

Modern2020 Final Conference

WP5 – Engaging local citizens

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WP5 – Engaging local citizens

MAIN OBJECTIVES of the WP

- putting “Responsible Research & Innovation” and “Co-production” into practice
 - ✓ engage (potentially) concerned citizens with the R(D)&D in this project
 - ✓ develop a format for further use to integrate local public stakeholders’ concerns and expectations into monitoring programmes
- draw general lessons on how to organise EU research projects/programmes (on RWM) so as to allow for engagement of concerned parties (at the local level)

MAIN ACTIONS

- Organising and analysing SE within the project
 - ✓ set-up and facilitate engagement activity
 - 5 project workshops (4 WP2 + 1 WP5), 3 GA's, 6 home engagement workshops, online survey, stakeholder guide
 - ✓ analyse, reflect back and report on the activity
- Background research
 - ✓ on RRI and co-production in R&D
 - ✓ on national contexts and other relevant cases



Engagement Activity at 2 levels

At the project level

- 2 'liason officers' for each group
 - ✓ Participation in project workshops and GA's and development of the stakeholder guide



Engagement Activity at 2 levels

At the project level

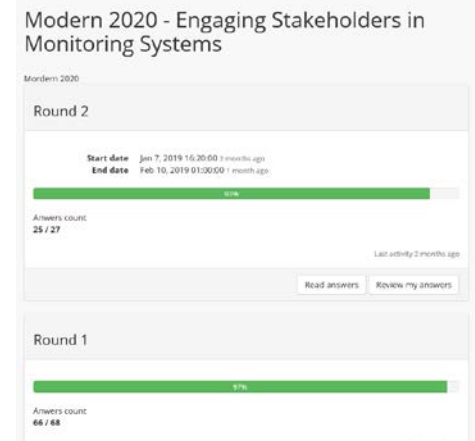
- Online interaction
 - ✓ An interactive survey in two rounds

Not a classical survey, but a **DELPHI style dialogue**

Between the researchers and stakeholder participants in the project

In order to come to:

- A shared appreciation of the SE activities within the project
- Lessons learned regarding
“the effective engagement of local citizen stakeholders in RWM related R&D activities”
- A shared view on what constitutes a
“broader repository governance perspective, and the role of GD monitoring therein”



Engagement Activity at 2 levels

At the national/local level

- ‘Home engagement activity’ (making use of existing configurations; in collaboration with respective NWMO)
 - ✓ Municipality of Eurajoki (Finland), Municipality of Östhammar (Sweden), Local partnerships in Mol and Dessel (Belgium), Clis de Bure (France)
 - ✓ Belgium and Sweden from the start; Finland and France to follow later
 - ✓ ‘Activity level’ influenced by national programme (cf. environmental court process in Sweden)



Adapting strategy along the way

- In view of expressed needs (and restrictions) from engaged citizens as well as from project partners
 - ✓ E.g. no meetings with WP3 but development of technology “index cards”; dedicated activity (e.g. on the stakeholder guide) aligned to GA
- Citizens felt their role in the project was not to influence the course of the technical research, but to understand what it was for and how it could affect their national waste management programmes
 - ✓ Development of a Stakeholder Guide to Repository Monitoring
 - To open up for broader debate beyond Modern2020

Specific outputs

Of immediate practical use

- The Stakeholder Guide to Repository Monitoring (D5.2)



More reflective and analytical

- Monitoring the Underground: Specific Challenges for Engaging Concerned Stakeholders (D5.1)
- Lessons learned from engaging with local citizens in an international R&D project (D5.3)

With related academic articles to follow

Purpose and public of the Stakeholder Guide

- Purpose of the guide
 - ✓ Both science communication and tool to arrange (future) dialogue between heterogeneous stakeholders in different contexts
 - Developing the guide is itself an inter- and transdisciplinary exercise
 - ✓ Discuss both technical and governance related topics
 - Input from all partners (different WPs and stakeholders), literature and policy documents. For instance:
 - Introduction of relevant monitoring technologies (WP3)
 - What is happening with the demonstrators? (WP4)
 - Experiences with participation (Citizen stakeholders – WP5)
 - Relevant differences in GD concepts (WP2) and national legislation (WP5)
- Target public
 - ✓ Local citizen stakeholders, politicians, journalists, broader society

Style of the document

- Accessible style & Attractive lay-out

- ✓ With some external help

- System of 'boxes' and color codes

Main text

Critical insights

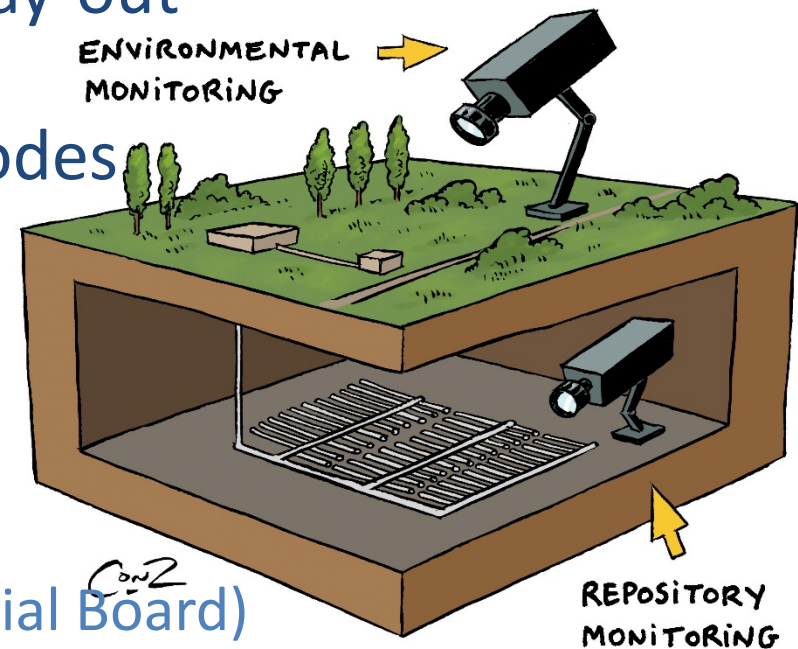
Questions & Exercises

Examples

- Dynamic document

- ✓ Iterative feedback-loops (Editorial Board)

- ✓ **INPUT AND FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS!**



Some difficulties along the way

- **EXTERNAL**

- ✓ Getting citizens interested
 - Able to draw on first experience with Modern for BE and SE
- ✓ Timing of national programmes
- ✓ NWMO – stakeholder relations
 - Can have a positive (Fi) or negative (FR) impact

- **INTERNAL**

- ✓ Alignment with other WPs
 - Project logic and engagement logic don't always go well together
 - Difficulty to open up internal meetings for citizens (mismatch in timing and content): WP2 closer to stakeholder participants' interests and 'hands-on-knowledge'; WP3 very technical; WP4 also technical but mainly timing issues
- ✓ Language barrier

Key messages

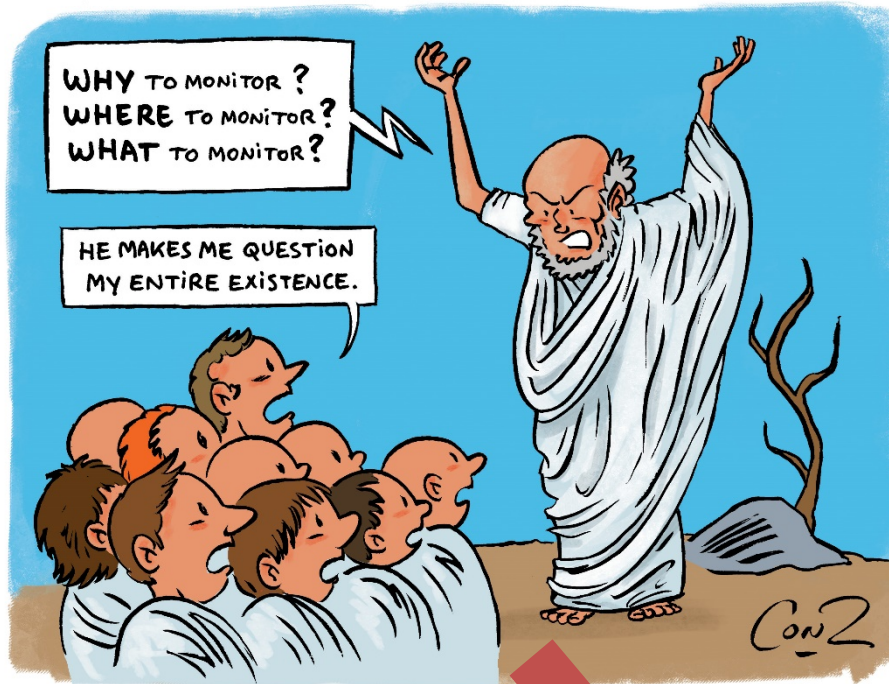
- Citizen stakeholders very positive about interaction with project and technical partners
- CS not prepared to legitimate research outcome
 - ✓ Similar to social scientists: we want to **open up, not close down**
 - ✓ A particular type of co-production
- CS do not seek to **engage in** research but **in the research process**
 - ✓ to see how it is done and what it is for; to witness debate among researchers; to get a sense of the knowledge and the knowledge gaps
 - ✓ to confront the researchers with the real world outside the lab; to keep them alert and answerable
 - ✓ to gather information and knowledge to allow them to play a role of bridge-builder or broker towards broader public groups

Key messages

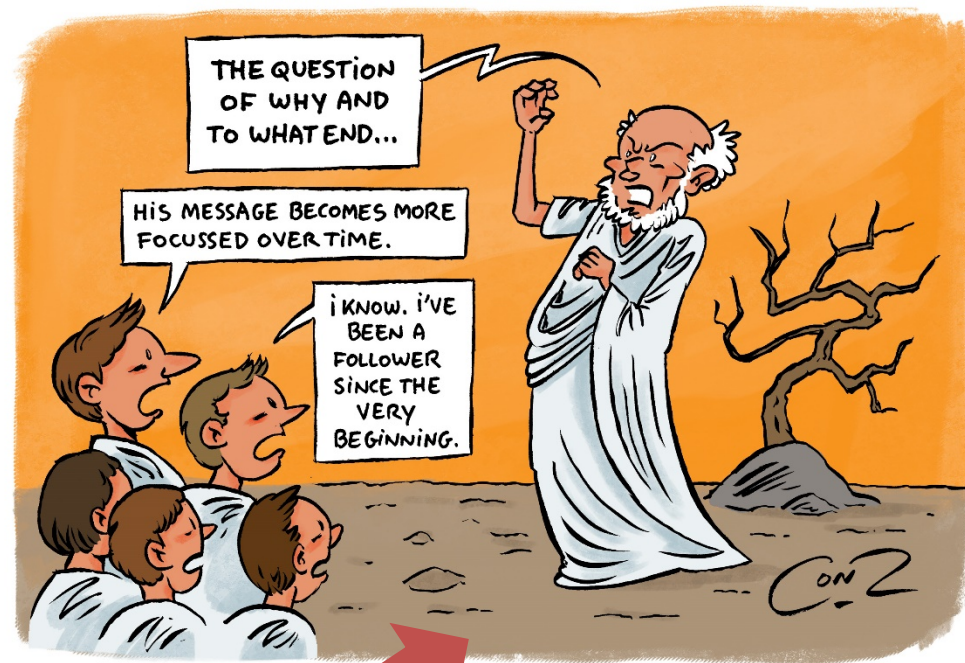
- Relative “messiness” of interaction shows authenticity (no cleaned-up marketing messages) which stimulates trust
- Added value for CS in participating in international project
 - ✓ Comparison ; putting own programme in perspective
 - ✓ At liberty to discuss “sensitive” issues
- Practical things to consider for taking this further
 - ✓ Accessible meeting places; adaptable planning (in view of availability of stakeholder participants)
 - ✓ Engagement as a goal for all work packages
 - ✓ Overcoming the language barrier?? (e.g. via project partners from respective language community; simultaneous translation?)
 - ✓ Budget (and funding mechanism behind it) to acknowledge two types of cost: Research & Interaction (≠ dissemination)

Something to think about

AS THE ANCIENT PHILOSOPHER RADIUS ACTIVUS SAID:



TIME TO REVISIT RADIUS ACTIVUS.



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