

**AGILE Research Ltd.**

Helping you unlock your research potential

## AGILE Research Newsletter

February 2026

Dear Colleagues / Tēnā koutou,

Welcome to the February 2026 issue of the AGILE Research Newsletter.

Over the last few months, we kept busy finalising the sixth book in the Compass Guide book series which will be released soon, translating the fifth Compass Guide book into Spanish and designing and delivering research training courses in New Zealand and internationally. More details are provided in this newsletter.

Feel free to share this newsletter with others. If you or your organisation would like to work with us, just get in touch and we would be happy to discuss your needs.

Kind regards from New Zealand / Ngā mihi nui,

Dr Sandra Mandic, PhD, PMP  
 Founder and Director, AGILE Research Ltd.



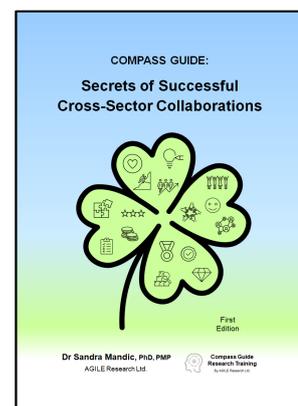
### The sixth book in the Compass Guide book series is coming soon!

Cross-sectoral collaborations are at the core of addressing societal needs, planning and implementation of complex projects and programmes and informing decision-making in today's society. Building skills for working across sectors is not a luxury – it is a necessity.

In our new (sixth) book **[“Compass Guide: Secrets of Successful Cross-Sector Collaborations”](#)**, Dr Sandra Mandic shares insights from establishing, growing, managing and leading the **[BEATS Research Programme](#)** as part of her academic work. This award-winning, interdisciplinary and cross-sector research programme was based in Dunedin, New Zealand, between 2013 and 2023.

The BEATS journey from a pilot project to an internationally recognised and highly productive research programme is an inspiring real-world example of what is possible when the right people from different sectors join forces, driven by a shared vision and commitment to make a difference.

This 140+ page book shares secrets of establishing and leading successful cross-sector collaborations and unlocking the power of such endeavours. The book is written using a unique writing style as other books in the Compass Guide book series and includes 70+ insights, over 80+ infographics and many examples. This book will be published in March/April 2026.



[Check book web page](#)

[Check out the table of contents](#)

[Have a look at a sample chapter](#)

[Read comments from the BEATS Team members](#)

## The fifth Compass Guide book will be available in Spanish soon

Dr Mandic's book "[Compass Guide for Research Project Management](#)" covers an important but often not taught component of the research process: research project management.

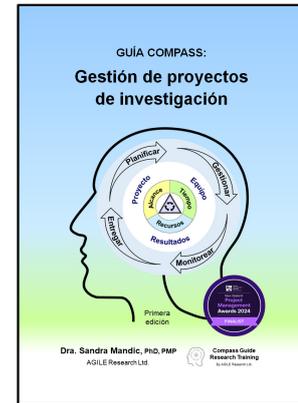
The book covers fundamentals of project management and offers guidance and ideas for planning and managing research projects, monitoring progress and delivering research outputs – on time, with the available resources and appropriate for the target audience.

This book is written for researchers, research project managers, research students and their supervisors, research staff and professionals involved in research activities.

This book was the finalist for the New Zealand Academic Achievement in Project Management Award 2024 from the Project Management Institute of New Zealand.



At AGILE Research Ltd., we offer training courses and workshops for planning and management of research and knowledge projects based on the content of this book.



Our sincere thank-you to Professor Susana Aznar Lain from Universidad Castilla-La Mancha (Toledo, Spain) for her assistance with this book translation. We are delighted to offer this book in Spanish from mid-2026.

## Recently delivered Compass Guide Research Training courses

Over the last few months, Dr Mandic delivered two research training courses for doctoral students at the Universitat de Vic – Universitat Central de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain:

- “How to Read Research Articles Effectively and Assess Their Scientific Quality” and
- “How to Write Your Thesis”.

Both courses were delivered in English and were very well received by participating students. (Being able to switch to Spanish when necessary was certainly helpful too. 😊)

More recently, Dr Mandic delivered a 2-hour online workshop for postgraduate supervisors through Auckland University of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand. This workshop was open to academic staff from several universities across the country. This interactive workshop offered practical strategies and tools for streamlining postgraduate supervision processes. The workshop focused on working effectively with students, guiding students to plan their research projects and providing effective feedback. If your institution is interested in such or similar workshops, contact us for more details.

### Check out our regular online courses delivered in real time

<b>How to Plan Your Research Project</b> <a href="#">Course web page</a>	<b>How to Manage and Monitor Research Projects</b> <a href="#">Course web page</a>	<b>The Art and the Science of Research Grant Writing</b> <a href="#">Course web page</a>	<b>Fundamentals of Writing Scientific Journal Articles</b> <a href="#">Course web page</a>
---	---	---	---

For course details, cost and registration refer to: <https://agileresearch.nz/compass-guide-courses/>

### Thank you for your continued interest in our work!

Get in touch to discuss your research and project management training needs. Find out how we can work together to help you and your organisation unlock your potential.