

## Pursuing the public interface: resources

### **Guides and research on public engagement**

#### ***Forum for Technology, Citizens and the Market***

Organised by the Royal Society of Arts, this project focuses on public engagement in private sector research and development. It is shortly to launch some guidance.

[www.thersa.org/projects/forum\\_for\\_technology.asp](http://www.thersa.org/projects/forum_for_technology.asp)

#### ***Institute of Development Studies and University of Lancaster***

*Science and citizens: globalization and the challenge of engagement* (2005), by Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Brian Wynne, is a useful collection that brings together the work on public engagement in science and participatory international development.

[www.ids.ac.uk/ids/knots/PDFs/Leach%20\\_Scoones\\_Wynne\\_Science\\_and\\_Citizens.pdf](http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/knots/PDFs/Leach%20_Scoones_Wynne_Science_and_Citizens.pdf)

#### ***Involve***

Involve is a new organisation that promotes public involvement in decision-making. They recently published *People and participation: how to put citizens at the heart of decision-making* (2006). Their website includes a 'guide to the guides', which is a great place to start when looking for guidance on variety of public engagement methods.

[www.involving.org](http://www.involving.org)

#### ***Middlesex University and Elm Farm Research Centre***

Supported by RELU this project team have produced a short paper on *Involving farmers in research: reflections on good practice for participatory projects within the UK agricultural sector*.

[www.mdx.ac.uk/www/ceedr/ESRC/brefing%20note.pdf](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/www/ceedr/ESRC/brefing%20note.pdf)

#### ***PEALS – Policy, Ethics And Life Sciences***

Based at the University of Newcastle, PEALS has been pioneering public engagement methods since 1999. Many of its projects have promoted a citizen-led approach, notably through DIY citizens' juries.

[www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/)

#### ***RELU-Risk***

While most if not all RELU-funded research has a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement, the RELU-Risk project is one of a minority that directly focuses on broader public participation. The project website includes a paper by Clare Bayley and Simon French (2005) called *Designing a participatory process for stakeholder involvement in a societal decision*.

[www.relu-risk.org.uk](http://www.relu-risk.org.uk)

#### ***Science in Society***

Social science research on public engagement, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

[sbs-xnet.sbs.ox.ac.uk/scisoc/](http://sbs-xnet.sbs.ox.ac.uk/scisoc/)

## Policy

### ***Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission***

Shortly prior to being wrapped up in 2005, the AEBC published a report called *What shapes the research agenda?*. While focused primarily on agricultural biotechnology, the report makes interesting reading for anyone interested in the way agricultural research is governed.

[www.aebc.gov.uk](http://www.aebc.gov.uk)

### ***Council for Science and Technology***

The CST is the government's senior advisory body on science. In 2005 they produced *Policy through dialogue*, based on a review they had commissioned of government public engagement processes.

[www.cst.gov.uk](http://www.cst.gov.uk)

### ***Demos***

Demos has made two major contributions to policy discussions of public engagement in science: *See-through science: why public engagement needs to move upstream* (2004); and *The public value of science: or how to ensure that science really matters* (2005).

[www.demos.co.uk](http://www.demos.co.uk)

### ***Food Ethics Council***

In 2004 the FEC produced *Just knowledge: governing research on food and farming*. This report discusses public engagement in that sector in the context of wider shifts in research governance.

[www.foodethicscouncil.org](http://www.foodethicscouncil.org)

### ***Office of Science and Technology***

Appended to the government's response to the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering report, *Nanoscience and nanotechnologies: opportunities and uncertainties*, is guidance for policy makers on public engagement. Since then, the OST has published *The government's approach to public dialogue on science and technology*.

[www.ost.gov.uk/society/public\\_dialogue.htm](http://www.ost.gov.uk/society/public_dialogue.htm)

## Funding

### ***Big Lottery Fund***

Large, community focused funding bodies such as the Big Lottery Fund sometimes support citizen-led research projects.

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

### ***European Commission***

The European Commission Framework Programmes have placed a growing emphasis on public engagement and 'science in society' work. This was a prominent feature of Framework Programme 6 and looks set to play a more central part in Framework Programme 7.

[europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html)

**Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust**

A private foundation that has a strong record of supporting participatory processes.

[www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk)

**Research Councils UK**

The RCUK Science in Society unit co-ordinates the research councils' work on science communication and public engagement. The research councils have made explicit commitments to promote transparency in their work and public engagement in the research they fund. How they are approaching this task varies.

[www.rcuk.ac.uk/sis/](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/sis/)

**Sciencewise**

A government grant scheme to promote public dialogue in science.

[www.sciencewise.org.uk](http://www.sciencewise.org.uk)

**Examples**

**Alzheimer Society QRD Advisory Network**

Research applications to the Alzheimer Society are reviewed by carers and people with dementia, as well as by scientists.

[www.qrd.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.qrd.alzheimers.org.uk)

**Citizen Foresight**

Organised by PEALS, Citizen Foresight was an initiative combining the successful elements from existing deliberative and participatory processes, such as citizens' juries.

[www.peals.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.peals.ncl.ac.uk)

**Feeding the Debate**

The government's Foresight Directorate convened a panel of experts who compared four ways of involving consumers in R&D decision-making.

[www.foresight.gov.uk](http://www.foresight.gov.uk)

**GM Jury**

The Consumers Association, the Co-operative Group, Greenpeace and Unilever sponsored two parallel citizens' juries on GM crops.

[www.gmjury.org](http://www.gmjury.org)

**GM Nation?**

Funded by the government, this debate on GM crops involved over 30,000 people and cost £650,000.

[www.gmnation.org.uk](http://www.gmnation.org.uk)

**Involve**

Different from the organisation mentioned above, this Involve promotes patient involvement in the NHS and public services research.

[www.invo.org.uk](http://www.invo.org.uk)

**Nano Jury**

A major citizens' jury on nanotechnology, involving many key stakeholders.

[www.nanojury.org](http://www.nanojury.org)

**NICE Citizens Council**

The board of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence must to respond to reports produced twice each year by a council of citizens.

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

**Technology Democracy**

The UK-based Intermediate Technology Development Group has produced this website on technology and international development.

[www.itdg.org/?id=technology\\_in\\_society](http://www.itdg.org/?id=technology_in_society)

**Weekends Away for a Bigger Voice**

Commissioned by the National Consumer Council, this project involved low-income consumers in debates about the future of farming and food.

[www.ncc.org.uk](http://www.ncc.org.uk)