

Pathways to impact from SSH research

Valuation pathways of social sciences – drivers, barriers, success and failures

**Rethinking societal impact –
collaboration with stakeholders**

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Introduction and background

Projects funded by EU Research and Innovation Programmes should increasingly involve citizens and should create societal, including political, impact.

‘Mobilise and involve citizens’ is one of the recommendations in the Lamy report and should be achieved by stimulating ‘co-design and co-creation through citizen involvement’.

European Commission, DG RTD, *LAB – FAB – APP – Investing in the Future we want*, Luxembourg 2017, page 6.

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Mobilising and involving citizens

Good practice examples from many programmes and projects are available, e.g. from

- the Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER) Programme in FP4
- the FP projects IMPACT-EV (FP7), DANDELION (H2020) and ACCOMPLISSH (H2020)
- national funding agencies, e.g. the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in UK and the evaluation of the social sciences (SAMEVAL) in Norway

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Tools for mobilising and involving citizens

1) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as consortium members

They should be

- engaged in the proposal process,
- partly involved in the research studies,
- responsible for the Plan for Exploitation and Dissemination of Results (PEDR),
- paid for their involvement (person months, other and indirect costs).

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Tools for mobilising and involving citizens

2) National Stakeholder Groups (NSGs)

- Members can come from public (incl. schools), private (incl. media) or social partner organisations, industry and CSOs.
- Their tasks can differ, according to the needs of the project and the national consortium member/s, the national context and the expected impacts.

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Collaboration with CSOs and NSGs

Challenges: various demands and tasks at the work places (e.g. research – teaching – advocacy); different languages and cultures

Action: dedicated impact management, e.g. through the involvement of an impact manager and an impact committee

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Case study H2020 project DARE

DARE – Dialogue About Radicalisation and Equality

Research and Innovation Action, Societal Challenge 6, Work Programme 2016

17 consortium members from 13 different countries

11 Work Packages, Duration: May 2017 – April 2021

Coordinator: Hilary Pilkington, University of Manchester, UK

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Case study H2020 project DARE

DARE aims to broaden understanding of radicalisation, demonstrates that it is not located in any one religion or community and explores the effects of radicalisation on society.

DARE focuses on environments in which radicalisation messages are found, rather than terrorist events or individuals.

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Case study H2020 project DARE

DARE has a strong focus on involving citizens to create and disseminate new knowledge. These are some of the tools for achieving societal impact:

1) The consortium comprises two CSOs: **the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and the People for Change Foundation (PfC)**. Both are responsible for exploitation and dissemination actions, e.g. the DARE website, dialogue workshops and policy forums. They are also involved in some of the research studies and they are members in the **DARE Impact Sub-Committee (ISC)**.

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Case study H2020 project DARE

2) DARE has established **National Stakeholder Groups (NSGs)** in nearly all participating countries. Most NSGs have between six and 12 members and meet app. two times each year.

Challenge: to create understanding and acceptance for the relevance and benefit of having a NSG.

*Advantage: support and monitoring by the **ISC and the Impact Manager.***

Actions: impact workshop during a consortium meeting and regular communication; minutes from NSG meetings and internal impact reports.

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3) Based on the DARE findings, the ISC supports the early development and dissemination of **Policy Briefs**, and their translation into national languages.

Challenge: writing a Policy Brief which is interesting and easy to understand by different stakeholders and in different languages.

Action: the ISC will develop a guideline relevant and acceptable for DARE and the Research Executive Agency.

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Conclusions and recommendations

- 1) **Stakeholder involvement in research proposals and projects** is one tool for mobilising and involving citizens.
- 2) Stakeholder involvement can be strengthened through different actions, e.g. by **involving CSOs in the project team** and by **establishing NSGs**.
- 3) **Dedicated impact management** at different levels (project, programme, department, organisation) could enhance and ease the involvement of stakeholders.

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Conclusions and recommendations

- 4) Acknowledgment of the **involvement of stakeholders as indicator for the Societal Readiness Level** of a proposal and project.
- 5) **Funding** for communication, dissemination and impact management **after the end of a project** to encourage, monitor and secure possible societal impacts.
- 6) Enhance the involvement of citizens in the development of work programmes and missions in Horizon Europe, e.g. through **dialogue workshops or future search conferences at national and regional levels.**

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Reminder and outlook

‘There is a need for **greater outreach** to civil society to better explain results and impacts and the contribution that research and innovation can make to tackling societal challenges, and to **involve them better** in the programme co-design (agenda setting) and its implementation (co-creation).’