The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020

MULTIDISCIPLINARITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
Theory and practice

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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 Infrastructures (€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 multidisciplinarity 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*
- 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

**Socio-Technical Approach**

**Socio-Ecological Approach**

**Multi-Disciplinarity**

**SSH**

**STEM**
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)
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?)
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.
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