



## Competition Criteria – what we are looking for

The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement are running this national competition to find and celebrate high quality public engagement with research projects.

*What is public engagement with research?*

The NCCPE define public engagement with research as the **myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit.**

Engaging the public with research can take many forms and we are interested in applications covering projects from all disciplines, of any size, length and cost. Whilst many projects engage the public with very specific areas of research, we are also interested in applications involving researchers engaging the public with their discipline, rather than their specific research area.

This document outlines the questions we will be considering when assessing your project. Please make sure you address each of these in the appropriate section of the entry form.

Please remember that the panel can only judge based on the information given in the application form.

## Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be a current member of staff or student at a UK Higher Education Institute (HEI) or Research Institute (RI)
- Applications from partners in collaborative projects are encouraged; however the named applicant should be a current member of staff or student at a UK HEI or RI.
- The competition is open to individuals or groups, but group entries must be submitted by one named individual who is the main contact for the competition
- Collaborations with other HE/Research institutions are eligible

Please read the full terms and conditions available on the competition webpage.

## About you

The application form must be completed by a current member of staff or student at a UK university and be the main contact for the competition. (Please note, prizes will be awarded to the employing institution of the winning lead applicant.)

The application form can be saved and returned to at a later date – but it is your responsibility to ensure that the application is submitted before the closing date. The closing date for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 at 5pm.

## Competition entries will be judged on the following criteria:

### Intention

We believe that high quality engagement activities have considered both the purpose and the audience/participants and used this to inform the development of the project. It is important to consider the outcomes of the project, and how you will assess these. Specific things we will be looking for are:

- The purpose of the project is clear
- The audience/ participants were well defined
- The desired outcomes of the project were clearly stated

- The outcomes were measured in an appropriate and effective way
- An appropriate evaluation plan was used

### **Mutual Benefit**

Core to high quality engagement is the idea of mutual benefit. We would expect there to be benefits to all those involved in the project. You may wish to evidence the following:

- The impact of the project is clearly stated and evidenced
- The project benefitted participants
- The project benefitted the research / researcher
- The project benefitted the project partners
- External and internal partnerships were created as a result of the project

### **Innovation**

We are interested in new ways people have engaged people with their research. This may be a really innovative activity, or it may be an existing activity being used in a new way. It may also be innovation in how you market the project, or in how you make use of resources.

- The project used creative ways of engaging the audience
- The project made creative use of resources (people, places, materials, budget)
- The project or aspects of the project show originality
- The project was marketed in an innovative way

### **Quality**

High quality projects are usually planned and managed well.

- The project was well planned and researched
- Audience/ Participant understanding informed the development of the project
- The project was conducted effectively and efficiently
- There is an awareness of what parts of the project worked well and what didn't work so well and why
- Evaluation was used to help develop the project, and encourage critical reflection

### **Sustainability**

Whilst some activities are planned as a one off, we are interested to know about if and how you planned for sustainability. This includes how you managed the relationship with your participants and partners over time. You may wish to reflect on the following:

- Resources have been produced and shared as a result of the project
- The partnerships were sustained following the project
- The participants were kept involved in the project appropriately (e.g. if you did a consultation did you share your findings and resulting actions with the participants in the consultation)
- The project was sustained and/ or developed

### **Contact us**

If you would like to contact us or have any questions, please email [engage.competition@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:engage.competition@uwe.ac.uk)

## Useful links on the NCCPE website

[www.publicengagement.ac.uk](http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk)

- *Public engagement with Research*

<http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/what/activities/PE-with-research>

- *Who are the public?*

<http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/what/who-are-the-public>

- *Methods of engaging the public*

<http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods>

- *Purposes of public engagement*

<http://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/what/purposes-of-engagement>