

ID card of case study:

Mobile Phones, Antennas, Cables and Public Health (MACH)

Title	The challenging design of a first national participatory process to discuss the potential health impact of mobile base stations placed in very populated areas in Romania
Short description of the case	<p>The participants have to address the objectives of a Romanian research institution aiming at organising the first national participatory process in the country to treat a controversial issue on public health and comfort.</p> <p>They will be introduced to the specific context of the case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the lack of comfort of people living close to huge antennas - the infrastructural requirements and the new successful technological developments demand. <p>They will perform a set of tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - set the context and scene - design a procedure of consultation and participation of public and stakeholders, not acquainted with public participation - explain the reason of this selection, its risks and the critical points - draft a press release of the announcement of the procedure launch <p>This case is based on an intention of a team of the National Institute for Informatics (ICI) and National Institute for Telecommunication (INSCC) to publicly discuss the controversial issue of electromagnetic fields' risk on beings living in areas with many mobile phone base stations.</p>
Training objectives	<p>The participants will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to critically and constructively think about the introduction of participatory methods and activities for new member states - to use their knowledge on comparable projects in their country or from literature in order to find similarities with the Romanian case and to learn from these experiences - to consider the social and political implications of public participation - to adjust participatory tools and methods to specific needs and contexts <p>The case is recommended for researchers, managers, NGO members, telecommunication companies and institutions involved in research, and for those interested in citizen participation in science and technology.</p>

Training method	<p>Participants will work in at least 2 small groups on a problem solving activity designed to simulate a real life situation in Romania, a new Member State of the European Union.</p> <p>This case requires 4 hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0,5 hour introduction to the case - 2 hours of collective work in small groups - 1,5 hour of presentation and debriefing
Previous knowledge required	<p>It is needed to have some knowledge on different participatory tools from literature or from their professional and personal experience as well as a critical and creative attitude towards the implementation of participatory methods in national contexts.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room that allows for work both in small-groups and plenary - Paper board for each small group - Laptop for each small group
Resources and further reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general information on the CIPAST tools platform at http://www.cipast.org - An example of article on health and mobile phones: Euractiv news (1 pag) http://www.euractiv.com/en/infosociety/mobile-phones-health/article-117521; - The brochure: Establishing a dialogue on risks from electromagnetic fields, Published by Radiation and environmental health department of protection of the human environment, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2002 (41 pag small format) - The 2006 WHO Research Agenda for Radio Frequency Fields (10pag) http://www.who.int/peh-emf/research/rf_research_agenda_2006.pdf; - Electromagnetic fields and public health (1 pag) http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs304/en/index.html; - Romanian National Regulatory Authority for Communications and Information Technology (1pag) http://www.anrc.ro/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=106; - Romanian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (1 pag) http://www.mcti.ro/index.php?id=202&L=1
Contact	<p>Gabriela FLORESCU, National Institute for research and Development in Informatics, ICI Bucharest, Romania, flores@ici.ro, floresgabi@yahoo.com</p>