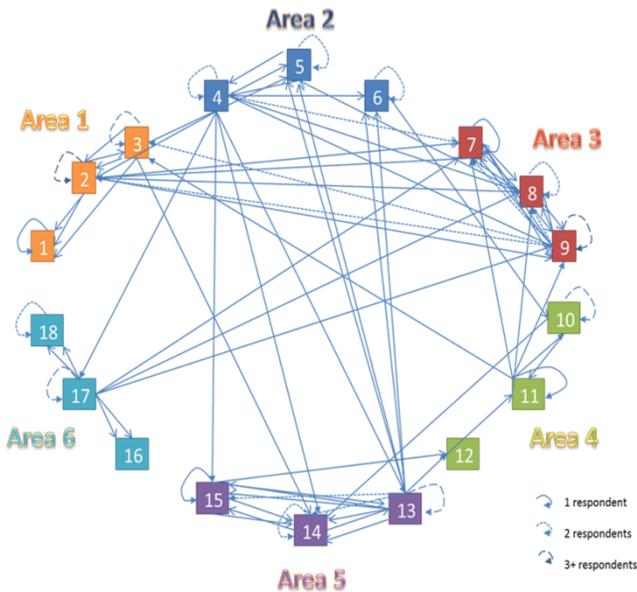


Working in close collaboration, scholars from widely different backgrounds spanning the social sciences to the basic biomedical sciences succeed in providing policy makers with an integrated scientific framework for more effective substance use and addictions policy

**evaluation
transdisciplinary
research
collaboration**

New scientific arenas and working methods must be created, existing side-by-side with the traditional disciplinary structure of science. A laboratory for the development and testing of such arenas is the EU science project *Addiction and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe Reframing Addictions Project - ALICE RAP*. Working together, ALICE RAP scientists create a synthesis of knowledge to support the redesign of European policy and practice to better address the challenges posed by substance use and addictive behaviours. Starting with 40 disciplines/specialities from 73 research institutions in 31 countries, ALICE RAP established 21 science teams in seven interrelated areas, and new ways to working across disciplinary barriers.



The Figure shows data on the cross-area scientific collaboration that has been documented. To achieve this, innovative working and communications methods have been developed. One example is the use of computer-mediated communication (CMC) to facilitate roundtable dialogue when large numbers of scientists from highly divergent backgrounds are involved.

The findings from analysing CMC data are used by

ALICE RAP to fine tune functioning and collaboration in its very complex research network. CMC could be used by other types of public sector science and policy networks, to facilitate synergy and break down traditional barriers.

ALICE RAP is a successful demonstration of how to generate synergy among sciences that address substance use and addictive behaviours. The ALICE RAP model could be used to advance scientific progress on other highly complex social challenges including mitigating human impact on climate, and human rights based approaches to coping with international migration trends.

READ MORE

Mittelmark, M. B., Do Amaral-Sabadini, M. B., Anderson, P., Gual, A., Braddick, F., Matrai, S., & Ysa, T. (2012): [Computer-Mediated Communication in Alice Rap: A Methodology to Enhance the Quality of Large-Scale Transdisciplinary Research](#). The Innovation Journal, 17(3), 1