



## HESI SDG Publishers Compact Fellows: Top Action Tips

### Co-creating Research with Practitioners

*Co-creation involves collaboration between researchers and practitioners and aims to jointly generate knowledge by involving stakeholders from various sectors throughout the research process to ensure that real-world needs and challenges are addressed effectively.*

#### Publishers and Editors

##### 1. Understand co-creation

- Familiarize yourself with different forms of collaboration (e.g., [action research](#), [engaged scholarship](#)).
- Recognize the value of practitioner involvement in bridging theory and practice.
- Consider recruiting practitioners to editorial boards and involve them in peer review.

##### 2. Leverage practitioner expertise

- Collaborate [with practitioners to address real-world challenges](#).
- Acknowledge the unique insights of practitioners and contextual knowledge they can bring.

##### 3. Advocate for impact

- Encourage submissions, for example, through special issues that bridge research and practice.
- Provide advice for researchers to write for diverse audiences.
- Foster inclusive and equitable partnerships between editors, researchers, and practitioners.
- Reviewers should assess for relevance for practitioners and add questions about the practical implication in reviewer forms.
- Recognize and celebrate the interconnectedness of scholarship and practical application through a range of [article](#) and non-article content types.
- Facilitate collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and publishers.

#### 4. Curation

- [Signpost research](#) that impacts practice and brings real-world benefits, such as SDG-aligned content.
- Be transparent about practitioner engagement in research, thinking about ways of effectively signposting these research articles.
- Reflect and celebrate the collaborative process in published work.

#### 5. Visual and visible

- Many publishers provide advice for [writing for a practitioner audience](#). Think about how to translate research into accessible formats: [blogs](#), podcasts, [infographics](#) and visual abstracts, and [plain language summaries](#).
- Explore funding for dissemination efforts and provide hints and tips to researchers and practitioners on how they can leverage their networks via social and traditional media to share the research more widely.

### Researchers

#### 6. Identify stakeholders widely

- Incorporate practitioner insights into research design.
- [Beyond practitioners, consider service users, those who commission services, policymakers, and others.](#)
- Think broadly about who can contribute to your research and offer additional guidance or training to aid participation.

#### 7. Involve practitioners early

- Engage practitioners from the project's inception.
- Co-design research questions, methodologies, and desired outcomes together.
- Align research questions with practical needs and priorities.
- Explicitly commit to co-creation in research guidelines.
- Prioritize SDG-aligned research addressing practical challenges to ensure real-world benefits are delivered.

#### 8. Build trust and rapport

- Establish open communication channels and mutual respect.
- Acknowledge the expertise and unique perspectives of practitioners.
- Be empathetic by understanding their challenges, goals, and constraints. Employ active listening and demonstrate a willingness to learn.
- Recognize and address any power imbalances in a transparent way and look to share decision-making authority to ensure equitable participation.

## **9. Manage expectations**

- Researchers often work on longer timelines. Be adaptable to practitioners' faster-paced schedules.
- Set realistic expectations for deliverables and milestones.

## **10. Embrace interdisciplinary perspectives**

- Co-creation benefits from diverse viewpoints. Find ways to acknowledge and celebrate this in your research.
- Collaborate across [traditional subject disciplines](#) to enrich research outcomes.

## **11. Communication**

- Maintain ongoing and regular dialogue.
- Share progress, findings, and insights at regular intervals throughout the process.

## **12. Celebrate successes and learn from challenges**

- Acknowledge achievements together.
- Reflect on obstacles and adapt strategies for continuous improvement.

Remember, to advance the UN SDGs, successful co-creation requires commitment, flexibility, and vision from all parties.

Links to related Top Action Tips:

- [Connecting Researchers and Practitioners](#)
- [Communicating with Policymakers, Journalists and the Public](#)
- [Communicating with Professionals and Practitioners](#)