Policy of disruptive public engagement

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WHY DISRUPTION?

- For emergence or transformation of a field (Fligstein 2013)

- Innovations for the future need not be considered useful today (Christensen 1997)

- As inclusive agendas for collective transnational decision making (Dahl 1994)

- … or simply because it's possible and might bring forward change and diversity (cf. Kahane at al. 2013)

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Policy of disruptive public engagement

- Disruption as a policy is called for when public engagement **targets change**.

- As outsiders, citizens are valuable to engage in that they are **prone to challenge** incumbent stakeholder arrangements, goals and expertise.

- Engagement may then result in addition to improved quality of decisions, also to deliberation of a wide range of arguments and **plural rationalities**.

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So where's the difference?

The CASI citizen engagement process introduced disruption in research and innovation priority setting:

1. In general, citizens were more concerned with **societal issues** than other stakeholders.

2. They also assessed research and innovation **priorities differently**.

3. For research and innovation agendas, citizens provide novel priorities that **challenge established stakeholders** in their viewpoints and expertise.

Social issues disruptive (!)

	Draft research priorities (1 / vision)	Elaborated research priorities	Share of elaborated priorities, %
Local needs and support	2	2	100
Energy and production	6	5	83
Urban life	4	3	75
System resources	8	5	63
Living and spaces	5	3	60
Change for the future	7	4	57
Values and politics	7	3	43
Social development and people	10	2	20
Total	49	27	55

- Experts selected a limited number priorities based on citizen visions on '*social development and people'* and *'values and politics'*

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Different priorities between experts and citizens

XP	Research priority	Ra-ting
1	Improvement of European electricity transmission to increase renewable energy…	4.11
2	Research on business models and changing institutions related to sustainable energy…	3.84
3	Sustainable living environment	3.83
4	Holistic education for a sustainable future	3.81
4	A new European food culture	3.81
6	Access to natural resources as a human right	3.71
7	Co-developing green technology	3.68
8	Sustainable economics	3.65
8	Unified ecological grading system	3.65
10	Sustainable transformation of existing traffic infrastructure in cities	3.63

CI	Research priority	Score
1	Supporting local/regional agricultural production, distribution and consumption…	6.67
2	Holistic education for a sustainable future	6.02
3	Supporting people to become producers of renewable energy	5.59
4	Sustainable construction of buildings	5.55
5	Sustainable transformation of existing traffic infrastructure in cities	4.84
6	New working models – new economic models	4.60
7	Innovating agriculture: the sustainability option	4.35
8	More green in cities	4.12
9	Understanding and implementing sustainable electronics	4.06
10	Fair and participatory access to limited resources	3.88

Experts

Citizens

CASI

Different priorities between experts and citizens (2)

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Citizens

- Only 2 priorities reached the European Top-10 for both experts and citizens
- The association between European expert and citizen rankings cannot be considered statistically significant (r_s=.145, n=27, p=.47)
- The association between national citizen and expert rankings cannot be considered statistically significant for any country at the p<.05 level
- The association between European and national citizen rankings is strong or moderate for 9 out of 12 countries (4 countries: r_s ≥.646, n=27, p<.001; 5 countries: r_s ≥.460, N=27, p<.001 [p<.05 for one country])
- Good potential for disruption!

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Recap: reasons to involve citizens

- Citizen involvement can increase **public legitimacy**

- Citizen involvement can **increase diversity**

- Citizens tend to link policy to **underlying values**

- Citizens may be **open to changing position** based on learning

- Citizen deliberation can provide insight into the learning and change that is possible for a **broader public**

(Kahane et al. 2013)

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Concluding CASI insights: engage citizens when you

- **Seek change** which is not in the direct interests of incumbent stakeholders

- Try to **introduce social topics and values** on the agenda

- Want to **assess** proposed actions **differently**

- Develop futures in an **open way**

DISRUPTION!

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THANK YOU!

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