

Practice Abstract #29

Commonalities and specificities of the multi-actor approach in H2020 projects

The multi-actor approach represents the collaborative integration of resources to achieve a common goal and refers to the involvement of different types of actors in project development and implementation. It is a form of team building that is critical to creating and sustaining networks and knowledge communities. A multi-actor approach in research and innovation projects is about engaging end-users and practitioners to make the best use of complementary types of knowledge. End-users and practitioners are not just observers or research objects, but their entrepreneurial skills are used to develop (co-create) solutions. The concept includes "co-ownership" of the results, thus accelerating the practical application of knowledge. The analysis showed that all the H2020 multi-actor projects respected the basic principles (commonalities) of the multi-actor approach; the distribution of tasks corresponded to the competencies of each actor, and the "stakeholders" were "used" in the conception and execution phases, in the initial analysis of the problem(s), in different types of interactions such as debates, interviews, focus groups, workshops, round tables, surveys, in the co-creation of new knowledge and the use of the results, in the promotion of the project and the dissemination of its results. Not only did research partners create results in this way, but practitioners were also involved in co-creating results in field trials, testing and validating solutions, demonstrations, demo farms, living labs, study visits, and exchanges. Policymakers were involved as facilitators of learning about current situations and problems. Non-research partners were also mainly responsible for promoting and communicating the project.

