

strategicRESEARCH



Changing Society and Active Citizenship, CITIZEN (2017–2021)

**Evaluation of the strategic
research programme**



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

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Executive Summary

The Finnish Government adopted the strategic research theme “Changing Society and Active Citizenship” on 6 October 2016. The research carried out under this theme was expected to shed light on information needs and the challenges posed by global change to the functioning and stability of the Finnish political system. This included identifying answers and solutions to respond to the need for greater awareness of political systems in the context of the increasingly international operating environment. The objective of the research was also to foresee changes in a way that improves capabilities for bringing political institutions and citizens closer together, reinforcing engagement in the democratic process as well as increasing mutual trust between demographic groups and confidence in public institutions. The research teams were further expected to identify and develop the necessary procedures for reconciling the fast pace of policymaking with the long-term approach required by social reforms. It was seen that evidence-based information and Finland’s traditions of good governance create a sound basis for developing new operating models of international interest. Based on this thematic framework, the Strategic Research Council (SRC) launched the SRC programme “Changing Society and Active Citizenship (CITIZEN)”. The CITIZEN programme started in September 2017 and ended in August 2021, but the funding was extended to February 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In December 2022, the Division of Strategic Research at the Academy of Finland invited an expert panel to assess the performance of the programme. The expert panel conducted this evaluation between January and April 2023. For the evaluation, the staff at the Academy of Finland provided comprehensive material on the background, plans and results of the programme. After analysing the material, the panel drew up initial conclusions and raised additional questions for the programme actors. Based on these, the panel conducted interviews with the programme and project directors. The evaluation panel held a total of three meetings during the review process and prepared an evaluation report together.

The evaluation panel assessed the performance of the programme based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. Promoting high-quality, multidisciplinary research on the problems and needs in the programme’s domain
2. Creating concrete steps towards tackling those problems and needs in Finnish society
3. Strengthening research & stakeholder communities in the programme’s domain

Based on its observations on the performance of the CITIZEN programme in items 1-3, the panel drew lessons and recommendations for developing strategic research programmes and their operations in the future.

The evaluation panel found that overall, the CITIZEN programme has been highly successful in meeting its stated aims. There are several areas where the programme performed outstandingly but also areas where it has been less successful.

Most importantly, the CITIZEN programme directly addressed challenging and thorny societal problems. The programme generated significant policy impacts, including policy briefings jointly written with stakeholders, close collaboration with ministries, and contributions to formal consultation processes. The evaluation panel notes that co-design of projects, co-production of knowledge and extensive stakeholder engagement drawing on valuable experiential knowledge and learning, as well as collaborative problem solving took place across the public, private and third sector.

The projects of the CITIZEN programme made an exceptional contribution to multi-disciplinary research. The projects also carried out notable contributions to research capacity building, including 11 PhDs and several future and current projects in receipt of new funding resulting from the CITIZEN programme.

All projects under the CITIZEN programme had highly successful and extensive dissemination strategies as evidenced by high quality academic and non-academic publications, including popular science prize winning books; numerous stakeholder events; social media; scientific cafes; video and audio outputs. Activities created extensive and significant contributions to public debates in several areas, including political participation and collaborative governance.

The three CITIZEN projects complemented each other in a positive and constructive manner, using different interaction and stakeholder strategies, as well as differing methodologies. This ensured limited duplication across the programme. Importantly, the development of democratic innovations had a demonstrably positive impact in Finland. The projects “imported”, and importantly adapted, novel practices to Finland – e.g., models developed in Oregon, USA. Subsequently, Finnish adaptations and lessons have been “exported” to other countries such as Sweden and Portugal.

While this was one of the smallest programmes in terms of SRC funding between 2015–2021, it delivered outstanding value for money producing significant results in terms of outputs and impacts. These three projects have clearly demonstrated the value of larger, forerunner-type and social science-based funding and what it can deliver for the wider society. On a special note, the projects should be commended for their agility and creativity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Strategic Research Council’s support was key to the success of the programme and has given a significant and much needed boost to social science research in Finland. The evaluation panel commends the Strategic Research Council for funding large-scale, long-term social science projects.

While acknowledging the overall success of the programme, the evaluation panel finds that the following areas need further consideration and improvement:

- Publications and data sets should be opened for wider access when possible and following the FAIR principles. There remains work to be done in this area.
- While there were several academic outputs that appeared in the highest internationally regarded outlets, this varied between the projects. The evaluation panel would encourage all projects to seek to publish in these outlets.
- While the three projects complemented each other in terms of methods, objectives and stakeholders, the evaluation panel believes that greater interaction and exchange during the course of the programme would have delivered added value.
- The role of the programme director could have been strengthened by allowing each programme director to focus on one programme, rather than balancing several. The director role could also have been given an enhanced mandate to proactively coordinate between the projects.
- While the evaluation panel has commended the funding of such large interdisciplinary projects, it also highlights the importance of smaller research endeavors to enhance further capacity building. Larger projects tend to be awarded to well-established scholars potentially leaving emerging scholars, possibly with more niche or emerging topics, with fewer opportunities to secure research funding.

More detailed recommendations and conclusions are provided in Section 4.

Tiivistelmä (Executive Summary in Finnish)

Valtioneuvosto päätti 6. lokakuuta 2016, että strategisen tutkimuksen teema-alue vuodelle 2017 on "Muuttuva yhteiskunta ja kansalaisuus globaalissa murroksessa". Teeman puitteissa toteutettavan tutkimuksen tuli kehittää ratkaisuja ja vastata tarpeeseen lisätä poliittisten järjestelmien tuntemusta toimintaympäristön kansainvälistyessä. Tutkimuksen tavoitteeksi asetettiin myös muutoksien ennakointi tavalla, joka parantaa valmiuksia tuoda instituutioita ja kansalaisia lähemmäksi toisiaan, vahvistaa kansalaisten osallistumista sekä luottamusta eri väestöryhmien välillä ja myös suhteessa julkiseen valtaan. Tutkimuksen avulla tuli tunnistaa ja kehittää toimintatapoja, joilla voidaan sovittaa yhteen politiikanteon nopeatahtisuus ja yhteiskunnallisten uudistusten vaatima pitkäjänteisyys. Strategisen tutkimuksen neuvosto (STN) käynnisti tämän temaattisen viitekehyksen pohjalta tutkimusohjelman "Muuttuvat hallinnan tavat ja aktiivinen kansalaisuus" (CITIZEN). CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelma alkoi syyskuussa 2017 ja päättyi elokuussa 2021, mutta rahoitusta jatkettiin helmikuuhun 2022 asti COVID-19-pandemian vuoksi.

Suomen Akatemian strategisen tutkimuksen vastuualue kutsui joulukuussa 2022 asiantuntijapaneelin arvioimaan päättyneen CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelman toteutusta, tuloksia ja vaikuttavuutta. Arviointi toteutettiin tammikuun ja huhtikuun 2023 välisenä aikana. Strategisen tutkimuksen vastuualue toimitti arviointia varten kattavan aineiston ohjelman taustoista, suunnitelmista ja tuloksista. Aineistoon tutustuttuaan paneeli laati alustavat johtopäätökset ja esitti lisäkysymyksiä ohjelmassa rahoitetujen hankkeiden vetäjille ja ohjelmajohtajalle. Asiantuntijapaneeli piti arviointiprosessin aikana yhteensä kolme kokousta ja laati yhdessä lopullisen arviointiraportin.

Asiantuntijapaneeli arvioi ohjelman saavutuksia seuraavien arviointikriteerien perusteella:

1. Korkeatasoisen, monitieteisen tutkimuksen edistäminen ohjelman teema-alueen ongelmista ja tarpeista
2. Konkreettisten toimien luominen näiden ongelmien ja tarpeiden ratkaisemiseksi suomalaisessa yhteiskunnassa
3. Tutkimus- ja sidosryhmäyhteisöjen ja niiden välisten yhteyksien vahvistaminen ohjelman teema-alueella

Asiantuntijapaneeli teki ohjelman saavutuksia koskevien arvioidensa perusteella myös johtopäätöksiä ja suosituksia STN-ohjelmien kehittämiseksi tulevaisuudessa.

Asiantuntijapaneelin arvioinnin mukaan CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelma on kaiken kaikkiaan onnistunut hyvin. Ohjelma on onnistunut useilla vaikuttavuuden alueilla erinomaisesti, mutta on myös alueita, joilla se ei onnistunut niin hyvin.

Asiantuntijapaneelin mukaan erityisen ansiokasta on, että CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelmassa puututtiin rohkeasti hyvin haastaviin ja hankaliin yhteiskunnallisiin ongelmiin. Ohjelma vaikutti merkittävästi poliittiseen päätöksentekoon. Tästä ovat esimerkkejä muun muassa yhdessä sidosryhmien kanssa laaditut politiikkasuositukset, tiivis yhteistyö eri ministeriöiden kanssa ja aktiivinen osallistuminen virallisiin

kuulemisprosesseihin. Paneelin mielestä hankkeiden yhteissuunnittelua, tiedon yhteistuotantoa ja sidosryhmien laajaa osallistamista sekä ongelmanratkaisuyhteistyötä toteutettiin monipuolisesti niin julkisen, yksityisen kuin kolmannenkin sektorin kanssa. Sidoryhmien vuorovaikutuksessa hyödynnettiin paitsi olemassa olevaa toimijoiden arvokasta kokemustietoa, myös yhdessä oppimista.

CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelman hankkeet edistivät poikkeuksellisen paljon monitieteellistä tutkimusta. Hankkeilla edistettiin myös merkittävästi tutkimuskapasiteetin kehitystä. Ohjelman aikana muun muassa valmistui 11 tohtorintutkintoa. Lisäksi useat hankkeet saivat uutta rahoitusta CITIZEN-ohjelman ansiosta.

Kaikki CITIZEN-ohjelman hankkeet toteuttivat erittäin onnistuneesti laajoja tiedotusstrategioitaan. Tästä osoituksia ovat korkeatasoiset niin akateemiset kuin laajemmalle yleisöllekin suunnatut julkaisut ja tuotokset, kuten populaaritieteelliset kirjat, lukuisat sidoryhmätilaisuudet, sosiaalisen median alustat, tieteelliset tilaisuudet sekä video- ja äänituotokset. Monipuolisen viestinnän keinoin on edistetty laajasti julkista keskustelua. Viestintä on myötävaikuttanut erityisesti poliittisen osallistumisen tapojen ja yhteistoiminnallisen hallinnon ymmärrykseen.

Kolme STN:n CITIZEN-hanketta myös täydensivät toisiaan myönteisellä ja rakentavalla tavalla. Hankkeet hyödynsivät erilaisia vuorovaikutus- ja sidosryhmästrategioita sekä erilaisia tutkimuksen ja osallistamisen menetelmiä. Näin varmistettiin, että tutkimusohjelmassa oli päällekkäisyyksiä vain vähän. Asiantuntijapaneeli pitää tärkeänä, että demokraattisten innovaatioiden kehittämisellä on ollut todistettavasti myönteisiä vaikutuksia Suomessa. Hankkeet onnistuivat tuomaan Suomeen uusia käytäntöjä – kuten esimerkiksi Yhdysvaltojen Oregonissa kehitetyn yhteistoiminnallisuuden ja konfliktinratkaisun toimintamallin - sekä mukauttivat niitä Suomeen. Myöhemmin suomalaisia mukautuksia ja oppeja on vuorostaan viety muihin maihin, esimerkiksi Ruotsiin ja Portugaliin.

Vaikka tämä oli yksi pienimmistä ohjelmista Strategisen tutkimuksen neuvoston myöntämän rahoituksen määrässä mitattuna vuosina 2015–2021, se tarjosi erinomaista vastinetta rahalle ja tuotti merkittäviä tuloksia. STN:n CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelma ja sen hankkeet ovat selvästi osoittaneet, että laaja, edelläkävijätyyppinen ja yhteiskuntatieteisiin perustuva rahoitus on hyvä sijoitus, ja että sillä voidaan saavuttaa tuloksia laajemmin yhteiskunnan kannalta. CITIZEN-hankkeille on syytä antaa myös tunnustusta ketterydestä ja luovuudesta vuorovaikutustoimintaa toteutettaessa COVID-19-pandemian aikaisten rajoitusten aikana.

Strategisen tutkimuksen neuvoston tuki oli avainasemassa ohjelman onnistumisessa. STN on antanut merkittävän ja kipeästi kaivatun sysäyksen yhteiskuntatieteelliselle tutkimukselle Suomessa. Asiantuntijapaneeli kiittää strategisen tutkimuksen neuvostoa laajojen ja pitkäaikaisten yhteiskuntatieteellisten hankkeiden rahoittamisesta.

Asiantuntijapaneeli toteaa, että seuraavat osa-alueet vaativat jatkoharkintaa ja parannuksia:

- CITIZEN-tutkimusohjelmassa tuotettujen julkaisujen ja tietoaisteistojen tulisi olla laajemmin sekä avoimemmin saatavilla.

- Useat hankkeet julkaisivat kansainvälisesti arvostetuimmissa julkaisuissa, mutta tämä vaihteli paljon hankkeiden välillä. Asiantuntijapaneeli kannustaa jatkossa STN-hankkeita julkaisemaan rohkeammin kansainvälisesti arvostetuissa julkaisuissa.
- Vaikka kaikki kolme CITIZEN-hanketta täydensivät toisiaan menetelmien, tavoitteiden ja sidosryhmien osalta, asiantuntijapaneeli uskoo, että laajempi hankkeiden välinen vuorovaikutus ja tiedonvaihto ohjelman aikana olisi tuonut lisäarvoa.
- Ohjelmajohtajan roolia olisi voitu vahvistaa antamalla ohjelmajohtajan keskittyä yhteen ohjelmaan sen sijaan, että hän olisi tasapainoillut usean ohjelman välillä. Ohjelmajohtajalle olisi myös voitu antaa paremmat valtuudet proaktiiviseen koordinointiin hankkeiden välillä.
- Vaikka asiantuntijapaneeli antaa tunnustusta laajojen ja monitieteisten hankkeiden rahoittamiselle, se korostaa myös pienempien tutkimushankkeiden merkitystä. Suuremmat hankkeet myönnetään yleensä jo vakiintuneille tutkijoille, jolloin uusilla tutkijoilla, joilla on mahdollisesti kapeampia, mutta uusia aiheita, on vähemmän mahdollisuuksia saada tutkimusrahoitusta.

Yksityiskohtaisemmat suositukset ja päätelmät esitetään luvussa 4.

Foreword

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) established within the Academy of Finland funds thematic research programmes aiming at high scientific quality, great societal relevance and distinguishable impact. SRC-funded research seeks solutions to grand challenges that require multidisciplinary approaches. An important element of the research is active and ongoing collaboration between knowledge producers and knowledge users.

The SRC is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the research it has funded. However, it is not always feasible to provide conclusive evidence of impact. The societal impact of research can also manifest itself years after the completion of the work.

Evaluating social impact in the context of research funding requires a distinctive method. The evaluation of SRC programmes does not merely rely on performance indicators but looks at the effectiveness of interaction, its consequences, and potential future impact. Understanding the operations and outcomes of each programme necessitates considering its specific framework, rather than comparing the success of different programmes with each other. The challenges and prospects of finding solutions to specific societal challenges differ, as do the roles that various fields of research play in society.

Four SRC-funded programmes were completed in 2021, and their ex-post evaluation was carried out in 2022–2023. This report presents the results of the ex-post evaluation of the programme “Changing Society and Active Citizenship”, CITIZEN (2017–2021).

The SRC wants to thank the panel members for their indispensable contribution to the programme evaluation. The results of their work, as presented in this report, are of substantial value for the SRC in building the overall picture of the impact and development prospects of its programme funding. In addition, the SRC wants to thank the CITIZEN programme director, consortium members, and stakeholder representatives who participated in the interviews or surveys conducted as part of this evaluation.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Strategic research programmes

The goal of the strategic research funding that was established in 2014, has been to strengthen the impact of research in Finland by producing knowledge that helps develop the functions of different sectors of society. To pursue this goal, the Strategic Research Council (SRC) established within the Academy of Finland is tasked with funding high-quality, long-term, and programme-based research that aims at finding solutions to the major challenges facing Finnish society. Each year, the SRC prepares a proposal on key strategic research themes to be approved by the Finnish Government. The Government decides the final themes, which the SRC formulates into research programmes. The programme funding is intended for extensive, multidisciplinary research consortia that carry out research that is relevant for the programme theme, with an emphasis on active interaction and engagement with knowledge users.

Consortia funded under SRC programmes receive funding for 3–6 years. A consortium's funding plan may also include the full-time salaries of the principal investigator (PI), the subproject PIs and the work package leaders. A part-time programme director employed by their own background organisation, such as a university or research institute, is selected for each SRC programme. The programme directors are responsible for programme-level development of interaction and cross-programme cooperation, and they promote the societal impact of strategic research. For further information on strategic research funding, see the current funding principles.¹

The SRC is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the re-search it has funded, both during and after the funding period. According to the funding principles, the ex-post evaluation is implemented at the programme level. The aim of the evaluation is to assess the current or prospective scientific and societal impact of the completed programme and to produce knowledge to support the development of strategic research programmes. The evaluation focuses on the targeting, processes, outputs and outcomes of the research and interaction activities funded under each programme, as well as their observed or anticipated effects. A particular focus is on the results of multidisciplinary work and the ability to promote scientific renewal. Special characteristics of each programme and project, as well as different societal roles of science, are all considered in the impact review. The evaluation follows the principles of open and responsible science.

1.2. Evaluation of strategic research programmes 2015–2021

This report presents the outcomes of the ex-post evaluation of one of the very first SRC programmes, “Changing Society and Active Citizenship”. The evaluation was conducted in 2022–2023, simultaneously with the evaluation of three other

¹ Funding Principles of Strategic Research Council. <https://www.aka.fi/en/strategic-research/for-applicants-and-projects/for-applicants/funding-principles/> [referred to 13.3.2023]

programmes that ended in 2021, and the evaluation of all four programmes followed the same design, methods, and protocol.

This round of ex-post evaluations was the second time SRC programmes have been evaluated after their completion. The first round of ex-post evaluations was conducted in 2020–2021, and the target of that evaluation was four smaller and shorter programmes which had run between 2016–2019. One of the key findings was that the three-year funding period was too short to enable the programmes to fully realise their ambitious goals.²

In 2021–2022, the strategic research funding scheme as a whole was evaluated by an external research group. The evaluation was part of the implementation of the Government Plan for Analysis, Assessment and Research (VN TEAS). The external research group examined if and to what extent the goals set for the SRC funding have been realized during its first years of implementation (2014–2020). Overall, the results were very positive.³

The present round of ex-post evaluation focused on the following programmes:

- Changing Society and Active Citizenship, CITIZEN (2017–2021)
- A Climate-Neutral and Resource-Scarce Finland, PIHI (2015–2021)
- Equality in Society, EQUA (2015–2021)
- Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions, TECH (2015–2021)

The evaluation of each of the four programmes was conducted by a panel of 4–6 invited foreign and Finnish experts, who had strong experience in the programme's themes within and/or beyond academia (Appendix 1). At least one member of each panel had also participated in the review of research proposals submitted to the original SRC programme call.

The evaluation panels worked independently, without interaction with the other panels. The scope of each evaluation was the given SRC programme as a whole, including: the performance of the projects funded in the programme; the performance of the programme-level work, coordinated by the programme director; and possible added values emerging from the programme.

The panels were tasked with evaluating the performance of the programme in relation to the key goals of SRC funding:

1. Promoting high-quality, multidisciplinary research on the problems and needs in the programme's domain
2. Creating concrete steps towards tackling those problems and needs in the Finnish society (and even beyond)

² Strategic research programme evaluation: <https://www.aka.fi/en/strategic-research/strategic-research/strategic-research-in-a-nutshell/programme-evaluation2/> [referred to 10.5.2023]

³ Kivistö, J., Kohtamäki, K., Lilja, E., Lyytinen, A., Tirronen, J., Holmberg, K., Teräsahde, S., 2022. Strategisen tutkimuksen rahoitusinstrumentin arviointi. Valtioneuvoston selvitys- ja tutkimustoiminnan julkaisusarja 2022:60. Valtioneuvoston kanslia. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-487-3>

3. Strengthening research and stakeholder communities in the programme's domain (even beyond the programme's life span)

The panels were instructed to focus on the input, activities, outputs and outcomes of the research and interaction activities funded in the programme, as well as their observed or anticipated effects (Appendix 2). In addition, the panels were asked to draw lessons and recommendations for developing the strategic research programmes and their operations in the future.

The panels worked between January and April 2023. The evaluation work contained the review of a substantial body of evaluation material (Appendix 3), interviews with key programme actors, participation in three online meetings with the other panel members, compiling the results of the evaluation into this report, and presenting and discussing the key findings with the SRC.

A major part of the quantitative and qualitative evaluation material was assembled from the project's funding applications and various reports from the duration and completion of the programme. In addition, the material included the results of two separate surveys, conducted after the ending of the programme: a self-evaluation questionnaire for consortium members, and a survey for the projects' and the programme's key stakeholders. An important part of the evaluation material were also the interviews with the consortium leaders and the programme director in March 2023.

The evaluation panels were supported by the Academy of Finland staff at the Division of Strategic Research. The staff collected and processed the evaluation materials, designed the evaluation framework and criteria, prepared and attended the panel meetings, organized and documented the interviews, and finalised the evaluation reports.

1.3. Structure of the report

The report is composed of four sections plus several appendices. After this introduction, we present an overview of the programme. The overview includes the programme description as it appeared in the programme funding call in 2017, a short, non-technical description of each of the three consortia funded in this programme, as well as summary tables on the programme's composition and resources (Section 2).

Sections 3 and 4 were written by the evaluation panel and they constitute the crux of this report. Section 3 focuses on the performance of the programme in relation to the three key goals of SRC funding, and the structure of the section loosely follows the criteria defined in the evaluation framework (Appendix 2). Section 4 presents the conclusions and recommendations of the panel, based on their observations and key findings evidenced by the evaluation material.

In addition, the report includes several appendices, which offer more detailed information on the evaluation protocol (Appendices 2–4), as well as on the input, activities, output and outcomes of the projects and the programme that are the focus of the evaluation (Appendices 5–13). The latter include personnel key figures, list of

projects' collaborators, publication lists and analyses, lists of other research output, new research funding, titles of impact stories, and methods and results of the two surveys conducted for the purpose of this evaluation.

2. Overview of the programme

The Finnish Government adopted the strategic research theme “Changing Society and Active Citizenship” on 6 October 2016. Based on this thematic framework, the Strategic Research Council decided to launch the SRC programme Changing Society and Active Citizenship (CITIZEN) in November 2016. The CITIZEN programme started on 1 September 2017 and ended on 31 August 2021, but the funding was extended to 28 February 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the CITIZEN programme, three research consortia and a part-time programme director were granted funding.

2.1. Programme description in the funding call

The Academy of Finland November 2016 call included the following description of the SRC programme CITIZEN:

Peoples’ opportunities to participate in societal activities and influence the decisionmaking that concerns them have changed. Today, there are more channels for people get involved in policy-making processes as individuals, citizens and consumers, for example via web services. At the same time, however, there is increasing polarisation in participation due to factors such as socio-economic status, multiculturalism and health inequality. Finns do not have equal opportunities in terms of participation. Active citizenship requires a large enough knowledge base, sufficient skills and a will to get involved.

Global interconnectedness and multi-level governance are reshaping established structures and procedures. Part of the decision-making power has transferred from the national to the local and regional level on the one hand and to the international and supranational level on the other. Power is also being transferred to non-government actors. Businesses and other actors in the private sector offer services and practices that challenge existing services, structures and the distribution of work. International businesses are also changing the rules of the game at both the national and the international level. Simultaneously, other actors such as foundations, the civil society and networks of other players are taking their place alongside nation states and rethinking established practices. For example, collaboration between large cities in different countries has intensified, which has given rise to, for instance, new innovation clusters and new structures of power.

The new ways of governance and the changing opportunities for participation create a need to assess how and where people can influence matters that concern them. To facilitate this assessment, we need broad expertise and an in-depth understanding of political systems in a global context. It must also be noted that people and organisations have access to increasingly diverse information when they make choices concerning political, economic and societal issues. The amount and nature of available data are changing. At the same time, there is increasing differentiation in knowledge bases, which may lead to one-sidedness and exclusion.

Increasing interaction between citizens and policymakers can contribute to improving the utilisation of multiform data both in policymaking and implementation and in the daily lives of businesses and citizens. In addition, Finland’s traditions of good

governance and the country's level of expertise create a sound basis for finding solutions of international interest that promote active citizenship and participation and lay the foundation for sustainable growth.

Programmatic questions

Focus and context

A. Which significant phenomenon influencing the stability and function of Finland's political system as well as citizenship will the research address?

Solutions and effects

B. Which solutions and governance practices can help strengthen active citizenship, increase mutual trust between demographic groups and build confidence in public institutions and business and industry? What are the impacts of the proposed solutions in different timeframes?

C. Which procedures can help reconcile the fast pace of policymaking with the long-term approach required by social reforms?

Cross-cutting priorities

D. How will governance be reformed to make it internationally interesting and supportive of the sustainable growth of Finnish society?

E. What are the current problems associated with harnessing scientific information in policymaking? How can these problems be solved?

Research in this programme can address the following topics:

- Stability, interaction and consistency of the system of government and policies (e.g., policy on economy and employment, climate and energy, natural resources and food, and social welfare and health)
- Global governance challenges involving not only pressures affecting the role of the state but also the changes perceived by the citizens in their own status (such as issues related to international trade, environmental and security agreements, corporate social responsibility, and EU and other European integration)
- Development of interests, dissemination of information and participation mechanisms in various sectors and at various policy levels (e.g., local, regional, national, European and global levels)
- How to reconcile agreements between labor market parties with the parliamentary system (e.g., research into union formation, contractual structures and decisionmaking, and international operational models)
- Impact of the evolving citizenship, socio-economic inequality and differentiating knowledge bases on participation, communality and the public debate culture (e.g., technological, social and other innovations conducive to civic engagement, and new forms of civic activity)

- The implementation of choices, incentives, guidance and seamless service chains related to active citizenship in various services in the field of social welfare, health, education and employment (e.g., issues related to the reconciliation of different organisations and their jurisdiction).

2.2. Public descriptions of the funded projects and their results

In their final reports, submitted in January 2022, the funded projects and the programme director summarized their work as follows:

Tackling Biases and Bubbles in Participation (BIBU)

BIBU studied the political implications of economic restructuring and showed how citizens affected by structural changes often support populist parties. On the other hand, political polarization is not sharp in Finland: the policy views of the candidates in the studied elections had not sharpened, nor was affective polarization particularly strong. The project also used qualitative research to study the experiences of different groups in society. Citizens belonging to the wealthiest 0,1% presented quite harsh criticism of the welfare model, but in other social groups, the model still enjoys support. The structural changes in the economy seem to be causing a 'great squeeze' on the lives of Finns, which hampers faith in society, especially among the lowest-income groups. BIBU also explored different options for the Nordic welfare model and the preparation of decisions, especially the SOTE reform. In addition, BIBU developed innovations that strengthen democracy: participatory budgeting, digital consultation, citizen data management, and ways to tackle hate speech.

Collaborative Remedies for Fragmented Societies (CORE)

The CORE project developed and promoted approaches based on collaborative governance to address complex problems in Finnish environmental planning and policy-making. The project was built on action-oriented case studies, which worked as platforms for developing and analysing collaborative processes with stakeholders. CORE built understanding on how collaborative processes can be applied in Finnish environmental decision making and provided several best-practice examples of collaborative environmental and natural resource management. The benefits from collaborative governance are evident in situations in which no party can solve the problem unilaterally but need to act and implement solutions together. Collaboration can create diverse value to different actors and empower citizens with new tools to impact decision making. The project identified several factors in Finnish legislation which both enable and hinder collaborative environmental management.

Participation in Long-Term Decision-Making (PALO)

The project explored the problem of short-termism in public decision-making. The project increased knowledge and understanding concerning the present state of long-term policymaking in Finland, as well as the time horizons of among citizens and policymakers. The project examined various solutions that can reduce short-termism and help consider future generations in democratic decision-making. The Finnish political system is relatively capable of long-term decision-making.

International commitments and expert influence in particular enhance long-term decision-making. Policymakers are more future oriented than citizens, but also citizens' political time horizons are wider than assumed. Long-term policymaking can be reinforced by consideration of information on the impact of policy decisions, appointing broad-based bodies that work beyond a single electoral term, and increasing the role of deliberative mini publics in decision-making. Deliberative mini publics, such as citizens' panels and juries, are well-suited for addressing complex and far-reaching problems and they can help make legitimate decisions on contested issues.

Programme director's summary of the programme

The SRC Programme “Changing Society and Active Citizenship” (CITIZEN) sheds light on the information needs and the challenges posed by the societal change to the functioning and stability of the Finnish political system. The research conducted under the programme identifies answers and solutions to respond to the need for greater awareness of political systems in the context of the increasingly international operating environment. The research teams developed the necessary procedures for reconciling the fast pace of policymaking with the long-term approach required by social reforms. The program also looked for new ways to enhance citizen participation as well as investigated and piloted various kinds of democratic innovations. The common message of the programme was jointly formulated by the projects: How democratic innovations can be considered as a cure for democratic deficits. The conclusion of the programme is that the ability of liberal democracies to apply new processes and practices for participation is crucial for mitigating the democratic deficit. Democratic innovations are not, however, a fix to all the many ongoing social, economic and environmental challenges. With the right choice of tools and application processes, they can make decision-making more inclusive and just. The next step is to institutionalize democratic innovations as a part of the existing forms of representative democracy. This calls for cooperation between research and policy-making communities, along with open democratic debate with citizens.

2.3. Composition of the programme

The total funding awarded to the CITIZEN programme was a bit over 14 million euros. The part-time programme director was awarded to slightly over 580 000 euros (Table 1).

Overall, 14 organisations received funding from the CITIZEN programme. These mostly include Finnish universities, state research institutes, and one foreign university (Table 2).

The self-reported key research fields represented by the projects (five per project) cover a total of 11 fields, including several fields of social sciences and humanities, as well as biosciences and environment (Table 3).

Table 1. Funding awarded under the CITIZEN programme.

Project	Applicant	Funding, €
PALO total		4 448 064
PALO	Setälä, Maija	1 572 658
PALO	Hiedanpää, Juha	1 099 992
PALO	Herne, Kaisa	884 341
PALO	Rapeli, Lauri	891 073
BIBU total		4 958 409
BIBU	Kantola, Anu	2 085 775
BIBU	Fornaro, Paolo	286 002
BIBU	Nikunen, Kaarina	845 061
BIBU	Moisio, Pasi	426 844
BIBU	Jokisipilä, Markku	375 095
BIBU	Aitamurto, Tanja	411 849
BIBU	Neuvonen, Aleksi	527 783
CORE total		4 179 471
CORE	Peltonen, Lasse	1 093 726
CORE	Saarikoski, Heli	1 180 029
CORE	Litmanen, Tapio	650 000
CORE	Helander, Nina	429 609
CORE	Polsa, Pia	259 744
CORE	Pölönen, Ismo	486 604
CORE	Miettinen, Eija; Punta, Eeva	79 759
Programme director	Korhonen-Kurki, Kaisa	581 117
CITIZEN programme		14 167 061

Table 2. Organisations involved in the CITIZEN programme.

The darkest colour indicates the organisation that led the consortium.

Organisation type	Organisation	BIBU	CORE	PALO	Prog. director
University	Tampere University				
	University of Turku				
	Hanken School of Economics				
	University of Helsinki				
	University of Jyväskylä				
	University of Eastern Finland				
	Åbo Akademi University				
State research institute	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)				
	Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)				
	Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)				
Other domestic organisation	Demos Research Institute Oy				
	Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA)				
	Linnunmaa Oy/Sweco Industry Oy				
Foreign organisation	University of Illinois Chicago				

Table 3. The five most important research fields of the CITIZEN research projects.

The heatmap shows the top5 research fields of the three CITIZEN projects. The research fields are selected by the projects from the Academy of Finland's research field classification⁴. The tone of the colour indicates the importance of the research field for the project, the darkest colour referring to the most important research field etc. Research fields that were not mentioned by any of the projects are excluded from the heatmap.

Category	Research field	BIBU	CORE	PALO
Social sciences and Humanities	Economics	4		5
	Business Administration		5	
	Sociology, demography	1	3	
	Social policy, social work	5		
	Politology	2		1
	Public administration		2	2
	Communication	3		
	Environmental social science research		1	
	Law		4	
	Psychology			3
Biosciences and the environment	Environmental science			4

⁴ Academy of Finland's research field classification: <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply-for-funding/az-index-of-application-guidelines2/research-field-classification/>

3. Performance of the programme

3.1. Promoting high-quality, multidisciplinary research on the problems and needs in the programme's domain

KEY FINDINGS

- The CITIZEN programme's research had a high social impact and researchers collaborated extensively with societal partners and government organisations.
- The CITIZEN programme benefitted from strong interdisciplinary collaboration.
- The CITIZEN programme published extensively in Finnish, thus making the research accessible for a national audience.

The broad aim of strategic research is to produce solution-oriented research of a high scientific standard that supports policymaking and centrally addresses major societal challenges. The CITIZEN programme was expected to propose short, medium and long-term solutions (Section 2.1.).

Much of the research focused on the development of democratic innovations aimed at engaging marginalized and excluded non-participants. These innovations were seen as means to enhance an active citizenry and to build trust and confidence in the Finnish political system and democracy, most notably in the context of a post-truth age. The programme also aimed to address the ways in which citizen participation hinders the long-term perspectives of decision-making and to identify new perspectives that embrace long-termism and propose incremental institutional changes.

Disciplines and Topics

We, the CITIZEN programme evaluation panel, examined the multidisciplinary competences of the research teams, the relevance and synergy of research plans and the resources for managing multidisciplinary collaboration.

There was diversity and interlinkages within and between the CITIZEN projects regarding academic disciplines, the career stage of researchers, topics and themes investigated and geographical spread. Overall, the programme was hallmarked by high-quality multidisciplinary research led by Finnish researchers. The programme also involved leading international collaborators from research-intensive institutions across Asia (Japan), Australasia (Australia), Europe (Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) and North America (Canada and the United States). The multi- and interdisciplinary mix was largely drawn from the social sciences (including Business Administration, Communication, Economics, Environmental Science, Law, Political Science, Public Administration, Psychology, Social Policy, Social Work and Sociology). The research topics and themes were extensive, ranging from civil and political involvement – including democratic innovations, participatory and collaborative governance, political values, social capital and trust to short-termism in decision-making and policy design (notably in relation to environmental degradation), post-truth politics, hate speech, common pool resources,

automation, migration and inter-generational issues. The programme was characterized by extensive public and private stakeholder involvement as collaborators and partners in co-design and co-production, e.g., national and regional governments, the Prime Minister's Office, civil society organisations, think tanks, businesses, research institutes and even individual citizens, as well as the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD.

Multidisciplinary and capacity building

The projects were multidisciplinary and worked across disciplines in an integrated way. This is clearly evident in the range of disciplines, the co-authorship teams, the publication channels the outputs were published in, doctorates awarded, and the methodological approaches. The projects applied social science frameworks to various social, political, environmental, and technological subsystems. There were some good examples of collaboration between the three projects (and sometimes with other related projects) with the Democracy Workshop being one exemplar.

The main participatory approaches used by the three projects are distinct – BIBU examined participatory budgeting, CORE addressed consensus building and conflict resolution and PALO's focus was on deliberative engagement.

Programme participants engaged in less extensive international visits than initially planned due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 hampered multidisciplinary research reducing the time for team and confidence building and slowed down the collection of empirical data and evidence, as noted below (Section on outputs and dissemination). Nevertheless, the panel was impressed by the extent of international collaboration.

The programme promoted scientific renewal and increased research capacity through the involvement of early career academics, including post-graduate and post-doctoral scholars. In total of 11 PhD and 1 master's degrees were awarded during the life of the project. The size and shape of the academic cohort involved in the programme was balanced – c. 50% were Stage I and Stage II colleagues (e.g., doctoral students, early career researchers, postdoctoral researchers), the other half were Stage III and Stage IV (e.g., lecturers or professors). There was a good gender balance across programme participants: 123 Women and 101 Men (Appendix 5).

Outputs and dissemination

The programme produced over 670 publications (Appendix 8). However, most of the research outputs were targeted at the general public, stakeholders and professional communities – this was a central strategic objective. This is a significant achievement for a multi-disciplinary research programme. There were a large number of open access articles and English language publications. Just under 30% of these peer-reviewed publications are national publications (either in Finnish or by a Finnish publisher) and 25% have been co-authored with international collaborators.

The projects were strategic and coherent in relation to their contribution to knowledge and publication strategy. This is clearly evident in the nominated top 10 publications from each project. The research teams introduced new topics and/or

advanced areas where there has been a paucity of research hitherto, e.g., CORE is one of the first funded projects in Finland on collaborative governance and PALO advanced research on the 'deliberative' turn.

In terms of a proxy measure of quality, 12% of the peer-reviewed articles were published in the JUFO 3 category (the highest level), in journals such as *Sociology*, *European Political Science Review* or *Policy Sciences*. There were large differences between the projects, with one of the projects having relatively few JUFO 3 publications. However, we are aware that there are a number of papers still in progress or under review and anticipate that the number of JUFO 3 outputs will rise much further.

The extensive and comprehensive dissemination strategy that reached out beyond the academy included stakeholder panels, numerous stakeholder events (attended by thousands of people across the entire programme), training events, policy briefs, handbooks, media, social media (blogs, podcast, twitter), scientific cafes, video, and audio practitioner stories. Some participants we interviewed maintained that the societal impact dissemination objective reduced the time and space to focus on top scientific outputs implying a trade-off between societal outreach and academic impact. The panel commends this impressive and extensive dissemination.

There was also significant evidence of innovative methods and/or the combination of methods. This included "iterative and interactive cycle of experimentation and action in real world case studies" across sectors (spatial planning, natural resources management and renewable energy policies), and a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, including surveys, participant observation, co-production, co-design and so on. Due to COVID-19, mini-public experiments had to be carried out online. This may have had an impact on the voices being heard and the dynamics in the experiments, which certainly merits future analysis.

While the projects paid attention to data sharing (esp. CORE and BIBU), there remains significant work to make all the data open (this is ongoing) which requires further monitoring. Regrettably over 40% of all peer-reviewed publications are, as of yet, not available in open access.

Research contribution

We assessed the extent to which the programme advanced knowledge, delivered the state of the art and highlighted best practice, including the integration or transformation of existing disciplinary knowledge, methods, and practices and the advancement of multidisciplinary research.

The programme concluded that the ability of liberal democracies to apply new processes and practices for participation is crucial to mitigating the democratic deficit. While democratic innovations are not a panacea for all the economic, social, and political challenges Finland faces, they can make decision-making more inclusive and just. The programme thus strongly advocated for the institutionalisation of democratic innovations into existing forms of representative democracy.

While citizens affected by economic restructuring often supported populist parties, political polarization was not acute in Finland. The policy views of the candidates in

the 2019 election had not further deepened division, nor was affective polarization particularly strong. The wealthiest Finns (0.1%) and those on very low incomes were highly critical of the welfare state model but there was significant support for it across all other social groups.

The programme identified best-practice in collaborative environmental governance and resource management and the components of legislation that enable or hinder collaborative environmental management.

Understanding and combating short-termism in public decision-making was a central theme. Short-termism was linked to individuals' general time orientation, ideological orientation, political trust, and the myopia of political parties linked to short electoral cycles. The research demonstrated that: Policymakers were more future-focused than citizens; a more informed citizenry, say through deliberative mini-publics, can decrease short-termism (and legitimate decisions on contested issues); and international commitments and expert influence enhanced long-term decision-making.

A Democracy Accelerator website⁵ was developed and documented the lessons learned from the experiments and included information on experiments conducted in other countries. The Citizens' Initiative Review experiment was conducted where a Citizens' Jury formulated a statement summarizing key facts and main arguments for and against a referendum issue. The statement was sent to all voters before the referendum. The statement increased factual knowledge, enhanced perspective-taking, increased trust in the Jury and other political actors, most notably including those holding opposing views.

The programme interventions increased knowledge of collaborative governance processes and led to a more meaningful involvement of civil society organisations. It also increased the capacities of both civil society organisations and regional authorities in this domain and increased understandings of value creation through value mapping. The evaluation panel commends this advancement of scientific knowledge through state-of-the-art methodologies.

3.2. Creating concrete steps towards tackling problems and needs in Finnish society

KEY FINDINGS

- The CITIZEN programme reached citizens as research subjects and collaborators, and through citizens' panels and participatory budgeting engaged citizens as active and empowered agents in their own right.
- The three projects targeted different audiences that appear to have contributed to the complementarity and the successful differentiation of engagement and interaction strategies.

⁵ BIBU-project. Democracy Accelerator -website. <https://www.democraticinnovations.com/about/> [referred to 2.5.2023]

- The three projects successfully covered a wide range of important and challenging societal challenges that Finnish society faces today.

The CITIZEN programme call sought high-quality research that would identify new methods of governance and increase the active involvement of (a wider range of) citizens in the political, economic and social decisions that affect them (Section 2.1.). The SRC believed this required world-leading expertise and a broad understanding of political systems in a global context.

The programme achieved a great deal regarding innovative governance with meaningful and discernible impact. Collectively, the CITIZEN projects proposed concrete solutions, highlighted new ways of governance, provided world-leading expertise and in-depth understanding of political systems, and created diverse information bases. While the three projects had relatively modest cross-project interaction and fertilization, they nevertheless achieved extensive and well-balanced stakeholder engagement, co-design, and co-production of knowledge. Their research foci were varied, complementary and provided extensive coverage of Finnish political institutions and levels. For example, BIBU was centrally focused on national-level policy agendas with the strongest media focus; PALO concentrated largely on regional and local communities; and CORE's main focus was on peer learning and capacity building among practitioners and supporting the 'collaborative turn' with international benchmarks and training for public managers.

As a collective the programme made an important contribution to moving Finnish political and administrative culture – and the methodologies and practices at its disposal – from a top-down culture of consensus and consent to a more bottom-up culture of collaboration. The evaluation panel perceives this as highly commendable.

Societal engagement: supporting the shift from top-down consensus to bottom-up collaboration

At the application stage the three CITIZEN projects secured the support and commitment of a wide and diverse range of stakeholders. All the individual projects were engaged with some 20-30 stakeholders, ranging from the Parliament and its parties, committees, and other bodies (e.g., the Society of Scientists and Parliament Members TUTKAS); the central government and its ministries; regional and local authorities; third sector bodies (i.e., nongovernmental organisations or NGOs); and national and regional media. There were numerous concrete examples of interaction and outreach planned and ready for implementation (with stakeholder participation agreed) at the application stage. The impact stories of the projects (Appendix 12) reflect this and show that well-resourced dialogues and methods of interaction created sustainable forms of collaboration beyond the scope of the programme.

Considerable effort was put into making academic research results more approachable and creating accessible forms of output. Various dialogue-based methods have been developed, piloted, and used to engage with the broader public and stakeholders. Examples include The Democracy Accelerator, which provided a highly accessible platform and community of practice. It raised public awareness about democratic experiments and co-created and shared information about democratic

improvements. The goal of the Accelerator was to make Finland a leading laboratory for democracy innovation.

Innovation and co-creation

The integration of scientific excellence and societal relevance painted an impact picture of researchers actively engaging and responding to the needs of stakeholder communities, in particular government departments and municipalities. Looking at the impact stories and the descriptions of project activities, the evaluation panel considers that the partners (national and international) were appropriately chosen. The CITIZEN projects were informed by cutting-edge international research – with two projects ‘importing’ deliberative models from the US state of Oregon. Crucially, these CITIZEN projects innovatively adapted these models to fit the political and institutional setting of Finland.

Societal impact activities included various novel types of integration: new operating methods; policy experiments and new democratic innovations, such as democracy incubators, digital diplomats, digital committees; inclusive ways of co-development bringing scientific and political decision-making processes closer to the citizen; online consultation on the reform of the Climate Act; the development of new types of participation evaluation methods such as the co-creation radar with municipal partners; and an interim and final evaluation of participatory budgeting in the city of Helsinki. There were practical case studies and experiments in decision-making processes in regional planning and natural resource management (the CORE project); co-creation with the Ministries of the Environment, and Justice, the Prime Minister's Office, and with local authorities in Helsinki, Turku and Mustasaari. A clear example of genuine co-creation was evident in the PALO project where they altered the mapping tools used in their engagement activities based on resident feedback.

It is important to note that the CITIZEN programme and its projects did not seek easy solutions or ‘low hanging fruit.’ Rather, there was a distinct attempt to address societal issues that were thorny, difficult, and challenging, ranging from climate change and mining to wolf population management and local authority mergers. The evaluation panel commends this bold and ambitious approach to societal challenges.

Achievements in the societal sphere: ranging from exporting the best practice in wolf management to Business Finland funding and the Finlandia Prize

The “Co-Creation Radar model” (in Finnish “Yhteisluomisen tutka”⁶) was designed and piloted as part of the BIBU project and was used by a number of municipalities in Finland, e.g., Lahti. This work was subsequently awarded €700,000 of Business Finland funding to explore the international business potential of the product – it was the first project ever funded by Business Finland at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Helsinki University. The work also received funding from NordForsk as COLDIGIT.

The BIBU project’s “Democracy experiments” were some of the most promising examples of interaction which can also be scaled up to other environments, with potential international reach. These activities are relevant not just for policymakers and

⁶ Rask, M., Ertiö, T., 2019. Yhteisluomisen tutka: malli osallisuustominnan kokonaisvaltaiseen arviointiin. BIBU Policy brief 2/2019. https://bibu.fi/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Bibu-Policy-Brief-2_verkko.pdf [referred to 2.5.2023]

practitioners, but also for future work. BIBU's work has been extended to, for example, enhancing the social participation of young people and in the Climate Nudge project (funded in a later SRC programme called “CLIMATE”) to reduce traffic emissions.

The BIBU project achieved impressive results regarding policy impact at the EU and national levels. One indirect achievement was also the launch of Sitra’s “New Forms of Participation” project in 2021. While there was pre-existing interest in participatory budgeting and citizens' juries prior to the CITIZEN programme, the programme work championed these democratic innovations and channelled demand and interest in these methods in Finland and beyond. Participatory budgeting has been implemented in dozens of Finnish municipalities, citizens' juries were undertaken in Mustasaari and Turku, and there is international interest, more precisely in Lisbon, in the Finnish methodology.

The CORE project worked on contested issues where local communities and national/regional authorities held different issue positions, contributing to novel solutions to human-wildlife conflicts. The Ministries of the Environment and Agriculture and Forestry were the main beneficiaries of this research. Encouraged by the positive experiences, they commissioned additional research (2021–2022) on collaborative problem solving concerning the conflict between fishing and the protection of the Saimaa ringed seal. The CORE project synthesized its key results and ideas into a collaboratively developed roadmap, laying future steps for “the collaborative turn” in Finland. This was followed up with a policy brief on how to maximise the benefits of collaborative approaches. Hence, in addition to exporting new methods and practices, the CITIZEN programme imported and translated international best practices on collaborative design and planning. These democratic innovations will be of interest to consolidating and consolidated democracies and blocks such as the European Union.

CORE’s work with Regional Councils and municipalities on contested water and land-use cases provided practitioners with new tools and ideas for joint problem solving and knowledge co-creation and brokering parliamentary processes. The members of CORE were invited as experts to several Finnish Parliamentary discussions regarding mining legislation, wolf management and the Land Use and Building Act. Two members were involved in government negotiations and the CORE project received two invitations from the Parliament’s Committee for the Future. The results of expert work are said to have had an impact on Prime Minister Sanna Marin’s government programme and the drafting of legislation. Finally, the CORE experts had an international impact: they informed the planning of large carnivore platforms in Europe and the wolf management plan in Sweden.

The PALO project's work on deliberative democracy and local level deliberative mini-publics was implemented across the country, and a Citizens’ Jury on Referendum Options was organized in the municipality of Mustasaari in 2019. The referendum concerned a contested municipal merger with Vaasa – a decision with significant long-term consequences. This was the first time the Oregon Citizens’ Initiative Review process was conducted in Europe, as well as the first time it was organized in the context of a government-initiated referendum.

All three projects engaged in extensive public dissemination via various channels, including extensive media coverage and the involvement of researchers in public debates, popularised science and other public oriented publications, and a wide variety of stakeholder events (+200 with an estimated audience of some +17,000). In two successive years a popularised book from the CITIZEN Programme's BIBU project was shortlisted for the Finlandia Prize in non-fiction (in 2019 "Huipputuloiset" or "Top Earners" in English and in 2022 "Kahdeksan Kuplan Suomi" or "Finland of 8 Bubbles" in English). In 2020 the Consortium Leader of BIBU, Anu Kantola, received the J. V. Snellman informational disclosure award for her work on class, class identity and income differences. These awards and the very positive feedback from stakeholders clearly demonstrate the highly positive nature of engagement and that the project's results were meaningful and had significant impact.

Finally, the practical outcomes of the CITIZEN programme are visible regarding training, building relations with communities, and education. The training carried out through the CITIZEN programme took various forms (not limited to formal academic courses), e.g., through action-oriented case studies; developing solutions to short termism in decision making such as deliberative processes; through generating public debate on polarization; organizing training for public managers on collaborative methods; contributing to organizational learning; and building capacity among participants. For instance, Collaborative Public Managers training has become part of the curriculum at the University of Eastern Finland (summer school) and there is now an alumni network. Taking an example from the Mustasaari case, the city of Turku introduced citizen's juries into its policy preparation work.

3.3. Strengthening research and stakeholder communities

KEY FINDINGS

- The CITIZEN programme involved a large variety of stakeholder communities and actors.
- There are clear signs of sustainable impacts, a positive legacy and cross-sectoral learning. In many cases the projects' planned work extends beyond the life of the programme.
- Through the CITIZEN programme societal actors have deepened and/or extended their networks.
- Despite the impact of COVID-19 much of the planned work continued, clearly demonstrating the adaptive capacities and agility of the projects.

The third and final set of evaluation criterion relates to the extent to which research and stakeholder communities in the programme's domain have been strengthened, and the development of policies and activities that address and identify solutions to major societal challenges and problems.

Engagement, outreach and collaboration practices

There is clear evidence (as set out above in Section 3.2.) that all projects undertook extensive societal engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including, the Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office, ministries, city and Regional Administrations, trade unions, civil society organisations, journalists/media, business. Stakeholder groups participated in advisory boards and played an important role in data collection by co-creating data, being the focus of data collection efforts, or by providing facilities for project activities. Stakeholders directly benefitted from the programme as recipients of new evidence, methods and tools that had a strengthening effect on both research and stakeholder communities. There were also significant impacts such as raising public awareness and debates across the Finnish public sphere (e.g., speaking at the Association of Municipalities' events and participating in expert groups), contributions to public policy design and drafting of legislative acts, training programmes, enhancement of civil and political engagement, or collaborative procedures.

The main participatory approaches used by the three projects were distinct and complementary, as has been outlined in previous sections.

Enhancing the capacities of academic and non-academic communities

There is clear evidence that various activities developed within the CITIZEN programme have had an impact beyond the programme's duration. For example, the city of Turku has continued implementing democratic innovations past the end-date of the project and has also introduced citizen's juries into its policy-preparation as a result of the programme. "Democracy workshops" have been and are still planned to be organised after the end of the programme. Accordingly, there has been valuable capacity building. Projects and their member have also maintained collaborations with stakeholders that were developed during the project, for instance with the Finnish Parliament. The CORE project's training and network for collaborative managers is also a good example of long-term capacity building. All three projects brought valuable international knowledge and expertise to existing Finnish practitioner and policy-making communities.

The projects have subsequently applied for new research funding through various funding sources, with considerable success. Funding has been received from a diverse range of bodies, ranging from national funding organisations such as the Academy of Finland, to regional funders including NordForsk, as well as European ones (COST, Horizon), and private foundations. Follow-up funding has also come from various Finnish ministries, suggesting a strong policy relevance of the projects. The success in acquiring new funding has varied significantly across the projects.

The projects also published a substantial number of non-academic publications that are available to stakeholders and devoted significant attention to popularised science and Finnish language publications. Examples include the already mentioned Democracy Accelerator website that has compiled lessons learned and made findings accessible to a wider range of interested parties (it includes case-studies and recommendations). The BIBU project published a workbook on experimenting for

better democracy⁷, and a blog on writing policy briefs⁸. The Finnish innovation fund Sitra's on-going interest and activities speak to the continued utility of the CITIZEN programme's outputs to various stakeholder groups.

It is noteworthy that due to the large-scale of the projects, and the high number of scholars involved, the CITIZEN programme led to new interdisciplinary research collaborations within and across universities in Finland.

The projects have been characterised by a large volume of incoming and outgoing research visits, both short-term and long-term (up to half a year) despite of the impact of COVID-19. Outgoing mobility has mainly been to high-level institutions in Europe, North America, Australia and Japan. This is essential for internationalisation with Finnish researchers extending and deepening their academic networks and for their exposure to new methods and approaches. Incoming mobility was more limited but there were several short and long-term visits. There is no evidence of research visits or significant knowledge exchange to or from policy-related or stakeholder-related institutions, such as think tanks and international organisations.

While the programme participants were strongly focused on making findings and tools widely and freely available to the broader public there remains some work in this area. For example, more than 40% of all peer-reviewed publications are not available in open access (at a minimum level of pre-print in an institutional repository) which hinders the accessibility of the findings for beneficiaries and stakeholders. The evaluation panel found a large number of datasets – but not all – that have been deposited and are open and accessible for research and teaching purposes. In some cases, the data remains restricted, or depositing is ongoing, or only metadata is available. There are substantial differences across the three projects. The reasons for this restrictive treatment of data are not always elaborated. The evaluation panel recommends that all this publicly funded data be made available following the FAIR principle as soon as is practicably possible. The degrees of data openness may justifiably vary, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential.

⁷ Jousilahti, J., 2021. Kokeillen kohti parempaa demokratiaa – opas demokratiakokeiluihin. BIBU publications. https://bibu.fi/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BIBU_Opas-demokratiakokeiluihin_Digiversio_210218.pdf [referred to 2.5.2023]

⁸ Koskinen, I., Metsä, H., Nurmi, P., Rokka, S., Saari, M., Tapiola, T., Virta M., 2020. Poliitikasuositukset yhteiskunnallisen vaikuttamisen välineenä. The blog of Strategic Research. <https://www.aka.fi/strateginen-tutkimus/strateginen-tutkimus/tutkimusta-tiedon-kayttajalle/blogi/blogit-2020/politiikkasuositukset-yhteiskunnallisen-vaikuttamisen-valineena/> [referred to 2.5.2023]

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The CITIZEN programme was a major success. All three projects achieved a great deal and there were strengths, and some minor weaknesses, in areas set out above. The projects generated traction among their intended stakeholders and have led to new funded work, subsequent training courses, policy proposals and other tangible results. It is clear that there is research being conducted that would not have been possible without the “Changing Society and Active Citizenship” programme in areas such as stakeholder interaction in species protection, mediating processes in Finland, and future national land use objectives. The Strategic Research Council is commended for funding this research programme that has delivered more than the sum of its parts and has increased research capacity and sustainability.

Beyond the points already highlighted in the preceding sections the evaluation panel advances a number of wider recommendations to the Strategic Research Council about the future operation and structure of Strategic Research funding.

Follow-up and continuing activities beyond the end of projects

It would be good to see a clear model or plan for what happens when the projects are finished. The CITIZEN projects had close connections with government research and assessment activities, and they conducted additional projects (during the project's duration) with ministry funding drawing on CITIZEN funded project findings and lesson learning. The continuation of the outreach, engagement and collaboration activities beyond the formal end of programme would be excellent.

Further, the formal exit plan for the whole programme is missing. How will programme work be embedded in the universities and permanent training/teaching etc. and activities in stakeholder organisations? Mobility programmes between universities and stakeholder organisations such as ministries, cities, companies and NGOs could also potentially be part of an exit strategy.

Scale of funding

The high-level (and high-profile nature of) SRC funding has been an important and much needed boost to social science research. The CITIZEN programme is important and unusual in that such considerable funding was allocated to social science. The scale of the funding facilitated a true multidisciplinary approach to societal challenges which is exceptional and welcomed. In the social sciences, setting up and developing stakeholder collaboration, for collecting data, organising experiments and communicating research, takes time. Hence, it is important to have sufficiently long and large projects and we commend the Strategic Research Council.

The Programme Director Role

The director of the CITIZEN programme performed excellently. The main role of the programme director was connected to supporting collaboration and interaction across the projects and reducing silos. The challenge for the Director was performing

this role across several programmes and projects. In the future, it would be best if programme directors were responsible for one programme, rather than several.

When the director is coordinating only one programme then more can be expected of them. For example, they could play a larger conduit and network creator role. They would also be able to support, mentor and monitor the development of research and seek to stimulate scientific, as well as societal collaborations.

Stimulating long-term and "better" collaboration

It was interesting hearing from the project leaders how closely they worked with the practitioners, including government departments. If this was due to the government departments outsourcing their own work, this may not be a positive sign for the Finnish administrative system and governance. However, there appeared to be genuinely useful collaboration between researchers and practitioners. Could this be institutionalised through a "SRC Fellowship" scheme? There is much to be gained and gleamed in terms of knowledge exchange in this area. Perhaps follow-up project and programme calls could include this aspect?

Continuing stakeholder involvement was a key success factor of the CITIZEN programme and potentially more could be done to further widen engagement to include more of the non-usual suspects, i.e., disadvantaged citizens.

The panel considered the requirements of stakeholder engagement at the applications stage a double-edged sword. It is useful to ensure the interest of and perceived relevance of applications for stakeholders, however, gathering multiple letters of support – de facto signatures – appeared perfunctory and performative. It would be better to look for more detailed engagement and collaboration plans, and benefits for both parties, rather than a simple tick box type collection of signatures exercise.

Measuring success

The panel ruminated about the balance between high-quality international research outputs and the numerous Finnish language outputs. The panel's balanced conclusion tipped towards perceiving the value of the practical. We perceive the Finnish language publications as a clear societal benefit that is complementary to academic contributions to knowledge. This is a clear measure of success.

The panel would welcome more open access Finnish and English language publications.

The full impact of this complex CITIZEN programme will take time to come to full fruition. However, the panel believes that there are signs of potential medium and long-term impact.

In conclusion, the panel would like to highlight the value for money that the CITIZEN programme represents. This was one of the smaller SRC funded programmes and it generated significant policy impact and extensive public debate. It would be valuable to provide funding for similar social science programmes in the future.

Appendix 1: Bios of the panel members

William Maloney (Panel Chair) is Professor of Politics at Newcastle University, UK. He is an internationally regarded scholar in the areas of interest groups/civil society organizations, political participation and social capital. He has published extensively in these areas, has played a leading role in several international research projects and was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2019.

Edward Andersson is a participation and involvement expert based in Malmö, Sweden. He has twenty years of experience as a facilitator, process lead, educator and researcher on the topics of public engagement and citizen engagement. Edward was a founding member of the UK based Involve Foundation think tank in 2003 and spent five years as the organization's Deputy Director. Edward has also worked for the Democratic Society and the World Bank as a participation expert.

Kaisa Lähteenmäki-Smith (PhD, Political Science) has worked as a researcher and consultant on regional development and innovation policies, governance issues and evaluation for over 20 years. In recent years she has worked on science-policy interaction and research & innovation policies: first, at the Prime Minister's office in Helsinki between 2014-2018, and at the Finnish Innovation Fund in 2018-2019. Since 2019 she has worked at MDI Public Ltd.

Steven Van de Walle is Professor of Public Management at the KU Leuven Public Governance Institute (Belgium). Prior to joining KU Leuven, he held the chair of public management at Erasmus University Rotterdam and worked as lecturer at the University of Birmingham. His research focused on public sector reform and interactions between citizens and public services, as well as their trust in government.

Appendix 2: Evaluation framework

Table 4. Performance of the SRC programme: key criteria

	1. Promoting high-quality, multidisciplinary research on the problems and needs in the programme's domain	2. Creating concrete steps towards tackling those problems and needs in Finnish society (and even beyond)	3. Strengthening research & stakeholder communities in the programme's domain (even beyond the programme life span)
Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multidisciplinary competence of research teams • relevance and synergy of research plans • resources for managing multidisciplinary collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reach and commitment of societal stakeholders • appropriate plans for societal interaction and outreach • resources for managing societal interaction and for stakeholders to take up and utilize the results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involvement of a broad variety of actors in programme activities • resources for training and organizational learning
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate methods and practices for multi- and transdisciplinary research and collaboration, and for researchers' capacity building • national and international networking, keep up with the state of the art • training and supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timely involvement of knowledge users; responsiveness to their needs • active and constructive participation by knowledge users • public engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotion of responsible research: equality and nondiscrimination, research ethics, open knowledge and innovation • setting up practices and tools for co-production, mutual learning, and capacity building
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • productivity • significance, novelty, and innovation of results beyond single disciplines • dissemination, visibility and accessibility of publications and other outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • useful results and outputs • effective, timely, and easy-to-understand communication of results to stakeholders and relevant publics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • useful results and outputs made and kept available for use by multiple beneficiaries • clear ownership and licensing of intellectual property • scalability and applicability of solutions
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced knowledge of the state of the art and best practices • integration or transformation of existing disciplinary knowledge, methods, and practices • advancement of multidisciplinary research careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new knowledge used in concrete solutions, such as models, practices, guidelines, technologies, etc. • changes in practices, policies, behaviours, attitudes, etc., influenced by the research • specific expectations of the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced capacity of stakeholders to absorb and utilize research-based knowledge • acquiring new resources for continuing the work • promotion of new and versatile career paths, including mobility across organisations and sectors

Appendix 3: List of evaluation materials

Background information of SRC funding and the specific programme

- Strategic research brochure (updated in 2023)
- 2017 calls by the SRC (original calls for funding for this programme)
- SRC funding principles 2022
- Kivistö et al. 2022: Evaluation of SRC funding instrument (machine translation) + original evaluation report in Finnish

Information from the project's funding applications

- Original funding applications (2017)
- Publicly available “situational picture reports” written by the projects at the start of the programme in 2017 (machine translation) + original situational picture reports in Finnish
- Composition of the programme: involved organizations, involved key research fields, amounts of funding awarded
- List of projects' collaborators

Information from the project's research reports

- Research implementation and results (text, ~22 pages altogether)
- Important new research funding (list)
- Research visits from Finland to abroad and vice versa (list)
- Degrees completed within the projects (list)
- Produced data sets (list)
- Personnel key figures (number of staff, career stages, and gender)

Publications

- 10 most important publications of each project (as a list and full text pdf-documents)
- List of all publications produced under the programme
- Publication analyses (overall statistics of all publications produced under the program, and more detailed statistics of verified peer reviewed scientific publications)

Survey results

- Results of a self-evaluation questionnaire for consortium members (21 respondents from the CITIZEN programme, 75 respondents in total)
- Results of a survey for stakeholders of SRC programmes (5 respondents from the CITIZEN programme, 33 respondents in total)

Impact stories etc.

- All impact stories by the projects (altogether 10 stories) at the end of the programme (machine translation) + original impact stories in Finnish
- Summaries of the impact stories, written by Academy staff
- Impact story by the programme director at the end of the programme (machine translation) + original impact story in Finnish
- Annual reports from the programme director: 2019, 2020, 2021 (machine translation)

Interview material

- Video recording of the interviews on 9 March
- Notes / transcription of the interviews on 9 March
- List of 10 key stakeholders of the projects and the programme director

Appendix 4: List of interviewees

Consortium leaders

- Anu Kantola, BIBU
- Lasse Peltonen, CORE
- Maija Setälä, PALO

Programme director

- Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki

Appendix 5: Personnel key figures

The figures below show simple statistics of the academic and other staff who worked in the projects under the CITIZEN programme during the years 2017–2021. The figures are based on salary payment data and refer to the number of persons (head-count) instead of full-time equivalent person years. The total number of staff in Figure 1 is different from the total number in Figures 2–3, because several persons among academic staff have worked in different career stages during a project.

Figure 1. Number of staff by career stage and gender in CITIZEN programme.

The academic staff have been divided into four categories according to a model of a four-stage research career path which is used at Finnish universities. The stages of the research career path are as follows:

Stage I: Doctoral student, early-career researcher, etc.

Stage II: Postdoctoral researcher, etc.

Stage III: University lecturer, Academy Research Fellow etc.

Stage IV: Professor, Academy Professor, research professor, research director, etc.

Other: Support and management staff, who did not act as researchers in a project; for example, research assistants, interaction coordinators, “technical” PIs

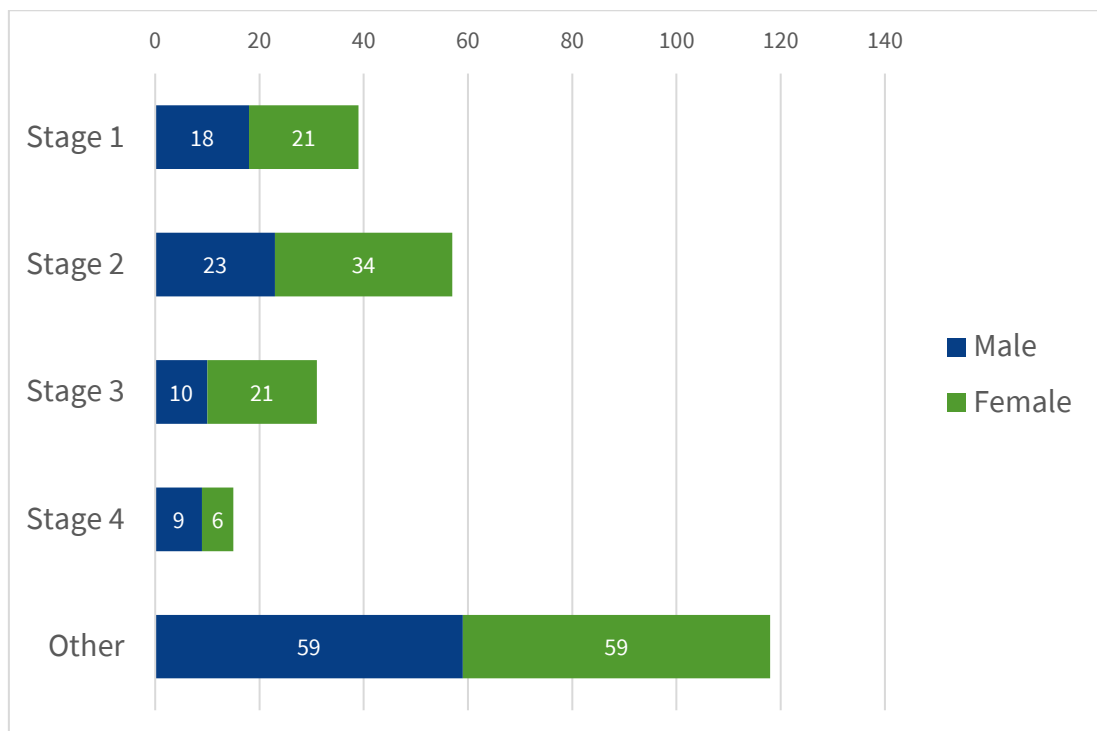


Figure 2. Number of staff by nationality in CITIZEN programme.

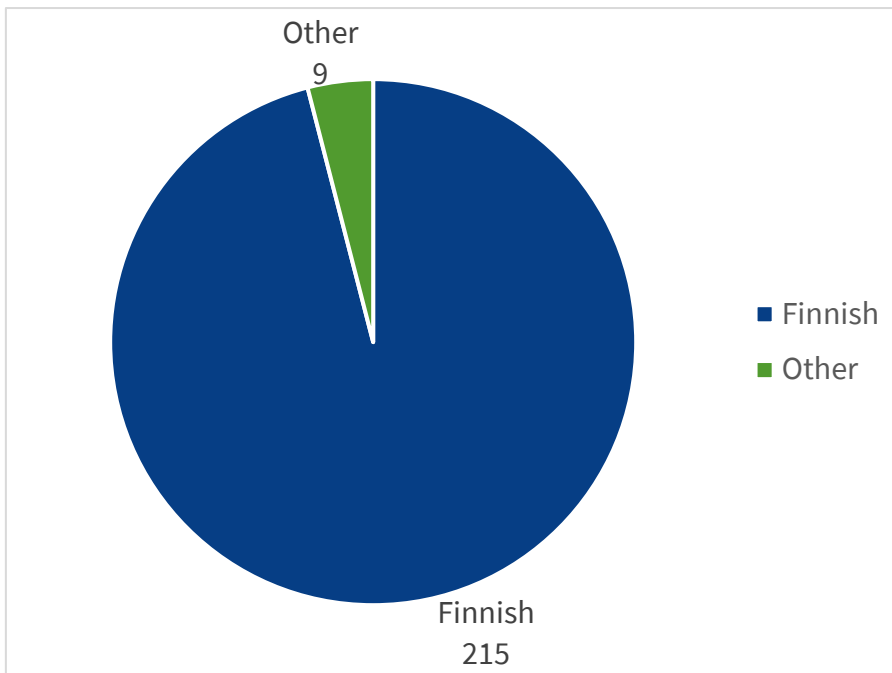
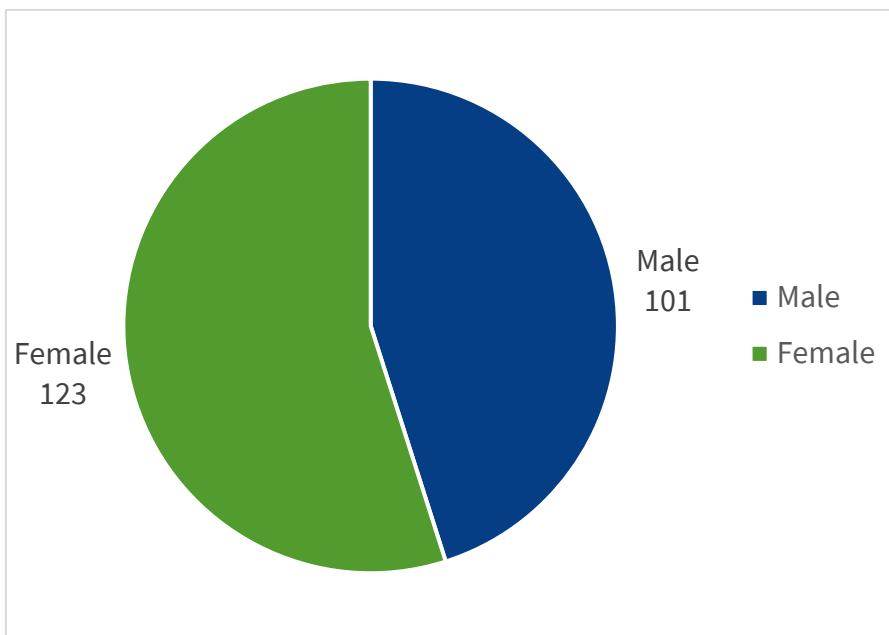


Figure 3. Number of staff by gender in CITIZEN programme.



Appendix 6: List of projects' collaborators

List of projects' collaborators (organisations) mentioned in the funding applications.

In Finland

- Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (Kuntaliitto)
- BIOS (independent research unit)
- Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto MTK ry)
- Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment for North Karelia
- City of Helsinki
- City of Lahti
- City of Tampere
- City of Tuusula
- Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto SLL)
- Finnish Business and Policy Forum EVA
- Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE)
- Finnish Forest Centre of Southwest Finland
- Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
- Finnish Network for Sustainable Mining
- Kalevi Sorsa Foundation
- Left Forum think tank
- Lähienergialiitto ry
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- National Broadcasting Company YLE
- Parliament of Finland
- Political think tank Suomen Perusta
- Prime Minister's Office
- Regional Council of Central Finland (Keski-Suomen liitto)

- Regional Council of Satakunta (Satakuntaliitto)
- Regional Council of Southwest Finland (Varsinais-Suomen liitto)
- Rehabilitation Foundation (Kuntoutussäätiö)
- Sokra (Project to co-ordinate the promotion of social inclusion)
- Tampere University
- Think tank E2
- Think tank Visio
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Turku
- Åbo Akademi University

Beyond Finland

- Consensus Building Institute, United States
- Griffith University, Australia
- Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- McGill University, Canada
- Meiji University, Japan
- National Policy Consensus Center, Portland State University, United States
- Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- Virginia Tech, United States
- Scottish Association for Marine Sciences (SAMS), United Kingdom
- Universitetet i Oslo – UiO, Norway
- University of Manchester, United Kingdom
- University of Pennsylvania, United States
- University of Pittsburgh, United States
- University of Stuttgart, Germany

Appendix 7: Top10 outputs from each project

Table 5. BIBU

Year	Author(s)	Title	Journal or Publisher
2020	Fornaro P., Kaihovaara A.	Microdynamics, granularity and populism: The Finnish case.	European Journal of Political Economy
2020	Kantola, A.	Gloomy at the top: How the wealthiest 0.1% feel about the rest.	Sociology
2020	Mannevu, M.	Anxious politicians: Productivity imperatives in the Finnish Parliament.	European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology
2021	Rask, M., Ertiö, T. P., Tuominen, P., Ahonen, V. L.	Final evaluation of the City of Helsinki's participatory budgeting. OmaStadi 2018–2020.	
2021	Im, Z. J.	Status decline and welfare competition worries from an automating world of work: the implications of automation risk on support for benefit conditionality policies and party choice	PhD with three articles
2021	Nemcok, M., & Wass, H.	As time goes by, the same sentiments apply? Stability of voter satisfaction with democracy during the electoral cycle in 31 countries.	Party Politics
2021	Kekkonen, A., Ylä-Anttila, T.	Affective blocs: Understanding affective polarization in multiparty systems.	Electoral Studies
2022	Im, Z.J., Wass, A., Kantola, A. Kauppinen, T.	With status decline in sight, voters turn radical right: how do experience and expectation of status decline shape electoral behaviour?	European Political Science Review
2022	Kantola, A., Aaltonen, S., Haikkola, L., Junnilainen, L., Luhtakallio, E., Patana, P., Timonen, J., Tuominen, P.	Kahdeksan kuplan Suomi (Finland in eight bubbles)	Gaudeamus
2022	Kantola, A & Harju, A	Tackling the emotional toll together: How journalists address harassment with connective practices	Journalism

Table 6. CORE

Year	Author(s)	Title	Journal or Publisher
2018	Pentz, E., Polsa, P.	How do companies reduce their carbon footprint and how do they communicate these measures to stakeholders?	Journal of Cleaner Production
2019	Meriluoto, T., Litmanen, T. (Eds.)	Osallistu! – Pelastaako osallistaminen demokratian (Participate! Will public participation save democracy?)	Vastapaino
2020	Pölonen, I., Allard, C., Raitio, K.	Finnish and Swedish law on mining in light of collaborative governance	Nordic Environmental Law Journal
2021	Kotilainen, J.M., Peltonen, L., Sairinen, R.	Yhteistoiminnallinen ympäristöhallinta erityispiirteinen ja sovellettavien (Collaborative environmental governance – key features and applications)	Ympäristöpolitiikan ja -oikeuden vuosikirja XIV 2021, s. 7–47.
2021	Heinilä, A., Pölonen, I., Belinskij, A.	Yhteistoiminnallisuus ympäristöoikeudellisissa suunnittelumenettelyissä	Ympäristöpolitiikan ja -oikeuden vuosikirja 2021, s. 263–326.
2022	Peltola, T., Arpin, I., Leino, J., Peltonen, L., Ratamäki, O., Salmi, P.	Management Plans as Resources for Action in Environmental Conflicts	Environmental Policy and Governance
2022	Demirbas, S., Lahdenperä, S., Peltonen, L., Saarikoski, H., Jauhiainen, J., Heiskanen, H., Vaara, E., Airaksinen, J.	Enemmän irti kuulemisprosessista: kohti yhteistoiminnallisia menettelyjä lainvalmistelussa (Making the most of the consultation process: towards collaborative procedures in law drafting)	Oikeusministeriön julkaisuja, selvityksiä ja ohjeita 2022. Oikeusministeriö, Helsinki.
2022	Kotilainen, J., Peltonen, L., Reinikainen, K.	Community Benefit Agreements in the Nordic Mining Context: Local opportunities for collaboration in Sodankylä, Finland	Resources Policy
2022	Lähteenoja, S., Hyysalo, S., Lukkarinen, J., Marttila, T., Saarikoski, H., Faehnle, M., Peltonen, L.	What does it take to study learning in transitions? A case of citizen energy in Finland	Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy
2022	Huttunen, S, Ojanen, M., Ott, A., Saarikoski, H.	What about citizens? A literature review of citizen engagement in sustainability transitions research	Energy Research & Social Science

Table 7. PALO

Year	Author(s)	Title	Journal or Publisher
2020	Setälä, M., Christensen, H.S., Leino, M., Strandberg, K., Bäck, M., Jäske, M.	Deliberative mini-publics facilitating voter knowledge and judgment: Experience from a Finnish local referendum	Representation
2020	Koskimaa, V., Raunio, T.	Encouraging a longer time horizon: the Committee for the Future in the Finnish Eduskunta	The Journal of Legislative Studies
2021	Setälä, M., Christensen, H.S., Leino, M., Strandberg, K.	Beyond polarization and selective trust – a Citizens’ Jury as a trusted source of information	Politics
2021	Rapeli, L., Koskimaa, V.	Concerned and willing to pay? Comparing policymaker and citizen attitudes towards climate change	Environmental Politics
2021	Mäntymaa, E., Pouta, E., Hiedanpää, J.	Forest owners’ interest in participation and their compensation claims in voluntary landscape value trading: The case of wind power parks in Finland	Forest Policy and Economics
2021	Koskimaa, V., Rapeli, L., Hiedanpää, J.	Governing through strategies: How does Finland sustain a future-oriented environmental policy for the long term	Futures
2022	Herne, K., Hietanen, J., Lappalainen, O., Palosaari, E.	The influence of role awareness, empathy induction and trait empathy on dictator game giving	PLOS One
2022	Vogt, H., Pukarinen, A.	The European Union as a long-term political actor: an overview	Political Research Exchange
2022	Leino, M., Kulha, K., Setälä, M., Ylisalo, J.	Expert hearings in mini-publics: How does the field of expertise influence deliberation and its outcomes?	Policy Sciences
2022	Palosaari, E., Herne, K., Lappalainen, O., Hietanen, J.	Effects of Fear on Donations to Climate Change Mitigation	Journal of Experimental Social Psychology

Appendix 8: Publication profile

All publications

The projects under the CITIZEN programme reported several types of publications in their final reports according to the national publication type classification⁹

- A. Peer-reviewed scientific articles
- B. Non-refereed scientific articles
- C. Scientific books (monographs)
- D. Publications intended for professional communities
- E. Publications intended for the general public
- F. Public artistic and design activities
- G. Theses
- H. Audiovisual publications and ICT applications

Table 8. Total number of publications reported by the projects and the CITIZEN programme in 2017–2021.

Project	All publications	Scientific publications (A, B, C)
BIBU	266	155
CORE	155	74
PALO	257	114
CITIZEN programme	678	343

⁹ More information about the publication type classification: https://wiki.eduuni.fi/display/cscsuorat/Julka-isutiedonkeruun+tutkijaohjeistukset?preview=/39984924/256871940/2021_Publication%20data%20collec-tion%20instruc-tions%20for%20researchers.pdf, pages 7–11. [referred to 10.5.2023]

Figure 4. Number of publications by year reported by the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole.

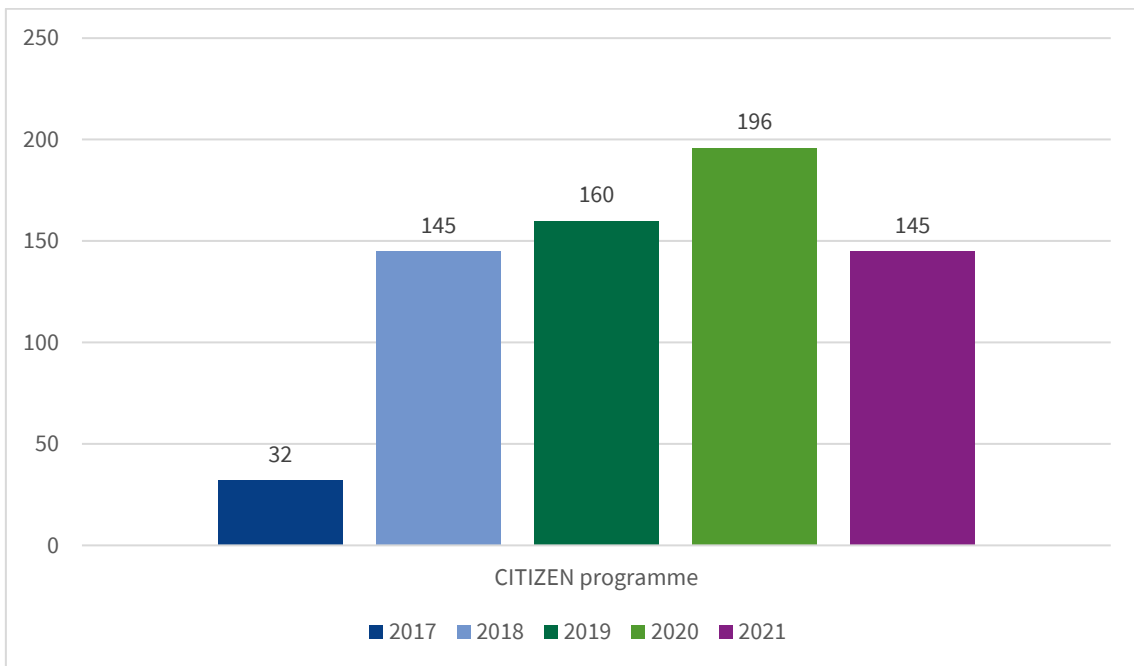
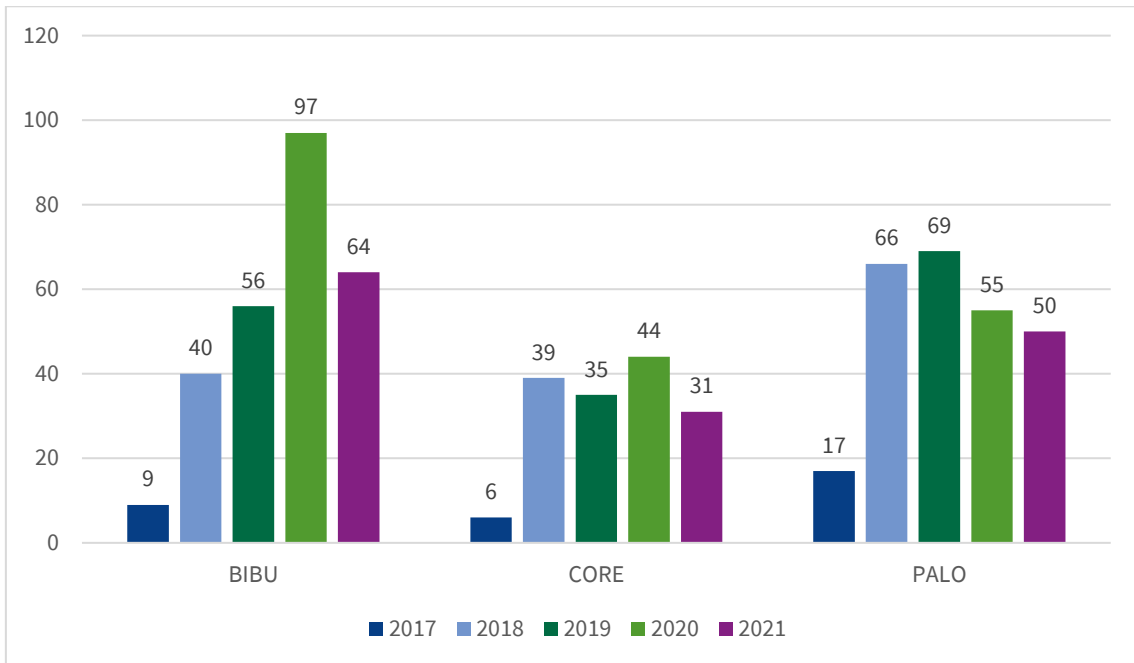
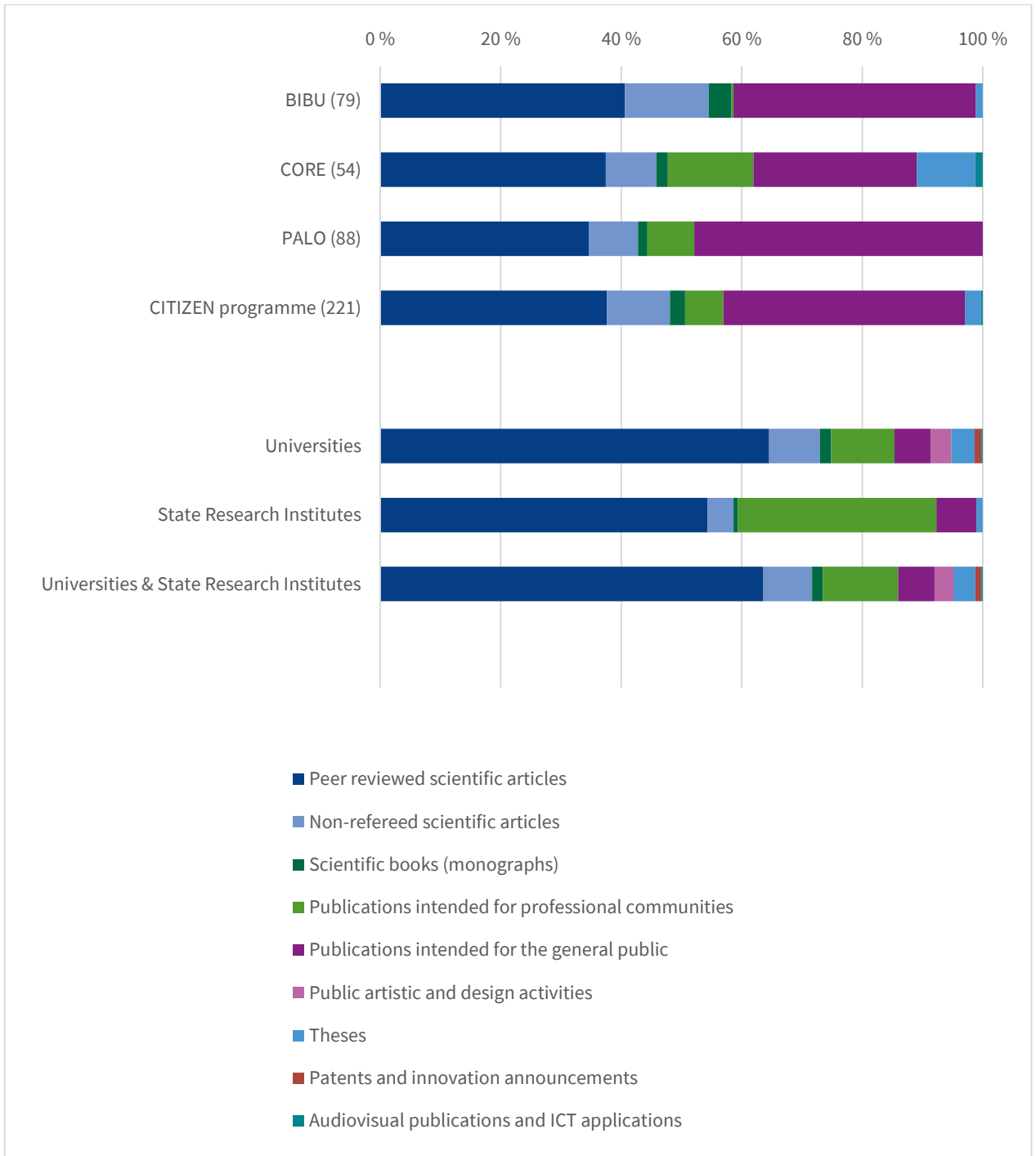


Figure 5. Share (%) of different publication types reported by the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole, as well as in Finnish universities and state research institutes (as separate categories and together).



Appendix 9: Analysis of peer-reviewed publications

For a more detailed analysis of peer-reviewed scientific publications of the CITIZEN programme, publication data reported by the projects was supplemented with metadata from the national publication data collection VIRT.A. VIRT.A covers most publications from Finnish universities, universities of applied sciences, university hospitals and most state research institutes. The coverage of VIRT.A data in terms of the publications reported by the CITIZEN projects is presented in Table 9. The analyses presented in this appendix include only those CITIZEN programme publications that were found in VIRT.A.

Table 9. Number of peer-reviewed CITIZEN publications in the VIRT.A and their share of the peer-reviewed publications reported by the projects in 2017–2021.

Project	Number of peer-reviewed publications in VIRT.A	Share in reported publications
BIBU	79	73%
CORE	54	93%
PALO	88	99%
CITIZEN Programme	221	87%

Figure 6. Number of authors per publication in the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole.

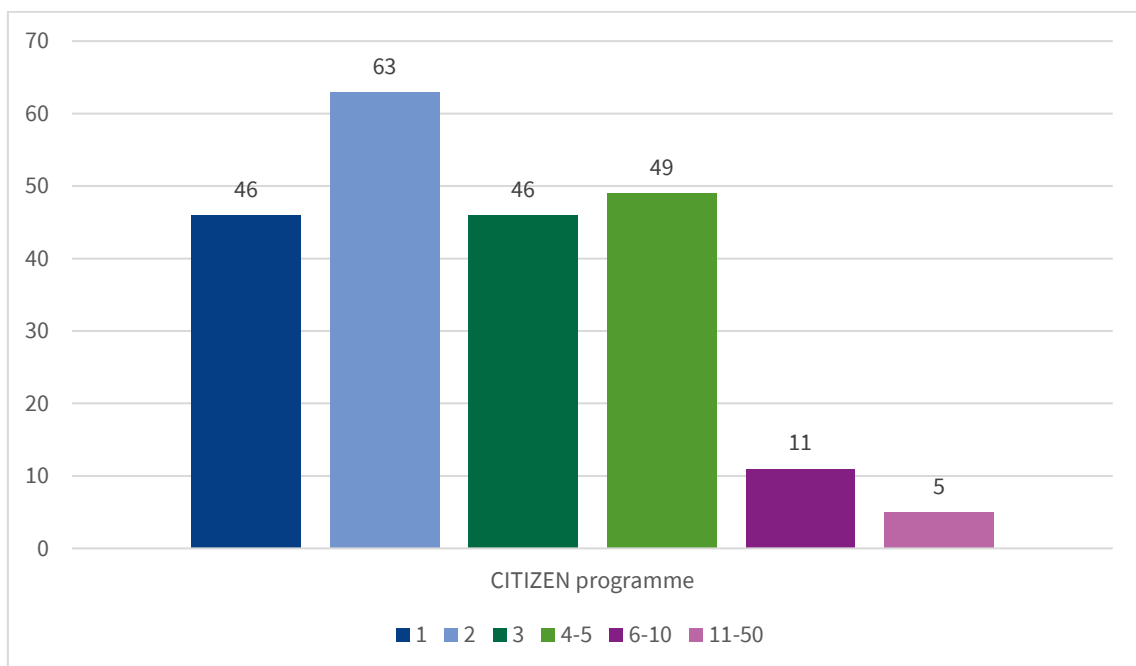
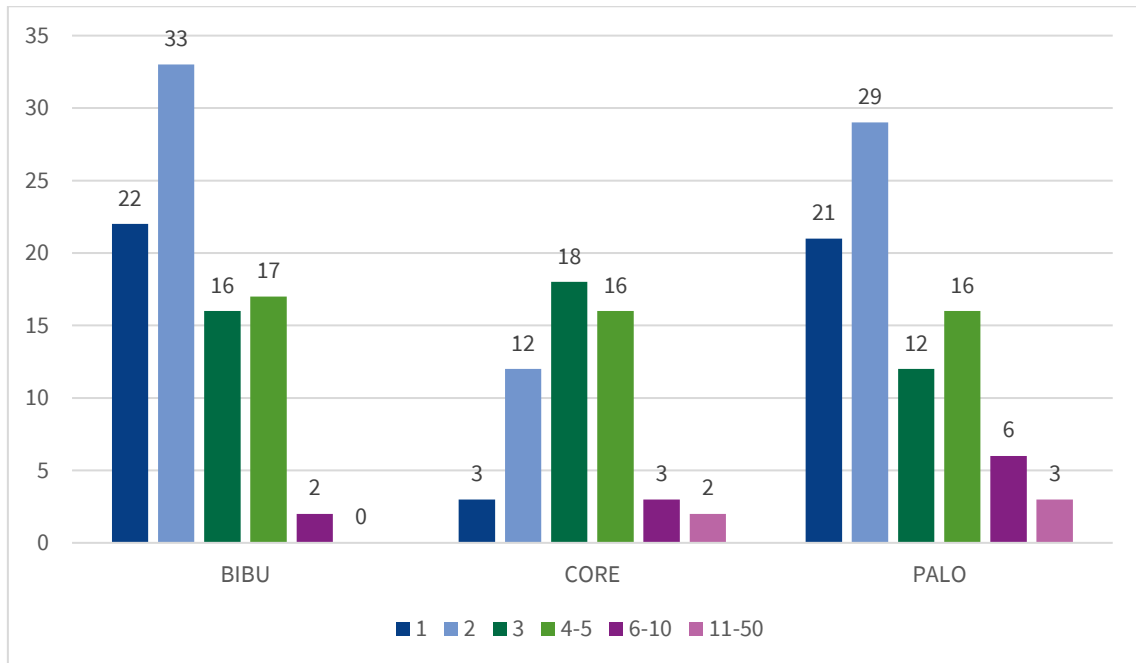


Figure 7. Language of publications in the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole.

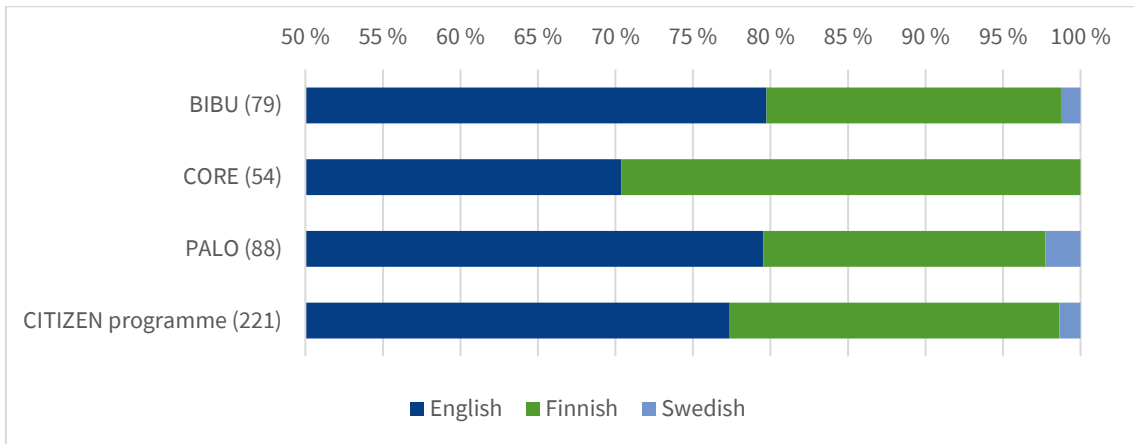


Figure 8. Share of national and international publications (%) in the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole, as well as in Finnish universities and state research institutes (as separate categories and together).

A national publication means a publication that is published by a Finnish publisher or is primarily published in Finland. An international publication means a publication that is not published by a Finnish publisher or is primarily published elsewhere than in Finland. For conference publications, publisher means the publisher of the conference publication.

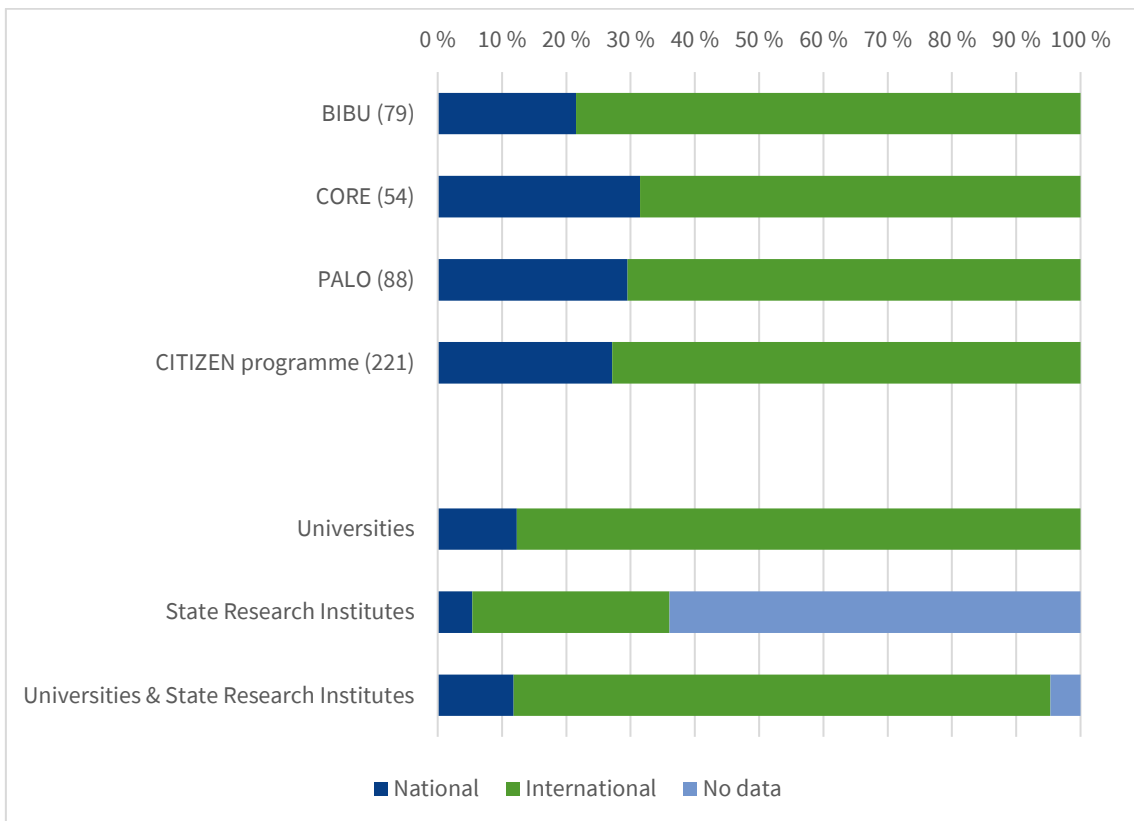


Figure 9. Share of international co-authoring (%) in the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole, as well as in Finnish universities and state research institutes (as separate categories and together).

At least one author of an internationally co-authored publication is affiliated to a non-Finnish organisation (the author may also be affiliated to both a Finnish and a foreign organisation). The foreign editor of the publication channel does not yet meet the criteria for international co-publication.

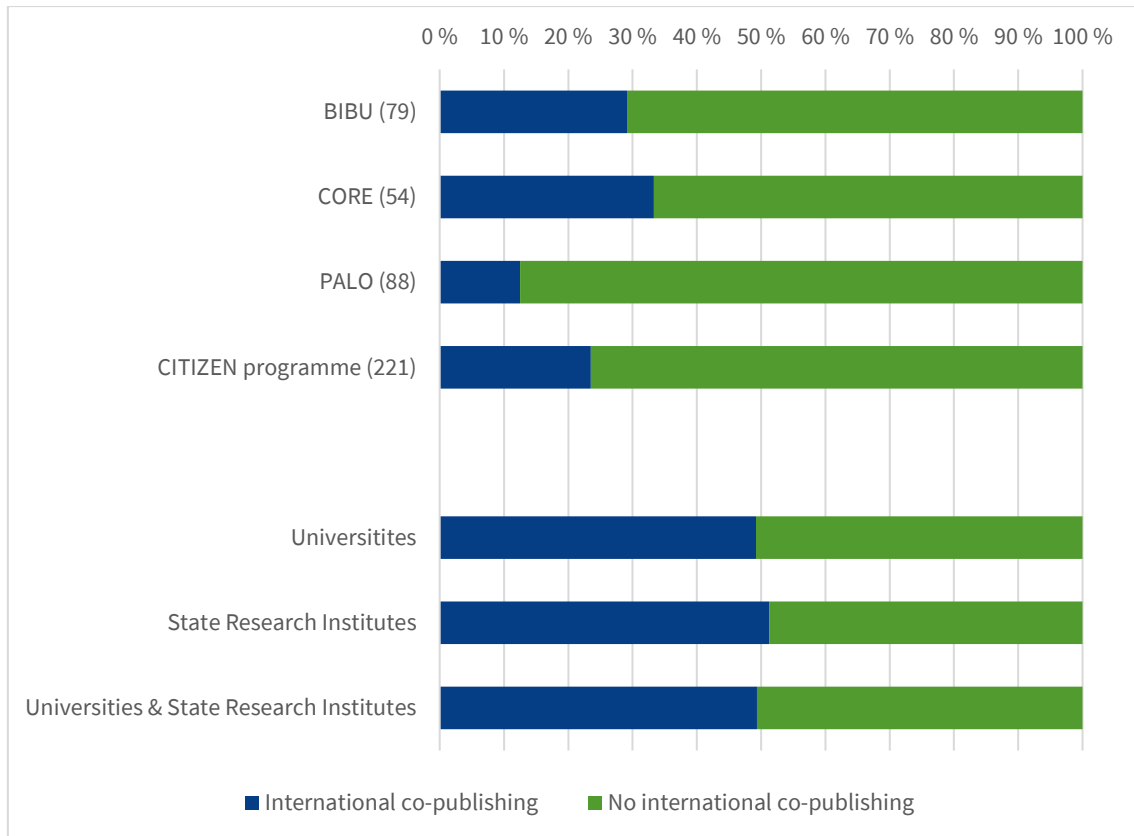
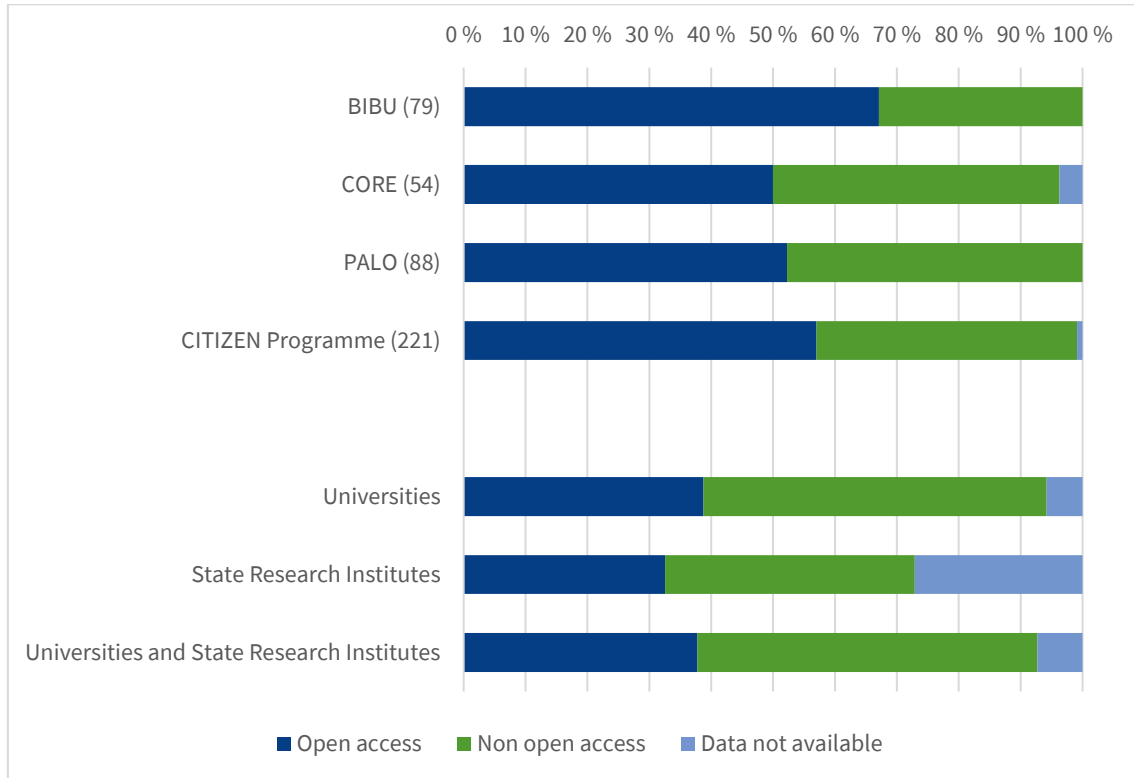


Figure 10. Share of open access publications (%) in the CITIZEN projects and in the programme as a whole, as well as in Finnish universities and state research institutes (as separate categories and together.

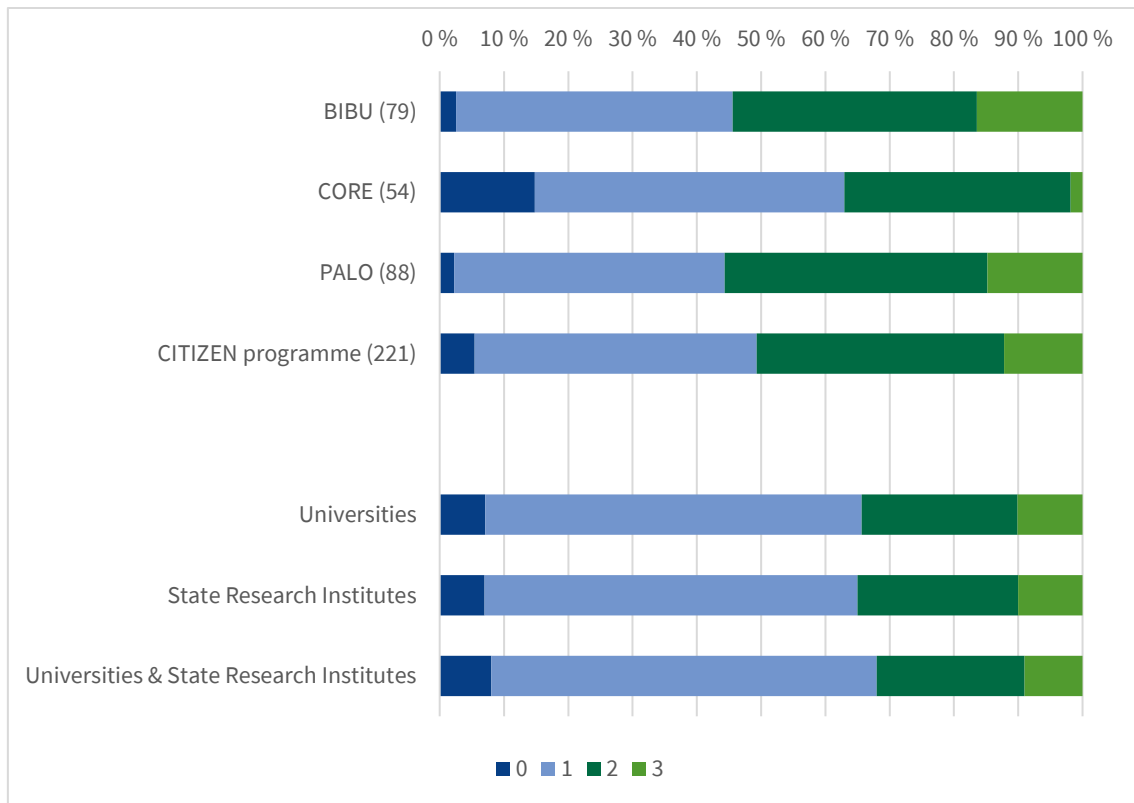
Open access refers here to all modes of open access publishing defined in the national publication data collection¹⁰



¹⁰ More information about open access publishing: https://wiki.eduuni.fi/display/cscsuorat/Julka-isutiedon-keruun+tutkijaohjeistukset?preview=/39984924/256871940/2021_Publication%20data%20collection%20instructions%20for%20researchers.pdf, pages 12–13. [referred to 10.5.2023]

Figure 11. Share of publications at different Publication Forum (JUFO) levels (%) in the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole, as well as in Finnish universities and state research institutes (as separate categories and together).

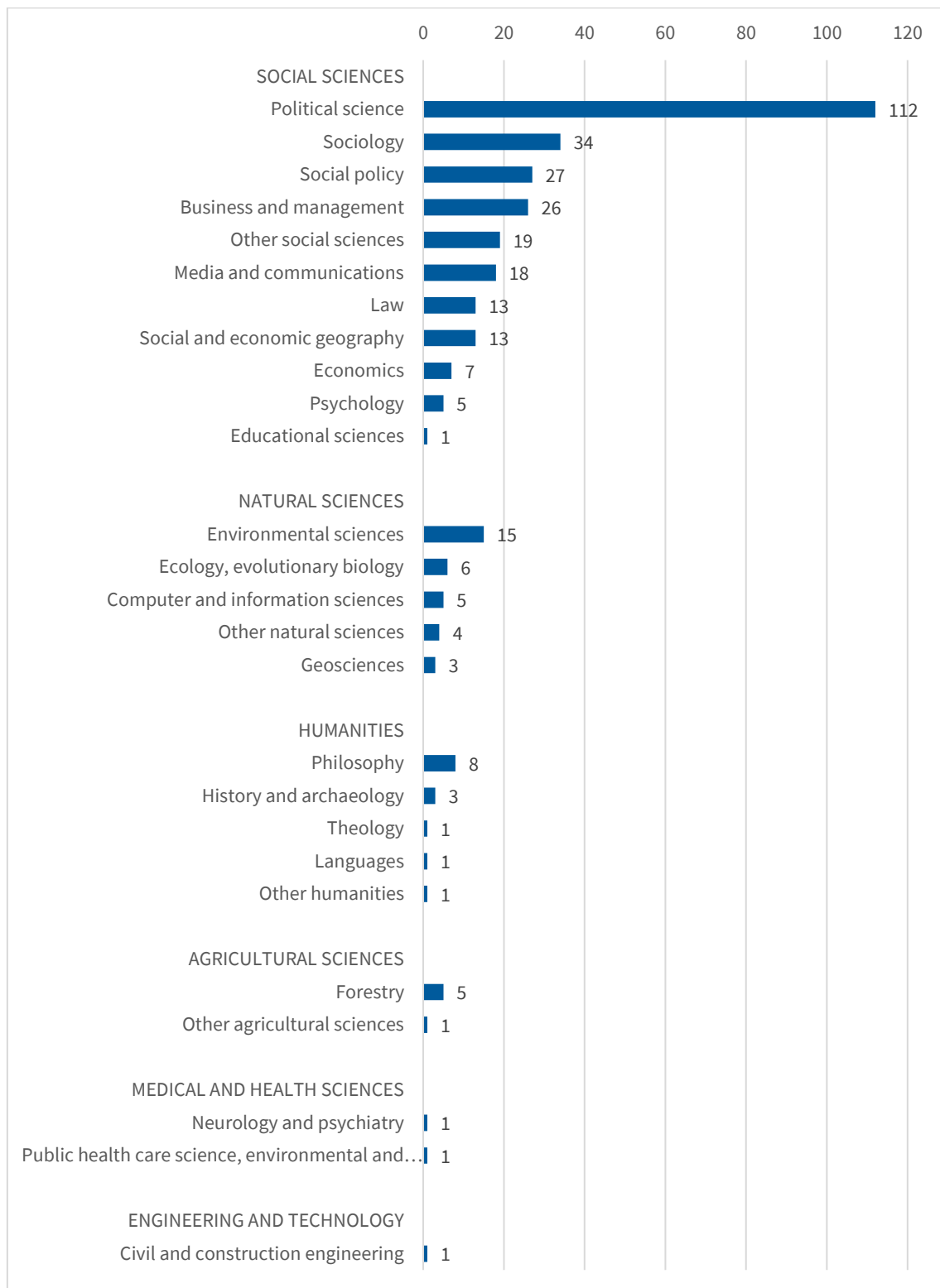
JUFO is a rating and classification system to support the quality assessment of research output. The four-level classification rates the major foreign and domestic publication channels of all disciplines as follows: 1 = basic level; 2 = leading level; 3 = highest level; 0 = publication channels that don't (yet) meet the criteria for level 1. To account for the different publication cultures characteristic of various disciplines, the classification includes academic journals, book series, conferences as well as book publishers.¹¹



¹¹ Publication Forum 2022: <https://julkaisufoorumi.fi/en/publication-forum> [referred to 10.5.2023]

Figure 12. Fields of science assigned to publications of the CITIZEN programme.

In the VIRTAs publication data collection, one or more fields of science¹² is assigned to a publication. The number of publications is 221, and the number of field assignments is 331.



¹² Fields of science are derived from Statistics Finland field of science classification: <https://www.stat.fi/en/luokitukset/tieteena/> [referred to 10.5.2023]

Appendix 10: Other research output

Table 10. Research data reported by the CITIZEN projects.

The SRC requires that the projects take charge of the responsible management and opening of research data. The degrees of data openness may justifiably vary, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential. If the research data cannot be made openly available, the metadata must be stored in a Finnish or international data finder.

Project	Research data	Openness	Location
BIBU	BIBU-kansalaissurvey: kuvaus tiedonkeruusta	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-kansalaissurvey kysymyslomake	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-kansalaissurvey ja rekisteri	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-kansalaissurvey ja rekisterin kuvaus	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-koronasurvey: kuvaus tiedonkeruusta	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-koronasurvey kysymyslomake	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-päätjäsurvey: kuvaus tiedonkeruusta	Work for openness ongoing	
BIBU	BIBU-päätjäsurvey kysymyslomake	Work for openness ongoing	
CORE	CORE-hanke tapaustutkimus Jyväskylän metsäohjelma dokumenttiaineisto	Yes	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/427474aa-dc87-4c2c-934d-314a7e0781fe
CORE	CORE-project Jyväskylä Forest Strategy - process documents	Yes	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/21892716-4a75-41be-be22-671fae9778fb
CORE	CORE-project interviews with Uudenmaan liitto prior to the "opi johtamaan yhteistyötä" training	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/e9d8eb51-33fb-4729-8df3-1db18dfccd97
CORE	CORE-hanke haastattelut vesistöseurannasta kaivostojen ja sidosryhmien kanssa	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/bd770c8a-451d-489c-b5de-c96c52143c2d
CORE	CORE-hanke tiekarttatilaisuuksien Miro-pohjat	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/a766e17f-fe6c-4b3e-86d3-f1b2d8096afe

Project	Research data	Openness	Location
CORE	CORE-hanke Heinäveden malminetsintäkonfliktiin liittyvien toimijoiden haastattelut	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/defe8c1f-a77e-4f7f-a61e-8fd08c591dda
CORE	CORE-hanke Keski-Suomen liiton virkamiesten ja Pelastetaan reittivedet -aktiivien haastattelut	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/3be9dd91-8d49-4aca-b609-f8a944282221
CORE	CORE-project Lupapiste.fi interview transcribes	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/3a122317-6886-42d2-8d0a-b6f1e61ae551
CORE	CORE-project impact assessment interviews with various stakeholders at Lahden suunta	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/2a2fdad1-72a7-4eda-8b76-7029266e6799
CORE	CORE-hanke susikannan hoitosuunnitelman valmistelu- ja ohjausryhmän edustajien haastattelut	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/e6c403ab-9496-4ee8-8b21-2856407adcdb
CORE	CORE-project Sodankylä mining collaboration interviews	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/5fc3cbb8-78d9-4179-b486-f2b24b46c67a
CORE	CORE-project Sodankylä situational analysis interviews about mining agreement	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/9797dbba-9a98-4570-8fbc-c6ac903e3f1e
CORE	CORE-project interviews about Green Deal and plastic bags with companies and consumers	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/e3d23d08-006c-4b9e-ab19-6568c9bcd6d9
CORE	CORE-project roadmap event recordings	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/be137586-832e-4b43-9068-9a4c64a0d274
CORE	CORE-project Collaborative Public Manager training questionnaires	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/0867f279-66b4-4708-a774-fa9f51dc8684
CORE	CORE-project Collaborative Public Manager training video and live meeting recordings	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/97c82c3c-6ce0-4fa9-871a-34c48373c412

Project	Research data	Openness	Location
CORE	CORE-project Jyväskylä Forest Strategy interviews with participants	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/21892716-4a75-41be-be22-671fae9778fb
CORE	CORE-project Jyväskylä Forest Strategy - Survey Compilation by Akordi	No, but metadata available	https://etsin.fair-data.fi/dataset/26eab3ad-3699-4577-9007-dd414cbe4792
PALO	Cognitive and Affective Empathy in the Dictator Game 2018–2019	Yes	https://services.fsd.tuni.fi/catalogue/FSD3588?study_language=en&lang=en
PALO	Argument Quality Evaluation Study 2018	Yes	https://services.fsd.tuni.fi/catalogue/FSD3587?study_language=en&lang=en
PALO	FSD3528 Finnish Citizens' Civic Attitudes 2019	Yes	https://services.fsd.tuni.fi/catalogue/FSD3528?study_language=en&lang=en
PALO	Sustainable Policy-Making: Finnish Policy-Maker Survey 2018	Yes	https://services.fsd.tuni.fi/catalogue/FSD3546?study_language=en&lang=en
PALO	Satakunta 2050 -kansalaisyksely	Work for openness ongoing	
PALO	Mustasaaren kansalaisraati 2019 kyselyaineistot	Work for openness ongoing	

Table 11. Number of higher education degrees reported by the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole.

Project	Master's degree	Doctoral degree
BIBU	1	3
CORE	-	3
PALO	-	5
CITIZEN programme	1	11

Table 12. Number of research visits reported by the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole.

Long-term visits are visits with a total uninterrupted duration of at least one month. Short-term visits are visits with a total uninterrupted duration of at least five working days but less than one month.

Project	Incoming long-term visits	Incoming short-term visits	Outgoing long-term visits	Outgoing short-term visits
BIBU	-	4	-	1
CORE	4	6	2	4
PALO	3	7	-	2
CITIZEN programme	7	17	2	7

Appendix 11: New research funding

Table 13. New research funding reported by the CITIZEN projects and the programme as a whole.

The projects were asked to report important new research funding applications (including at least two members of the SRC project) that continue or advance the research carried out in the SRC programme. The table presents the total amount of reported new funding from national and international funding sources.

Project	National funding, €	International funding, €
BIBU	2 162 811	1 750 000
CORE	3 089 757	800 000
PALO	907 499	-
CITIZEN programme	6 160 067	2 550 000

Appendix 12: Titles of impact stories

The societal impact of SRC consortia is monitored with the help of impact stories. The impact stories are reports that describe and discuss the research and interaction carried out in the project in relation to the joint impact objectives of the programme and the project's own impact targets¹³. Each consortium in the CITIZEN programme was expected to prepare at least three impact stories and update them during the entire period the consortium was active. Most impact stories will be accessible via the strategic research website.¹⁴

BIBU

- Recognising and highlighting changes in citizenship in social debate
- Updating the Nordic welfare model
- Tackling the biases and bubbles in participation in the BIBU Democracy Accelerator

CORE

- Diverse value for all through cooperation
- Regulation as a promoter of collaborative planning and decision-making
- The roles of civil society in solving social problems
- Collaborative management and knowledge-related practices

PALO

- Future-regarding democracy – promoting futures consciousness and long-term perspective in decision-making
- Deliberative civic participation – better practices for activating citizens and political participation
- Decision-making that takes natural resources and natural values into consideration – promoting deliberative interaction in the environmental administration's decision making

¹³ Strategic research, Reporting and monitoring: <https://www.aka.fi/en/strategic-research/for-applicants-and-projects/for-projects/reporting-and-monitoring/> [referred to 10.5.2023]

¹⁴ Impact in strategic research, Impact stories: <https://www.aka.fi/strateginen-tutkimus/strateginen-tutkimus/strateginen-tutkimus-pahkinankuossa/vaikuttavuus-strategisessa-tutkimuksessa/vaikuttavuuskertomukset>

Appendix 13: The self-evaluation questionnaire

The aim of the self-evaluation questionnaire was to collect information on the success of the completed SRC programmes (EQUA, PIHI, TECH, CITIZEN) and on needs to develop SRC programme funding. The self-evaluation questionnaire was targeted at the consortium PIs and deputy PIs, work package and team leaders, and interaction coordinators, to whom we sent a personal invitation to respond.

The questionnaire was open between May 2 – May 27, 2022. The total number of recipients was 148, of whom 75 responded to the survey (response rate 51%). The number of recipients in the CITIZEN programme was 26, of whom 21 responded to the survey (response rate 81%).

The questionnaire data will be available at the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD).

Responses:

Select the consortium you were part of. (n=21)

Tackling Biases and Bubbles in Participation, BIBU	9
Collaborative Remedies for Fragmented Societies, CORE	6
Participation in Long-Term Decision-Making, PALO	5

What was your (primary) role in the consortium? (n=21)

Research team leader, Work Package leader, or both	11
Consortium Principal Investigator	4
Consortium deputy Principal Investigator	2
Interaction coordinator	2
Other	2

In what kind of organisation did you work during the funding period? (n=21)

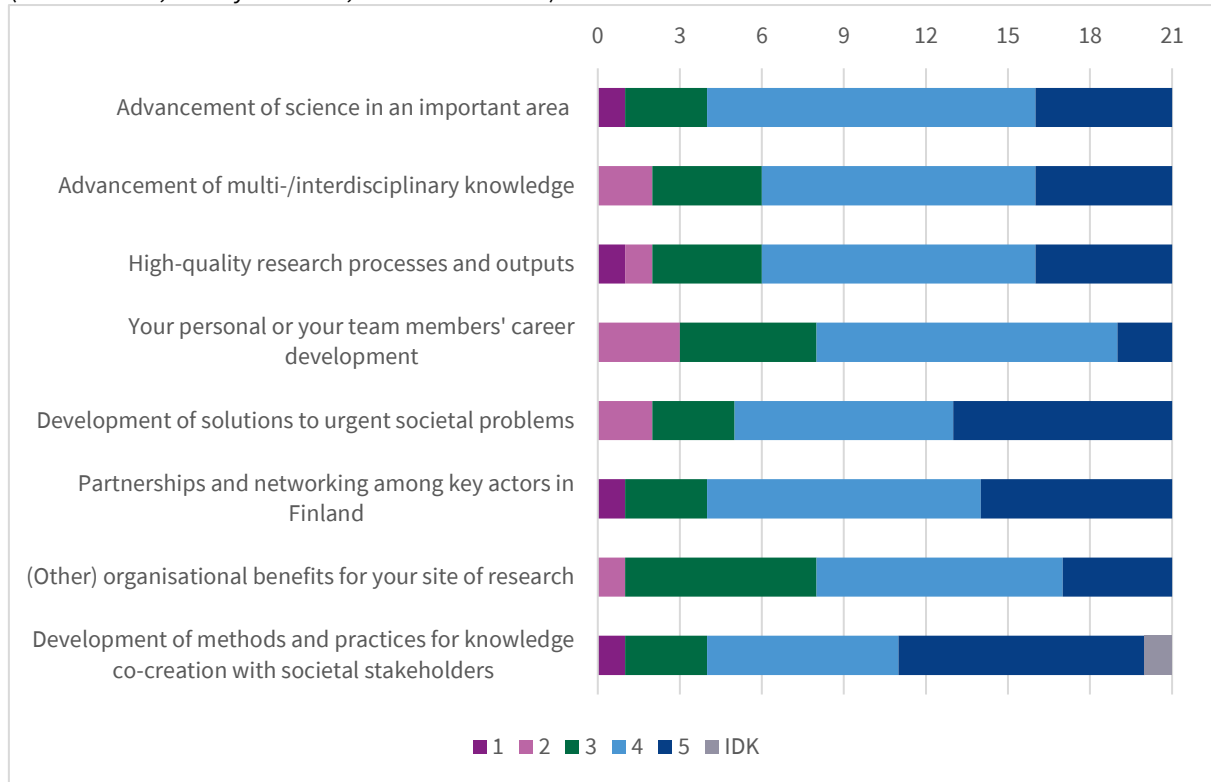
University	14
Government research institute	5
Think tank, interaction/communication agency	1
Non-governmental organisation	1
(Several other alternatives)	-

Did you know the other partners of your consortium before this SRC programme? (n=21)

I knew one or a few of the partners before the programme	10
I knew all or most partners before the programme	9
I did not know the partners before the programme	2

Assess the effectiveness of your consortium in advancing the following goals of SRC funding, based on your own experiences and impressions. (n=21)

(1=ineffective, 5=very effective, IDK=I don't know)

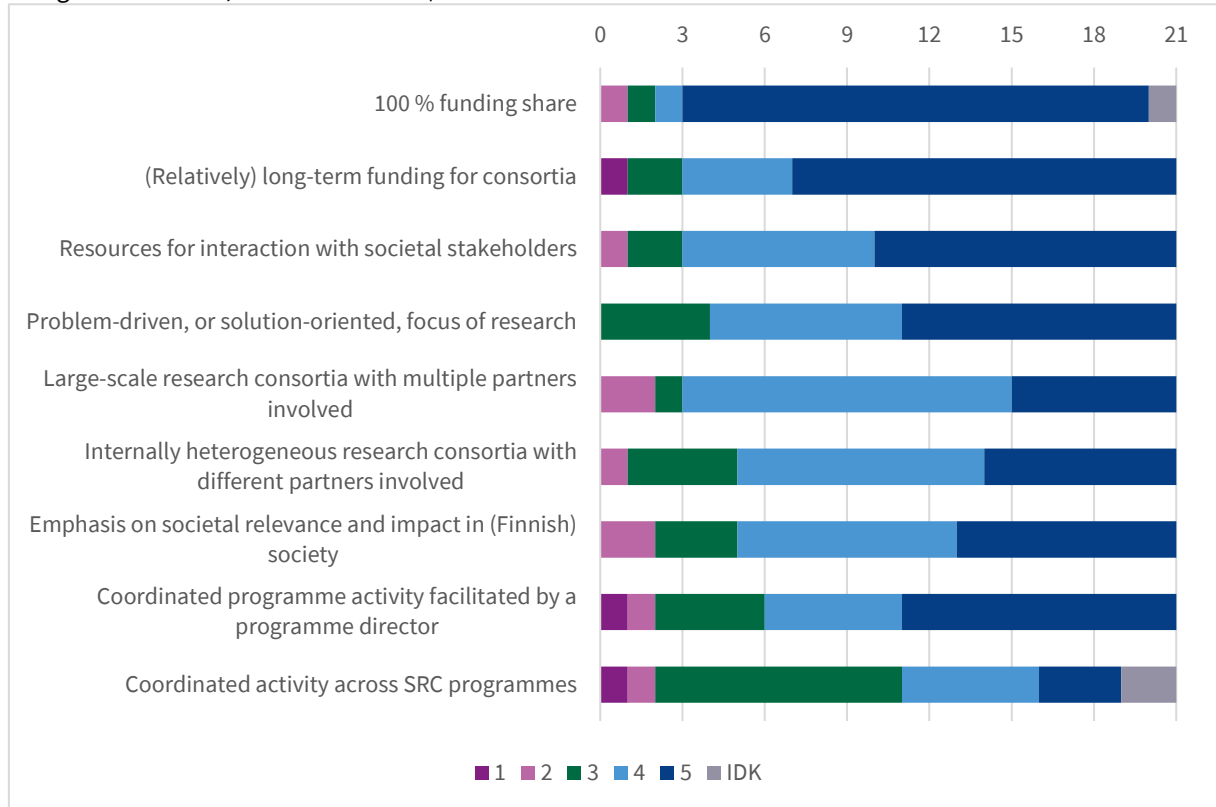


Tell us more about the effectiveness of your consortium in advancing the goals of SRC funding. (n=13)

Opinions on the quality of research and achieving societal impact varied in the answers. Some of the respondents stated that they succeeded in producing high quality research and oppositely some were disappointed on the academic ranking the publications received. It was stated that 4,5 years was not sufficient to achieve the goals in regard to interdisciplinary research and follow the impact of interventions and other interaction with the stakeholders. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic was stated to hinder the interactions that were originally planned

Assess the added value of the following features of SRC funding, based on your own experiences and impressions of the SRC programme you were part of. (n=21)

Please consider the added value vis-à-vis your other/regular research activities. (1=no added value, 5=high added value, IDK=I don't know)



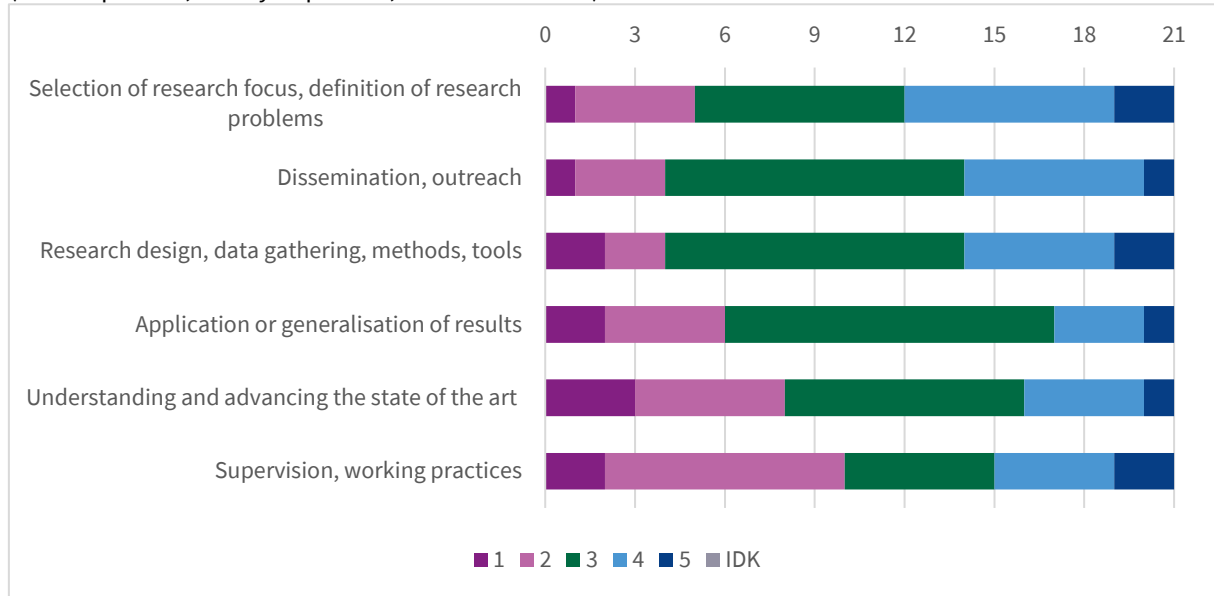
Tell us more about the most important added value of SRC funding. (n=13)

Long-term funding was perceived to enable long term collaboration and deep focus on conducting high quality research. Co-creation was stated to bring new insights and data for research. Some respondents saw the SRC funding instrument as unique

since no other funding instrument emphasizes societal relevance and interdisciplinarity or collaboration between stakeholders and researchers.

Assess the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration within your consortium. As a consortium partner, how important was the collaboration for the following aspects of your work? (n=21)

(1=unimportant, 5=very important, IDK=I don't know)



Tell us more about the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in your consortium. (n=12)

Overall, the respondents had very positive attitudes towards multidisciplinary. The multidisciplinary approach was described essential, useful, stimulating, and fruitful, leading to innovative research regarding answering complex questions and experimenting with new methodology. Contrarily, some respondents thought that multidisciplinary collaboration could have been stronger and that the collaborating partners fields of expertise were closely related.

Did your consortium have research collaboration with other SRC consortia (within or beyond the SRC programme you were part of)? (n=21)

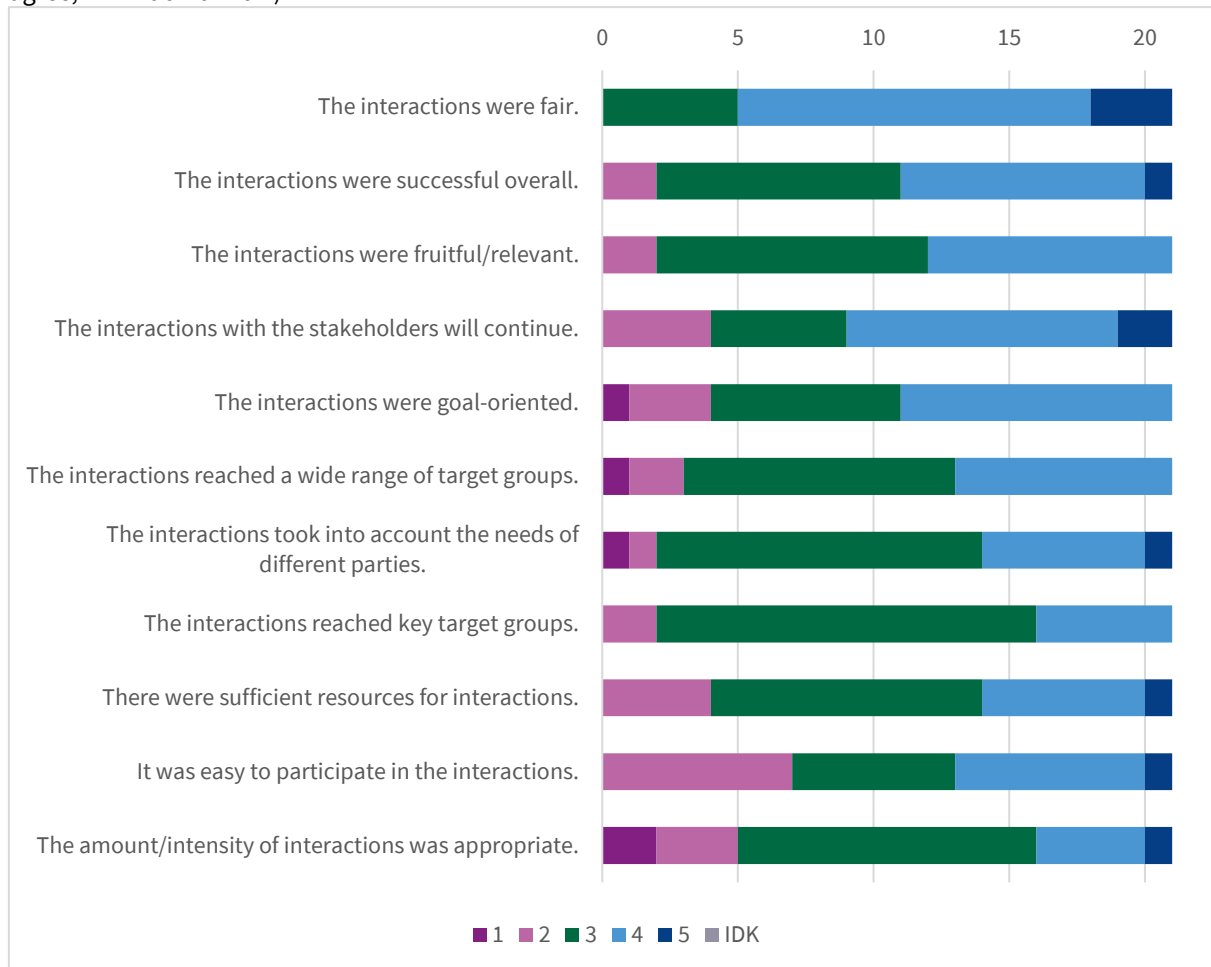
Yes, within the SRC programme	13
Yes, across the SRC programme borders	7
No, or I am not aware of it	4

Tell us more about the added value of your research collaboration with other SRC consortia. (n=12)

Co-operation was conducted in several ways, for example by arranging joint events and collaboratively producing policy briefs and, in some cases, even writing research papers. Collaboration took place between projects and consortiums as well as sometimes crossing program limits between individual researchers. As outcomes the respondents mentioned knowledge exchange, learning and additional societal interaction.

Assess the consortium's interactions with societal stakeholders (those you were involved in) using the following statements. (n=12)

(1=I disagree, 2=I disagree to some extent, 3=I neither agree nor disagree, 4=I agree to some extent, 5=I agree, IDK=I don't know)



Tell us more about the consortium's interactions with societal stakeholders. (n=10)

The COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions due to it significantly limited the way interactions were organized. The consortiums wished for more intensive interaction, but they also discovered that very intensive interaction requires a lot of resources. It was not clear if the interactions should be targeted to a certain level of administration, and they had observed variation in engagement at certain levels of administration.

In your view, what should be done to further strengthen the societal relevance and impact of strategic research programmes? (n=12)

Stakeholders could be involved earlier in research design to emphasize societal relevance. Also, the definition of stakeholder could be broadened from policymakers to the wider society. Additionally, the respondents stated that the language used by scientists should be adjusted to consider the recipient to improve dissemination and impact. The importance of these projects could also be communicated to stakeholders more precisely.

Appendix 14: The survey for stakeholders

The survey was designed to collect information on the societal interaction of the completed SRC programmes (EQUA, PIHI, TECH, CITIZEN) and the significance of the programmes' research and interaction for project partners and stakeholders. The aim was to examine the achieved and expected societal impact of the programmes. The target group of the survey were the main stakeholders and partners designated by the projects and programme directors funded in these programmes.

The survey was open between March 15 – April 22, 2022. The total number of recipients was 195, of whom 33 responded to the survey (response rate 17%). The number of recipients among the CITIZEN stakeholders was 27, of whom 5 responded to the survey (response rate 19%).

The survey data will be available at the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD).

Responses:

Select one strategic research programme (and one or more research projects under that programme) with which you have interacted. (n=5)

Changing Society and Active Citizenship, CITIZEN	5
Collaborative Remedies for Fragmented Societies, CORE	3
Participation in Long-Term Decision-Making, PALO	2
Tackling Biases and Bubbles in Participation, BIBU	1

To which of the following does your organisation/ stakeholder group primarily belong? (n=4)

Ministries	2
Companies	1
International organisations and actors	1
(Several other alternatives)	-

What (formal) role did you have in relation to the research programme or project? (n=5)

Stakeholder representative (without formal relationship)	3
Collaborator	1
Other	1
Service provider	-

Which of the following best describes your previous relationship with the researchers with whom you interacted within the programme or project? (n=5)

I did not know the researchers, and my organisation has not worked with them before (or I am not aware of such collaboration).	3
I knew the researchers from before.	1
Other relationship	1
I did not know the researchers, but my organisation has worked with them before.	-

What kind of cooperation or interaction has your organisation engaged in overall with researchers or research organisations before this programme? (n=5)

Occasional contacts, meetings, joint events, etc.	3
Long-term institutional collaboration	2
At least one joint project	-
None/I don't know	-
At least one joint project	-

What role did you play in relation to the research carried out in the research programme or project? (n=5)

Expert or information source	4
End-user of research knowledge	2
Knowledge broker	2
Experimenter or tester	1
Other role	1
Supporter, participant or assistant	-
Supervisor, leader or adviser	-

If necessary, tell us more about your role in the research of the programme or project. (n=2)

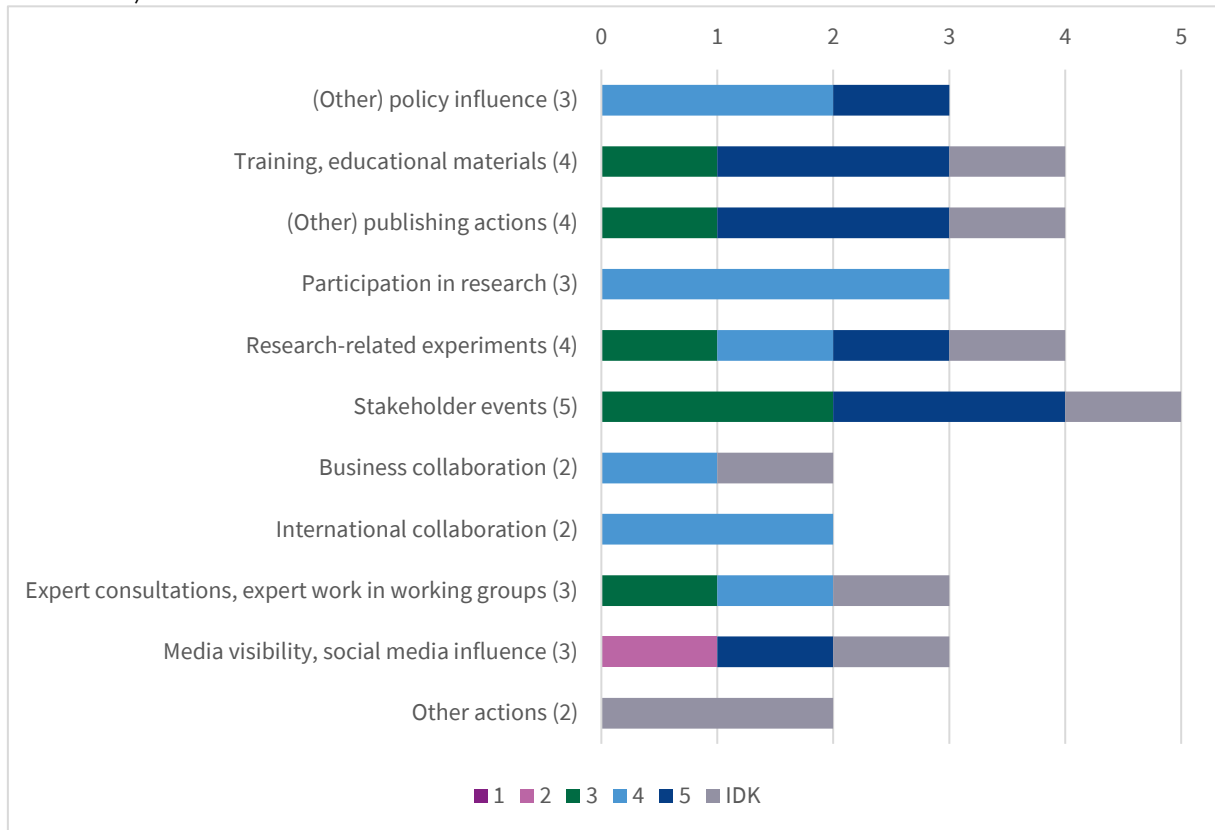
-

How often did you interact with or work on the research programme or project? (n=5)

Several times a year	4
Once a year or less often	1
Monthly	-
Weekly	-
Once during the whole programme period	-

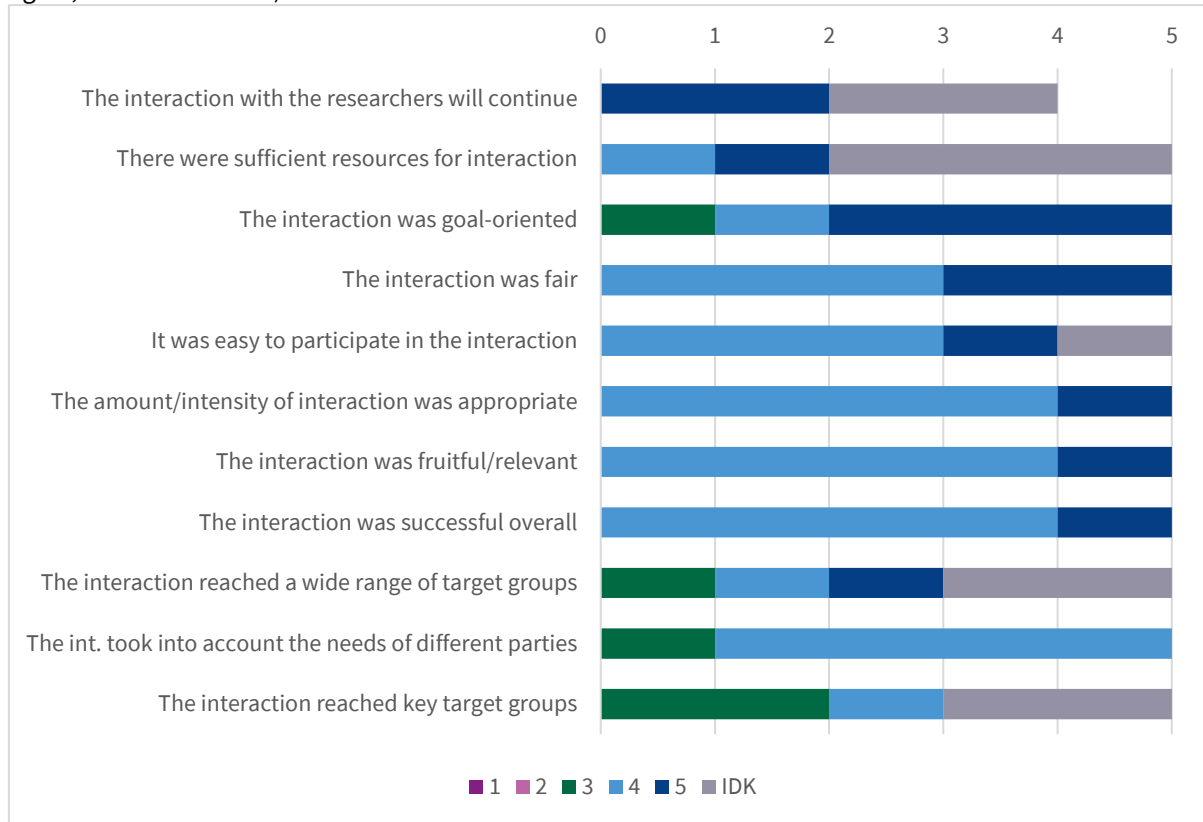
In what form were you involved in the research programme or project? Also assess the usefulness of the actions in terms of the societal impact of research. (n=5)

(1=useless, 2=quite useless, 3=neither useless nor very useful, 4=quite useful, 5=very useful, IDK=I don't know)



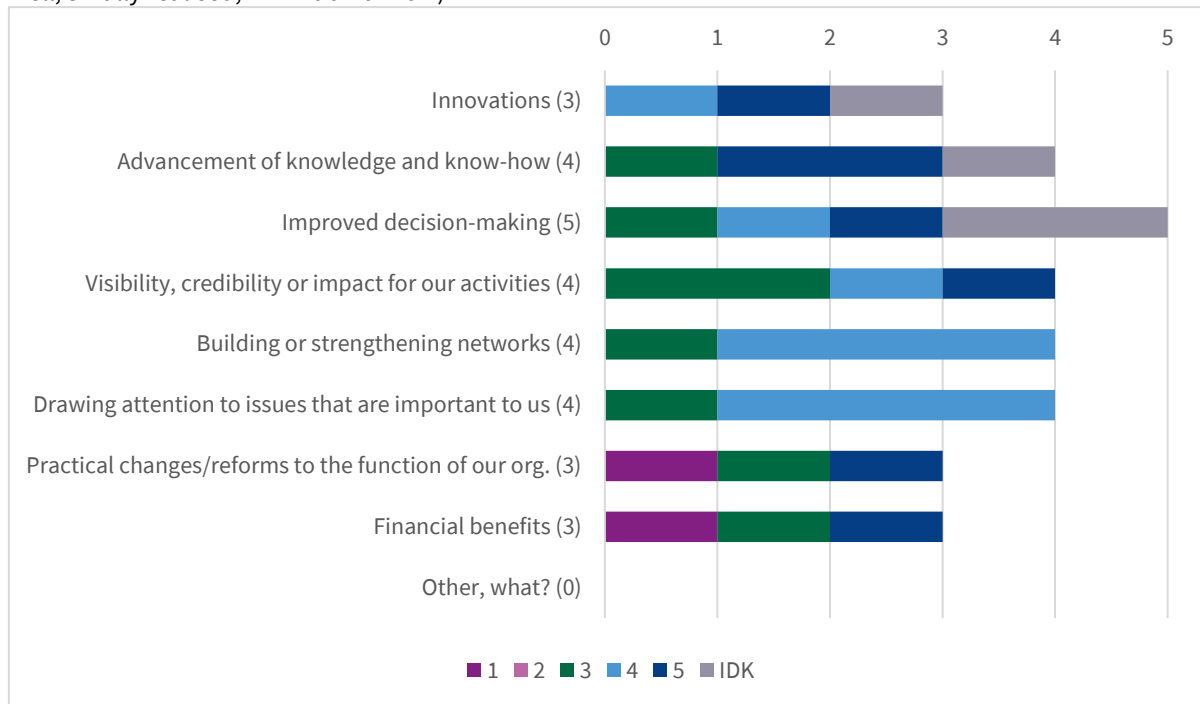
Assess the interaction with the research programme or project using the following statements. (n=5)

(1=I disagree, 2=I disagree to some extent, 3=I neither agree nor disagree, 4=I agree to some extent, 5=I agree, IDK=I don't know)



What were your aims for the interaction with the research programme or project? Please also assess how well your objectives were achieved. (n=5)

(1=not realised, 2=not realised to the expected extent, 3=realised to some extent, 4=realised fairly well, 5=fully realised, IDK=I don't know)



Please describe briefly one of the results, perspectives or solutions of the research programme or project that you consider significant. (n=4)

Perspectives of how to prepare policymaking in collaboration with citizens was mentioned as important. Different practical outputs, like guide and policy recommendations were described useful.

What practical significance has the work of the research programme or research project had for you? To what change has the research led or contributed? Please provide concrete examples, if you can. (n=5)

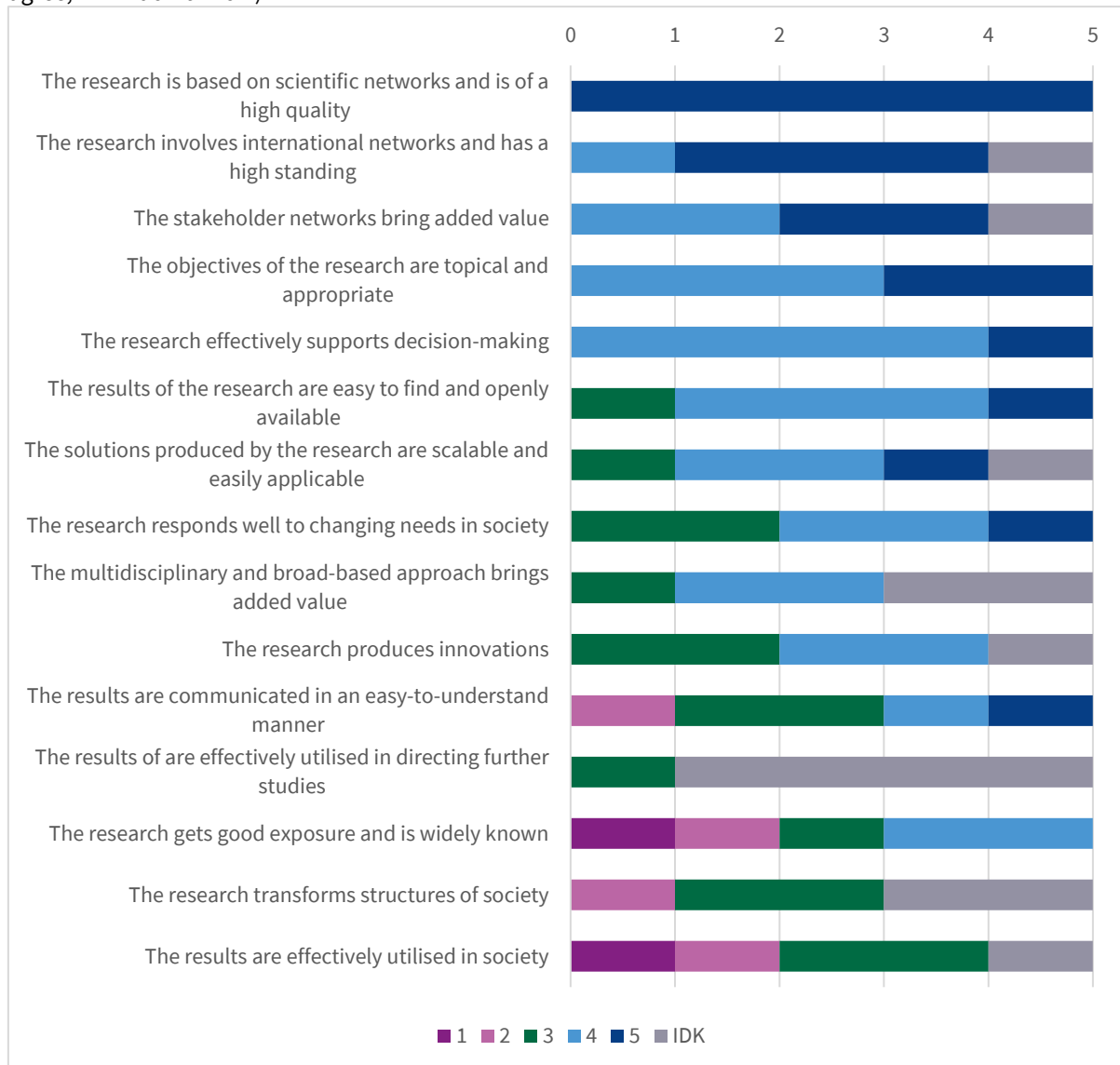
The materials produced during the projects have been utilized in the production of training, marketing and influencing materials, as well as in product development. The trainings have changed how preparations are conducted.

How do you think the research programme or project managed to influence society more generally, in other ways than from your own perspective or from the perspective of your organisation? Tell us why you think this. (n=4)

The respondents mentioned that project managers have been visible in public debate and that the participatory concept has been recognized on the EU level. Half of the respondents answered that they did not know if the projects or programmes had had general level societal impact.

Please assess the below statements on strategic research based on your own experience and views. (n=5)

(1=I disagree, 2=I disagree to some extent, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=I agree to some extent, 5=I agree, IDK=I don't know)



What do you think should be done to further strengthen the social relevance and impact of strategic research? (n=3)

Communication towards different stakeholders could be more active. The audience for the results should be considered carefully and resources should be steered to the implementation of the results.

What could you do yourself to strengthen the social relevance and impact of strategic research? (n=2)

The respondents stated that they should be more active in discussions with the researchers.