

PE2020: Public engagement tools and instruments for dynamic governance in the field of Science in Society

Dr. Mikko Rask, Consumer Society Research Centre, University of Helsinki
Dr. Timo Aarrevaara, University of Lapland, Finland

ERA-Learn2020 Topic 2: Engaging stakeholders in Public-Public-Partnerships
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PE2020

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PE – the Spirit of RRI

Definition

- Public engagement (PE) refers to ‘activities where there is a distinct role for the citizens or stakeholder groups in research and innovation processes.’

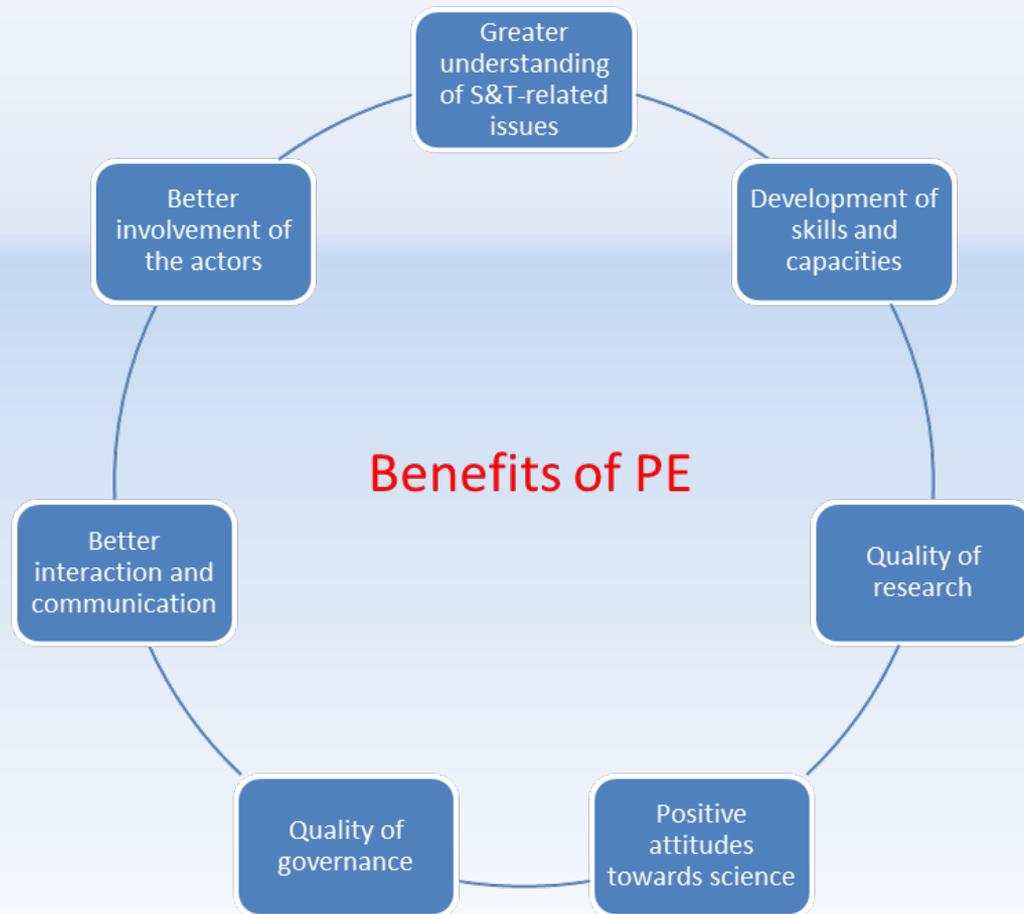
Claim

- PE is the heart and spirit of responsible research and innovation (RRI).

Why PE?

- It is widely expected that citizens will play an even more important role both in governing and implementing innovation activities (Levine and Fung 2005; Jasanoff 2004; SPP 1999, 2012).
- The declining turnout at elections and the complexity of many policy issues have led to an increased shift towards both deliberation in policy and towards greater public engagement (PE) in decision making (Wilsdon and Willis 2004).
- Citizens have become less deferential and dependent on authorities, more consumerist and volatile, and old styles of representation have come under pressure (Coleman and Gotze 2010).

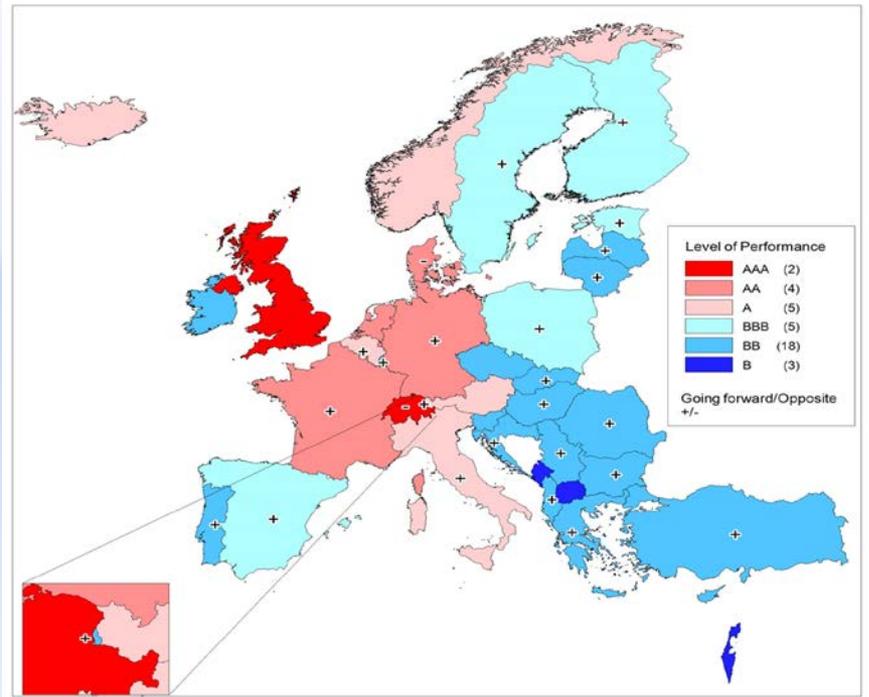
Benefits of PE in SiS activities



Status of PE in the ERA

Previous studies indicate that

- Cultures and practices of PE are unevenly distributed in the ERA
- Developing new governance innovations based on PE is neither a matter of fierce competition between nations nor a zero-sum game.
- As PE has become a more professional activity, the influence of the national environment has become even more vital, since it shapes how specialized skills and resources are developed.
- Some progressive nations, such as the UK, tend to export their culture and practices to other nations.
- The whole field of PE activity could benefit from a spirit of innovation.



Source: Rask, M. Maciukaite-Zviniene, S. et al. (2012), Innovations in Public Engagement and Participatory Performance of the Nations, Science and Public Policy 39 (2012) pp. 710–721

Current concerns about PE

- EC's commitment to RRI causes increasing pressure for national research agencies to include PE practices
 - RRI aims at structurally changing practices and governance of European research institutions (comprehensiveness and irreversibility)
- An intensified bottom-up movement for PE
 - A high number of non-profit organisations as promoters of PE initiatives, involvement of voluntary action
 - This pro-PE movement only marginally involves academic institutions as such
- PE is presently unable, at least partially, to play the transformative role EC has assigned to it



What can be done to develop more engaging SiS cultures in the ERA?

PE2020 contributions

- WP1: Scanning up-to-date PE practices
 - D1.1 An inventory of 250 PE initiatives and 76 mechanisms
 - D1.2 Catalogue of 38 innovative PE initiatives
- WP2: Analysing what makes PE succesful and how it contributes to more dynamic governance
 - D2.2 A conceptual model of PE across the dynamically governed research policy cycle
- WP3: Piloting innovative PE in research programme context
- WP4: Developing a webtool in collaboration with sister projects (RRI tools, Engage2020)



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Tasks for WP3

To test and refine 2–6 innovative public engagement tools (living lab, on-line platform etc.) and processes in the context of research programmes closely linked to the Horizon 2020 challenges



To evaluate the feasibility of using the tools, tested in the pilot initiatives, for other countries and for other societal challenges



To gain understanding of relevance of contextual factors in designing PE processes, and to provide input for the toolkit (developed in WP4)



Pilot initiatives as feasibility studies



WP3 has identified and carried out six pilot initiatives

- related to societal challenges
- having a transnational dimension and taken into account
 - contextual requirements
 - creation of a comparative research perspective
 - documentation of the pilot initiatives experiences for further evaluation purposes



Selection criteria



- hybrid combinations of participatory tools to enhance discussions between researchers (science) and the public (society),
- methodologically novel dialogue-based engagement, participant empowerment and governance contribution,
- inclusive new ways of representation in terms of selection methods of actors, new combinations of actors,
- potential impact about change, participators' influence and impact on public debate,
- bearing on the seven societal challenges identified in Horizon 2020, and
- feasibility regarding effective transfer to other contexts and pilot initiatives tested within limited resources.



Pilot initiatives in PE2020



Located in Finland:

Promoting science-society dialogue among the Baltic Sea early-career scientists

Societal interaction plan in research on demographic change

Global change living lab

Located in Italy:

Involving researchers in education on public engagement

Public forum on mobility and transportation

Empowering young researchers on PE in energy efficiency



Dynamic governance



- refers to dynamic interactions between scholars, citizens, industry and government as an exploratory, inductive approach in governance
- the critical point is a presence or absence of dynamics, tension of changes and co-operation (Guldbrandsen 2014, Kooiman 2010)
- evaluation criteria to identify dimensions of dynamic governance are based on the concepts of anticipation, reflexivity and transdisciplinility



What next? The societal interaction plans?



- What are the capacities of interaction with the plans to better understanding of dynamic governance? These capacities include foresight, reflexivity and transdisciplinarity.
- Are all the goals described in interaction plans primarily scientific, political or other social goals? What is their timing?
- What kind of interaction practices the plans include? Involving public communication, public activism, public consultation, public deliberation, public participation -with special attention to the categories of public consultation and public deliberation with hybrid links to other methods
- What are the stages of research and decision-making processes are located?