



ZSI

ZENTRUM FÜR SOZIALE INNOVATION
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

Citizen engagement as a strategic tool for SSH scientists

Elke Dall

2023-06-14





Technical solutions will not suffice to address all the current societal challenges!

... is social science and humanities research well enough positioned to contribute constructively to solutions?

... does social innovation provide remedies?

... how do we address challenges meeting the needs of citizens, involving them in all their diversity?



Why promote citizen science and societal engagement?

- **Contributes to excellence**
 - Enlarges the scope of R&I and the quality and quantity of data collected, discussed and analysed
 - Increases the robustness of the outcomes
 - Enables innovative and creative approaches
 - Leverages collective intelligence (often excluded from contributing to R&I)
- **Contributes to effectiveness**
 - Aligns outcomes with the needs, values and expectations of society, ensuring greater relevance and uptake
 - Reduces time-to-market of innovative products and services
 - Triggers behavioural changes
- **Contributes to trust of society in science**
 - Increases openness, transparency, and 'co-ownership' of society
 - Often leads to more inclusive outcomes
 - Encourages mutual learning between science and society



Open Science as a priority in the European Research Area

- Citizen Engagement is an integral part of the EU's open science policy and an agreed **priority for the European Research Area.**

ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity



TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

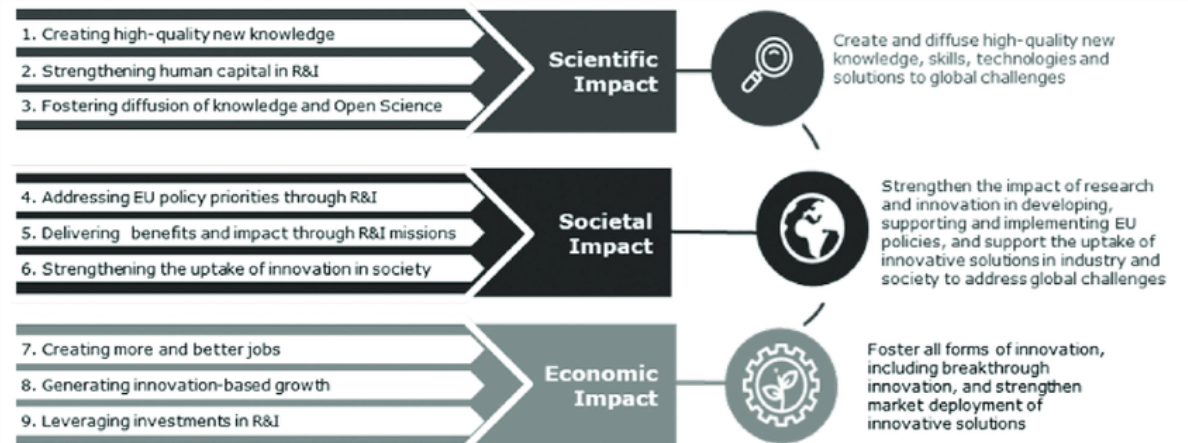
Horizon Europe Programming



Co-design and co-creation, and engagement of citizens and civil society organisations, are mainstreamed across the programme

Pathways to Impact:

One of the nine **pathways to impact** (KIP6) starts with citizens and end-users co-creating knowledge and innovations, with the goal of developing solutions and knowledge that are taken up by society



- With a budget of EUR 95.5 billion for 2021–2027, Horizon Europe represents the largest European R & I funding programme so far, and has the capacity to bring in large amounts of public and private investments. Horizon Europe aims to strengthen societal and economic impacts through funding excellent and impactful R & I, and the use of new and revitalised features such as the EU missions, a larger dedicated budget for innovators, insights of the social sciences and humanities, and a new approach to the European partnerships. Moreover, within Horizon Europe, citizen engagement has become even more prominent, and international cooperation in R & I remains a strategic priority for the EU, with Horizon Europe being one of the main tools used to achieve this.



EU Missions as a tool to strengthen citizen engagement



On the added value of the **EU Missions**:

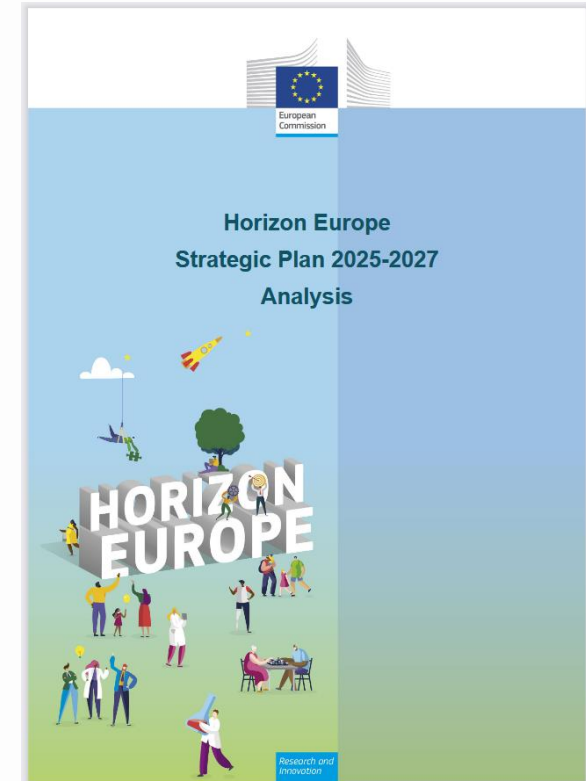
- EU Missions provide a holistic, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach to solving some of the greatest societal challenges, supporting the alignment of R&I policy with other sectoral policies.
- Missions can be an important instrument to increase the impact and visibility of European research and innovation and foster a spirit of European collaboration between different disciplines, stakeholders and sectors.
- EU Missions put research and innovation into a new role, combined with new forms of governance and collaboration.
- EU Missions create a new way to bring concrete solutions to societal challenges, **engage citizens**, and deliver impact.
- EU Missions can indicate prioritisation of policy and funding for European citizens.
- The EU Missions can mobilize and activate various public and private actors, but it remains to be seen if they can make a real impact.
- The EU Missions have contributed to enhanced international collaboration between European cities and regions, also beyond the Horizon-funded projects.
- The EU Missions might have a strong leverage effect on private, national and regional funding.
- The EU Missions may lead to more innovation uptake by stakeholders on local and regional levels.

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan

Table 17. Gap analysis for cluster 2 – culture, creativity and inclusive society

Intervention area	Coverage in Strategic Plan 2021–2024	Coverage in work programmes 2021–2024	Potential gaps
Democracy and governance	This is covered by expected impact 7 'democratic governance is reinvigorated by improving the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and trustworthiness of rule-of-law-based institutions and policies, and through the expansion of active and inclusive citizenship empowered by the safeguarding of fundamental rights'.	The first two work programmes covered all the elements included in the strategic plan. This includes topics linked with the following broad areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evolution of democracies (four topics) • education (one topic) • role of social capital and access to culture (one topic) • democratic governance (two topics) • populism, racism, extremism and radicalisation (four topics) • media and journalistic standards (two topics) • inclusion and intercultural dynamics, and identities (three topics) • technology and AI (two topics) • deliberative, participatory and direct democracy (four topics) • inequalities (three topics) • disinformation (two topics) 	Recent geopolitical factors may lead to new research gaps in areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of the energy crisis, geopolitical tensions and rising authoritarianism in Europe on the health of European democracies • the emergence of metaverses and the challenges and opportunities they bring for democracy and the intergenerational pact • the theory and practice of scientific diplomacy • judicial independence • academic freedom and freedom of expression, strengthening an open and enlightened public discourse, moving away from misinformation and combating self-censorship • local democracy and citizen empowerment • the impact of wars and post-war reconstruction on governance • political parties and their transformation

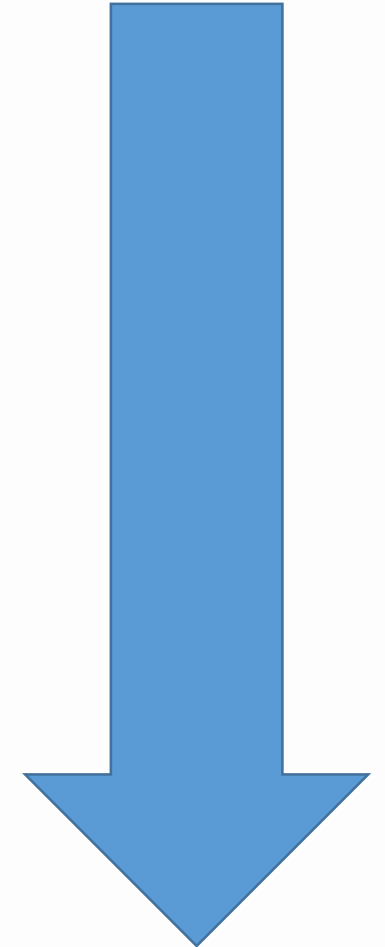
- Local democracy and citizen empowerment
- modernisation of public authorities' governance and management systems to engage with citizens and meet their expectations regarding service provision, transparency, accessibility, openness, accountability and users' centricity
- Disaster resilience: involvement of citizen volunteers, civilian protection, resilience of citizens
- Engagement of citizens in circular industries, accessibility
- Active involvement of citizens for holistic solutions combining climate and other policy goals
- Ensure citizen engagement in biodiversity conservation
- etc. etc.



https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/strategic-plan_en

Involvement of citizens at various stages

- **Co-design activities**, contributing to problem framing, co-developing R&I agendas, roadmaps and policies, co-design of research questions through workshops, focus groups or other means sparking deep discussion on the implications, the ethics, the benefits and the challenges related to R&I courses of action or technology development
- **Co-creation / Co-implementation activities** involving citizens and/or end-users directly in the development of new knowledge or innovation, trans-disciplinary research, e.g. citizen science and user-led innovation, leading to empowerment, transformative research
- **Co-assessment activities** such as assisting in the monitoring, evaluation and feedback to governance of a project, projects, policies or programmes on an iterative or even continual basis, contribution to **impact generation**, exploitation / “use” of the research results



Engagement is usually categorized in:

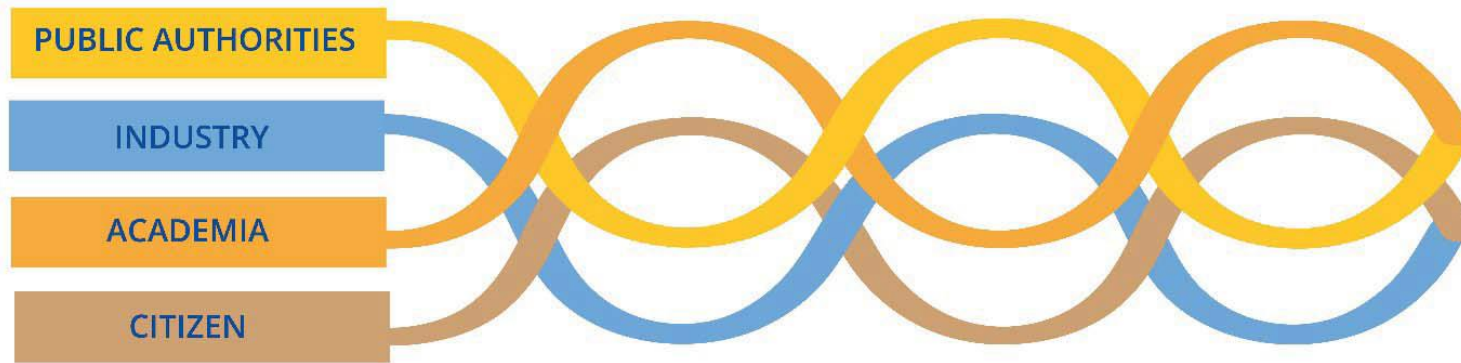
- Passive contributors (Crowdsourcing): Where citizens and stakeholders mainly suggest tasks, participate in some brainstorming ideas and generally, have an outsider role in the CSI.
- Contributory (Distributed Intelligence): Projects where scientists design the project and participants are involved in collecting and analyzing data according to predefined protocols.
- Collaborative (Participatory Science): Projects where participants may also be involved in adjusting protocols, drawing conclusions, and proposing new directions for the research.
- Co-creating (Extreme Citizen Science): projects include citizens in all stages of the CSI, scientists and citizens collectively design and develop the initiative.



<https://stepchangeproject.eu/citizen-science-initiatives/wildlife-conservation/>

Source: D1.1 p 73

Using Quadruple Helix cooperation

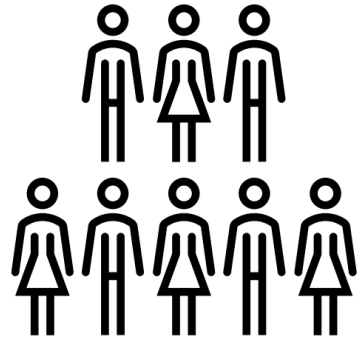


Quadruple Helix model

Empirical studies show that "science" plays a subordinate role in the development of social innovations.

The central actors come from civil society, politics and the corporate sector.

Examples



Bojana Dinić, Selka Sadiković, Milan Oljača,
Ilija Milovanović i Snežana Smederevac

UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU, FILOZOFSKI FAKULTET

Vodič za

građansku nauku

Obtectus Finders

Created Oct. 25, 2021, 1:12 p.m.
Updated Aug. 10, 2022, 8:14 a.m.

Our scientists can collect beetles from several natural populations, but there are too few of us to sample them from enough places. This is why we need your help. You can find bean beetles in infested common beans from your garden or just ask your grandparents, neighbors and friends if they can help you in your beetle quest. Send us your sample via regular mail and save yourself a spot on our [Collector's Map!](#) Our project gives people of all ages and backgrounds the chance to participate in a real population genetics research of insects.

Aim

The citizen science project Obtectus Finders aims to capture [seed beetles](#), which go by the scientific name *Acanthoscelides obtectus*, from various locations in order to detect the distribution of this pest insect and analyze the genetic diversity of their populations. Bean weevil is an economically important pest of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*). The larvae spend most of their development time inside the bean seeds. Their presence is almost imperceptible except for circular emergence holes created by the last instar larvae in preparation for their exit as adults. Your participation in this project will directly contribute to population-genetic study of this pest insect in Europe. Additionally, results of this project will contribute to development of new biocontrol techniques (e.g. Trojan Female Technique), which will improve the field of agriculture.

How to participate

1. Find bean beetles

You can find bean beetles in infested common beans from your garden or market place. You can also ask your grandparents, neighbors and friends if they can help you in your beetle quest.

2. Contact us

Inform us that you have captured the beetles and send us your address on info@opasujlje.rs. We will send you the collection kit which includes a 1.5ml plastic tube filled with 96% ethanol and some promotional material. You should transfer dead beetles with tweezers directly from the freezer into the plastic tube with alcohol.

3. Send us the material

Place the plastic tube with insects into the envelope and send us back to:

Obtectus Finders

Department of Evolutionary Biology

Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković"

Bulevar despota Stefana 142

11060 Belgrade

Serbia

Needed equipment

We will send you all the equipment for sample collection.



Acne from 03/05/2021

Keywords

[Long-Term Species Monitoring](#) [Pest](#) [Entomology](#) [Insects](#) [Garden](#)

Science Topics

[Agriculture & Veterinary science](#) [Animals](#) [Biodiversity](#) [Biology](#) [Genetics](#) [Insects & pollinators](#)

Tags

[Participate from home](#)

Participation tasks

[Specimen/sample collection](#)

Coordinator

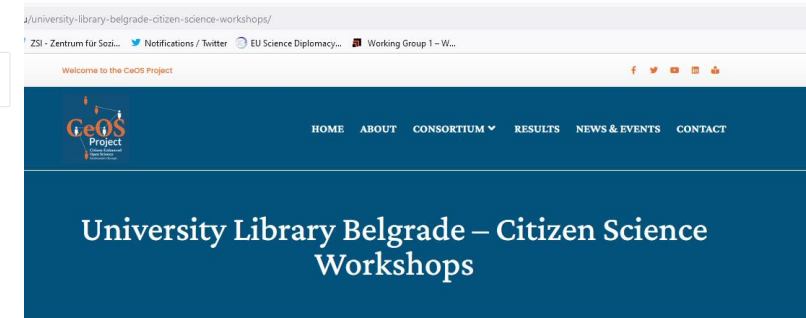


Location

[Regional](#)
in your garden, market place

Contact

[E-mail](#)



The University Library Belgrade has organised two Citizen Science workshops – a learning-by-doing event and a train-the-trainer event. The events were organised as part of the third project result of the CeOS_SE project, which aims to pilot citizen science activities and upskill academic library staff.

Workshop "Citizen Science: learning by doing"

On November 16th, 2022, the University Library "Svetozar Marković", organized a workshop "Citizen science: learning by doing" in the format of an Open Knowledge Café. The workshop was attended by researchers from the University of Belgrade, librarians of higher education university libraries in Serbia, as well as librarians of the National Library of Serbia. Through the presentation of examples of good practice in citizen science generally, but also at the University of Belgrade and in the University Library "Svetozar Marković", the concept of CS itself was presented to the attendees. During the discussion, the participants of the workshop presented their own experiences from citizen science and the implementation of

<https://eu-citizen.science/project/290>

http://star.ff.uns.ac.rs/genius/vodic_za_gradjansku_nauku.pdf

<https://wbc-rti.info/object/link/23727>

<https://ceosse-project.eu/university-library-belgrade-citizen-science-workshops/>

Recommended sources

eu-citizen.science Search Blog Events Moocs Forum FAQ About ECS Project Open Call for Ambassadors

en Login Signup

eu-citizen.science

Welcome to the platform for sharing citizen science projects, resources, tools, training and much more

Projects Resources Training Organisations Platforms Users Our Gold Star Selection

Search...

join the community and participate

about the platform

EU-Citizen.Science is an online platform for sharing knowledge, tools, training and resources for citizen science - by the community, for the community

what can you find here?

265 projects

that are engaging the public in research via citizen science activities

220 resources

useful for planning and running citizen science projects

65 training resources

about the practice of citizen science

259 organisations

involved in citizen science projects and research

20 platforms

to get an overview of further developments in citizen science

3484 users

with whom you can connect

<https://eu-citizen.science/>

project search

Projects Resources Training Organisations

Search...

Most Recent Updated Serbia Status

country: RS Clear current search query and filters

1 project found



Obtectus Finders

Serbia Agriculture & Veterinary science
Animals Long-term species monitoring
Pest

Our scientists can collect beetles from several natural populations, but there are too few of us to sample them from enough places. This is why we need your help. You ...

0 0 283

Recommended sources



<https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/psf-challenge/mutual-learning-exercise-citizen-science-initiatives-policy-and-practice>

“Mutual Learning Exercise” of the European Commission (ended)

European Citizen Science Association

https://zenodo.org/record/5127534/files/ECSA_Ten_Principles_of_CS_Serbian.pdf?download=1

Cite this document as:
ECSA (European Citizen Science Association). 2015. Ten Principles of Citizen Science. Berlin. <http://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/XPR2N>

ecsa | European
Citizen Science
Association

Deset principa građanske nauke

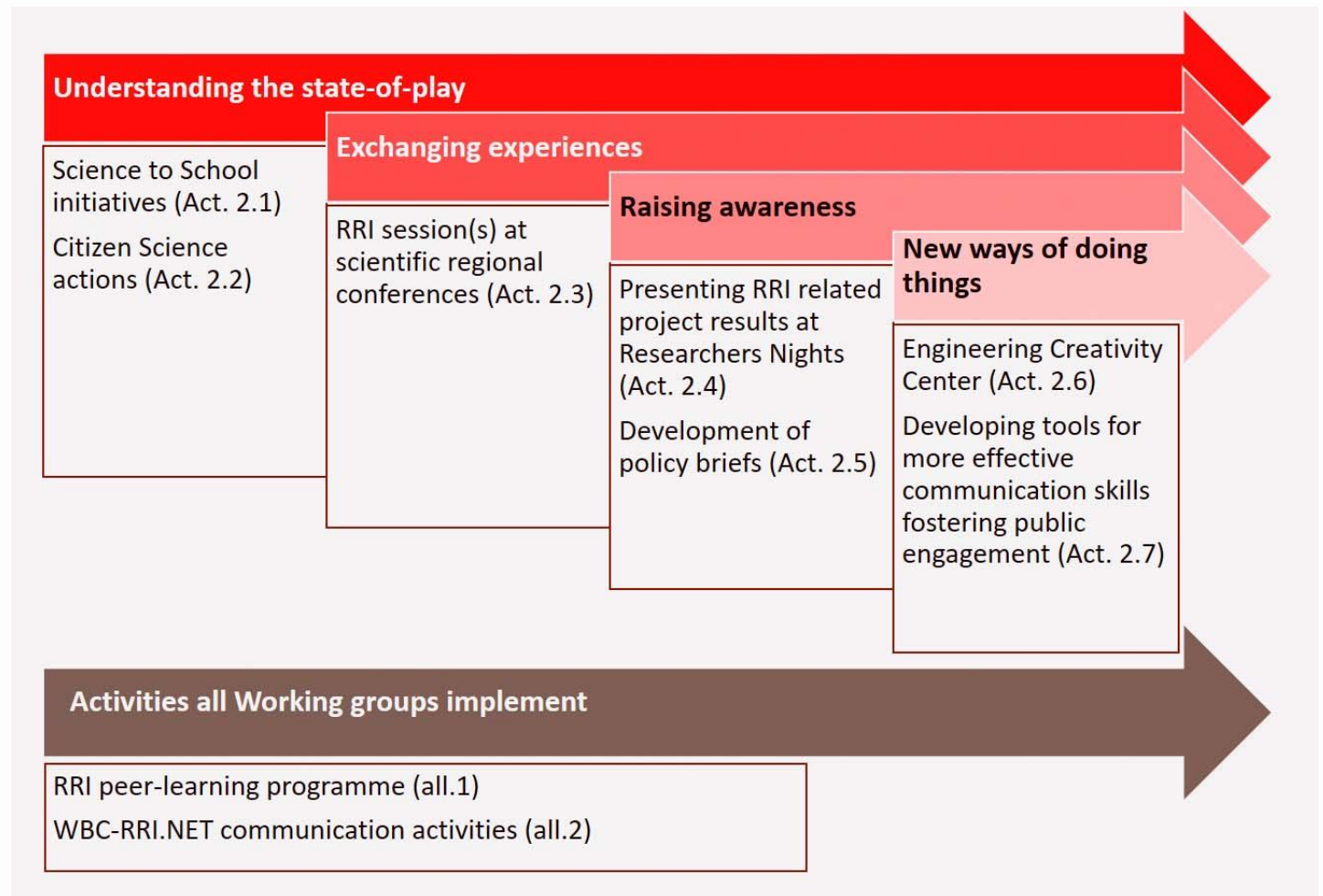
Građanska nauka je fleksibilan koncept koji se može prilagoditi i primeniti u različitim situacijama i disciplinama. Dole navedene izjave razvila je radna grupa Evropske asocijacije za građanska naučna istraživanja ECSA (European Citizen Science Association) pod nazivom „Razmena najbolje prakse i izgradnja kapaciteta“ (Sharing best practice and building capacity), koju predvodi Prirodnački muzej (Natural History Museum) u Londonu uz doprinos mnogih članova Udruženja, kako bi se postavili neki od ključnih principa za koje kao zajednica verujemo da su osnova dobre prakse u građanskim naučnim istraživanjima.

1. **Projekti građanske nauke aktivno uključuju građane u naučne poduhvate koji stvaraju nova znanja ili uvide.** Građani mogu učestvovati kao saradnici, učesnici ili kao vođe projekta i imati značajnu ulogu u projektu.
2. **Projekti građanske nauke imaju originalan naučni rezultat.** Na primer, odgovaranje na istraživačko pitanje ili informisanje o akcijama zaštite, odlukama o upravljanju ili ekološkoj politici.
3. **I profesionalni naučnici i građani naučnici imaju koristi od učešća.** Prednosti mogu uključivati objavljivanje rezultata istraživanja, mogućnost učenja, lično zadovoljstvo, društvenu korist, zadovoljstvo zbog doprinosa naučnim dokazima, npr. u bavljenju lokalnim, nacionalnim i međunarodnim pitanjima, koja imaju potencijal da utiču na određene politike.
4. **Građani naučnici mogu, ako žele, učestvovati u više faza naučnog procesa.** To može uključivati razvoj istraživačkih pitanja, osmišljavanje metoda, prikupljanje i analizu podataka i diseminaciju rezultata.
5. **Građani naučnici dobijaju povratne informacije o projektu.** Na primer, kako se njihovi podaci koriste i koji su istraživački, politički ili društveni ishodi.

Recommended sources

ACTION PLAN OF THE WORKING GROUP “SCIENCE EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT”

THIS IS ONE OF THREE WORKING GROUPS (WGS) BRINGING TOGETHER SCIENCE MANAGERS AND SCIENTISTS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS WHO WANT TO FURTHER RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (RRI)



Recommended sources

Western Balkans Info Hub

www.westernbalkans-infohub.eu



POLICY ANSWERS

R&I POLICY making, implementation AND Support in the WEStErN Balkans

https://wbc-rti.info/theme/28

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- > Kosovo*

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION | RRI

RRI stands for “Responsible Research and Innovation” - a concept promoted by the European Commission, that has emerged in recent years as a science policy framework, which **seeks to align technological innovation with broader social values**, and to support the institutional decisions concerning the goals of research and innovation in conditions of uncertainty and ambiguity. **RRI encourages these stakeholders** to reflect and anticipate how R&I may shape the future, to remain adaptive and responsive to change and the increased complexity.

RRI promotes diversity and inclusion as well as openness and transparency in the development of Research and Innovation (R&I) policies, programmes and activities. RRI **aims to engage publics and responsible actors** (researchers, citizens, policy- and decision makers, business, third sector organisations and others) **in the science and innovation field, to produce ethically acceptable, sustainable and socially** desirable research and innovation outcomes in line with the values, needs and expectations of the European society.

The RRI approach has developed over the years and the term implies that societal challenges should be a primary focus of scientific research while indicating the methods by which that goal should be achieved. In such a context, Responsible Research and Innovation involves holding research to high ethical standards, ensuring gender equality in the scientific community, investing policy-makers with the responsibility to avoid harmful effects of innovation, engaging the communities affected by innovation and ensuring that they have the knowledge necessary to understand the implications by furthering science education and Open Access.

LET'S STAY IN CONTACT!

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