SCIENCE SHOPS AND INNOVATIVE PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES IN HORIZON 2020

The public and society at large are announced to become key actors in the development of the field of research and innovation and this engagement is critical to the acceptance of technologies in innovative results and (marketable) products. In recognition of this, strategies for outreach and public engagement have been identified as crucial. The need to clarify how to communicate, with whom and how to engage a wide audience in the debates, and in the development of policies, is an important point of discussion in the Horizon 2020 cross cutting issue of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). Raising awareness and exploring participatory activities in new contexts are on the agenda of the recently started project SPARKS to which Science Shops will actively contribute. But as approaches to upstream societal and public engagement vary enormously, there is a need to promote a shared understanding of the current and potential future benefits, risks, and social and ethical considerations associated with advancing technologies, and it follows that there is also a need for the debate on effective approaches how to embed the vision of Responsible Research and Innovation into the curriculum of higher education institutes. Science Shops under the lead of the Science Shop of Vrije Universiteit Brussel will make a valuable contribution to this challenging objective.

Rest, relax and enjoy the summer – unless you are involved in proposal writing for the next calls. Exciting times are lying ahead.

Norbert Steinhaus

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RECENTLY STARTED PROJECTS

EnRRICH - Enhancing Responsible Research and Innovation through Curricula in Higher Education - aims at building policy, practice and partnerships to create a better awareness of the value of RRI in the curriculum. The project is composed of a consortium of 10 Living Knowledge members and builds on the experiences of projects such as PERARES or RRI Tools. EnRRICH started on 1st July and is coordinated by the Science Shop of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Networking, learning from experience and sharing and improving good practices across Europe and beyond will be in the focus of the project’s activities. The 7th Living Knowledge Conference in June 2016 in Dublin will allow to share early learning with an international audience and federate the exchange of ideas as well as the debate on effective approaches to embedding RRI into the curriculum. More on the Living Knowledge website: www.livingknowledge.org/livingknowledge/enrrich.

Contact: Jozefien De Marrée, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Wetenschapswinkel, jozefien.de.marree@vub.ac.be
Recently Started Projects

**SPARKS** - The spark should spread from the society to the research – an illustration from the idea behind the European-wide project SPARKS. SPARKS is an ambitious awareness raising and engagement project on the topic of technology shifts in health and medicine. 15 core partners – including four Living Knowledge members – and 18 linked Third Parties aim to promote the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) to Europeans in 29 countries. Sparks will organise an interactive touring exhibition accompanied by innovative participatory activities such as, pop-up Science Shops, incubation activities, scenario workshops or science cafés and science espressos. The project which is coordinated by Ecsite started on the 1st July. Stay tuned for Sparks in your country and follow the project’s updates. More on the Ecsite website: www.ecsite.eu/activities-and-services/projects/sparks, Contact: Maria Zolontonosa, ECSITE, mzolotonosa@ecsite.eu

Save the date

**7th Living Knowledge Conference- Dublin 22-24 June 2016**

Are you interested in exchanging and developing knowledge and practices on how best to bring local communities, civil society organisations, students, researchers and educators together to collaboratively undertake responsible research and innovation? If so, come to Living Knowledge 7 and help us build excitement, partnerships and policy to support this.

The 7th Living Knowledge Conference 2016 will be hosted by Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland, from 22-24 June (there may also be pre-conference activities on the afternoon of 21 June). As with all Living Knowledge Conferences, positive interactions will be fostered, providing excellent opportunities for networking. There will be a focus on science shops, community-based research, and other knowledge exchange and creation collaborations between local communities, civil society organisations, researchers and educators. We particularly welcome collaborative proposals, especially those developed with students, graduates, and community partners.

This conference is being funded by the European Commission as part of the EnRRICH project - Enhancing Responsible Research and Innovation through Curricula in Higher Education. EnRRICH aims to build policy, practice and partnerships to create a better awareness of the value of RRI in the curriculum, and to build the capacity of students across Europe to engage in collaborative, ethical open research with communities. As a result the main focus of this conference will be how to build collaborative research into learning and teaching structures in Higher Education.

The provisional timeline is as follows:

**July 2015:**
- Call for papers issued, with conference themes

**December 2015:**
- Deadline for submission of abstracts

**February 2016:**
- Notification of acceptance of abstracts

**March 2016:**
- Deadline for early bird registration

**22-24 June 2016:**
- Conference.

Please see the Living Knowledge website for information about the conference. Or contact the organisers on LivingKnowledge@dit.ie.
Report on the analysis of opportunities, obstacles and needs of the stakeholder groups in RRI practices in Europe

“Responsible Research and Innovation is about making science with society and for society. This means aligning the outcomes of research with the values of society. It is a wide umbrella term that brings together different aspects of the relationship between science and innovation with society: ethics, gender equality, open access, public engagement and science and education. It is a key concept under Horizon 2020, the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020, with the main aspects of RRI adopted as cross-cutting issues in this programme.” After a series of one-day meetings across Europe (in 30 countries) within the context of the EU project RRI Tools, the different stakeholders’ understandings of RRI (opportunities, obstacles, needs) were analysed and summarized in a report written by the University College London, highlighting some core conclusions about the different ways to improve the RRI Tools efficiency and relevance, but also pointing out the many opportunities that adopting RRI could bring. Please find the complete report here: http://bit.ly/1BKpVyS

A catalogue of good RRI practices

The goal of this catalogue is to provide concrete guidance on how RRI can be put into practice. Accordingly, at the heart of this document is a compilation of descriptions of good RRI practices brought together in the RRI Tools project through a consultation round with stakeholders in research and innovation from all around Europe.

The goal of the catalogue is to instruct stakeholders in research and innovation (R&I). For sure many of the practices in this catalogue could still be improved. Nevertheless, they all deserve their place in this catalogue insofar as they provide inspiration to others who work in research and innovation on how to put into practice aspects vital to RRI. Aspects that matter in this regard are rather wide-ranging. They include the requirements that R&I processes should fulfil to promote responsibility, various types of outcomes characteristic of responsible research and innovation, the policy agendas that the European Commission has identified (Ethics, Gender, Governance, Open Access, Public Engagement, and Science Education), and the Grand Challenges that have likewise been singled out by the European Commission (in short, Health, Food security, Energy, Transport, Climate, Europe in a changing world and Security).

Find the catalogue at http://bit.ly/1HZRs1x

The RRI Toolkit is blooming

In the second newsletter of RRI Tools you will get a sense of what what has happened on the project, which includes examples of inspiring tools and promising practices and, news about RRI Tools and the Hubs, good reads, the most read from social media and upcoming interesting events.

The RRI Toolkit is blooming - enjoy reading http://bit.ly/1IvueCp

Report on indicators for RRI

The “Expert Group on Policy Indicators for Responsible Research and Innovation” presented its results in a report. With this report a kind of toolbox of indicators for monitoring, support and development of RRI is proposed. The indicators presented are quantitative and qualitative, already proven in part and partly with methodical development needs. Overall the report mentions about a hundred indicators, the report also contains recommendations how a fitting portfolio of indicators can be assembled. http://bit.ly/1KEAkRh
ENGAGE 2020

Engaging society in Horizon 2020:
Engage2020 is looking at research, innovation and related activities and exploring how members of society are involved today, and perhaps more importantly how they could be in the future. Engage2020 aims to increase the use of engagement methods and policies by mapping what is practiced and spreading awareness of the opportunities amongst researchers, policy makers and other interested parties.

Overview on Public Engagement Methods and Tools
The methods and tools listed in this current document are mapped against a set of four criteria: a) the levels of application of the method/tool (i.e. policy formulation, programme development, project definition, research activity), b) the societal groups involved in the application of the method/tool (i.e. CSOs, policy-makers, researchers, citizens, affected citizens, consumers, employees, users, industry), c) the level of public involvement of the societal groups listed above (i.e. dialogue, consulting, involving, collaborating, empowering, direct decision) and d) Grand Societal Challenge addressed. http://bit.ly/1EDCKh4

ENGAGE 2020 Policy Briefs

Policy brief 1: Policies and Activities Supporting Societal Engagement in Research and Innovation
This policy briefs provides an overview of the key assumptions about public engagement and its policy relevance, and introduces the key levels of the research and innovation processes where policy attention should be concentrated, as well as the most prominent forms of policy and activity support the recommendations are based on.

Policy brief 2: Public Engagement in R&I Processes – Promises and Demands
The second policy brief discusses the ways the society can be engaged in R&I practices as well as R&I policies, it presents the roles the public can play on the different levels of R&I processes and summarises the most important motives and achievements of public engagement.

The third policy brief discusses measures that can be introduced, strengthened or further developed to achieve good-quality outcomes of engaging society in the R&I process, as well as barriers that could hamper societal engagement.

Policy brief 4: Policy options to increase public engagement in science and innovation within the frame of Horizon2020
The fourth policy brief looks at policy options for stimulating public engagement in research and innovation processes through the lens of different dimensions of policy intervention. It also discusses possible measures for promoting public engagement within the European Research Area (ERA).

Find all policy briefs under http://engage2020.eu/results-description

CONSIDER

Policy Brief: European Research: What Role for Civil Society Organizations?
can offer many advantages, including higher acceptance of research outcomes and better quality of research findings. Despite the potential importance of CSOs, little was known until recently about the practice of including them in research projects. The CONSIDER project (Civil Society Organisations in Designing Research Governance) has addressed this gap through theoretically sound and empirically rich research which included a survey of all FP7 projects and more than 30 in-depth case studies. This policy brief is based on the insights gained in the CONSIDER project.

Policy brief: http://bit.ly/1CMi7e7

Engaging civil society in research and innovation
Within the CONSIDER project the focus was on collaborative research projects, especially EU-funded multi-stakeholder projects (such as FP7 and Horizon 2020). Current collaboration practices, observation of different research teams in a real time context were on the agenda. CONSIDER has involved a conceptually rich investigation of the role of CSOs in research.

Key findings from the CONSIDER project can be found at: http://bit.ly/1FU7dCN

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http://bit.ly/1EDCKh4

http://bit.ly/1CMi7e7

http://bit.ly/1FU7dCN
REPORTS

C2UExpo May 2015 – videos of plenary sessions online

C2UExpo is a Canadian-led international conference designed to showcase the best practices in community-campus partnerships worldwide; create a space for collaboration around key issues; and foster ideas, connections, and frameworks with the purpose of strengthening our communities. It took place on 26-29 May 2015 in Ottawa. It is aimed at community members, universities, colleges, government, and nonprofit organizations, in order to work together to create an innovative learning. This conference is held every two years. This year, it sought to explore citizen solutions for a better world by delving into the array of policy work being done to advance solutions in areas such as health, environment, food security, and employment. Videos of the plenary sessions can be viewed on the website http://cuexpo2015.ca

CASE - Career Assistance and Spirit of Enterprise

Institute FBI, Living Knowledge partner in Austria, performed a study on the entrepreneurial spirit in Austria and made a transnational comparison as the result of an EU-founded Learning Partnership (http://bit.ly/1LhVFjz). The partnership included 9 organisations from Austria, Spain, Romania, France, Lithuania, Turkey and Italy. The main interest was career orientation and counselling for youngsters to enhance the transplant from school to working life or to bring them from orientation and counseling for youngsters to enhance entrepreneurship. The endproducts of the learning partnership can be found on the CASE-website (www.caseproject.eu), for example an e-learning platform with digital portfolio, a young entrepreneurs blog, tips and tricks for job-search and application and a career counselling guide. Please feel free to use the products of the learning partnership CASE in your professional environment.

Contact: Dr. Gabriela Schroffenegger, fbi@reflext.at, www.uibk.ac.at/fbi

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDING – JÜLICH PROJECT, REPORT 2015

The report newly published by the leaders of the Jülich project deals with the civil society participation in the R&I’s funding. Because of the increasing demand for research on the big social challenges and of the civil society involvement that is anchored in the science with the coalition contract of the current government, the agency responsible for the Jülich project sees the “topic of participation as a strategic chance. For our clients, we created a structured supply that brings civil society along the entire process of research and innovation funding” (Report 2015, p.5).

In different articles of the report, some fundamental questions about participation in science were highlighted (interview with Markus Weisskopf, Science in the dialogue, p.25), as well as the concept of participation of the agency responsible for the project presented, among other things in the agenda process the programme FONA3 (Research for Sustainable Development - Ministry for Education and Research) or the municipal directive to the protection of the atmosphere (Ministry for the Environment). More information here: http://bit.ly/1T50ldP (German language)

CCPH: how to revise the Belmont Report to better account for individual and community considerations?

In the late 1970s, the US federal government appointed a group of researchers to revise and expand regulations surrounding human subjects’ research. At the time, the scientific community was still grappling with fallout from unethical experimentation. The Belmont Report highlighted three core principles of research ethics: respect for person, beneficence, and justice. These principles have remained the basis of human subject protection and primary considerations of Institutional Review Boards and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) human subject protection regulations for over 30 years. Clearly, these principles are a solid foundation for the rules and regulations surrounding human subjects’ research ethics, however, since its inception, the Belmont Report has faced criticism for not being inclusive of social science research. CEnR now is a framework for research that involves collaboration between communities and academic researchers. This type of work adjusts the focus of research from individuals to communities, and elevates the role of subjects to participants or partners. Community partners may be involved in all aspects of the research process, from design to dissemination. Researchers from the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) have introduced proposed changes to the Belmont Report to add the community perspective to the three core principles. In addition, they propose five additional core capacities: humility, relational integrity, moral courage, equity, and accountability.

https://ccph.memberclicks.net/research-ethics
New science communication toolbox

VA (Vetenskap & Allmänhet, Sweden) has now launched an English version of its online toolbox of science communication activities. The toolbox is packed with ideas and inspiration for activities to engage both young and adult audiences, including hands-on activities, tours, shows, games, competitions and online events. http://v-a.se/category/english/
VA’s bi-annual Newsletter at: http://bit.ly/1lzsyzl

Conclusions and Recommendations of the December 2014 Conference on RRI (DASTS)

Organizers: Ministry for Higher Education and Science in collaboration with Maja Horst (Professor, Head of Department of Media, Cognition and Communication, University of Copenhagen / Member of the BioSYNergy Steering Group).
Based on the wide-ranging conference discussions, the DASTS has synthesized the following overall points and recommendations for future efforts to improve science-society dialogue and create a sound platform for Responsible Research and Innovation in Denmark elsewhere:
- The various actors need to practice dialogue and reflexivity with courage. Having an open dialogue is not simple, easy or straightforward. They need to be generous and willing to let each other make mistakes.
- Public dialogues and engagement should be symmetrical. All parties need to be able to listen and learn as well as having respect for each other’s standpoints.
- Researchers should play an active role in the practical construction of RRI. Researchers are not going to engage constructively with RRI if it is imposed from the outside and in a form that is not meaningful to researchers themselves.
- Questions about RRI can be an important resource. Research organizations and funding bodies might therefore implement RRI by posing questions and facilitating and supporting researchers in reflecting about them.
More information: http://bit.ly/1T11ZPg

Adult Education in Communities - Approaches From A Participatory Perspective

By Emilio Lucio-Villegas, University of Seville, Spain (2015), 152 p.
Participation can be a double-edged sword in that it can be used to bind people into agendas and policies they have little control over or it can help enable them to give voice to real and significant issues. By drawing on contemporary accounts of emancipatory action and participatory research the author elaborates on the role of adult educators in this context.
This book tries to reflect on adult education and its close relationships with communities. It is a modest attempt to maintain adult education in the scope of the community life against the growing schooling, the focus on employability, and on the labour market. (From the publisher’s notice)

Open Letter on Sustainable Development Goals, Research and Higher Education

For those who are interested in scientific research and higher education in developing countries, particularly in francophone Africa, the forthcoming adoption of Sustainable Development Goals by the UN deserves attention. This process could indeed be an opportunity to include access to the Internet, open science and open access as necessities for sustainable development. If these issues are important to you, we invite you to sign the Open letter (link below) to be sent shortly to the Sustainable Development team at the UN and possibly sponsored by a president (under negotiation).

http://bit.ly/1SkSvMs

Contact: Florence Piron, Association for Science and Common Good, SOHA Project (Open Science in Haiti and Francophone Africa), http://projetsoha.org
Excellence for everybody!? Citizen Science, Universities and Science Shops – looking ahead!
6 and 7 November 2015 in Oldenburg, Germany.
This conference is for all, who are interested in finding strategies on solving the major social and ecological challenges of our time. Facing challenges like shortage of resources, urbanization, climatic and demographic change, the involvement of civil society actors in scientific processes is getting more and more important. How can excellent science look like to put sustainable societal ideas into practice? How can universities open up to objectives from society and their participation in the overall scientific process? How can transparency, equal opportunities and democracy be transferred into participation of citizens and NGOs in research policy? How can concepts from community initiatives apart from the growing economy, from Fab-Labs to urban gardening, be highlighted?
Conference language is German. www.wissnet.de

Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation Workshop
July 20-25, 2015 in Ottawa, Canada
RETHINK your own monitoring & evaluation strategies and approaches;
MASTER participatory PM&E tools for the workplace;
FACILITATE PM&E processes for your project, programme or organization;
DEVELOP monitoring and evaluation plans in a more participatory manner;
INTEGRATE qualitative and participatory methods into monitoring and evaluation
This workshop is intended for project managers, directors and program staff of monitoring and evaluation units, community leaders and workers with project responsibilities, decision-makers, consultants, evaluators.
http://conta.cc/1iG5Otf

Knowledge Mobilization Summer Institute
August 17-19, 2015 in Guelph, Canada
Three days of learning and skill development in the field of knowledge mobilization. Hands-on workshops and networking with professionals will provide a unique opportunity for early career KMb individuals to develop a solid foundation of understanding of the key principles of KMb, collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and evaluation.
http://conta.cc/1JApXfD

SUSTAIN Project - 3 Workshops
The objective of the SUSTAIN network is to develop inquiry-based science education (IBSE)-oriented educators and teachers’ continuing professional development (CPD), classroom activities and resources for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In the frame of the Sustain project, 3 European professional development sessions from September 2015 to December 2015 will be organized.
8-10 September 2015: Food (Trnava, Slovakia)
24-26 November 2015: Everyday Objects (Leicester, UK)
8-10 December, 2015: Energy (Dublin, Ireland)
http://www.sustain-europe.eu

12th international Pascal Conference
October 7-9, 2015 in Catania, Italy
The 12th PASCAL conference will be hosted by the University of Catania in Sicily. The theme of the conference concerns how cities and their regions are connected to their universities at strategic frontiers. These include knowledge and political frontiers, and each is linked to global challenges that include employment, migration, health, food security, culture and climate change. The conference will be of interest to city and regional administrators, national, regional and local government policy-makers, all organisations concerned with regional development, academics and post-graduate students.
http://bit.ly/1T81FxZ

GfÖ annual meeting 2015
August 31 - September 4, 2015 in Göttingen Germany
The guiding theme of the 45th Annual Meeting is “Ecology for a Sustainable Future”. Special focus will be given to: species, populations and ecosystems, ecosystem functioning, global change effects, impact of land use and conservation approaches. http://www.gfoe-2015.de/
CONFERENCES - WORKSHOPS - FORUMS

ICT 2015: Innovate, Create, Transform
October 20-22, 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal
The ICT 2015 event will comprise a policy conference presenting the new Commission’s policies and initiatives on Research & Innovation in ICT (Horizon 2020 Programme); an interactive exhibition showcasing the best results and impact of most recent EU ICT Research & Innovation; many networking opportunities to enhance quality partnerships; help participants find partners, connect Research and Innovation and trigger collaboration; funding opportunities: ICT 2015 will also be the place to gather information on the 2016-17 Work Programme of Horizon 2020.
http://bit.ly/1NJHDKZ

Conference Revolutionary Scholarship: Innovation of community engagement models
November 16-18, 2015 in Boston, USA
The IARSLCE annual research conference is targeted to scholars, practitioners, students, and community partners interested in research on service-learning, community-based research, campus-community partnerships, and civic learning outcomes in P-20 education.
http://www.researchsice.org/conferences

5th Annual Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum
June 27-29, 2016 in Toronto, Canada
Special extended program on “Systems and Sustainability” and also a 10-year celebration of ResearchImpact. The event will be held at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning in Toronto.
http://www.knowledgemobilization.net/events

4th University-Community Engagement Conference
November 1-3, 2015 in Gold Coast, Australia
The theme of the Conference is “Enhancement and Innovations in University-Community Engagement”. UCEC2015 aims to create an opportunity for interested participants to share knowledge, experience and expertise whilst they contemplate the central question of enhancement and innovation for the future scenarios of community engagement.

SAVE THE DATE: 7th Living Knowledge Conference 2016
22-24 June 2016 in Dublin, Ireland
As with all Living Knowledge Conferences, there will be lots of positive interaction, providing excellent opportunities for networking. This conference will also consider how to build collaborative research into learning and teaching structures in Higher Education.
www.livingknowledge.org

ALARA 9th World Congress on Action Learning and Action Research
4 - 7 November 2015 in Pretoria, South Africa
The Organising Committee for the ALARA 9th Action Learning, Action Research and 13th Participatory Action Research World Congress are pleased to advise that registrations are now open for the World Congress, which will be held in conjunction with North West University and National Research Foundation in Centurion South Africa on 4 - 7 November 2015. For details go to http://bit.ly/1AAf1dO

Engage 2020 Project – final conference
November 9-10, 2015 in Brussels, Belgium
Final conference in the Engage2020 project at the Royal Flemish Academy of Sciences and Arts in Brussels. More information to come.

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