Effective Societal engagement in Horizon 2020

A Contribution to the EC Workshop

'Fostering innovative dialogue between researchers and stakeholders to meet future challenges'

Land, Soil, Desertification, Urban and Community-Based Environmental Management

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Research & Innovation

Societal Challenges matter to European Citizens

Europe 2020
R&I are key in addressing societal challenges

ERA firmly rooted in society and responsive to its needs and ambitions

Horizon 2020 supports resolution of societal challenges

EC Communication 'Europe 2020 - Flagship Initiative Innovation Union' SEC(2010) 1161, 6.10.2010

*(page 2): … unique strengths in our values, traditions, creativity and diversity…. European enterprises and **civil society** are actively engaged in emerging and developing economies around the world.*

*(page 7): "**Pursuing a broad concept of innovation,** both research-driven innovation and innovation in business models, design, branding and services that add value for users and where Europe has unique talents. The creativity and diversity of our people and the strength of innovation, especially for SMEs. …"*

*(page 8): "• Involving all actors and all regions in the innovation cycle: not only major companies but also SMEs in all sectors, including the public sector, **the social economy and citizens themselves ('social innovation');** not only a few high-tech areas, but all regions in Europe and every Member State, each focusing on its own strengths ("smart specialisation") with Europe, Member States and regions acting in partnership."*

*(page 12): "**…** growth is also now being driven increasingly by other key enabling technologies, such as eco, nano, bio, and info. These technologies may affect all areas of our lives and regulatory frameworks must be based on scientific evidence with **transparent information and involvement of citizens**. **In this way Europe can ensure public trust** in scientific and technological breakthroughs and provide a favourable environment for investment. …"*

A response to societal challenges (I)

- The grand societal Challenges that lie before us, including climate change, resource scarcity, population pressure, and well-being, are complex, interconnected, long term, global, and their impacts uncertain.

- They have not occurred only due to adverse conjecture, but are primarily consequences of the human condition and human action. We have come to understand that S&T progress is not linear or unequivocal, it does not necessarily produce moral and political advancement and it may suddenly prove questionable or dangerous.

- Societal challenges are relevant to all of society - and society must also take responsibility in envisioning desirable futures and decision making of future options. Moreover, one must not forget that the two "royal" sources of Knowledge, Reason and Experience, are both accessible to every human being, and that the unimpeded freedom of knowledge, to which the Enlightenment gave birth, is precisely what lead to the flourishing of science, free enterprise and democracy and transformed the world.

A response to societal challenges (II)

- Society's concerns about the impact of certain S&T applications on food, health, environment, may be perceived as a healthy and constructive testing, not only of processes and products, but also of the values underlying R&I.

- The dynamics of shared and experienced values motivate and enable more social actors to be involved in R&I efforts and secure their adherence to objectives and priorities, which are crucial for the sustainable future of Europe. Researchers, deciders, and innovators can use public engagement as a mirror, in order to verify and enhance the social acceptability and the systemic coherence of the various options they are faced with.

- Drawing on societal concerns, on informal sources of knowledge, on diverse types of intelligence and intuition, can only be beneficial for a society with an "agile culture" and an ambition to be innovative, successful, and resilient.

- A structured public engagement in R&I has the potential of shaping an innovation-friendly culture because it has a profound impact on society's capacity to understand, assimilate and identify itself with the drive for innovation. Excellence, shared responsibility and social relevance are integral parts of this non-linear, multifaceted, and transformative process.

Main Milestones for Science in Society

2000 Science, Society and the Citizen in Europe

2001 Science and Society Action plan

2002 Science and Society (FP6)

2007 Science in Society (FP7)

2008 Code of Conduct Nanotech

2011 Proposal for Horizon 2020

2014 Horizon 2020 starts

2001-2013 - FP6 (S&S) and FP7 (SiS) The legacy

▶ Betting on 'technology acceptance' by way of good marketing only, is no longer a valid option

▶ Diversity in Research and Innovation is a requisite for achieving greater creativity and promoting better results

▶ Early and continuous engagement of people and civil society in Research and Innovation is key to innovation adequacy and acceptability

Responsible Research and Innovation

All societal actors should work together during the whole Research and Innovation process in order to align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of European Societies.

Towards Responsible Research & Innovation Cross-cutting issue in Horizon 2020 – Art. 13

The notion that science should be "for and with" society has been stressed on numerous occasions by the European Parliament during the inter-institutional 'Trilogue' on Horizon 2020 proposals.

- **People and civil society's engagement**
- Gender in research content and in careers
- Open Access to research results
- Science education
- Ethics
- **Governance framework**

Specific tools to foster participation in addressing societal challenges

➔ **Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plans (MML) (2009-2013)**

➔ **VOICES (2013)**

People and civil society's engagement (I)

Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plans

- Foster participation in addressing societal challenges and forge partnerships with complementary knowledge and experience

- Engage societal actors in the research and innovation process, shape governance for RRI and create equal conditions for citizens' engagement

  10 independent legal entities

  At least 3 years

  Up to 4 M € EC contribution

  Versatility responds to complexity!

15 MML action plans

Running projects:

1 - Fisheries governance (in synergy with DG MARE and with the direct involvement of 8 Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) in the project structure)

2 - Environmental Justice

3 - Participatory Technology Assessment (STOA EP and EU national MPs)

4 - Sustainable food innovation

5- Marine Litter

6 - Towards a low-carbon society

7 - Social Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing

8 - Marine resources, inland activities & sustainable development Public engagement with Research And Research Engagement with Society

9 - Children as Change Agents for the future of Science in Society

Under negotiation (call FP7 'Capacities' Science in Society 2013):

10 - Water issues (links with the EIP on water)

11 - Urban Integrated Development (links with Urban Europe)

12 - Infectious diseases (following up on the recommendations by the H1N1 HLG)

13 - Sustainable-innovation

14 - Ethics assessment

15 - ICT, Internet and Society (in close cooperation with DG CONNECT and in connection to EU Digital Agenda)

2013 SPECIFIC CHALLENGE 2. Assessment of sustainable innovation

Response to the challenge called "Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials". Links with DG RTD.I/2: Environmental Technologies & DG ENV

The MML's purpose is to look at the benefits and the risks of environmental technologies and their impact on human health, the environment, the economy and the society. The MML aims to propose commonly defined risk assessment framework methodologies and risk management multi-disciplinary solutions, which better take into account general public concerns and SiS related issues (participation, inclusiveness, ethics, gender, open access).

2013 SPECIFIC CHALLENGE 3. Water

Response to the challenge called "Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials" Links with RTD.I Environment & DG ENV, synergies with EIP on Water

- **Explore inputs to responsible and innovative mechanisms to anticipate the challenges linked with the implementation of the Blueprint roadmap to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources**

- **Explore and assess opportunities for collaboration**

- **Provide evidence for a new paradigm of resilient and adaptive management of water resources,**

- **Raise awareness**

- **Facilitate the transfer of research results into policy**

2013 SPECIFIC CHALLENGE 4. Integrated Urban Development

Response to the "Smart, green and integrated transport" challenge
- Synergies with Urban Europe Forum

- **Contribute to enhancing the social dimension** of the strategic research agenda of JPI 'Urban Europe'.
- **Explore and seek links with initiatives and projects developed under the JPI 'Urban Europe**
- **Focus on social innovation that originates at regional and local levels.**

People & civil society's engagement (II)
What is VOICES?

Proposal full title: *Views, Opinions and Ideas of Citizens in Europe on Science*

Start date: *16 January 2013*

Duration: *1 year*

Budget: *1,5 million euros*

Work programme topics addressed: *SiS.2013.1.2.1-1: Citizen's active participation in EU Research and Innovation policy- making (Broader engagement to anticipate and clarify political, societal and ethical issues).*

Project coordinator: *Ecsite*

What MMLs can bring to Horizon 2020

- Focus on connections between the economic advantages of innovation and societal progress and social impacts

- Incubate social innovation (Ageing, ICT, Internet and Society), which create social benefits and shared value

- Address societal resistance to new technologies, which can harm investment in innovation

- Stimulate policy and governance innovation

- Connect with EU Innovation Partnerships (e.g. WP 2013 topic on Urban Integrated Development; the shortlisted proposal was set up in collaboration with key Urban Europe actors/partners)

- Build "community-based research" i.e. via the "third mission of Universities", to effectively tackle societal challenges

- Implement coordinated activities through mutually reinforcing action plans

- Construct 'laboratories' of co-operation and co-construction of science-society relationships that could ultimately shape collaborative activities, and mobilise different disciplinary approaches and capacities

- Build science/policy/society interfaces [including the involvement of industry] to effectively tackle societal challenges

- Create interdisciplinary future R&I and policy agendas leading to tangible impacts

What is VOICES about?

A pilot designed and implemented upon request of the Commissioner, in collaboration with RTD.I, DG ENV and DG COMM

The first initiative to systematically engage citizens throughout the whole of Europe to assist the EU in defining its future R&I work programme and calls for proposals.

The notion that science should be "for and with" society has been stressed on numerous occasions by the European Parliament during the inter-institutional Trilogue on Horizon 2020 proposals.

VOICES in focus groups - 990 Europeans - 33 cities - 27 MS

VOICES – Urban Waste A ground-breaking EU initiative fostering real citizen participation in Social Innovation

*VOICES engaged citizens in 33 locations **covering all 27 EU countries**.*

***Twenty-seven Ecsite network institutions** were part of the third party task force organizing 99 citizen focus groups, with ten citizens each, in their respective countries.*

*One thousand European citizens joined the VOICES focus group discussions on **innovative uses and solutions for urban waste** and **brought diverse life experience and expertise to the table**.*

Input to a Consolidation Group (12&13/6) that will define the actual priorities for the next work programme on the "Climate action, resource efficiency, raw materials" dimension of Horizon 2020 Work Programmes beginning in 2014

VOICES on Urban Waste: Why is it important?

The VOICES public consultations are so important because Urban Waste matters to every European citizens. The outcome will be feed into a topic in the call for proposals 2014 for research on sub-challenge Urban Waste

Qualitative methodology for understanding & harvesting of citizens views, fostering real governance processes and social innovation.

Scientific and technological solutions need a societal uptake.

Citizens do have creative ideas.

Involving citizens reduces societal barriers to uptake of solutions.

European Year of Citizen 2013 – DG COMM

VOICES' ADDED VALUE: to citizens, to scientific research, to policy and to the European Union

Thank you for your attention!

More information:

SCIENCE IN SOCIETY PORTAL (EUROPA)
http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/home_en.cfm

VOICES
http://www.ecsite.eu/activities_and_resources/projects/voices

HORIZON 2020
http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

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