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STACS

**Science, technology and civil society - Civil Society
Organisations, actors in the European system of research and
innovation**

Compiled reports of Capacity building sessions

General Objective of capacity building sessions: Give CSOs the possibility to increase their scientific knowledge in their working domain

Specific objectives:

1. Give CSOs the possibility of attending and contributing to capacity building sessions on selected scientific issues of high societal relevance
2. Give CSOs the possibility to dialogue with scientists on their common domain of interest (make CSOs move upstream)
3. Give CSOs the possibility to deepen their understanding and to strengthen their capacities to approach scientific questions
4. Present recent scientific knowledge but also knowledge gaps, scientific institutions and bodies, regulation schemes and questions of expertise
5. Use Capacity building sessions to identify research themes
6. Guarantee the scientific quality of the sessions with the help of reference scientists



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TABLE OF CONTENT

Organisation	Theme	Page
Réseau Semences Paysannes	<i>Which plants for peasant agricultures ?</i>	3
Institut Mensch, Ethik, Wissenschaft	<i>Understanding Biomedicine - Listening to disabled people</i>	8
DEMOS – Everyday Democracy	<i>People Power? Science, participation and politics</i>	16
European Public Health Alliance	<i>Nutrition and Health – CAP</i>	21
Free Software Foundation Europe	<i>Free Software and CSOs</i>	25
Summary Report on Capacity building sessions		31

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Capacity building cession on *Which plants for peasant agricultures ?* Seminar on plant breeding methods

Today's research has a major impact on the type of agriculture we will have tomorrow. The loss of confidence in productivist agriculture and the repeated sanitary crises are compelling many citizens to demand the right to question research in its choices and orientations. What impacts do innovations coming from laboratories have on our agricultural ecosystems and food?

Beside genetic engineering producing official GMOs, there are several other plant breeding techniques, which currently permit to trespass species, render sterile the seeds of a plant or modify it at the cellular or molecular level. However, contrarily to GMOs, plants originating from such methods are not subject to a specific regulation and remain classified as « traditional » plant breeding techniques. Under the auspices of the *European* research programme STACS (*Science, Technology and Civil Society*) fostering cooperation between researchers and NGOs a seminar took place at the ENITA of Clermont-Ferrand on December 6-7, 2008 on the theme of plant breeding methods. First, the seminar gave an overview of modern breeding methods and the questions they raise. The second day was dedicated to potential alternatives, in particular breeding methods accessible to farmers or involving their participation. Researchers and farmers succeeded each other on the panel and exchanged their views on this question.

The training cession was organised with partners in Clermont-Ferrand's region. The seminar was also financially supported by local authorities and the french Ministry of Culture. The choice of the region of Clermont-Ferrand is not insignificant: the region is setting up a major project on the use of biotechnology in plant breeding. Researchers and farmers have succeeded as speakers. Women represented 20% of all interventions and

men 80%. This is explained by the agricultural workplace which is strongly represented by men. In the middle of researchers, it is nearing parity between men and women

More than 200 participants (from all Europe) met at Clermont-Ferrand at the seminar organised by the French Peasants' Seeds Network and its partners. It was a pleasure to shake hands with people last seen four years ago and to meet with enthusiastic youngsters listening with interest and asking constructive questions. This gathering allowed to measure the progress made since 2002, where the idea of a Peasants' Seed Network first germinated, and since the famous peasants' seeds meeting held in February 2003 in Auzeville, France, where we have witnessed its birth.

Since then, the French Peasants' Seed Network has clearly evolved and matured. Its membership gradually increased: today it counts 40 member organisations, gathering thousands of farmers and gardeners who cultivate, conserve and select « peasant varieties » and disseminate grains and know-how. The legislative framework has not become more flexible and it still refuses to acknowledge the existence of « peasants' seeds » both by excluding « peasant varieties » from the catalogue and banning the dissemination of grains originating from non-registered varieties. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm, the thirst for knowledge and the desire for sharing are stronger than the institutional reluctance to revise the regulation, which forgot that biodiversity must be cultivated and disseminated in order to exist. A regulation, which refuses to apply the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), even though ratified by the French Parliament last spring, and which recognizes farmers' rights to conserve, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds.

The Network's partnerships have also come a long way. At Auzeville, there have been only a handful of researchers, lots among the large number of farmers most of whom were meeting for the first time. Since then the researchers have decided to work together with the farmers of the Peasants' Seeds Network. This was not an easy step to make given that research institutions normally do not accommodate participatory research. Nevertheless, these researchers remained and others joined in this plant breeding adventure and the construction of shared knowledge. Beside plant breeders, agronomists, ethnologists, historians of science, etc, are also participating to our work. The seminar in Clermont-Ferrand was also an occasion to pursue the dialog with researchers from the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) who, even though do not share our vision of plant breeding and the living world, nevertheless were receptive to our questioning and presented theirs.

Thus, the first day dedicated to modern plant breeding methods delivered questions about contemporary research, which largely determines the type of agriculture we will have tomorrow. The Network decided to present the evolution of modern plant breeding over the last thirty years by examining technologies, which although are not legally considered « GMOs » nevertheless are questionable for the RSP's members and organic farmers, since they artificially modify the plant's intimacy, its cellular structure and its DNA. Modern plant breeding methods were presented in front of farmers or farmers' groups and a great diversity of research disciplines, for instance, historians, economists, sociologists, agronomists and geneticists.

The debate also addressed the history of modern plant breeding from the point of view of researchers but also from the perspective of farmers and their networks. It shed light on different positions as a plant breeder whether from the laboratory or the field. Then we

attempted to understand the genesis of modern breeding methods and explain how we arrived to techniques used today.

We have then attacked the discussion's central part, namely breeding methods themselves and their consequence on the living world. Here is a brief overview of these methods:

The *fusion of protoplasts*, involving the suppression of a cell's walls and nucleus by mechanic or enzymatic treatment, allows the association of characters of different species without using transgenesis.

Instead of inserting a foreign gene *marker-assisted mutagenesis* submits the cell to ionizing radiation or chemical shocks until a gene mutates and produces the desired protein.

The varieties produced on the basis of these techniques are not considered GMOs, they are not subject to regulation, nor evaluation or labelling for the end-consumer who thus consumes « clandestine GMOs » without knowing it, including in organic food since farmers often lack the necessary information when they chose their seeds.

These plants are often sterile or their characters of interest are not transmitted to descendants thus obliging the farmer to buy seeds every year. Beyond the economic aspect, what about the grain once expected to transmit life and instead becoming infertile? What about the extreme genetic impoverishment associated to this breeding technique?

Here are some examples of how modern breeding techniques have been applied and the subsequent genetic vulnerability of our plants:

- All hybrid sunflower varieties have the same cytoplasm [NDLR: content of a living cell] of male sterility PET1. Created in 1969, it was disseminated to breeders worldwide in the 70s.
- Several wheat varieties registered in the catalogue were created through mutagenesis and were irradiated or subject to chemical treatments.
- The Ogu-INRA cytoplasm (and its related versions around the world), obtained from the cytoplasm of a male-sterile radish detected by Mr. Ogura in Japan (1968), was introduced in all cabbages and many canola varieties worldwide for the creation of hybrids.
- In France, only 7 pure lines of soft wheat varieties, most of which are related, cover 50% of the cultivated landsurface.
- In the Netherlands, the 3 most cultivated varieties of the 9 most important species cover 81% to 99 % of their respective surfaces. One barley variety represents 94 % of spring barleys cultivated.
- In Africa BASF disseminates today a patented maize variety originating from genetic mutation allowing it to resist to a herbicide sold by the company, thus pretending to get rid of GMOs

These techniques produce uncertain effects— mutagenesis for instance produces mutations in an unpredictable manner in any location of the genome— and the unforeseeable and unintentional consequences of modifications are not evaluated: often they are not even identified. We can question with legitimacy therefore the nutritive quality of plants whose cellular or genetic structure has been modified.

Thus the first day contributed towards strengthening our knowledge about these techniques and our conviction of the urgency to propose farmers cultivating all types of crops an alternative to modern varieties, usually non reproducible, which arrive from laboratories of biotechnological firms and which fail to provide nutritious, healthy food. This session also demonstrated the urgency of suggesting to research organisations another type of governance for plant breeding, and generally for agricultural research.

Finally, in the evening the opportunity was offered to scientific researchers, a well-known peasant baker, Jacques Testart and Pierre Henri Gouyon, and the RSP's president to debate with the audience from Clermont-Ferrand on ethical problems presented by these manipulations of the living: Would « eugenics », unanimously rejected in the middle of the last century, be more acceptable when applied to the plant or animal kingdom, or to avoid certain genetically-based illnesses?

The second day began with the gardener's art history and the marvellous work of Gilles Clément a landscape architect who chose to accompany plants rather than to dominate them. These interventions allowed some reflection on the practices of gardeners.

Attention was also reserved for small grains and fodder plants, species, which have benefited from significant advance in terms of plant breeding, multiplication and use of peasants seeds. The first workshop on this theme provided an overview of plant breeding in relation to fodder plants and its correlation to the quality of animal feed. The second addressed the work carried out by INRA and a Swiss biodynamic plant breeder with the objective to describe traditional seed producers and plant breeders engaged in public interest-based research. The last session presented the Goethean method of plant breeding and experiments on the plasticity of the living.

At Clermont-Ferrand we acknowledged the beginning of a new era: we are not only speaking of old varieties, but also of new varieties created by or with farmers from old varieties: the first peasant varieties of the future. Especially since traditional varieties constitute the basis for selecting varieties adapted to a changing climate, social conditions and the agroecological modes of production of the 21st century. This immense field of work opens yet new questions on the legal future of varieties: What status should have varieties resulting from a collective work, a dynamic of innovation carried out in networks, associating researchers and peasants? Once more grass-root initiatives from the field are shedding light on the narrow and inadequate regulatory framework. Of course much remains to be done in this area and much more for other families of cultivated plants.

In many European countries, the interest for « peasants' seeds » is also on the rise. Various delegations, including from Central and Eastern Europe, were with us at Clermont-Ferrand in order to share their experience and build the future of their « peasants' seeds ». The Italians were warmly celebrated when they announced the creation of their own Peasants' Seeds Network: *Rete Semi Rurali*.

To conclude, the seminar stood for a new step for the RSP. The RSP shows its ability to organise a scientific event. The quality and range of operations has enabled an understanding and mutual recognition between the different approaches of plant breeding. The proceeding will be published in 2008. Gradually, the RSP is becoming for itself a relevant partner in management and renewal of cultivated biodiversity.



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Capacity building workshop on Understanding Biomedicine - Listening to disabled people

1st of February 2008, Paris

1. Concept

The possibilities, risks, consequences, desirability and legitimating of biomedicine are widely discussed in science and in public. The debate however has suffered because the perspective of people living with impairment is partly ignored or not taken seriously. Despite the fact that medical-technical developments in many fields improved the life of people with a disability they are rarely included as partners in designing research projects.

There may be different reasons for it. One may be that disabled people may not have the information or the knowledge; others may be that researchers have not the same priorities as disabled people on research issues.

As written in the proposal, the idea was to inform members of CSOs working on disability issues about planned developments in medicine that might be relevant for them so they play in the future a more active role in decision making processes on research issues.

This was slightly modified in the process to make it more appropriate for the civil society organisations. Hence it was made clear from the beginning that the dialogue was intended to be a two-way dialogue – from medicine to disability organisations and vice versa. (please see the attached programme) An important issue was to invite experts from disability studies apart from experts from biomedicine and medicine as disability studies have been founded by the disability movement and both are in very close contact.

2. Preparation of the workshop

Time schedule

The conference was initially planned for the 16th of November. Unfortunately it had to be postponed due to a pending strike of the trains in France and public transport of the city of Paris which would have been more then inconvenient especially for the disabled participants. Fortunately all of the speakers agreed on an alternative date on the 1st of February 2008. Another advantage of the later date was the opportunity to combine this work package with wp2 which made it even more attractive for participants to come to Paris.

All the costs for cancelling or rebooking of tickets have been paid by the IMEW and have not been acclaimed as eligible costs.

Accessibility

It was very soon realised that a conference in France hold in English would exclude too many interested in the topic. Therefore the invitation was spread in English and in French. As simultaneous translation would have been too expensive we looked for alternatives to make language barriers not too high. Some of the speakers had prepared a bilingual power point presentation. The speakers were asked to send an abstract so it could be translated before the conference and handed out to the participants. Some of the talks and the discussion were consecutively translated mainly by the organisers but also by other participants.

Before the conference speakers and participants were asked to inform us about special needs as an accessible accommodation, sign language etc. Some of the speakers needed accessible accommodation which proved to be rather difficult and time consuming to organise in Paris and an organised transport

The request on sign language interpretation was fulfilled.

The conference venue was accessible for people in a wheel chair.

Conference venue

We were very lucky that the city of Paris hosted the conference in the well-known and accessible town hall providing the conference technical equipment and staff for technical support

Cooperation partner

The cooperation with dpi (Disabled people International) proved to be very fruitful as the European president had many useful and important contacts (f.e. to the city of Paris). The information about the conference was spread in the organisation of dpi and discussed. By this procedure it was made sure that the conference was as close as possible to the needs of civil society organisations

Speakers

It was aimed to have a good balance concerning geographical aspects, gender issues and disability issues. They came from France, the UK, Italy, Spain and Germany.

The speakers had very different background (rehabilitation medicine, genetics, robotics, disability studies, accessible technology or were a member of a CSO concerned with

disability issues either as a family member or as a disabled person).

In the end there were three female and 8 male speakers or moderators (the gender balance was better on the WP 2).

Publicity

The event was publicised by IMEW, dpi, and STACS (newsletters and the website). MEPs were invited. Other organisation as IRME; Cipast, EACME were also asked to inform their members about the conference date (some of them only announced the first date).

- [http://www.cesames.org/spip\)](http://www.cesames.org/spip).
- <http://www.csi.ensmp.fr/WebCSI/ITEMS/index.php?page=E>

The information was also posted on the drze-Website, a European Information Network - Ethics in Medicine and Biotechnology, <http://eurethnet.drze.de/events/month.html?y:int=2008&m:int=2>

Contact was established to members of the board of ALTER, a French-English journal on Disability Studies, who attended the conference.

3. The conference itself

Participants

The 40 participants had very different backgrounds. They came from ten different countries (France, Belgium, UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria, Romania, Turkey, and Slovenia) and were members of disability organisation (self advocacy groups or support groups), disability studies, social science or others. Many of them see themselves and act as multipliers.

The papers

In the morning experts from different fields provided information on new developments in biomedicine (John Burn), rehabilitation medicine (Bernard Bussel) and disability studies (Tom Shakespeare).

John Burn

John Burn spoke on issues of genetic diagnosis. He explained the use of tests to families affected by a wide range of impairments. He said: "The next generation of laboratory equipment is now becoming available which will allow us to speed up dramatically the testing process and make it much cheaper. Many see this as a threat as it will make selective termination easier. On the other hand it will also enable many people to benefit from treatments which are more specific to their needs. For example, we now have a new treatment for breast cancer caused by mutations in BRCA1 or 2 but this class of drugs, the PARP inhibitors, will make it more important to offer predictive testing to women with cancer."

He also spoke on gene therapy that has been a disappointment. However he was optimistic on new developments using small nucleotide molecules to modify gene expression are more promising. A European trial of a treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy is on its way.

However, in his view it is important to be patient. It can take decades until research now undertaken actually leads to therapies where patient can profit from.

The last issue in biomedical research was research on adult and embryonic stem cells, their possibilities and also ethical issues on embryonic stem cells. Due to John Burn, hybrids of humans and cows eggs are simply a laboratory technique to enable scientist to preserve precious human eggs during method development.

Last but not least he spoke about the driving forces of science:

- Competition
- Curiosity
- Commissioning

Bernard Bussel

Bernard Bussel from the Hôpital Raymond Poincaré, Paris started his talk in explaining that in France the word biomedicine (or biomédicine) was hardly known. He and his French colleagues would rather speak of medicine. He explained different approaches in rehabilitation medicine on spinal cord injury. It is very important to make a difference between visible signs as not walking or difficulties in walking and non-visible signs as difficulties in controlling vessels and the anus, sexual problems, pain and difficulties in controlling the blood pressure. Due to him there is research in all the different fields.

One problem is transferring the results of research to the clinical application. Whereas in journals progress is mentioned in fact the clinical progress is not very advanced and the trials are at the beginning or only on phase 1.

Bernard Bussel gave information on a double-blind study where “normal rehabilitation” and an exoskeleton approach were compared concerning the improvement of walking of people with a spinal cord injury. The results showed that there was no difference between the two approaches.

Tom Shakespeare

Due to Shakespeare disability studies are an emerging discipline which follows on the social movement of disabled people. Three dimensions are important: the claim that disability is a socio-political issue; the claim that disability is an identity issue and it is imperative to hear the voices of disabled people; the claim that people are disabled by society, not by their bodies. In different countries, disability studies research has varied conceptually and in research emphasis. He compared Britain, USA and Nordic countries and presented examples of research to show that disability studies research agenda is diverse and multi-disciplinary: there is a need for further empirical evidence. He concluded that there is a need to reconcile different approaches, and understand that disability is a complex, scalar, multi-factorial issue.

Parallel sessions

In the afternoon there were two parallel sessions. In the workshop Listening to disabled people two speakers both coming from disability organisations informed the audience on their experience with dialogues with medical doctors. In the discussion it was especially pinpointed that the view on what doctors see as relevant and what disabled persons see as relevant can be very different. In the workshop Understanding Science Bertrand Tondu, a robotic specialist from Toulouse gave an overview on developments in robotics which is advanced in some areas and in others not. In the discussion it was a very important issue to discuss the question of aims of research and who would decide on the aims. How important would it be to walk? How important would it be to walk 1, 2 or 10 steps? Who

would define the quality? Who would say it would be a gain for a person with a spinal cord injury. These questions should be explored further in other meetings.

The conference closed with a panel discussion on the question how to improve the dialogue between scientists and CSOs. The question was raised who should set the agenda but was not answered.

Conclusions

The conference was closed with a general feeling that it had been a very interesting and productive day and that the dialogue should continue.

4. After the conference

Some of the PowerPoint presentations were made accessible and we will post them on the STACS website so they can be read by the participants and by others who are interested. One participant from Romania is planning to spread the results of this conference and of the conference on the 2nd of February to a German-Romanian conference on Human Genetics. Others have also informed us about distributing the information. A list was prepared of those who wish to stay in contact. (For more information see the report on WP 2).

Quotes from speakers and participants were used in a report of CARE

<http://www.careforeurope.org/en/docs/stocktaking.doc>.

Reports for the EACME-newsletter and the journal ALTER are planned. Jean-Luc Simon from dpi and Katrin Grüber informed Patrick Gohet, delegate of the French government on disability issues on the results of the conferences. As the conference was recorded we will try to find the time to make a more detailed analysis of the conference and will then amend the report to the European commission.

Financial issues

Speakers, participants and others were asked to send the invoice receipts etc. as soon as possible. However not came until the end of February. As in the form sent to the European commission only the first year is included there will be more costs we will make eligible due to WP1.

5. Milestones and Deliverables

The workshop gave CSOs the opportunity to approach scientific questions concerning progresses in medicine and biomedicine. For disability organisations the main issue concerning medical research have been so far rather on the ethical level. This is by the way a big difference between disability and patient organisations. So the conference gave the opportunity to talk about research options rather than about research restrictions which provided CSOs with a new perspective.

A dialogue was started on common interests and differences between researchers and disability organisation. It gave CSOs from different countries the opportunity to take part on a conference on the European level which they could not have done otherwise.

All participants said on the conference how interesting and inspiring they found the event and some of them sent comments afterwards.

6. Recommendations

Language problems can be a barrier in a European dialogue. Therefore it would have been even better to have simultaneous translation despite the extra costs.

We also allowed enough time for exchange. So after every paper there was enough time for discussion and we had parallel sessions. As in every conference the breaks were an important opportunity for talking and networking we set up the schedule with enough coffee breaks and a long lunch break.

As mentioned above it seems to be preferable to design capacity building workshops not as a one-way teaching workshop but rather a two-way-dialogue. We did not attract medical doctors as participants who did not give a paper. This was not a surprise because nearly everybody organising a conference on such issues has similar experiences. It might be feasible for the future to allow even more time than we had in order to get in contact with organisations of medical doctors to improve the situation for a dialogue.

We profited from the fact that we had a CSO as a cooperation partner because dpi did a lot of dissemination in the framework of several meetings before the conference so members of different CSOs knew about the concept of the workshop.

In order to create a good atmosphere between the speakers from very different backgrounds a dinner was organised the evening before the conference which proved to be very helpful.

It proved to be positive that the workshop was one day before the nursery workshop (see the report on WP2) in order to improve the dialogue between the participants coming from different backgrounds.

Invitation in English



Understanding Biomedicine Listening to disabled people



The possibilities, risks, consequences, desirability and legitimating of biomedicine are widely discussed in science and in public.

The debate however has suffered because the perspective of people living with impairment is partly ignored or not taken seriously. Despite the fact that medical-technical developments in many fields improved the life of people with a disability they are rarely included as partners in designing research projects.

There may be different reasons for it. One may be that disabled people may not have the information or the knowledge; others may be that researchers have not the same priorities as disabled people on research issues. There may be other factors that we will try to identify during this seminar.

The aim of the session is to inform members of civil society organisations working on disability issues about planned developments in medicine that might be relevant for them so they play in the future a more active role in decision making.

The Workshop is part of a project in the frame of the 6th EU-framework, Specific programme “Structuring the ERA, Work Programme Science and Society” (FP6-2005-Science-and-Society-19-044597). The main purpose of STACS (Science technologies and civil society -Civil Society Organisations, actors in the European system of research and innovation) is to provide opportunities for scientists and civil society organisation to design and do common research projects.

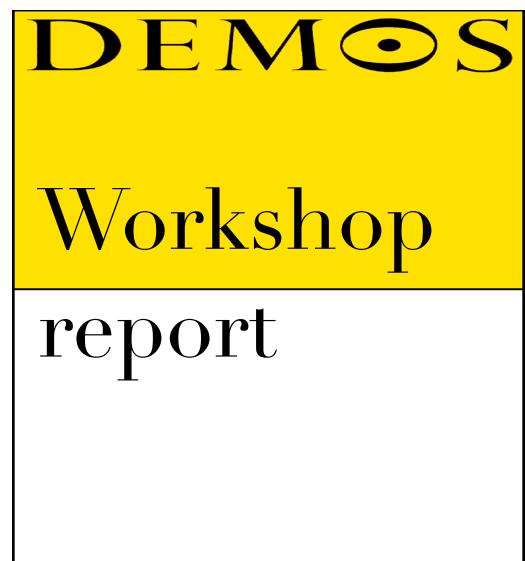
1st of February 2008, Paris

Auditorium de l'Hôtel de Ville 3, rue Lobau 7004 Paris

Capacity building session on

People Power?

- **A workshop on science, participation and politics,**
 - **20th** November 2007



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People Power?

- A workshop on science, participation and politics

In November 2007, Demos, in partnership with Greenpeace, organised a workshop on science, participation and politics. The aim was to bring together civil society organisations to learn about the current UK context of public participation, share ideas with academics, policymakers and others and discuss ways forward.

Jack Stilgoe from Demos welcomed more than 50 participants to the day. The workshop began with a talk by Doug Parr, chief scientist of Greenpeace UK. He spoke about Greenpeace's experience of public participation in science, technology and politics as it had been adopted by the UK Government. He contrasted the short-term political motivations of public engagement with the longer term need to widen discussion about the politics of directions of travel and the future of society as it is imagined through research programmes. And he reflected, crucially, on how NGOs fit into this supposedly new picture of democracy. A question from the audience asked him to go further: "weren't NGOs, and the way they set agendas, undemocratic?" Doug Parr argued that it depended how we saw democracy. NGOs need public support and they rely on representing some sense of the public interest, which might be seen as vital for one form of democracy to survive. In addition, they have been enthusiastic about direct deliberation, running citizens juries and similar events in the past. They are, Parr argued, interested in a broad-based search for legitimacy.

Next, UK member of parliament Ian Gibson was more critical of attempts at dialogue. He argued that, from the perspective of a politician, such "listening exercises" never made a difference, and rarely got to grips with the scientific substance of problems. One example of the disconnect between such initiatives and other forms of politics was with GM, where early dialogue exercises were separate from and failed to predict more vocal, uninvited direct action downstream. For Gibson, the biggest change has been with the role of NGOs. With a decline in deference to traditional political power, NGOs have become more influential. This is especially visible with patient groups, who have been engaged in some difficult discussions with government about licensing drugs. On the scientific side, one of the key problems is that any form of interaction with the public is not rewarded in innovation and university systems, a useful reminder that so much of this is about cultures and systems.

Robin Grove-White provided an analysts perspective, as a social scientist, and a personal perspective as a participant in debates about science and technology at many levels over many years. He starts with a quote from Hans Jonas, to remind us that these debates are not new: 'Modern technology has introduced actions of such novel scale, objects and consequences that the framework of former ethics can no longer contain them' (Hans Jonas, 1984). His take on the issue of public participation and its locations in science and politics differs from the two previous speakers. Grove-White argued that the role of public dialogue was to question assumptions that often came to implicitly define technical debates. One of the most enduring assumptions, caused by what Langdon Winner has called "reverse adaptation" of society around technologies, is that technologies are somehow inevitable. The challenge for society is to prise itself back into discussions about what sorts of technologies we want.

Academic thought in this area has compared the picture often painted of the public with social reality and found huge discrepancies. Public dialogue allows for elements of this

social reality to be at least brought back into the discussion, but it is still unclear what purchase dialogue exercises have on power structures.

Richard Wilson gave us the benefit of his analysis of the state of public dialogue in politics around the world. The first lesson is that there are huge differences in motivations between countries and across policy issues. In the UK, many dialogue initiatives have been prompted by an institutional nervousness about difficult issues – from Pensions to Nuclear Power to Climate Change. In these issues, getting people on board is crucial to policy delivery as well as formation. In the UK, dialogue tends now to be funded from the top down by government and outsourced as a research exercise. In the US, it tends to be a charity-driven, bottom up activity. In the UK, this has meant that a lot of emphasis has been placed on being seen to be taking part, and the legitimacy this is supposed to earn. And conversations have been framed to be as constructive as possible, which has a risk of marginalising more antagonistic NGOs.

Questions to all of the speakers opened up some important new angles. There was discussion of the technocracy of participation – is it a technique that can be replicated? How much of it was about early conflict management? Other participants linked public dialogue on science to issues such as the place of women in science, the place

of science in multi-cultural Britain, with its myriad knowledge agendas and the perception of science as an engine of the global economy. There were questions about the cultures and practices of science, asking how scientists should be re-evaluated if we are to take seriously ideas of public debate.

The second session looked to practical ways forward. We heard from Norbert Steinhaus, who runs the Science Shop in Bonn, Germany. He has also been part of the large CIPAST (citizen participation in science and technology) project. He told us about the motivation for science shops – opening up access to research to the public. Science shops are a pretty unfamiliar concept in the UK, but in Europe they allow citizens to define aspects of research agendas for universities and allow universities to link to their communities. Norbert introduced us to the CIPAST network and project, which conducted case studies of participatory processes. He was clear that there was a huge appetite for dialogue and participation on all sides, and that we were getting close to working out a “how” of participation. We are becoming more and more aware of what works and what doesn’t.

Despite Norbert’s instructive and admirable efforts, discussion turned back to the linkage between the “how” of participation and the “why.” Did we really share a set of motivations for seeking to get citizens, stakeholders, NGOs and others involved in science? Do institutions agree with civil society’s vision of public participation? The conclusion was that without answering the question of what participation was for, methods would always suffer.

The final session of the workshop therefore allowed deep discussion in smaller groups, about these “multiple whys.” From this, we would hope to build some shared sense of what participation might become. Reporting back from the groups, we heard about the challenges of legitimacy within both participatory science and the new model of participatory politics. The multiple whys meant that participation often struggled with a tension between aiming for consensus and aiming for novelty, innovation and opening-up. Once we open up the question of motivations, we can also see that lots of things that might not have been called “public participation” are actually deeply participatory. So social research or disconnected scientific research might both be informed by the reflective,

value-laden ideals of upstream engagement.

All of this led the workshop not to a consensus but to a sense of appreciation of the diversity of public participation in science. People should carry on thinking about, experimenting with and practicing the what and the how of public participation. But they should also reflect on the motivations and politics behind participation, as this will tell us more about the politics and motivations behind the science.

All of this raises challenges for organisations, which can either be seen as a source of discomfort or a source of innovation. The success of the broad project of public participation depends on new mindsets and cultures within organisations. Governments and funders of science need to rethink some of their assumptions and civil society organisations need to get better at articulating diffuse and complex concerns upstream, at a time when they can usefully contribute to emerging research and innovation.

Attendees

Our speakers were all male and most of them were British. In hindsight, this was a limitation of the workshop. We were fortunate to have plenty of European attendees from as far away as Romania and Estonia and some other attendees from outside Europe, including Japan. The availability of travel grants for participants was key in allowing a more wide-ranging conversation than we are used to.

European Public Health Alliance

Capacity building Session:

Nutrition and Health – CAP

Date: 27/02/08

1. ARRIVING OF PARTICIPANTS

Networking opportunity.

2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME SPEECH BY EPHA

Introduction by Monika Kosinska, EPHA's Secretary General.

3. STACS PROJECT: CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION

By Caroline Bollars, EU Policy Manager of EPHA.

Presentation about EPHA and the Science, Technology and Civil Society (STACS) project.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE POLICY PROCESS AND CAP

By Dr. Karen Lock, Health Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Dr. Lock presented an overview of the health impact of the agricultural policy process. She spoke about key EU policies influencing supply and demand of food.

LINKS:

- Food Safety (explicitly)
- Nutrition (implicit but not priority)

Food issues are dealt with Food Safety and Consumer protection: contaminants beyond consumer control

CAP causes externalised costs on non-communicable diseases through subsidies for the production and consumption of:Dairy, animal fats, tobacco, alcohol, sugar and by affecting the supply and price for fruits and vegetables

It's necessary to:

- Stimulate the demand of Food and Vegetables (FV).
- Reduce their price.
- Increase their supply.

- To make synergies between policies.
- To create a partnership between agriculture and environment.
- To have a well informed knowledge of specific policy proposals and the limitations of the legislation.

5. EU SCHOOL FRUIT SCHEME AND CAP

By Robert Pederson, Project consultant on food policy, Danish Cancer Society.

Mr. Pederson presented the “EU school fruit scheme”, an international advocacy work for school FV, as an example of how putting more public health into the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

Mr. Pederson pointed out that the intake of 600gr. of FV per day can prevent harmful diseases such as heart diseases and selected cancers. However, recent studies show that less than 20% of 11-year-old children in 9 European countries eat 400gr/day.

Programs working to improve the availability and accessibility to FV need support to develop. It's necessary to convince DG Agriculture to help.

School FV schemes:

- It's necessary to expand them
- Make them more sustainable.
- Combine them with other activities.
- Guarantee the availability and accessibility to FV.
- Provide FV at reasonable prices.
- Establish a consensus between public health, FV industry and policy agree on action.
- Obtain “political champions” (high level political support).
- To have at one's disposal of timely, accurate and up-to-date information.
- Identify a legal basis.

What's wrong with the CAP? We have to:

- a) Find opportunities to benefit agriculture and public health through rigorous policy analysis based on the latest information available.
- b) Develop solutions in cooperation with the Commission.

6. A HEALTH STRATEGY FOR 2008?

By Dr. Chris A.Birt, Heart of Mersey.

Dr. Birt discussed the implications for health of the way the CAP has developed over the years and indicated some objectives for reform of the CAP designed to improve Europe's nutrition and health.

Briefing about the origins and the essential characteristics of CAP.

The current CAP environment makes impossible to implement successfully programmes for nutritional improvements in the population.

Principles for Healthy CAP reform:

- Must be responsible to health requirements.
- Must guarantee health protection requirement of Article 152.
- Should support production and promotion for healthy foods.
- Should support production of protein of vegetable origin.
- Must promote health and welfare in rural areas, especially in the new Member States.
- Should encourage food industry to produce and promote healthy food.
- Must not damage developing countries.

2008 advocacy objectives:

- Gradual phase out from “whole farm payment” scheme of beef, dairy and tobacco production.
- Gradual inclusion within “whole farm payments” scheme of some types of fish farming, and vegetable protein.
- More support to olive oil production.
- More social marketing of healthy foods throughout EU.

7. DEBATE AND CONCLUSIONS

- We need and effective advocacy at national level.
- Specific links in DG Agriculture.
- A new legislation basis in Agriculture.
- Successful comes by developing alliances between organisations with the same aims.
- Health lobby and environmental lobby can work together in the agenda.
- We need to separate consumers from environmentalists.
- To build public support and,
- To be clear about our arguments.

Next steps:

- Building an alliance with environmental lobby.
- Celebrate another meeting in a few months for a “brainstorming”.

EPHA WAS ASKED AFTER THIS MEETING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH AND CONSUMER INTERGROUP OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE ISSUE OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN RELATION TO OBESITY. THIS INTERGROUP MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2008 IN STRASBOURG. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STACS PROJECT VISIBILITY TO MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND FOSTERS DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLICY MAKERS. THEREFORE A PART OF THE SCOLARSHIP BUDGET FOR THE FEBRUARY WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS WAS TRANSFERRED TO YEAR TWO TO ALLOW THIS ACTIVITY.

Free Software Foundation Europe

Capacity building session on

Free Software and CSOs

Introduction

The Free Software Foundation Europe organised, within the framework of the STACS project, a capacity building session on the 2nd of november 2007 at The Hub in London, UK. Focus of the session was placed on Free Software and CSOs from around Europe were invited to take part in the one day session where both theoretical and practical information about Free Software was given. The session was organised in collaboration with M6-IT CIC, a UK based social enterprise supporting the voluntary and educational sectors with sustainable IT solutions.

As can be seen for instance in the World Summit of the Information Society, Civil Society Essential Benchmarks¹, Free Software has been highlighted by Civil Society as an important cornerstone for the digital age. As such, the FSFE feels that it's important to raise the awareness of CSOs around Free Software and their capacity in approaching the subject. This feeling was also echoed by the participants of the capacity building session, and other members of the community who were also informed about the event.

The capacity building session was intended to raise awareness among CSOs about the issue of Free Software and to prepare them to be able to approach the subject in a more structured and informed way. During the day, 16 invited participants from various CSOs participated in the session which also gave the participants an ability to gain hands-on experience from Free Software. A complete list of the participants are included in Annex 1.

¹ http://www.worldsummit2003.de/download_en/CS-Essential-Benchmarks-for-WSIS-14-11-03-final.rtf

Participants in the capacity building session represented organisations from the UK, Belgium, Germany and Denmark. Of the 16 participants, only 2 (12,5%) were women, which is consistent with the overall amount of women in the computer science area traditionally encompassing the Free Software field, which seems to indicate that even when talking about Free Software in a broader scope, outside of its traditional domain, more work is needed in order to take gender issues into consideration.

The session originally sought to attract more participants, and as can be seen in the participation list, most of the attendees were from the UK and indeed the greater London area. However, the perception of the participants were that such a small group were greatly beneficial to the learning, suggesting that around 15-20 was a good size for such an event. The focus on participants from the local area and the reluctance of many interested CSOs to travel also seems to indicate that similar events need a strong local focus, and that more events spread geographically across Europe is a better approach than fewer and larger events.

Preparatory work

Before the session took place, some preparatory work was done to try to establish the relative level of knowledge of each participant, so as to be able to focus the day on the right subjects. Of the 16 participants, seven had good general purpose knowledge of Free Software and related subjects, six had some knowledge of the subject area, but limited in some way, and three had no previous knowledge at all.

This survey was done as a qualitative study where each participant was contacted by one of the organisers and asked generally to describe their level of understanding of Free Software.

Based on this, it was decided to allow the participants significant time to actually interact with each other, to allow those that had previous experience to share this with others. The amount of theoretical information given was also reduced in favour of more practical information. The agenda and invitation for the event is included in Annex 2.

In the evening of the day before the event, all participants were invited for dinner together as a social event to get to know each other and to talk informally about themselves and their organisations and projects.

Before the first lecture of the day, a brief survey of the participants was also made to allow each participant to anonymously express their expectations from the session in question. This took the form of the organisers asking everyone to write their thoughts and ideas on postit notes which were then organised collectively on a board. This information were used during the day to ensure that all topics and questions raised by the participating CSOs were actually discussed.

Results

The capacity building session was opened by Mr Georg Greve (Free Software Foundation Europe) who gave an introductory speech on Free Software, specifically outlining how Free Software works and functions as a social innovation, how this interacts with scientific development, the various regulatory issues involved and the work of CSOs in this field.

His speech opened with the question of how many people had used a computer in the week before the event, inviting people to reflect around how much they interact with computers in their daily life and who is in control of that use. Mr Greve then went into the basics of Free Software, speaking about the four essential freedoms that Free Software gives: unlimited use, ability to study and modify, ability to copy and the freedom to distribute modifications, a definition of Free Software which was first published by Dr Richard Stallman in 1989.

He spoke further on the issue of terminology, how software can be seen as a cultural technique in a digital world and how this is not policy neutral, ie. the decisions on which software to use affects the policies we can make about our own IT use. As an example, he mentioned that a decision to use Microsoft Office in an organisation, by nature of technical limitations, then prevents us from making a policy that mandates the use of so called Open Standards (for instance standard of storing information which can be implemented by multiple vendors), as Microsoft Office does not implement any Open Standard. As such, the decision on which software to use in an organisation, must go hand in hand with the policies one wishes to establish.

Mr Greve then turned his attention to Free Software in education and the economic perspectives of using Free Software, where he explained how the use of Free Software discourages the formation of monopolies, supports customer and market oriented development which includes the support of local suppliers and service providers as well as the local industry and economy generally. He also explained the arguments from his perspective on why CSOs should use Free Software, focusing on both the technical advantages; security, compatibility, stability and reliability; as well as securing the ICT investments for the long term through maximum vendor independence. His presentation is included as Annex 3.

This was followed by Mr Matthew Edmondson (M6-IT) who continued this introduction with information specifically targeted at CSOs, talking in his presentation "Empowering NGOs with Free Software" in practical terms about how to empower CSOs using Free Software, and paying special attention also to similarities between the values of the third sector and the Free Software movement.

Mr Edmondson focused his attention first on the benefits for CSOs using Free Software, mentioning specifically compliance and governance issues, cost and functionality, ethics, security and flexibility and customisation possibilities that exist when using Free Software.

In his talk, he also suggested that CSOs should establish an IT policy in which Free Software should be clearly considered when developing and implementing an IT strategy. He also spoke about the uptake of Free Software among CSOs and why this has been slower than expected, talking about the risk aversion of CSOs and the perception that Free Software has as a "geeky" technology. As a course to bolster the uptake, he suggested advocacy aimed at all three levels of managers, administrators and users, citing Ubuntu as an example of Free Software that could be used, but also recognising that a transition to Free Software may need to happen gradually and can be done without migrating the whole organisation at once.

Among the applications which can be used as Free Software without the need for large-scale migrations, Mr Edmondson mentioned VoIP (Voice over IP) technology, file sharing and customer relationship management software, as well as online tools as blog and wiki software, jabber meetings and Moodle training environment. He was very clear that Free Software does not need to mean only GNU/Linux, but includes a whole range of individual software which can be evaluated and used on a case-by-case basis.

After lunch, the participants were invited to discuss between themselves, as well as to try Free Software using the Free Software systems set up for this purpose for the day. Organisationally, the hands-on area was located in the same room as where the lectures were held, and the physical location was organised in a way that encouraged ad-hoc movement before hands-on experiences to listening to speakers, to forming small discussion groups of participants and organisers.

Conclusions

After the end of the session, a quick summary of the participants expectations were done and everyone was invited to comment, about the strengths and weaknesses of the day, and how they would like to see this kind of activity evolve. Some time was spent on the subject of how to approach CSOs with these questions that had been raised and discussed during the day, and it was agreed with no uncertainty that this kind of capacity building sessions should continue in some form in the future to allow more CSOs to participate, including a clear proposal to arrange a similar session in Berlin.

While not intended to be one, the session came, by request of the participants, to deal also extensively with general advocacy questions as they relate to Free Software; ie., how to approach other CSOs about the subject. What was demonstrated in the discussions following this was that there is a substantial need to do this in smaller groups, where the individual aspects of each CSO can be taken into account and discussed, both in theoretical terms, and in practical terms. In this light, the interaction between research and CSOs become less important, however the combination of CSOs and Free Software seems to open up the area for a new social innovation, and several ideas were discussed on how these areas interact, and where the potential cross-section of research interest exist.

Of particular interest from the research aspect of Free Software, which was raised

during and after the session, was the use of Free Software as a means for social inclusion in the third world, an area of significant importance to several participants working with ICT in developing countries.

Two of the participants, Gerry Gavigan and Ryan Cartwright wrote individual reports for the FSFE Fellowship and the Free Software Magazine, respectively. G. Gavigan writes:

One attendee was quite frank, he was a Microsoft Windows administrator/provider for a number of very small Charities/Voluntary bodies, with a known set of problems. He was quite disinclined to pick up a new set.

Such questions and concerns were common during the day of the event, and provided an opportunity for the participants with somewhat more knowledge and experience to share their ideas and thoughts on such and similar subjects. The combination of both experienced and beginners with Free Software became an important part of the afternoon session.

Ryan Cartwright talks in his report about his thoughts on Free Software advocacy and the way in which he proposes to approach CSOs on this. He writes:

In short we need to do it a few organisations at a time. Grand shiny conferences with thousands of visitors will give them a carrier bag full of unread brochures and probably a lot of questions. Run a series of smaller, more intimate, events with similar numbers of geeks and non-geeks (okay, maybe I should say “professionals”) and good hands-on areas and you could have a greater success.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

STACS

FP6-2005-SCIENCE-AND-SOCIETY-19-044597

FINAL REPORT: CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS

General Introduction

Under the STACS project, the project partners had the opportunity to organise training sessions that combined a (more traditional) first part with presentations and questions-responses with scientists, CSOs representatives, officers from regulatory bodies, with a more participatory second part (e.g work in small groups).

The organisers set up the session in such a way that enough time was given for open discussions and informal exchange (networking).

The overall topics of the training sessions have been carefully chosen by the project members as described in the contract.

Different Capacity Building sessions

The five STACS partners (EPHA, FSFE, IMEW, RSP and DEMOS) organised training sessions on specific scientific issues (please see table below) in order to deepen the understanding of these issues by CSOs.

The training sessions combined a first part with presentations with a second participatory part that allowed debate.

The sessions enabled to:

- present recent scientific knowledge, gaps and needs
- discuss questions of expertise
- discuss potential research projects
- raise awareness amongst CSOs concerning the latest research results .

All the Capacity Building session took place within the planned time frame, the first working year of the STACS project.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Title of the Workshop</u>	<u>Date and Place</u>
EPHA	Common Agricultural Policy and its impact on Health and Nutrition	27/02/08, Brussels
FSFE	Free Software	02/11/07, London
IMEW	Understanding Biomedicine & Listening to disabled people	01/02/08, Paris
RSP	Which Plant Breeding Methods for Organic and Peasant Agricultures	07/12/07, France
DEMOS	Science, Technology and democracy	20/11/07, London

For the full detail of each Capacity Building Sessions, please look at the individual reports attached.

Some Data

Participants

Participant numbers varied from one training session to the other, from 27 participants to more than 200. Most of the participants came from a CSO background but this was depending on the topic of the Capacity Building Session.

Gender

When preparing the 'Capacity Building Sessions' the organizers arranged their session to represent a balance in gender among speakers and moderators. It was not always easy to have that equivalence but the organizers could make sure to a large extend that their speakers and moderators were balanced in gender.

Geographical Balance

Participants came from countries including Romania, Estonia, France, UK, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Bulgaria and from outside the EU such as USA, Japan.

Link to WP 2

Two organisations (RSP and IMEW) linked WP 1 to WP2 on consecutive days. They explained that it was an advantage to invite the maximum number of people coming from a broad geographical map, including countries outside the European Union.

Preparation of the Capacity Building Sessions

In order to prepare for the 'Capacity Building Sessions' the project partners discussed the management of their session within their organisation in order to prepare the participatory active part of the workshop. Every organisation disseminated their event on their website, in newsletters, on the STACS website and sent out different messages on mailing lists and through their own network or other networks in order to mobilize the CSO's for the Capacity Building Sessions.

Outcomes

The training sessions on scientific issues with high societal relevance has been an occasion for CSOs to deepen their understanding of the domain they are working in and to strengthen their capacities to approach scientific questions.

These sessions were conceived to:

- a) present recent scientific knowledge gain in the selected domains, present knowledge gaps and needs, explain regulatory issues,
- b) question expertise;
- c) discuss and identify potential research topics;
- d) raise awareness amongst CSOs on how far their daily work is concerned by research (research priorities, research policy); discuss possibilities of structural links and working methodologies between CSOs and academia.

The STACS 'Capacity Building Sessions' have been perceived as a real success by participants and organisers (feedback was given on an informal way to the organisers). The sessions opened up their own working field by putting in question their own working methods or approaches to some evidence or policy.

For some of the organisers the Capacity Building Session was an opportunity to bring people together from all over Europe in order to discuss and exchange knowledge about some interest fields.

A general feeling about CSO's and Scientific Community was opened to discussion through the same interest in the topic on the agenda, which was an added value for each of the individuals taking part in the sessions.

The sessions were a concrete example on how CSO's and scientists can exchange views about the same topic and establish a working relationship through a collaborative approach. They gave a strong input to tackle topics with joint agendas.

A growing use of public dialogue in policy making has been identified by the capacity building session which has a great meaning for SCOs and scientists. The sessions gave the chance for participants to reflect about their work and both parties (CSOs and scientist) learned from each other.

Some obstacles concerning the organisation of the sessions were identified such as use of common language, very loaded programme, restricted budget which did not allow more participants to attend the sessions.

• Recommendations

As a result from WP1, the outcomes of the individual Capacity Building Sessions identified clearly the need for dialogue between CSO's and Scientists.

It would be helpful to organise at least one capacity building session per year to bring CSOs and Scientists interested in the same topic together and to create more regular and long lasting relationship. This will help to establish an efficient dialogue and give the possibility to learn about values and missions which both parties want to achieve. Action points would be to increase transparency and stakeholders involvement. Developing joint declarations or alliances on specific topics could help to build public support.

- It would be helpful to organise at least one capacity building session per year to bring CSOs and scientists interested in the same topic together and to create more regular and long lasting relations and establish an efficient

dialogue through more informal meetings;

- learn about values and missions which both parties want to achieve;
- developing alliances between each other with the same aims;
- increase transparency and increase stakeholders involvement;
- to build public support by using each other in ones own expertise;

• **Milestones and progress towards objectives**

The Capacity Buildings Sessions of the STACS project had one common goal to achieve objective 1 (WP1): "Give CSOs the possibility to follow training sessions on selected scientific issues of high societal relevance".

The individual reports and this final report makes it clear that the objective 1 has been achieved. The added value of this WP 1 was the engagement from CSO's with academics and politicians by providing them an arena for reflection. The STACS partners will, in their own perspective, have a follow up by discussion future approaches possibilities between CSO's and academics.

As mentioned in the project application and confirmed by WP 1, it is not enough anymore to refer to scientists and industry in order to fulfill the Lisbon Agenda.

Civil Society Organisations need to enrich political debates with the latest evidence made available by the Science Community. This will help to progress towards the objective to make advance research disciplines and to create social and environmental richness and justice.

In order to strengthen democracy, CSOs have an important role to play to improve the social relevance of research and have to be taken into account as a full research partner.

This implies going beyond the "deficit model" in science and society communication (public understanding of science) towards a model of co-production of knowledge and the opening up of research and innovation to alternative trajectories and possibilities.

The role of CSOs can add greatly to the independence of scientific research. The independence of science is an important factor to get independent and genuine decisions in policy processes as science often influences policy-making.

It become clear through WP1 that CSOs have a lot of knowledge on certain issues like health, environment, agriculture or energy. Their knowledge can enrich science.

Also, CSOs can bring the focus of science back to the public interests. This can be a counterbalance to industry-driven research. The collaboration between science and CSOs could enhance the transparency and diversity of science. By doing this, the project described could add to the core idea of democracy, equality and to an equal participation of all people in the European policy making.

