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Project partners

La Cité des sciences et de l'industrie (Paris, F), Rathenau Institute (Den Haag, NL), Danish Board of Technology (Copenhagen, DK), Centre for Studies of Democracy, University of Westminster (London, UK), Science-Society Interface, University of Lausanne (CH), Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza (Napels, I), Deutsches Hygienemuseum (Dresden, D), INSERM (Paris, F), INRA (Paris, F), ARMINES (Paris, F), Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques - Sciences Po (Paris, F) and the Bonn Science Shop (D).

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More about CIPAST at www.cipast.org

Citizen participation is carried out in various arenas and by organizations belonging to unlinked families of actors ranging from parliamentary technology assessment offices, through science museums, Science Shops, research institutes and academic teams, to civil society organizations such as NGO's or patient associations. Facing the challenges of structuring the European research area, in April 2005 the project 'Citizen Participation in Science and Technology' (CIPAST) was initiated. Within a 3 years period 12 organisations and institutions from 7 European countries worked on structuring a European platform for exchanging knowledge and experience concerning participatory procedures.

The full text with findings and recommendations will be available on the CIPAST website by mid May and we already invite you to discuss it with us on the CIPAST discussion list cipast@yahoogroups.com

Yours sincerely,
Norbert Steinhaus, Editor

World Wide Views on Global Warming

The Danish Board of Technology and the Danish Cultural Institute has initiated a global project, in which citizens world wide will be asked about their views on global warming and climate policy.



The main objective of 'World Wide Views on Global Warming' is to give citizens around the world the possibility to contribute with their views on some of the key issues addressed at the United Nations climate summit COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, in order to influence the negotiations and the future of global climate policy. The overarching purpose is to demonstrate how citizens from all over the world can become an important and relevant part of political decision-making processes on a global scale.

Around 100 citizens from each of the participating countries will meet in their own countries to engage in a structured dialogue aimed at answering an identical set of question. The dialogue will be informed by well-balanced information material. Scientific experts, political decision makers and a diverse range of other stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the formulation of both the questions and the information material.

The face-to-face citizens consultations, the WWViews, will be carried out in the participating countries almost simultaneously and a few months before the COP15, which is taking place from 30 November to 11 December 2009. The results will be gathered and presented continuously for comparison on a public homepage as the results from the different WWViews are reported.

The questions asked at the WWViews will make statistical comparison of the answers in different countries possible, but - contrary to the usual questionnaires - the method will also allow citizens to motivate and qualify their answers, thus making a qualitative enquiry possible into the reasons and arguments that has lead to a specific answer.

The project is organized by the newly established WWViews Alliance, which embraces different kinds of partners who will actively support the project. Some can do so by undertaking national WWViews, others by contributing to media work, fundraising, communicating the results in policy-making



arenas, being ambassadors for the project, or simply write support letters. Partners from 10 different countries have already joined the WWViews Alliance and 10 more are in the course of deciding. Throughout the remaining part of 2008 potential partners will from all over the world will be invited to join the WWViews Alliance.

The project method is unique and is developed on the basis of the experience gained by The Danish Board of Technology and other members of the WWViews Alliance from a series of different methods engaging citizens in political decision-making processes. It will further developed in 2008 and in 2009 the questions and the information material to the citizens will be formulated and finally The WWViews will be carried out world wide up to the COP15. The Danish Board of Technology will manage the project within the framework of the WWViews Alliance, established and coordinated by The Danish Board of Technology and The Danish Cultural Institute. For a description of the WWViews Alliance structure, please use the link below. More detailed information about the project can be found in the projectdescription at www.tekno.dk/subpage.php3?article=1498&toppic=kategori11&language=uk or by contacting Bjørn Bedsted, projectmanager, at bb@tekno.dk

CIPAST in Practice

CIPAST case-study based training package now online

CIPAST activities have confirmed that training for public participation in science and technology has to be considered as a multiple objective aim: as training activity before (and for) the implementation of a public participation initiative but also as an offer to get informed about public participation in general – and not being directly targeted to the translation into training action. CIPAST therefore has decided to put case studies at the core of its training and to focus on a process of active and participative learning. CIPAST in Practice now provides elementary sets for teaching and learning which are based on 'real life case studies' and which can be used and re-assembled by potential users. The given tools are completed through information resources about designing participatory procedures experts, literature and additional experiences. All case studies presented in this training package were developed by involving actors and users. All case studies were tested in training sessions in two international workshops 2006 and 2007.

You can order a free CD of CIPAST in Practice from Norbert Steinhaus, norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de or make use of the training offers at the CIPAST website. Go to CIPAST in Practice at www.cipast.org/download/CD%20CIPAST%20in%20Practice/cipast/index.htm



Participatory Activities in Nanotechnologies

CIPAST Nano Newsletter

A special edition of the CIPAST newsletter - prepared by Nicolas Baya Laffite at INRA/TSV - provides on 35 pages a summary of 60 participatory processes in nanotechnology governance in countries where they have developed significantly as a result of political initiatives. Our first aim is to give access to data as complete as possible – although not exhaustive – on individual participatory experiences in nanotechnology. The gathering of this information allows to put these individual experiences into perspective and to open a discussion on the roles of public participation, so far in different national and regional political contexts.



You can download the pdf of the newsletter (1.5 MB) at www.cipast.org/download/CIPAST%20Newsletter%20Nano.pdf

The CIPAST project as a case study of a European network project

A paper presented by Chloe Alexander, University of Padova, Faculty of Political Science, in collaboration with Observa-Science in Society (www.observa.it): DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION - NEW PROCEDURES OF PARTICIPATION IN A EUROPEAN NETWORK PROJECT addressed the question of whether the funding of European network projects under the Framework programmes of the European Commission is working to further European Integration between member states by harmonizing economic, social and cultural practices. The second question Chloe Alexander raised was, whether the Commission is succeeding in dealing with the issue of deliberative participation methodologies in the area of science in society by setting up projects like CIPAST to offer assistance to member states by building platforms for exchange within the EU.

Her conclusions were drawn from interviews taken from representative experts from nine partner organizations during the 2007 Procida Workshop. The effectiveness of the CIPAST project, the network structure of the project and the developments of deliberative democracy in the different member states were discussed. The conclusion confirms that the two goals of the European Commission are being reached through the funding of the CIPAST project and network.

You can download the study at www.cipast.org/download/Chloe%20Alexander%20-%20Deliberative%20Democracy.pdf and contact Chloe Alexander by mail alexander.chloe@gmail.com



Best practice, ideas and strategies

Proceedings of the 3rd Living Knowledge conference

More than 330 people from more than 50 countries joined one or more of the 18 sessions of the 3rd Living Knowledge conference, with its nearly 100 oral presentations, and explored the more than 30 posters, watched the videos, and discussed at Open space workshops. The conference also included two sessions on participatory processes in science and technology. And there have been much more proposals for presentations which gave the organizers the difficult task to accept and refuse. A documentation of the conference with detailed papers, its presentations, posters, pictures and videos is under preparation and will be available by the end of April 2008. To get an impression of the conference you can already have a look at some pictures and a conference video at www.livingknowledge.org



ETHICSCHOOL Innovates Techno-Ethics Education

Two summer schools in 2008

Ethicschool organises two summerschools on ethics of emerging technologies. Both will present a mixture of lectures by leading researchers with remarkable visions on ethics of nanotechnology or converging technologies; workshops where all participants should contribute to the debate on responsible technology development; and masterclasses where young researchers are welcome to table their strategy for investigating techno-ethics for discussion with keynote speakers and other participants. ETHICSCHOOL is a Specific Support Action funded by the European Union under Framework Programme 6, Science and Society programme. Visit the website www.ethicschool.eu for up-to-date information.



24-29 August 2008: Ethics of Nanotechnology, University of Twente, Netherlands

The summerschool on ethics of nanotechnology will focus

on short to medium term developments, related to current research in nanotechnology research programmes and networks worldwide. A visit to the MESA+ research institute for nanotechnology of the University of Twente is foreseen.

21-26 September 2008: Ethics of Converging Technologies, Technical University Darmstadt, Germany,

The summerschool on ethics of converging technologies will focus on longer term visionary trends and ethical considerations of different combinations of nanotechnology, biotechnology, Information and Communication Technology and cognitive or neurosciences converging on the nanoscale.

E-learning tools on techno-ethics

During the summer schools, students and professional from all over the world can view high quality e-learning materials in nanoethics and ethics of converging technologies online via the website www.ethicschool.eu. Afterwards, the e-learning tools will be made available to lecturers wishing to use them in their own courses on ethics of science and technology.

Contact: Ineke Malsch, www.ethicschool.eu, postbus@malsch.demon.nl

Dates & Events

Science for a better life: EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF)

July 18-22, Barcelona, Spain

ESOF is an open platform for debate and communication for the science community. It presents and profiles Europe's leading research trends in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. By bringing together researchers across disciplines and from all around Europe, Euroscience has created ESOF to promote the European Research Area (ERA). www.esof2008.org

Joint Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science

European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)

August 20-23, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

The theme for this conference is „Acting with science, technology and medicine“. The call for papers, together with online submission forms for abstracts and for sessions can be found at www.4sonline.org/meeting.htm.

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