

University of Bath Press Release

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Project 'maps' collaboration in construction to meet government targets

Improving efficiency and performance in large scale government-funded building projects is at the heart of an initiative to drive collaboration in the construction sector.

Professor Juani Swart, from the University's School of Management, is part of the Behaviours for collaboration (B4C) task force which has developed a new 'Professions Map' to specify a behavioural blueprint for the construction industry that will improve how major projects are delivered.

The B4C task force, chaired by Elizabeth Kavanagh, Head of Human Resources at Stride Treglown, is partner to the Building Information Modelling (BIM) hub, established in response to the UK Government's demands for the adoption of collaborative working by 2016 in the construction sector.

The guidance map covers trust and respect, openness and communications, common goals and new ways of working, and leadership and interpersonal skills, as key factors in improving how construction projects are delivered.

The map was launched at a workshop at the University of Bath, hosted by Professor Swart. The event was designed to generate feedback from industry stakeholders and University researchers, including Stride Treglown, Building SMART UK, Constructive Coaching, Constructing Excellence and researchers from the Universities of Bristol, the West of England and Salford.

Professor Stephen Emmit, from the University's Department of Architecture & Civil Engineering, and Dr Mark Shelbourn, from the University of the West of England, spoke at the event to give case studies from the construction industry and explain the theory of why collaborative behaviours are needed to make Building Information Management (BIM) work effectively.

Professor Swart said: "It was so encouraging to see the engagement of all the stakeholders at the event and to be made aware of how the profession map can support collaborative behaviours. It is also clear that the map can be applied to other research areas and research projects to monitor collaboration. This should lead to enhanced performance of all the stakeholders."

The B4C task force and its BIM hub is driven by the Construction 2025 strategy and is part of a push to promote the use of BIM technologies, process and collaborative behaviours to unlock new more efficient ways for different parts of the construction industry to work together.

The professions map workshop was funded by the University's Public Engagement with Research Seed Funding.

Juani Swart is a Professor in Human Capital Management and specializes in Knowledge management and the management of Knowledge workers. She is Director of the Work and

Employment research Centre (WERC) which has centres of expertise in knowledge, change and leadership.

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Notes to editors

The University of Bath is one of the UK's leading universities, ranked number one in the UK for student satisfaction for the last two years in the National Student Survey (NSS) and in the top ten of all national league tables, including being named 'Best Campus University' in the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2014.

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