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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), Citta della Scienza (Napels, I), Deutsches Hygienemuseum (Dresden, D), INSERM (Paris, F), INRA (Paris, F), ARMINES (Paris, F), Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (Paris, F) and the Bonn Science Shop (D).

CIPAST has been awarded financial support by the European Commission through the contract No. 013518 in the framework of "Coordination Action"; programme "Structuring the European Research Area"

More about CIPAST at www.cipast.org

This is the second issue of the CIPAST newsletter. This quarterly newsletter provides news on the situation of participatory procedures in Europe, news about the CIPAST project and its members and provides links to useful electronic and print resources aimed at strengthening civil society in Europe.

CIPAST platform is a participation project, any contribution is welcome. So please feel free to criticise, prompt and contribute news, events, short reports or experiences from your special field of work.

"At time of high science and technology issues, it is essential to include civil society in the debates. Bringing the actors together within CIPAST platform will provide an opportunity to foster the emergence of a European culture of participatory democracy in scientific and technological issues." (Roland Schaer, CIPAST project coordinator)

Yours sincerely,
Norbert Steinhaus, Editor

Expanding the network to newcomers

CIPAST - database on actors involved in participation and participatory processes

The CIPAST platform plans to support the structuring of an expanded network of European organizations already involved or interested in participatory processes regarding scientific and technological issues. The networking and dissemination activities shall facilitate the access for newcomers to relevant knowledge, information and expertise.

CIPAST database purpose

With this objective in mind, the CIPAST consortium decided to set up a database of actors involved or interested in participation and participatory processes, in order to facilitate knowledge and information transfer between the members of the network. This database will in particular identify key persons or institutions that may concretely contribute to promote the development of participatory procedures in their country. It will also provide statistics on the kind of actors and thematic fields represented.

Another section of the database will contain an inventory of the past or ongoing participatory processes all over Europe. It will be possible to search according to specific themes or types of processes (consensus conference, citizens' juries, stakeholder dialogue, focus groups, etc.). This section of the database will integrate and make an update of the annex to the study ordered by the European Commission: Governance of the European Research Area: the Role of Civil Society by H. Banthien, M. Jaspers and A. Renner.



Selected parts of the database will be accessible on the CIPAST website, as a tool to foster the emergence of a European culture of participatory democracy in scientific and technological issues.

CIPAST database „State of the Art“

The setting up of CIPAST database is an ongoing process. Up to now, approximately 2'100 contacts have been inserted, concerning more than 30 countries; 800 others will be included in the following weeks. Our initial strategy consisted in collecting information about actors of participation, such as TA institutions, science shops, science museums, NGOs, elected representatives, research centres and universities (see fig. 2). We also used the lists of participants to international symposium or conferences related to citizen participation in science and technology, as well as published reports on the subject and information accessible via the internet.

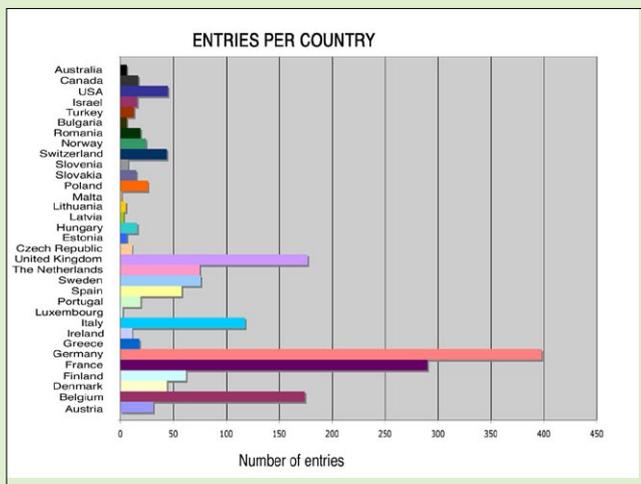


Figure 1: numbers of entries per country

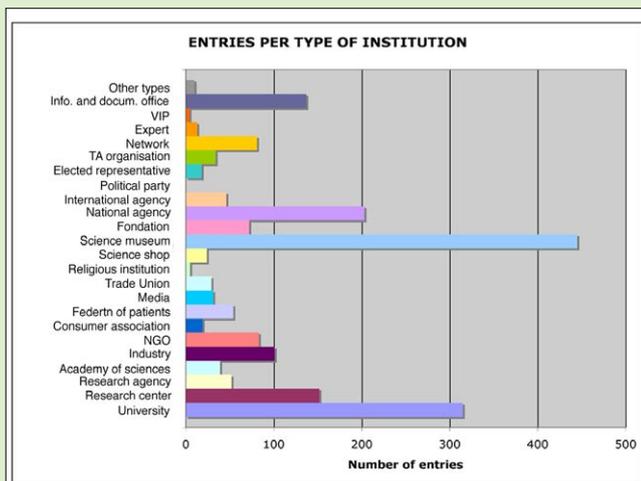


Figure 2: number of entries per type of institution

However, we still need to expand the network to newcomers. Similarly, we need to get contacts in countries not well represented in our database, with an emphasis on EU new members States.

Preliminary statistics

In order to identify the main gaps regarding geographical areas and kinds of actors, we produced preliminary statistics based on the current database records. It is worth mentioning that the number of entries corresponds to individuals and not institutions (several individuals can belong to the same institution). Let us mention also that the same individual can be associated to several types institutions.

Further steps

To set up a reference database on citizen participation in science and technology requires a comprehensive analysis of each institution's field of interest and activities (see fig. 2 and 3). Therefore, in parallel to the contacts identification ongoing process, we try to analyse each contact's main characteristics, such as field of activity, domain of expertise, etc., in order to optimize the accuracy of the data collected.

This research will also be helpful to define a „reference“ list which will appear in the CIPAST website. It will consist in a selection of important institutions and actors involved in citizen participation in science and technology. A professional software support for the CIPAST database is being developed, in order to ensure optimize the exploitation of the data.

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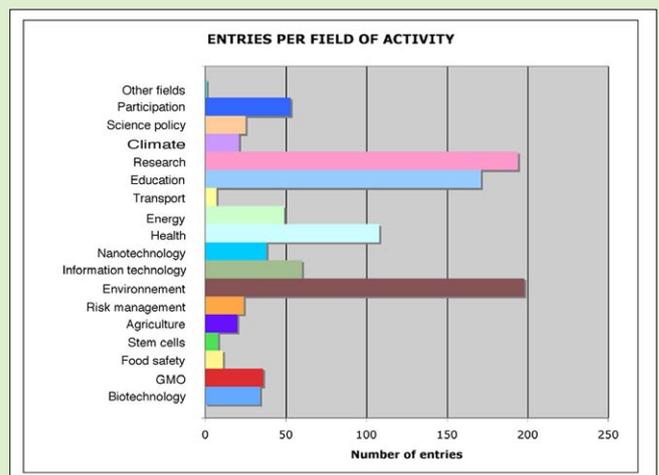


Figure 3: number of entries per field of activity



Innovative European-wide citizens' participation pilot project

European citizens' panel on the role of rural areas in European societies

The Foundation for Future Generations (Belgium), the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation (France/Switzerland), the Bernheim Foundation (Belgium), the Evens Foundation (France/Belgium/Poland) and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (UK) have initiated a project that will result in the creation of an innovative participatory tool, designed to:

- Contribute to reduce the growing gap between European citizens and EU institutions and representatives;
- Promote European democracy through enhancing European citizens' in policy and decision-shaping/making processes;
- Promote intercultural dialogue among European citizens
- Provide regional, national and European decision-makers with a complementary reference and decision-making tool for the reconsideration of rural policies.

The project will involve regional authorities of approximately 10 European Western, Central and Eastern countries and develop over 2006 and beginning of 2007. The process will be widely disseminated, documented and evaluated by an independent organisation to be replicated to new topics of European interest.

The first issue

This new participatory tool will focus on a first concrete issue that can engender genuine interest from European citizens: „European citizens produce an informed say on the role of rural areas in European societies“.

Moreover:

- Rural areas cover 90% of the enlarged EU's territory and are home to approximately half of its population.
- Rural areas are vital to both rural and urban populations: agriculture, food, employment, spatial planning, urban-rural relations, health, environment, culture, leisure, infrastructure and services, North-South relations...
- Agricultural and rural policies represent about 40% of the European Union's budget
- In the overall context of Lisbon and Göteborg strategies, which policy options will be chosen at European level(European what? European level...) ? How European citizens will participate in these choices?

The methodology

Among numerous existing methods for participatory processes that have been successfully undertaken at regional and national scales in a certain number of European Member States, we have specifically looked for a method which

can be applied at the European level. The chosen method aims at serving as a decision-making tool, ensuring the inclusion of highly diversified social groups, the quality and balance of viewpoints expressed and issues raised by both experts and witnesses, transparency at every stage of the process and independence of the recommendations made by panellists.

The European citizens panel will be conducted on two levels via a bottom-up process, regional then European:

1. Creation of panels in approximately 10 regions, with citizens from a cross-section of society, which will serve as a microcosm of the diversity of population found at regional and European levels. Each panel will first receive and be able to request balanced information on the issues at stake and will then draw up its report including recommendations and hand it in to appropriate decision-makers and stakeholders.
2. Delegates from the regional panels will then be gathered in one pan-European panel. They will cross-examine their respective proposals, meet new stakeholders and together develop a truly European perspective through a common set of recommendations. This document will be handed in to European institutions (European parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions...) as well as regional public authorities and widely disseminated to the key stakeholders and the general public, helping to ensure that public debate on the issue and new modes of democratic governance at the European scale will be sustained.

The partnership

This project has been devised with the collaboration of different European institutions: International Institute for Environment and Development (United Kingdom), University of Newcastle (United Kingdom), Gesellschaft für Bürgergutachten (Society for Citizens Reports, Germany), Université de Liège (Belgium), CitizenConsult (Spain), Free University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and Fondation Sciences Citoyennes (France). It has now gathered European and regional authorities, acting as commissioning bodies, and expert institutions in participatory processes.

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ZIRN and DIALOGIK

After the demise of the Centre of Technology Assessment in Germany at the end of 2003, recently two new research institutes were established: the "Interdisciplinary Research Unit for Risk, Governance and Sustainable Technology Development (ZIRN)" within the International Centre of Cultural and Technological Studies at the University of Stuttgart, and a non-profit corporation called DIALOGIK for the investigation of communication processes between science, civil society, and the public.

ZIRN will be particularly addressing issues such as interdisciplinary risk analysis, risk management and communication, the application of the precautionary principle, attitudes and values with respect to technological change, social impacts of modernization, technological conditions for and implication of sustainable development and implication of the knowledge society. The Research Unit will be a platform for faculty members of the natural, technical and social sciences as well as the humanities to engage in interdisciplinary research. It will also emphasize the discursive approach in selecting methods and procedures for analysis and evaluation.

DIALOGIK is located at the premises of the University of Stuttgart. The founders and sole partners are Hans-Peter Meister, director and company head of the private Organisational Communications Institute (IFOK) in Bensheim, and Prof. Ortwin Renn. Using mainly discursive methods of investigation, DIALOGIK conducts systematic research in communication processes and interactions between politics, economy and civil society. More specifically, DIALOGIK intends to analyse the conditions and preconditions for improving fruitful communication (such as institutionalised risk communication as an instrument of health protection) and for developing and initiating innovative procedures of participation and cooperation procedures (such as citizen panels or mediations in environmental conflict situations). The research results are envisioned to facilitate conflict resolution and to improve cooperative forms of decision and policy making in the political, economic and societal field. As a non-profit institute, DIALOGIK provides knowledge and expertise to all interested parties and makes its research results public. DIALOGIK is exclusively financed by external funds. Existing projects of DIALOGIK are funded by the European Commission, federal ministries and authorities, and public and private foundations.

The organisers now are busy to construct a database containing all their contact addresses. To complete this effort they ask to answer a questionnaire at <http://www.dialogik-expert.de/en/list/list.htm>.

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News

Pervasive Healthcare in the Danish Healthcare Services

New Project of the Danish Board of Technology

The potentials of integrating Pervasive Healthcare in the Healthcare Services are promising because of the technology's ability to transcend time and place. In the coming years, the Danish Health Services will face challenges such as a changed composition of age in the population, more chronically ill people, new images of diseases that increase the need for preventive measures, changes in diseases related to life style, and the appearance of new treatments. Pervasive Healthcare can potentially comply with such changes that are expected to increase the demand for health performances in the future.

The project aims to create a general view of the potentials and perspectives in Pervasive Healthcare, including a definition and a demarcation of the concept as well as the consideration of possible consequences and problems following an implementation.

The Danish Board of Technology appoints an interdisciplinary working group for generating an overview of the possible, concrete health performances and outline the perspectives that will be the result of an implementation of Pervasive Healthcare. The course of the project will also include a workshop, where interested parties of the health sector get an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Finally, interviews with a group of citizens will create an overview about the wishes, worries and attitudes towards the technology among citizens.

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Meeting of Minds

Biggest-ever public science consultation warns of potential misuse of brain research

Meeting of Minds is the first European-wide public consultation on brain science. It is a new, ambitious and lively way of involving the general public in debates about issues of cutting-edge science. Nationals from a diverse array of European countries have, over the past year, immersed themselves in a melting pot of ideas and discoveries about the brain. Coming from cultures ranging from the UK to Hungary, they have had to overcome their differences to reach a consensus about our new-found knowledge of the brain

The conclusions were reached using the European Citizens' Deliberation, a unique experiment in the techniques of participatory democracy in which 12 European organisations, led by the King Baudouin Foundation of Belgium, pooled their expertise in public consultation. They randomly selected 126 laypeople from across



Europe who then interviewed some of the Continent's leading brain scientists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists as well as pressure groups and patients' associations. The recommendations of this process were presented at the European Parliament to decision makers of the European Union on January 23. They should help to shape science and health policy at the European and national level and will come at an opportune moment for guiding formulation of the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The Meeting of minds project report tackles many pressing issues arising in the field of brain science. It also calls on governments to boost education and training on these issues.

Download the report [here](#)

More information at www.meetingmindseurope.org

Participatory Methods Toolkit

A practitioner's methodological manual

'Participation' has become a buzzword in government statements and policy papers and the concept is being given concrete shape. But how can participation be organised? What methods are available and when and how are they applied? What are the implications for the budget and staff? To offer a few answers to these questions, the King Baudouin Foundation and viWTA (The Vlaams Instituut voor Wetenschappelijk en Technologisch Aspectonderzoek, an independent and autonomous institute, associated with the Flemish Parliament) joined forces and shared their expertise. Nikki Slocum (United Nations University) used these materials to put together a toolkit on participatory methods (in English.) It contains a presentation of ten methods (e.g. World Café, Citizens' Jury, Consensus Conference, Expert Panel), a step-by-step, hands-on manual, with detailed checklists and realistic expectations of outcomes. You can download a free copy at http://www.viwt.be/files/30890_ToolkitENGdef.pdf

Citizen Participation in practice- case studies from Africa

In November 2005, the fourth of a series of regional workshops was held in Zimbabwe, Africa. Participants from Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe discussed citizen participation in local governance and presented case studies on „The Role of Ward Development Committees“ (Botswana), „The Basis of Participatory Practice in Zimbabwe's Urban Councils“, „Participation in the fight against HIV and Aids“ (Malawi), and „Engaging

Communities in Water and Sanitation Environmental Programmes“ (Zambia).

<http://www.toolkitparticipation.nl/>

The full workshop report can be downloaded [here](#).

Post-Forum brochure "Questions of Science"

This brochure is a kaleidoscope of the points view expressed at the „Science in Society Forum“ held in March 2005. Now it is available in English, French and German but will be available soon in other EU languages and some non-European languages.

[English](#), PDF 2.1 MB, [Français](#), PDF 3.3 MB

[Deutsch](#), PDF 3.3 MB

Proceedings of 2nd International Living Knowledge Conference

With over 100 presentations - not only from an European context - the 2nd ‚Living Knowledge‘ Conference, held in Seville, Spain, early 2005, presented a huge variety of experiences and interesting examples of community-based research and science and society relations. The proceedings of this conference are now available. The pdf-file (3,7 MB) with the proceedings can be downloaded for free at www.livingknowledge.org (follow reports-documentation-ISSNET).

Dates & Events

[April 1-2 2006, New Haven, CT, USA](#)

[Unite For Sight's 3rd Annual International Health Conference, Empowering Communities to Bridge Health Divides](#)

[June 4-7 2006](#)

[Participatory Approaches in Science and Technology \(PATH\) Conference, Edinburgh, UK](#)

The PATH conference aims to explore how best to involve stakeholders and the public in policy development and decision-making on science and technology issues.

[July 15-19, 2006](#)

[European Science Open Forum
Munich, Germany](#)

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