

WG 3 Workshop – A pan-European comparison of the development and implementation of CS Strategies / Policies in COST Countries

Date: 18 March 2018

Location: Lisboa, Portugal

Hosts: ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon

Co-organisers: Brígida Riso (ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon), Claudia Göbel (ECSA, MfN), Sven Schade (JRC), Marina Manzoni (JRC), Katrin Vohland (MfN, COST, ECSA).

Context

Organised by COST Action 15212 (on Citizens Science), with JRC Contribution, in reply to COST representatives' willingness to contribute to JRC activities in the development of the first inventory of CS initiatives, strategies and practices at EU level and beyond (COST countries).

Objectives

in this context the objectives of the workshops were multiple, as follows:

1. **Identify and present** and initial set of CS initiatives, strategies and practices, existing or planned by, both public authorities, as well as stakeholder institutions in the COST countries;
2. **Discuss** the draft Framework Template for the identification and analysis and comparison of CS practices, produced by the JRC with WS participants, **and refine it**. The framework template is meant to be used by the COST representatives and relevant stakeholders, as a tool for identifying, analyse and compare such initiatives in a relevant and consistent fashion;
3. **Identify the best structure, the core elements** and most relevant and impactful qualifiers/features that the framework template needs to capture, with the view to build a first inventory and mapping of CS practices at EU MS and COST countries, with the ultimate goal to collect and analyse data on the underlying pre-requisites, variables and factors that would influence CS impact, drivers, challenges, barriers, opportunities, gaps, open issues and good practices;
4. **Test, discuss and validate the framework template on first real cases**, in view of further refinements, and subsequent testing on a larger scale, by all COST countries, through the COST Network;

WS contribution to Project/WPK Output

The intended contribution of this exercise consists of a first inventory of CS strategies, initiatives, practices and related stakeholders mapping at COST country level, including the analysis of the socio-scientific-political contexts, the stakeholders, dynamics, resources, methodologies, variables and factors that influence their impact, a comparison of different practices, the pre-requisites for fostering CS good practices, and finally, recommendations for improvements and possible areas of applications that could benefit from CS most, that could feed into a policy paper, possibly by the end of the year.

WS Participants

COST Action WG3 leaders, representatives from 7 COST countries, from ECSA and from the scientific society, for a total of 15 participants.

WS Agenda

The meeting started with a working dinner on the 18th of March at 19:00 that was attended by about 10 people, where a first introduction of the participants was done, and a preliminary list of key issues to be addressed was agreed for discussion the following day, according to the enclosed agenda.

Main Key issues Discussed

1. Cross-cutting issues and core variables that influence CS, development impact, stakeholders' dynamics, outputs, tools, etc.:
2. The Dual Dimension of the issue: Policy for CS: *what are the policy conditions to implement CS?* vs CS for policy: *do we want citizens to contribute to policy (making, implementation, monitoring), as a research method (limited), as public engagement (information) as civic mobilisation (data)?*
3. Sustainability: independent vs Public Administration-dependent mechanisms;
4. Scepticism and opposition (elitist scientists, independent NGOs);
5. "Invisibility as tacit manifestation" (eastern countries), going hand in hand with the trust dimension;
6. Data Quality/Accuracy vs "fit for purpose" (e.g. by the local authorities): this depends on the use to be done of the data in question;
7. The possible use of the EU R&I Programme MoRRI Indicators;
8. Terminology: this needs to be clarified and normalised;
9. Scope, granularity and purpose of the Inventory (relevance, light vs in-depth survey exercise, in-input to policy paper, promotion at MS-EU level, identification of potential areas of application).

Key Findings & validation of the proposed methodology and Framework Template

- Coverage: Only DE and AT could count on National strategy/support. All other participants presented initiatives that are funded and driven by volunteers and NGOs/related organisations like ECSCA, COST, EC (DITOs projects, CS laboratory and Observatory –ES, individual projects –PT);
- Pre-conditions for CS successful development, relevance and impact: strong motivation, common challenges, political will, efficient organization of stakeholders, agile bodies, ICT as enabler, funding and resources; Mutual trust (scientist vs citizens vs policy); Data Quality and the need for robust QA mechanisms; long-term alliance and the need for feedback mechanisms (policy vs scientists vs citizens);
- The strategies and initiatives identified were in the framework of CS, OS, SI practices in mostly in the areas of Environment (biodiversity), Culture (museums), Smart Cities and Health;
- The importance of Champions: participants were interested not only in identifying strategies and good practices, but also stakeholders and actors that could be approached and used as champions/ambassadors for promoting CS at EU level.
- Expected outcomes and the complexity of policy formulation and analysis: the process needs to be broken down into policy level-goals, vs programme level-objectives, vs measures level-tools. CS fits into this process in the co-creation of policy formulation, as key to success for Policy Outcome.
- Comparative analysis needs to take into account factors influencing two different but interrelated streams, as follows: Policy -> Programmes -> Measures vs Goals -> objectives -> tools
- A Draft Working Model for testing both, conceptually and operationally, the identification, mapping and categorisation of CS related initiative was developed, discussed and validated. This model could be attached to the Framework Template as Annex and provide a common ground for the identification, mapping and categorisation of CS related initiatives.
- Usefulness, relevance and usability of the proposed Framework Template: Participants stated that they all applied the draft template when identifying and describing country activities, and this was possible to different extents. In those countries where CS initiatives are already self-structured it was more difficult to fully apply the template (e.g. not all qualifiers were necessary/relevant), whereas in those countries where CS is mostly present upon spontaneous initiative, via individual, unstructured projects, not benefiting from national strategies, CS could be fully deployed and was considered very useful not only for identifying and analysing the situation in the given country, but also as kick start reflection and spring board for developing strategies and planning initiatives (e.g. PT);

Conclusions and wrap-up

- ✓ Participants were enthusiastic about the idea of building a CS inventory, and welcomed the draft template produced by the JRC to this purpose, as being a very useful and unique attempt in this direction.
- ✓ It was acknowledged that the framework needs to focus on some core elements that were further refined during the WS;

- ✓ It was confirmed that the framework will become the common tool for building a compendium of existing and planned national or spontaneous CS initiatives, analyse and compare strategies, identify similarities, cross cutting issues, gaps, good practices, trends and opportunities in support to CS contribution to policy making;
- ✓ It was agreed that the Framework Template will be revised according to the discussions and agreements reached at the WS, and that its final version will be applied by the COST network for the necessary survey. The results from the survey and the tool (Framework Template) will be discussed and validated at the ECSA annual conference of the 6th of June in Geneva;
- ✓ JRC suggested including a third dimension to the Working Model developed during the WS related to policy. Following the discussion we had at the WS, in fact the model that will be annexed to the FT, should feature not only Public Participatory Science (Citizens Engagement in Science vs Science for Public), but also and especially the policy dimension, with CS for Policy vs Policy for CS, in order to accommodate our objective to promote and mainstream CS in relevant policy making processes across the EU. A first attempt to include this dimension will be included in the next version of the Framework Template.

WS outcome

The WS represented the first concrete JRC/external stakeholder's joint step to move towards the production of a comprehensive and coherent representation of CS practices in the EU, and will serve as spring board for CS promotion at EU level, and evidence based input to EC policy documents.

Next steps

WS participants discussed and agreed the following roadmap:

1. MM to circulate Framework Template by 23rd of March
2. COST participants to send feedback by end of March
3. MM to circulate 3rd Version of the FT by 15th of April, including an annotated version, with input from the group.
4. Endorsement of FT, by end of April.
5. Beginning of May, COST Group to send out FT with explanatory note, and invite the rest of COST Countries representatives to Collect Data with deadline by End of May.
6. Preliminary finding and raw material will be presented at the next ECSA Conference on the 6th of June in Genève.
7. Thorough analysis of findings TBD
8. Presentation of findings for validation at relevant event in Autumn
9. Inventory findings as input to Policy Paper, end of 2018

WS Closed at 17:30