indebted to you all.

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