

Engaging schools with research

Real world data is offering schools and pupils agency to take informed action on the impact of poor air quality.

The SAMHE (Schools' Air quality Monitoring for Health and Education) project, led at York by SEI-Y's Professor Sarah West, is an ambitious citizen science project designed both with and for schools. Citizen Science is a method that has fair and equal knowledge exchange between scientists and citizens at its core; SAMHE is an example of this, as an exciting knowledge exchange project that helps both scientists and schools learn how to make classrooms healthier places, counteracting the negative impact of poor air quality on health, concentration, attendance and attainment.

SAMHE is aiming to involve 2,000 schools across the UK in monitoring their indoor environment and air quality. Each school gets a free air quality monitor and, alongside it, access to a bespoke Web App. The SAMHE Web App not only enables schools to access their classroom air quality data, helping to make the invisible visible, but also supports teachers and pupils alike to better understand the data that they see, empowering them to make informed decisions about managing their classroom environment. SAMHE Web



App 'Activities' encourage schools to interact with their monitor while providing opportunities for pupils to practise a wide range of skills such as working scientifically, recording and analysing data, persuasive writing and citizenship.

By working with schools, SAMHE will be able to monitor air quality on a larger scale than would otherwise be possible and through schools' entries via the specific Web App, SAMHE will receive rich contextual data helping to support the team's analysis. Further, schools interacting with the Web App will help the project to meet its aims of increasing knowledge and understanding of indoor air quality, including why it

is so important and what actions to take to improve it. Schools' input throughout the design process has also helped to maximise the chances of the SAMHE Web App being used by providing insight into the various different use cases for SAMHE activities (including in lessons, for specific curriculum objectives, as a short 'bell task', or with extracurricular groups), which has informed its development.

For more information about SAMHE, please visit the [project website](#). SAMHE is still recruiting schools for the 2023/24 school year.

Introduction to intellectual property and commercialisation support

The Commercialisation Team runs a 30 minute training course "Introduction to Intellectual Property & Commercialisation Support". The session provides a brief overview of what intellectual property (IP) is and how it can support research impact. You will also learn how to identify potentially valuable IP and how the Commercialisation Team can support you. The next session takes place on Wednesday 18 October, 1.00pm. [Book your place onto this 30-minute online course](#) and see how the commercialisation team can help support you.

Enterprise Works runs first ever entrepreneur exchange

Opportunities for three small North Yorkshire businesses to expand their client base internationally, get local, expert market advice, and create overseas investment opportunities, has been made possible through an entrepreneur exchange run by Enterprise Works, the University's small business hub, and CITY College, University of York Europe Campus, based in Thessaloniki, Greece.

All three businesses, Nature's Laboratory, Asclepius Healthcare and Test Card demonstrated relevant sector links to the Greek market to ensure a strong potential to benefit from the trip.

As well as receiving expert 1-2-1 briefings and connections to

local potential client businesses, the entrepreneurs attended the European Business Angels Network (EBAN) annual congress in Thessaloniki, where they accessed a range of local knowledge, specialist investment advice and access to the investor community.

The value of the support, given by the University of York, in creating growth opportunities for these North Yorkshire businesses, is all part of the role Enterprise Works plays in supporting the local entrepreneurial community. Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Partnerships and Engagement, Professor Kiran Trehan said 'By promoting collaboration beyond disciplinary boundaries, and

with diverse people and entities from across society, for and with our local and business community, we can create a thriving local economy that retains talent in the region, and enables global competitiveness.'

There will be a continuing relationship between the university and the entrepreneurs, who will be sharing their expertise, stories and experience with the student and local entrepreneurial communities.

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Knowledge exchange with the international business community

The School for Business and Society has been actively engaged in knowledge exchange with the international business community.

Recent initiatives led by Professor Christopher Williams include a series of three forums convened by the School on the topic of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Cities and two strategy and leadership workshops delivered for the leadership team from the Construction and Agriculture division from Rolls Royce Power Systems in Germany.

The FDI and Cities forums were attended by a mix of academics, journalists, local and international policy professionals, and consultants operating in the investment promotion space. Two of the workshops were held in the Church Lane Building, University of York, with the third co-hosted in Paris in June 2023 at NEOMA Business School's Paris campus. Keynote speakers were drawn from both international academia and the policy space, including representatives from The Organization for Economic

Co-operation and Development (OECD), KPMG, and the United Nations University. Topics covered included how to attract inward investment into cities, sustainable development in cities, and the issue of aftercare and growth.



FDI and Cities Forum #2

The second initiative, with Rolls Royce Power Systems, involved a one-day workshop held in Friedrichshafen in July 2022 and a follow-on 2-day event in York in June 2023.

Feedback was extremely positive as evidenced by attendee Stefan Rudert, Director Global C&A, Rolls Royce Power Systems who said: "The workshop was a great success to me, as we were able to discuss outside of a

business-driven company environment current challenges within our team and business setup. The science driven approach of the workshops led to an intensive exchange between the professors and the Rolls Royce Power Systems team, enabling both parties to take new points of view to enrich their daily work. And additionally, the very nice atmosphere supported everyone feeling welcome to participate actively."



Rolls Royce Power Systems C&A Leadership Team event

The launch of the KE Concordat repository



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE CONCORDAT

With support from Research England, the National Centre for University and Business (NCUB) have launched a range of knowledge exchange resources and good practice guides to support higher education institutions improve their KE practice.

The *repository of resources*, toolkits

and guides can be freely accessed and can be filtered by each of the KE Concordat eight principles and by keyword (tags) using the drop down menu on the left. The repository covers the full breadth of Knowledge Exchange from best practice in Public Engagement to guides on Licensing and IP.

Strengthening knowledge exchange between universities and external partners is of strategic importance to UK economic, social and cultural growth and is a priority for the University. Find out more about the internal support and funding available to strengthen and develop your *Knowledge Exchange activities*.

Exploring the challenges for small businesses in North Yorkshire in the current climate



School for Business and Society

In our Knowledge Exchange News 11 we reported the outputs from five consultancy projects, which contributed to a joint project between North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the University, exploring the challenges and opportunities for North Yorkshire in the current post-pandemic social, economic and environmental climate.

Alongside these consultancy projects Dr Bob Townley, Dr Jane Suter and Dr Tina Kowalski, School for Business and Society, also conducted [*a piece of research identifying support needs in small businesses across the North Yorkshire region*](#).

This work sought to explore the skills and wellbeing support needs of small business owners and managers across the North Yorkshire region. The final report presents a range of findings and highlights the difficulty in raising awareness of the support available to small businesses across the region.

Feedback from SMEs interviewed during the study indicated that, although NYCC has strong support offerings for local small businesses, many small business owners/managers were unaware of the support available but once made aware were keen to find out more. Other issues identified included remote businesses reporting more issues

with recruitment and retention of staff and some sectors finding it more difficult to identify suitable providers for more specialised training.

Many small businesses also reported an increasing interest in wellbeing, and made it clear that they would welcome further support in terms of how best to support their staff and their own wellbeing. Recommendations in the report include building awareness and increasing communication with small businesses, providing non-financial support, and building relationships with rural business communities. Specific recommendations for wellbeing support include support for prevention and management of workplace mental health, acknowledgement of the spectrum of mental health and neurodiversity, a focus on both managers and employees, and proactive signposting and promotion of credible support resources and wellbeing initiatives.