



Staff **M**obility to **A**ction **R**esilient, **R**estorative, and **R**egenerative **T**ransitions & **S**ocieties



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I3X – Guiding Principles



SMAR3TS

- Innovate3X-Igniting Impactful Initiatives, or I3X, should aim to accelerate the understanding/scoping of a challenge (technological, market, societal etc), and the emergence/development of possible solutions. This can be interpreted as e.g. increased technological or societal readiness, once the I3X is completed.
- I3X should have a sufficient scale and scope (i.e. not being too narrowly-defined), and should require multi/cross/inter/trans disciplinary capabilities.
- I3X should align to the core concepts of SMAR3TS – Resilience, Restoration, Regeneration (either R or all Rs).
- I3X should align to (at least) one WP – WPs are the main coordination mechanism of the project, hence I3X should be connected to WPs.
- Any partner can initiate an I3X. Yet, shaping the I3X should be done collectively, and in collaboration with WP leader and SMAR3TS Team.
- At this stage, we are looking for initial I3X, which will be further defined during the Kick Off Meeting – and where engagement across the consortium will be assessed.
- Overall, it is expected that each I3X will lead and enable about 10 person-months of secondment, across the consortium (i.e. not only between the initiator of the I3X and possible contributors), possibly more.
- I3X will serve as guiding instruments for secondments, as well as for events (i.e. hackathons, workshops, showcase)

I3X – Alignment to R3 and to WPs



SMAR3TS

SMAR3TS
domains:



1) **Specify here:** one or several SMAR3TS domains that are relevant to the work of your organization/research and innovation team.

Developing an AI-supported platform for Meaningful Metrics in food and mental wellbeing

Emerging evidence suggests that mental wellbeing is shaped not only by individual food choices but by the wider food environment in which those choices are made. Diet quality is influenced by societal production patterns, community access to nutritious food, policy and regulation, and the practices of organisations such as schools. In this context, school environments are especially important because they structure everyday eating habits, social norms around food, and access to meals and snacks during formative years.

The programme proposes to develop a Meaningful Metrics Framework to improve food practices in ways that support mental wellbeing, while simultaneously building an AI-supported Meaningful Metrics Platform capable of helping schools identify, monitor and refine the indicators that matter most for their unique environment, opportunities and constraints. The intention is not simply to measure activity, but to co-create realistic achievable milestones and KPIs that reflect the singularity of ecosystem needs, while being a practical and scalable framework through which schools, caterers, after-school groups, pupils, families, and policy stakeholders can understand what is changing, why it matters, and how improvement can be sustained.

2) **Specify here:** alignment of the work of your organization/research and innovation team with one or several SMAR3TS focus areas on Resilience, Restoration, and Regeneration. Share examples.

This work aligns strongly with resilience, restoration, and regeneration, primarily at the organisational and ecosystem level. It focuses on the often-overlooked infrastructures that enable partnerships to learn, adapt, and coordinate over time: shared language, evaluation practices, and evidence cultures. The Meaningful Metrics framework (1) sits at the core of this approach. **From a resilience perspective**, the framework strengthens organisations' capacity to navigate uncertainty and complex ecosystems by making assumptions, priorities, and trade-offs explicit. Through the development of an AI-supported platform, this capacity is operationalised in practice, enabling actors such as schools, catering providers, and community partners to define, track, and adapt context-relevant indicators over time. **From a restoration lens**, the work addresses misaligned or fragmented measurement systems that can undermine trust, collaboration, and long-term decision-making. By co-producing indicators with practitioners, the programme helps restore coherence between evidence, practice, and purpose. In the context of food and mental wellbeing, this includes reconnecting scientific insights (e.g. dietary diversity, reduced reliance on ultra-processed foods) with everyday institutional practices. **From a regeneration perspective**, the framework supports the co-creation of forward-looking metrics that value capability-building, inclusion, and systemic change, rather than short-term outputs alone. The platform enables continuous learning across sites, allowing successful practices — including those related to healthier food environments — to be adapted and scaled, contributing to more regenerative organisational and ecosystem dynamics. (1) Ramirez, V. (2025). Meaningful Metrics for Knowledge Exchange: Rethinking Social Value Metrics for University-Business and Community Interactions. Policy Evidence Unit for University Commercialisation and Innovation. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.121347>

I3X – About the initiator



Name of Organization: University of Cambridge
Research Group/Department: IfM Engage
Country: UK

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1. Background info	2. Research Group/Company Department
<p><i>Short description of your organization:</i> IfM Engage <i>Website:</i> https://engage.ifm.eng.cam.ac.uk</p>	<p><i>Short description:</i> Facilitating knowledge translation from University to practice (industry/government) through the deployment of consulting/education and communication</p> <p><i>Link to the website:</i> https://engage.ifm.eng.cam.ac.uk</p> <p><i>Contact info:</i> Dr David Lott (CEO). Email: dl362@cam.ac.uk</p>
3. Expertise and available technologies within SMAR3TS project	4. Examples of strategically relevant Innovate3X (I3X) Initiatives
<p>1. Expertise of your research group/department and available technologies:</p> <p>Expertise relates to tools/ approaches developed at IfM: https://www.ifm.eng.cam.ac.uk/research/</p> <p>Several key areas are put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supporting industry and policy for translating science into technology and innovation for nutrition-related challenges- Supporting agrifood supply chains resilience- Encouraging digitalisation of SMEs manufacturing to support resilience, restoration and regeneration of manufacturing in the food sector.- Developing innovative toolkits/practices for food systems' transformation <p>2. Current status of available technologies (incl. TRL) / problematization/solution development (SRL) and expected TRL/SRL to reach:</p> <p>The research areas are continuously updated and hence we have approaches that are at most stages in the TRL (from Pilot to mainstream)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidence-to-Impact Pathways for Nutrition-Centred Food System Transformation- Regenerative Packaging challenge for food - new materials- Enabling agrifood supply chain resilience

I3X Description



SMAR3TS

Note: there can be several Innovate-3X descriptions, just duplicate this template slide

1) Innovate-3X: Developing an AI-supported platform for Meaningful Metrics in food and mental wellbeing

1. Description of Current Stage

Specify here: *What is your research group/department currently working on? Which initiatives/projects are underway under Innovate-3X? How does this work contribute to resilience, restoration, and regeneration?*

The lead researchers at IfM Engage are currently working at the **pilot / proof-of-concept** stage, moving towards **early implementation**. The Meaningful Metrics Framework has been developed through doctoral research in France and postdoctoral research at IfM (1,2), University of Cambridge and tested through multiple workshops and beta pilots across communication evaluation, arts and culture impact, university–SME partnerships, and regional innovation ecosystems, the late one with IfM Engage. These pilots demonstrated high satisfaction, increased confidence in evaluation practices, and the emergence of shared taxonomies and causal logics.

To progress this work to impact, the next step is to translate the framework into a **scalable, AI-supported digital platform for Meaningful Metrics in food and mental wellbeing**. This platform will guide users through the process, support trained convenors, and enable collective learning across organisations in a closed, trusted environment. Secondments would support research and innovation activities including platform design, AI-supported guidance mechanisms, user testing, interface development, and the integration of workshops and community-building activities as data-feeding and learning mechanisms for the platform.

(1) Ramirez, V. (2025). Meaningful Metrics for Knowledge Exchange: Rethinking Social Value Metrics for University-Business and Community Interactions. Policy Evidence Unit for University Commercialisation and Innovation. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.121347>

(2) Ramirez-Godinez, M.-V. (2023). *Trust, authority and digital metrics: The datafication of public relations, measurement disruption and the birth of a new professional expertise* [These de doctorat, Université Gustave Eiffel]. <https://theses.fr/2023UEFL2002>

3. Examples of challenges that need to be addressed

Specify here: *Please outline which challenges remain unresolved. You may answer in bullet points.*

Several unresolved challenges remain, spanning technology, methodology, adoption, and ecosystem development. These challenges are central to the Innovate-3X logic and require experimentation across domains. **Key challenges include:**

- **Technology & methods:** translating qualitative, deliberative processes into digital and AI-supported workflows without flattening meaning or nuance;
- **Data & knowledge integration:** structuring inputs from diverse projects into reusable thematic repertoires of indicators that can inform, but not standardise, metric co-construction;
- **Ecosystem & community development:** sustaining engagement across so that workshops and pilots continuously enrich the platform rather than remain isolated activities;
- **Data ethics and trust:** developing a closed, ethical data environment that nurture partnerships and collective intelligence while ensuring trust;
- **Market & adoption:** designing a membership-based model that balances openness, trust, and scalability across sectors. It needs to take into account different organisational workflows and maturity levels
- **Impact & evaluation:** demonstrating value and learning across domains while resisting reductive or compliance-driven metrics.

Outputs:

Platform development –with a AI-guided co-design workflow. This would help schools define their goals, stakeholders, intervention activities, and intended outcomes.

An AI-supported Meaningful Metrics Platform prototype tailored to school food and mental wellbeing interventions.

A thematic indicator library: This would contain possible indicators linked to the food–mental health evidence base. For example, it could offer indicators related to plant diversity, fermented food availability, UPF exposure, oily fish or plant-based omega-3 provision, micronutrient-rich options, or reductions in refined sugary drinks.

A pilot-tested KPI framework for assessing success in school food practices related to mental wellbeing.

A policy brief setting out practical recommendations for schools, local authorities, and relevant government and education stakeholders.

A draft academic paper on the co-production of meaningful metrics for food and mental wellbeing in school settings, with particular emphasis on AI-supported measurement and scaling.

2. Necessary skills and capabilities, across disciplines:

Specify here: *What gaps or barriers need to be addressed to move forward? Which new skills, knowledge, expertise, interdisciplinary approaches or collaborations are required?*

To move forward, several interdisciplinary gaps must be addressed. These include the translation of a socio-technical framework into robust digital architecture, the design of responsible AI that supports reflection rather than automation, and the development of interfaces that can accommodate diverse users and organisational contexts.

Required skills and capabilities include:

- software and platform architecture design to translate a socio-technical framework into a robust digital environment;
 - AI and data science expertise to develop guidance, prompting, and learning mechanisms that support reflection rather than automate judgement; experience in AI/ML or data-driven platforms- The secondee should be able to build a working platform end-to-end, or at least prototype it independently (incl. Front-end/Back-end development (e.g. React, Vue / Python, Node.js), Database/GDPR management (SQL or NoSQL), NLP for interpreting user inputs and clustering qualitative data.
 - methods for integrating workshops, hackathons, and community practices as structured inputs that feed and enrich the platform;
 - facilitation and community-building capabilities to support trained convenors and sustain a professional community of practice.
- The secondment researcher(s) would bring technical, AI, software, and interface expertise, working in close collaboration with the project leads to ensure conceptual integrity, usability, and long-term scalability across SMAR3TS domains.