

Subject Area: Enterprise and Innovation

Clients: The N8 Partnership

Study: Longitudinal Monitoring and Evaluation of the N8 Industry Innovation Forum

Date: 2012 – 2015

Description: The N8 Partnership is a collaboration of the eight most research intensive universities in the North of England: Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York. Working with industry, N8 aims to maximise the impact of this research base by identifying and coordinating powerful research collaborations across the North of England and beyond.

EKOS was commissioned by N8 to undertake the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Industry Innovation Forum. This project involves various approaches to facilitating industry-business engagement in major collaborative research and development projects. At the core is Forum events, each of which focuses on different technology themes: industrial biotechnology, ageing and healthy living and new materials. The events are used to identify potential areas of collaborative research and to form teams of academics and business people interested in taking part.

The EKOS research has involved the ongoing monitoring of the outcomes from the Forum events, including: tracking the progress of teams, assessing the adequacy of N8 support, both the input of the project management team in designing and delivering events and in terms of the support given to teams to help them progress their research ideas, and engage with project partners to assess the extent of benefits to the participating HIEs.

Outputs: A number of staged reports have been produced and these have been used by the N8 Partnership to inform the ongoing development of the Industry Innovation Forum.
