

# Session 3

Today we have access to more diverse and sophisticated data and analytic tools than ever before - relating to multiple dimensions of research and researcher performance, outcomes and impacts.

But are we making proper use of these advances to inform policy and decision making?

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# Session 3

## Agenda

- 15:40 -15:45 Introduction (10 minutes)
- 15:45 – 16:15 Groupwork in three groups. 1 online and 2 live groups ( 30 minutes)
  - Group 1: (online): **Evaluation and experimentation**
  - Group 2 : **Sharing and scaling**
  - Group 3: **Uptake and implementation**

(In the group you will elect a captian, who will eventually present the results of the groupwork in plenum.)
- 16:15 - 16:25 Coffee break (15 minutes)
- 16:25 – 17:00 Presentation from each group to the panel and discussion in plenum. (35 minutes)

# From instinct to evidence: 'what works' in research funding and evaluation?

## Group 1: Evaluation and experimentation (online)

- 1) How can funders supplement traditional modes of impact assessment with more experimental modes?
- 2) What experience do funders have of experiments with impact assessment, and what insights and evidence have these yielded to date?
- 3) At what point in the funding and evaluation process does it make most sense to introduce trials and other experimental interventions?
- 4) How can experiments be designed to ensure support and engagement with applicants, grantees and other stakeholders?

# From instinct to evidence: 'what works' in research funding and evaluation?

## Group 2: Sharing and scaling

- 1) How can we optimize collaboration and scaling of new knowledge on effective funding and evaluation?
- 2) Which topics and types of experiments lend themselves to multi-funder collaborations, and which are better addressed unilaterally?
- 3) How can funders balance the benefits of collaboration—including richer, more robust data and evidence—with potential risks—including over data privacy and reduced control over outcomes?

# From instinct to evidence: 'what works' in research funding and evaluation?

## Group 3: Uptake and implementation

- 1) How can funders increase the uptake and implementation of research findings from trials, experiments and wider forms of research on research?
- 2) Are there better ways of tapping into and using knowledge and expertise in the wider research system?
- 3) How well do the timeframes for robust evaluation and experimentation map onto decision processes?
- 4) How can funders organise their own internal operations to ensure a virtuous cycle between investments, impact assessments and decision-making?