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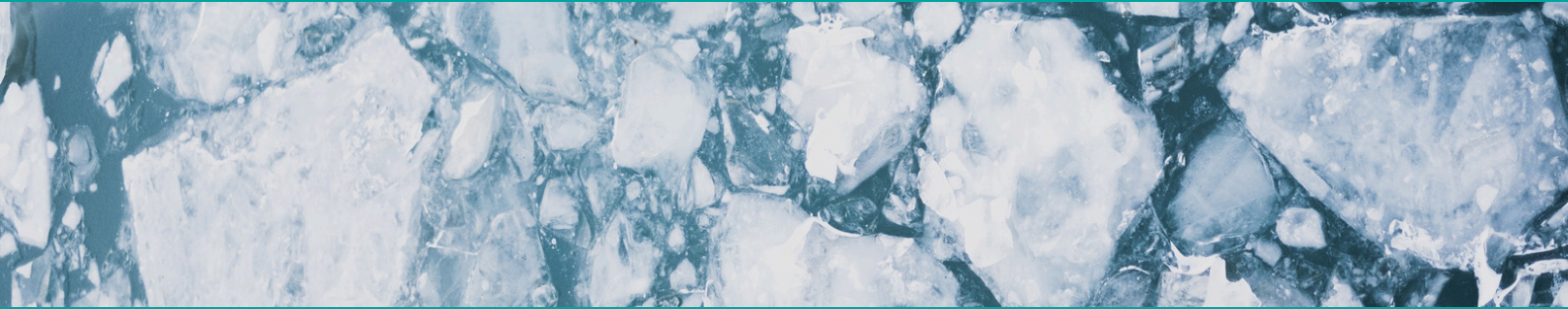


Co-Production in Research Networks: Workshop Guide



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Co-Production: inputs to outputs



Research Networks have gained in popularity in line with national and international Research and Innovation (R&I) strategies. It is assumed that Research Networks provide a home for the management of actors, ideas, practices and infrastructure which will support national and international objectives such as sustainability, competitiveness and other societal and national interests.

Co-production is a natural buzzword when considering how to manage complexities for complex solutions however; closer examination is needed concerning how specific communications and operations of Research Networks may be influenced by co-production to meet scientific and political best practice. Questions include, how best to undertake co-production within Research Networks and is this the best medium for knowledge transfer?

Co-production has been utilized to support international decision-making due to its pluralistic nature potentially suited to solve complex global challenges within a heterogeneous global society and; national decision-making which increasingly recognises the need to include civil society and other actors in Research and Innovation (R&I) aimed at industry competitiveness and societal needs. Co-production has been linked to other knowledge based practices inside and outside of the Western academic tradition such as interdisciplinarity and Indigenous Knowledge Systems that have historically pushed against fixed scientific and political practices acting as a cannon for societal change.

Co-production entails producing outputs which are in line with the methodological approach. This means that, in the case of Research Networks, co-production must support the management of pluralisms and complexities within aims, objectives, operations, outputs and outcomes in line with relevant actors associated with Research Networks.

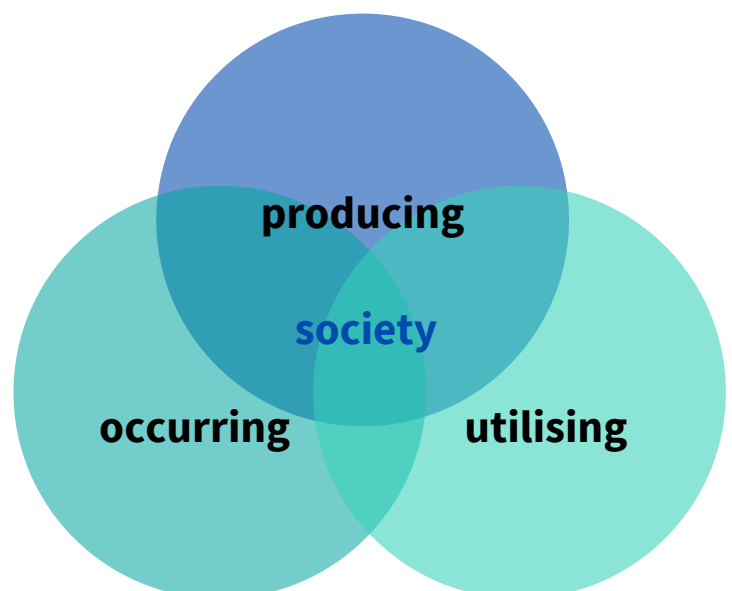
Defining Co-production

Co-production includes different actors as well as different approaches to knowledge generation, transmission and practice and is applied as an iterative solution to addressing complex problems.

- Co-production entails producing something cooperatively. In the case of Research Networks, the products that co-production may be applied to include outputs such as webinars, co-authorship and networking opportunities as well as; operational and outreach practices.
- Co-production occurs between different actors such as individual scientists and policy-makers, institutions and actor clusters such as occurring within academic disciplines, communities, cultures and nation-states. The specific operations, history and make-up of a Research Network will impact the type and scale of co-production.
- Co-production entails utilizing different methods of knowledge production and ways of knowing to create a shared product. In Research Networks this can include taking novel approaches to research such as interdisciplinarity, transdisciplinarity, postdisciplinarity, participatory research, engaged research, inclusive research as well as active and embedded consideration of other ways of knowing such as Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

To date there has been little research done on producing a definition and understanding of knowledge co-production specifically in research networks which this project seeks to address.

This project will create a unique workshop series which explores the use of co-production in Research Networks as well as; a co-authored research network aiming to solidify a clear definition for the use of knowledge co-production in Research Networks



Workshop Series

In order to explore the potential for co-production to be utilised to improve the management of complexity in Research Networks for societal benefit, this workshop series will employ an adapted version of the Network Compass Methodology developed by Schneider and Tribaldos (2021). The Network Compass methodology presents four different 'action fields' (connecting, supporting, innovating and fostering) with further sub-fields (e.g funding and concept advancement) to examine the potential and challenges associated with each category. Before proceeding with the workshop series, the Network Compass will be adapted to have further emphasis in R&I science and decision-making & Research Network management and practice. This adaptation will be based upon a close examination of project Research Networks including the application of a Logic Model to scrutinise Research Networks operations based on policy objectives including R&I strategy, societal need and best practice science and policy. Each workshop is expected to run slightly differently employing a co-production methodology for workshop planning with the project partners.

Workshop Steps:

- As an adaptation to the Network Compass methodology, co-production will occur previously to the workshop with project partners to work on a Logic Model for the specific Research Network which analyses the specific objectives of the Research Network in relation to outputs and outcomes. This Logic Model will support the development of an adapted Network Compass.
- Utilising the adapted Network Compass, the participants will then undertake a process of reflection considering the potential of knowledge co-production to enhance core operational activities based around objectives, inputs, functions and outputs. Each action on the compass will be critiqued with a SWOT analysis (see appendix).

Workshop Outcomes: The results of the workshops will be recorded in a co-authored academic paper which will provide novel understandings of the potential for Research Networks to use co-production for societal needs and act as a blueprint for further Research Networks to improve their operations in the future. The workshop presents a valuable opportunity for Research Networks to be guided to scrutinise their operations in order to meet science and policy objectives.

Workshop Dates:

February 2025: Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland (NARI) co-produced workshop, Ireland

March 2025: Scottish Arctic Network (ScAn) co-produced workshop, Scotland

October 2025: Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN) co-produced workshop, Iceland

Further workshops tbc

TBC: ArcticNet co-produced workshop, Canada

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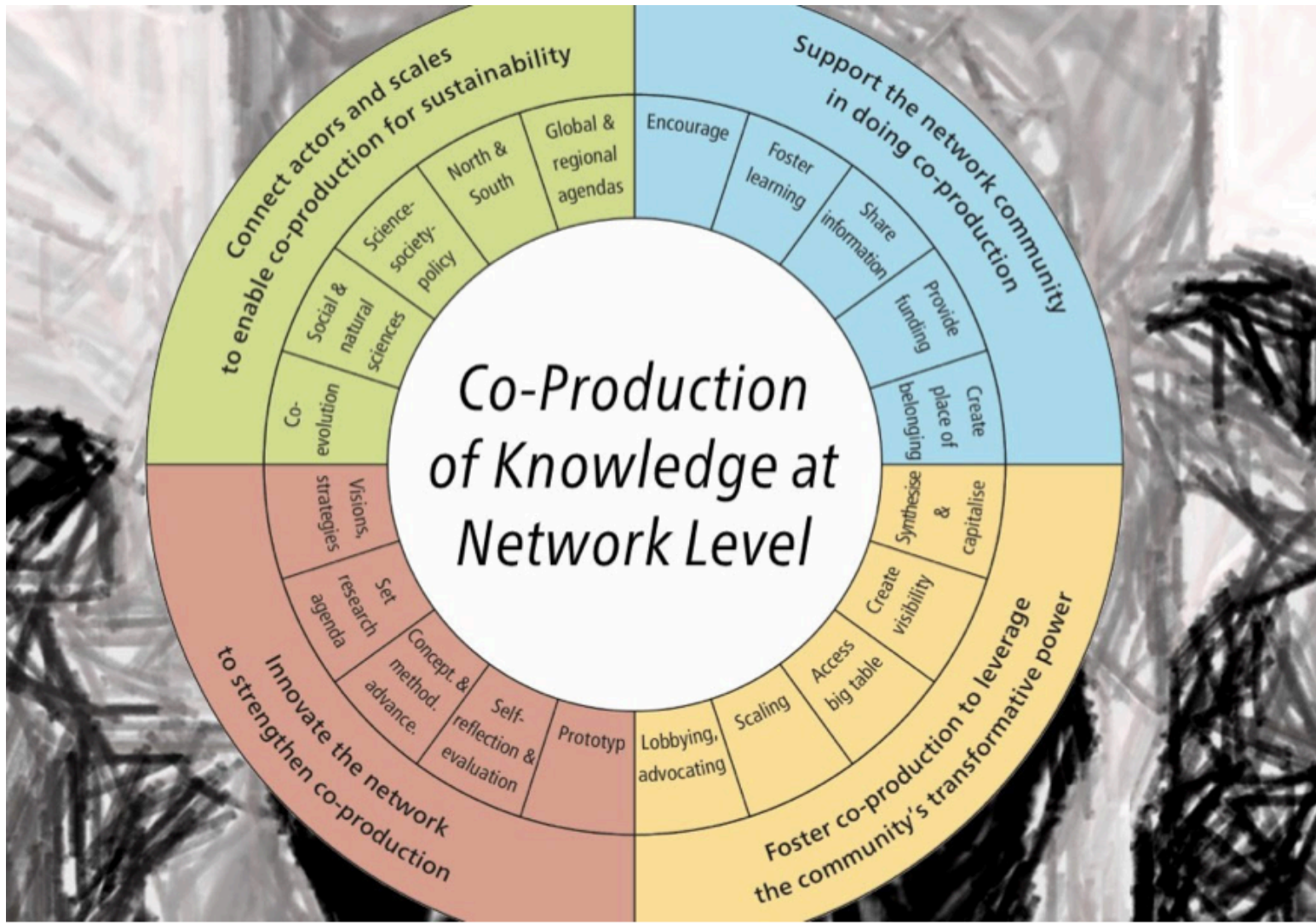


Figure 1. Co-production compass (Sneider et al., 2021)

Suggested approach to developing a logic model

Inputs	Outputs		Outcome and Impact			Measures of Success
	Activity	Participation	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
What we invest	What we do	Who we reach	What are the short-term results?	What are the medium-term results?	What are the ultimate impacts?	Metrics
e.g., team, room hire, catering, consumables	e.g., workshops, training, developing resources	e.g., students, teachers, decision makers	e.g., new learnings or skills for participants	e.g., change in action, behaviour, policies	e.g., social, economic	Outline the metrics and tools that will be used to measure the intervention

Figure 2. Logic Model (Science, Foundation Ireland, n.d).