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# INTRODUCTION TO RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION - THE CITIZEN SCIENCE ASPECT

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# What are the main immediate actions we need to take?

## **Citizens trust more scientists than politicians**

- let's don't miss this opportunity

## **Research is often disconnected from society**

- need to return science to society again, so institution can escape their “Ivory Towers”

## **Question how relevant is your research to the needs of the society**

- Gender Equality, Ethical issues, Governance, Public Engagement, Science Education, Open Access
- how do they relate to your research?

## **Consider citizens as creators & multipliers of knowledge, not just data providers**

- focus on the importance of Community Champions of your research goals
- not just on their numbers, but also on the power of their federation  
(without always your control)

## **Get an Engagement Plan! This is different from a Communication/Dissemination Plan.**

- discover and share inspiring stories of change that make the purpose of the research relevant to real-life contexts
- adapt your language to be understood by citizens AND decision makers
- create Engagement Pathways for each target group
- deliverables is one thing – impact is another
- MOOCs can also be used as engagement tools – not only for education

# What are the main recommendations?

## **Discover the magic of Citizen Science & Citizens' Observatories for engaging audiences**

- be open to rediscover your own discipline and to question your own assumption about what citizens need, want or know
- think about how the needs, values and expectation of your research relate to other stakeholders: policy makers, industry, civil society organisation or the rest of the scientific community

## **See the wider picture - think of the needs, values and expectation of all stakeholders**

- citizens, policy makers, industry and the rest of the research community

## **Citizen Science allows citizens to be partners in our research**

- it multiplies our efficiency
- it allow us to have both our feet in day-to-day problems and our research
- it allows citizens acknowledge and value the role of institutions
- research gets new legitimacy & credibility
- project outcomes get social back up (useful in attracting further funding!)
- it allows for direct investment in the right places, for issues that really matter
- it provides massive manpower to validate technologies and increase resolution of measurements - especially important for understaffed institutions

## **Discover the magic of Citizen Science & Citizens' Observatory for engaging massive audiences**

- be open to rediscover your own discipline and to question your own assumptions about what citizens need/want/know

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ATHENS, SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2017  
OPEN SCIENCE FAIR  
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