

TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH: LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINE

**TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AIMS TO:
CLOSE KNOWLEDGE-ACTION GAPS IN ORDER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS
AND SUPPORT TRANSFORMATIONS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY**

**CHALLENGE:
UNSUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



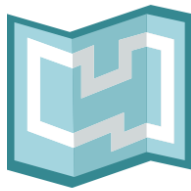
**GOAL:
GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



PRINCIPLES OF TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

- 1) Understand the complexity of problems
- 2) Take account of diverse views of problems, goals and solutions
- 3) Link abstract and specific knowledge
- 4) Ensure knowledge and practices focus on creating common good

PUTTING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE



CO-DESIGN

- CONDUCT CONTEXT ANALYSIS
- DEFINE PROBLEM TOGETHER
- DEVELOP RESEARCH QUESTIONS
- BUILD TEAM WITH TD COMPETANCIES
- DESIGN STRATEGY



CO-PRODUCTION

- BRING TOGETHER STAKEHOLDERS IN A STRUCTURED WAY
- DEVELOP BRIDGING CONCEPTS TANGIBLE FOR ALL
- DESIGN, PREPARE, FACILITATE INTERACTIONS
- ASSIGN ROLES



ACTION

- INTEGRATE RESULTS
- PRODUCE INTERVENTIONS FOR SCIENCE, POLICY AND PRACTITIONERS
- DEVELOP LONG TERM STRATEGY

RESPONSES FROM THE WORKSHOP

"There needs to be training in transdisciplinary research"

"Sometimes it is a challenge to get people to participate"

"There are capacity limits for co-design"

"It is necessary to embed transdisciplinary research in academic institutions"

"There's a politics of inclusion required for transdisciplinary research"

"There are a small number of people with power and means"

"It is essential to communicate beyond academia"

LESSONS FROM THE FRONT LINE

Transdisciplinary research is a long term process. It is necessary to find common goals and understandings amongst stakeholders for problems to be defined, and goals identified. A range of rules, tools, skills and understandings need to be developed together, recognising that there are power differentials between stakeholders in terms of capacities and resources to participate



"There is a need for new,
radical thinking and
decisions"

Dr. Frank McGovern (EPA)

"There is a duty for
scientists to communicate
their findings to inform
public policy"

Dr. Lynn Dicks (University
of East Anglia)

"There is a lack of fora
for science
communication"

Johanna Ickert
(Plymouth University)



"Bringing together natural
and social sciences
inculcates a culture of
innovation" Jim Clarken
(CEO, Oxfam Ireland)

"The Dublin Living Lab
has inbuilt
transdisciplinarity. The
objective is to look not
only at scaling up
projects but also how to
evaluate them"

Dr. David Prendergast
(Intel)

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

This infographic was produced from a transdisciplinary workshop held by Future Earth Ireland and Chaired by Professor Anna Davies on 29th November 2016. A full report on the workshop can be accessed from the Future Earth Ireland website:
<https://www.ria.ie/programmes/policy-and-international-relations/future-earth-ireland>

Contact us at:
email: daviesa@tcd.ie

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