

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

ICARA WORKSHOP
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FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- Choose your collaborators and partners carefully to ensure project interdisciplinarity
- Get to know prospective collaborators prior to signing up (online/ face- to- face) to ensure trust and reciprocity
- Take time to develop your collaboration and project e.g. leverage smaller grants to co-develop/co-design
- Mutual respect - involve all partners in decision-making (including budgets)
- Distribute funding equitably and transparently
- Establish authorship agreements upfront
- Recognise and respect each other's working cultures, and local norms and standards
- Ensure local dissemination of findings
- Throughout the project, focus on clear communications – discuss expectations at the start, ensure mutual learning, focus on research capacity strengthening. This also includes project management

POSSIBLE CHALLENGES & OBSTACLES

- Signing up without finding out about the collaborator
- Agreeing to an already developed project
- Collaborations where you or others clearly lack the relevant expertise
- Lack of transparency about budgets
- Disregard of working cultures, local norms, and standards
- Complicated and demanding Funding and Governance systems
- Infrastructure challenges, e.g. poor Internet connections preventing online work
- Be flexible: learn, fail and grow together
- Being left out of authorship opportunities
- Failing to disseminate findings locally