



Timo Aarrevaara 17 October 2017

Research for evidence-based decision-making and societal interaction

<http://www.ulapland.fi/prosoc>



LAPIN YLIOPISTO
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Professional knowledge as a driver of socio-economic change

scholarly concept of professional research combining disciplines, institutions and expertise

to develop open data, research methods and co-writing based on open data

- The Academic Profession in the Knowledge-based Society: survey in 30+ countries, successor of the international CAP survey
- Changing Professionalism in Social Work
- The construction of ethics by Finnish healthcare professionals: A bioethical perspective
- Study on complaint procedure
- Network behaviour of professions
- Usability and industrial design
- Simulation studies and digitalisation



<http://vnk.fi/tula>

Weak and strong research evaluation systems

Weak research evaluation systems are weighted with funding instruments, lack of the pre-defined criteria in decision-making is evident, documentation and evaluation of the impact is minimal. Scholarly authority rules the valorisation of the results.

Strong research evaluation systems are based in the scientific institutions such as universities and research institutes, and they also have a well-established standards such as assessment systems and rankings. The significance of research management crucial.

Knowledge brokers

- knowledge is often “absorbed” or “embedded” in to the action and in different academic and administrative units
- knowledge gatekeepers in innovation networks
- KB’s at the centre of the network and having a number of networks and being able to influence network operations due to large amounts of information
- Embedded institutional connections to platforms in the innovation process
- KB’s may act without
definition and recognition

Tasks for PE2020

To test and refine 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



<https://pe2020.eu/>

Rask et al. (2017, forthcoming): Public Engagement, Science and Society: Tools for Dynamic and Responsible Governance of Research and Innovation (Routledge)

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

<https://toolkit.pe2020.eu/>

Objectives

- The working environment and programme context of the pilot initiatives plays a crucial role in the way researchers have reacted to the PE methods
- To promote active and continuous involvement with actors outside the scholarly community
- The pilot studies have encouraged research projects to enhance public engagement tools and to promote platforms to collaborate with external stakeholders
- The key to giant steps is in the rules of funding agencies, societal impacts and stakeholder involvement

➔ There was intensive co-operation between researchers and science policy actors



Selection criteria

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- 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

Engagement frame

Initiative angle of engagement (X)	bottom-up	deliberative	top-down
The timing of engagement (Y)			
downstream			Involving researchers in education on PE
midstream	Empowering young scientists working on Baltic Sea research	Societal interaction plans	Empowering young researchers on PE in energy efficiency
upstream	Public forum on mobility and transportation	Global Change Living lab	

Escobar, O., 2014 ;Mačiukaitė-Žvinienė et al., 2014

Midstream PE affect future research agenda development (upstream), but the focus is mainly on the post-production phase of research (communication) and the impacts of research within the society (downstream)

Goals for the Strategic Research Council (SRC) pilot initiative

- To unravel the meaning and role of societal interaction in the SRC-funded projects:
 - how the interaction relationship is formed
 - how the partnerships are served, and
 - how research activities are integrated with societal interaction activities.
- To investigate the objectives the interaction activities aim to serve, which forms of practice are chosen to do this, and to understand how the practices are integrated into the timing patterns of the projects as well as the stakeholders.
- To study the kinds of expertise that are considered necessary for the successful implementation of societal interaction

- consortiums consists at least three research teams
- at least two different organisations (e.g. universities, research institutes or business companies)
- the researchers must represent at least three different disciplines

criteria for societal interaction plans quite open

goal is to engage end-users of research knowledge as early as possible

- The context of the methods allows new and innovative combinations of practices
- Impact is built on the method of PE and the whole process
- Reflexivity and multi-disciplinarity are strongly connected
- A vision of co-design as a working method is key defining element in how reflexivity is manifested



We found out: SIP is part of the research design

- A vision of co-design as a working method is the key defining element in how reflexivity is manifested
- Target-oriented, dynamic approach with drizzling, diminishes linear approach with phases of social interaction
- Reflexivity and multi-disciplinarity are strongly connected
- SIP implementations are part of the research design: that the foresight elements as well as the reflectivity has been supported by research consortia to identify relevant research problems
- On science communication rather than other methodologically novel interaction practices - the context of the methods allows new and innovative combinations of practices

“Academics tend to be highly motivated, have flexible itineraries and schedules and have a high sense of responsibility”
(Teichler, Arimoto & Cummings)

“Organizational support correlate with respect and organizational commitment”
(Boezeman & Ellemers)