

# Creating Successful Consortia through your Networks: The Importance of Diverse Networks

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# Content



• Introduction



• EU Funding & Collaboration to Tackle Grand Challenges



Strategic Networking

# Background

## **Head of European Research and Innovation, University College London (UCL)**

Supported in raising more than €400 million in EU funding to support UCL's research and innovation activities.

### **Industry Experience**

- **Digital Helix Leader**
  - Represent UCL as the Digital Helix Leader within the Crowdhelix Network, where I lead the digital thematic cluster within the network, focused on facilitating partnerships and innovating how different institutions collaborate
- **Grant Funding Specialist**, Yaqrit Ltd. (London based biotech SME)
  - Supported in securing ca. €14 million in EU funding for development of healthcare technologies.

### **Education / Training**

- Climate Change and Health Certificate, Yale School of Public Health
- **Coaching: Network Thinking for Executives and Key Opinion Leaders**, Dr Daria Tataj, Tataj Innovation
- **MSc Strategic Management of Projects**, UCL
  - Director SMPAlumni (SMPJournal & SMPUnconferences 2017 & 2018)
- **Postgraduate Certificate International Project Management**, Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Entrepreneurship in Higher Education, University Industry Interaction Network

### **Grand Challenges Research**

- Grand Challenges Research Network, UCL
- Association for Project Management Research Fund, "A Profession Ready to Address Grand Challenges"
- StoRM Fellowship, South Africa, 2019

# EU Framework Programmes for Research & Innovation

## Horizon 2020 & UCL

**3<sup>rd</sup> most successful university (# of projects): 600+ projects, totalling ca.€410 million**

**1st in the UK (3rd overall) for # collaborative grants held by a university (260 grants, ca. €145m)**

**4th for # of ERC grants held by a university (154 grants, ca. €208m)**

## Horizon Europe

€95.5 billion available from 2021-2027 to support research and innovation

The UK will be an Associated Country, therefore able to access funding on equivalent terms as organisations in EU Member States. [Q&A on the UK's participation in Horizon Europe](#)

[Horizon Europe Work Programmes are now available](#)

# UCL European Project Management – Impact Model



# Collaboration to Solve the Grand Challenges

**Grand Challenges**, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, **reflect complex, and ethically challenging situations. These are challenges that are key for the survival and prosperity of societies worldwide and require international, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaborations to address the socio-economic systems of global society as a whole.**

*Kuhlman and Rip (2014)*

The Grand Challenges the world is facing are too significant to be solved by one organisation, sector or country.

*Gray (1985), Katz and Martin (1997) and Bammer (2008)*

Growth of “projectification”, with projects and project management becoming the main method of collaboration.

*Association for Project Management (2020)*

Research funders, such as the European Union, are directing more funding to address global challenges (e.g. COVID-19) which requires **international, interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration to achieve real world impact.**

*Cornfield (2016)*

# Strategic Networking to Generate Impact

## Vision

Enable UCL in upholding and advancing its position at the forefront of **European and global collaboration** in science, technology and innovation, and achieving **real world impact** from its EU invested research and innovation outputs. Sustain UCL's place as one of the leading universities, worldwide, in the European Union's next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

## Strategy

In facing two unrepresented crises simultaneously, our organisations and sectors will be best transformed through **collaborative, networked and entrepreneurial approaches** to our activities and development.

Global challenges are **too wide, complex, and significant to be solved by one organisation, discipline or sector alone.**

**In order to transform our organisation, services and the sector during this unprecedented time,** we must work across our diverse networks **both internally and externally** to discover new opportunities, ways of working, and to pool our knowledge, expertise and resources.

# Strategic Networking

Purpose → Strategy	
Internal Networking	Research, Innovation, Global Engagement, Tech Transfer
External Networking	Local & Global (Municipalities, RTOs/Universities, SMEs, NGOs, Charities, Hospitals, Incubators, Investors)
Face to Face	
Digital (e.g. LinkedIn, Twitter, Platforms)	

**Top Tip: Connect with previously funded Consortia (e.g. [EC's Cordis Webpages](#))**

# Strategic Networking

## Examples

- Horizon Europe Health Coordinators Workshop, in collaboration with UCL, **KU Leuven**, **UMC Utrecht & Utrecht University**: Why: Profiling, Improving chances of success, and create opportunities for partnership in strong consortia.
- **UCL Stockholm Research and Innovation Summit**: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/news/2021/jun/ucl-cities-partnerships-programme-stockholm-celebrates-launch-horizon-europe>. Why: Profiling, Leveraging and Supporting Instructional Partnerships.



# Networks

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The UK Research Office (UKRO) is a European office of **UK Research**. Brussels presence is jointly delivered by UKRO and the Innovate UI subscription-based advisory service for research organisations (in )

**SCIENCE | BUSINESS** Bringing together industry, research and policy

## The Network

The unique forum convening public and private sector leaders for networking, intelligence and debates on research and innovation.

[More info »](#)



## Focus Areas

Specialised topics for members



## Technology Strategy Board

A high level group formed to examine Europe's technology strategy

## Headlines: : a model for successful structura



### EU bars Switzerland from it tells UK to start ap

Research cooperation be Switzerland is on hold, w invited to join new fundir 17 others

23 Jun 2021



### Commission aims to Europe association t

Swiss are out, but 18 oth start applying for grants

24 Jun 2021



### Don't mind the gap: new route to bridge

**BEGINNER'S MIND**

HOSTED BY CHRISTIAN SOSCHNER

42 episodes

## Beginner's Mind

Christian Soschner

CrowdHelix

Opportunities

Helixes

Network

Horizon Europe

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cross-cutting topics, general collaboration opportunities & network announcements



## AQUACULTURE

Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA), circularity & cross-Atlantic collaboration



## CIRCULAR PLASTICS

Sustainable plastic value chains, circular economy, renewably-sourced plastics, recycling & end of life valorisation

LE RU

UIN University Industry Innovation Network



**League of Research Universities**

23 leading universities pushing research

## University Industry Innovation Network

Atataj Innovation

Make your networks your innovation ecosystem

Empowering purpose-driven leaders to scale team impact through the strategic use of networks.



# Contact

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