

Mainstreaming Societal Engagement in Research Issues

FINAL POLICY MEETING

**3 March 2009
14:00 -18:00**

**Salle Auclert, SC-15 00/Auclert
Rue de la Science, 15
1040 Brussels**



In 2001, the Commission launched the White Paper on Governance, “Democratising Expertise”, providing guidelines on the use of expertise that focus notably on greater opportunities for informed participation by society in policy-making, and on the promotion of participatory procedures. The European Research Advisory Board advised researchers to take “societal questions and concerns more into account.” The benefit would be a more reliable information on future needs and hence better adapted innovations. Very recently, in December 2008, the Council of the European Union endorsed the “2020 Vision for the ERA” which is aiming at better responding to major societal challenges and calling for continuous dialogue with society and durable partnerships of research institutions with diverse actors.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to present the principal findings and recommendations of the European STACS project (Science, Technology and Civil Society).

The EU is building its European Research Area and stresses that research should be more responsive to the needs of citizens and of sustainable development, and include all stakeholders. So making the most of the contribution of civil society to research has become crucial to ensure that Europe becomes a true Knowledge Society and overcomes the unprecedented challenges our societies face, from climate change to unemployment, from the health consequences of pollution to social injustice.

The focus will be on practical issues such as how the process of involvement of civil society organisations can work. Besides presentations from domains such as medicine, public health and agriculture, Laura Milne, Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator from the University of Victoria, will present the Canadian experience of community based research, and provide practical insights into how to design successful research partnerships that benefit communities, researchers, and policy-makers.

The policy meeting is aimed at officers of national and European public officers, scientists, members of European Parliament, NGOs, and scholars working in the field of STS studies.

The European project STACS (funded by FP6-2005-Science and Society-19-044597) has four aims:

- To establish dialogue between scientists and CSOs
- To create common research projects between researchers and CSOs
- To discuss European research policy issues
- To give recommendations on how to involve CSOs in the European research system



Programme

14:00 Opening

Peteris Zilgalvis, Head of Unit RTD-L3 – Governance and Ethics

14:10 Introduction: The STACS Project – Goals and Experiences

Claudia Neubauer, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, Paris, France

14:30 Section 1: Scientists and NGOs as Research Partners

On the Way to Common Research Projects in the fields of Medicine, Public Health and Agriculture – Experiences from the STACS Nursery Workshops

Katrin Grüber, IMEW, Berlin, Germany

Thomas Levillain, Réseau Semences Paysannes, France

Caroline Bollars, EPHA, Brussels, Belgium

15:00 Community based research in Canadian Universities

Laura Milne, Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator, University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

15:20 Participatory Research in the EU – Analyses and Recommendations

Eric Gall, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, France

15:30 Discussion

16.00 Coffee break

Section 2: Citizen Scientists

16:20 Citizen Scientists – Research in the Interest of Society

– Presentation of the “Citizen Scientists” booklet produced by STACS

Jack Stilgoe, Demos, UK

Stuart Blume, Innovia Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Section 3: Opening the EU Research System to Civil Society

16:50 Round Table

Hartmut Graßl, Max-Planck-Institute, Hamburg, Germany

Paraskevas Caracostas, Advisor, Science in Society Directorate

Eric Gall, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, Paris, France

17:20 Discussion

17:50 Concluding Remarks

Claudia Neubauer

Viviane Willis-Mazzichi, RTD-L3 – Governance and Ethics

Facilitator: Katrin Grüber

Further information and registration

For further information and registration please contact Katrin Grüber, director, IMEW,
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