

The meeting was held under Chatham House rule. The following presents discussion themes, but does not reflect individual views, nor does it represent organisational positions.



Funding International Excellence – Summary

On October 11, Wellcome invited individuals working in research organisations from the UK, Canada, Israel, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland, to discuss funding international excellence.

The group explored issues and progress for collaboration in Europe and more broadly. As context, Britain's exit from the European Union may change the balance within European Research Area between Member States and Associates – from 10% of the budget to over 20% – a relevant consideration in the context of the continuing development of Framework Programme 9.

The group discussed:

Working Together for Framework Programme 9

- Supporting the continual improvement of the Framework Programmes, building on their international reputation for scientific excellence, to address 'grand challenges' alongside continuing support of basic science. This approach is reflected in the Lamy report.
- The importance of demonstrating the added economic value of international scientific collaboration, particularly for countries where there was a marginal or negative return on their investment (which could become more challenging if the budget for the next framework programme was greater than the currently).
- There were challenges for smaller countries in working across a wide range of programmes, recognising the high transaction cost of multilateral working. The group discussed the importance of focussing funding on priority schemes, and that the EU might consider a greater emphasis on supporting governance or 'glue' funding for initiatives.

Collaboration at the Global Level

- Funders could continue to explore how to achieve better alignment, including through grant applications and evaluation processes. Standardised collaboration frameworks could help here - for example agreeing a lead agency within a partnership could help reduce costs and increase efficiency.
- There can be problems when a heavy focus on national or European competitiveness made taking a global approaches to problem-solving more difficult, illustrated through intellectual property rights.
- Further strategies discussed include: better *linking Overseas Development Aid and Research funding*; progressing with *open science and digitalisation*; and developing *collaboration with non-profit funders*.

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Attendees

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------|---|
| Dr | Jean-Luc | Barras | Swiss National Science Foundation |
| Dr | Lutz-Peter | Berg | Swiss Embassy London |
| Mr | Mike | Bright | Research Councils UK |
| Mr | David | Clements | Canadian Institutes of Health Research |
| Dr | Kristin | Danielsen | Research Council of Norway |
| Ms | Amelia | Dearman | Wellcome |
| Ms | Amanda | Dickins | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |
| Dr | Sharon | Ellis | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |
| Dr | Ruth | Freeman | Science Foundation Ireland |
| Ms | Maggie | Gorman Velez | International Development Research Centre |
| Professor | Iain | Gray | School of Aerospace, Transport and Manufacturing |
| Dr | Richard | Hatchett | Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative |
| Mr | Andrew | Jack | Financial Times |
| Ms | Charlotte | Lester | Higher Education Funding Council for England |
| Dr | Caroline | Martin | High Commission of Canada |
| Dr | Martin | Müller | Science Europe |
| Professor | Michal | Neeman | The Weizmann Institute of Science |
| Professor | John-Arne | Røttingen | Research Council of Norway |
| Mrs | Nili | Shalev | Israel European Research and Innovation Directorate |
| Mr | Carthage | Smith | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| Professor Dame | Janet | Thornton | European Molecular Biology Laboratory |
| Mr | Edward | Whiting | Wellcome |
| Ms | Louise | Wren | Wellcome |

