UWE Bristol

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Bridging the gaps in health, environment and technology research

Bridging the Gaps Network Meeting
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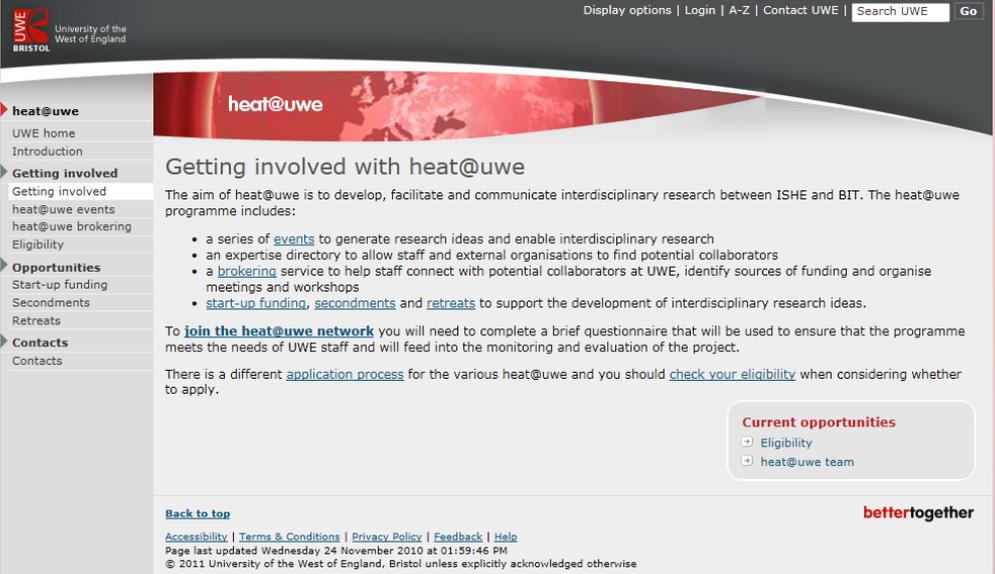
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- Joint programme to bridge the gaps between **Health, Environment And Technology** (HEAT) research at UWE

- 3 year programme of activities to develop, facilitate and communicate multi- and interdisciplinary research

- 8 Co-Is (Public and Clinical Health, Environmental Science, Built Environment, Computing, Science Communication, Social Marketing and Organisation and Social Learning)

- The ultimate aim of heat@uwe is to develop a long-term culture at UWE to **sustain interdisciplinary research.**

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Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation of **heat@uwe** from the outset
    - Questionnaires
    - Feedback from events
    - Proposal approval system
    - Metrics from **heat@uwe** activities.

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The first year - Events

- **Visioning Conference 2010**
  - 55 delegates, networking activities, grand challenges
- **Let us buy you lunch**
- **Lecture and Lunch** series
  - interdisciplinary skills
- **Heating up GIS**

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The first year - Calls

- **Start-up funding**
  - £40K available in 2010
  - Funding to develop an interdisciplinary project
  - 'Tell us what you need'.
- **Retreats**
  - Funding for project teams to spend time away from their normal workplace to write a research proposal.

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The first year – Start-up funding

- Interdisciplinary study of crowd behaviour (mathematics, behaviour studies)
- SASHA – Self help for social anxiety (psychology, mobile devices)
- Spatial regulation of anti-social behaviour (GIS, psychology)
- Participatory mobile sensing (air quality, mobile devices, health)
- Food hygiene practices and information in infant food preparation (public health, microbiology, science communication)
- Public transport pervasive gaming (pervasive media, transport)
- Development and evaluation of a tool for assessing body image (health, visualisation technology).

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What we offer – Ongoing services

- **Expertise Directory**

- **Collaboration brokering**

  - Identify potential collaborators

  - Introducing potential collaborators

  - Interdisciplinary funding opportunities.

- **Teams and Themes workshops**

  - Specific idea for a research project

  - Targeted towards a specific funding call.

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How we communicated

- Email and briefing presentations to Deans, Heads of Departments, Research Centre Directors

- Clear branding

- Visioning conference

- Posters

- Website

- Emails to HEAT Network

- Presentations in Departmental meetings

- Article in Bulletin.

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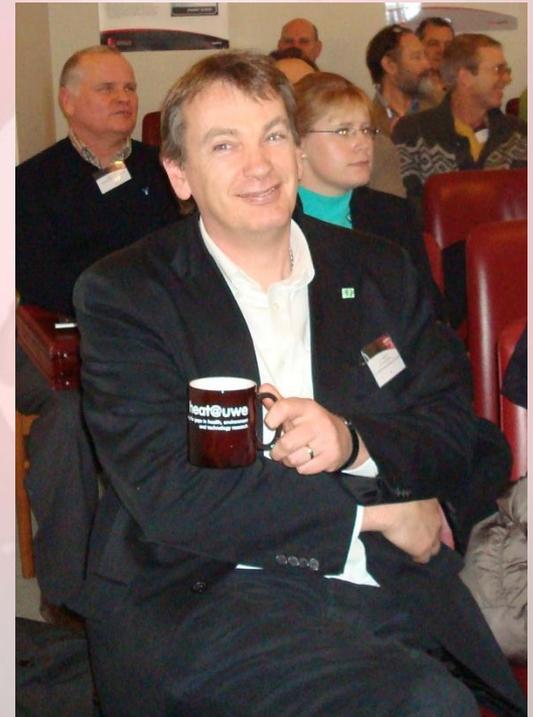
The Network

- 165 members, across 18 departments and all five faculties

Members of the HEAT Network

Legend:
- PhD
- RA
- RF
- SRF
- Read
- Prof
- L
- SL
- PL
- Dean
- Other

Values: 1%, 4%, 9%, 8%, 9%, 13%, 30%, 8%, 4%, 8%, 6%
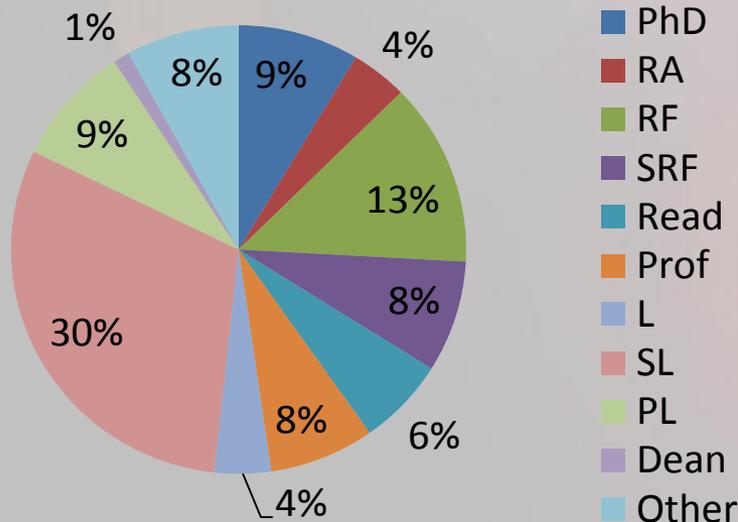
Time spent on research activities

Legend:
- <10%
- 11-30%
- 31-50%
- >51%

Values: 13%, 27%, 19%, 41%

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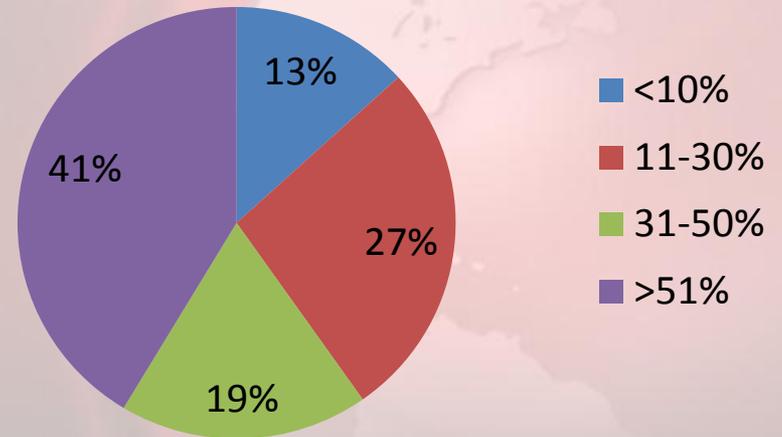
Challenges and opportunities

- Broad range of disciplines

- Post-1992 university

- Expertise in applied, interdisciplinary research
    - WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Cities and Urban Policy
    - NICE Collaborating Centre for Spatial Planning.

- Interdisciplinary research supported at institutional level
    - Institute for Sustainability, Health and Environment
    - Institute for Biosensing and Technology
    - Bristol Robotics Laboratory.

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What our members told us…
…about communication

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…about the challenges

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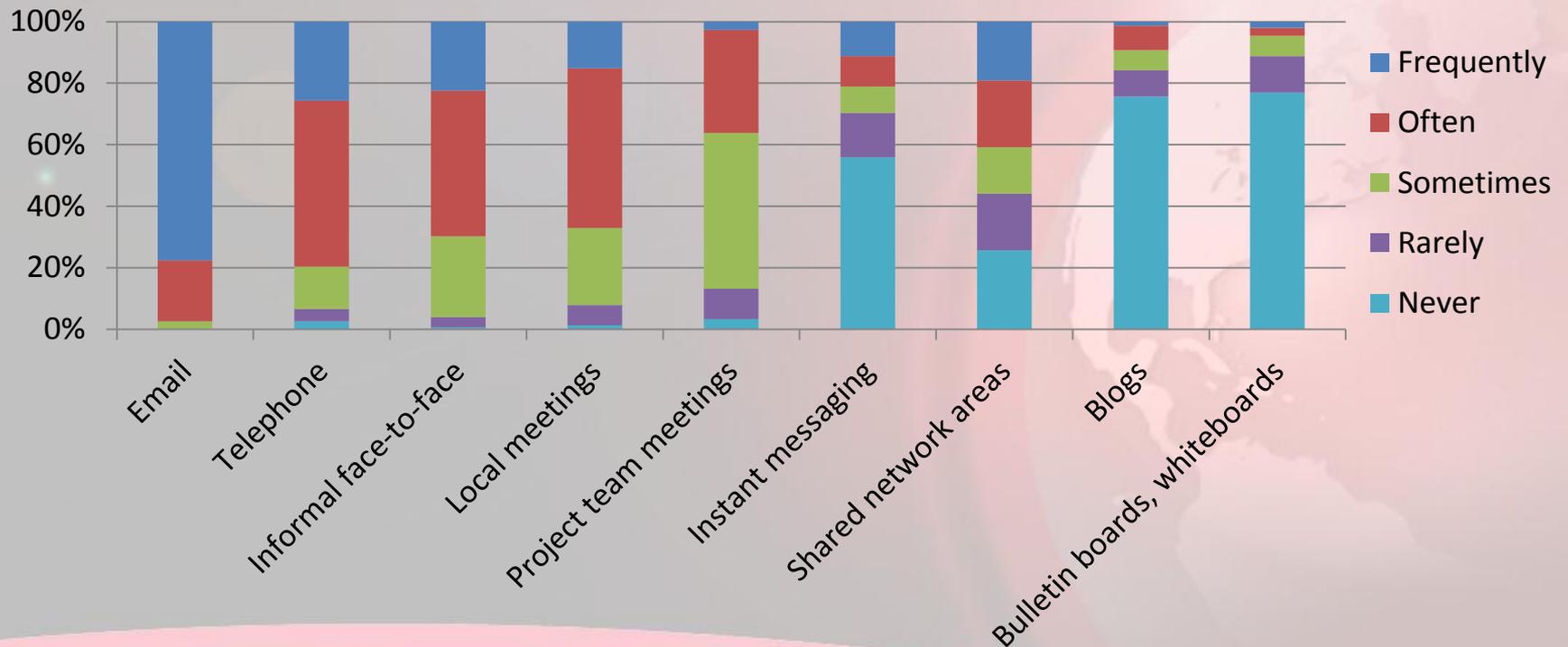
…about the benefits

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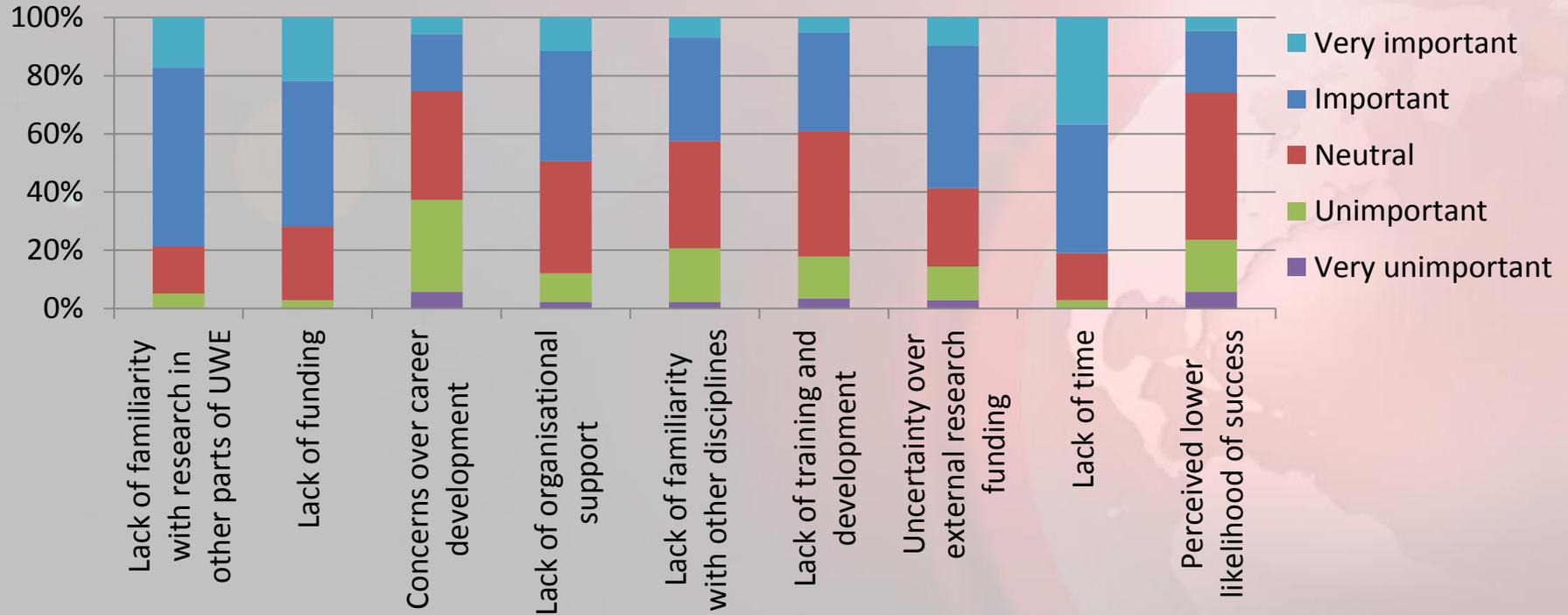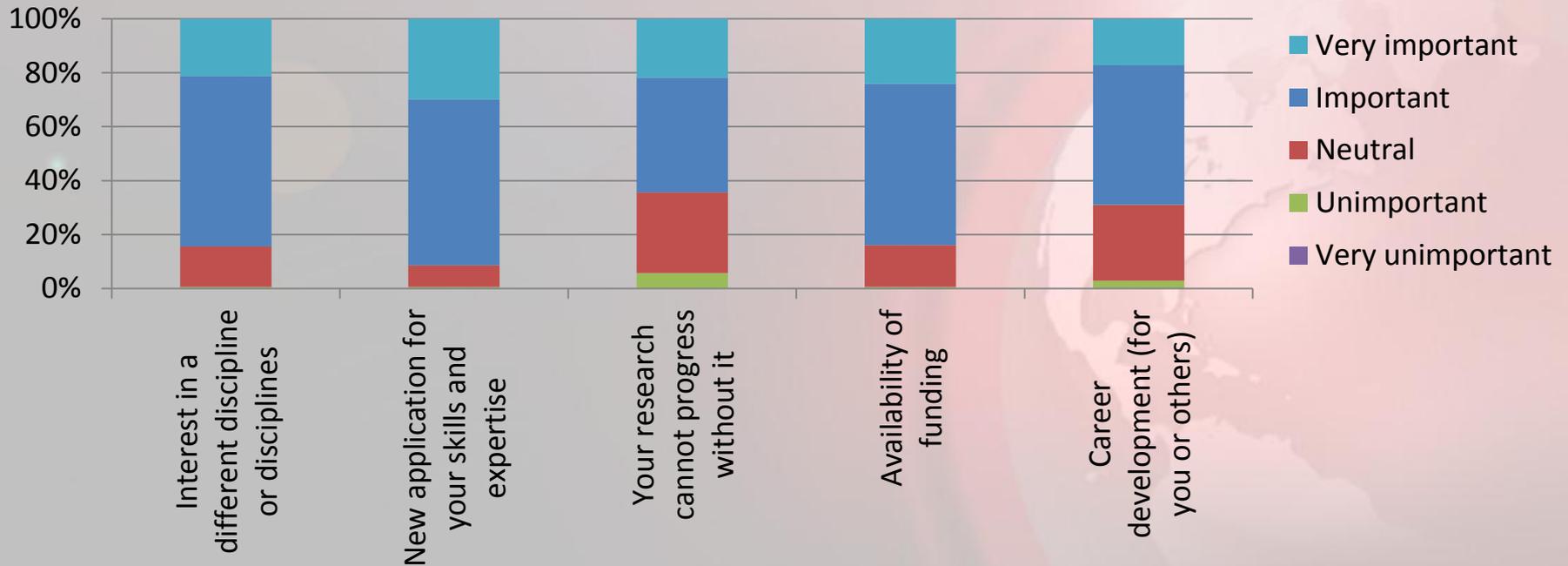
…about what they wanted

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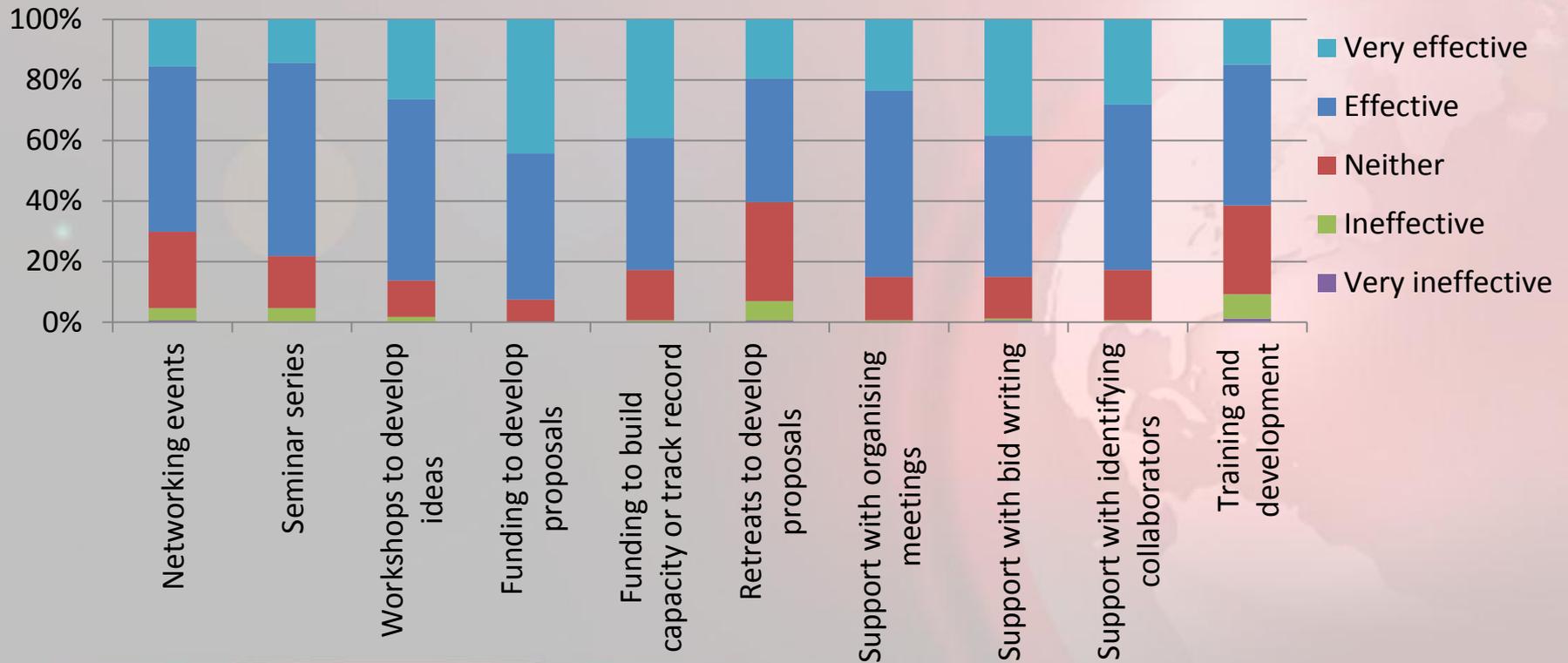
Year 2 and beyond

- **Hot House 2011**
- **Start-up funding 2011**
- **Heating up…** seminars
  - European funding
  - HIA
- **Lecture and Lunch** series
- **Teams and Themes** workshops

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Hot tips from heat

- Knowledge of UWE's research and who's who

- Flexible programme (calls, events, services)

- Responsive, supportive team

- Transparent programme

- Different approaches for different staff and disciplines.

How successful is heat@uwe at enabling interdisciplinary research

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