

Good Practices Repository

of responsible ICT Research and Innovation with SSH input



Title of the initiative

Give them a voice! – increasing young citizen participation and engagement, in the future digital society

Description of the Initiative

The Unit for Technology and Society Foresight (TSF) at Tel Aviv University, as part of the EU project WYRED developed a program for empowerment and increased involvement of youth in the digital society, based on experiential learning, involved "Research dialogues" and PBL (project-based learning) and service learning: When we talk about youth citizenship in the digital society - a variety of new issues may be presented, raising more questions about the ways to increase civic engagement activities, positive online and offline involvement among the adolescents, and tools to reflect their active participation sufficiently in the decision-making and policy design process. Our young partners who worked within this program, were the students of the Tel Aviv Summer Youth University - a project, which enables periphery high-school students to take academic courses. The participants, 33 girls and 12 boys - Arabs and Jews, religious and secular, aged 16-17 - came from 29 different disadvantaged communities across Israel. The first phase of the project was a journey of exploring various problems related to the current reality and the future of the Israeli society, through tours and lectures, then, the students learned and applied practical tools to express their opinions – using "old" and "new" media, in order to engage with large audiences and reach decision makers. Among the discussed themes, were Information society – the role of technology in our



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life, socio-cultural rifts, refugees, sustainability and environment, inclusion and gender, robots and employment. The main products were 6 designs of campaigns related to selected issues: the young students explained the issue, its relevance to the future society, and the ways that they were willing to act. The groups even began to develop some components of their campaign, and some of them achieved impressive first results. Out of the box thinking and the "feel of inventiveness" were everywhere. We believe that the combination of PBL and the "Research dialogs" while teaching the foundations of future thinking, was the key to empower the young students – who will become ambassadors of innovation in their communities, and ambassadors of their communities among decision-makers. This in light with the future trends in ICT and it's social challenges. Following the success of the project, we plan to offer the program to additional schools in Israel and in Europe.

Public engagement; digital society; youth citizenship; inclusion; gender

Type of Output of Initiative

Events open to civic society | Training or sharing information about the integration of SSH advice into ICTs | Design of new SSH-inclusive ICTs | Define guidelines for inclusion of SSH into ICTs

Country(ies) involved

Israel

Geographic scale of the initiative

National | International

Website

<https://wyredproject.eu/>

Status of the initiative

Ended



Users' target group(s)

EC and H2020 programme | SSH scientists / researchers | Policy makers | General public level
| Local Administrations

RRI dimensions involved

It has been taken into account the ethical impact. (Ethics)

The requests of civil society have been evaluated. (Public Engagement)

It has been considered the gender and background balance when forming the working teams.
(Gender Equality)

The representatives of civil society have been provided with the knowledge and skills to
actively participate in the initiative. (Science Education)

The outcomes of the activities have been / are being published for free access. (Open Access)

SSH disciplines involved

Human geography | Political science | Sociology | Social science - education

ICT domain involved in the initiative, both for the activities and as for output.

Future Internet, Smart networks, new usage scenarios, 5G, Web entrepreneurship, Cloud,
Wireless

Content technologies and information management, big data, open data, languages learning
and teaching technologies, creative technologies, gaming and new interactions technologies

Method used to exchange information and knowledge to include the RRI principles into the ICT research and innovation processes

Cooperative workshops | Round tables | Face-to-face meetings | Adaption of the (digital)
content

Participation and engagement of people and organizations in the implementation of the initiative

Voluntary basis

Number of people participating

45

Number of organizations participating

7 (Leon Charney Resolution Center, "Loby 99", The Matanel foundation , Tel Aviv Youth University, Tel Aviv University, The Ministry of Education, The EU)

Number of events held

-

Number of researchers (ICT+SSH) involved

3

Number of women involved

33

Number of joint discussion themes

10

Who sustained the cost / effort

Other

How it is / has been funded this initiative?

Public funding

Notes

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