Preventing the future: developing research impact assessment capacity among stakeholders in Catalonia

The Department of Business and Knowledge and the Department of Health of the Catalan Government and the Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia (AQuAS) created in 2018 the RIACat Group. The mission of the RIACat Group is to put together a 3-year plan for the design, development and implementation of a country-based cross-discipline research impact assessment agenda.

The first action was to organize a 3,5 day course for policymakers and research stakeholders on research impact assessment to put every stakeholder ’in the same page’ and learn from international experiences.

Introduction

- Over the last two decades, Catalonia has successfully implemented a research strategy to support outstanding excellence.
- Nevertheless, in current times, a scientific policy based only on excellence might turn outdated soon. Policy-makers are starting to realize that there is a need to set up a research impact agenda if wanting to keep successful rates in European competitions.

50 Participants

- Science policy-makers
- Other policy-makers (e.g. health, education, justice, agriculture)
- Assessment agencies (evaluators)
- University managers
- Research center managers
- Science dissemination
- Foundations

Objectives of the RIACat Seminar

- To raise awareness about the importance of Research Impact Assessment (RIA)
- Familiarize participants with RIA concepts and options
- To understand the Catalan context and options for designing and implementing a RIA tool in Catalonia

Assessment agenda

The program combined general learnings about RIA, international lessons, discussions about applications to Catalonia, and sessions of mutual learning for the co-design of an impact agenda.

Day 1 Tuesday 22
- Setting the grounds of RIA (Catalan)
- What is impact and the foundations of RIA
- Purposes of RIA
- Distinct meaning: defining impact

Day 2 Wednesday 23
- Methods and stakeholders (English)
- Comparing and contrasting methods
- The range of indicators
- Impact narratives
- Engaging stakeholders with RIA
- RIA purposes and stakeholders
- RIA (by consensus)

Day 3 Thursday 24
- Needs and options (English)
- Needs of research, sector and stakeholders
- Context, tool or decision tool
- Panel: What are the challenges in RIA for Catalonia
- Understanding what tool?

Day 4 Friday 25
- Implementation (Catalan)
- What tools do we need?
- Planning for impact assessment
- Running the model: what do we need
- RIACat summary

The active learning approach of the RIACat Seminar lead to the development of collective knowledge, useful for the design of an impact agenda for Catalonia

The learning materials of the RIACat Seminar are based on an adaptation of the materials and delivery of the The International School on Research Impact Assessment (ISRIA). More information is available at www.theinternationalschoolonria.com.

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