

FSD3029 TUTKIMUSRYHMIEN MISSIO JA YHTEISTYÖ PORTUGALISSA, ITÄVALLASSA JA SUOMESSA 2012-2013

FSD3029 RESEARCH GROUP MISSION AND COLLABORATION IN PORTUGAL, AUSTRIA AND FINLAND 2012-2013

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Group interview questions

Theme 1: Background

Core 1 Tell me about your research group. Institutional background, size, main tasks?

Core 2 Are there any changes as to what you regard as your main tasks?

Core 3 What do you think knowledge society means and how does it relate to what you are doing?

Theme 2: Research group strategy and identity

Core 1 - What are your main goals? What has contributed to defining your main goals?

Prompt *Do you see your research group primarily as a global or regional or national player – or is there a better way to frame what you do?*

Prompt *Please give some examples of your **institutional and individual** involvements at these different levels. What types of institutions/organisations do you see as your peers and partners?*

Core 2 - Has the way in which you do research changed in anyway? In what sort of timeline?

Prompt *(if Yes) Can you elaborate on this (e.g. different funding system, organisational changes, increased or decreased internationalisation)? What kind of time-frames are we talking about? Is it clear what prompted such changes?*

Prompt *(if No) What are the most important reasons for the stability in your research group?*

Core 3 – In the framework of what you do, does (your country), or being a group from (your country), play any role?

Theme 3: Notions of clients, audiences and users

Core and Prompts

Core 1 - Who are the main recipients/beneficiaries of your activities?

Prompt e.g. the research community, other sub-units within the institution, stakeholder groups beyond the academic community (eg employers, professional groups, public sector organisations, civic society?)

Core 2 - Are the beneficiaries of your own choosing or are there institutional/political pressures/incentives to orient your work towards particular ones?

Theme 4: Notions of networks, partners and collaborators

Core and Prompts

Core 1 - Do you work alone or in conjunction with others? e.g. Other units, agencies, organizations? What form does this work take? (e.g. shared projects, informal collaboration?) Do you count any people outside your unit/institution/company as being elementally part of your research group? Which collaborations/networks are the most important for your research?

Prompt If you are working with partners, who are they, and where are they based (for example, in the same research group, in the same institution, in another institution/ organisation, nationally and/or internationally)?

Prompt What are the outcomes of this? (e.g., joint publications, research applications).

Core 2 – How do you define what counts as an important partner or important network?

Prompt: How can the networks be pinned down: e.g. through contracts, patents, jointly produced outputs etc.?

Core 3 (if working with others) - can you tell me a bit more about the nature of the work?

Prompt How was the relationship established? (for example, a pre-existing institutional network, personal contacts?)

Prompt What is the nature of the relationship (e.g. based within established disciplinary framework? Explicitly inter-disciplinary?)

Prompt How do you all communicate with each other? (and how regularly does this happen?) What is the 'reach' of the partnership (eg local, regional, national, global?) Can you give some examples and the names of two or three other main players in this effort?

Prompt Does this type of work require any explicit resource/funding? e.g., how is the effort funded, and by whom? What, if any, conditions are attached to the funding?

Theme 5: Notions of competition and collaboration

Core and Prompts

Core 1 - Who do you see as your main competitors and collaborators? Are these persons, groups, organizations or entities the same, different, overlapping – or is there a better way to frame this?

Prompt *Have these sorts of relationships changed recently?*

Core 2 - Do you think your institution encourages its researchers and research units to be more collaborative or more competitive?

Theme 6: Service to society and the research group's role in society

Core and Prompts

Core 1 - Do you do any teaching? If so, in which context?

Core 2 – Do you have any tasks which might be called “service to society” beyond research? How is this defined currently? Has it changed?

Core 3 - Are the expectations of society ever discussed in the research group?

Prompt: *Knowledge society discourse calls for a new way of organising knowledge production through increased importance of networks, collaboration, competitiveness, internationalisation, innovation and quality. Do you discuss e.g. the need to be more competitive or international, rankings, do more collaborative work, increase the quality of your work, produce some innovations?*

Core 4 - How do staff see themselves with respect to all this? Have there been changes in their career histories? Are they happy to take on multiple roles?

Finally, there is one other issue we would like to pick-up during this Phase of our fieldwork - namely “What have we missed?”

Considering the types of issues we've been talking about, is there something – from your perspective – that we should have talked about, or didn't touch on? Or that's perhaps more interesting than what we've been talking about?