



Science education & Public engagement

Cristina Paca, Ecsite

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The GRACE context

- Grounding Actions – actions implementing or favouring institutional change (e.g. rules, culture)
- 3 partners working on the RRI Keys: SE & PE
- Post-project period: ‘enlarging the action scope to other keys’
- Start early & benefit to the maximum from opportunities offered by the project
- The foundational character of SE and PE as RRI keys

An attempt to define science education



Science education is a major field of practice, with science (and individual science disciplines) being taught and learnt at various levels, both formally and through informal approaches.

- key component of schooling
- higher education in science subjects is usually considered of major importance for meeting societal needs, such as ensuring:
 - a 'supply' of scientists, engineers and other professionals working in scientific fields
 - sustainable economic development

Scientific literacy is commonly considered the main goal of science education.



Science education & RRI

“Under the lens of RRI, contemporary science education should foster students’ **engagement**, **critical thinking** and **reflexivity** about science and scientific practice, as well as enhance **social and personal skills**, and embed social and ethical principles in the educative process.”

Science Education for Responsible Citizenship. Report to the European Commission of the expert group on science education. 2015.



An attempt to define public engagement



Public engagement encompasses the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of Research and Innovation can be shared with the public, and in particular:

- Acknowledging and integrating different forms of knowledge
- Citizens as (research) partners and engagement as a two-way process
- Input and influence at different stages of R&I

Improved relations and outcomes in the collaboration between science and society can be seen as a main, broad goal.



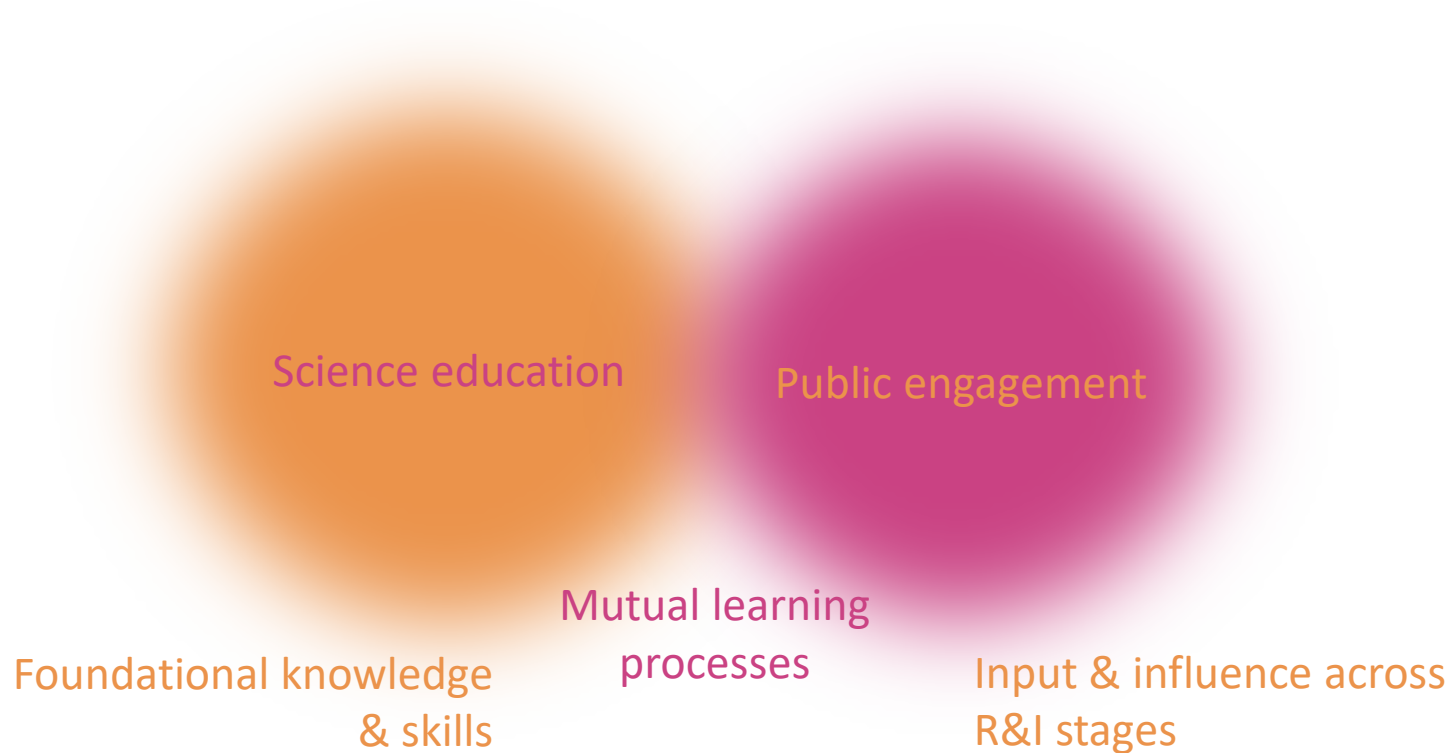
Public engagement & RRI

“By bringing together researchers, citizens and other stakeholders, [public engagement activities] activities have created opportunities to **improve the connections** between researchers and citizens, to **identify priority research questions** and to **co-design scientific solutions** that are closer to societal needs and concerns.”

*Engaging citizens in research and innovation. A playful toolkit of activities.
Sparks project. 2017.*



A line to draw?



Key messages

PE and SE as enablers

Perspectives with an array of benefits.

Models and tools

Available to support delivery.



Key messages

Synergies between RRI Keys

E.g. gender and science education, open access and science education

Partners committed to the same goal in your ecosystem.

E.g. Science engagement organisations, outreach officers, Science Shops



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Some questions to consider



- What have you heard during the pitches?
- How it is relevant to you and your organisation?
- What would you like to know more about?
- What would you like to try out? (Think of it as a proto-Grounding Action 😊)
- What synergies, partnerships or opportunities could you explore?
- What barriers or obstacles would you have to overcome?



Plan for today

- Pitch 1 – Diana Szakál, Research Fellow, Environmental Social Science Research Group (Budapest, Hungary) – 10 minutes
- Pitch 2 – Sara Calcagnini, Education & CREI, Public engagement, National Museum of Science and Technology Leonardo da Vinci (Milan, Italy) – 10 minutes
- Exchange 1 (20 minutes, breakout rooms)
- Exchange 2 (20 minutes, breakout rooms)



Disclaimer

- Perspective of public engagement in (private & public) funding organisations
 - Research calls
 - Dedicated public engagement calls
 - Co-creating innovation
 - Examples of projects funded

