Soft skills for Scientist and Communicating your science

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What does it take to be a good Scientist (I)

Know your subject

Speak about it

Write about it

"Hard Skills"

"Soft Skills"

Presenting your science

Networking

Communicating

Convincing

Good writing

Strategic thinking, "political nose"

What does it take to be a good Scientist (II)

Devotion

Compassion

Integrity

Honesty Ambition

Courage

Self-Conciousness

Intuition

Imagination

Do not take yourself too important

Change the direction of thinking

Kill your babies

Accept other views

but

defend your view if you are convinced

Attitude and committment

70% Science 70% Science

15% Music 30% Science

15% Sailing

Being a scientist is one of the best and most rewarding jobs in the world

Work mostly independently

Work creatively

Free thinking

Acknowledged and respected job

Share your life with well-educated, nice, "harmless" people

Work in an international, global community

Caution!

You loose contact to the "real world" Live in a bubble

Get "nurdy"

Inability to talk with "normal" people (i.e. non-scientists)

Practice to explain what you do for a living to Non-Scientists

Such people exist!
They are the majority!
They pay your salaries!

Communicating your science to Non-Scientists

To colleagues of the same field, to your supervisor:

Expert seminars, topical conferences

To scientists from outside of your own field:

General conferences with a multidisciplinary audience (e.g. EGU, AGU)

To non-scientists (journalists, your grandma, your landlord...):

Everywhere, all the time

Explain what you do in 2 minutes to your grandma (or landlord; gas station guy, taxi driver)	
•	What is the problem or question to answer?
•	What could be the answer or solution?
•	What are the benefits or relevance for grandma/society/the world?
•	So what? Why should you get payed for what you do by tax payers money?

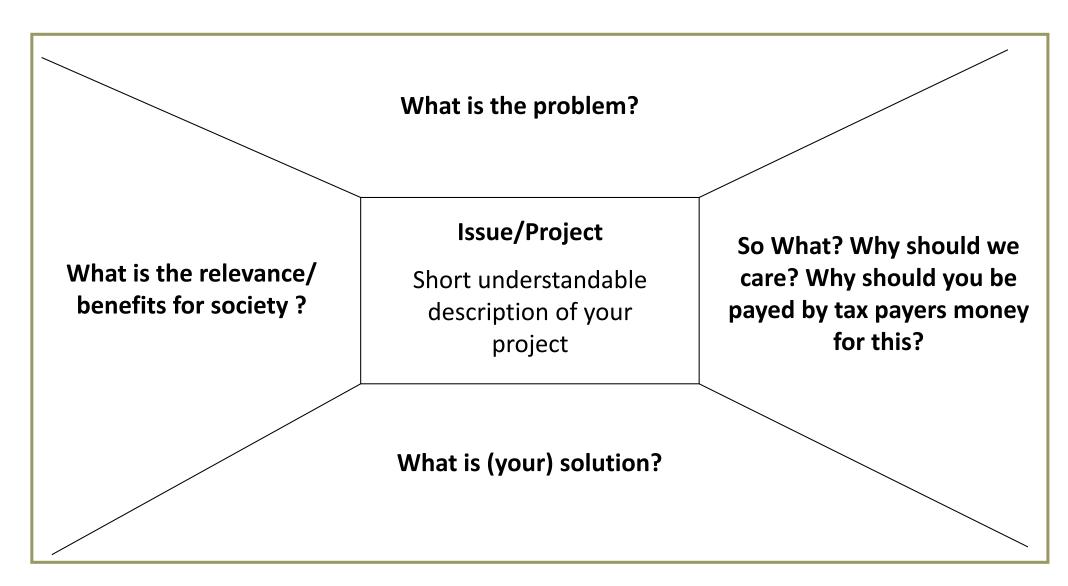
Explain what you do in 2 minutes to your grandma (or landlord; gas station guy, taxi driver...)

- Do not use expert jargon
- Use simple, everyday language
- If possible, use analogies
- Distill your message to the one most important, easy to understand message ("take home message");

What do you want them to remember?

Message Box

(courtesy Dan Conley, slightly modified)



Take home message: One sentence

Message Box

(courtesy Dan Conley, slightly modified)

What is the problem? Communication and collaboration between scientists across borders and disciplines not good Relevance/ So What? Issue/Project benefits for society? In the long run, collaborative Set up an Earth System Scientific research is research network for the regional scientific research will necessary to find solutions **Baltic Sea region** be more effective and better for environmental contribute to the improvement "Baltic Earth" problems of life quality What is (your) solution? Rather than improve bilateral collaboration, install and run a network or "club" of scientists from different countries and disciplines with common interests

Take home message: This project improves the scientific collaboration in the Baltic Sea region