

Citizens and Experts Working Together for Redefining the European Research and Innovation Agenda

This policy brief is developed as part of the CIMULACT project and outlines the process as well as the main results from a Europe-wide joint citizen and expert consultation for developing research programme scenarios. These scenarios aim to contribute to Horizon 2020 and national research and innovation agendas.

Consulting citizens and working with them in the field of research and innovation can be a challenging task. It requires, among others: i) a smart methodology (to elicit citizens' implicit experiential knowledge and imagination, to provoke citizens to share their opinions and not silence them); ii) smart communication techniques (to attract citizens to participatory initiatives, to facilitate the communication between citizens and experts); iii) a lot of preparatory activities (e.g. translation, preparation of background materials), and iv) processing of immediate outputs of the meetings. The results of these consultations and co-creation processes, however, can add an enormous value to every stage of research and innovation (from data analysis and defining research questions, to research programme development and policy-making). Engagement promotes sustainability and inclusiveness of research and innovation and makes the involved actors (incl. citizens) mutually responsive to each other.

In CIMULACT, we have engaged more than 1000 citizens from 30 countries into a multi-stage multi-actor process, which aims to provide advice to the European decision-makers in developing the further stages of the Horizon2020 research programme as well as national research agendas. In the course of the project, the 29 CIMULACT partners have worked with citizens and experts to jointly develop 48 so called "research programme scenarios", which reflect the citizens visions for the future and aim to serve as an inspiration and information bank in the development of EU and national-level research programmes.

DEVELOPING SOCIAL NEEDS-BASED RESEARCH PROGRAMME SCENARIOS

The research programme scenarios were developed in a unique co-creation process, involving the following steps:

i) A number of national citizen workshops were organised in 30 European and neighbouring countries involving a total of 1088 citizens. They were selected according to a strict set of criteria to achieve an optimum diversity of backgrounds. In each of these workshops six visions outlining desirable futures from the citizen perspective were developed.

ii) In the next stage, the CIMULACT consortium together with 10 external experts analysed the citizen visions and extracting 29 'social needs', each underpinned by several citizen visions from the different countries.

We invite you to join the online consultation "Research for Society"

Together with a variety of other actors from 30 European countries you will help redefining the European research and innovation agenda and thereby make it more accountable. In this consultation, you will evaluate and enrich proposed research programmes that will be further explored as policy options. You can join the consultation at www.consultation.cimulact.eu before **October 3, 2016**.



Personal development and the pursue of well-being through realignment between work, personal and community life, achieving a more flexible and meaningful work and life-long learning is also an area which citizens believe needs to be further developed and promoted through research and innovation.

Health is a great area of interest for citizens as well. They urge for an efficient healthcare system which equally addresses physical and mental health and supports people to take care of themselves. Advanced technologies should contribute to healthier lives without invading patients' privacy. One of the research programme scenarios in this area focuses on promoting well-being through relating environments, which stresses out the connection between health and the environment we live in.

Enabling all citizens to unlock their full individual and societal potential will require concepts for healthy lifestyles and learning that evolve through all phases of life right into old age. The **Life-long processes** domain focuses on health empowerment, mobility and removing the obstacles for the elderly to take an active part in the society.

Education plays an important part in that process. Besides making literacy and life skills available for all, according to citizens and experts educational systems need to address a broader set of skills, adopt personalised approaches and new methods. Educational ecosystem should also serve as a driver of social innovation and local development.

Equal access to **sustainable and healthy food** and the ethically responsible production and distribution of food is another major field citizens place special attention to. An interesting aspect here, is, among other areas, the research on evolving food culture in the growing cities.

Education inevitably plays a part in learning to co-exist with nature in a smart and integrative way. Besides, technological developments and the cooperation between urban and rural areas are important aspects of the domain **Harmony with nature**.

Green habitats that allow for a high quality of life with substantially reduced environmental footprint is another issue that draws the attention of citizens across countries. It requires new concepts for transport and housing.

Promoting well-being rather than profits and integrating the well-being of people in every economic activity (thus, promoting **Sustainable economy**), has also been repeatedly highlights by citizens. Sustainable and aware production and consumption play an important role in that respect.

There is also a need for **sustainable production and consumption of energy**. This entails smart energy governance, enabling market for energy prosumers, developing interconnected open systems reducing consumption by structural design and behaviour.

CONCLUSION

To bring science and society closer together and make research and innovation more "responsible", we need to listen to citizens, their concerns and aspirations, and bring these into the process of research and innovation priority setting and programme development. While this is a demanding task, designing methodologies for citizens *and* experts to work together is an even more challenging effort. Yet, it is the way to build trust between experts and citizens and make those groups more aware of each other's perspectives and way of thinking. It also allows reconnecting European citizens and EU policy makers in working together to meet citizens' desires, needs and aspirations both in the present and in the future.

The results of the CIMULACT joint workshop demonstrate the potential of co-creation and collaboration between citizens and experts. With this and other CIMULACT tasks and activities, we hope to not only contribute to the EU research agenda, but also build capacities and gather insights which will further advance engagement in research and innovation.



WHAT FOLLOWS NEXT

- ❖ The **online consultation** has already been launched and will continue until October 2017. Citizens and experts from across Europe will have the chance to enrich the proposed research programmes, which will later be developed into policy options.
- ❖ A **second consultation phase** will follow in all participating countries where the co-created research programme scenarios will be tested, validated, enriched and prioritised in face-to-face consultations in 30 countries.
- ❖ A workshop for stakeholders, researchers and policymakers will transform the results of the second consultation phase into **prioritised actions for Horizon2020**, including policy options, possible research topics and recommendations.
- ❖ Throughout the project the forms and methods developed and implemented will be documented and assessed. The **methodological lessons learned** will be collected and extracted in an inspiration catalogue for further engagement processes in research and innovation priority setting.

IN SHORT ABOUT CIMULACT

CIMULACT stands for 'Citizen and Multi-Actor Consultation on Horizon 2020' (the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation). It engages citizens across Europe, along with a variety of other actors, in shaping a desirable sustainable future. In a highly participatory process, the project provides a unique contribution to European research and innovation policies and topics, creates dialogue and shared understanding among the actors, and builds strong capacities in citizen engagement, thereby enhancing responsible research and innovation in the EU.

CIMULACT, which started in June 2015, is a three-year project funded by the European Commission. For more information on the project, please, visit the website at: www.cimulact.eu.

PROJECT PARTNERS

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