

Summary of the expert-stakeholder workshop.

Background

It is the core idea of the CIVISTI project that socially relevant and proactive research agendas could gain from the consultation of citizens. At the first stage of the CIVISTI project, citizen consultations were organized in seven partner countries in spring 2009, which resulted in 69 citizens' visions for the future. At the second stage, an expert-stakeholder workshop was organized in Sofia, Bulgaria, June 15-16, to discuss these visions and determine how to best turn these visions into actionable research priorities.

Objectives

The concrete objectives of the expert-stakeholder workshop were the following:

- To have an informed discussion on the outcomes of the first round of citizen consultations through involving experts and stakeholders from the participating countries, as well as EU-level experts and stakeholders.
- To extract (identify and prioritize) new and emerging issues for S&T from the visions of the citizens.
- To provide input to the second round of citizen consultations through formulating research questions and propose priorities for future research under the EU Framework Programme 8 as well as policy options to the benefit of Europe as a whole.

Participants

The 18 participants in the workshop were recognized national and European experts, stakeholders and policy makers, including scientists and policy analysts, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of governmental bodies, involved in research policy making and implementation. The participants came from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Workshop process

The workshop lasted for two working days:

- During the first day, the participants were divided into 6 groups of 3 experts per group, facilitated by a member of the CIVISTI consortium. Each group were instructed to discuss 6 specific themes related to the visions (based on a previous analysis of the visions), to which 1-3 key vision were assigned. In about one hour per theme, the participants made "draft recommendations" related to the visions. More than 100 recommendations were produced and at least one for each vision.
- During the second day, an "open space" process was organized to elaborate the recommendations that the participants found most important (about 30 were selected). The participants were instructed to elaborate and finalize their "favourite" draft recommendations by reflecting three criteria: novelty, essentiality and timing. Using an internet-based tool, the final recommendations were documented and compiled to an edited summary document (now shared to all participants of the second citizen consultation).

Results

The main result of the expert-stakeholder workshop is the list of 30 elaborated recommendations. The full list of draft recommendations is also available by request from the CIVISTI staff.