

Even cats can be herded

Steve Measure

BSc CSci CPhys MInstP FRSA



Creative Science Engagement Networking, Development and Organisation

b. *“There is a need for greater co-ordination and joining-up of the many providers of professional development and enhancement activities to achieve more coherent delivery, but without sacrificing diversity of choice.”*

STEM Mapping Report 2006

CreScENDO

STEM Mapping Review 2004 revealed over 470 STEM initiatives run by DfES..

There are more than **250** identifiable organisations (stakeholders) involved in PSE with over **2,000** practitioners (also stakeholders) working in PSE full-time or for a significant part of their time.

CreScENDO Interim Report 2006

If schemes outside of those initiated by Government were to be included the 'plethora' is estimated to be as many as **1,500 initiatives or programmes.**"

CreScENDO Interim Report 2006

"In many HEIs there is little understanding or coordination of PE initiatives and individual departments are also working in isolation."

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Public Science Engagement

CrescENDO



CrescENDO

Building networks and a knowledge base between public engagement practitioners, researchers, managers and policy makers through action research, evaluation and intervention.

The ‘lateral’ networking avoids using existing organisational structures. Neither top down nor bottom up.

Action research involved both searching out and evaluating attitudes of practitioners, interviewing managers and policymakers and brokering collaboration and shared intelligence.

Evaluation, Dissemination and Awareness

Survey of 42 Stakeholders

50% Evaluation was a condition of the award

54% Evaluation was honest, with mistakes

25% Evaluation made available to others

..about their awareness of some wide ranging and randomly picked examples of PSE projects

Of the 9 activities/awards listed, on average:

66% knew nothing about them at all

24% knew a little

8% were fully aware

1% had read the evaluation

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HEI's PE and other outreach:

- Outreach not necessarily known by department.
- Disapproval by department.
- PE 3rd priority at best.
- Finite projects awarded with little incentive for sustained development or research into similar work.



Regional and national organisations:

- Not enough time or no appetite to help join projects up.
- Priority is often focused on own survival and self-sustainability

- **CreScENDO joint emails (Less successful)**
- **CreScENDO Coffees (Cardiff and Manchester)**
- **CreScENDO Conferences**
(Engineering Engagement Conference)

Helped to create clusters of similar STEM activity that are self supporting and more likely to be sustainable with new ideas and collaborations.

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STEM initiatives can be helped to be more effective, building capacity, sharing good materials and intelligence, repeating good practice and producing better value for money..... but it doesn't happen without a great deal of arm twisting and face to face work with practitioners.

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Public Science Engagement