



The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020

MULTIDISCIPLINARITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT Theory and practice



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Laura Hetel

European Commission
Directorate-General for Research & Innovation
B6 Reflective Societies

**HORIZON
2020**
The
Framework
Programme
for Research
and
Innovation

Seventh Framework
Programme for Research,
Technological Development
and Demonstration Activities
(FP7)

Competitiveness and
Innovation Programme (CIP)

European Institute of
Innovation and Technology
(EIT)

2014-2020

2007-2013

EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research
Council (€13.1 b)

Future and Emergent
Technologies (€2.7 b)

Marie Skłodowska-
Curie Actions (€6.1 b)

Research Infra-
structures (€2.5 b)

INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP

LEIT=Leadership in
Enabling and Industrial
Technologies (€13.5 b)

- ICT
- NMBP
- Space

Access to Risk Finance
(€2.9 b)

Innovation in SMEs
(€0.6 b)

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Health, demographic change
and wellbeing (€7.5 b)

Food security, agriculture (...)
and bio-economy (€3.9 b)

Secure, clean and efficient
energy (€6.8 b)

Smart, green and integrated
transport (€6.3 b)

Climate action (...) and raw
materials (€3.1 b)

Inclusive, innovative &
reflective societies (€1.3 b)

Secure societies (€1.7 b)

Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation (€0.8 b)

Science with and for Society (€0.5 b)

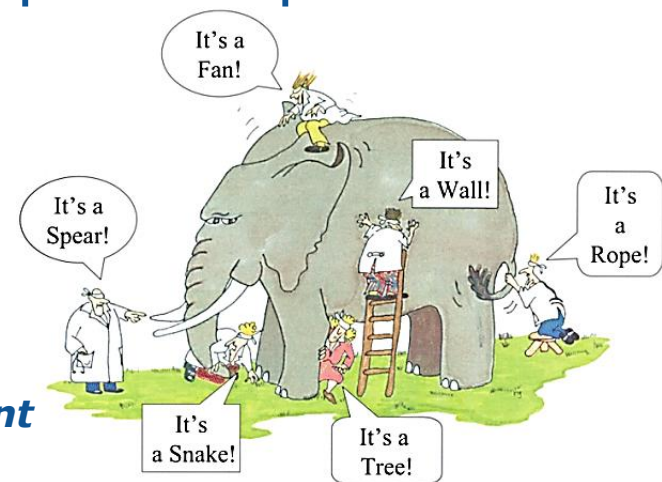
EIT (€2.7 b)

JRC (€1.9 b)

EURATOM (€1.6 b)

Why are Horizon 2020 calls built around multidisciplinary and public engagement?

- ❑ Horizon 2020 adopts a challenge-based approach, with calls for proposals that are more open and less prescriptive
- ❑ The knowledge needed to address complex societal challenges is spread across multiple disciplines and multiple societal actors



The Blind Men and the Elephant



SOCIO- TECHNICAL APPROACH
SOCIO- ECOLOGICAL APPROACH

- economics and business models
- legal and institutional frameworks
- policy-making and governance issues
- human behaviour and choices
- demographic realities and trends
- cultural values and historical dimension
- ethical considerations

Horizon 2020 aims to involve multiple societal actors

universities

research
organisations

users
practitioners
stakeholders
policymakers

industrial
laboratories

SMEs

NGOs

consultancies

+

scientific knowledge
explicit knowledge
tacit knowledge
local knowledge

WHY USE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?

- ❑ Tapping into the talents and skills of different societal actors increases the potential for good ideas and innovations
- ❑ The final solutions or products are more likely to respond to societal needs, which makes them directly applicable and marketable
- ❑ It can prevent costly cases of contested or failed innovation

Example: GAP2 PROJECT (see video [here](#))

Issues to consider from a public engagement perspective

What actors will be engaged in the process and why?

- industrial and business actors, policymakers and public authorities, civil society organisations, non-profits, end users, consumers, patients etc

How will public engagement take place?

- outreach, awareness raising and science literacy activities
- public consultation/ deliberation (listening/ dialogue)
- public participation in the R&I process (co-creation)

Best practices from Horizon 2020 funded proposals

- They fully answered to the challenge in the call
- They set realistic objectives
- They put together a balanced consortium in terms of expertise, societal actors and geographical distribution, providing a clear explanation as to why they chose this configuration of partners
- They proposed solutions, but also planned for testing them in a real-life setting or scaling them up

Best practices from Horizon 2020 funded proposals

- They produced a compelling, engaging abstract combined with appropriate fixed and free keywords
- They avoided general, unsubstantiated statements
- They avoided inconsistencies and contradictions

They explicitly stated how their activities relate to EU challenges, policies and desired outcomes (i.e. where does the project fit into the big EU picture?)

EXPECTED IMPACT

When drafting impact statements, keep in mind the distinction between:

IMPACTS, which refer to longer term changes in areas such as employment, quality of life, competitiveness or GDP

OUTCOMES, which occur at the end point of the funded action such as a publication, a new process or a patented technology

EXPECTED IMPACT

Common mistakes made by applicants

- ❑ They mistake project output for project impact
- ❑ Their expected impact statements are too vague (ex: improve the competitiveness of European fisheries, reduce rural unemployment)
- ❑ They fail to consider various types of impact (ex. economic, social, on policy environment, on gender inequality, on climate, on sustainable development, on the preservation of local culture)

EXPECTED IMPACT

Best practices

- ❑ There is a clear link between the planned activities and the expected impact; also, the causal link and intermediary steps are clearly identified
- ❑ Expected impact is described with the use of indicators, measurable contributions and a timeline (as opposed to simply labeling it as 'significant')
- ❑ There is a clear sense of progress 'from A to B', which is reflected in the use of verbs: increase, improve, correct, transform, mobilise, etc.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Act as multipliers of information
2. Advise university researchers not only on the 'who', 'what' and 'how' of the application process, but also on the 'why' (purpose of Horizon 2020)
3. Encourage researchers with multidisciplinary expertise or public engagement experience to register in the expert database on the Participant Portal