

- **No.64**
- **Study of the Scenario Workshop Methodology to Develop Partnerships in Participatory Research**

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- **Abstract:**

- Participatory research is a complex and challenging approach to research since it consists in undertaking projects co-developed by researchers and civil society organizations (CSO). But both types of stakeholders even when they work in the same discipline (environment, health, history, etc.) are not necessarily aware that a common work could be useful for their respective activities. Knowledge is often produced in a stakeholder specific environment and manner with very few exploration of the possibilities of dialogue or common research. Moreover, in France, the concept of the “scientific and technological culture” as promoted since the 80ties and which is close to the “Public understanding of science” approach, is the dominant mode of scientific knowledge dissemination. Knowledge diffusion is thus only one-way: scientists and “experts” offering knowledge to form the citizens. In this context, the concept of participatory research and a scientific third sector gains slowly ground. In order to foster this development, a (permanent and constructed) dialogue between scientists and civil society organisations is a key prerequisite, This dialogue is about mutual learning, creating trust and comprehension for the constraints, objectives and methodologies of the other, for defining common fields of interests We organized several meetings in 2011 and 2012 with researchers and representatives of the CSOs on different themes (health education and promotion, social function of History, etc.)(lesquels ?)using Scenario-Workshops (SW). This participative methodology is derived from the "European Awareness scenario-workshops" developed in 1994 in a pilot action on dialogue between residents, policy makers, businesses and the technology experts funded by the European Commission (EC). It was conceived as “a tool to support and facilitate the active participation of people from across society, in discussions surrounding the sustainable development of cities and possible technological solutions”. The scenario workshops were taken over and refined by the FBI Center (Institut für Forschungsgesellschaftswissenschaftliche, Bildung und Information) in INTERACTS (EC, DG12, 2002-2004) and TRAMS (EC, FP5, 2005-2008) european projects, respectively precursor and contributing to the development of the Living Knowledge network. Given the diversity of themes, participants and their objectives, and benefiting from the experience feedback of these meetings, we developed further this methodology and adapted it to our cases. The present work is a study of these adapted scenario workshops, in order to promote and facilitate the dialogue between researchers and civil society organizations to develop participatory research projects.