



Deliverable D5.1

Conference Information Package

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1. Introduction

The main part of this deliverable is the ‘information package’ that the participants of the PROSO WP5 Multi-Actor Conference (19 June 2017, Brussels) receive prior to the conference. The information package, as it was sent to the conference participants, is presented in chapter 2 after some explanatory remarks on its function and structure.

The deliverable also contains some additional information on the overall concept of the conference and the way it is embedded in the research design of the PROSO project. This information is provided in chapter 3.

2. The information package

The information package has two main functions. These are to

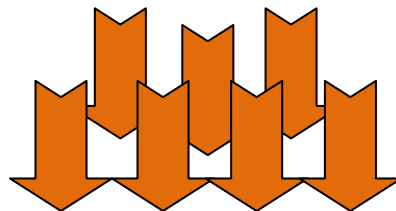
- Inform the participants about the conference concept, about their role and expected input as well as about how the conference results will be used
- Provide the participants with an overview of PROSO’s research and ‘mission’ and about the project’s preliminary results regarding challenges and barriers to citizen and TSO engagement.

The information package is structured in two parts each serving one of these functions. The first part serves the first function by providing general information on the conference. It describes purpose, target groups, format, agenda, venue, contact, and next steps. The second part serves the second function and provides more detailed information about PROSO and its research. It sets out the vision underlying the project, the mission of the project, the issue that is it concerned with (this section includes PROSO insights on challenges and barriers), and an overview of its research methodology.



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 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?

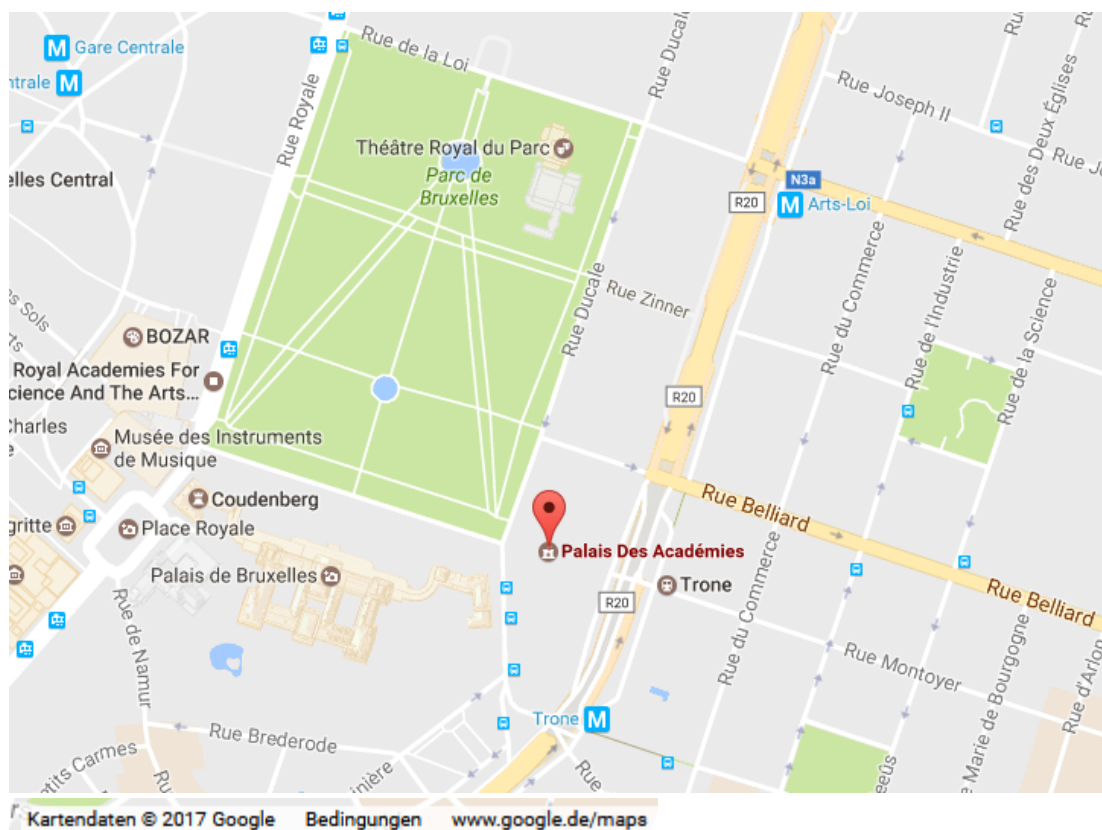
The conference combines input by the PROSO project (on barriers to and incentives for societal engagement and ways to address these) and small group discussions involving all participants (around ways to lower barriers and strengthen incentives). The break-out groups are inspired by the World Café method (<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

Where do we meet? The Venue:

The conference takes place at the *Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts / Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten* which is the co-organizer of the conference: Paleis der Academiën, Hertogsstraat 1, 1000 Brussel, Tel: +32 2 550 23 23, info@kvab.be



If I need to contact someone?

For any questions, comments, or exchanges in regard to the conference please contact Frank Dratsdrummer, at dratsdrummer@dialogik-expert.de; +49 711 3585 2168 (DIALOGIK Stuttgart office); and during the conference at +49 177 6680 066 (mobile phone).

For any other questions, comments, or exchanges you have, please contact the project coordinator, Marion Dreyer, at dreyer@dialogik-expert.de; +49 711 3585 2164 (DIALOGIK Stuttgart office).

What happens after the conference?

You will receive the *conference report* via email end of July 2017 with the opportunity to comment on it. Afterwards it will be published on the PROSO website (<http://www.proso-project.eu>).

Informed by your input, the PROSO team will produce a *policy and practice guide* which is PROSO's main output. The guide will offer policy-makers, research funders and third sector organizations insights and inspiration around how to promote citizen and TSO engagement in European research systems. It will also be sent to all conference participants and published on the PROSO website.

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:

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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 actions to foster mainstreaming and overcome barriers to it, should be reflective of and sensitive to

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.

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 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

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.

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 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

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.

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.

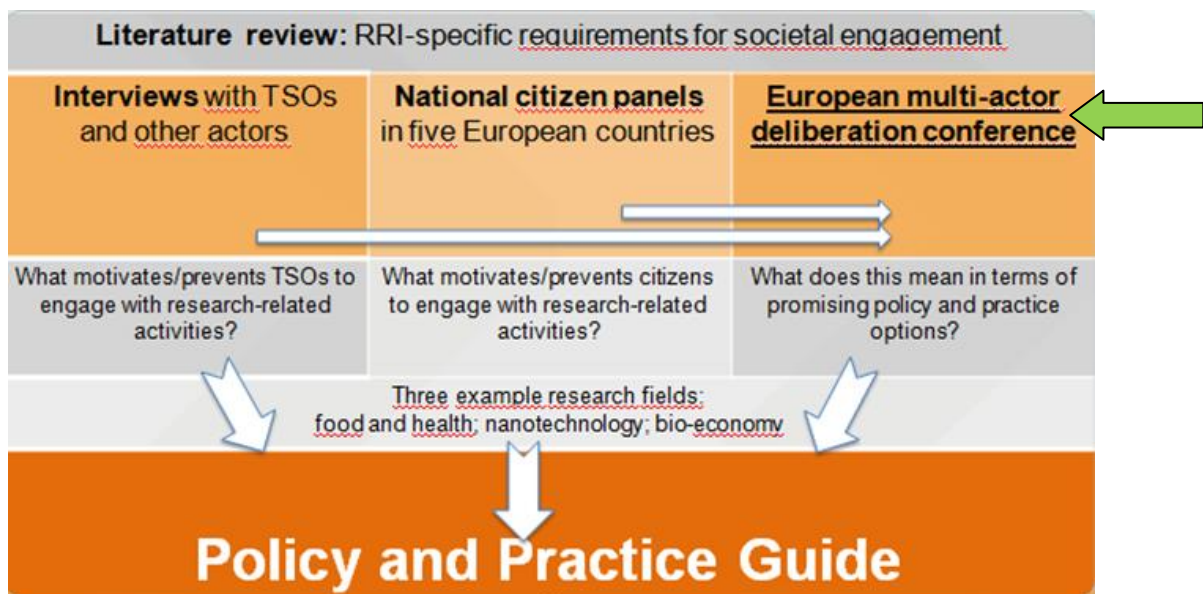
4. The Project – PROSO at a glance

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

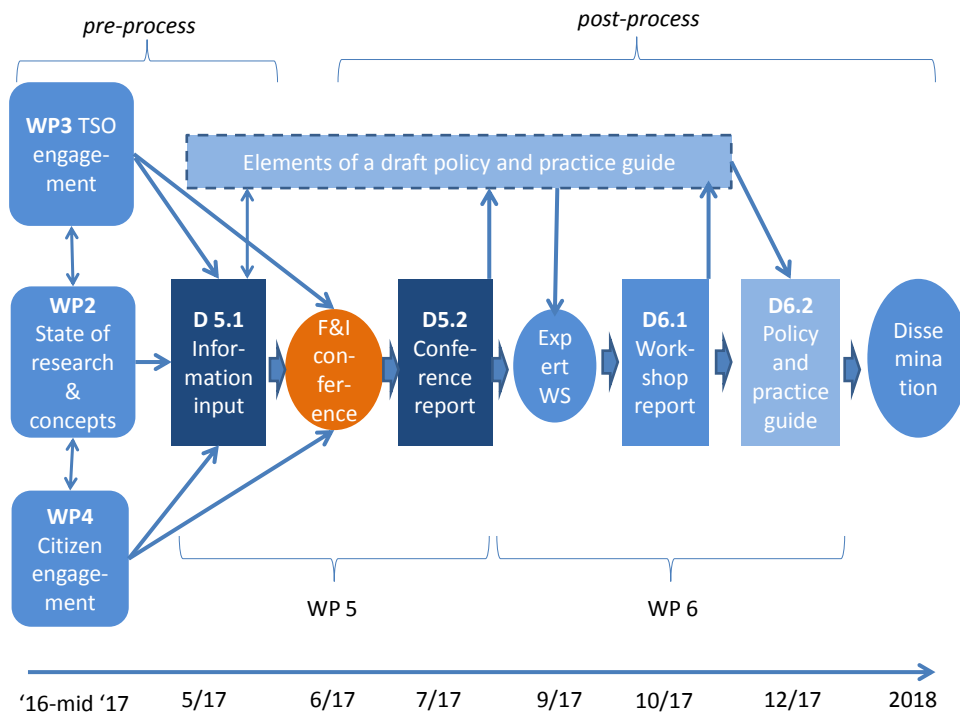
PROSO is carried out within a European-wide consortium comprised of four research organizations, a research-orientated civil society organization, two strategy consulting firms, and a European industry association.



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/>.

3. The conference approach

PROSO is currently in a phase of transition from a predominantly research oriented approach to a more applied and policy-oriented approach as indicated by the figure below showing the conference pre-process and post-process.



Within this transition, the European multi-actor conference can be considered a 'hinge' which has three functions:

Goals of the conference

- Share the PROSO preliminary results on engagement barriers and incentives (deduced from the results of the WP2 literature review, the WP3 interviews and the WP4 citizen panels) and on initial ideas on policy and practice options (PPOs) that could address these barriers and incentives. The principal aim of the conference is not to discuss barriers and incentives, but to subject the initial ideas of PPOs to critical review and joint discussion with a wide range of actors, all of whom are relevant to promoting societal engagement under RRI.
- Gather feedback on the PPOs and use this feedback to further develop and revise these, to add new PPO and detail and contextualize PPOs.
- Raise awareness, support exchange and networking of actors concerned with citizen and TSO engagement for RRI across European countries and across the three domains of R&I (nanotechnology, synthetic biology, food and health).

Main purpose of the conference

The conference is *not* about disseminating final results or providing ready-made solutions. Its main purpose is to get feedback on initial ideas of policy and practice options to lower barriers and strengthen incentives in terms of new, concrete, context-specific, and practice-oriented perspectives from actors who are engaging with, governing (managing and funding), doing, and communicating research. The aim is to use the knowledge, experience, ideas and interests of these actors, who have different national, professional and organizational backgrounds, as input into the development of the policy and practice guide, PROSO's main output.

Equally important, the conference is an arena for exchange and networking among actors engaged with or interested in citizen and TSO engagement with R&I.

Size of the conference

The intended size of the conference was overall n= 50-70 people, including PROSO partners and advisory panel members. This means approximately 10 to 15 people from PROSO and approximately 40 to 55 invited participants.

Target groups of the conference

The target groups of the conference are actors who are able to contribute to carrying out or implementing societal engagement in R&I. Informed by the MASIS report (EC 2012),¹⁷ three target groups were identified comprising particular categories of actors that are shown in the table below. These actors are considered important knowledge-holders, multipliers and contributors to the work around societal engagement under RRI.

Individual, unorganized citizens do not belong to the target groups of the conference. This is mainly for the reason that the PROSO project has only a limited budget to support travel costs. This is used to support the conference participation of a couple of small TSOs. The work of and with the citizens in the context of the national citizen panels will be included into the conference through presentations by PROSO researchers. Moreover, videos in which citizens present their messages on what could make engagement with research more attractive to themselves and other citizens will be shown on a large monitor during the lunch break.

¹⁷ The MASIS project (Monitoring Policy and Research Activities on Science in Society in Europe) provides information on cross-cutting issues and trends in Europe relating to science in society, see European Commission (2012): MASIS: Final synthesis report. DG for Research and Innovation.

PROSO main target groups	Society	Those funding and governing research (preferably from the three R&I fields nanotechnology, food & health, bio-economy)	Those doing and communicating research (preferably from the three R&I fields nanotechnology, food & health, bio-economy)
Categories of Actors <i>Plus: Diversity regarding:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU regions • Areas of R&I 	TSOs (non-state, non-profit organizations, representing citizens' interests / the common good); priority given to the interview partners from WP3 and actors operating at national and/ or European level	R&I policy makers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of national ministries • Representatives of parliaments (national and EU level) • Business and industry representatives (rather associations than single companies) Research management and research funding organizations (national and EU level)	Researchers Science education and communication organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National academies of science i.e. the national level rather than universities and schools. Possibly also further bodies concerned with education (national or regional level). • Science Museums • Science communication professionals

Format of the conference

The conference combines input by PROSO and world-café¹⁸-style discussions by the participants. The World Café is an approach to conversations in large groups. At its core are small group discussions with varying group compositions.

The conference format drawing on the world-café method was chosen in order to support the multi-actor character of the event. “World Cafés should offer an antidote to the fast-paced fragmentation and lack of connection in today's world. It is founded on the assumption that people have the capacity to work together, no matter who they are.”¹⁹ A world café approach seems to suit the goals and formats of the PROSO feedback conference better than Open Space Technology (OST), which had been indicated in the PROSO Description of Action. The Multi Actor conference as planned now

- requires important input by the PROSO project,
- and has a clear goal and rather pre-structured content.

¹⁸ The World Café Community Foundation is the source of the name and method “World Café”: <http://www.theworldcafe.com>.

¹⁹ <http://actioncatalogue.eu/method/7402>.

Nevertheless, the world-café format is suitable to introduce some elements of openness, creativity and self-organization into the conference. It is the aim to create an open and creative working atmosphere at the conference. PROSO’s preliminary results shall stimulate participants to freshly think about innovative and also very concrete and feasible ways to promote societal engagement in R&I and, ideally, to identify PROSO’s ‘blind spots’.

There will be an iteration of plenary and small group sessions. Facilitation of the plenary session will be carried out by an external professional moderator. The small group discussions will be done by PROSO partners and not by volunteers from the invited participants in order to make sure that the discussions focus on the pre-defined PROSO questions. Facilitation will face the challenge of discussions held in multi-actor and multi-cultural settings. In order to meet this challenge, a well-structured and clearly described process design is required. A detailed conference script has been produced which sets out this process design and is shared with all PROSO partners that contribute to the conference.

Recruitment strategy

To build a pool of possible participants, different strategies were used which are listed in the table below. Whenever possible, target actors at the EU level or at a national level as well as representatives from umbrella organizations, e.g. of business organizations rather than of single businesses were addressed. These actors are likely to have a wealth of valuable experience, occupy strategic positions within networks and have a strong potential to (directly) impact the policies and practices of national and/or European R&I systems. Securing these actors as ‘ambassadors’ of PROSO is essential for maximising the dissemination and impact of PROSO results. In addition, recruitment has strived for a good representation of actors from different European regions, as well as from the three PROSO research and innovation domains.

Main sources used to build the pool of participants
Stakeholder database from PROSO work package 7
Suggestions by PROSO partners for relevant actors from their country/ region and/or their area of R&I, including WP3 interviewees
Suggestions by the Advisory Panel members and the PROSO project officer who have activated their networks
Lists of participants from relevant conferences such as the PE2020 CASI conference
Suggestions for science communication experts by the science journalist who participated at the WP4 expert workshop
National contact points which were invited to forward the conference invitation to their contacts (59 national contact points were addressed individually)
Continuous internet-based research for relevant actors by the DIALOGIK team

Invitation process

Save-the-date emails were continuously sent out since December 2016 to the growing pool of actors. From February 2017, formal invitations were sent out to all potential participants, except for those contacts some PROSO partners and the PROSO project officer preferred to invite themselves. In total, around **850** people were invited. In addition was

- the conference information posted on the PROSO website, and the conference announced by the PROSO newsletter, Twitter, and Facebook, etc.
- the conference added into the event list of the RRI-Tools project;
- the conference listed on event lists of national contact points, circulated in their mailing lists and added to their newsletters.

Two weeks before the conference there are **70 registrations** including the PROSO team. This is in line with the intended size of the conference. The success rate of invitations is, however, relatively low. This may be related to the fact that this Multi-Actor-Conference is not the classical dissemination conference but rather a hybrid of conference and workshop. While for some this opportunity for direct engagement with a research project may be particularly attractive, for others the lack of final results may make attendance less attractive.