

## ESRC SCORECARD 2010-11: DELIVERABLES, TARGETS AND MILESTONES

### IMPACT THROUGH WORLD CLASS RESEARCH

Key Deliverable 2008-11	Target 2008-11 <i>Expected Impact</i>	Milestones 2010-11
<p>1. To support strategic and collaborative research that addresses the ESRC key research challenges and has wider economic, social and policy impacts while fostering innovation</p>	<p>To fund new initiatives in the priority areas identified in the Council's Strategic Plan which are predominantly social scientific in focus and are central to the development of UK society.</p> <p><i>Providing a knowledge and evidence base to impact on policy and practice in these areas</i></p>	<p><i>Global Economic Performance, Policy and Management</i> (a) <b>Q1</b> With government departments launch a call for a cohort of post-doctoral fellowships targeted on prudential macro-economics and its interface with finance</p>
		<p>(b) <b>Q1</b> Review scope for further deepening of the ESRC-DFID partnership</p>
		<p>(c) <b>Q3</b> Launch a call for proposals under Phase Three of the Rising Powers initiative</p>
		<p>(d) <b>Q4</b> Announce the outcome of the second phase stage 2 of the ESRC-DFID call</p>
		<p><i>New Technology, Innovation and Skills</i> (e) <b>Q1</b> Appoint Science and Mathematics Education Coordinator (jointly with the Department for Children, Schools and Family)</p>
		<p><i>Environment, Energy and Resilience</i> (f) <b>Q4</b> Announce the outcome of the Natural Hazards call with NERC</p>
		<p><i>Understanding Individual Behaviour</i> (g) <b>Q3</b> Launch, with MRC, BBSRC and external funding partners a large grants call with a possible steer to Understanding Individual Behaviour.</p>
		<p><i>Social Diversity and Population Dynamics</i> (h) <b>Q3</b> Identify and progress with partners a research agenda on place, diversity and inequalities to support the RCUK Connected Communities Programme and the migration research agenda</p>

		<p><i>Health and Wellbeing</i></p> <p>(i) <b>Q1</b> Consider with BBSRC joint development of a research agenda on Epigenetics and Food Security</p> <p>(j) <b>Q1</b> Publish a joint call with the Technology Strategy Board on Social and Behavioural Studies and Economic and Business Models for Assisted Living</p> <p>(k) <b>Q4</b> Work with MRC, BBSRC and NERC to develop the second call for Research Consortia Grants under the Environmental and Social Ecology of Human Infectious Diseases initiative</p> <p><i>Security, Conflict and Justice</i> - see Key Deliverable 3 below</p>
<p>2. To support strategic and collaborative research to address the RCUK key priorities and embed social science at the heart of all collaborative work, leading to wider economic, social and policy impacts while fostering innovation</p>	<p>To ensure that social science makes a key contribution to cross-Council programmes</p> <p><i>Providing a knowledge and evidence base to impact on policy and practice in these areas</i></p>	<p><i>Living with Environmental Change (LWEC)</i></p> <p>(a) <b>Q1</b> Announce awards under Phase Four of the Rural Economy and Land Use programme</p> <p>(b) <b>Q3</b> Develop a citizen's panel which considers longer term strategic development of the LWEC programme</p> <p><i>Energy</i></p> <p>(c) <b>Q2</b> Announce awards under the Energy and Communities call (joint with EPSRC and the Department of Energy and Climate Change)</p> <p><i>Lifelong Health and Wellbeing</i></p> <p>(d) <b>Q4</b> Announce awards, with funding partners, under Phase Three of the Lifelong Health and Wellbeing Initiative</p>

		<p><i>Digital economy</i></p> <p>(e) <b>Q1</b> Consider with TSB Network Security Innovation Platform the possibility of developing a joint initiative on Trusted Services</p>
		<p><i>Nanotechnologies</i></p> <p>(f) <b>Q2</b> Hold first seminar to develop a new research agenda and call in collaboration with TSB, informed by the Government's UK Nanotechnologies Strategy (March 2010).</p>
		<p><i>New Cross-Council Programmes</i></p> <p>(g) <b>Q4</b> Develop and initiate a detailed plan for delivering the economic resilience strand of the Global Food Security programme</p>
		- See Key Deliverable 2 above: Social Diversity and Population Dynamics
3. To lead the RCUK Global Uncertainties Programme	To fund research and activities which will aid understanding of global scale issues affecting security	(a) <b>Q1</b> Explore future strategic direction of the GU programme through the first meeting of GU Strategic Advisory Group
		(b) <b>Q3</b> Issue the fifth call for proposals under a GU core area
		(c) <b>Q4</b> Further enhance the profile of the GU programme through the second annual GU networking event
		(d) <b>Q4</b> Set up an All Party Group on Global Security and host 3 breakfast briefings with Global Uncertainties researchers.
		(e) <b>Q4</b> Develop detailed proposals for GU core areas through hosting four seminars focusing on the core areas of Global Uncertainties targeted at users and researchers
4. To maintain funding for a wide range of responsive mode schemes	To provide a continuum of support for the best social science researchers throughout the academic lifecourse which fosters innovation and	(a) <b>Q2</b> Announce funding for at least three new large grants
		(b) <b>Q2</b> Announce funding for up to 25 new first grants
		<i>Providing a knowledge and evidence base to impact on policy and practice in this area</i>

	<p>interdisciplinarity.</p> <p><i>Supporting the highest quality social science, with economic, societal and academic impact</i></p>	<p>(c) <b>Q3</b> Review the effect of the changes introduced to our application and assessment processes in 2009 designed to maximise the impact of our funded research and ensure that this is more effectively captured</p>
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***IMPACT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP***

<p>5. To extend our international collaborative funding.</p>	<p>To enable the UK's leading social scientists to undertake collaborative research with colleagues from across the globe.</p> <p><i>Supporting the highest quality social science involving international collaboration, to improve the economic, societal and academic impact of UK social science</i></p>	<p>(a) <b>Q2</b> Have in place a strategy for actively promoting the 2011 European Union's Seventh Framework Research Programme (FP7) Social Sciences and Humanities Work Programme to the UK social science and humanities community (due to be launched July 2010)</p> <p>(b) <b>Q3</b> Work with US funders to develop plans for workshops in the areas of the Measurement of Subjective Wellbeing and Health Disparities</p> <p>(c) <b>Q4</b> Announce the outcomes of the first round of the joint Dutch/ French/ German and UK Open Research Area programme and announce the call for the second round.</p> <p>(d) <b>Q4</b> Fund the first social science projects under the RCUK Lead Agency agreement with FAPESP (Brazil)</p> <p>(e) <b>Q4</b> Announce the outcomes of the third call under the ESRC/ Research Grants Council of Hong Kong bilateral agreement, which makes use of the International Common Application Process procedures for the first time</p> <p>(f) <b>Q4</b> Hold the first two seminars supported under the new collaborative seminar scheme with the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science</p>
<p>6. To provide international leadership for social science</p>	<p>To influence, and in some cases lead, the agenda for social science internationally to promote internationally focused</p>	<p>(a) <b>Q3</b> Support and advise the new Abu Dhabi Economic Research Agency (ADERA) in holding its inaugural Research Conference</p>

	<p>research and enhance the international mobility of UK social scientists</p> <p><i>To be one of the world's leading social science research agencies</i></p>	<p>(b) <b>Q3</b> Convene, on behalf of the OECD Global Science Forum, an expert steering group to oversee a global initiative reviewing the future data and research infrastructure needs to support international research collaboration in the social sciences</p>
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### ***IMPACT THROUGH SKILLED PEOPLE***

<p>7. To develop training and capacity building activities in identified priority areas such as management and quantitative work.</p>	<p>To support those areas most in need of additional targeted ESRC support.</p> <p><i>Strengthening the UK's position as a world leader in social science by enhancing its high quality research capacity</i></p>	<p>(a) <b>Q3</b> Develop a resource to showcase the career advantages of quantitative methods targeted at undergraduate and postgraduate level students</p>
		<p>(b) <b>Q4</b> Launch a call in collaboration with the Nuffield Foundation for institution-led activities to address supply-side capacity-building needs in quantitative methods</p>
<p>8. To support training opportunities through the academic lifecourse.</p>	<p>To provide training and development for UK social scientists throughout the academic life course.</p> <p><i>Strengthening the UK's position as a world leader in social science by enhancing its high quality research capacity</i></p>	<p>(a) <b>Q1</b> Announce pilot arrangements to refocus the Social Science Workplace Experience Programme (SSWEP) scheme from undergraduates to ESRC PhDs, offering opportunities for internships with SMEs</p>
		<p>(b) <b>Q3</b> Establish a network of DTCs and DTUs, aligning this with our health of disciplines strategy and social science challenges</p>
		<p>(c) <b>Q4</b> Allocate quotas across the DTC network for the period 2011/12-13/14</p>

### ***IMPACT THROUGH WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE***

<p>9. To scale up the UK's data infrastructure and maintain the UK's position as an</p>	<p>To extend our portfolio of data resources, improve the quality of data collected, maximise data access and</p>	<p>(a) <b>Q1</b> Establish a panel to evaluate the Economic and Social Data Service to produce a report and recommendations for the future of the service</p>
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international centre for methodological innovation.	develop cutting edge methodological tools and techniques to improve the quality and impact of UK social science research.	(b) <b>Q2</b> Develop and implement an e-Social Science Strategy to maximise the impact of e-technologies for social science research
	<i>Providing and sharing data, information and methodologies to inform decision-making in policy and practice</i>	(c) <b>Q2</b> Launch the ESRC Strategy for Quantitative Research Methods
		(d) <b>Q2</b> Start the initial collection of biological data samples for the Understanding Society Study
		(e) <b>Q2</b> Issue the contract for the 2012 Birth Cohort Study as part of the Birth Cohort Facility Project subject to Ministerial approval
		(f) <b>Q3</b> Launch the fully functional Secure Data Service through which researchers can safely access sensitive microdata
		(g) <b>Q3</b> Commission the Cohort Resources Facility as part of the Birth Cohort Facility Project
		(h) <b>Q3</b> Ensure the release of data on 20,000 households from Understanding Society
		(i) <b>Q4</b> Commission the third round of research nodes as part of National Centre for Research Methods
		(j) <b>Q4</b> Secure prominent national media coverage of the first results from Understanding Society
		(k) <b>Q4</b> Ensure that academic, policy and practitioner audiences get direct access to the first results from Understanding Society enabling them to apply the outcomes in policy analysis

		(l) <b>Q4</b> Commission and complete a policy and practice impact evaluation of the Millennium Cohort Study to identify and assess how the MCS has achieved impact across a range of case studies.
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***IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS***

10. To implement the public engagement objectives of the ESRC's science and society strategy which includes working in partnership with the RCUK Science in Society Unit.	To extend the engagement and understanding of the general public in relation to social science research.  <i>Ensuring social science knowledge and ideas has the widest possible impact on UK society to stimulate informed public debate</i>	(a) <b>Q2</b> Impact plans: commission syntheses ready to inform the development of detailed impact plans for each of the challenges areas
		(b) <b>Q3</b> Embed public users within ESRC's governance structure
		(c) <b>Q3</b> Redesign and relaunch the ESRC's website to better highlight and support the impact of social science research
		(d) <b>Q4</b> Deliver 130 events for the Festival of Social Science to be held in March 2011
11. To develop schemes, strategies and collaborations to enhance knowledge transfer and impact including the delivery of key partnerships with the TSB, business sector and third sector	<i>To increase the knowledge transfer and economic, social and policy impact of social science research</i>	(a) <b>Q2</b> Develop an integrated on-line impact toolkit for ESRC research investments to support impact generation at all stages of the research process
		(b) <b>Q2</b> Conduct a review of the first three rounds of the Follow on Fund to inform the future direction of the scheme
		(c) <b>Q3</b> Deliver revised concordat relationships with Government partners, including delivery of three cross-departmental cluster meetings across the strategic plan challenges

		(d) <b>Q4</b> Support the strategic plan challenge impact plans with a series of themed publications that examine the implications for policy
		(e) <b>Q4</b> Impact plan: development of detailed plans and publication of deliverables (syntheses and plans)
		(f) <b>Q4</b> Develop a more flexible portfolio of knowledge exchange schemes through: expansion of the PhD internship programme to a minimum of 60 3-month PhD internships with public, private and third sector organisations; an additional 50 CASE studentships with public, private and third sector organisations
		(g) <b>Q4</b> Commission and complete an evaluation of the impact of 'skilled people', exploring capacity-building impact generation through the transfer of people and skills across the researcher/user interface
		(h) <b>Q4</b> Deliver upon revised business and third sector engagement strategies, exploiting RCUK collaboration and existing investments, by delivering a programme of engagement activities with strategic partners such as the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Financial Services Knowledge Transfer Network (in partnership with TSB)

***PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY***

12. To measure, evaluate and communicate the impact of ESRC's research	<i>To evaluate and communicate the impact of the work ESRC funds; to assess the international standing and impact of UK Social Science disciplines; and to identify ways of enhancing impact and capacity.</i>	(a) <b>Q2</b> Receive and analyse annual reports from the ESRC's major research investments in order to identify best practice and to increase future impact
		(b) <b>Q3</b> Manage a conceptual impact evaluation of child poverty research, and receive and review interim and final reports

		(c) <b>Q3</b> Establish, in collaboration with the relevant learned societies, an international assessment Panel for the international benchmarking review of human geography
		(d) <b>Q4</b> Manage, in collaboration with the BPS, BBSRC, MRC and EPSRC, the international benchmarking review of UK Psychology Panel, and receive and review draft and final reports
13. To continue to deliver efficiencies in our administration.	<p>(i) To direct our funds towards new priority investments, to continue to add value to the science budget by leveraging additional resources from outside the public sector and to reduce the proportion of our budget spent on administration.</p> <p>(ii) To play a full, positive and active role in the Shared Services Centre</p> <p>(iii) To contribute towards RCUK value for money savings</p> <p><i>Maximising efficient use of the science budget and resulting impact</i></p>	<p>(a) <b>Q2</b> Negotiate a new contract to reduce the annual running cost of the ESRC website by 25 per cent from 2011/12</p> <p>(b) <b>Q2</b> Transfer ESRC grants processing and management to the SSC with minimal disruption to the quality of service provided to applicants and those involved in the assessment process</p> <p>(c) <b>Q4</b> Continue to meet our agreed contribution to RCUK efficiency programme targets for administration spend, reprioritisation and external income</p>

Q1 (1 April – 30 June), Q2 (1 July – 30 September), Q3 (1 October – 31 December), Q4 (1 January – 31 March)