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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

This is the fourth 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.

Yours sincerely,
Norbert Steinhaus, Editor

How to design and organize public deliberation

70 Participants in first CIPAST Workshop



In recent years, quite a few experiences of public participation in science and technology have taken place in European countries. However, this did not lead to global learning process since such experiences were conducted using a variety of contexts, problems and participatory processes. It is now necessary to foster organisational learning, dissemination of good practices across institutions and countries, as well as critical self-reflection.

The training workshops of the CIPAST consortium are instrumental tools to achieve this objective. They aim at gathering practitioners and users of participatory methods & procedures around training activities. From June 26th to 28th, 2006, the CIPAST consortium therefore organized a training workshop at the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, Germany, on citizen participation in science and technology.

This workshop was designed for people who have a strong interest in public participation in science and technology, who may already have organized participatory exercises or willing to do so, or who simply want to learn more about public participation.

70 participants from 23 countries informed themselves about the state of the art of public participation in science and technology, listened to concrete experiences from different European countries, and took part in productive and stimulating discussions. The workshop training activities included general lectures but also special sessions, using participatory exercises:

Poster session

In Dresden the participants had the possibility to discuss the various participatory methodologies in this poster session. The methodologies exposed included an 'Overview' and posters on 'Consensus conference', 'Scenario workshops', 'Citizen juries', 'Future search', 'ITA' and 'Focus group'.

Surgery

The expression "surgery" was used to design "consulting rooms" where participants had the possibility to interact more closely with CIPAST ex-

perts. The themes of the surgery were defined in the first session of the Training Workshop (Introduction to Citizens participation) using a brainstorming method called Metaplan.



Case studies

The three case studies presented in this workshop gave participants the opportunity to discuss the key problems and stakes associated with the design, implementation and use of participatory exercises:

- UK Nanojury, a citizen's jury on nanotechnology
- French interactive assessment of GM Vine Research
- Danish local scenario workshops on "Ocean Rise"

Evening session

On the first evening Prof. van den Daele, Director of the research unit „Standard-setting and Environment“, from the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, Germany, gave a lecture on 'Citizens Participation and the Governance of Science and Technology'. This lecture showed the



controversy in the discussion on participatory citizens' involvement and it stimulated thoughts as he started with the hypothesis that more participation leads to more frustration. He continued: „Participation can lead to results from an observers' perspective, but at the same time will not help to solve the problem.“ In his opinion all methodologies on participation in S&T rely on deliberation and arguments. Therefore stakeholders have to restrain themselves in saying 'This is my in-

terest'. To find compromises stakeholders must express their intentions in the style of 'This is my argument'. *The whole lecture can be downloaded as an audio file from the CIPAST website.*

Reflexive sessions

This exercise pushed the participants to discuss about arguments and counterarguments concerning public participation according to their personal experiences. They also had to think of how to adapt what they learned to their own institutions and specific contexts. It led to the awareness of the difficulties and of the openness of the process. The exercise was not easy but was lively shaped by the participants' inputs.

Although the workshop had a lot of input sessions it generally was evaluated very positively because of its organisation, atmosphere and overall rhythm which allowed



interactions between the participants and a lot of discussion. The diversity of the participants' backgrounds as well as the different kinds of entries to the subject were reported as positive too. Nevertheless the participants asked for more practical inputs and pedagogical support to serve their needs to implement the methodology into their own reality and work surrounding. The importance of the workshop's objectives was underlined by the participants' wish to have more time and space to exchange experiences and to broaden the scope to science museums and communication issues.

Therefore we would like to ask all participants of the workshop and readers of this newsletter to join the CIPAST discussion group (cipast@yahoogroups.com) to keep the exchange ongoing. You can subscribe for the discussion group at the CIPAST website (www.cipast.org) or send a mail to norbert.steinhaus@wilabonn.de.

All feedback on the Dresden workshop will be considered in the planning of the next CIPAST training workshop which will take place in June 2007 in Naples, Italy. *The presentations of the CIPAST Dresden workshop can be downloaded from www.cipast.org/cipast.php?section=41*

Back to Brussels

A feedback from Philippe Galiay on the Dresden Training Workshop*

CIPAST: *M. Galiay, you attended the first CIPAST Training Workshop on public participation in science and technology in Dresden. What are your main impressions?*

Philippe Galiay: I have been very favourably impressed by the organisation of the workshop and by the diversity and quality of the attendance. The Dresden Hygienea Museum is ideally suited to receive such a seminar dealing with participation of citizens to science and technology issues. A few of the exhibits are indeed inviting the public to participate actively. The exchange between the participants has been very enriching and I know for sure through the discussion I have had during the three day seminar that it has been perceived positively by the other participants.

CIPAST: *The CIPAST project is part of the „Science and Society Action Plan" of the European Commission. In this frame, what are the specific stakes of this project?*

Philippe Galiay: Further to the Science and Society Action Plan adopted in December 2001 the Commission took action in order to better involve civil society in research and research based policies. CIPAST has an important role in this context. CIPAST has been conceived as a platform to which existing networks (research organisations, science museums, Technology Assessment Offices,...) can hang on in order to exchange good practices in the field of participation of civil society. This platform will produce a training package which will favour the dissemination of the culture of participation. This is necessary to sustain a process which is necessarily long since it involves a cultural change. Allow me to underline here that CIPAST may also be instrumental in a near future in disseminating the concept of ‚co-operative research process' which emerged from the Gover'Science seminar last November in



Brussels. This is a new way of conceiving the development of S&T knowledge through a better articulation between S&T expertise, risk governance and societal participation. Co-operative research, being more inclusive and avoiding the usual asymmetries of classical research, could better combine design, implementation and dissemination of research agenda and results.

CIPAST: *What are the lessons of the Dresden Training Workshop?*

Philippe Galiay: I leave to the organisers the responsibility to detail the lessons drawn from the seminar. Indeed, this first seminar was intended as a preparation for the next one in Naples in June 2007. We have to address a number of issues regarding the optimum delivery of the experience of CIPAST members: length of the seminar, progressiveness of the training courses, theoretical vs practical work, participatory activities within the training package, definition of the modules, etc. The last „reflexive session" and the questionnaire which has been filled by the participants should help a lot to validate the best ideas for the future training package.

CIPAST: *What are your main message in view of the next Workshop which will be organised in Naples in June 2007?*

Philippe Galiay: Keep doing well! Keep participants in touch with the development of CIPAST platform. Keep mobilizing in the networks about participation of citizens and civil society organisations in research and research based policies. Keep an eye on Commission's activities since the seventh Framework Programme is about to be adopted and should be active in 2007. Keep communicating on this issue through the media, towards the public but also towards policy makers in every Member States, regions and cities. And above all, keep in mind that the CIPAST training package is not meant for a single shot summer school but rather for regular training events in all 25 Member States... and beyond!



* Philippe Galiay, Directorate Science and Society, Unit Governance, DG Research, European Commission, Philippe.Galiay@cec.eu.int



DeCiDe

Deliberative Citizens' Debates in science centers and museums

DeCiDe is a simple and affordable tool to conduct deliberative debates in museums, schools, pubs and even at home. No speakers or experts are needed, as the participants use a kit of cards which contain all the necessary facts and information.

The kits can be downloaded from the internet and printed in house, and are available in 12 languages. To organize the event one needs to provide only a suitable space with a table and chairs.

DeCiDe helps people to absorb information and to make it meaningful. The information on the topic is provided on cards which are dealt out in two rounds. Each time, people reflect on their cards and choose one or two that they feel are most important. They take turns to read them out, explaining why they chose them, and then place them on the table. Next they cluster the cards, with each cluster representing a key issue relating to the topic. Once they've voted on a range of responses or policy positions they try to create a response that everyone in the group can live with.

The format for DeCiDe is an adaptation of "Democs", a conversational game developed by the New Economics Foundation in London (www.democs.org). Four science centers (At-Bristol, IDIS - Città della Scienza, Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie and Heureka) teamed up with Ecsite to create a format which is easy to set up, translate and roll out across Europe. With funding provided from the Scientific Advice and Governance unit of the European Commission, more than 200 events have been organized so far in 15 countries, with well over 1000 participants.

There are 6 different Decide kits available:

- Nanotechnology
- Stem Cell Research
- Neuroscience and Brain Enhancement Drugs
- Genetic Testing
- Xenotransplantation
- HIV/AIDS

On the website www.playdecide.org all materials, kits and instructions are downloadable and free of charge, plus a comprehensive list of resources providing further information for each topic.

The voting results and policy suggestions from each Decide game are posted on the web as well and provide a vehicle for participants and policymakers to see opinions and ideas of the public by individual country, by subject across Europe and in other regions as additional countries participate and upload their results.

The "fifth policies", that is the policy positions that each group can formulate in addition to voting on the ones



Placing the cards. Picture by Eric Wong

provided by the kit, provide a quick and efficient measure of the main concerns related to the topic of discussion. A few examples from the Nanotechnology debates:

Germany

- Nanotechnology should be banned for military uses and as a system of monitoring and control, that hurts the human rights.
- More information for the public about the possibilities of nanotechnology.
- Nanotechnology economics should work transparently and accept responsibility. Transparent information: We want to be able to understand nanotechnology.

France

- Research should serve the citizens more than the economics stakes.

United Kingdom

- We should subdivide nanotechnology into more relevant sectors and have different policies for each. We should err on the side of caution with respect to risk, i.e. grey goo going to kill mankind.
- Regulation should be considered along individual



issues/fields rather than under the umbrella term "nanotechnology".

Other international projects and initiatives have adopted the DeCiDe format to conduct debates and dialogue with citizens:

- The Nano Dialogue project (www.nanodialogue.org) in 8 European science centers and museums is using DeCiDe as part of an exhibition and program around nanotechnology.
- Dotik (www.dotik.eu), a new museum floor staff/explainer training workshop on facilitation of science and society issues in science centers and museums, held DeCiDe training workshops during their summer school in August 2006.
- In South Africa, 60 science communication professionals including university research sectors, hospitals staff involved in medical ethics and industry representatives used DeCiDe for their training.
- In the USA, the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (www.nisenetwork.net), a \$20 million National Science Foundation project to raise public engagement with Nanotechnology will use the DeCiDe kits for its forums.

An evaluation of Decide is in progress which will examine the dialogue process and knowledge gain through video transcripts of selected events, interviews, concept maps and policies created by participants posted on the web. It will be available on the website in November 2006.

For any further information, please look at the website www.playdecide.org or contact Andrea Bandelli, project director, at andrea@bandelli.com



Teenagers at the AHA science center, Estonia, May 2005.
Picture by Tiuu Sild

Nanopublic

An interdisciplinary platform

Nanopublic, a two years project which started April 1st 2006, aims at setting up a platform of exchange and transdisciplinary investigation between the swiss nanotechnology stakeholders such as researchers in physical sciences, biomedicine and social sciences, firms, policy makers, NGOs and citizens. It will search for collaboration with projects following similar objectives in Switzerland and abroad.



Nanopublic is supported by a research team from the University of Lausanne (UNIL) and the Lausanne Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) which covers the following fields of expertise : social studies of science and technology, science policy, law, geography, philosophy, industrial ecology, material science, physics, medicine, toxicology and biology. The project is funded by the Anthropos program of the University of Lausanne and is coordinated by the Science-society interface of the University of Lausanne

In its lines of actions Nanopublic will organize public conferences and workshops gathering the actors of nanotechnologies – researchers in the fields of nanotechnologies and social sciences, engineers, representatives from private companies and NGOs – to debate research and innovation policies as well as risk assessment and management or socio-economic and cultural issues.

These exchange activities will be supported by fieldwork investigations in laboratories and private companies in order to identify which kind of „imaginaries“ and visions of the society are shaping the research agenda in nanosciences and nanotechnology. The implementation of a computerized documentary platform will map, at a large scale, the strategies of the actors as well as public debates concerning socio-economic and cultural issues.

More information: University of Lausanne, Science-Society Interface, M. Alain Kaufmann, director, tel: +41 21 692 20 64, Alain.Kaufmann@unil.ch, www.unil.ch/nanopublic

News

Science communication survival kit

The European Commission has published a 'survival kit' to help scientists communicate their activities to the public more effectively. With issues such as bird flu and global warming regularly hitting the headlines, improving the public's understanding of science is increasingly important. Furthermore, where research has been publicly funded, people may be interested to know how their taxes are being spent. 'Communicating Science: A Scientist's Survival Kit' delves into the world of science communications, and teaches scientists how to reach out to the public and compete for their attention. Combining general theories with tricks of the trade, the kit provides useful information on how to plan communications activities; explain complicated research in simple terms and use different forms of media.

Communicating Science: A Scientist's Survival Kit can be downloaded from: http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/science-communication/index_en.htm

Citizens' Conferences - An User's Manual

In 1998 in France about fifteen citizens came to a conclusion about the advisability of introducing genetically modified organisms (GMO) into the food of the French and their agriculture. The traditional debate between experts and decision makers was no longer sufficient to settle such a significant question of general interest. So they published a series of recommendations and thus made it possible the public discussion to take a new form.

It was the first French Citizens' Conference. This publication recalls the history and the implementation of this methodology. In the theoretical introduction the authors study in particular the respective merits of representative democracy and of participative democracy. In the users' instructions they very precisely describe the course of the citizens' conferences. This work wants to plead public discussions so that the participative democracy accompanies the transformation of the elective democracy to the profit of a new model of freedom.

Conférences de Citoyens – Mode d'Emploi, by Dominique Bourg and Daniel Boy. Edition Charles Leopold Mayer, ISBN 2-84377-107-2, 18€ (in French).

Psci-com - Intute

A guide to quality Internet resources on public engagement with science and technology

psci-com is a gateway to evaluated, quality Internet resources relating to public communication of science, public engagement with science and the interpretation of science in society. It is aimed at science promotion practitioners, scientists wishing to communicate their science to lay audiences, researchers, science educators and anyone with an interest in science and society. The web site also provides a calendar of events, a monthly bibliography of relevant articles and new additions from the library at the Wellcome Trust and a link to the psci-com electronic discussion forum.

psci-com is affiliated to BIOME/RDN (The Resource Discovery Network, the UK's free national gateway to Internet resources for the learning, teaching and research community) but it is developed and managed by the Wellcome Library at the Wellcome Trust. In contrast to search engines, the RDN gathers resources which are carefully selected by subject specialists in our partner institutions. Psci-com recently has become part of a new online subject resource called Intute.

<http://psci-com.ac.uk> and www.intute.ac.uk

Dates & Events

November, 3-4 2006

[Genes, Brain/Mind and Behaviour](#)

EMBL/EMBO Science & Society conference at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany.

November 10-15 2006

[IAP2 2006 Annual Conference](#)

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The 2006 annual conference of the International Association for Public Participation will give practitioners an improved conceptual understanding of „the decision“. Those who make the final decision will share their point of view on the importance and benefits of involving the public before, during, and after a decision is made. The conference will focus on the decision through the eyes of the decision maker; a distinctive perspective for public participation practitioners.