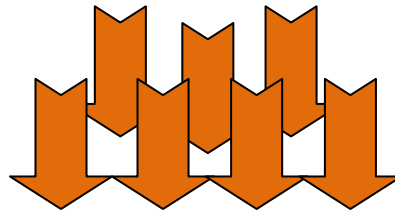


Multi-Actor Conference

Engaging Society for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)



New options to move forward

Monday, 19 June 2017, 9:15 am
Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Brussels

Conference Information



PROSO is financed by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement no 665947 and runs from January 2016 to February 2018.



The conference is co-organized by the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts.

Dear Participant,

We are very glad to welcome you to the Multi-Actor Conference on Engaging Society for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in Brussels on Monday, June 19, 2017!

What is the purpose of the conference?

We want to discuss with you innovative ways to promote the engagement of society with research and innovation in Europe.

If we want societal engagement in research and innovation (R&I) to become the *norm* rather than the exception, political and societal *support* is required.

There are several *barriers* to mainstreaming engagement which need to be systematically addressed: by dedicated research, science and technology policies.

What could or should such policies look like? Do we need specific rules and regulation; specific funding and economic incentives; innovations or adaptations in the research system or the current landscape of engagement institutions; training, capacity building and promotion; more 'good engagement practice'; or all of the above?

Who could or should be responsible for implementing such policies? Should it be research, science, and technology policy makers; research funding authorities; developers of technologies; research (supporting) institutions; specific interest groups in society; or other actors?

We would like to know your views, ideas and initiatives on such policies to promote societal engagement with research and innovation.

Who will participate?

The conference brings together a broad range of relevant stakeholders from across Europe and beyond. These include research policy makers, research management and funding organizations, business and industry organizations, science education and communication actors, researchers, and third sector organizations.

Each has practical and experiential knowledge around the forces, structures, and ideas that encourage or discourage societal engagement with R&I. Many have the potential to actively contribute to shaping the conditions under which such engagement takes place.

What is the format of the conference?

The conference combines input by the PROSO project (on barriers to and incentives for societal engagement and ways to address these) and small group discussions involving all participants (around ways to lower barriers and strengthen incentives). The break-out groups are inspired by the World Café method (<http://www.theworldcafe.com>). There will be an iteration of plenary and small group sessions. The plenary sessions will be facilitated by an external moderator, the small groups by PROSO team members.

Conference Agenda

From 9:15	Tea / Coffee and Registration
Welcome and first input by PROSO	
10:00 – 10:10	Welcoming Remarks <i>Katrina Sichel</i> , main facilitator <i>Marion Dreyer</i> , DIALOGIK, PROSO coordinator
10:10 – 10:25	Societal engagement in Horizon 2020 <i>Colombe Warin</i> , European Commission, PROSO project officer
10:25 – 10:40	Societal engagement under the terms of RRI <i>Anja Bauer</i> , Austrian Academy of Sciences, PROSO work package leader
10:40 – 11:00	Barriers to Third Sector Organizations (TSOs): TSOs’ and other perspectives <i>Lada Timotijevic & Emily Porth</i> , University of SURREY, PROSO work package leader
Work in small groups (Session A): “TSO engagement for RRI – ways forward”	
11:00 – 11:05	Introduction to work in small groups <i>Katrina Sichel</i>
11:10 – 12:10	Small group work I (Session A) <i>What are your views on the policy and practice options suggested by PROSO as possible ways to address the identified barriers to and incentives for TSO engagement?</i>
There are tea/coffee hubs allowing participants to take tea and coffee during the group work	
12:10 – 12:40	Small group work II (Session A) Same as above with change in groups that deal with the different barriers and incentives
12:40 – 13:40 Lunch buffet	
Second input by PROSO	
13:40 – 14:00	Barriers from citizens’ perspectives <i>Blagovesta Chonkova</i> , ARC Fund, PROSO work package leader
Work in small groups (Session B): “Citizen engagement for RRI – ways forward”	
14:00 – 14:05	Introduction to work in small groups <i>Katrina Sichel</i>
14:10 – 15:00	Small group work I (Session B) <i>What are your views on the policy and practice options suggested by PROSO as possible ways to address the identified barriers to and incentives for citizen engagement?</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Small group work II (Session B) Same as above with change in groups that deal with the different barriers and incentives
15:30 – 15:50 tea and coffee	
Bringing discussion results together: Promising policy and practice options towards citizen and TSO engagement for RRI	
15:50 – 16:50	Group discussion results Promising ways towards TSO engagement for RRI Promising ways towards citizen engagement for RRI
16:50 – 17:00	Short feedback round and closure

Want to know more about PROSO and its research?

The preceding pages contain all the essential conference information, however, you might be interested in learning more about PROSO’s work and insights so far. If this is the case, you’re invited to read the second part of this document. This offers further detail on PROSO’s vision, its mission, the main issue it is concerned with as a research project, the research design, and the partners involved in the project:

- 1. **The Vision** – Embedding societal engagement into European research and innovation systems..... 6
- 2. **The Mission** – Promoting societal engagement with publicly funded research 8
- 3. **The Issue** – Challenges and barriers of societal engagement 9
- 4. **The Project** – PROSO at a glance 13
- 5. **The Team** – PROSO partners 16

1. The Vision – Embedding societal engagement into European research and innovation systems

“Creating a better symmetry between the needs of society and how science can address them”¹ forms part of the vision of the European Research Area. With the notion of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) this vision has taken further shape.

“Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organizations, etc.) *work together* during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.”² (emphasis added)

This is one of the core ideas of RRI, the European Union’s new approach to good governance in research and innovation (R&I). Research and Innovation must be opened up to those societal actors which so far have been underrepresented: third sector actors³ and citizens⁴. They are explicitly invited to engage on matters of R&I (‘working together’). Until the turn of the millennium, it was a widespread view that these societal actors are external rather than internal to the European R&I systems.

There are high expectations on extending the spectrum of actors involved in R&I. This shall lead to a broader knowledge base – including knowledge on societal needs and expectations – and more effectiveness in addressing major societal challenges through R&I.

What’s new about this idea?

The main idea of RRI is that societal engagement with R&I becomes *standard* in European R&I systems.

“[...] the current research and innovation systems do not routinely take into account RRI requirements”.⁵

This is an ambitious goal while there have been developments in the past two decades that can be seen as first steps into this direction.

Where do we stand?

Societal engagement with R&I is a field of research and experimentation that has been developing for the last few decades. At its core is the idea that “civil society is a lot more than an

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1298&lang=1>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/responsible-research-innovation>

³ The **Third Sector** is used in PROSO as an umbrella term for various interest groups of citizens, including civil society organizations and informal networks of citizens. Third Sector Organizations (TSOs) are often involved in R&I either in order to pursue a common purpose in the public interest (such as environmental concerns) and/or to represent certain interests of groups within society (such as consumers or patients).

⁴ With **citizens** PROSO refers to the non-organized public or non-professionals. These are individuals from all walks of life who are acting in a personal capacity, but do not necessarily have specific education or training. It also takes into account that individuals may engage in other roles, e.g. as consumers, employees, users, or as those affected by research and innovation activities.

⁵ From the Horizon 2020 call under which PROSO is funded.

undifferentiated recipient of research results”⁶ and that citizens and TSOs can make valuable contributions to R&I.

In the past two decades or so, processes of professionalization, diffusion and also institutionalization of societal engagement have become increasingly visible. EU-funded projects like Engage2020, PE2020 and RRI Tools provide evidence of these processes. They have shown that societal engagement with R&I in Europe and worldwide takes place at all levels of the R&I process with ever new engagement formats, adaptations of formats, supporting policies at different levels, and a growing body of knowledge on ‘how to do engagement well’.

Where is room for improvement?

Expansion of societal engagement

There are great differences between countries and fields of R&I regarding the extent to which societal engagement with R&I takes place. In Europe, there are countries which have a clear pioneer-role in advancing societal engagement with R&I such as the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. At the same time, there are many countries in which societal engagement with R&I hardly plays a role, or its inclusion in the R&I systems is only at an elementary level. Nanotechnology is an example of an R&I field where societal engagement played a significant role from the beginning. This is the exception, however, rather than the norm. Big data technologies serve as a contrasting example.

It is widely agreed that the way in which societal engagement with R&I is practiced needs to be sensitive to the context: to the type of research, to the issue or technology at stake, to innovation and political cultures, to actor constellations, to levels of societal conflict, etc.; this implies that societal engagement does not need to take place in each R&I activity or process. It seems, however, that not in all countries and R&I fields societal engagement is to the same extent taken into account as a possible way to enrich R&I.

Addressing barriers to societal engagement

Formalization or institutionalization of societal engagement “does not guarantee a high de facto degree of public participation”⁷. Take the case of training in societal engagement offered to researchers. Interestingly, recent research suggests both: on the one hand researchers typically value it and regard a lack of training as a hindrance to engagement; on the other hand, the uptake of training among researchers is typically low⁸. We know from the wider literature on societal engagement that there is a whole range of tensions that engagement of TSOs and citizens is facing. Any attempt to move towards ‘normalization’ of their engagement with R&I requires a better understanding of these tensions and associated barriers to realizing a higher degree of engagement.

Understanding of what societal engagement under RRI calls particularly for

Mainstreaming of societal engagement under the terms of RRI requires a better understanding of what qualifies engagement as meeting the specific expectations of RRI. Qualifying features have been implicit rather than explicit so far. The development of concrete policy and other support

⁶ European Commission (2009). Goverscience. Civil Society Organisations Seminar. DG for Research, p.5 (Foreword).

⁷ European Commission (2012). MASIS Final synthesis report. DG for Research and Innovation, p.83.

⁸ Burchell, Sheppard, Chambers (2017), A ‘work in progress’: UK researchers and participation in public engagement. Research for All 1(1), 198-224.

actions to foster mainstreaming and overcome barriers to it, should be reflective of and sensitive to such features. If not, societal engagement as a ‘new’ standard in European R&I systems may turn out ‘old wine in new bottles’ (e.g. by keeping the focus on informing society) rather than real change in systems and practices (including a shift of focus to dialogue and collaboration with society).

2. The Mission – Promoting societal engagement with publicly funded research

What can be done to ensure citizen and TSO engagement with European R&I systems?

The PROSO project seeks to find answers to this question. To this end it explores barriers and incentives for citizen and TSO engagement with publicly-funded research⁹. Specifically, it explores the views of citizens, TSOs and other actors such as researchers and program funders about their own interests, roles, and experiences in regard to engagement with research. So far, we know rather little about these views.

„[...] we know rather little about whether the public are as keen on participatory dialogue as those who advocate it as key to democratic governance“¹⁰.

“Several workshop participants agreed that the **motivations** of the public and CSOs to be engaged are, so far, **underexplored**. They asked the social scientists to pay more attention towards **factors that might influence the willingness** to participate (e.g. timing of the event, urgency of the issues at stake or compensation)”¹¹ (emphasis in original).

By investigating actor views, PROSO contributes to embedding societal responsiveness into the process of advancing societal engagement with research.

The main objective of PROSO is to foster the engagement of TSOs and citizens by providing policy makers, funding authorities and TSOs with guidance on possible ways to lower barriers and strengthen incentives.

“In order to increase the relevance of research and innovation policies for society, policy makers and decision makers in funding bodies are invited to constantly adapt the governance framework so as to induce society-friendly research and innovation.”¹²

PROSO pays special attention to barriers and incentives that may be related to the specific expectations of societal engagement from an RRI perspective. There is no unanimous definition of

⁹ Engagement may take place at all research process stages ranging from research and technology policy formation over agenda-setting to carrying out research, implementation of research, and evaluation of research outcomes.

¹⁰ Sturgis (2014), On the limits of public engagement for the governance of emerging technologies. Public Understanding of Science, Special Issue: Public Engagement in Science 23, 38-42 (p. 40).

¹¹ Bauer, Bogner, Fuchs (2016), Report on the expert workshop “Contemporary experiences with societal engagement under the terms of RRI” (PROSO Deliverable 2.1), p.13; http://www.proso-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/proso_d2.1_rri_expert_workshop.pdf.

¹² From the Horizon 2020 call under which PROSO is funded.

RRI. It is a flexible and open framework rather than a clearly defined concept. There is also no common understanding or clear picture of societal engagement under the header of RRI. On the basis of a literature and policy document review, PROSO, however, was able to identify a number of features that seem to qualify societal engagement as meeting RRI expectations¹³. Stakeholder and citizen engagement in science, technology, and innovation is certainly not new; key tenets of RRI such as co-responsibility, responsiveness and inclusiveness pose, however, distinct requirements for the science-society-relationship.

Societal engagement under RRI *requires ensuring*:

- A balanced representation in regards to actors, interests and values – *inclusion and diversity*
- Adequate timing of engagement – *early on*
- Ample room for deliberation and two-way communication – *more than one-way communication*
- A balanced and open debate - *broad framing of issues*
- Institutional embedding of and responsiveness to societal engagement – *links to decision-making processes*

3. The Issue – Challenges and barriers of societal engagement

The literature and document review, an RRI-expert workshop¹⁴, and (initial results of) empirical research into the views of citizens, TSOs and other actors regarding engagement with research have shown: fulfillment of these requirements of societal engagement under the terms of RRI is challenging, and these challenges can turn out to be barriers to TSO and citizen engagement. Requirements and the respective challenges and barriers concern the questions of ‘whom to engage’, ‘when to engage’, ‘how to engage’, ‘about what to engage’, and ‘what for to engage’.

Whom to engage?

Societal engagement under the terms of RRI should be inclusive, diverse and – at least to some extent – representative in regard to societal actors, different perspectives, values, knowledge sources and material interests. In this regard, RRI calls particularly for going beyond traditional stakeholder groups such as social partners and including a broader diversity of perspectives, including environmental, consumer, religious, youth, and patient organizations and, with regard to the unorganized public, for including vulnerable or minority groups and so far ‘silent voices’.

Challenges and barriers

This requirement is often seen by citizens as paramount for the validity and legitimacy of the results produced by engagement. However, it raises particular challenges for recruiting participants for engagement activities (balanced representation). Citizens may refrain from participation because they feel that they lack knowledge on the issues being debated or deliberative skills to participate in the debate. This barrier is particularly intensified in regard to so far underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities and those that are not in employment, education or training. In regard to

¹³ Bauer, Bogner, Fuchs (2016), Societal engagement under the terms of RRI (PROSO Deliverable 2.2); http://www.proso-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/proso_d2.2_societal_engagement.pdf.

¹⁴ See footnote 11.

current engagement practice, limited resources in recruiting participants may result in the recruitment of 'easy to reach' citizens and TSOs, i.e. those that have been traditionally willing to engage (e.g., more educated citizens; established and highly professionalized TSOs). Furthermore, frequent challenges in recruiting citizens become intensified: a lack of personal interest in an issue which can be personal concern or perceived relevance for society, the perception of citizens that engagement will have no impact or resonance in decision-making.

Although TSOs are much easier to identify and to invite, engagement processes also face challenges concerning their willingness to participate, particularly when less established stakeholders are sought. Participation requires a high degree of institutionalization and professionalization in the TSO. Smaller TSOs with limited financial resources, personnel or access to knowledge (such as journal subscriptions) do not have the capacities to participate in all potentially relevant R&I processes. Engagement in R&I processes may also counter the strategic interests of critical TSOs, as they fear to be used as a source of legitimization (trust). In this regard a TSO's engagement with established R&I actors and institution may impact the public trust and reputation of the TSO (strategic interests).

When to engage?

The 'right' timing of public or stakeholder dialogues is crucial for societal engagement under RRI. RRI calls for early societal engagement in order to ensure that societal concerns and values can be integrated in research and innovation processes. When engagement is initiated late in the development of research or innovations (e.g. in the diffusion state), the relevance for actual R&I decisions and processes diminishes. In this case citizens and TSOs might lack interest in and responsibility for the issue at stake because they feel that decisions have already been made and that their concerns and values are not taken seriously. In this regard citizens and TSOs might also fear that they are used as a source of legitimization only and therefore distrust the event and its organizers.

Challenges and barriers

However, also early societal engagement raises particular challenges for participant recruitment. When a technology is at an early stage of development and still lacks public attention and debate, it might be difficult to identify TSOs and recruit citizens. TSOs may perceive the issue of the engagement event as not relevant to their stakeholders; they lack institutional concerns (interest). Also for the broader public the interest in engagement is higher when the debated issues are closer to their lives and experiences or already discussed in the media. Actors may also be discouraged from participating because they lack knowledge of the new issue. Overall, it might be difficult for organizers of engagement events to secure a balanced representation of diverse actors, interests and concerns when it is still unclear what perspectives, values and concerns will be salient in a debate (diversity, balanced representation).

How to engage?

If societal engagement is about societal actors 'working together' with researchers in order to better align both the R&I process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society, two-way communication and joint deliberation is of pivotal importance. RRI implies a shift from the deficit model to a dialogue model that has been called for in academic debate for some time now.

Challenges and barriers

The notion of co-responsibility conveys the idea of mutual understanding and rational deliberation. Actors are expected to leave their traditional (mostly antagonistic, interest-or world view-driven) roles and to open up for all relevant aspects associated with the entire innovation process (e.g., companies reflecting beyond immediate market competitiveness and TSOs reflecting beyond risks). Such an understanding of RRI clearly favours invited, 'orderly' deliberation over uninvited protest-like engagement forms. While some may welcome this as a better, more rational way to address for example controversial technologies, others may argue that such a non-emotional or even 'sterile' debate conveys the illusion of conflict-free innovation while postponing conflicts to a later point in time. The role of 'uninvited engagement spaces' (such as blogosphere), political activism, emotions and passion in RRI remains under-explored.

Currently, engagement is often primarily pursuing information and education instead of joint deliberation and learning. Such engagement formats are in many cases inadequate to gain insights into the concerns, interests and values of citizens and TSOs. When engagement processes predominantly aim at informing, potential participants (citizens or TSOs) might refrain from participating because they feel that they are to be persuaded rather than heard (trust). In addition when participants are not given the opportunity to share their own perspectives and concerns, they might lose interest in the event. Citizens or TSOs might also miss responsibility for the issue at stake when the event is predominantly about information. On the other hand, in many cases (particularly citizen engagement) some kind of information is necessary in order to facilitate a meaningful debate. Particularly when the issue at stake is rather new and hardly discussed in public yet (timing), participants may lack knowledge. Finding the right balance between information and deliberation in engagement processes is crucial for the engagement of citizens (and also TSOs) and at the same time often a real challenge.

About what to engage?

Societal engagement under RRI envisages that TSOs and citizens already work together in the very early stages of the research and innovation process. This calls for an open debate that gives room for alternative framings and dissent among participants. However, in setting the agenda and inviting participants, organizers determine how to deal with an issue and, thereby introduce a certain framing that defines the deliberation.

Challenges and barriers

This implies a challenge which is particularly relevant in regard to newly emerging technologies such as synthetic biology, where the framing of issues is only beginning. In this case, engagement events may easily lean towards a pro-technology bias, hyping the technoscience area or towards one-sided critique. Both scenarios diminish the opportunities for balanced representation of stakeholders and perspectives.

The framing of an event plays a pivotal role in the willingness of actors to participate. Critical TSOs often refrain from participating in engagement activities that are, from their perspective, too enthusiastic and uncritical towards science, technology and innovation (STI) issues (narrow framing). In this regard, their organizational interests might collide with the interests of the event organizers. Engagement with research or even industrial actors might entail the risk of being used as a source of legitimization and of losing control over the discourse, particularly when the framing of the

engagement activity is outside the TSOs' influence. Moreover, the consensus orientation of engagement might make it difficult for TSOs to communicate their efforts and impacts to their stakeholders (strategic interests).

Also public dialogues often take a scientific framing which hypes the technoscience area but is insufficient, since the public favours different approaches towards the discussion than experts (framed as an expert issue).

What for to engage?

RRI wants society to exert influence on R&I. This goes beyond goals such as arousing interest and curiosity for that which is new and emerging in R&I; producing trust by discussing topics early on; improving data sets by including citizens as data providers; or making research policy decisions transparent. 'Society-friendly' R&I requires openness to societal values, needs and expectations at various levels: at the level of the political system; at the level of decision-making bodies of funding authorities; and at the level of research and innovation systems.

Challenges and barriers

One main challenge for societal engagement under RRI is the insufficient linkage between engagement processes and formal decision-making structures, processes and actors, and, as a result, the low responsiveness of R&I actors and institutions to engagement processes. Societal engagement processes are frequently found to be detached from decision-making in science and policy, often resembling laboratory experiments that are used ad hoc rather than systematically. Hence a key challenge for societal engagement under the terms of RRI is the institutionalization of societal engagement in a continuous way and its effective embedding in institutions in science and R&I governance.

The lack of institutional embedding and responsiveness has profound consequences for the motivation of citizens and TSOs to participate in engagement events. How the engagement results will be used (outcome) may be unclear for potential participants, because engagement activities are often organized without obvious links to decision-making. When it is unclear whether and how engagement results will feed into decision-making, citizens and TSOs may lose trust in the event, and may be less willing to invest their time and personnel resources.

PROSO is convinced that these challenges and barriers need to be made explicit, collectively reflected on, and systematically addressed in building up structures and processes for promoting societal engagement in research for RRI.

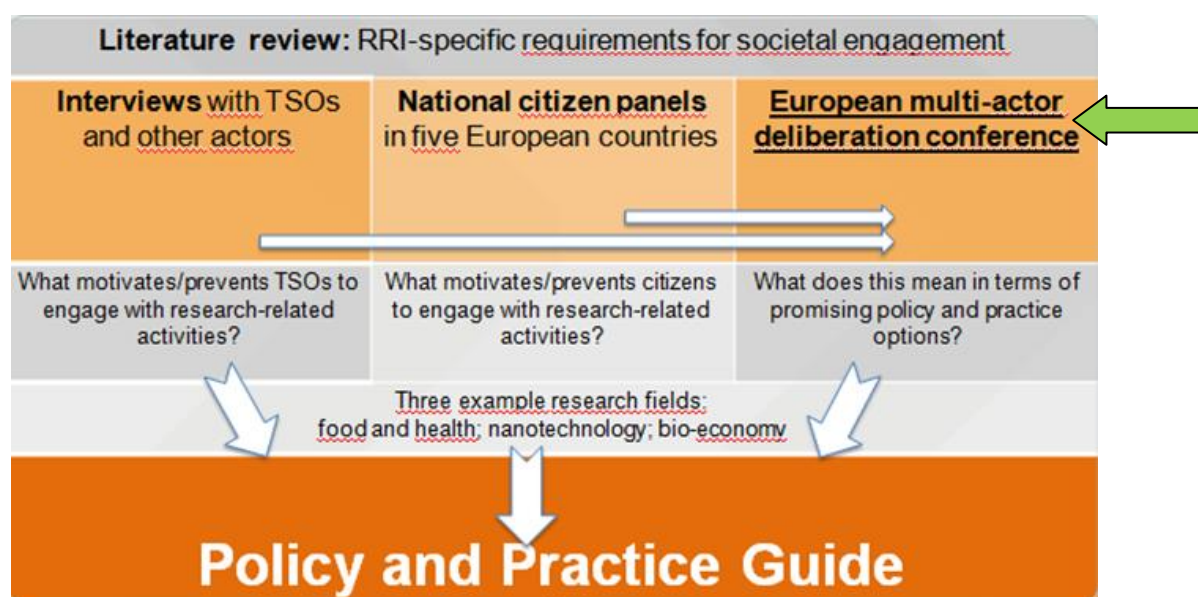
4. The Project – PROSO at a glance

Societal engagement is an essential element of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), the EU's emerging approach to good governance in research and innovation (R&I). However, it is unclear what qualifies societal engagement as complying with RRI. There is also insufficient insight into what policy makers, research funders and other actors involved in governing or performing research can do to encourage and facilitate societal engagement that meets with the expectation of RRI.

In addressing these questions, PROSO focuses on two types of actors that are only marginally engaged in R&I so far: interest groups of citizens (referred to as Third Sector Organizations, TSO) and (unorganized) citizens. PROSO is exploring the barriers and incentives of these two types of actors to engage with R&I, by using three example research fields: food and health; nanotechnology; and the bio-economy (in particular, synthetic biology).

The main objective of PROSO is to foster engagement of these two types of actors in the R&I systems in Europe. To this end, it is developing innovative and robust options for how research policy makers and research funding organizations can actively promote, and practitioners can successfully carry out (in accordance with RRI) TSO and citizen engagement in R&I at national and European levels. These options will be disseminated in a policy and practice guide for advancing the use of inclusive participatory approaches in R&I processes.

Main methods used are a literature review, semi-structured interviews, national citizen panels, the multi-actor conference and a couple of expert workshops on selected topics.



What encourages or hinders citizens to engage with research?

PROSO has researched into the views of European citizens on their role in public research and what motivates or prevents them from engaging in research-related activities¹⁵.

National citizen panels were organized in each of the following countries: Bulgaria, Portugal, Germany, Austria and the UK. In each country, two citizen panel meetings took place in October/November 2016 and in February 2017.

The objectives of these meetings were:

- i) to generate insights into the barriers and incentives for citizens to engage with R&I, from the citizens' perspectives;
- ii) to understand what citizens' views are on a number of challenges for citizen engagement, as well as on a number of policy and practice options, identified as a response to these challenges.

Identification of policy and practice options was supported by a number of experts from various backgrounds including members of the academia, policy-makers, and science journalists.



¹⁵ For details please see these PROSO publications: http://www.proso-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/proso_d4.1_methodology_citizen_panels.pdf; http://www.proso-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/wp4_manual_citizen_panels.pdf; http://www.proso-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/proso_d4.2_citizen_panels_national_reports.pdf and further publications at: <http://www.proso-project.eu/publications/>.

What encourages or hinders TSOs to engage with research?

PROSO has carried out **interviews with TSOs and other stakeholders** relevant for RRI in relation to nine selected case studies across three research fields of food and health, nanotechnology, and bio-economy (synthetic biology)¹⁶. The interview schedule was designed to explore stakeholders' perspectives on barriers and incentives to Third Sector engagement with R&I.

Domain	Project	Geographic scope	Objectives
Food & Health	A healthy future for the potato	Rathenau Instituut, Wageningen University, and University of Groningen	How new developments in potato breeding could change potato farming and what possible implications this could have
	Well Now	Dr Lucy Aphramor/NHS Highland (Scotland)	Social justice approach to obesity
	EPINET In-vitro meat	International	Addresses the societal and funding challenges of in-vitro (cultured) meat
Nanotechnology	BMU NanoDialog, NanoKommission	Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety	Supports the exchanges between CSAs and researchers about the risks and challenges of nanotechnology
	NanOpinion	International (11 partners)	As above
	Tracing Nano for Downstream Users	The Netherlands and Europe-wide	To improve the traceability of manufactured nano materials in products and articles for downstream use
Bioeconomy – Synthetic biology	Ecover/Solazyme	International	Algal oil introduced to replace palm oil in cleaning products and stakeholder engagement carried out to mitigate TSO/consumer backlash
	Synenergene	International	Aims to initiate and foster RRI engagement on synthbio
	Synthetic Biology Leadership Council (SBLC)	UK/Synthetic Biology Leadership Council (SBLC)	To coordinate between a range of stakeholders

¹⁶ For the research design please see http://www.proso-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/proso_d3.1_protocol_desk_research.pdf.

5. The Team – PROSO partners

PROSO is carried out within a European-wide consortium comprised of four research organizations, a research-orientated civil society organization, two strategy consulting firms, and a European industry association.



An advisory panel with a multi-actor design guides the consortium in any research and policy related issues. For more details please visit our website at <http://www.proso-project.eu/>.