



Interface

The knowledge connection for business

Scottish Regional Network



Dr Siobhán Jordan

Interface - The knowledge connection for business

Scottish economics and Social Sciences KE Network

- 2008 - Interface was invited by ESRC to establish an initial network
- 2010 – Awarded funding under Small KE grant scheme
- 2011 – Network self sustaining ?

Our Partner Institutions



University of St Andrews



ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN



UNIVERSITY of ABERTAY DUNDEE



UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



University of Glasgow

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL of ART



DUNDEE



Queen Margaret University EDINBURGH



University of Strathclyde Glasgow



The James Hutton Institute

Science connecting land and people



Royal Conservatoire of Scotland



UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING



The Open University



University of the Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean



Forest Research
The Research agency of the Forestry Commission

Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY



Objectives

- Facilitation of an online community/practitioner group
- regular e-bulletin to disseminate information on events, grant deadlines, HEI specific opportunities, collaborative opportunities, training and engagement etc
- promotion of events via Interface website and ability to share documents of interests etc
- Sharing examples of best practice and social science knowledge exchange and research impacts
- Incorporate feedback from members of the network

Membership

- Drawn from 16 Scottish higher education institutions
 - Technology transfer,
 - policy
 - Academic departments but knowledge exchange focused
 - Stakeholders (eg. Interface, ESRC, SFC, Universities Scotland)

The work and knowledge exchange supported by the members covers a wide range of disciplines and topics, ranging from economics through psychology to management, and from issues such as environmental sustainability and international security to crime and family welfare.

Membership

- SCOT-KT-NETWORK online community
(<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/SCOT-KT-NETWORK>)
- >5 members: Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Strathclyde, Stirling, Edinburgh, Dundee,
- >1 member: Edinburgh Napier, St Andrews, Abertay, Aberdeen, QMU, UWS, UHI, SAC, Heriot-Watt, RGU

Activities

- regular monthly e-bulletin
- Specific KT practitioner events
- Online community?

Events

- Content of each event was devised by a **design team**
- Drawn from volunteers from the member HEIs
- Facilitated by Interface.
- The location of the events was rotated around Scotland to ensure that a wide range of practitioners could attend
- Engaging events – with considerable time for networking and discussion (fishbowl, open space etc.)

Events

- 1st September 2010 - **Making KE “stick”**; Developing and implementing knowledge exchange strategy – hosted by University of Stirling
-
- 23rd Nov 2010 - **Incentivising Academics** - sharing best practice and leading to income generation – hosted by University of Strathclyde
-
- 23rd June 2011 - **Maximizing impact from research** - hosted by University of Aberdeen
-
- 23rd Feb 2011 - **Research, Impact and Policy** hosted by University of Edinburgh

Research, Impact and Policy workshop

- Targeted in particular to those working as translators or facilitators for knowledge exchange on behalf of academic departments or Research Centres.
- challenge for these is to ensure the research of the centre is communicated effectively to increase the potential impact on policy.
- The workshop involved third sector organizations who can work as intermediaries to policy as well as benefiting directly from working with universities.

Outputs

- Opportunity to develop initiatives at institutions following ideas generated by other members
- New Collaborations between Dr. Christine Knight (University of Edinburgh) Dr Claire Lightowler (University of Stirling) - journal article, 2 x conference presentations and successful joint funding bid
- Applications submitted to ESRC Follow-on Fund from academic colleagues who benefited from the information circulated by the KE Network

Impacts arising

- 89.5% indicated that attending the events was useful or very useful.
- 84.2% noted the usefulness of the networking at the events
- Sharing best practice 78.9%
- New knowledge regarding future aspects of KE eg. REF 78.9%
- Increased awareness regarding ESRC schemes 73.7%
- Peer to peer support 47.4%
- New collaborations 36.8%
- Development of new/more effective ways of working 36.8%
- Cross – institutional collaborations 26.3%
- New practice development 21.1%
- Joint funding applications 15.8%

Impacts

- Other impacts cited include
 - Building and reinforcing contacts
 - Increased awareness of non ESRC funding opportunities
 - awareness of funding opportunities etc

What next?



Q&A



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Linked in.

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iPhone app - InterfaceOn



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