

NCUB Review of Knowledge Exchange Concordat Action Plans

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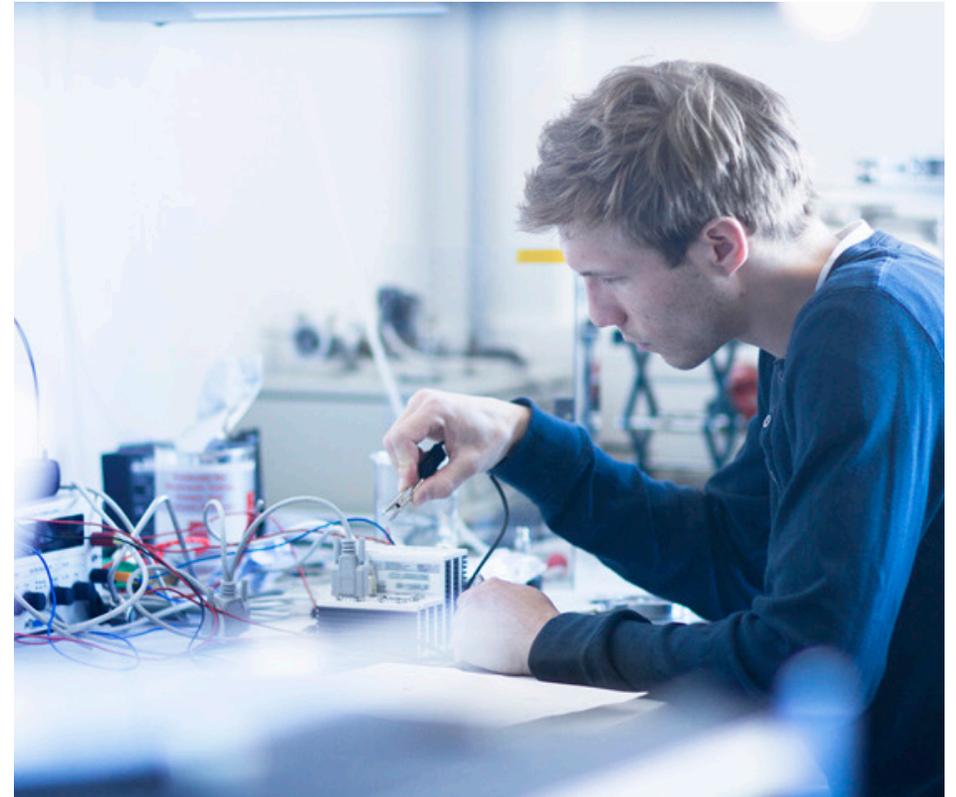


About the review

NCUB published a report examining HE providers' current KE activities, as well as their plans for further development, as laid out in their action plans.

Our report analyses the content of higher education providers' action plans and evaluators' feedback in order to build understanding of key areas for improvement in the development and implementation of KE activities across the UK.

The aim of this report is to provide sector-wide insights to help strengthen HE providers' practice, as well as to offer policymakers greater understanding of HE providers' KE approaches, so that appropriate policies and approaches can be developed.





About the review

NCUB conducted an initial quantitative analysis of the 112 action plans, leading to a more in-depth qualitative analysis of the full data of a sample of 41 action plans and the associated evaluator comments.

The initial approach included analysis across all 112 submitted action plans of:

- self-evaluation scores provided by the HE providers against the eight guiding principles
- implementation timeline against the eight guiding principles
- sentiment analysis of evaluator feedback.



Cluster	Number of providers in KEF cluster	Number of KE Concordat signatories	Number of action plans submitted	Sample
Arts	21	11	8	4
E	29	29	29	7
J	17	15	14	6
M	18	16	14	5
Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)	12	9	9	4
V	17	15	15	6
X	20	20	19	6
Scotland	N/A	7	3	2
Northern Ireland	N/A	0	1	1
Wales	N/A	9	0	0
England providers not participating in KEF	N/A	1	0	0
Total		136	112	41



Key findings

1) Diverse higher education providers are at different phases of their KE development. These specific stages are:

- **Introduction:** establishing or introducing KE as an institutional practice (eg, through a strategy) or initiating a specific KE activity (eg intellectual property (IP), commercialisation)
- **Revision:** refreshing or updating a KE strategy in the light of sector developments and contextual changes
- **Consolidation:** enhancing or improving the quality of a strategy or activity, based on intelligence about current implementation





Key findings

2) Embedding robust approaches to monitoring and evaluation is critical to improve KE practice





Key findings

3) Capacity and capability-building to support KE requires significant time and resources





Key findings

4) KE should become embedded in institutional strategies



Key findings

5) Improving IP policies continues to be a focus for many HE providers





Key findings

6) Improving engagement with small- to medium-sized enterprises was an area of focus for many HE providers





Key findings

7) There is a need to develop long-term approaches to supporting KE activity





Next steps

- Engagement events
- Developing a repository of good practice

