

Circling around your research

Increasing the impact of your research starts with developing your research plan together with all the important stakeholders involved in your subject. However, involving stakeholders in this initial phase of a research project is not easy. Circling around your research is a method for the joint development of research proposals between stakeholders on the basis of mutual equality. It helps you build a consortium, ask the right questions and develop a team of stakeholders that can help you winning grants and executing research projects.

Goal

Circling around your research is a method for the development of research proposals for practice-based research projects. In practice-based research the goal of the project is not only to develop new knowledge but also to directly contribute to societal challenges. For this type of research to have true impact it is important that all important stakeholders involved in the issue participate in the planning phase.

However, that is often not easy to do. Different stakeholders will have different views on what the problem is and what the goal of the research project should be. They may have different interests and come from different cultures. To help you jointly develop a research proposal Circling around your research offers a nine step approach for reaching agreement.

Basic principles

The method Circling around your research is based upon four basic principles:

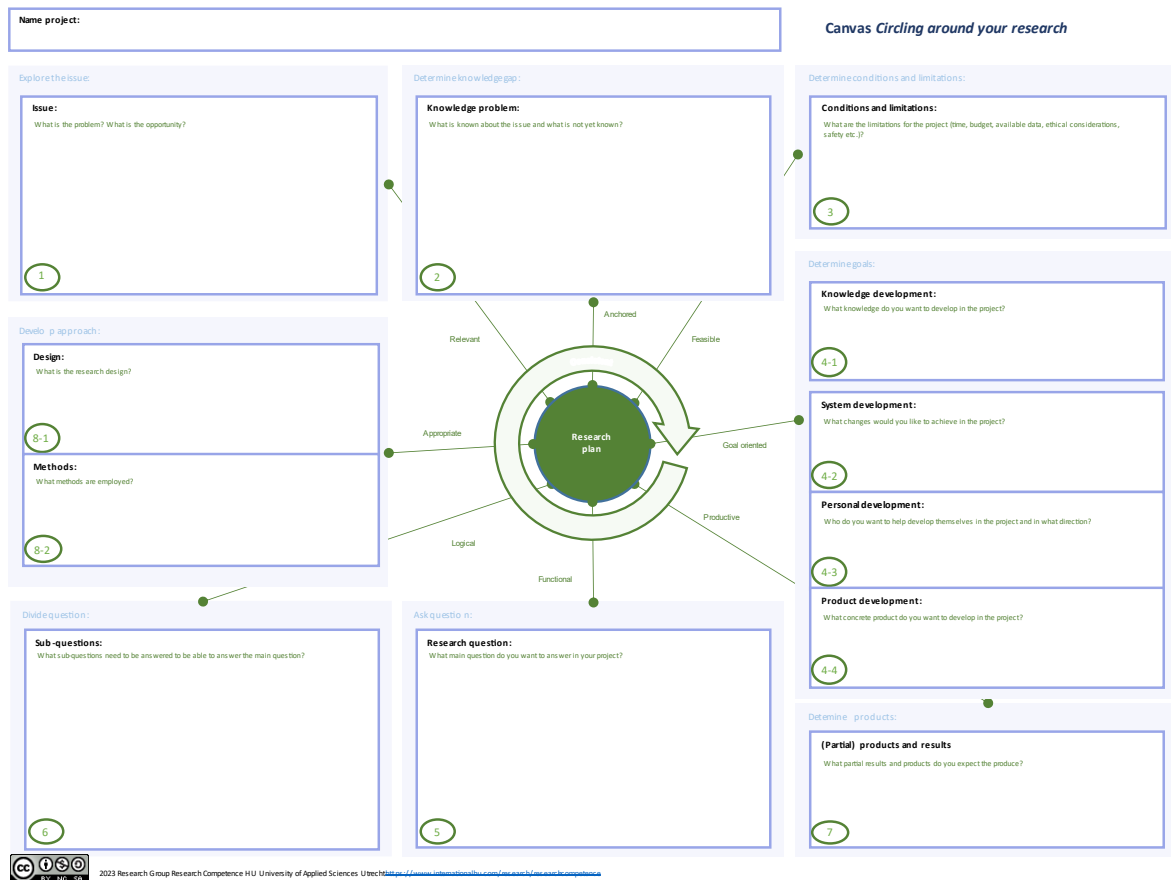
1. Through practice-based research we not only work on the development of new knowledge. A practice-based research project can also be used for three other purposes:
 - a. Developing products that can be used in practice
 - b. Developing people through participation and training
 - c. Developing systems like teams, organizations, cultures and policies through interventions
2. Developing a research plan for practice-based research requires more than producing a research question and a research methodology. Nine elements need to be considered (see the research plan canvas below).
3. Contributing to complex problems in practice requires an iterative approach. The same goes for developing the research plan.
4. The process requires input from multiple perspectives and mutual equality from all stakeholders. Scientific knowledge, professional knowledge and experiential knowledge are equally important. For the research team to become successful learning to know each other as a person is key.

Approach

The complete toolkit consists of nine modules that can be tailored to local needs. Two versions are possible. In the complete version the nine modules are all used as part of a nine-step process. This version is best used when the goal is not only to develop a research proposal but also shape a close-knit team that is ready to execute the proposal. In the light version modules can be selected to address specific elements of the proposal like clarifying the issue or developing research goals.

The research plan canvas

The heart of the method is the research plan canvas that depicts the nine elements that need to be considered when writing a proper research plan:



Available material

The toolkit will be available in Dutch and English in April 2024. Materials include:

- A manual for researchers and project leaders on how to use the toolkit Circling around your research.
- A series of short video's explaining the key concepts and methods within the toolkit
- Several canvases
- 2 reports describing the results of the test phase of the toolkit (Dutch only)

More information

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