



SUMMARY OF THE Opening workshop of Sustainable Welfare Systems research program

Collaborative workshop on the research themes and operations of a new research program on Sustainable Welfare Systems.

8.10.2020 at 9-11

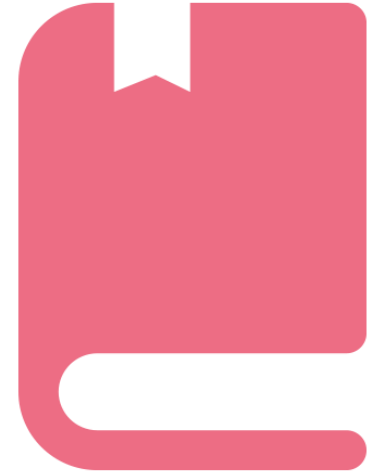
ZOOM WORKSHOP

Summarising the Opening workshop of Sustainable Welfare Systems research program

- The opening workshop gathered together 58 interdisciplinary researchers from 7 university faculties, along with participants from both inside and outside the TAU community. *Thank you all!*
- **Keeping in touch:** piloting Yammer, email list, newsletter:
 - In order to keep the active conversation going we have quickly built up a Yammer channel. You may [join SWS Yammer here](#).
 - As the Yammer forum is only open to Tampere University personnel, we are working on to find a forum to also allow engagement of people outside the TAU community, suggestions are welcomed.
- **The materials of the opening workshop are shared both in Yammer and in the [SWS webpage](#)**, which will also keep you posted on the latest twists of the program.
- We are glad to receive your feedback on the workshop: [Give us feedback here](#).

Workshop summary

- A)** Program themes and relevant research perspectives
- B)** Seed funding - how to make it most useful?
- C)** Modes of collaboration - multidisciplinary research in practice?



A Program themes and relevant research perspectives

- Participants raised various research themes and perspectives under the sustainable welfare system thematic umbrella. **In general the theme was found as a good one to bring people with various backgrounds together.**
- However, it was also suggested that the definition of the concepts of "sustainable" and "welfare" is difficult. Nevertheless, it is of high importance in order to allow people to recognise themselves within the themes.
- Related to the sustainability theme, it was emphasized that sustainability should be considered from sociological, ecological and ethical perspectives.
- In addition, utilization of data was discussed in relation to close collaboration with actors also outside academia. This relates closely to the modes of collaboration.
- Themes participants represented in short included but were not limited to the following:
 - users, participation, customer experience, services
 - governance, leadership, information systems, resilience of the system, Information and knowledge management
 - socio-economic inequality, equity, right to information, access to information, access to rights
 - technological solutions, robotics, ecological perspectives
 - impact, evaluation, cost-effectiveness, value based, results, socio-economic impact

B Seed funding - how to make it most useful?

Seed funding could be targeted to:

- organizing seminars and networking events that allow partner finding and bring people together
- participating in various events (travel, accommodation, food)
- allow access to data sources; data costs, data collection, data storage, research infrastructure for databases (to make data available also after the projects)
- salary costs
 - *Research assistants*: preparation and background work: combining materials and data, licences, data formats and data management
 - *Researchers*: writing and preparing funding applications, possibility to participate in various projects when there is time and resources allocated to this, grant writer costs to coordinate funding application processes as the person should be well aware of how certain funding instruments work
 - *Stakeholders*: also participation of various stakeholder groups is dependent on resources allocated to participation. Funding on this could allow time and possibilities for collaboration.
- fund tools for collaboration
 - to build a match making –tool; seed funding could be related to some kind of "research tinder"
 - further developing new ideas

Along with a discussion on where seed funding should be used at, issues related to the measurement of the seed funding instruments and how the instrument should include a commitment of impact when paid were also raised.

C Modes of collaboration - multidisciplinary research in practice?

- Allowing channels for collaboration and matchmaking: **it is important to match the most appropriate channel and mean with the desired outcome**
 - workshops, seminars, conferences on the SWS thematic to support interdisciplinarity but also to allow interaction of scholars and stakeholders outside academia - ***informal situations are better than formal conferences***
 - a shared physical working space supported with a digital space for the SWS research community
 - considering the usage of virtual tools especially now in the time of Covid – e.g. virtual lunches on a regular basis weekly, monthly -every Tuesday lunch –one could just pop in to see what's going on, - a host would be needed – perhaps someone could shortly present something – in any case there should be a common theme which would collect the interested parties together
 - Collaboration platforms for research application writing
 - Considering also existing spaces and forums for collaboration that may be utilized, such as HealthHUB in Kauppi campus to collaborate with companies and hospital district
 - Channels such as Slack, Teams for collaboration and matchmaking: match making system - lists of contacts, of people interested in applying - could SWS help to coordinate, some sort of platform such as Bazaar – but how is it used?
 - events were also questioned as a means of seed funding, as they were recognised to be more beneficial when people would already know each other. Nevertheless intensive workshops may be fruitful to incubate real collaboration. Also big events are nice but perhaps not the best in terms of input-output relation.
 - How to manage meaningful collaboration?
 - Sustainable cross disciplinary collaboration and incubating ideas takes time!

What happens next –REGISTER FOR THE UPCOMING EVENTS!

SWS Research community building:

- Two SWS research community building workshops will be organised in 19.11 and 2.12. **Register [HERE](#).**
- The aim of the workshops is to build further the multidisciplinary collaboration within the SWS thematics and incubate research collaboration.



SWS roundtable series (in Finnish):

- 3.11.2020 The role of research in the development of health care and social welfare reform (together with THL, city of Tampere and Pirkanmaa region). Register [HERE](#).
- 12.11.2020 Towards cross-organisational collaboration in the field of welfare (together with [Kampus-sote project](#)). Register [HERE](#).
- 10.12.2020 Innovation ecosystems as tools for to open RDI activities (together with Kampus-sote project). Register [HERE](#).