

Research staff forum
Understanding research impact
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- **REF2014:** Research Excellence Framework
- **RCUK:** Research Councils UK
- **Beneficiaries/research users:** the individuals or groups of people who benefit from a specific piece of research



What is impact?

“**Impact** is defined as an **effect** on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, **beyond academia**”

- HEFCE definition for REF 2014



What is impact?



The **demonstrable** contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy. Economic and societal impacts embrace all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations by:

- fostering global economic performance (UK competitiveness)
- increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy,
- enhancing quality of life, health and creative output.

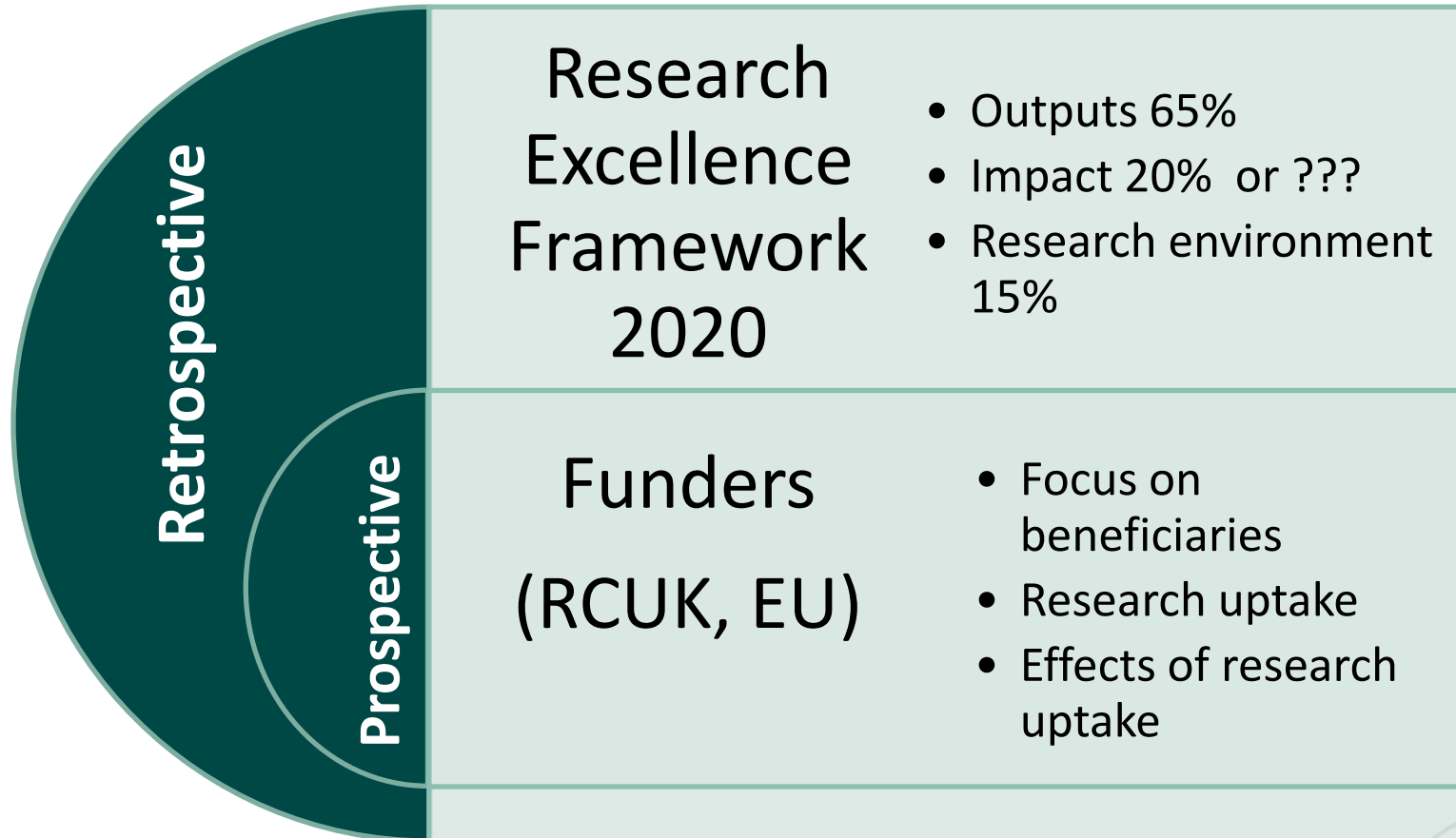


Why impact?

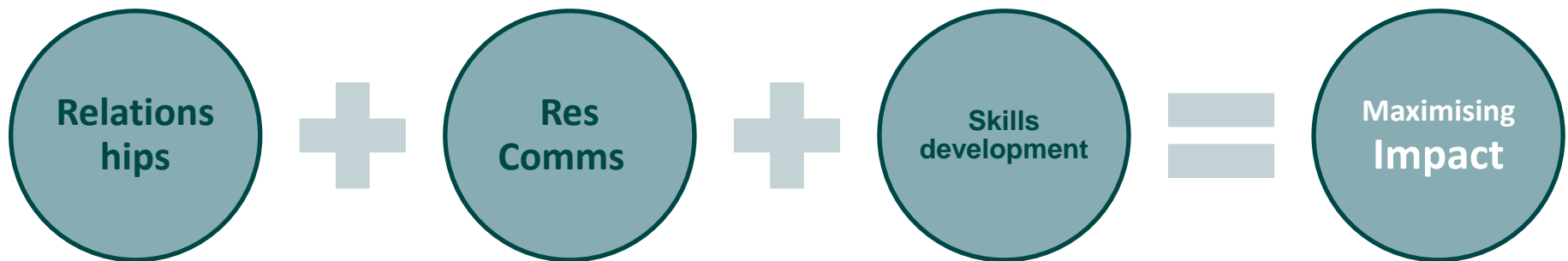


- Not a new concept
- Allocate funding in an age of austerity
- Accountability for publicly funded research and benefits
- Early focus on economic benefits





- Engaging with **non-academic** research users (relationships)
- **Maximising** the impact of research (research communications)
- **Training** highly-skilled people (capacity-building)



Types of impact

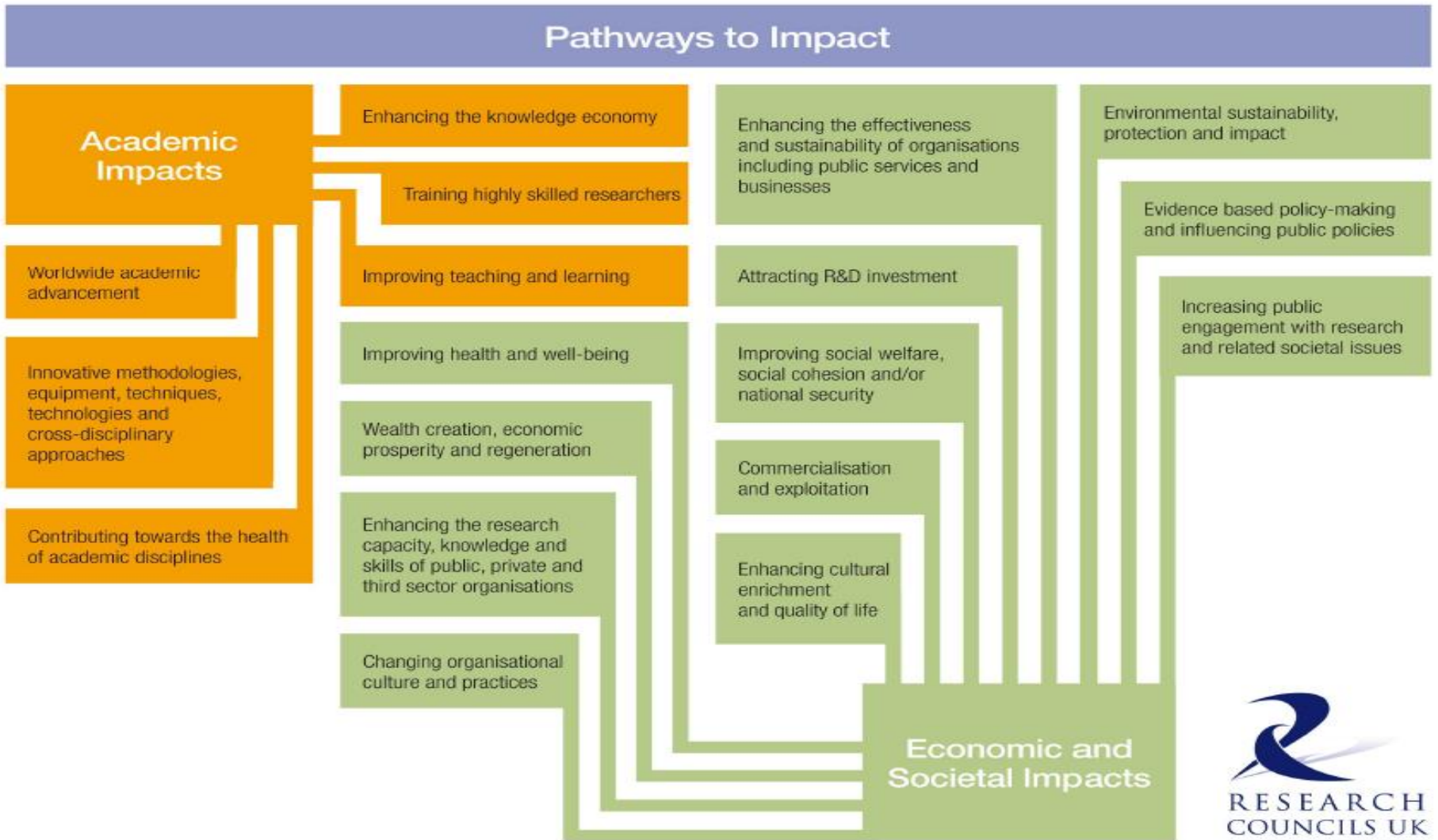
ACADEMIC IMPACT



NON-ACADEMIC IMPACT

- Scientific advancement
- Teaching and Learning
- Skills development
- Methodologies, techniques, approaches

- Health and welfare
- Public policy and services
- Practitioners
- Culture and society
- Economic and commercial
- Environment



How can/does your research make a difference to the world?

What changes

- Activity
- Attitude
- Awareness
- Costs
- Capacity
- Opportunity
- Performance
- Policy
- Practice
- Process
- Understanding
- Well-being
- Standards
- Access
- Quality
- ...

For whom?

- Individual(s)
- Community
- Audience
- Constituency
- Organisation
- ...

How?

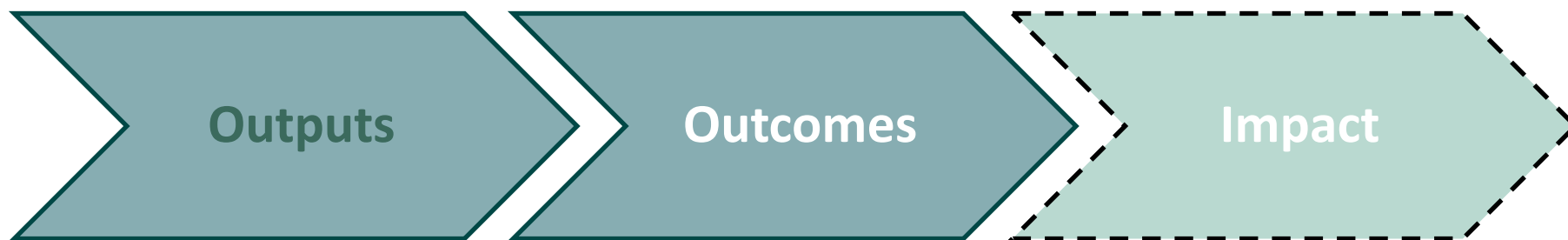
- Increase
- Decrease
- Improvement
- Is avoided
- Is eliminated
- Is informed
- Is controlled
- Is established
- Is effective
- ...

Where?

- Locally
- Regionally
- Nationally
- Internationally

The formula (RCUK)





Outputs

The direct and measurable Products of a project's activity
e.g. publications, software, guidelines, training materials, workshop/events etc.

Outcomes

The results stemming from the use of products/services and project activity
e.g. X number of trained people, improved skills, increased awareness etc.

Impact

The broader effects of the outcomes, e.g. increased employability, more effective practice, enhanced quality of life etc.

Dissemination strategy OR Communication plan

What's the impact?

1 This research addresses the internationalisation of Emerging Market Family Firms (EMFF) and the question of how they compete and collaborate in European markets.

2 The future of UK Higher Education: Universities as actors in the knowledge society

4 The project aims to trace the **history of teenage sexuality** through first composing and then juxtaposing three slices of time: the supposedly 'permissive' sixties 1865-70; the 'backlash' of 1985-90 and a moment of 'sexualisation' represented by the project's own time frame of 2015-20.

5 Understanding the role of 'X' polymerase in damage tolerance during genome replication in eukaryotic cells

3 Post-natal mental health problems and care in Uganda



What's in it for you?

Better chances of funding

Increased awareness of your research

New perspectives on research questions

Opportunities for early feedback

Collaborations and partnerships

New skills

Positioning yourself in a global game



In summary

- Start thinking about it
- Don't miss opportunities for networks and networking
- Try to engage with non-academic partners
- Improve related skills (media training, res comms)
- Take advantage of smaller-scale funding and engagement opportunity (e.g. shadowing schemes)
- Research Impact toolkit
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/impact>
- Impact case studies:
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/impact/>



THANK YOU
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