

Meaningful research for community

GRAND CHALLENGES :

C6. Europe in a Changing World – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies



SCOPE

Research should explore:

- Ways for research to be evaluated, selected and prioritized according to its ability to contribute to sustainable development and potential beneficial impact to the community
- Better understanding of publicly vs. privately funded research for securing broad perspectives in research
- Ways of building on open access and open science

CHALLENGE

Currently there is no direct relation on how publicly funded research and innovation “gives back” to community. Academic research can be far away from everyday reality. There is a need for framework conditions for linking research, innovation and development projects closer to the potential benefit of the community.

The challenge requires:

- Democratisation of research funding (i.e. larger participation and better research assessment)
- A more transparent research process (evaluation, feedback, use of money, spin offs, and impact)
- Increasing research legitimacy (e.g. considering long term cost-benefit analysis and contributing to community's social and intellectual capacity-building)
- The general public should receive accessible information about the research process and impacts of research results

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Higher relevance of research through better contact with the grassroots
- Better returns for tax payers
- A deeper sense of engagement in research among citizens
- Results of important research would be put into use faster and more efficiently without private or economic interests
- There are also concerns that important research might struggle to prove its relevance in early stages of maturity and be rejected and that basic research would be very difficult to finance

Online
consultation
rating ★

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Research topic :
Meaningful research for community

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

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EXPECTED IMPACT

Higher relevance of research through better contact with the fundamental needs bottom-up perspectives in research institutions.

Better returns for tax payers.

Citizens will actively take part at any stage of the research process (from idea generation to implementation of results).

Results of research would be put into use faster and more efficiently for the benefit of citizens, or the one of businesses

The concern that research might struggle to prove its relevance in early stages will vanish

Online consultation rating: average importance 3.74

Nations where this was seen as priority: Norway - 4th priority.

CITIZENS' VISIONS

[SVK] **Vision 4:** Futurofarma and Space Tourism

"Combining science with nature in a rational way from which both side effects"

"People will live a quality life because of the support for research and development, improved access to its results and better cooperation of the involved actors"

[SVK] **Vision 2:** Technology for better health

"People will live a quality life because of the support for research and development, improved access to its results and better cooperation of the involved actors"

[ROU] **Vision 3:** Back to (our) roots

"Technology will develop in harmony with the environment and individuals' needs"

[CHE] **Vision 5:** Together for one world

"[...] Funding of the research for the development of environmentally friendly technologies and working models that must be designed keeping human needs in mind"

[GR] **Vision 5:** Man in the center of education and attempts of development

"The development of the society, technology and our economy must be done in a manner beneficial to mankind. There should be no development that harms humanity or the environment. We need to respect and utilize every places' benefits."

Policy recommendations for participatory governance

1. The research programme should **acknowledge communities (both physical and virtual) as a means for solving issues arising from the changes happening in society** (e.g. new job market).
2. To have **more citizens, scientists, decision-makers working in articulation on projects** (design, implementation, solutions...at all stages).
3. To **consider for every project if it is relevant to involve or not citizens**, at which scales, at any or all steps.
4. To **define all the (conceptual) requirements for participation to be successful:** political, practical, theoretical, social (basic needs fulfilled)

5. Develop the **awareness of the existence and effects of participation to decision makers**.
6. To **explore, experiment and evaluate participation processes** at various scales, publics and different subjects.
7. Experiment **participation processes at every step of the life** (the people integrate these processes and are more likely to reproduce them)
8. **Participation should be mandatory in the education curriculum** (schools, universities) and for adults and elderly. Anyone that experimented, lived it, will know how to do it, and will do it naturally.
9. One policy to be supported would deal with a **collection and dissemination of best practices models for sharing the responsibilities of empowering citizens for life choice management** (between governments, businesses, communities and individuals itself) It would be a "civitas-network" dedicated to this topic (see www.civitas.eu).
10. **Define the different types of knowledge for research and respect all of them** in order to give an equivalent voice to all the citizens and their knowledge. Research is not just for scientists. These types of knowledge include economic, technical, social, etc.