



CIPAST

citizen participation in
science and technology

Planning citizen participation Procida workshop 2007

Ida-Elisabeth Andersen

Gy Larsen

The Danish Board of Technology



Planning citizen participation

- Structure of presentation and exercise
 - What is a good topic for citizen participation in science and technology – and what is not?
 - Why must citizens participate – and what contributions can we expect?
 - How can we involve citizens – which approach and method?
 - Who should be involved – and what outcome do we expect?



What is a good topic?

- New applications to gene technology – new gene plants
- Toxicology and Nanotechnology
- Sustainable urban living
- Surveillance and privacy
- Energy system – future development
- Brain Science – new development and uses
- Priorities in the health care system



Knowledge roles: examples

- Provide an overview of existing knowledge and new developments of the topic: threats and possibilities –
- Put light on the topic from different professional and value perspectives
- Take on board the insight, experience and credibility of citizens and provide a platform to voices, seldom heard in the public room



Bridgebuilding roles: examples

- Create new rooms for dialogue across professional and social groups
- Uncover and discuss norms and values
- Help actors reflect and communicate – help dialogue and bridgebuilding
- Introduce new agenda, new visions



Policy making roles: examples

- Create legitimate and accepted solutions
- Produce recommendations for policy makers
- Propose new regulation – legislation
- Propose new procedures - new orientations for managing etc.



Exercise A – to formulate a topic

- What is a good topic for you? - Propose and discuss examples+criteria
- Which role would citizens play in the examples?
- Which role do you see for your project: create knowledge? – bridgebuilding? – give advise/recommendations?



B. How can we involve citizens - which approach and method?

To consider:

- Are new knowledge and solutions needed?
- Do we know too little about public opinion?
- Is it time for new agenda setting?
- Is there a conflict in society dealing with the issue?
- Do politicians need an advice from citizens?
- Or?



What can we expect from citizens?

- Laypeople are "lack of knowledge" – a vessel to be filled with expert information
- No, citizens are laypeople with knowledge and engagement in society – and in their daily lives
- Citizens have their own perspective on science and technology – useful for society



Considerations on methods in science and technology

- Expert group process
- Stakeholder involvement
- Citizen consultation
- Involving politicians
- Or?

Poster session showing a row of different methods

Ex. Consensus conference and scenario workshop



Exercise B – to choose a method

- How can we work with a topic?
- Which methods focus on involving citizens?
- What kind of role for the involved citizens – and what outcome do we expect?
- Use inspiration from poster - session and your own experiences!