



Pathways to Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research: the SHAPE-ID Toolkit

Find tools and resources to make informed decisions about interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and societal partners.

Fund collaborative research projects

Abstract

The decisions that funders make and the intentions behind funding calls have a major impact on how inter- and transdisciplinary research is shaped, the extent of integration, and ultimately its effectiveness. Additional incentives, support for inter- and transdisciplinary research leadership, administrative flexibility, and a partnership approach between funders and researchers are all required.

This publication compiles resources collected as part of the SHAPE-ID project to support researchers, funders/policymakers, research organisations and societal partners in funding collaborative research.

Compiled by

Isabel Fletcher and Catherine Lyall

Acknowledgements

SHAPE-ID consortium members

Suggested citation

SHAPE-ID (2021). Fund collaborative research projects. Compiled by Isabel Fletcher and Catherine Lyall. SHAPE-ID resource collection series. Zenodo.

[10.5281/zenodo.4743677](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743677)

CCY-BY license

We encourage you to share and adapt these resources under [Creative Commons Attribution \(CCY-BY\) license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



Online source – SHAPE-ID Toolkit

This publication is an extract of the SHAPE-ID Toolkit. For a general overview, visit: [10.5281/zenodo.4743703](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743703).

The Toolkit provides tools and resources to make informed decisions about interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and societal partners.

Contributors & Co-producers

The SHAPE-ID resource collection series is an artefact of collective wisdom. Some resources were generated by the SHAPE-ID team, but many were already available online and the toolkit acts as a gateway to locate them. It was inspired by many inputs from Anna Buchner, Maureen Burgess, Bianca Vienni Baptista, Caitriona Curtis, Isabel Fletcher, Giorgia Galvini, Catherine Lyall, Maciej Maryl, Jane Ohlmeyer, Christian Pohl, Andrea Ricci, Carlo Sessa, Jack Spaapen, Sibylle Studer, Doireann Wallace, Piotr Wciślik, Keisha Taylor Wesselink, Declan Whelan-Curtin.

SHAPE-ID resource collection series

- Understand inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743671](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743671)
- Develop collaborative conditions: [10.5281/zenodo.4743673](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743673)
- Co-create a research project: [10.5281/zenodo.4743675](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743675)
- Fund collaborative research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743677](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743677)
- Evaluate inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743679](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743679)
- Disseminate inter- and transdisciplinary research findings: [10.5281/zenodo.4743683](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743683)
- Improve inter- and transdisciplinary research skills: [10.5281/zenodo.4743685](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743685)
- Support collaborative researchers: [10.5281/zenodo.4743687](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743687)
- Develop a career in inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743689](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4743689)

Fund Collaborative Research Projects

The decisions that funders make and the intentions behind funding calls have a major impact on how interdisciplinary research is shaped, the extent of integration, and ultimately its effectiveness. Additional incentives, support for interdisciplinary research leadership, administrative flexibility, and a partnership approach between funders and researchers are all required.

Resource highlights

- SHAPE-ID Top Ten Tips for developing inter- and transdisciplinary research funding programmes: [10.5281/zenodo.4743693](https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.4743693)
- Reflective tool for research funders: funding inter- and transdisciplinary research: [10.5281/zenodo.4743695](https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.4743695)
- SHAPE-ID Case Study: The Irish Research Council: [10.5281/zenodo.4743691](https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.4743691)
- SHAPE-ID Policy Brief: Maximising Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences integration in inter- and transdisciplinary research for effective responses to societal challenges: [10.5281/zenodo.4442373](https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.4442373)

Subtopics

Co-design funding calls



Understand the influence of funding on the outcomes of ID/TD



Support AHSS disciplines in ID/TD funding processes



Identify relevant funding sources



Budget for ID/TD processes



Resources per subtopics

Co-design funding calls [▲](#)

This SHAPE-ID policy brief provides advice and short case studies regarding the design of funding calls and the importance of the language used in them in order to make them more inclusive and accessible to different disciplines.

[VISIT SITE](#)

In this SHAPE-ID webinar representatives of funding agencies from different European countries discuss their challenges and efforts to develop funding programmes with AHSS involvement in inter- and transdisciplinary research.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

In this i2S blog, a group of Swiss transdisciplinary researchers and funding-agency staff outline 10 key stages in the funding of transformative research. They highlight ways in which funding programmes can better support such research.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Understand the influence of funding on the outcomes of ID/TD [▲](#)

In this Short Guide for Funders of Interdisciplinary Research, the authors summarise how some of the decisions that funders make can impact how interdisciplinary research is shaped, the extent of integration, and ultimately its effectiveness.

[READ PDF](#)

In this related Open Access article, the same authors further discuss the role of funding agencies in creating interdisciplinary knowledge and suggest five key success factors for interdisciplinary programmes.

[READ PDF](#)

Support AHSS disciplines in ID/TD funding processes [▲](#)

SHAPE-ID has produced a short list of reflective questions for institutions funding collaborative research, informed by project findings on good practice in supporting AHSS participation.

[READ PDF](#)

And SHAPE-ID partner Catherine Lyall has provided her Top Ten Tips for those developing inter- and transdisciplinary research funding programmes.

[READ PDF](#)

Funding agencies can support integrative research involving AHSS disciplines by giving further consideration to certain processes such as the framing of funding calls as outlined in this SHAPE-ID policy brief.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Case study 7.2 on p. 148 of the Open Access book *Interdisciplinary Research Journeys* illustrates how one national funder has sought to model good practice.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Chapter 6 of the US National Academies' Open Access book *Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research* deals with the question of how funding organisations can facilitate interdisciplinary research.

[VISIT SITE](#)

We also discussed this topic at the second SHAPE-ID Learning Case Workshop. Read the Edinburgh Workshop Report (Section 3.1) in our report on the full workshop series.

[VISIT SITE](#)

SHAPE-ID has collaborated with the Irish Research Council to develop a case study on their funding supports for inter- and transdisciplinary research capacity building and AHSS leadership in ID/TD research.

[READ PDF](#)

Identify relevant funding sources [▲](#)

The European Union is one of many research funders in Europe and this graphic from the Royal Society of London illustrates other potential sources such as charities and business.

[VISIT SITE](#)

To understand more about European Union funding you may wish to follow up with your National Contact Point (NCP).

[VISIT SITE](#)

This section from the National Academies' open access book *Enhancing the Effectiveness of Team Science* gives a US perspective on sources of funding for collaborative research.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Net4Society, the international network of National Contact Points for the Societal Challenge 6 ("Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies") in Horizon 2020, regularly publishes guides to opportunities for Social Sciences and Humanities integration in collaborative European framework programmes.

[VISIT SITE](#)

Budget for ID/TD processes [^](#)

In episode 3 of this podcast (runtime 39 min) Alice McClure from University of Cape Town's Climate System Analysis Group discusses budget issues including common mistakes and some tips on writing a budget narrative.

[VISIT SITE](#)

A short written summary from the above podcast is also available.

[READ PDF](#)