

International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2019

Session: Funding Transdisciplinary Research – Innovative Approaches

Funding Agencies:

Belmont Forum, Judit Ungvari Martin
National Science Foundation NSF, Dragana Brzakovic
Wellcome Trust, José Siri
Austrian Science Fund, Uwe Von Ahsen (tbc.)
Robert Bosch Stiftung, Andrea Bruhn (tbc.)
MISTRA, Forsas, (tbc).

Science Policy Organisations:

International Science Council ISC, Vivi Stavrou and Katsia Paulavets
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD, Carthage Smith

Session organisation and moderation: Tobias Buser, Network for Transdisciplinary Research td-net, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, and Flurina Schneider, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern

Abstract

Societal issues such as poverty, water scarcity, and food insecurity make it more important than ever for science to produce knowledge that is relevant to address serious challenges on the ground. A growing number of research funding programmes emphasize the need for transdisciplinary (TD) coproduction of knowledge as one way of making research part of needed societal transformations.

TD research requires conditions that differ from those needed for basic disciplinary research. For example, implementation of TD research requires time, skills, and resources for collaborating with other disciplines and societal actors throughout the research process. This process must include efforts towards joint problem framing, exploration of goals and pathways to societal transformations, and co-production and communication of knowledge with and to non-scientific actors. In addition, evaluation of the quality and impact of TD research demands criteria that do justice to the TD character of the project.

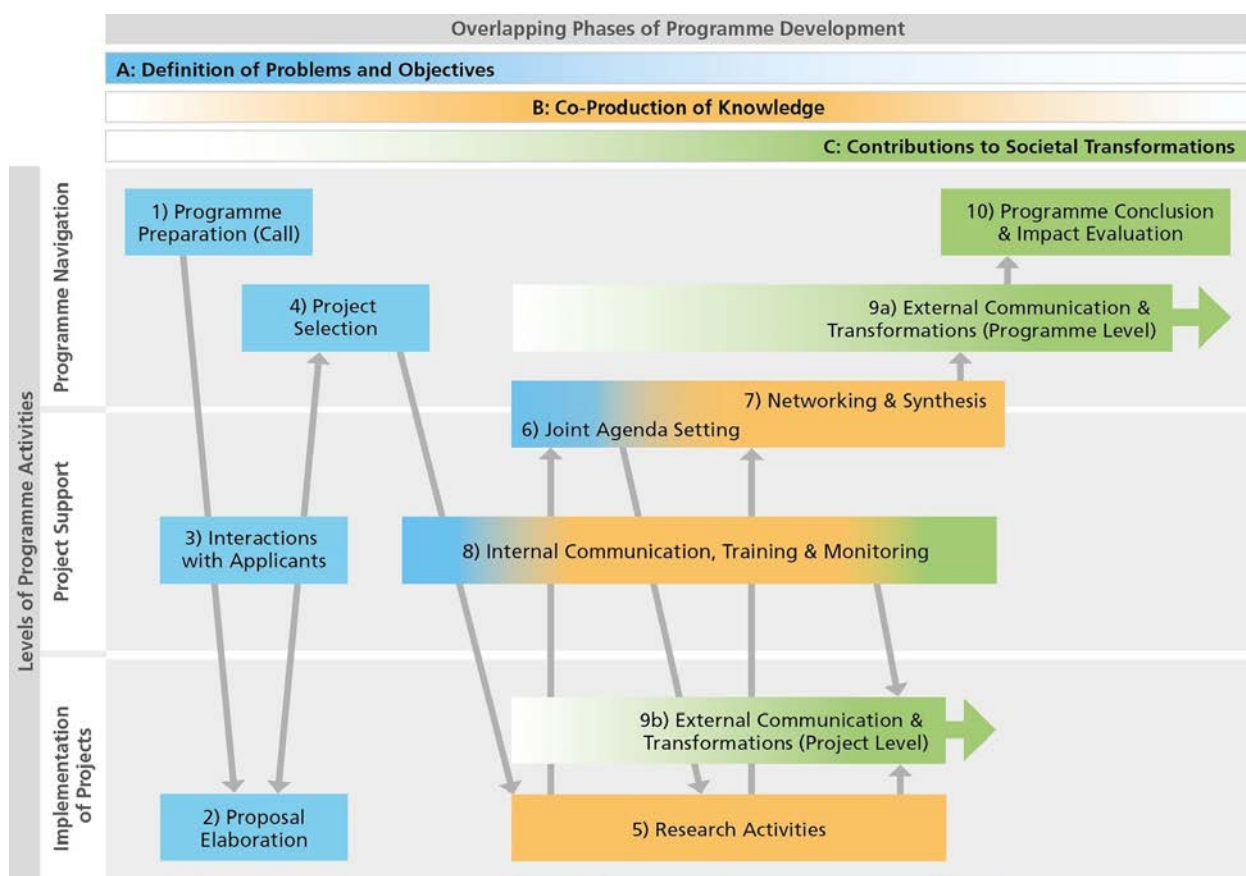
In this session we address the question how TD research can best be enabled and fostered through adequate funding schemes. Leading funders highlight and discuss their approaches and experiences in funding TD research.

To structure the contributions and enable learning across different funding schemes and organisations, we employ the ten key stages developed in the article of Schneider, Buser et al. 2019 “Research funding programmes aiming for societal transformations: ten key stages”.

The aim is to bring together successful and promising approaches addressing the key stages of TD funding programmes in order to contribute to and exchange on good practices for TD funding.

Session design:

- Introduction 10 key stages for Research funding programmes aiming for societal transformations
- Funders briefly presenting innovative approaches in their funding scheme(s), addressing specific stages
- Discussing promising approaches, integrating examples from the audience
- Discussion on gaps and challenges
- Outlook, potential next steps to advance funding for transdisciplinary research



Conceptual model of a transdisciplinary research funding programme involving 10 key stages (Schneider et al., 2019)

Key readings

Schneider, F, Buser, T., Keller, R., Tribaldos, T., and Rist, S. (2019): **Research funding programmes aiming for societal transformations: ten key stages**. *Science and Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scy074> (open access)

Short blog-version: <https://i2insights.org/2019/06/18/funding-transformative-research/>