Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange Plan

The application for a funding scheme may ask for you to include a ‘dissemination and knowledge exchange plan’ to indicate how the research outputs you anticipate producing during the life of the project will be disseminated and shared and, where possible, made openly accessible during and after your research. This includes: research articles (e.g. academic journals), research data, dataset software code, algorithm, nanopublications (i.e. short attributions), educational resources, reports, policy briefs and other relevant documents.

Effective dissemination is not simply making research available through traditional modes of academic publishing, but ensuring it reaches its targeted audience in order to maximise reach and impact of the work. If you need to get information to health care workers, high impact journals may not be the most effective mode of dissemination. In addition to academic publication plans consider how findings are to be publicised to the HSE or international health community in a manner that will optimise impact on health policy and/or practice.

In making this dissemination and knowledge exchange plan, you should consider:

- Your knowledge users (national/international? researchers/general public/patients?) and how they are to be targeted to make an impact and address needs
- Publication plans (journals, reports etc.) and how you will frame the information in ways appropriate to the audience/medium
- technology transfer
- sharing of information and open access
- if you are planning to use the HRB Open Research Platform
- publicizing findings in order to impact health policy and practice

OPEN ACCESS

It is advisable that you make reference to the HRB’s policy on ‘open research’ and show how your project will further its commitment to facilitating and supporting open research practices (open access, open data and open source). Consider making use of the HRB Open Research Platform, which allows immediate publication of research outputs and invites independent peer review.

TIMING

Decide when different dissemination and translation activities will be most relevant. Messages will vary during the timeframe of the project. For example, at the start, focus on awareness of your project, and at the end on translation. Be practical when considering timing- there are periods in the academic year when it will be difficult to reach academic staff and/or knowledge users.

COSTS

Account for costs relating to dissemination (e.g. seminar/conference attendance, publication costs) in your project budget.