

Transdisciplinary Research Checklist

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Leadership factor 1 (balancing power and encouraging cooperation in team)

Thinking about **effective leadership** of your transdisciplinary project team, consider the team's approach to the following **aspects of leadership**.

- Keeping a good balance of power between team members

- Keeping a good balance of power between disciplinary perspectives

- Encouraging and enabling cooperation between team members

- Encouraging and enabling cooperation between different science disciplines

Leadership factor 2 (communication and motivation)

Thinking about **effective leadership** of your transdisciplinary project team, consider the team's approach to the following **aspects of leadership**.

- Motivating the team

- Motivating interaction and collaboration across multiple science disciplines

- Enabling and facilitating communication between team members

Integrating and communicating knowledge across multiple science disciplines

Dealing with disciplinary differences within the team

Team building and social capital

Thinking about **team building and personal relationships** between research team members, consider how the follow aspects of team building and social capital will be managed.

Allowing adequate time, during the course of the project, for informal interaction between research team members.

Encouraging and optimising communication between team members.

The development of good personal relationships between members of the research team

Maintaining the process of team building throughout the life of the research project.

Throughout the life of the research project encouraging and maintaining open dialogue and debate between research team members.

Collaborative team processes

Thinking about the working relationship between the team members, consider how the team can maximise **collaboration/cooperation towards the project goals**.

Yourself (i.e., what can you/individuals do?)

The team (i.e., what needs to be done as a team, by the team?)

- The different disciplines composing the team (i.e., how will the different disciplinary experts be encouraged to collaborate with each other and share and integrate their knowledge?)

Defining the common research problem

Thinking of how the team will **establish, frame and define** the project **research problem**, consider how the following processes aims will be achieved.

- The research problem is clearly identified and defined at the beginning of the project.
- The research problem is consultatively defined and inclusive of all disciplinary perspectives.
- Community stakeholders are adequately and meaningfully included in the problem definition process.
- The team is prepared and able to redefine the problem if and when required.
- Specification of the problem is used to define the research approach (not vice versa).

Research team's problem orientation

Thinking of the research **team's orientation** to the **project problem** and goals, consider how each of the following aspects will be managed.

- Specification of the problem determines the required disciplinary fields of team members (i.e., identification of the necessary disciplines required to address the problem).

- The research team is composed of an appropriate mixture of the necessary relevant disciplines to address the identified project problem (i.e., the 'right team' includes experts from the identified necessary disciplines).

- Maintaining individual research team member's focus on the project problem and goals.

- Maintaining team leadership focus on the project problem and goals.

- Maintaining the whole team focus on the project problem and goals.

Interdisciplinary understanding and knowledge dissemination

Thinking of maximising the **functionality** of the project team, consider how the following **enabling factors** for transdisciplinary research might be managed or enhanced.

- Individual team members develop a reasonable understanding of the terminology use, research methodologies, assumptions, and approaches of other disciplinary perspectives in the team.

- Overall, the research team develops a reasonable understanding of the terminology, research methodologies, assumptions and approaches of the disciplines necessary to solve the research problem.

- Team members are, and remain though out the project, adequately immersed within the disciplinary fields required to address the research problem.

- Information and progress reports are regularly disseminated to research team members.

- There is an adequate plan developed and implemented for the dissemination and publication of research results.

Time and resource availability

Thinking of the maximising the **functionality** of the project team, consider how the following **enabling factors** for transdisciplinary research might be managed or enhanced.

- The research team has adequate time to undertake and complete the project.

- Sufficient resources are available to the team to undertake and complete this project

- The research team has the appropriate mix of competencies and attitude for this project (i.e., it is the 'right team' for the job)

Perceptions of stakeholder influence on project

Thinking about **stakeholder influence on the projects outputs and outcomes**, consider how the following aspect might be managed or enhanced.

- Local stakeholder knowledge is adequately integrated throughout the project

- Stakeholder/community participation and influence are integrated throughout the project and their influence is recognisable in the project outputs.

- The project outputs and outcomes meet stakeholder/community expectations and needs.