

From objective to action

In short

Working method to translate the impact objectives into concrete research activities.

Outcome

An overview of the impact objectives and the activities that serve the impact objectives.

Approach

The working method consists of four steps:

1. Print the worksheet for each individual. The participants first complete the worksheet individually (10 minutes).
2. Then, participants discuss the results in groups. One of the participants in the sub-group writes down the ideas all group members are excited about on the reverse of one of the worksheets (20 minutes).
3. In the third step, a group discussion follows in which the different ideas are shared and gathered (20 minutes).
4. In the final step, the participants choose a collective approach for one or multiple objectives. The core team uses this input in detailing the proposal.

Tips for the manager

- Also refer to the background information of the 'Objectives' element.
- Ensure that the different perspectives of the participants in each sub-group are represented.
- This working method ties in with the Objectives Module. If you have not gone through this module first, you start by explaining the core idea of the four objectives by discussing the following four questions:
 - What do we want to discover through the research project? Formulate the answer by starting with 'Insight into ...'.
 - What do we want to have developed in the end, concretely? Formulate the answer by starting with 'A (tool, training course, checklist, procedure, instrument, method, etc.) ... to ...'.
 - What should we and others have learned at the end of the research project? Formulate the answer by starting with '... have learned to ... /have changed their attitude towards .../etc.'.
 - What do we want to improve or change in the organisations/culture/system? Formulate the answer by starting with 'Within [organisation], there is more attention to .../a method for .../ room for.../etc.'.

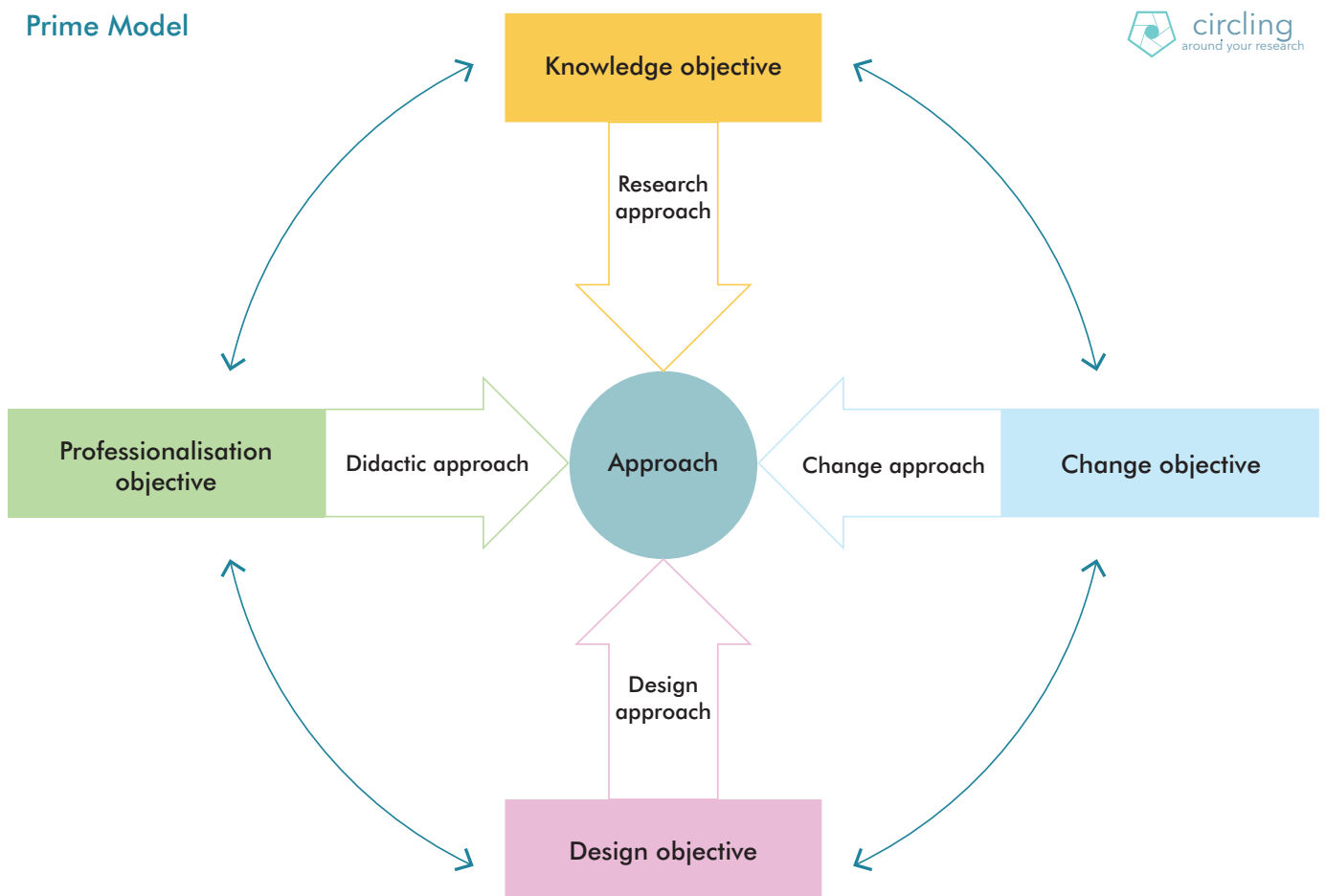
These four questions form the basis of the worksheet.

Bases

Traditionally, we are used to considering only whether the research approach is appropriate for answering the research question when determining the research approach. The question of when a research design is appropriate is often answered with 'if it fits the research question' (May & Mathijssen, 2015). However, when we pursue objectives in practice-based research other than just the knowledge objective, the approach is determined not only by the research question but also by the professionalisation objective, change objective and/or design objective. Each of these four objectives requires a different manner of working that should be integrated in the approach to the project as a whole.

Materials

- Approach to your objectives worksheet



Approach to the objectives

Professionalisation approach:
How are we going to stimulate learning?

Knowledge objective:
What do we want to discover in the research project? Insight into ...
And of that, what knowledge is transferable to other situations?

Research approach:
How are we going to develop the knowledge?

Professionalisation objective:
What should we and others have learned at the end of the research project?

The research project:
What is the practice issue/opportunity/challenge?

Change objective:
What do we want to see improved or changed in the organisation/culture/system?

Design approach:
How are we going to design and test the artifacts?

Design objective:
What do we want to have produced in the end, concretely?

Change approach:
How are we going to realise the change?

