

RRI Dimensions and related Key Performance Indicators

Public Engagement – General Description

Public engagement (PE) was defined as a societal commitment to provide encouragement, opportunities and competences in order to empower citizens to participate in debates around R&I, with potential feedback and feed-forward for the scientific process. There are different expressions of PE such as citizen science, science in transition, do it yourself, tab labs, hacker spaces etc. Deeper forms of engagement in science and technology are those where citizens are peers in the knowledge production, assessment and governance processes.

PE performance indicators reflect the degree of motivation, public interest and participation in the society-science relationship. Following PE2020 project five levels of public engagement were offered highlighting growing involvement of the public in policy issues starting with communication, activism, consultation, deliberation and at the end full participation (European Commission, 2015b, p. 13). Perceptions indicators point to changes in interest, knowledge and attitudes toward science and technology over time.

There are three dimensions of PE indicators: 1) policies, regulation and frameworks, 2) event making and attention creation and 3) competence building. For each, there are three types of indicators: performance indicators (process and outcomes) and perception indicators.

- For policies, regulation and frameworks – the process indicator is formal commitment and the outcome indicator is the share of public engagement funding from total R&I funding.
- Event making indicators include process indicators, such as consensus conferences, organized debates, political referenda, crowdfunded science development and citizen science. Outcome indicators include media coverage, museum visits and civil society organization activities. Perception indicators may include engagement activities, interest in science, etc.
- The main competence – building indicator of public engagement relates to the process of training communicators (scientists, engineers, mediators). The level and type of staffing of communication activities can serve as output indicators (Strand et al., 2015, pp. 21-25).

Public Engagement – List of Indicators

Criteria / Indicator	Type	Indicator
Public Engagement	Process	Commitments by an institution/organization to PE (organization type, structure, mission, values, goals)
		Number, type and purpose of PE initiatives/activities
		Number of facilitators/science communicators and current experience and training opportunities for facilitators (organizational capacity)
		Public engagement elements as evaluative criteria in evaluation activities
		Dedicated resources for PE (% of total budget, PE specialists as consultants, PR staff)
	Outcome	Changes in agendas/organizational practices as a result from public engagement at event/ as a result of the whole project
		Additional resources dedicated for PE as a result of event/project (% of total budget, PE specialists as consultants, PR staff)
		Collaborations with social scientists/ICT specialists
		Number and type of visitors/participants at activities
		Media coverage
		Number and type of collaborations (interdisciplinary, extent, length, outcomes)
Public Engagement	Outcome	Number and type of participant-initiated/led activities
		Types of skills developed by participants and facilitators (organizational practice/structure to support/utilize the new skills)
		Percentage of projects/collaborations developed as a result of HubIT that involve a public engagement dimension
	Perception	Public interest on impact of science & technology
		Public expectations of engagement in decision-making processes
		Perceived 'level' of participation/ contribution
		Perceived level of engagement
		Attitude toward facilitator and organization during an event