



Societal challenges require
societal engagement

Europe
needs
you!

www.engage2020.eu

Societal challenges require societal engagement

Engage2020 is a project funded by the European Commission exploring how members of society are involved in research, innovation and related activities today and in the future.

The European Commission has identified seven Grand Challenges - key issues where focused research is needed - ranging from demographic change to security. The Engage2020 project has identified engagement policies and methods which are suited to involve members of society in Research and Innovation activities related to these seven Grand Challenges.

Engagement will be part of the future – are you ready?

Are you a policymaker, scientist, researcher, research funder or a civil servant looking for engagement advice?

Engage2020 can help you answer your questions around societal engagement, for example:

- What is engagement?
- How do I engage others in my work?
- What outcomes can engagement lead to?
- Where can I find more support around engagement in Responsible Research and Innovation?

Is Engagement necessary?

Why engagement?

Both Science and Society is changing. Engagement helps research and policy institutions manage in their new environment. There are different reasons for engagement:

- Functional reasons – Better results/research
- Political reasons – More legitimate results/research
- Cultural reasons – More Democratic and inclusive results/research

Why now?

Public Engagement is at the core of the Responsible Research and Innovation principles:

- Inclusive: Involve diverse stakeholders (citizens, users, NGOs, etc.) in R&I processes.
- Anticipatory: Researchers and innovators are asked to include new perspectives in R&I in order to assess and manage risk.
- Reflexive: Researchers and innovators are asked to think about their own ethical assumptions - their role and responsibilities through public dialogue.
- Responsive: Flexibility and capacity to change R&I processes according to public needs and values.

Engagement will be part of future research and innovation

The European Commission is supporting Societal Engagement in science and innovation. Public Engagement is seen as a new form of cooperation between science and policy making on one hand and society on the other. Issues of R&I governance makes up the core of RRI. The Engage2020 project has mapped trends, explored consequences and developed ideas for future practice around societal and public engagement.

- Are you ready for engagement?
- Do you have the knowledge you need?
- Do you have the experience and support you need?

Regardless of whether you are a researcher or policymaker in R&I it is likely that you will be called upon to engage with the public in the future

- Engagement is happening across many different fields, roles and countries, and is growing.
- Engagement provides benefits for citizens, society as a whole and researchers and research institutions.
- Start to explore how engagement might be relevant in your work today

How Engage2020 can help you with Responsible Research & Innovation

The Engage2020 website provides you with inspiration, solutions and advice for implementing engagement. On the site you will find: an Action catalogue which describes 57 engagement methods and tools – and allows you to search for the exact method you need, Six Policy briefs for those new to engagement and two in depth reports about tools and instruments for a better societal engagement in “Horizon 2020”.

Societal engagement is new to many people in Europe. There is no reason to start from scratch.

There is help for those looking for assistance. Go to the website and download the resources today! www.engage2020.eu

Project Partners

- Danish Board of Technology Foundation - Teknologirådet, Denmark
- The Involve Foundation (Involve), United Kingdom
- Karlsruher Institut für Technologie – Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
- Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (University of Groningen), Holland
- The Applied Research and Communications Fund, (ARC Fund), Bulgaria
- DIALOGIK Non-profit institute for communication and cooperation research, Germany



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