

Good practice doing cross-national multidisciplinary research

Antje Heinrich

Single most important aspect

- resilient and high-quality interpersonal relationships among team members

How?

- Long-term professional relationship
- regular face-to-face meetings

Communication

Regular meetings build up professions rapport

- Mutual understanding, acceptance of
 - crucial concepts, terminology and methods in each discipline
 - different interest and research goals
 - funder goals
- Respect for all disciplines and contributions
- Foster inclusion

Communication

Regular meetings build up professions rapport

- Learning from each other perspectives, methods, questions
 - across disciplines
 - across levels of seniority
- Cross-fertilisation
- Trust
 - that everyone is benefitting
 - to ask questions

Communication

Regular face-to-face meetings build up personal rapport

○ Understand cultural differences in communication, status and identity

○ L2

○ Build up credit for “benefit-of-the-doubt” situations

- When communication channels less optimal (email / skype)
- Misunderstandings
- Disagreement / conflicts

HEARATTN



HEARATTN

Israel



Finland



Canada



Israel



UK



HEARATTN

- Majority knew each other beforehand
- Group meetings at strategic points
 - Beginning
 - Different approaches to the same broader issue
 - Development of shared language to talk about research
 - Middle
 - Methodological issues, first results,
 - Scope for cross-group collaboration
 - End
 - Common understanding of results
 - shared effort of big picture thinking in dissemination
- Each hosted by a different group

HEARATTN

- Great leadership
- Focussed grant topic: Communication and social participation
- Project was set up as individual sub-projects
 - The progress of one team did not depend on the work of another team
 - Cross-team collaborations took mostly place in the second half of the funding period as explicit added value after people had got to know each other's work intimately