Introduction to Research and Innovation Impact Assessment

Description

This introductory session aims to develop a shared understanding and common language about research and innovation impact assessment (RIIA) among stakeholders of the research and innovation ecosystem. Growing demand around the world requires researchers and others to effectively measure impact and demonstrate their contributions to broader health, social and economic benefits. Our goal is to increase participants' knowledge of RIIA, introduce them to some of the common 'tools' used in RIIA and highlight the importance of communicating impacts to inform practice and policy decisions to ultimately benefit the public.

Who will benefit?

This introductory session is relevant for several stakeholders in the research and innovation system, including trainees, researchers, program managers, policy makers, practitioners, research funders, knowledge translators and evaluators.

What will participants in the course gain?

Participants will be introduced to the theoretical background of RIIA as well as its practical applications.

Learning Outcomes

The Introduction to RIIA session provides participants with increased knowledge of how to plan, measure, communicate and optimize research and innovation impact. Participants will learn the **why**, **what, who**, and **how** of RIIA:

- **Why** assess impact?
  Develop an understanding of the rationale for and value of planning, measuring, communicating and optimizing research and innovation impact.
- **What** is meant by "impact"?
  Learn the value of an impact framework and logic model to highlight what is meant by "impact" within a specific project or program.
- **Who** needs to know about impact?
  Understand the importance of identifying key stakeholders for the RIIA and understanding their information needs.
- **How** is a research impact assessment conducted?
  Learn about a six block approach for RIIA that guides the planning, implementation and communication of RIIA and its findings.

Content
- o **Overview of the Discipline of Research and Innovation Impact Assessment (RIIA)**
- o **Introduction to Impact Frameworks for RIIA**
- o **Six Blocks of RIIA**