

VISION, MISSION & OBJECTIVES

A New Decade for the Global Research Council

Preamble

Since 2012 the Global Research Council (GRC) has enabled heads of science and engineering funding agencies from around the world to come together to discuss common issues and promote the sharing of data and best practice, with the aim of promoting high-quality international research collaboration.

Over the last 10 years participation in the GRC has increased, with greater representation from across its Regions, meaning that the GRC has become a truly global body. As the GRC enters its next decade, its participants recognise that the drivers which brought its founders together to establish the organisation remain as strong as ever. As we move into the next 10 years of the GRC's existence, it is also important to reflect and ensure that the GRC continues to support its participant's interests and needs as a global forum of science funding agencies.

The most pressing societal and economic challenges we face today are global in nature. Research and innovation have a critical role to play in providing the solutions that society needs to overcome these global challenges, such as environmental change, healthy ageing, heritage and conservation and clean energy. Through international collaboration, researchers and innovators can address global challenges at a much greater scale, pooling expertise and avoiding duplication of effort; achieving mutually beneficial outcomes that would not be possible in isolation.

Research quality, research integrity and ethical behaviour lie at the heart of excellent research and development. They are also key if researchers are to be able to trust and build on the work of others and are crucial if researchers are to be trusted by society to address global challenges. At a time of increasing international cooperation, funders must work with international partners to ensure that the research they collectively support is conducted in accordance with the highest possible international standards. As the recent COVID 19 pandemic has shown, there is also the need for funders to consider more carefully the interplay between science and society, and how the scientific community engages and communicates with the public.

As a virtual organisation with no membership fees, and a light touch secretariat provided pro-bono by a participant organisation. The GRC operates on the good will of its participant organisations in offering to host meetings and support the attendance and participation of their personnel at meetings, events and working groups; and activities on the GRCs behalf. The GRC therefore only exists if its participant organisations derive value and benefit from it, and thus are prepared to engage and support its activities.

Vision and Mission

Our collective vision is that research and innovation play a leading role in providing the solutions that society needs to overcome the global and interconnected challenges of our time.

Our mission is to work in partnership to create the conditions in which international research cooperation and collaboration can thrive.

By doing so we enable researchers to develop international partnerships to deliver excellent research, which impacts positively on the lives and well-being of citizens from across the globe.

Through the GRC we will jointly promote a robust and responsible international research and innovation ecosystem which promotes the benefits of international collaboration and maintains public trust in the reliability of the research that we fund.

Objectives

Over the next decade, we will deliver this vision through the pursuit of the following objectives:

1. Maintain our primary role as a forum for research councils to share data and best practice, as well as discussing issues of common concern and mutual strategic priority.
2. Actively facilitate and promote bilateral and multilateral collaboration between participant organisations, in order to support the global science enterprise and the world-wide research community and address global challenges.
3. Champion a more equitable, diverse, sustainable and inclusive future to harnesses the diversity of talent which can contribute to the research and innovation enterprise.
4. Share experience and best practice in engaging and communicating with society and the public; so that science and scientists are valued and trusted by society to develop solutions which will improve lives and well-being of citizens from across the globe.
5. Enhance the role of and engagement with GRC Regional Meetings; with a specific focus on engaging organisations that presently don't participate to better understand their needs and how the GRC can be relevant to them.
6. Increase the visibility of the GRC and its work to its participant organisations, other international organisations, as well as the international research and innovation community. Working in partnership with other organisations in the international research and innovation ecosystem to maximise the value and impact of the GRC's work.
7. Provide support for participant organisations considering how best to take forward GRC Statements of Principles; as well as continuing to be a resource for those institutions wishing to build a world-class research landscape.

What will success look like

1. GRC is considered a useful resource for its participants and institutions wishing to build and sustain a world-class research and innovation landscape. It is recognised as the main forum of Heads of Research Councils world-wide.
2. Participants report enhanced collaborative activity, both bilateral and multilateral, facilitated by discussions at the GRC. The GRC's role in facilitating international collaboration is recognised by the international research and innovation community.
3. GRC is considered an expert and leading voice on the promotion of equality, diversity, sustainability and inclusion in the international research and innovation eco-system. It is also embedded within its own structures, policies and practices.
4. Information and experience on developing innovative and successful approaches for connecting science to the society and building public trust is shared among GRC participants and the wider global research eco-system.
5. Strong attendance and engagement at Regional Meetings, with regular opportunities for inter-regional discussion and engagement.
6. GRC has a high profile both within its participation organisations and within the wider international research and innovation ecosystem. Where appropriate, the GRC works in partnership with other organisations and networks, thereby avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity.
7. Participants report positively on how GRC Statements of Principle have informed and validated the development of policy and practice both within their own, as well as other, organisations.

In delivering this vision we will ensure that the GRC's own structures and procedures remain fit for purpose; are open, transparent and allow for participation and contributions from all participants.