



# A DAY TO ENGAGE

Workshop Booklet

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Joint Research Centre  
Ispra, Room 3

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## Workshop Organization

JRC.I.2

ENGAGE Project



## Context

The EC communication on “*Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda*” (COM(2015) 215) calls for openness, scrutiny, deeper and more effective stakeholder consultation, new forms of engagement and more proximity to EU citizens when it comes to designing and reviewing policies that affect all of us. Public engagement is relevant at all levels of the EU policy cycle, namely for (1) policy design and preparation, *e.g.* by contributing both to define policy objectives and relevant scientific research questions; (2) policy adoption, by *e.g.* contributing to study its social impacts; (3) policy implementation, by *e.g.* fitting social and cultural contexts, or by engaging the public in monitoring and reporting; (4) policy application, by *e.g.* extending its outcomes’ evaluation to wider sectors of society.

## The ENGAGE Project

The ENGAGE project explores how citizen engagement changes knowledge production and circulation within the policy cycle, developing, prototyping and deploying a series of methodologies, tools and services, guidance and capacity building to strengthen the capacity of the JRC and ultimately of the EC to engage with its various publics.

The project is building methodological and infrastructural capacity, while at the same time, working as a place of debate about how citizen engagement can be activated when we deliver knowledge into the policy cycle.

The ENGAGE initiative is a key part of the transversal initiative on citizen engagement at JRC that encompasses different meanings, initiatives and diversity of formats that are happening or planned in different JRC projects.

The immediate project’s aims include the launch and maintenance of a Community of Practice (CoP) on Citizen Engagement at the JRC, initially involving JRC colleagues, but gradually extending to other EC services and networks outside European institutions.

## The Workshop

The overall aim of the workshop is to explore together the value and workings of a Community of Practice (CoP) that could bring together a collection of already existing (but so far scattered) JRC practitioners endeavouring different flavours of citizen engagement.

The task of a Citizen Engagement CoP could be to tap into the potential of an extended pool of expertise, improve information sharing and enhance the collaboration among relevant communities, with the overall aim of strengthening the contribution of citizens to the EU Policy Making cycle.

The workshop will be organised around the following specific objectives:

- Getting to know each other in a convivial atmosphere;
- Mapping existing activities together with implicit understandings of engagement in JRC;
- Introducing engagement spaces, such as the makerspace and the collaborative space in Ispra, as well as, other kindred initiatives;
- Defining the role of the CoP on citizen engagement:
  - a. What are the benefits of connecting the currently scattered work done at the JRC under a CoP? What are potential challenges?
  - b. How does this endeavour respond to different types of challenges of citizen engagement practices (geographical, temporal, institutional, practical, methodological, etc.)?
  - c. What are the areas in need of collaborative action? – *i.e.* in terms of societal engagement, exploring different possible future joint outcomes, and collaborative approaches.
  - d. Road-map: practical next steps and commitments.

# Agenda

## Morning

- 9:00 Opening Address  
*Charlina Vitcheva*
- 9:10 Contextualising the workshop and organisation of the day  
*JRC.I.2*
- 9:20 Ice breaker
- 9:35 **Break-out 1:** Models and Realities
- 10:35 Discussion

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 Mappings: Brief account of in-depth interviews at the JRC  
*Thomas Völker and Ângela Guimarães Pereira*

11:45 **Break-out 2:** Responding to challenges

12:45 Discussion

13:10 Lunch

## Afternoon

14:10 Kindred activities: flash presentations

15:10 **Break-out 3:** Imagining a CoP

15:55 Discussion

16:10 Coffee break

16:20 Next Steps

*Xavier Troussard, Ângela Guimarães Pereira and Thomas Völker*

17:00 END

## Break-out 1: Models and Realities

*Format: working groups*

Practitioners and scholars have been experimenting with a range of different approaches for engaging citizens in controversial societal debates with different purposes and using different spaces. This has been done through integrating “extended peer communities”, which refers to actors potentially affecting or being affected by particular policies like e.g. the introduction of GMOs or nano-technologies, or natural resources governance, such as the building of dams, energy production and consumption. What different strands or models of engagement have in common is the aim to deepen the relations between policy and publics and move beyond attempts to educate or convince the public about certain policy or technology options. The added value of engagement as a two-way dialogue is that it can contribute to both enhancing the quality (fit for purpose) of decision-making and increasing the reflexivity of institutions in regard to issue-framings and implicit governance models.

### Questions

Q1: Which models of engagement does your work resonate with?

- Are there overlaps between the models?
- Which models are useful for the JRC, which aren't?
- Where do you see capacity at the JRC, where are gaps?

Q2: What were the outcomes of those engagement activities?

Q3: How exactly have these engagement activities been influencing policy making?

→ These are some of our questions, add more if you want.

### Models of Engagement

- Informing
- Educating
- Persuading
- Consulting
- Co-creating
- Partnership

## Break-out 2: Responding to challenges

*Format: working groups*

There are many different 'citizen engagement' projects at the JRC with seemingly different rationales. But what are the broader institutional challenges that citizen engagement is imagined to respond to? What phases of policy cycle do we aspire to serve/ are you serving? What lessons were learnt on challenges and motivation? Can the JRC respond to this endeavour? What challenges are we/will we be facing? What would be areas in need for engagement?

### Questions

Q1: Why should the JRC be carrying out citizen engagement activities?

- Can the JRC respond to citizen engagement needs?
- What are areas in need of citizen engagement?
- What partnerships need to be fostered?
- How should priorities be set?

Q2: What are the (institutional, methodological or other) challenges you have been experiencing in engaging citizens by this institution?

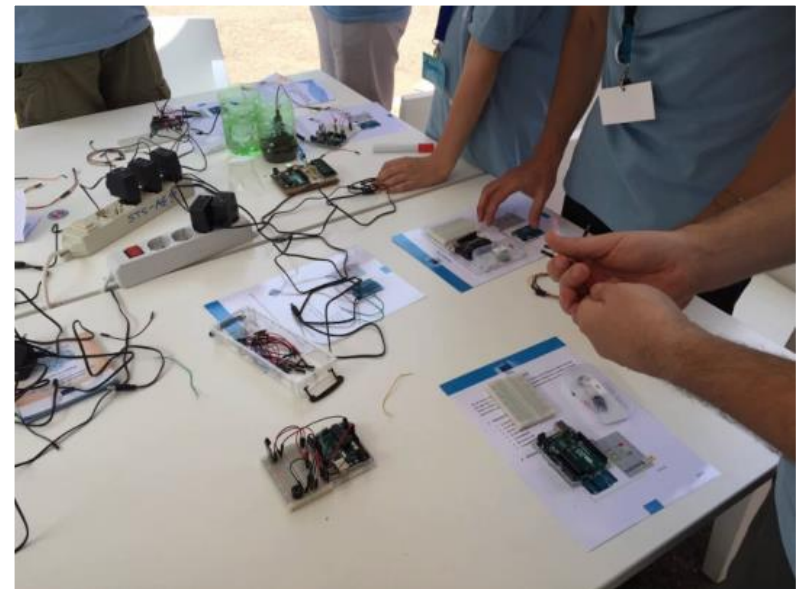
→ These are our questions, add more if you want.

## Kindred Activities

*Format: short presentations*

There is a number of activities and spaces at the JRC that inherently correspond to different notions of citizen engagement.

- Makerspace (at the van)
- Policy Lab
- Museums Initiative
- Water Diplomacy
- Innovation Camps
- Citizen Science Data Platform
- Invasive Species App
- AirSensEur
- Sentiment Analysis Citizens and Science
- SciArt





## Break-out 3: Imaging a CoP

*Format: working groups*

*“Communities of practice (CoPs) have become a trendy and common practice recently. (...) In a knowledge organisation like ours, sharing knowledge and pooling competencies, learning from each other and ultimately building a collective knowledge capital in the research and policy areas have gradually become intrinsic to our work. (...) When you want to set up a COP, first thing is to consider and plan a few necessary offline steps before getting to set up the digital environment for it, which is Connected, in the case of Commission internal CoPs. Ask yourself questions such as:*

- What are you trying to achieve and why is it important now?*
- Do you have some clear aims in mind for the CoP? E.g. seek synergies in the JRC related to work on blue economy, exchange of information and about developments in the field (open forum) etc.*
- Do you have some deliverable / tasks / outcomes in mind for the activity of the CoP?” (in Connected 05.01.2018)*

### Questions

Q1: Objectives – what would you think this should be responding to?

Q2: Expectations – what would be useful ways of collaborative work? What works about CoPs, what doesn't? Is a CoP a 'nice to have' or can it actually have an added value?

Q3: Events – what would be useful events?

Q4: Commitment – how much effort can you realistically put on this endeavour?

➔ These are our questions, add more if you want.

## Next Steps

*Format: plenary discussion*

- Where do we go from here?
- A Roadmap to implement the CoP

NOTES:



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