

## RRI Tools Final Conference.

### Responsible Research and Innovation IN ACTION

Brussels, November 21-22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

## Summary of Parallel Session “Opening up Research”

We started listening to preliminary results of a pan-European consultation and had a brief look at inspiring projects related to RRI, transformative and transdisciplinary research.

- **CIMULACT** intends to engage citizens and stakeholders in the co-creation of European research agendas based on real, validated and shared visions, needs and demands and found citizens emotionally touched by being asked to give their input to elaborate their future and not just to vote on given information.
- **DITOs** aims to build the institutional and policy foundations for sustained deep public engagement in science and technology in Europe that enables people to contribute at a level of participation suitable for them. DITOs described an escalator model where at each level of the research process citizens can have a role to play. Aleks stated that the communication between researchers and citizens need a Forum for Needs.
- **FOSTER** was introduced as a training programme to incorporate Open Access approaches into their existing research methodologies. The problems of open Big Data were identified as something to further work on.
- **SMART map** was presented as a project to support the RRI-based development of technologies and services in selected industries but also pointed out that researchers still have to be convinced that openness is an issue for mutual benefits.
- **European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)** is a Citizen Science practitioner association working on methodology development to make citizen science useable for sustainability issues. The findings will be translated into 20 languages.
- **LeNa Project**, a collaborative project to arrive at a generally accepted and shared understanding of how non-university research institutions can integrate the concept of sustainable development into research processes. It describes 16 fields of action, incl. knowledge transfer to society. LeNa wants to encourage researchers to reflect on their projects.
- **The EnRRICH Project** intends to improve the capacity of students and staff in higher education through embedding Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in curricula. Staff and students shall develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to respond to the research needs of society as expressed by civil society organisations (CSOs).

In the following a discussion with our audience about what is urgently needed to implement or experiment with new concepts of communication, co-creation, sustainability or responsibility was facilitated. Key messages and discussion points included:

- Civil Society is not the same as Civil Society Organisations. Citizen Science is not Public Engagement in RRI. But citizens are willing to take part in research projects.
- We need positive messages to show the benefits of broader citizen involvement in research.
- In order to assure the sustainability of citizen involvement, teaching in schools should already make students aware that their opinion can actually matter and that science doesn't have to happen in an ivory tower.
- Researchers still have to be convinced that openness for engagement is an issue with benefits.
- RRI has to be institutionalised in a way that it is not an extra burden, but the standard way to do research.
- There should be more investment in practical trainings.
- Research evaluation should be changed. Journal impact factors as research success and quality factors should not be used as here the container is evaluated and not the content.
- It is important to think about how to deal with uncertainty. Researchers have to be encouraged to reflect on aspects such as ethics, impact, inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, transparency etc. in their research projects.
- Opening up research means more than just collaboratively setting up research agendas. Opening up research needs new research framework conditions and research policies. It means steering research, and probably having civil society as watchdog of the research process. Civil society has to be part of the research process, needs access to the results and decision making power.

Don't preach to the converted.

Go out with positive messages.

Don't prepare and go out 'naked'!