

# Evidence-based community building

## GRAND CHALLENGES :

### C6. Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies

## CHALLENGE

Evidence based policy making often involves tapping into knowledge and evidence across various sources. Yet, there is a lot to do for overcoming the challenge of clientelism in society (that is at the basis of arbitrary and self-interested decision-making). Also, there is a need for finding the relation between the citizen contribution (problem detection) and the expert contribution (application of the solution). Moreover, the current educational system does not foster critical and analytical thinking, so citizens have a hard time understanding evidence for the purpose of policy making. There is also the challenge of strengthening the citizens' trust in science, institutions and the policies that are meant to serve the community. In building communities, we need to empower citizens to access and consult data and evidence while accepting space for their own value based judgement.



## SCOPE

Research should focus on creating models for evidence based policy across multiple science sectors and creating more informed mindsets among citizens and policy makers. There is a need to study and develop evidence based intervention programs for reducing prejudices within and between communities. There is a need to explore models of participatory processes for collective agenda setting based on different and specific citizens needs and environments. This requires theoretical and empirical research on how communities can be transformed by knowledge, including:

- Introducing steps for change of mind-sets in the society, involving citizens in decision-making
- Empowering citizens through accessible informational campaigns and digital tools
- Grounding decisions in research and data
- Specifying the relation between citizens' and experts' contributions

## EXPECTED IMPACT

Online  
consultation  
rating



- Ability to justify public policies, their sustainability and possibilities for implementation
- Empowered society capable of vision development
- Involvement of stakeholders in the analysis and policy decision-making based on substantial data using methods and tools for policy impact evaluation
- Reduced power of politicians to make decisions for the entire community on their own
- Reduced bias that is generated by disinformation
- Useful and meaningful data for citizens and communities that can be used in real life

# 16 Evidence-based community building

Research topic:  
Evidence-based community building

---

## **Grand Challenges :**

6: Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies

### **CHALLENGE**

Evidence based policy making often involves tapping into knowledge and evidence across various sources. Yet, there is a lot to do for overcoming the challenge of clientelism in society (that is at the basis of arbitrary and self-interested decision-making). Also, there is a need for finding the relation between the citizen contribution (problem detection) and the expert contribution (application of the solution).

Moreover, the current educational system does not foster critical and analytical thinking, so citizens have a hard time understanding evidence for the purpose of policy making. There is also the challenge of strengthening the citizens' trust in science, institutions and the policies that are meant to serve the community.

In building communities, we need to empower citizens to access and consult data and evidence while accepting space for their own value based judgement.

### **SCOPE**

Research should focus on creating models for evidence based policy across multiple science sectors and creating more informed mindsets among citizens and policy makers. There is a need to study and develop evidence based intervention programs for reducing prejudices within and between communities. There is a need to explore models of participatory processes for collective agenda setting based on different and specific citizens needs and environments. This requires theoretical and empirical research on how communities can be transformed by knowledge, including:

Introducing steps for change of mind-sets in the society, involving citizens in decision-making

Empowering citizens through accessible informational campaigns and digital tools

Grounding decisions in research and data

Specifying the relation between citizens' and experts' contributions

## EXPECTED IMPACT

Ability to justify public policies, their sustainability and possibilities for implementation  
Empowered society capable of vision development  
Involvement of stakeholders in the analysis and policy decision-making based on substantial data using methods and tools for policy impact evaluation  
Reduced power of politicians to make decisions for the entire community on their own  
Reduced bias that is generated by disinformation  
Useful and meaningful data for citizens and communities that can be used in real life

**Online consultation rating:** average importance: 3,7/5

**Countries where this is seen as priority:** Croatia

## CITIZENS' VISIONS

[PORT] Vision 5: We build the future now

"People/citizens will have more voice and weight in decision making"

[ITA] Vision 4: A school beyond times - a new education model

"The sense of belonging to the community is strong and it is a common feeling among citizens"

[IRE] Vision 2: Expression of quality

"People more politically engaged"

[UK] Vision 6: Citizen empowerment

"All services should be community led"

[CZE] Vision 5: Open Civil Society.

"Make useful information instead of information ballast".

# Policy recommendations on community building

1. Include European Parliament representatives in establishing/creating the scope of the research
2. Regarding "Evidence based community building": inter-governmental or inter-DG consultation and working group on evidence based policy

3. Regarding "Empowering diversity in communities", perhaps there is no need for drafting a research topic, but establishing a Coordination and Support Program for community building
4. Participatory processes in creating policies related to community building
5. Invest in and stimulate more research in community building based on:
  - interdisciplinary and multisector approach
  - new models of evidence gathering and assessment,
  - bottom-up approach:
    1. engage citizens to create a real picture of their needs, interests and wishes
    2. inform citizens about the results of implemented research and results to measure the impact it has on their lives
    3. digital empowerment (raise digital literacy)
    4. transparency
    5. social inclusion principles and best practices
    6. participatory decision making process.
6. Make user friendly data accessible and easy to understand to the citizens about research and science achievements