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## **COVER NOTE**

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Subject: Citizen engagement in Missions  
1) Status of methodology and praxis  
2) Challenges for Missions  
- Powerpoint presentation (Research WP meeting 10.02.2022)

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# Citizen engagement in Missions

- 1) Status of methodology and praxis
- 2) Challenges for Missions

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# Status of methodology and praxis

- **Engagement: To invite others to have influence on your own praxis**
  - Different from "communicating", "convincing", "educating", "campaigning" ....
  - Involves proper information, deliberation and messages "from them to you"
- **Creates knowledge on informed opinion, expands the visionary room, increases societal relevance, involves and gives ownership to RTI and policy**



FP7 Science in Society 2011-2015



- Methodology = Ability to select and adapt methods to the situation
- Methods = Procedures to follow to gain certain kinds of results
- Techniques = Interchangeable elements in methods

# Many perspectives

RTI role	Citizens	Affected	C
Policy formation			
Agenda setting			



	Raising knowledge	Forming attitudes	Initialising action
Tech/Sci aspects	<b>SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT</b> * Technical options assessed and made visible * Comprehensive overview on consequences given	<b>AGENDA SETTING</b> * Setting the agenda in the political debate * Stimulating public debate * Introducing visions or scenarios	<b>REFRAMING OF DEBATE</b> * New action plan or initiative to further scrutinise the problem decided * New orientation in policies established
Societal aspects	<b>SOCIAL MAPPING</b> * Structure of conflicts made transparent	<b>MEDIATION</b> * Self-reflecting among actors * Blockade running * Bridge building	<b>NEW DECISION MAKING PROCESSES</b> * New ways of governance introduced * Initiative to intensify public debate taken
Policy aspects	<b>POLICY ANALYSIS</b> * Policy objectives explored * Existing policies assessed	<b>RE-STRUCTURING THE POLICY DEBATE</b> * Comprehensiveness in policies increased * Policies evaluated through debate * Democratic legitimisation perceived	<b>DECISION TAKEN</b> * Policy alternatives filtered * Innovations implemented * New legislation is passed



# Methods are different for good reasons

- Role of participants
- Type of participants
- Selection of participants
- Format: F2F/Blended/Online
- How transparent?
- Available budget and time
- Types of results wanted
- How much influence delegation?
- Which level of complexity?
- .....

**Engage2020:**  
**~90 parameters for  
method selection**



# Actioncatalogue.eu

- **Global scan** of methods
  - → 57 “mother methods” plus variants
- **Selection system** with most used criteria

**Helps to get an idea of the relevant methods for a researcher**

**But, cannot make it up for a trained engagement practitioner**

# Case 1: Human Brain Project



10-year flagship project

From day 1: “Ethics and society / RRI” subproject: includes regular citizen consultations:

- Privacy in health research infrastructure → state of art privacy policy
- Dual Use and brain science → internal work group and policy brief for EU
- AI in science → awareness raising and policy recommendations
- Brain Disease Signatures (ongoing)

Lesson 1: Engagement expertise embedded in project organization

Lesson 2: Ability and flexibility to do the right thing at a given moment

Lesson 3: Internal (science) and external (policy) messages connected

# Case 2: RUMIGEN

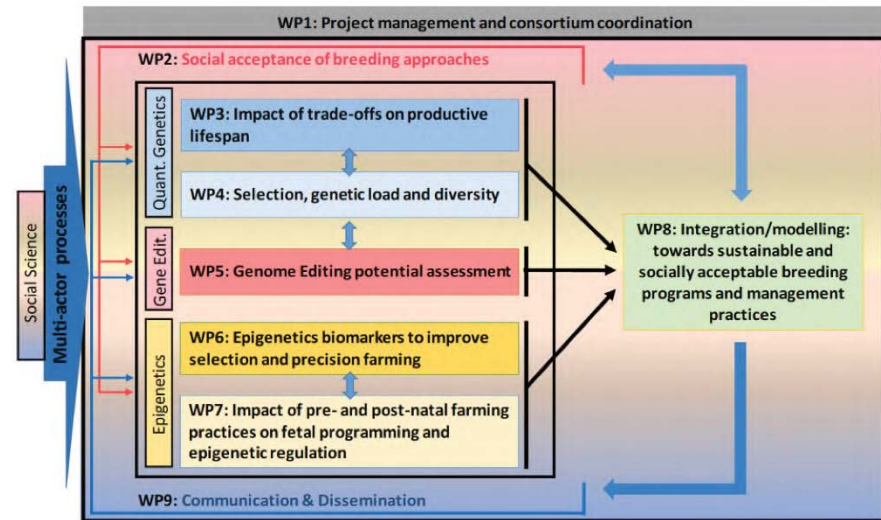
5-year ongoing project: New ruminant breeding approaches for climate, diversity and resilience

- “Room of acceptance” by SSH science and engagement experts
- Scenarios respecting the RoA developed with multi-actors
- Check scenarios in EU-wide citizen engagement
- Feed results into final development and conclusions on new breeding guidelines

Lesson 1: Engagement at the core of project design

Lesson 2: Combining multi-actor and citizen engagement in work-flow

Lesson 3: Science and society connected to improve science





# Summary 1

- 60+ methods and online methodology tool available
  - We do not lack engagement methods
- Methodology is complex – demands expertise
  - Methods can be executed after some training
- Engagement sits well as a core project strategy
  - Especially when projects are meant to influence the life of citizens

# Challenges for missions

- First of all – citizen engagement is demanded everywhere in the Missions WP (and elsewhere in HE). A big step-up from Horizon2020!!
- Some challenges can be identified, though
- May need to be taken care of to make Missions have the wished societal impact and wide ownership to solutions.

# Science, innovation, policy and implementation combined



- For complex challenges, these two worlds have to be coupled
- Participatory, inclusive, dialogical approaches are those that can glue the knowledge and the policy trajectories together

→ Which channels for engagement to influence both?

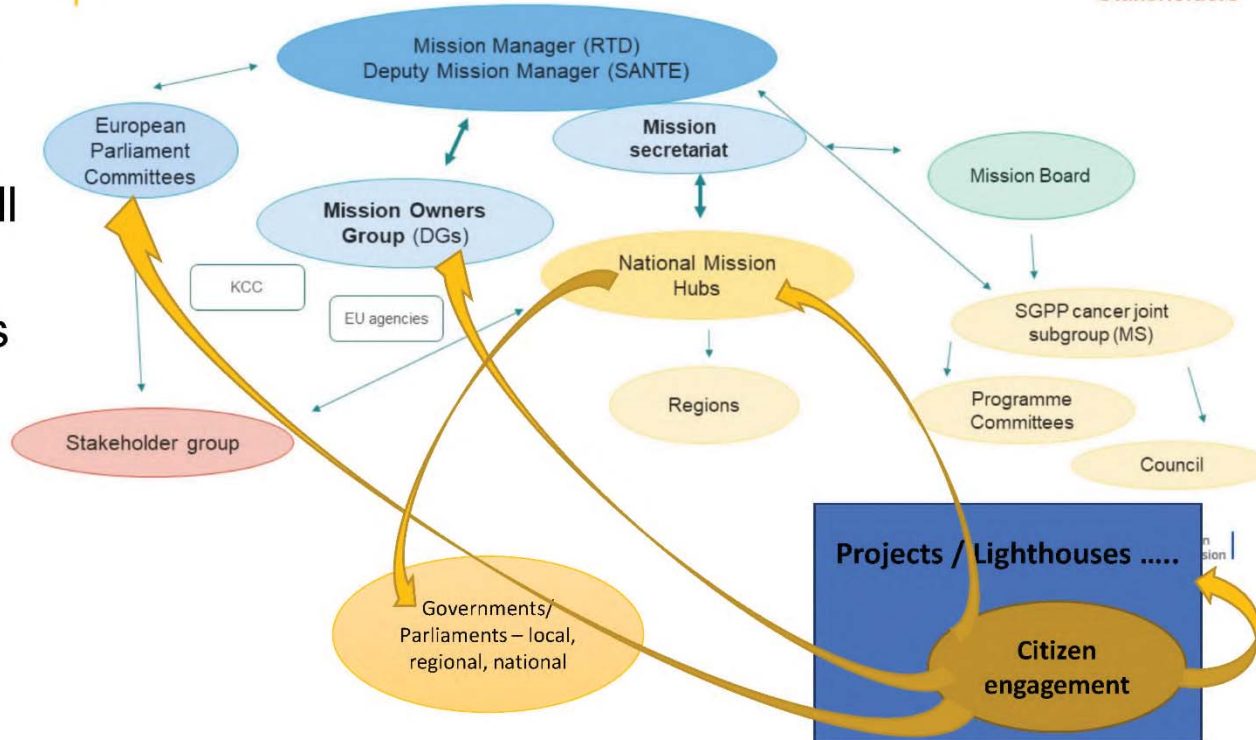
→ Policy DGs and member states will need to open up policy development processes for citizen engagement

# Channels for influence?

- What are the channels citizen engagement shall use?
- Not obvious that citizens can reach the policy actors

## Mission on Cancer – governance

EU level  
National level  
Advisory  
Stakeholders

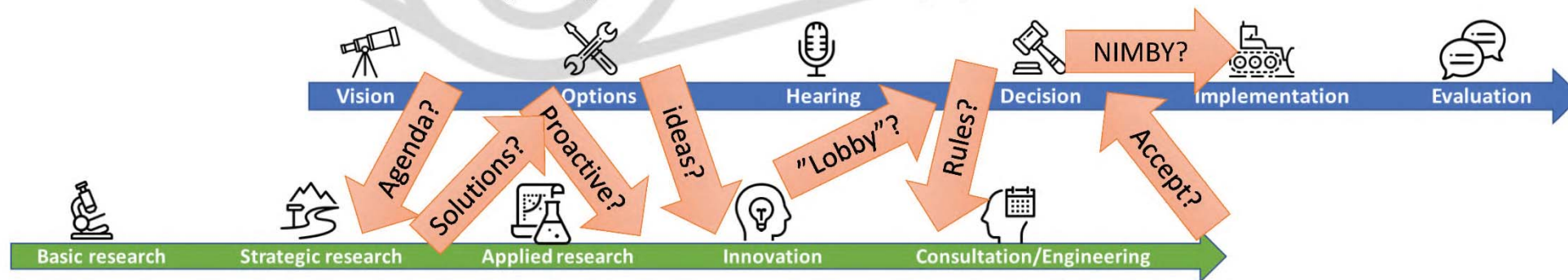


→ Clear definition of channels (stronger than policy briefs.....)

→ Clear central responsibility for supporting the channels



# When will engagement happen?



- Important to foresee the needed engagement between RTI and policy
- Very early (Open Research Agenda Setting) can provide bottom-up signals
- Conflicts come when engagement needs are pushed to the last policy phases

→ These are "engagement strategic" decisions – who take them??

→ ORAS could be part of all Missions – co-creating STI and policy agendas

→ Targeted engagement to be initiated from RTI as well as from policy

# Engagement a core strategy?

- Engagement has strong potential as core strategy in Missions,
- but this seems not really implemented in the 2021 WP
- Strategically very differently placed in each Mission
- Topic-strong PI's will lead most projects – will engagement expertise be at core – or become providers of 'side-activities'?

→ Topic calls on core projects should demand an engagement strategy as part of the proposal

→ Core projects should hold methodology expertise in core team

# Summary 2

- Missions need to have engagement initiated from the science as well as the policy side
- Missions need clear channels to policy – especially for engagement outputs
- Engagement needs to be based on explicit strategy
  - In missions and in projects
- That demands methodology expertise in core teams



**Engage2020.eu**  
**Actioncatalogue.eu**  
**Humanbrainproject.eu**  
**Ebrains.eu**  
**Rumigen.eu**

**Thanks for listening**

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