



CIMULACT

Citizen and multi-actor engagement for scenario building

**National Report
on Irish National Citizen Vision Workshop**

University College Cork, Ireland



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National Report on Irish National Citizen Vision Workshop

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Summary

This deliverable presents the results of the Irish National Citizen Vision Workshop, held on Friday December 4th 2015 between 8.30 and 16.30. The workshop was hosted in room 2.12 of the O’Rahilly Building within University College Cork’s main campus (Western Road, Cork).



The atmosphere was electric from the beginning. All participants partook in the Imaginary Journey and it set the tone for a creative process. The citizens were very engaged in the process. As part of our recruitment process we asked the citizens to outline a brief motivation for attending. Once the criteria of a balanced sample were met in terms of gender, age, educational background etc., we used their statements of motivations to help us select citizens. As a result the participants were eager, enthusiastic to play their role in shaping the future.

We had a great response from citizens interested in the event thanks to an active social media campaign and engagement with the national press. In fact we had 164 citizens who registered their interest in attending. From this number we invited 45 people to attend, and created a waiting list of 25. However, somewhat disappointingly, in spite of the very keen interest, our final number of participants was 25*. The reason for the astrix is that as well as the 25 participants in the room, we had one citizen who was in contact with one of the participants through Twitter and giving his views throughout the day.

The citizens were very satisfied with the event.

Areas to improve:

- Some people turned up with a pet passion, for example food sustainability and were keen to exclusively create a vision on such topic. The moderator played a keen role at

that particular table to encourage a broader appreciation of other visions at the beginning of the process.

- By the end of the day, some discussion points were deemed to be repetitive.
- It is important to have a timetable for the day, but we needed flexibility as there was a storm brewing outside and some participants had to leave early in order to get home. There was a national weather warning in place for the day.
- Due to the large number of people who failed to turn up on the day, and also due to people turning up late, we ended up with 5 tables, hence we have 5 visions for the day. We made this call based on the rationale that we needed a minimum of 4 people on the table to have a rich discussion. And so when we began in the morning we had 4 people on 5 tables. As people arrived late, we added them to the tables, as they arrived at different times and so in an effort on making the best use of time on the day and to support the best possible discussion.

The Final Visions in English

Vision 1: Community Enrichment through Education

Table 1

Describe your vision in 2050:

- Well integrated local community, with respect.
- More social justice:
 - Collective responsibility, work, education, religion
 - Tolerance, moral obligations based economy
 - Animal rights
- Sustainable energy systems
 - Global collaboration
 - Respect for environment, resources
- Improved stable, reliable, public transportation

- Public forums for citizens to influence
- Active citizenship

Illustrate your vision



In your desirable future, what is different from today?

- Better education
 - More effective education leading to more engaged, active citizens. How to think?
 - Life skills, all rounded, hygiene, stress management, nutrition, rights, sexual reproduction
- Integration
 - Cross cultural friendships and communities

- Less war – look at root of conflict rather than knee jerk reactions leading to unjustified bombings
- Robotics – utilised to be beneficial
- New professions, redundant professions

Is your vision desirable for everyone? Are there any concerns?

There will be some losers:

- Arms dealers, drug dealers
- “Evil” multinationals
- Corrupt officials
- Bankers

In short, what is your vision?

- Empowered people
- Women in politics, banking, government, corporations.
- Healthy people, well-adjusted society / people
- Access to opportunities
- Access to robotics for assistances + artificial assistance

Vision 2: Expression of Quality

Table 2

Describe your vision in 2050:

We envisage a world where:

There are equal opportunities, access to services, job opportunities, solid quality enhancements, and equal rights for all (such as senior positions of power for: women, people of disability, people of ethnic minorities, LGBTQ, elderly...)

Education is used as a means for developing social awareness, respect for all people, and knowledge of earth's inter-connectedness (e.g. schools + NGOs providing information packs to assist in integration of different groups).

Social justice is promoted through empowerment of all people by mass public political engagement (citizen's consultations)

Rights are established by “receptive open governance” from “the top”, and promote confidence for personal growth from individuals (e.g. public views on bodies such as Irish Water are listened to and acted on by leadership).

Communications are improved, with greater transparency from governing bodies, and less intrusion on private information and / or details (e.g. full disclosure of all funding sources for political parties and TDs, MEPs, etc.)

Illustrate your vision



In your desirable future, what is different from today?

People have become more politically engaged in comparison to today, differences have become embraced and attitudes towards minorities have also changed. Ageism has been eliminated or addressed, and people have become “colour blind” towards race, in the sense that people no longer discriminate due to race. Mental health is a priority on an equal par to physical health. More investment in the prevention of social issues such as addiction, homelessness and poverty in comparison to current policy of trying to “cure” these issues in the aftermath.

Is your vision desirable for everyone? Are there any concerns?

This vision aspires to create equality across society and as such could be seen as desirable to all.

Concerns? Political inertia and little transparency in governance.
People before profit.

In short, what is your vision?

A more tolerant society where equality is evident across all aspects.

Vision 3: Relationships with one another and the environment

Table 3

Describe your vision in 2050:

- Food production done ethically. Work with nature.
- Work / respect / honour environment – basic roots of civilisation / cultures. It sustains us.
- Reassess trade agreements e.g. TTIP and CAP. Do they cause global issues? Inequalities lead to food insecurities / war?
- Work life balance – allowing time to connect with nature and family.

Is your vision desirable for everyone? Are there any concerns?

- There will be resistance from the extremely rich. Also corporate resistance. More effort required by teachers so they may fear change.
- Less convenience in everyday life e.g. cycling rather than driving.
- Less luxuries e.g. people don't have a holiday home.
- People who profit from exploitation and our gullibility as consumers will lose out.
- States who have to give up power to fit into our vision will suffer.

In short, what is your vision?

- A life where relationships and environment are valued and cared for. Life will be more wholesome.
- Regulations to provide more sustainable options and use of technology to make these more visible.
- Everyone has something worthwhile to do.

Vision 4: Decision-making for a Sustainable Future

Table 4

Describe your vision in 2050:

We live in a world where cultivation is 100% sustainable. Our laws ensure that we protect and preserve our environment because carbon neutrality is the cornerstone of all our legislation. Carbon trading must have a deadline for elimination with penalties for excess carbon production thereafter. Cultivation should be local as much as possible and sustainable by reducing air miles. International trade agreements (such as TTIP) must be transparent at all stages and must prioritise sustainability and the personal well-being of citizens

and communities. Food should be unpolluted, safe and nutritious. All food cultivation should be produced using green energy (100% renewable). All actions will have been given targets for compliance and will have been achieved by 2050. Farmers and citizens have the power to make decisions about agriculture and how we grow our food.

Illustrate your vision



In your desirable future, what is different from today?

Carbon trading is used to confound aspirations towards carbon neutrality.

Fewer air miles / distance between production and consumption.

Special interests take priority, lack of transparency today.

Today food convenience is a higher priority than nutrition and sustainability.

Today there is a lack of process at target setting, responsibility and accountability.

Is your vision desirable for everyone? Are there any concerns?

Not desirable for vested interests

Concerns for people whose livelihood depends on food production in other countries

In short, what is your vision?

Power needs to go back to food produced in local areas. Decision making needs to be transparent.

Policies need to identify specific targets for sustainability, regulate those responsible to meet them, enforce accountability for their responsibilities.

Vision 5: Balance of Nature, Humanity, and Technology

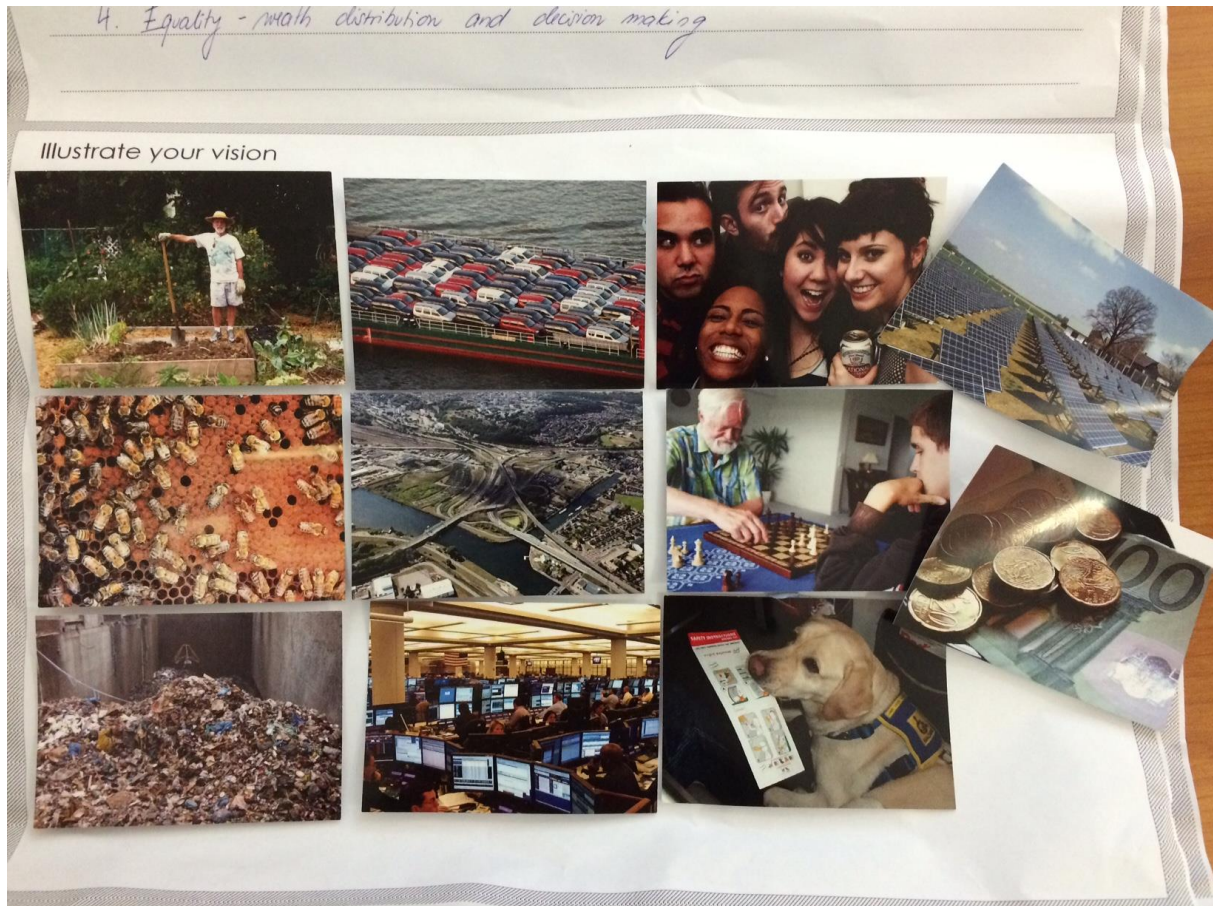
Table 5

Describe your vision in 2050:

Our mission sees technology as an aid to advancement and development of a healthy, sustainable, and more equal society. Despite the benefits that technology can offer, it is important that society is in control of technology rather than technology controlling society. We envision this interplay taking place within the context of a number of thematic areas:

1. Education
2. People / community
3. Environment – sustainable approaches to food production, resources, energy, information, infrastructure, land use, population, urbanisation, medicine...
4. Equality – wealth distribution and decision making

Illustrate your vision



In your desirable future, what is different from today?

1. A more balanced society has been achieved
2. Inequality-based disadvantage has been eliminated
3. A balance has been achieved in consumption and production

Is your vision desirable for everyone? Are there any concerns?

Our mission ultimately benefits everyone. However, we feel technology may become the cornerstone rather than the stepping stone.

In short, what is your vision?

We want technology to be used for the betterment of society

Raw Visions in English

Raw Visions 1.1 – Community Enrichment through Awareness

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

Adult individuals should take primary responsibility for their own well-being, for the building of mutual support in our wider inclusive community by cultivating, in the face of unpredictable changes: resilience, tolerance and maximisation of personal potential and development. This would contribute to a stronger, more engaged European community, equipped to respond to problems up to a global level.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

This is beneficial for all sectors of society. In aid of the wider public good.

Raw Visions 1.2 – Untitled

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

A “community” that works with its independent “country” members for a sustainable knowledge society, as an active member of the family of global nations.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

For citizens, government, politicians

Raw Visions 2.1 – Environmental protection

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

- i. A world where natural resources and natural habitats are protected and conserved.
- ii. Cleaner consumption of materials and energy using renewable sources and recyclable materials (phones and lunch boxes).
- iii. A world where environmentally damaging pollutants are radically reduced to a negligible level and where CO₂ greenhouse gases are actively decreasing.
- iv. A world where the interconnected nature of humans in their environment is understood.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

It's important for the people to realise their connection to each other and their ability to assist others less fortunate and direct their positive future visions.

Raw Visions 2.2 – Equality

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

- Equal opportunities, access to services, social equality and advancement of personal rights.
- Education as a tool / means for developing social awareness and respect for all people, knowledge of interconnectedness.
- Social justice – empowerment of all people by public political engagement.
- Establishing rights by receptive open governance from the top.
- Promote confidence for personal growth from individuals below.
- Communications – greater transparency from governing bodies and less intrusiveness of private information / details.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

- Health benefits
- Conservation for future generations

Raw Visions 3.1 – Balanced society

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

- Empowerment schemes for the unemployed
- Choice of options if not working
- Companies making robotic goods are taxed which goes to social welfare / all companies
- Contributions to society / values is encouraged to aid a fuller life and for people to have a way to make a living e.g. teachers paid as much as accountants.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

All of society and important

Raw Visions 3.2 – Relationships with one another and the environment

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

- Food production done ethically. Work with nature
- Work / respect / honour environment – basic root of civilisations / cultures. It sustains us.
- Reassess trade agreements e.g. TTIP / CAP. Do they cause global issues / inequalities – lead to food insecurities / war?
- Work life balance – allow people time to connect with nature and family e.g. Denmark and Sweden.
- Educate children

- Prioritise R&D in funding for technology for food production (better agri purchases). Water treatment reassessed.

Raw Visions 4.1 – Human rights, social justice, democracy, citizenship

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

- I live in a community where we care for and support each other
- We invest in community development, promote equal treatment of our citizens who are all encouraged to participate in decision making.
- Real democracy is improved and protected by legislation with safeguards for minorities
- We implement international agreements on rights

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

Love thy neighbour as thy self / no man is an island

Raw Visions 4.2 – Leave only your footprints

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

We live in a world where cultivation is 100% sustainable. Our laws ensure that we protect and preserve our environment because carbon neutrality is the cornerstone of all our legislation. Our food is nutritious, safe and unpolluted with minimum distance to consumer. We focus on renewable energy, offering positive rewards where it is used and penalising where it is misused and unnecessary: CO₂ production

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

If we don't reverse previous practice we won't have a liveable environment to bequeath to our grandchildren.

Raw Visions 5.1 – Technology as an enabler towards a better world

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

- Technology is a facilitator rather than a goal of education.
- It shouldn't replace the classic forms of learning.
- Technology should benefit society in advancements in medicine, sustainable energy, food security, production efficiency, but it shouldn't be all about technology.
- Technology being used to bring balance in standard of living across society to address inequalities in the distribution of wealth, power and decision making.
- Not letting technology get in the way of interpersonal relationships.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

It is important because it keeps the nature humane.

Raw Visions 5.2 – Environment, planning, and politics

How do you imagine the future in 30-40years?

A proactively planned society, moving away from selective development to development driven by vision.

Taking emphasis off electoral office seeking, politics should focus on politics and needs of electors and not politician's own careers / electoral aims.

More efficient energy production and use; encouraging local food production to rebalance how we produce and consume; preservation of the integrity of the natural environment; integrated transport, production, and land use planning to make transport efficient, cost effective, and help preserve the natural environment.

Why is this imagination important and for whom it is important?

For US (not the United States, us as people) survival depends on the environment.

Participant data

Country:	Ireland
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General information:	
Number of citizens registered for the workshop:	164
Number of citizens selected to participate in the workshop:	45 confirmed 25 waiting list
Number of citizens that participated in the workshop :	25 *

Gender:	
Number of participating citizens that are	
Women:	16
Men:	9

Age:	
Number of participating citizens in the age group	
18-25	6
26-35	5
36-45	4
46-55	3
56-65	4

66+	3
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Geographical zone:	
Number of participants who live in the city	18
Number of participants who live in other / rural zones	7

Educational level:	
tertiary education:	17
secondary education - leaving certificate:	6
secondary education - junior certificate:	1
primary education:	1

Occupation:	
Employed	8
Self-employed	2
Retiree	2
Student	6
Unemployed / unknown	3

Criteria of national relevance:	
N.A	N.A