



# BETTER Life



## [Socially Engaged Research] Challenges, Limitations and Possible Approaches

Session 2- Expert  
Lecture (Plenary)



Funded by  
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



**BETTER  
Life**

## Arjan de Groot

Ecosystem Services Specialist

Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT  
HALLE-WITTENBERG



**BETTER**  
Life

# Challenges and Limitations



# Challenges

- Role of Citizens in Science and Science Creation
  - i. Correctly assessing their needs
  - ii. Relationship: Citizens vs Science (?)
  - iii. Feedback mechanisms
  - iv. Feedback to Feedback
  - v. Solving local rather than global problems (?)
  - vi. Involving citizens in research





# Approaches and Solutions

- Role of Citizens in Science and Science Creation
  - i. Assessing their needs correctly
  - ii. Engaging citizens in science creation



Guidelines for  
better science  
communication  
with and for  
citizens

# Approaches and Solutions

- Role of Citizens in Science and Science Creation

- i. Assessing their needs correctly
- ii. Engaging citizens in science creation
- iii. Co-Designing open spaces
- iv. Generating interest in science



Guidelines for better science communication with and for citizens

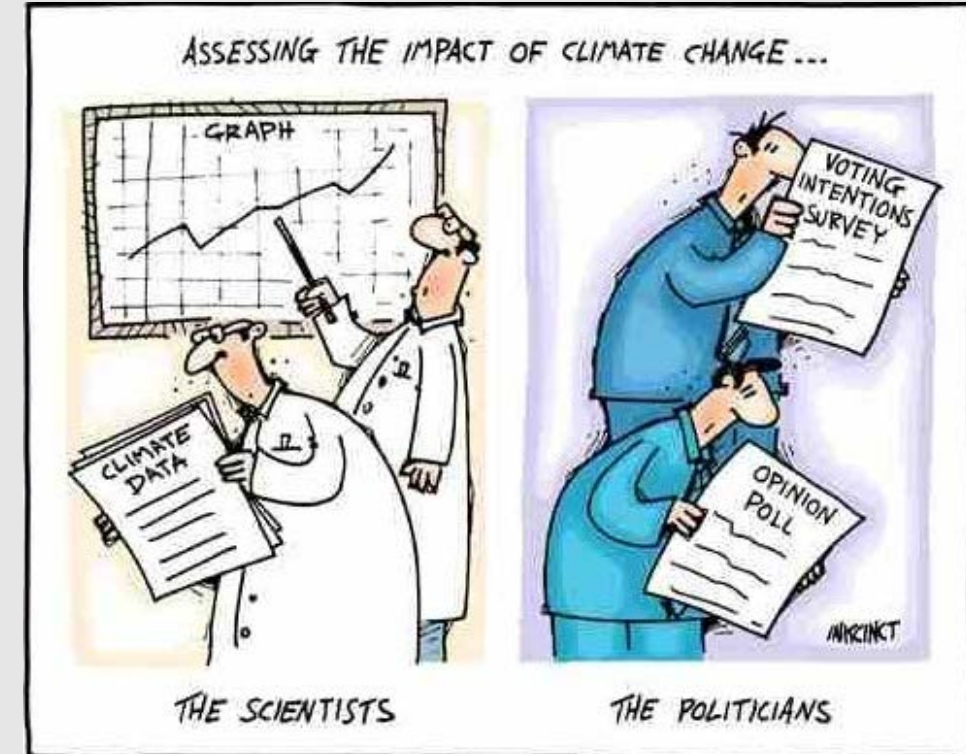


Design Thinking for co-designing open spaces

# Challenges

- Communciation between various Stakeholders

- Finding a “common language”
- Different priorities, often conflicting
- Different “acting” timescales
- Lack of face-to-face interactions between actors
- Lack of leadership / unifying agency





# Approaches and Solutions

- Communciation between various Stakeholders
  - i. Digital platform to foster collaboration between local governments and academia
  - ii. Connecting municipalities with researchers and students to address local challenges
  - iii. Means of finding academic expertise for local challenges



Academic Bridge





# Approaches and Solutions

- Communciation between various Stakeholders

- Digital platform to foster collaboration between local governments and academia
- Connecting municipalities with researchers and students to address local challenges
- Means of finding academic expertise for local challenges
- Bringing actors of various backgrounds to the table
- Enhancing communication through “roleplaying”
- Showcasing need for collaboration



Academic Bridge



Educative Boardgame



# Approaches and Solutions

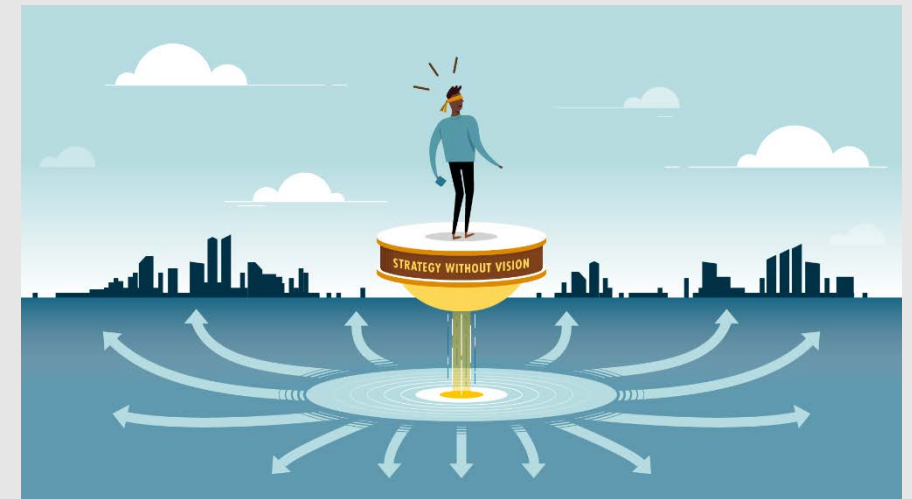
- Communciation between various Stakeholders
  - i. Digital platform to foster collaboration between local governments and academia
  - ii. Connecting municipalities with researchers and students to address local challenges
  - iii. Means of finding academic expertise for local challenges
  - iv. Bringing actors of various backgrounds to the table
  - v. Enhancing communication through “roleplaying”
  - vi. Showcasing need for collaboration
  - vii. Implementation of shared workshops and thinktanks and providing a platform for exchange



Human  
Ecosystem  
Integration Lab

# Challenges

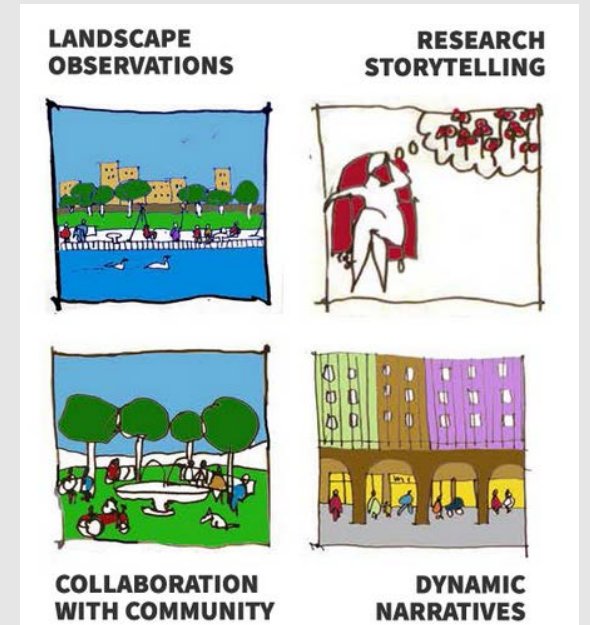
- Lack of concepts and strategic vision towards SER
  - i. Relatively neglected field
  - ii. Difference between what science does and what citizens want
  - iii. Few established methods and tools to foster SER
  - iv. Institutes often not prepared for SER
  - v. Lack of collaboration in academia on SER
  - vi. No “universal” framework or guidelines as of yet



# Approaches and Solutions

- Lack of concepts and strategic vision towards SER

- Workshops on generating a unified vision towards (local) challenges
- Applying visual methodologies and storytelling to enhance understanding



Landscape  
Observatory



# Approaches and Solutions

- Lack of concepts and strategic vision towards SER
  - Workshops on generating a unified vision towards (local) challenges
  - Applying visual methodologies and storytelling to enhance understanding
  - Better understanding your (institution's) strengths and weaknesses
  - Framework on prioritization and action planning in key areas for SER

A screenshot of a self-reflection tool interface. At the top, there is a progress indicator with four steps, where the first step is highlighted. Below this, the title "Institutional Environment" is displayed in a bold, black font. Underneath, the section "Support Structures" is shown, followed by a brief description: "Availability of a coherent system of support services and facilities to enable early career researchers to develop the capacity to conduct socially engaged research in life sciences and engage with quadruple helix stakeholders." A large teal box contains the question: "To what extent do I actively seek out and utilize available support services and facilities to enhance my capability in socially engaged research and engagement with quadruple helix stakeholders? ✨". Below the question, there are five radio button options: "Not at all", "Slightly", "Moderately", "Very much", and "To a great extent". At the bottom, there is a small note: "As a researcher, I should be proactive in leveraging the support structures available, ensuring I am equipped to conduct socially engaged research in life sciences and effectively collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including those from the quadruple helix model (academia, industry, government, and civil society)."

Self Reflection  
Tool



# Challenges

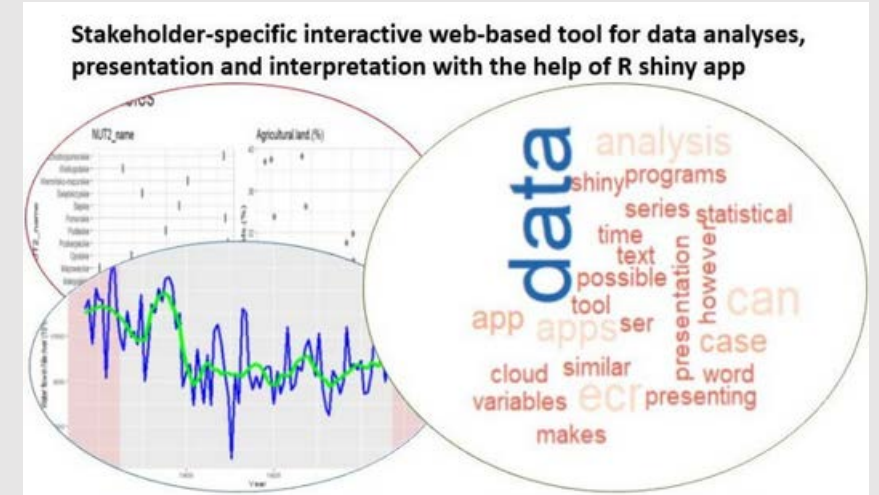
- Academic Capacities and Research on SER
  - i. Not enough research on SER
  - ii. No frontrunners that push the agenda
  - iii. Lack of sharing of experiences
  - iv. Difficulty of conceptualizing research on SER
  - v. Exchange with other experts on research
  - vi. Lack of networks for SER related research



# Approaches and Solutions

- Academic Capacities and Research on SER

- i. Interactive web-based tool for data analysis, presentation and interpretation
- ii. Better data presentation to enhance research outreach and understanding



ShinyR



# Approaches and Solutions

- Academic Capacities and Research on SER
  - i. Interactive web-based tool for data analysis, presentation and interpretation
  - ii. Better data presentation to enhance research outreach and understanding
  - iii. Assist Early Career Researchers in gaining experience
  - iv. Creating mentor-mentee programs for professional growth, skill enhancement and communication



Mentorship  
Programme



# Approaches and Solutions

- Academic Capacities and Research on SER
  - i. Interactive web-based tool for data analysis, presentation and interpretation
  - ii. Better data presentation to enhance research outreach and understanding
  - iii. Assist Early Career Researchers in gaining experience
  - iv. Creating mentor-mentee programs for professional growth, skill enhancement and communication
  - v. Assist Early Career Researchers in their research outreach
  - vi. Handling and using Social Media to increase impact of research



Promote Your  
Research

THANK YOU

