IMPROVING RRI CAPACITIES THROUGH NETWORKING AND TRAINING

Looking back into 2015 I think that there have been wonderful improvements and exciting new ideas on the start. Many projects have and had excellent outcomes. Now it seems to become more important to safeguard the sustainability of our innovations. We need more specific SwafS funding to initiatives oriented to the improvement of RRI capacities in universities and other Research Performing Organisations such as networking and training of academics and university top managers to better include RRI dimensions as a cross-cutting issue in university curricula, as well as to the implementation and evaluation of effective incorporation of RRI in university curricula. But also scientific excellence, infrastructure of institutional change and the discussion about RRI and non-RRI, as well as evaluation and larger impact on society will remain important issues.

I strongly believe that we, as diverse actors in various RRI policy fields through our networks have a great opportunity and challenge to stimulate synergies on how to better cross-cut each RRI dimension into the others. So don’t forget to submit your new ideas to the Living Knowledge Conference in Dublin and share your experiences.

I hope you will not be too stressed in the run-up to Christmas and will find the time to relax, despite all the hectic activities usually linked to the old year’s closure. Don’t forget to keep some energy for the New Year’s Science Shop activities.

On behalf of the Living Knowledge Network and Bonn Science Shop I would like to wish you quiet and peaceful Christmas days and a happy, healthy and successful new year.

Norbert Steinhaus

PROJECTS

December Update

The EnRRICH project is taking more and more shape. The next meeting of the work package leaders will take place in Bonn end of January 2016. In the meantime, EnRRICH partners have started identifying best practices, surveying needs and developing new course material in RRI. Therefore, academics at higher education institutions and others were consulted about their views and experiences of embedding RRI in the curriculum. Next year, consultations with CSOs and students about RRI in the curriculum will follow. As a result a report and competency framework will be edited. Local trials of RRI methodologies in higher education curricula across different levels are piloted for next year. A Community of Practice (CoP) on curricular embedding of Science Shops will be established and together with the 11 involved experienced Science Shops mentor new Science Shop mechanisms.

Furthermore, Cupp – The Community University Partnership Programme of the University of Brighton – has been awarded the tender to evaluate the project. Cupp is already a partner in ‘Europe Engage’, a parallel Eras-
A mus project involving 12 higher education institutions across Europe concerned with student engagement ('service learning'). A shared dialogue and learning between the projects is aspired. The evaluation will focus on the impact of the project on students, partner organisations and the HEIs involved, and make recommendations regarding best practice in embedding Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI) in the curricula.

For more information on the project, contact the project’s coordinator: Jozefien De Marrée, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Wetenschapswinkel, jozefien.de.marree@vub.ac.be or visit www.enrich.eu

Dissemination activities

EnRRICH partners have been disseminating the EnRRICH plans and the idea of RRI through attending conferences and workshops. In the last 3 months, EnRRICH was presented at the 12th Pascal International Conference in Italy, the University-Community Engagement Conference (UCEC) in Australia, the ICAB Conference in The Netherlands, the 'Excellence for all!?’ conference and FINEP conference in Germany, the Engage2020 conference in Belgium, the ‘1er forum de la Boutique des sciences de l’Université de Lyon’ in France and at the Engage 2015 - NCCPE Conference in the UK (picture below). Moreover, strong links with the RRI Tools project and other RRI projects are maintained. E.g. the EnRRICH project coordinator took part at the RRI Tools workshop hosted by the RRI Tools project in Brussels, Belgium. Within this workshop the progress and evolution of the RRI toolkit, which has been developed by the project, were presented.

EnRRICH presentation in Oldenburg

Inspire – Integrating community based partnership into learning and teaching for responsible research and innovation (RRI)
Dublin 22-24 June 2016

The deadline for submission of proposals for the 7th Living Knowledge Conference is approaching. Proposals can be submitted until 7 January 2016. The conference focuses on how to build collaborative research into learning and teaching structures in Higher Education and is an integral part of the EnRRICH project.

Would you like to exchange and develop 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? Please send us your proposals for interactive, collaborative, and engaging sessions for Living Knowledge 7 in Dublin, where we will build excitement, partnerships and policy by exploring these and other questions:

- How can we encourage more people to explore and use the results of publicly funded research?
- How can we make innovation more inclusive and more universal?
- How can we inspire each other to try new approaches, change our thinking, and embed good practices?

Find more information on the call under http://bit.ly/1W3IA2z
Final deadline for submissions: 7th January 2016.

Provisional timeline:
February 2016: Notification of acceptance of abstracts
March 2016: Deadline for early bird registration
20-21 June 2016: Summer School
22-24 June 2016: 7LK Conference

More information on the conference can be found under http://www.livingknowledge.org/lk7
Action Catalogue

As an outcome of the project, the Engage2020 Action Catalogue was developed. The catalogue is an online decision support tool that is intended to enable researchers, policy-makers and others wanting to engage society in research and innovation, to find the method that is best suited for their specific project needs. The catalogue consists of 57 methods with the common denominator that their focus is research driven by involvement and inclusion. The tool allows the user to search the 57 different methods on 32 different criteria, with the possibility of weighing the importance of each criterion. It is publicly available so that anyone can search the methods, read thorough descriptions of what the methods do, strengths and weaknesses of each, what societal challenges they can be used to address, and examples of what they have been used for previously and much more.

The action catalogue is available at [http://actioncatalogue.eu/](http://actioncatalogue.eu/).

Science, Society and Engagement – An e-Anthology

There are many ways to engage members of the public in research and innovation activities. Many policy makers, researchers or administrators are either carrying out public engagement or considering engaging the public in their work around a scientific or technological issue. While engaging society in research and innovation can bring many benefits, it can also be a daunting prospect for those without previous experience. This anthology is designed to help those who are interested in engagement, but do not have much direct experience yet. The interactive document provides the perfect entry point into the Engage2020 project. It contains chapters by leading engagement practitioners in Europe and also provides summaries and links to relevant documents and tools, including Engage2020’s Action Catalogue.


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Shaping the RRI Toolkit

End of November a beta version of the RRI Toolkit was presented for external feedback to representatives of the R&I Community: EC officers, coordinators of other RRI projects, representatives of different stakeholder groups, and key issue experts. Comments and feedback will now be implemented to provide a robust and convenient instrument. The Toolkit will be online early 2016.

The RRI Tools project is building a set of practical resources to disseminate, advocate, train, and implement Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in Europe. RRI Tools is an ambitious, umbrella project that aims to spread RRI in the European Research Area and to support Horizon2020 in better addressing social challenges by building a Toolkit that provides resources to implement RRI to all actors involved.

The analysis phase of the project was devoted to establishing a working definition of RRI, compiling promising RRI practices, developing RRI quality standards, and doing a cross-analysis of the six key issues of RRI (ethics, gender equality, governance, public engagement, open access, and science education) versus the needs, constraints, and motivations of the different stakeholders involved in RRI (see [http://rritools.eu/workplan-deliverables](http://rritools.eu/workplan-deliverables)).

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RRI Tool

Evaluation: practical guidelines. A guide for evaluating public engagement activities

There is no magic formula for evaluation. To construct an evaluation strategy, there’s the need to think about one’s objectives, the data one can collect and the reports one has to make. Done well, evaluation can improve activities and give a sense of achievement and understanding of ones impact.

This guide is for researchers seeking to engage general audiences with their subject to evaluate public engagement activities, regardless of prior experience of either public engagement or evaluation. It is intended to help researchers from any discipline. A copy of the Evaluation Guide can be downloaded at [http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/publications/evaluationguide.pdf](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/publications/evaluationguide.pdf).
Engage2020 Webinars now available online

The three webinars hosted by the Engage2020 project in November can now be watched on YouTube downloaded as PDF documents. You can find them under http://engage2020.eu/news/webinars-in-engage2020/.

Broadening and Deepening: Mainstreaming Public Engagement

This webinar will look at the key findings of Engage2020 - in particular the policy options that are available to ensure that public engagement in science and technology becomes embedded and improved in research institutions. The discussion will focus on the different options available across the differing contexts in Europe.

How to Include Engagement in Horizon 2020

This webinar is aimed at researchers and policy makers who are interested in learning more about the options for engaging members of the public in research and innovation projects, in particular projects in Horizon 2020. The webinar will feature introductions to different types of engagement methods, as well as a showcase of the new Action Catalogue. The Action Catalogue provides an interface to explore over 50 methods of engagement and make decisions of which ones are best suited to different circumstances.

Public Engagement: The Future of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

This webinar will look at future trends and opportunities in Responsible Research and Innovation. It is based on the exploratory work done by Engage2020 and will look at areas such as participatory research, citizen science & digital engagement and how these could develop in the future. We will in particular look at the use of ‘blended methods’ bringing together different approaches in new ways.

1st HEIRRI Conference - Teaching Responsible Research and Innovation at University

On 18th March 2016 the Conference of the HEIRRI project on Teaching Responsible Research and Innovation at University will take place at the CosmoCaixa Science Museum in Barcelona. The HEIRRI (Higher Education Institutions and RRI) project aims to develop education resources to introduce RRI at universities and is therefore very close to the EnRICH project. HEIRRI will use the RRI Tools website as its main digital platform, and it will contribute to the RRI Toolkit with the materials elaborated during the project. The conference will bring together professionals from European organisations working in Research and Innovation, including higher education institutions, research centres, institutions of formal and informal learning, public institutions, industry, and civil society organisations. A combination of keynote talks, participatory working sessions, and a poster session will allow participants to share good practices in how higher education institutions can engage the different actors in RRI. Networking will be prioritised to allow participants to make connections with professionals from across Europe. The deadline for abstracts was on 15th December. More information about the conference can be found at http://www.rri-tools.eu/heirri-conference

Sparks project – First RRI meeting of all 33 partners in Amsterdam

The Sparks project, coordinated by Ecsite, is about bridging the gap between the super-fast pace of scientific innovation and society through an interactive exhibition and over 230 engaging activities taking place across the whole of the European Union.

On 9th October 2015 representatives from the whole of the European Union and Switzerland, including 5 partners from the Living Knowledge network, gathered for the first time at the EYE film museum in Amsterdam to get to know each other and start a conversation about Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), which lies at the core of this project. Throughout the workshop a shared understanding of RRI was being developed and an RRI example in action was presented at A-lab by speakers from the Social Robotics Lab. Not only participants got a chance to speak to the engineers and entrepreneurs from the lab, but also meet Alice (https://vimeo.com/116760085), the healthcare robot, in action.

Meanwhile, Sparks’ partners have been busy with developing the exhibition and activities, communications materials and unravelling the topic of technology shifts in health and medicine. The interactive touring exhibition will open in June 2016 in its first location - the Science Museum in London. In July, the exhibition will head to Bonn (Germany), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Warsaw (Poland), where visitors will be able to engage with it throughout July and August 2016.

The new website (www.sparksproject.eu), the very first newsletter and an Inception report that explores the common understanding of the technological shifts that are influencing the fields of health and medicine and of how RRI can be identified, discussed, and modeled, will be available soon. To stay updated about the project follow it on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SparksprojectEU) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/sparks_eu).
Related News

European Foundations Award for Responsible Research & Innovation is now closed

The deadline for applications for the European Foundations Award for Responsible Research & Innovation successfully closed on 7 December 2015. 210 unique applications from 42 - predominantly European countries were submitted. The HUB consortium of RRI Tools played an important role in efficiently disseminating RRI all across Europe so far. The selection of the finalists will be announced in February/March 2016.

Successful conference „Excellence for everybody!?“ held in Oldenburg, Germany

From 6-7 November 2015 the first interactive Wissnet (association of German Science Shops) conference “Excellence for everybody!? Citizen science, higher education institutions and Science Shops – looking ahead”, took place in Oldenburg, Germany with approximately 100 participants, mainly from higher education and research institutions as well as from association and NGOs. Funded by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture and the Metropolregion Nordwest, the conference was organized by seven German Science Shops and two Knowledge Transfer Units.

By combining different formats (e.g. workshops, World Cafés, lectures, project-Speed-Dating) the conference offered with 36 contributions in 14 sessions an interactive platform to bring scientists and citizens together and facilitated lively discussions. E.g. in a workshop regarding “Integration of civil society needs in HEI” Norbert Steinhaus (Bonn Science Shop) reported from the RRI Tools project and Christine Gröneweg (Science Shop Vechta/Cloppenburg) presented the EnRRICH project and the practices and implementation of EnRRICH objectives at the University of Vechta. Further on, the target and topics of both projects were discussed with all participants in a scenario workshop held by Gabriela Schroffenegger (FBI/Innsbruck/Austria). A fishbowl discussion in plenary marked the conclusion of the conference. (Source: Christine Gröneweg, University of Vechta)

Conference documentation (in German) can be found at www.wissnet.de/konferenz/dokumentation

Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-17 Science with and for Society relevant topics

SIS.net is the international network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for Science with and for Society in Horizon 2020, the EU’s Programme for Research and Innovation. SIS.net provides high quality services to Science with and for Society stakeholders, authorities, research institutions and enterprises on the opportunities offered by Horizon 2020 to boost integration of scientific achievements into society and engage the public in science. The network has just published an e-book that is meant to be a guideline when planning to contribute to upcoming calls in Science with and for Society.

From the introduction:

This e-book is meant to be a guideline of the different funding opportunities with relevance to Science with and for Society stakeholders in the different parts of the Work Programme 2016-2017. Thus it identifies topics with one or more SwafS dimension to guide SWAFS’ stakeholders through the different H2020 Work Programmes. The analysis covers six SWAFS dimensions:

- Engagement
- Ethics
- Open Access
- Gender
- Science Education
- Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

The document compiles the information for each topic - the deadline for the submission of proposals, type of action and a direct link for each topic in the Participant Portal. Readers are encouraged to go through the whole Work Programme themselves to carefully identify all the opportunities available, and all its details and rules of participation. To ease this consultation, there is a direct link embedded in the title of each programme throughout the document.

REPORTS and PAPERS

Big Tent Communiqué VI

Local Identities and Global Citizenship: A Message from Catania and Challenges for Universities

The Big Tent is a group of national, regional and global networks that share a focus on community-university engagement and social responsibility of higher education. The Big Tent Global Communiqués on Higher Education are an initiative of the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education.

There is rising uncertainty in many arenas of public and community affairs world-wide: environmental sustainability, peace, economic instability, exploding inequality, poverty, youth unemployment and lost identity, health and mental illness, aging and the massive movement of peoples ... Universities can play an important part in helping to address these huge challenges, both through collaborating to generate research that seeks to make sense of these complex processes, and through their role to support education – through their graduates, and through a wider role in supporting community learning. The Big Tent believes universities need to take a more active role in collaborating with civil society to generate powerful knowledge, and open up their work to much more fruitful interaction with wider society...

They call on all institutions of higher education urgently to undertake collaborative actions with municipalities, local governments, community groups and social movements to address the interrelated issues of migration, youth employment, peace and inequality...

Read the full communiqué at http://bit.ly/1G2BTJu

PUBLICATIONS and ARTICLES

Strengthening Community University Research Partnerships: Global Perspectives

Edited by Budd Hall, Rajesh Tandon, Crystal Tremblay, University of Victoria, Victoria (2015), 331 p.

This includes a detailed overview of a global survey administered in over fifty countries and four languages, and twelve country case studies demonstrating strong institutional and policy support for community-university research partnerships. Through these findings, Hall, Tandon and Tremblay – and all other contributors – aim to promote awareness of the significance and appropriateness of creating and/or supporting such enabling structures amongst decision-makers in higher education institutions, and mobilize knowledge for practitioner and policy actions in creating appropriate structures in different countries through the identification of best practices and recommendations.

The publication includes a chapter on Science Shop case studies from Groningen and Wageningen, the Netherlands, by Henk Mulder and Gerard Straver.

The full publication can be downloaded under http://bit.ly/1QqZXWr


By UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education (2015)

This publication is a handy reference and toolkit for university and college administrators interested in establishing and improving Community University Research Partnerships in higher education institutions. The manual provides practical guidelines and steps that will help deliver on policy commitments made to promote Community University Engagement / Community University Research Partnerships in higher educational institutions. These guidelines, supplemented with best practices from around the world, are intended to show a way forward, and are not necessarily prescriptive; they offer insights into how institutions can build and sustain Community University Research Partnership practices and structures. Download the manual at http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/unesco/pdf/CURP_Guidelines.pdf.
Research for All journal

Research for All is a new open-access and peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the UCL Institute of Education and the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE). Its first edition will be published in 2016. The journal is for anyone, working inside or outside universities, who is committed to seeing research make a difference in society. Engagement with research goes further than participation in it. Engaged individuals and communities initiate, advise, challenge or collaborate with researchers. Their involvement is always active and they have a crucial influence on the conduct of the research – on its design or methods, products, dissemination or use. Research for All focuses on research that involves universities and communities, services or industries working together. Contributors and readers are from both inside and outside of higher education. They include researchers, policymakers, managers, practitioners, community-based organisations, schools, businesses and the intermediaries who bring these people together. The journal aims to raise the quality of engaged research by stimulating discussion about the effectiveness of engagement with researchers, research outcomes and processes.

To find out more, visit www.publicengagement.ac.uk/researchforall

Learning for Walking the Change: Eco-Social Innovation through Sustainability-oriented Higher Education


The Routledge International Handbook of Higher Education for Sustainable Development gives a systematic and comprehensive overview of existing and upcoming research approaches for higher education for sustainable development. It provides a unique resource for researchers engaged in the field of higher education for sustainable development by connecting theoretical aspects of the range of relevant methodologies, showing the interdisciplinary aspects of the research field and illustrating the breadth of research directions. The article Learning for Walking the Change also talks about Science Shops and the Living Knowledge network.

Hardback, 480 p. / ISBN 9780415727303
https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415727303
If you are interested in the article, contact Hansje Eppink, Wageningen University, hansje.eppink@wur.nl

CONFERENCES - WORKSHOPS - FORUMS

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. Call for proposals is open until 7th January 2016. http://bit.ly/1TmZhCG

2016 PACE Conference
February 10, 2016 in High Point (North Carolina), USA
North Carolina Campus Compact’s annual PACE Conference brings faculty, staff, administrators, and community partners together. The conference will explore research findings, innovative program design and partnership models, effective curricular and co-curricular strategies, and best practices. http://bit.ly/1MEoZhn

Go4 JOINT FINAL CONFERENCE
Responsible Research and Innovation in Europe and across the World: Shaping new Horizons
January 14-15, 2016 in Brussels, Belgium
The four FP7-funded projects GREAT, Res-AGorA, Pro-GReSS, and Responsibility (Go4 projects), are sharing a common concern, to improve understanding of the emerging concept of RRI and develop approaches, tools and mechanisms to facilitate the uptake of RRI across Europe and beyond. The Go4 projects will present key results of their work at their joint final conference. Key themes of the conference are e.g. RRI and the current EU policy-landscape, RRI case studies and success stories and how can RRI be evaluated. http://bit.ly/1jAxjHt

Euclid Summit: Power to drive positive change
Building civil society and social enterprise knowhow for 2020 and beyond
February 24-26, 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia
Europe’s civil society, social economy and social enterprise movement has always found the power to drive positive change through its know-how besides its values, knowledge and networks. The Euclid Summit will help build new know-how and skills for innovative civil society organisations and social enterprises in a changing world. http://bit.ly/1HHQoTU
From Health Care to Healthy Communities – ACHI National Conference
March 1-3, 2016 in Baltimore, USA
The ACHI National Conference brings together more than 500 participants from across the United States to discuss strategies and approaches to improve the health of their respective communities. In its 13th year, the ACHI conference has become a gathering point for community benefit, population health, public health and community development professionals to network and share promising practices in community health improvement. http://bit.ly/1MrCWoh

1st HEIRRI Conference - Teaching Responsible Research and Innovation at University
March 18, 2016 in Barcelona, Spain
As part of the HEIRRI (Higher Education Institutions and RRI) project, the 1st HEIRRI Conference, Teaching Responsible Research and Innovation at University will take place in the CosmoCaixa Science Museum in Barcelona. The conference will bring together professionals from European organisations working in Research and Innovation, including higher education institutions, research centres, institutions of formal and informal learning, public institutions, industry, and civil society organisations. A combination of keynote talks, participatory working sessions, and a poster session will allow participants to share good practices in how higher education institutions can engage the different actors in RRI. http://www.rri-tools.eu/de/heirri-conference

Journey to Justice: Creating Change Through Partnerships – 14th CCPH Conference
May 11-14, 2016 in New Orleans USA
At a time when social and racial justice are at the forefront of conversations about health equity, CCPH seeks to promote, support and encourage partnerships designed to improve health by addressing social and racial justice issues. The 14th International Conference will bring together community partners, faculty members, students, funders and policy makers from around the world to learn from each other and highlight partnerships and research collaborations addressing health equity through social justice. https://ccph.memberclicks.net/conference-overview

Ecsite Annual Conference 2016
June 9-11, 2016 in Graz, Austria
The annual conference of the European network of science centres and museums – Ecsite – is open to everyone interested in public engagement with science. The conference theme 2016 “Colours of cooperation” not only resonates with Ecsite’s network activities: collaborations, co-creations and partnerships are at heart of your daily professional activities as well. http://www.ecsite.eu/annual-conference

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/forum

ESOF – EuroScience Open Forum
July 23-27, 2016 in Manchester, UK
ESOF is the biennial pan-European meeting dedicated to scientific research and innovation. At ESOF meetings leading scientists, researchers, young researchers, business people, entrepreneurs and innovators, policy makers, science and technology communicators and the general public from all over Europe discuss new discoveries and debate the direction that research is taking in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. ESOF 2016 will be an opportunity to discuss the socio-cultural and economic implications and impacts of scientific revolutions from regional, national, European and global perspectives. http://www.esof.eu

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Editors
Norbert Steinhaus, Michaela Shields, Constanze Clemens,
Wissenschaftsladen Bonn e.V., Reuterstr. 157
D-53113 Bonn, Tel +49(0)228 2016122,
norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de,
michaela.shields@wilabonn.de,
constanze.clemens@wilabonn.de
Living Knowledge Discussion List
LIVINGKNOWLEDGE-L@LISTS.UCC.IE,
Living Knowledge Website: www.livingknowledge.org
Twitter: @ScienceShops
facebook: www.facebook.com/livingknowledge?ref=hl

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