



Impact of Science

22-24 June, Leiden

Parallel Session (B.014)

Training & Skills for Societal Impact



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Elizabeth Halton

*Director of University College London Doctoral School &
Early Career Research Staff, United Kingdom*

Doctoral impact statements: why we should consider impact from the start

Elizabeth Halton
Director, UCL Doctoral School and ECR Staff
e.halton@ucl.ac.uk

 [@elizabethaudenh](https://twitter.com/elizabethaudenh) [@UCL_ECRs](https://twitter.com/UCL_ECRs)

University College London (UCL)

Doctoral School & Early Career Research Staff

- Large research-intensive comprehensive institution
- 8000 research students
- 3500 research staff
- **Cross-disciplinarity**
- Strong focus on impact and knowledge exchange activity



‘How to write an impact statement’

The statement should describe, in no more than 500 words, how the expertise, knowledge, analysis, discovery or insight presented in your thesis could be put to a beneficial use.

Consider benefits both inside and outside academia and the ways in which these benefits could be brought about.

The benefits inside academia could be to the discipline and future scholarship, research methods or methodology, the curriculum; they might be within your research area and potentially within other research areas.

The benefits outside academia could occur to commercial activity, social enterprise, professional practice, clinical use, public health, public policy design, public service delivery, laws, public discourse, culture, the quality of the environment or quality of life.

Excerpts from UCL doctoral theses

This research has been conducted during a time of significant change and disruption to the higher education sector, with universities in the UK operating in a globalised and highly competitive marketplace. Institutions are under increased pressure to be more efficient while reducing workload pressure on staff, which makes it imperative they find ways in which staff can work together more effectively if they are to be able to meet current and future demand. Through a review of the perception of a historic binary staff divide, this research has the potential to create significant impact on the working dynamics of institutions, and on the scholarly research of institutions.

More broadly, the work in this thesis adds to the molecular understanding of PD, PDD and DLB. While there is a long way to go, it is hoped that the data and findings generated from the research in this thesis will, in the longer term, enable the development of effective therapies, which will improve patient quality of life.

Additionally, our developed fabrication approach of water soluble micromoulds is more environmentally friendly than fabricating via photolithography, which has been the main go to fabrication approach for microstructured capacitive pressure sensors.

Our developed device, the pressure sensing ring, will be further enhanced by adding wireless readout capabilities to it. So that it can be worn by doctors and surgeons.

Future work that can be built up from this work includes significant benefit for the medical, microelectronics and microfluidics sector.

Impact of doctoral impact:

Is impact really that important at this stage?

- Careers
- Positive impact on society
- Motivation and wellbeing
- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Justification of funding

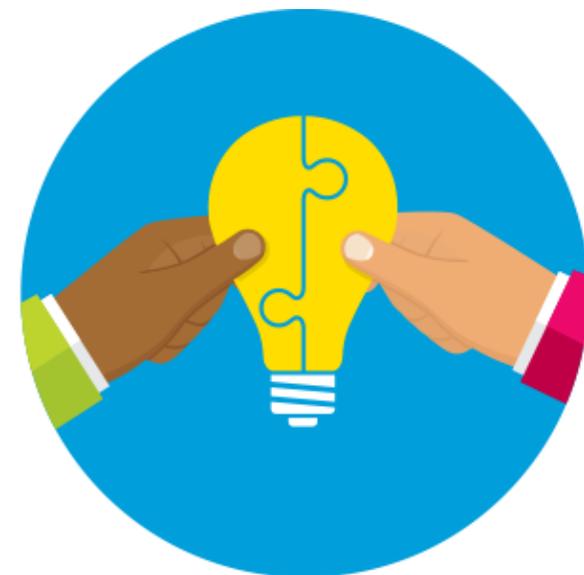
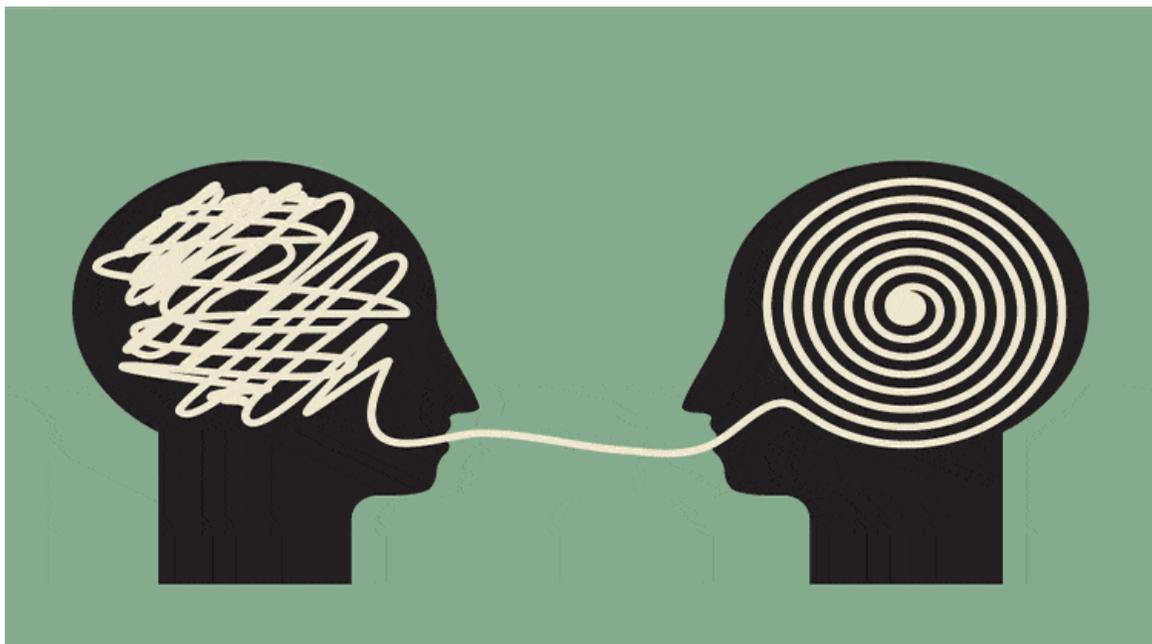


Challenges & Potential Solutions



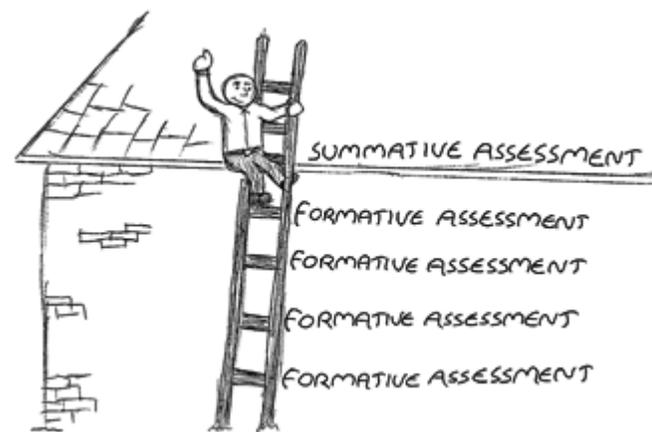
Challenge 1: Poor training

- Lack of understanding of what impact is
- Lack of understanding of what knowledge exchange is
- New vocabulary demystifying the impact agenda
- ‘What can we learn from others?’, active listening; co-creation and working in partnership, e.g. “New Power” and mass participation



Challenge 2: Poor integration

- Retrofitting / last minute creation
- “BS statements” / how much impact really?
- Pre-emptive impact: process rather than outcome focused
- Project to catalogue and map our doctoral impact statements



Challenge 3: Poor support

- Conflict with supervisors more interested in academic impact
- Lack of institutional support to link up with potential impact opportunities
- Top-down institutional messaging
- Ready made links to local communities



ADVICE & SUPPORT EAT, DRINK & SHOP MAKE A CHANGE SOCIETIES SPORT & FITNESS VOLUNTEERING

Community Research Initiative for Students

The Community Research Initiative (CRIS) is a way for you to do something exciting with your master's dissertation.

We connect you with London's voluntary sector to share knowledge and ideas. This collaboration will help shape your research project. Your work will be directly informed by a current community need in our capital.

Acknowledgements

- Professor David Bogle and my team in the Doctoral School

- Dr Tadhg Caffrey
- Dr Alison McAnena
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- Dr Anne Laybourne

- Dr Regina Reynolds
- Dr Phoebe Walsh
- Dr Annabel Brown
- Dr Christopher Hardy

Other ideas? Questions?



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Marielle Feenstra

*Senior Consultant at Nebem,
the Netherlands*

Including societal impact in research & projects



Mariëlle Feenstra

Senior Consultant
Research & impact

marielle.feenstra@nehem.nl

PhD in gender just energy transition in the EU

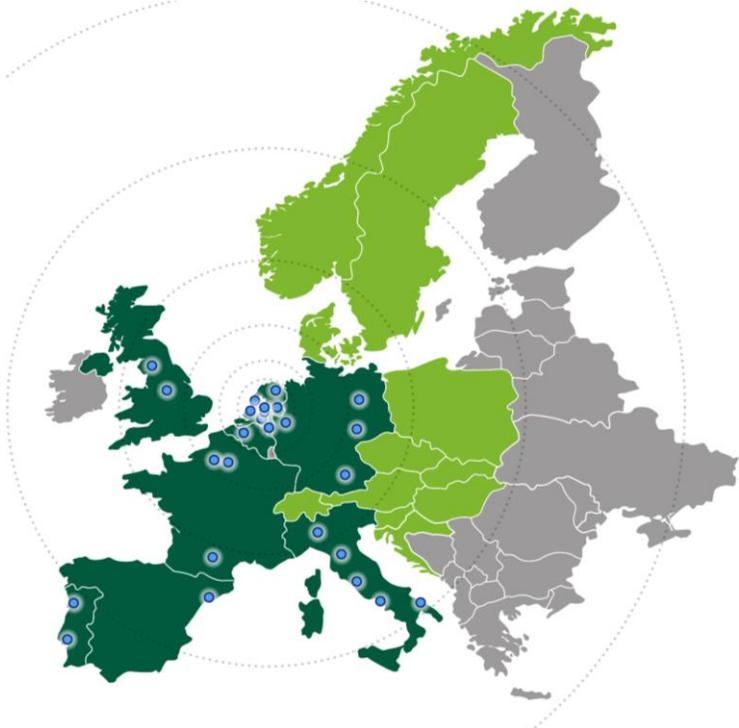
20 years in EU funding
12 years as policy advisor
6 years as academic



Nehem – Part of the PNO Group

PNO Group

Every innovation starts with one good idea and a lot of passion. Those are traits we recognise – because we started out the same way. From our start-up roots, we have grown to become market leader in innovation and funding services in Europe, with **offices in 8 European countries**. Our company is connected to a global network of national and regional creative partners: multinationals, start-ups, RTOs and universities, sector and public organisations. From this unique network, we work on fostering connections and stimulating, realising and financing innovation in an ever faster and more complex innovation landscape – changing the world for the better.



Key facts

30+	8	6000+	4000+	€ 1 Bn
Years of activity	Countries	Funding applications filed per year	Research clients and partners	Total annual funding won

PNO Group (440 grant & innovation consultants) consists of specialist organizations that are populated by domain experts.

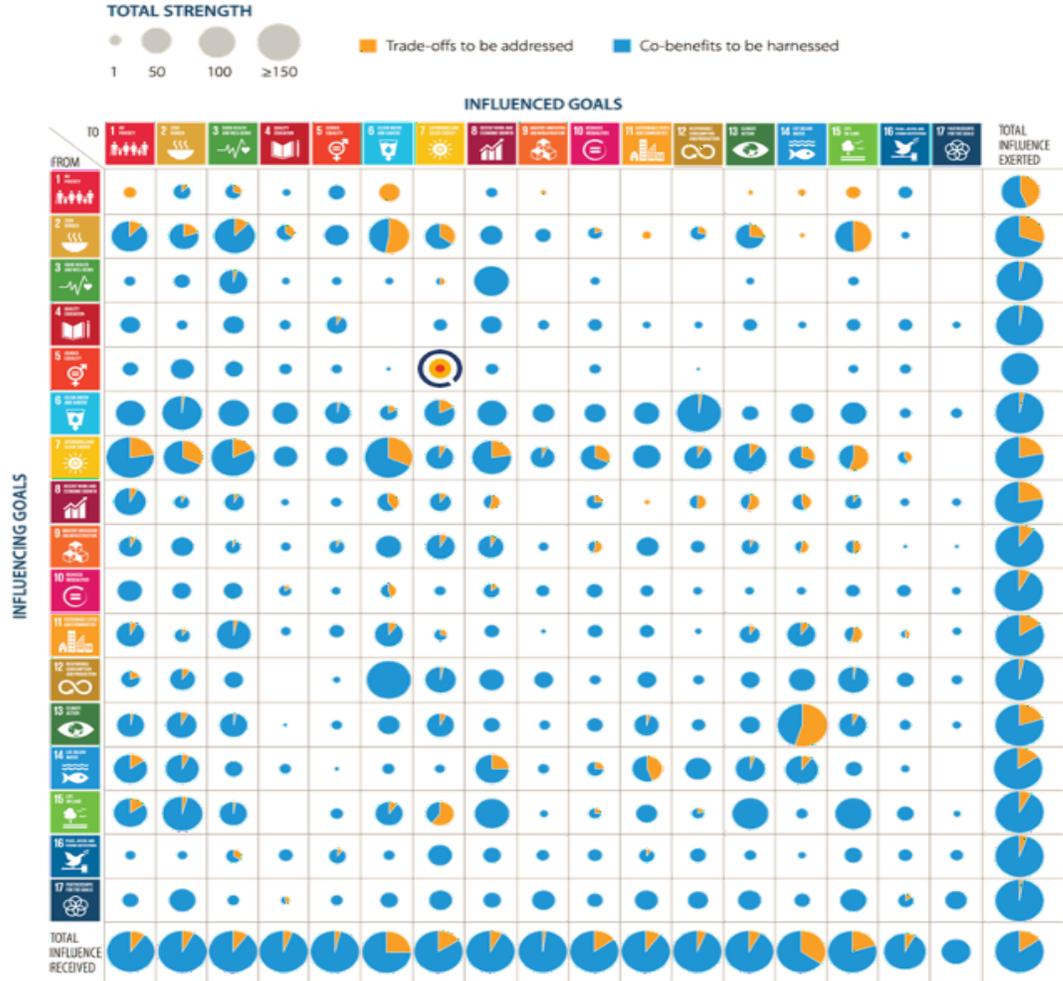
Nehem supports educational- and research institutions across Europe and beyond to solve societal challenges. **25+ experts** are advising our clients regarding project development, funding opportunities, administrative support and compliance, and project management of innovative educational and research projects.

WHY

Impact by knowledge

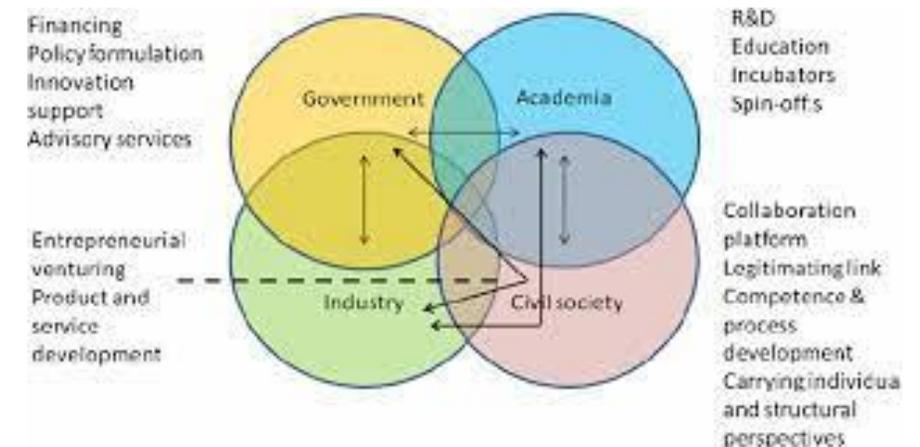
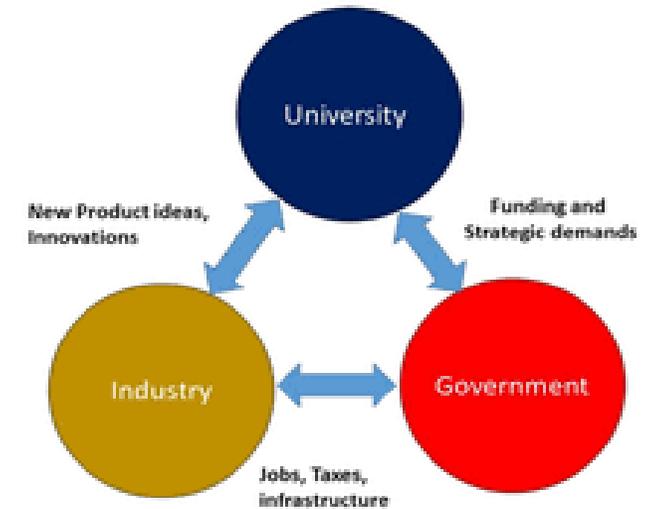
nehem

SDG's: global commitment – local action



Co-creation

- Collaboration in triple – quadruple helix
- Serving each other's interests
- Implementing each other's agenda
- Accelerate change
- Create impact



WHAT Impact sections

- Scientific impact
- Societal impact
- Economic/technological impact

Three types of impact

HORIZON EUROPE LEGISLATION defines three types of impact, tracked with Key Impact Pathways

1. Creating high-quality new knowledge
2. Strengthening human capital in R&I
3. Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

Scientific
Impact



4. Addressing EU policy priorities & global challenges through R&I
5. Delivering benefits & impact via R&I missions
6. Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society

Societal
Impact



7. Generating innovation-based growth
8. Creating more and better jobs
9. Leveraging investments in R&I

Economic/
Technological
Impact



Article 50 & Annex V 'Time-bound indicators to report on an annual basis on progress of the Programme towards the achievement of the objectives referred to in Article 3 and set in Annex V along impact pathways'

Project expected results



HOW Impact Pathways

Inputs – Activities – Outputs – Outcomes - Impact

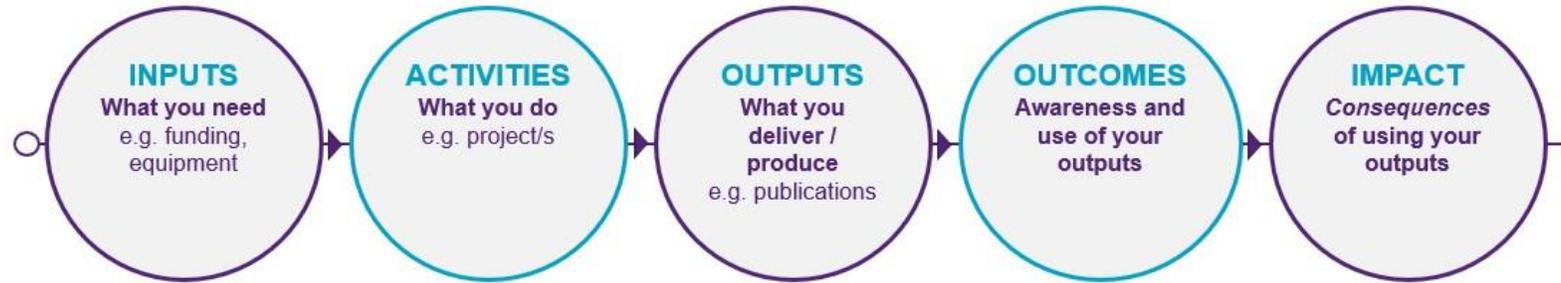


Impact pathways

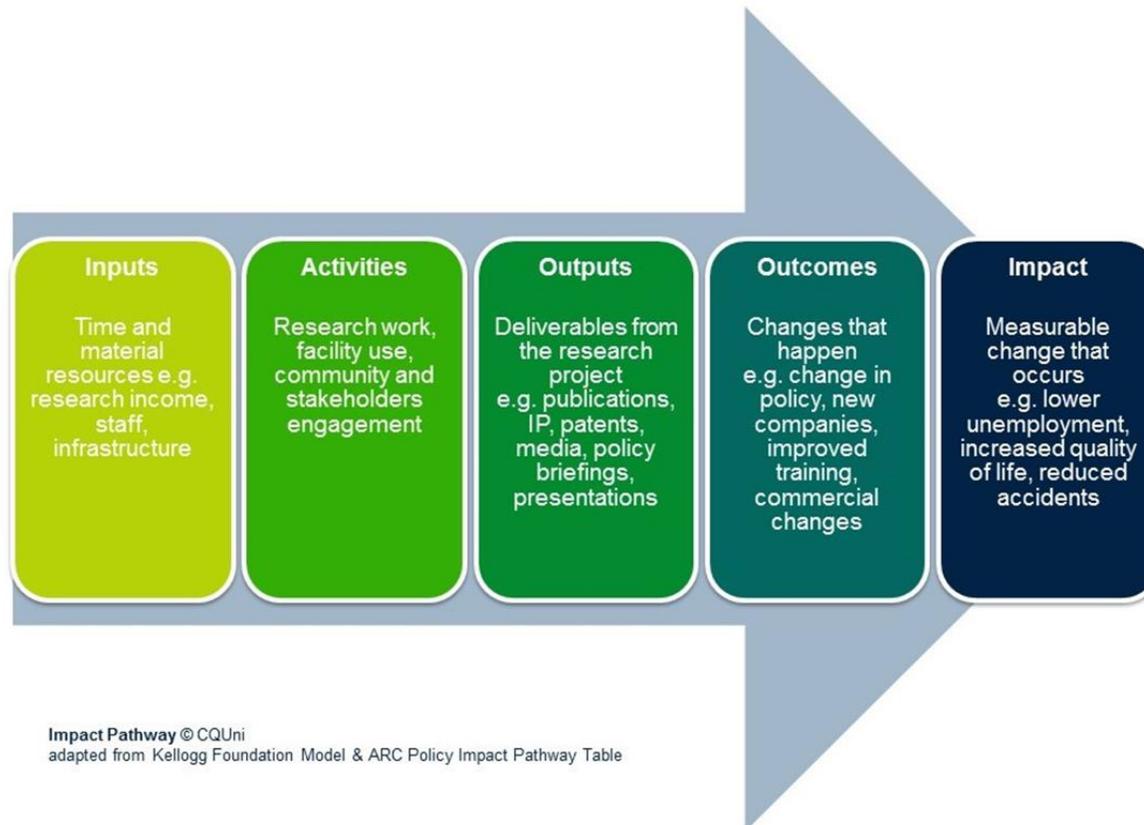
- Project expected impacts:
 - Short term
 - Middle term
 - Long term



Research Impact Pathway

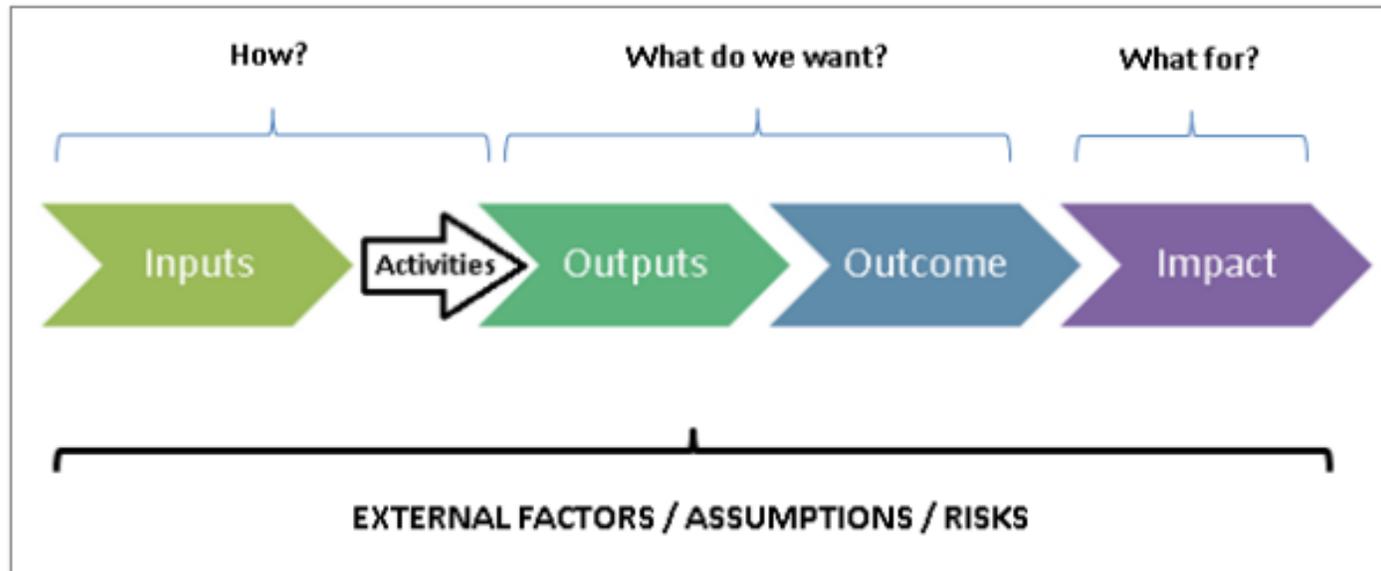


Adapted from CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) by [Cancer Research UK](#)



Impact Pathway © CQUni
adapted from Kellogg Foundation Model & ARC Policy Impact Pathway Table

Theory of Change ~ Impact pathways



A Theory of Change adds external factors (context), assumptions, and risks to a results chain

Thank you and
good luck with making impact by
knowledge!

Marielle Feenstra

marielle.feenstra@nehem.nl

Recommendation

Training and Skills for Societal Impact

“Start developing insights and attitudes of researchers and then support by helping them articulate”