

## Engaging all of Europe in shaping a desirable and sustainable future

### Citizens to provide concrete and unique input to the European Union's research and innovation agenda

**Press release:** Launch of the CIMULACT project

**Location:** 30 countries across Europe <http://www.cimulact.eu/partners/>

**When:** From now until spring 2018

**Web and social media:** <http://www.cimulact.eu/> and #CIMULACT

One of the most ambitious public participation projects ever funded by the European Commission has just been launched. The CIMULACT project – an abbreviation for ‘Citizen and Multi-Actor Consultation on Horizon 2020’ – is aiming at redefining the European research and innovation agenda by engaging citizens and stakeholders in 30 countries in the actual formulation of actions for Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

#### How to spend EU research funds the best?

The European Union invests billions of Euros in research and innovation every year to meet the challenges of modern society. Often it is only experts and policy makers who are involved with deciding how the money is used. To make sure that the research priorities really reflect the wishes and needs of the society the funds are to serve, CIMULACT will start out by having more than 1000 European citizens use their own words to formulate their visions for the future – and build the rest of the project on these visions. It is the first time that a project is so ambitious in involving citizens in the actual formulation of the EU research and innovation agenda.

#### From citizens' visions to prioritized H2020 actions

In the coming months, citizens in all countries in the European Union, plus Norway and Switzerland, will meet at full day national citizen vision workshops to formulate and debate their visions for desirable sustainable futures. In total, more than 1000 citizens will participate. All the workshops use the same method to elicit the citizens' visions, which makes it possible to aggregate results of citizens' desired futures from all over Europe.

When the visions have been collected, a variety of other actors will be involved in the highly participatory process that follows:

- First, a large international workshop where citizens meet with researchers, stakeholders, policy makers and atypical “challengers” to co-create research programme scenarios.
- Then the scenarios will be tested, validated, enriched and prioritized in a second consultation phase including both a new round of different kinds of face to face consultations with citizens and stakeholders in the 30 countries, and - in parallel - online consultations.
- Finally, the results from this second round will be debated and translated by researchers, stakeholders and policymakers into prioritized actions for Horizon 2020. This concrete input will be widely communicated and disseminated to key target groups.



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**A key contribution to responsible research and innovation**

CIMULACT is a three-year project funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the Danish Board of Technology Foundation. With engagement and inclusion of many relevant actors CIMULACT contributes to more responsible research and innovation (RRI) in the EU – a key term on the European research agenda when it comes to dealing with challenges of modern society.

The aim is that the project sets a new standard for public participation through development, testing, training and assessment of methods for citizen and stakeholder engagement. By uniting partners from all over Europe, all aiming for high levels of public qualitative participation, CIMULACT will build strong capacities in the field – inspiring for future engagement processes.

**Where to learn more?**

For more information on the project and the national partners, please visit [www.cimulact.eu](http://www.cimulact.eu). Here you can find a short presentation video and a project flyer, and also subscribe to the CIMULACT e-newsletter.

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