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How to engage citizens in defining research priorities

Bjørn Bedsted, Danish Board of Technology

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DANISH BOARD OF TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

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Why?

Because it’s fair!

Why not?

- No will
- No skill

Citizen Panels in 12 countries

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- the Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Italy
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom

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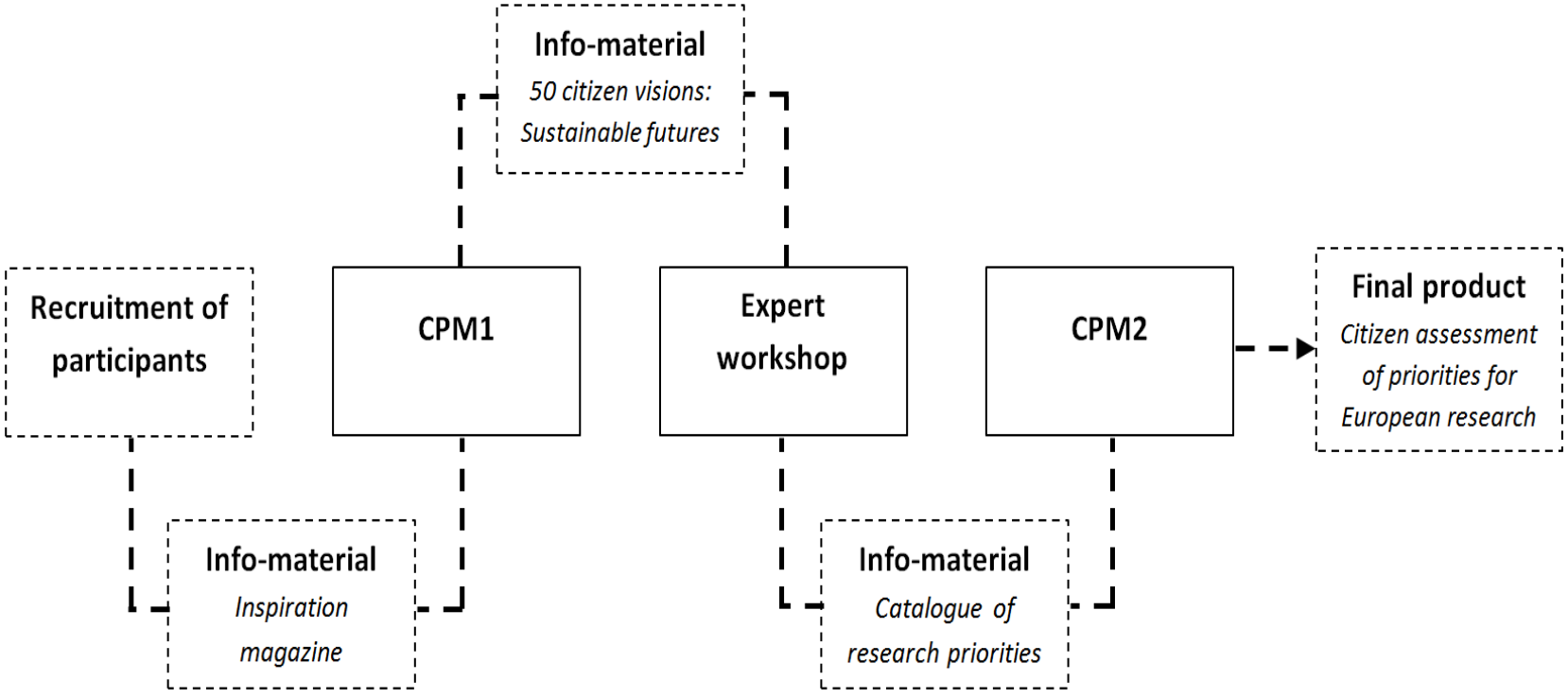
Info-material
50 citizen visions: Sustainable futures
Recruitment of participants
CPM1
Expert workshop
CPM2
Final product
Citizen assessment of priorities for European research
Info-material
Inspiration magazine
Info-material
Catalogue of research priorities

Inspiration Magazine

Making Visions for a Sustainable Future

CASI citizen panel meetings

Citizens thoughts on the future ... p.3

What is a vision and what is sustainability? ... p. 5

The future is in your head - interview with future expert Ian Miles ... p.6-7

Questions for the future - What do you think? ... p. 8

Sustainability share their visions ... p. 10-11

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Poznan, Poland (CPM1)

Leuven, Belgium (CPM1)

Copenhagen, Denmark (CPM1)

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Urban farm

Short description

The urban farm(s) bring people together to do organic farming. Inhabitants and students of the city, all are welcome to cooperate in the urban farm(s).

Long description

What are the benefits associated with the vision?

In and around the city students, children and inhabitants of the city come together in public urban farms to **farm organic products** in order to fulfil their own needs of vegetables and fruits. Besides farming organic vegetables and fruits, the urban farm(s) have other functions. It is a place where inhabitants, students and children can **meet**, where they can **learn** about and **practice** organic farming and healthy food. The land of the urban farm(s) is the property of the city. It is up to the inhabitants and students to decide whether to become a member of the urban farm. A **member** of the urban farm pays a rent for the land where he or she can farm organically. A member is responsible for maintaining and farming his/her piece of land or garden. A member has the freedom to choose what type of vegetables, fruit, herbs or others he/she plants. A member is responsible to purchase seeds or plants him/herself.

What is necessary for this future?

Other **materials** like a well to catch and store rain, a conservatory or a fence are provided by the city administration.

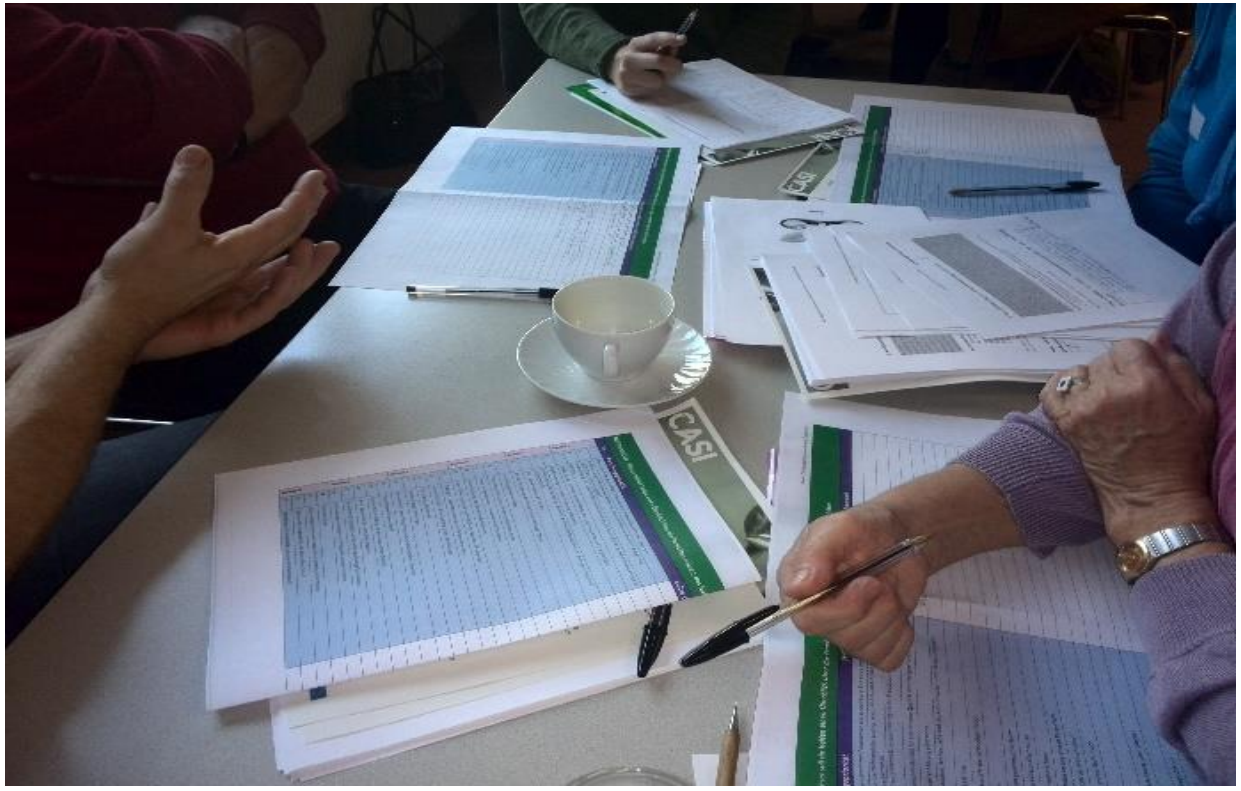
For each urban farm, a **coach or gardener** is appointed by the city and/or by the members of the urban farm. The gardener instructs the members about organic farming in the common garden and ensures every member follows the rules. The gardener is also responsible for keeping away pests. Besides a common vegetable garden, other common pieces of land are used for planting fruit trees or for keeping chickens. Depending on the rules agreed upon by every member of the city garden, the harvest of all the gardens is for everyone and distributed among members in one case, or only the harvest of one piece of land is for the member that rents that piece of land in the other case. In case the harvest of all gardens is a common good, the gardener sets up a **communication system**, e.g. colored banners, to inform the members about the harvesting process. A red banner, for example shows that the vegetables are still growing; a yellow banner shows that members can harvest but only the ripe pieces; a green banner shows that members can harvest all vegetables in that garden. Another communication system, e.g. an app or mailbox, will be used by the gardener to inform members about what could be improved in their garden, when lessons will be organized in the common garden, etc. When members abandon their garden and did not respond to the warnings given by the gardener, the lease agreements will be stopped.

What are the negative repercussions of this vision?

A possible negative outcome is the increasing **pressure on available land** in and around the city. It might be a good solution to set up decentralized and different big and small urban farms. That way an urban farm will also be reachable for every citizen. Another issue is time. Organic farming and organizing urban farms is **time demanding**. Other issues that need to be carefully looked at in advance are how the urban farm will deal with **risks** such as weather and students that leave the city during the summer. In the long term, the development of urban farms might impact **farmers and supermarkets.** Part of their sales will disappear when citizens will cover their own basis needs in terms of food products.

Expert workshop

Vienna, Austria (CPM2)



Ranking	Name of research priority
1	**Supporting local/regional agricultural production, distribution and consumption system**
2	**Holistic education for a sustainable future**
3	**Supporting people to become producers of renewable energy**
4	Sustainable construction of buildings
5	Sustainable transformation of existing traffic infrastructure in cities
6	New working models – new economic models
7	Innovating agriculture: the sustainability option
8	More green in cities
9	Understanding and implementing sustainable electronics
10	Fair and participatory access to limited resources

Now what?

To be used by the Commission as inspiration for coming calls

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Why do national research programs ignore that

- it is possible to include citizens in defining topics and agendas
- it leads to different results and priorities
- it offers legitimacy to research spending
- it is democratically fair that citizens have a say in defining goals and visions for research activities sponsored by their taxes
- citizens should be part of defining which future researchers should seek to bring about

Policy Formation Distributing funds between programs	**Program development** Visions for programs and crosscutting issues	**Project definition** Defining research foci	**Operational level** Producing data
• **Consensus Conference** • In-depth, qualitative input from small panel of citizens • **World Wide Views** • Quantative responses to policy options, large scale, multisite	• **Ctizen Panels** • CIVISTI • CASI • CIMULACT	• **Science Shops**	• **Citizen Science**

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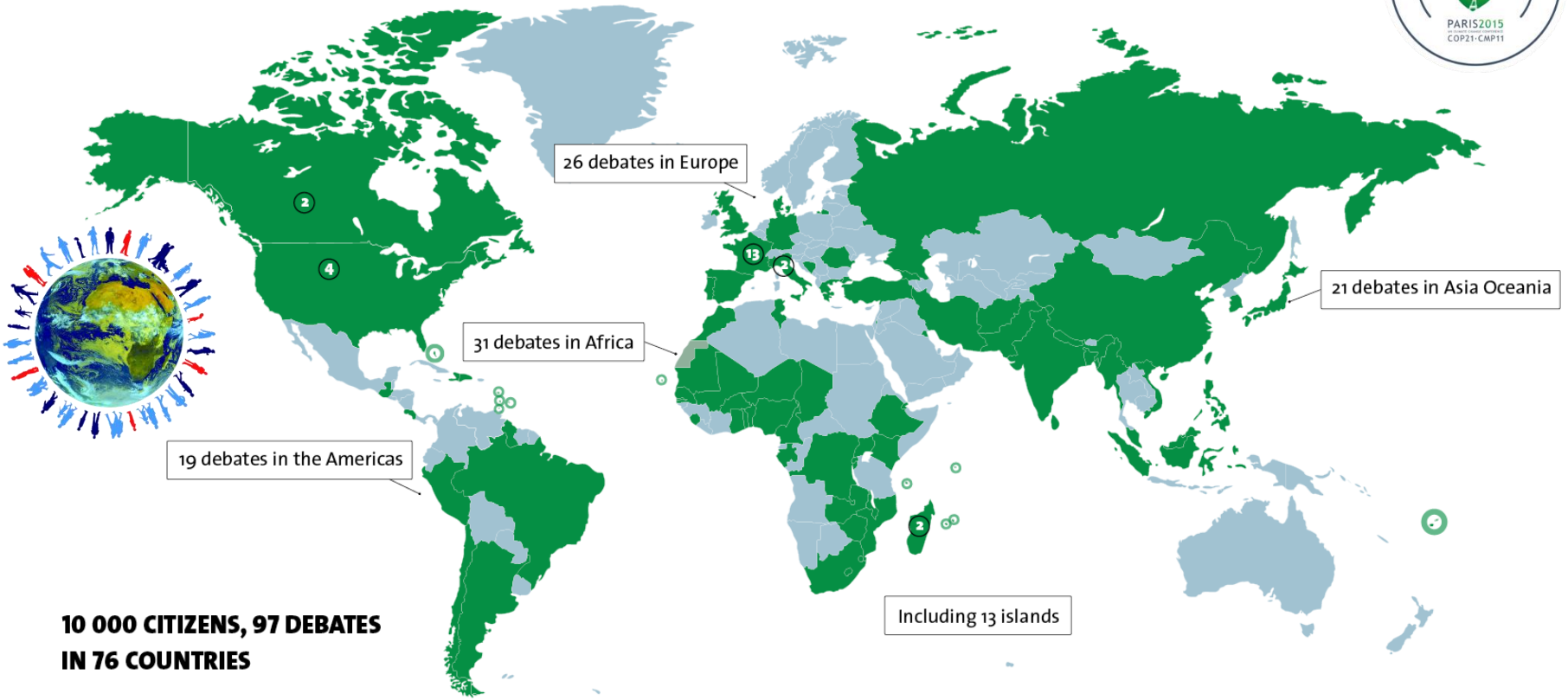
WORLD WIDE VIEWS ON

Climate and Energy #WWViews



10 000 CITIZENS, 97 DEBATES IN 76 COUNTRIES

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN WORLD WIDE VIEWS ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY

- AFGHANISTAN
- ARGENTINA
- BAHAMAS
- BANGLADESH
- BARBADOS
- BENIN
- BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
- BRAZIL
- BURKINA FASO
- BURUNDI
- CAMEROON
- CANADA
- CHAD
- CHILE
- CHINA
- COMOROS
- COSTA RICA
- DENMARK
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- DR CONGO
- ETHIOPIA
- FIJI
- FRANCE
- GABON
- GEORGIA
- GERMANY
- GHANA
- GREECE
- GRENADA
- GUATEMALA
- GUYANA
- HAITI
- INDIA
- INDONESIA
- IRAN
- ITALY
- KENYA
- KUWAIT
- MADAGASCAR
- MALAYSIA
- MALI
- MAURITANIA
- MAURITIUS
- MOROCCO
- MOZAMBIQUE
- MYANMAR
- NEPAL
- NIGER
- PAKISTAN
- PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
- PERU
- PHILIPPINES
- PORTUGAL
- ROMANIA
- RUSSIA
- RWANDA
- SAINT LUCIA
- SENEGAL
- SEYCHELLES
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SPAIN
- SRI LANKA
- TOGO
- TUNISIA
- TURKEY
- UGANDA
- UK - SCOTLAND
- USA
- VIETNAM
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE

Should citizens participate in making decisions about research and innovation?

The question is not why - but Why not?

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