

Wider Outlook

Welcome to November's Wider Outlook -this month we are looking at resources to help you make your funding bids even more successful, our recent visit from the Leverhulme Trust, and top tips for finding project partners.

As part of our support to successful bidders Chris Kenning outlines the External Projects team contract compliance offer. We also have links to two recent national reports on the role of universities, in economic growth (page 1), and the need for more part time HE learners so support economic performance (page 3). As ever, do contact us with any comments, ideas or suggestions at externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk

Contact Us

For editorial and funding queries contact the External Projects Team:

(01785) 353774

externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk

For research policy & news queries contact:

(01782) 294945

R.I.Gorton@staffs.ac.uk

Useful Links

www.researchprofessional.com

www.ukro.ac.uk

Give universities bigger role in growing economy: Witty

Sir Andrew Witty, Chief Executive of GlaxoSmithKline, one of the UK's major employers, was commissioned by the government to examine how universities can better support economic growth and drive exports.

His report, *Encouraging a British Invention Revolution*, recognises that the UK is a world leader in technology and inventions and has some of the best universities in the world.

But in order to punch its weight internationally in turning inventions into successful businesses, the report says we need to simplify complex funding streams and charge universities with a greater role in delivering economic growth.

The report proposes that "Arrow Projects" – cutting edge technologies or inventions where we lead the world – are created with universities at their tip, while local and

national resources such as the Technology Strategy Board and UK Trade & Industry are lined up behind them to create the maximum economic benefit and to support export led growth.

Sir Andrew calls on the government to back Arrow Projects with £1 billion of funding, either new money or through the redirection of money from existing schemes, and by ensuring a one stop shop for funding rather than the multiple and complex applications that currently exist. In addition, he says universities should better support fast growing, innovation rich SMEs which have the potential to break into global markets and supply chains.

The report has been handed to the government, who have welcomed the review and will make a further, more detailed response in due course. [Witty Report](#)

Up Coming Funding event:

Annual UKRO event on Wednesday December 11th 2013

The event is aimed both at colleagues who have experience of, and those who would like to know more about

EU funding

This is an opportunity to hear about the new **EU Funding Programmes (2014-2020)** with UKRO European Advisor Eevi Laukkanen

Venue: Ashley 112/113, Leek Road, Stoke Campus

Please register externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk , and forward this information to colleagues

Resources

The Leverhulme Trust event

Jean Cater, Assistant Director of the Leverhulme Trust came to Staffordshire University on 25th September to give a presentation about the Trust, it's funding priorities and making applications. The event which took place in Court Room 2 in The Law School was fully subscribed. Academic and Research Support staff from Staffordshire University, as well as from neighbouring HEIs, including Keele, Wolverhampton, Derby, BCU and MMU attended the event.

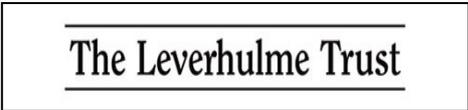
Jean gave an informative presentation which was followed by a Q&A session



and then small group discussions.

Feedback from the event was obtained from a Qualtrics survey. On a scale of 1-10, 91% of respondents rated the event as 8/10 or above. 94% of respondents said the event lived up to their expectations.

A copy of the presentation can be obtained on request from externalprojects@staffs.ac.uk



Finding Partners

Partners are an essential element in most research projects. There is increasing demand from funders to receive collaborative proposals. This can include other institutions or organisations like SMEs and public bodies.

Finding good partners can be key to success in accessing funding. There are numerous ways to do this including

attending conferences, accessing courses with people in your research field, or partners can be met using online resources. LinkedIn has a numerous groups to sign up to. Notices are posted by people looking for project partners. There are specialist groups for each of the EU research areas, plus a range of other specialist partner search groups. They can be found using the search

facility on LinkedIn. In addition ERRIN, European Regions Research and Innovation Network, is a network of more than 90 EU regions and their Brussels-based offices. ERRIN facilitates knowledge exchange, joint action and project partnerships with the aim to strengthen its member regions' research and innovation capacities and enhance their success in EU programmes.

OPEN CALLS

If you are interested in any of these funds please contact the External Projects Team

Joseph Rowntree Foundation -Evidence review: The future of declining cities in the UK	Review the alternative responses to long-term economic decline in cities. The foundation would like to understand how best to connect residents of a declining city to economic opportunities, either in the declining city or elsewhere. £90k –deadline 25/11/13 http://bit.ly/16x9dkz
BIS/British Council -Global Innovation Initiative	Funding for STEM research collaborations between the UK and US working with either Brazil, China, Indonesia or India. 20 projects from £100K-£150K. Deadline 16/12/13 http://bit.ly/Hgvnl8
British Academy- International partnership and mobility scheme UK-China one-year partnerships	Support the development of partnerships between the UK and China, strengthening research excellence through innovative initiatives and links. Awards cover any branch of the humanities or social sciences and are intended to focus on collaborative research on a specific theme of mutual interest. Deadline 05/02/2014 http://bit.ly/16x9dkz
UACES -Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs)	Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs) is to provide some initial funding to enable researchers to develop networks across a range of institutions, which may perhaps leads to bigger projects and funding from other sources in the future. The networks should be inclusive rather than insular. Deadline 02/12/13 http://bit.ly/1ifvKY5

Search open funding calls here <http://blogs.staffs.ac.uk/research/category/resources/funding-calendar/>

Part-time undergraduate higher education

Part-time undergraduate higher education is essential to fostering economic growth through up skilling and reskilling the workforce. It also has great benefits for individuals and society, and supports social mobility and equalities.

There has been a decade of slow decline in recruitment at UK level. And now, in England, there is a serious down-turn,

with entrance numbers to undergraduate higher education down 40% in the last two years.

Universities UK was asked by the government to take a review of part-time and mature undergraduate higher education. This report describes why part-time undergraduate study is important for skills, for society and for individuals, how it is changing; and what in-

fluences are likely to be having an impact, especially in England. It concludes with a set of recommendations aimed at a wide variety of stakeholders. UUK consulted widely during this review, with students, employers, universities, colleges and stakeholder organisations. They also examined the available research evidence. This report acts as an urgent initial assessment, as well as identifying the areas where more information is needed so that the right policy decisions can be made. [UUK report](#)

A Compliance Audit that aims to achieve Best Practice?

ECD will be undertaking compliance reviews of research agreements to discover better practice and fulfil compliance requirements in the milestones, outputs and financial elements.

Although it is rare, it is nonetheless a reserved power in the terms and conditions of many University Research funders, to claw back payments made for funded research where either the work has not been performed, or has not been performed to the requisite standard set by the Funder. Financial penalties can be imposed in the case of a variety of defaults,

Universities are also obliged under current legislation to show that in research agreements the research, indeed the entire product of the research is of public benefit, in terms of the university's charitable status. The main methods for showing public benefit are that the university has sought to preserve intellectual property including exploitation rights, and secured academic publication rights and published works relevant to the

research. All of these aims and outputs are checked in the Compliance Audit and any learning issues in terms of Best Practice in these areas are noted.

A Project Audit will include a general financial audit of the agreement, including compliance with funder's requirements, reporting duties, and ensuring the preservation of accounting and finance information as required for tax and other financial purposes. Where documents, invoices and receipts for payment or spread sheet information need to be preserved, these processes will be reviewed.

The Academic or Faculty is entitled at any stage of the Audit to seek the assistance and presence of Finance or a representative of the School, in Administration or in relation to any aspect of the project. The general aim is to explore compliance and identify best practice, not to make the task needlessly onerous. Findings will be presented as recommendations for the Project Lead to review.

For further details contact our contracts expert Chris Kenning, c.kenning@staffs.ac.uk

Find Funding

Check out how to do your own search for funding

<http://blogs.staffs.ac.uk/research/category/resources/funding->



Commission launches new innovation indicator

Sweden, Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg are the EU Member States getting the most out of innovation, according to a new indicator introduced by the European Commission. The "Indicator of Innovation Output" measures the extent to which ideas from innovative sectors are able to reach the market, providing better jobs and making Europe more competitive. The indicator was developed at the request of EU leaders to benchmark national innovation policies, and shows that significant differences remain amongst EU countries. The EU as a whole performs well in an international comparison, even though it remains behind some of the most innovative economies worldwide.

The new indicator shows a wide range of innovation output across EU Member States (EU average set to 100 in 2010).

The top performers in the EU owe their ranking to doing well on several or all of the following factors: an economy with a high share of knowledge-intensive sectors, fast-growing innovative firms, high levels of patenting and competitive exports.

The novelty of the indicator is that it focuses on innovation output. As such, it complements the Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS) and Summary Innovation Index.

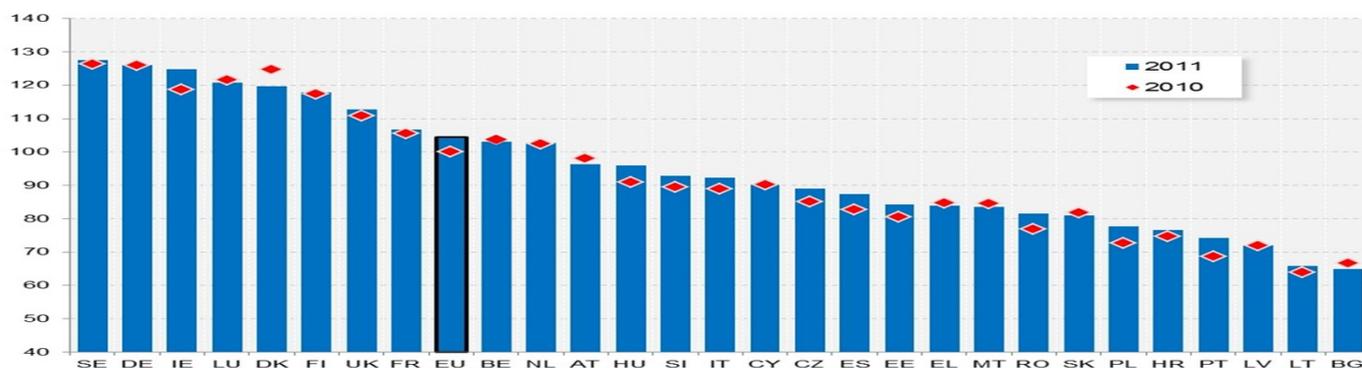
These assess the innovation performance of Member States and the EU more widely, against a broad set of 24 innovation indicators including inputs, throughputs and outputs.

Innovation output is wide-ranging and differs from sector to sector. The indicator is based on four components chosen for their policy relevance:

- Technological innovation as measured by patents.
- Employment in knowledge-intensive activities as a percentage of total employment.
- Competitiveness of knowledge-intensive goods and services. This is based on both the contribution of the trade balance of high-tech and medium-tech products to the total trade balance, and knowledge-intensive services as a share of the total services exports.
- Employment in fast-growing firms of innovative sectors.

A comparison with some non-EU countries shows that the EU as a whole does well. Switzerland and Japan have a clear performance lead, but the EU is more or less even with the United States on innovation output.

[EC Innovation Index](#)



Second European Social Innovation Competition

The Competition is an invitation to come up with new solutions to reduce unemployment and minimize its corrosive effects on the economy and our society both now and in the future. Social innovation is not only desirable, it is necessary. This will help bring projects to life as part of the EU's Social Innovation Academy.

The three winning projects will be awarded financial support of EUR 30,000.

But there's more. Winners of the first round emphasize that the Competition has given them the chance to develop a great idea, to bring legitimacy to their work, and last but not least, to make their solution accessible to more people.

[Social Innovation Competition](#)

