SCIENCE VISE EXPERT RESOURCE CENTRE



Public dialogue in policy development

UK Study Visit State Planning Organisation Turkey

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www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk



Today's Programme

- Introduction to Sciencewise
 - Aims and objectives

Structure

• The role for public dialogue

What is dialogue? What it is not?

What are the benefits? What does it cost?

- Coffee Break
- How Sciencewise helps

Support and guidance

Public engagement in Government policy making



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To help improve policy-making in science and technology through the use of public dialogue and engagement



Sciencewise-ERC

- Sciencewise Expert Resource Centre for Public Dialogue in Science and Technology (ERC)
- Funded by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)
- It aims to help policy makers commission and use public dialogue to inform policy decisions in emerging areas of science and technology
- Launched in 2008



Sciencewise-ERC key elements

Dialogue project support

Programme management

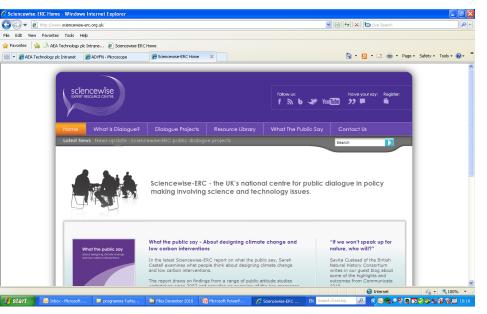
Capacity building and embedding

Dialogue and engagement specialists

Marketing and communications



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Public Dialogue is -

- engaging with the public about ethical and societal issues in order to understand their views and concerns.
- about the policy makers being prepared to change their minds.
- about gathering public and different perspectives to help explore issues, aspirations and concerns as a part of the policy development process.
- helping policy makers make better policy decisions



Public dialogue...

"You can't expect any drugs policy to have long-term success unless you take people with you. If you cut across the grain of the public instinct, it's disastrous. Engaging with people should help us devise policies which are acceptable and sustainable."



....brings together members of the public, policy makers and scientists to discuss and come to conclusions on the social and ethical issues raised by new science and technology, and other policies of national importance. It is:

- independent and unbiased
- structured and deliberative
- inclusive of key perspectives
- broadly representative of public through recruitment
- designed and customised



Public dialogue is not....

- · a replacement for Government decision making
- market research
- a means to persuade
- a talking shop
- · expensive and time consuming
- a replacement for other evidence-based processes
- simply communication on science and technology





Public dialogue can help when

- policy is still at an early stage of development
- issues are highly contentious
- there is potentially strong public interest
- transparency is essential
- public questions, concerns and aspirations need to be understood and built in
- technical expertise and stakeholder views alone are not sufficient





Pretty much everything will have to change over a period of time and if we're going to do that then sensibly we need to know to what extent we can bring the public with us. We can't just do it ourselves. The public are part of it." Joan Ruddock MP. Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change



Public dialogue helps to

Improve public policy by providing evidence of the strength of public views and ideas

Improve the process of policy making by helping Government learn from practical experience how dialogue can build accountability and legitimacy

Enable progress to be made on strategically significant, sometimes highly contentious topics by supporting policy makers to find ways forward that go with the grain of public views

Avoid the conflicts and entrenched positions that can result in the complete rejection of new technologies

Enhance democracy



Public dialogue helps to - continued

Improve the quality of communications between Government, scientists and the public by providing a rich understanding of the public's potential concerns and aspirations

Increase public awareness and understanding of science and technology issues, both among immediate participants and their contacts

Drive behaviour change by affecting the views and behaviour of participants, resulting in the creation of public allies and ambassadors for implementing potentially controversial policies

Drive synergy and integration across Government by bringing together different departments to work on dialogue projects





Who is doing public dialogue – Examples from Sciencewise-ERC

DECC – Low carbon communities challenge

NERC - Geoengineering BBSRC / EPSRC - Synthetic biology

AMS / DH - Animals with human tissue

BIS – Industrial biotechnology

DECC – Big Energy Shift



HGC – Forensic use of DNA

BBSRC / MRC – Stem cells

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HFEA hybrid embryos research

- initial Government rejection of use of hybrid embryos
- extensive negative media coverage of idea
- demand from scientists
- new regulatory system required
- dialogue to explore extent to which idea acceptable
- demographically representative sample of public
- small group discussions, followed by day summit
- full range of very diverse expert opinions included
- plus opinion poll, online consultation, open meeting
- 106 people in meetings; over 3,000 public overall
- public views changed significantly: yuk to yes BUT
- strong conditions for public acceptability
- HFEA decision in public; taking on conditions
- research licences granted; research proceeding





DECC – Big Energy Shift

- public need to be part of tackling climate change
- public opposition to some approaches
- what Government can do to support local action
- 9 citizens forums, met 3 times, total 250 people
- broad geographical and demographic spread
- with range of technical experts and policy makers
- to understand what public think and would do
- as individuals and communities
- alongside dialogue with business and public sector
- provided data on potential and barriers to change
- provided ideas from public on what would work
- directly fed into design of new Low Carbon Communities Challenge, launched 8 February, to pilot the approaches proposed by the public and others





What does public dialogue cost?

Cost of projects depends on context, purpose and methods

Example costs of Sciencewise-ERC funded projects:

- Big Energy Shift (2009): total project £788,000; Sciencewise contribution £381,000
- HFEA (2006): total project cost £140,000; Sciencewise contribution £60,000
- Living with Environmental Change (2010): total project cost £30,000, Sciencewise contribution £15,000.



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Sciencewise-ERC funded projects are 'exemplars'; designed to deliver *learning from innovation and practice* as well as *highest quality* dialogue

Costs are reducing as understanding of 'what works' grows and delivery becomes more cost effective



The scale of investment in dialogue projects is dwarfed by the scale of the policy fields that dialogue has influenced



What public dialogue costs – in context

• The Nanodialogues project in 2006 cost £240,000 and explored nanotechnology and upstream engagement over 26 months. Value of nano research in 2007 was estimated to be about \$12 billion; and the value of nanoenabled products was estimated then to be around \$50 billion

• The stem cell dialogue in 2007 cost £300,000. Continuing support for stem cell research has placed the UK in a leading position in regenerative medicine, currently a more than £500 million per annum industry, estimated to rise to around £1 billion by 2013



What not doing public dialogue can cost

Overall, the costs of <u>**not**</u> doing public dialogue can far outweigh the costs of the dialogue. For example:

- **public opposition** can delay or entirely prevent continuing policy development, innovation and new technologies
- **conflict and entrenched positions** can result in the complete rejection of new technologies.



Public dialogue allows policy makers to find ways forward that go with the grain of public views. Dialogue provides the value of better policy.

"If you think dialogue is expensive, try conflict"



In summary....

Public dialogue can lead to better policies that take account of public concerns and aspirations

Policy makers can ensure they are fully up to speed on what the public really think– not what the media are saying

Policy makers can be seen to be engaging with and taking account of public views



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Public dialogue can add a key additional source of evidence

Public dialogue can remove barriers to progress and save time and money



How Sciencewise-ERC is helping

Proving the benefits

One to one specialist advice

Stimulating action

Raising awareness Overcoming resistance Tailored to Department needs

Support and guidance



Financial support Training and mentoring

Project management support

Best practice guidance



BREAK



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Stimulating action

Web site

Dialogue tools

Newsletters

Opinion leader articles

Case studies



Working with stakeholders

Strategic briefings



Assessing the benefits



Support and guidance - 1

Financial support for dialogue projects

- Annual budget of £2 million 55% on funding projects; 45% on advice and support
- Typically up to 50% of costs for innovative projects that meet eligibility and selection criteria
- 2010/11 Budget £1.2m for project funding



• Continuing to work to learn from what works, and to demonstrate costs / benefits. Programme of pilot and innovative dialogue projects.



Support and guidance - 2

Training and mentoring

- Capacity building
 - active learning programmes
 - tailored workshops and seminars
- One to one advice
 - what is, and how to do dialogue
 - evaluation



- Dialogue project delivery support
 - dealing with issues
 - oversight structures
 - project management





Support and guidance - 3

Access to Dialogue and Engagement Specialists

- To advise on the type of engagement
- To help formulate the dialogue questions
- Guidance and expertise in engaging with diverse stakeholders
- How to select practitioners
- How to manage an oversight group
- How to manage conflicts
- How to evaluate the costs and benefits
- Training and mentoring



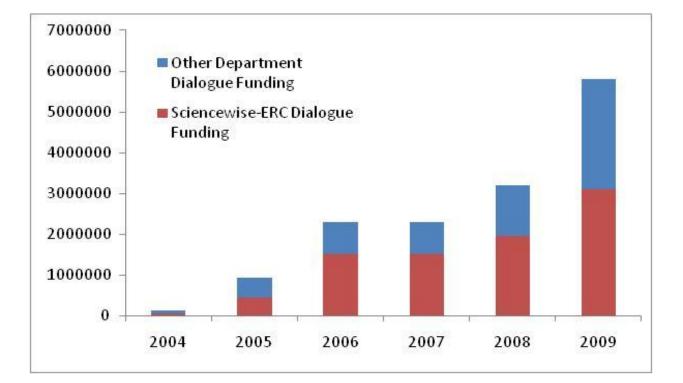
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Growing interest in public dialogue

Increasing UK Government investment in dialogue







Growing interest in public dialogue

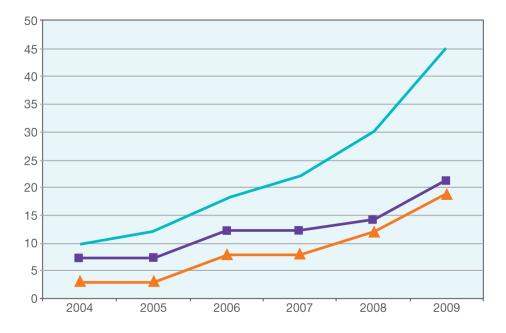
Projects Pipeline

More Departments engaged

Wider range of dialogue







BIS

Department for Business Innovation & Skills



www.bis.gov.uk

Public engagement in Government Policy Making

- BIS Science and Society Team
- Part of Research Base Directorate which funds scientific research in the UK
- Two main focuses:
 - Public engagement and communication
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)
 Pipeline: Skills and Diversity
- Work closely with Research Councils, Government Office for Science and Department for Education
- And external partners including National Academies, Engineering UK and British Science Association

Aims for Science and Society

Department for Business Innovation & Skills

RIZ

- Sufficient scientists and engineers for the UK economy
- Increased equality and diversity in the STEM workforce
- Young people enthused to engage with science as active future citizens
- Improved public engagement and support for science and innovation
- Increased public confidence in use and management
 of science



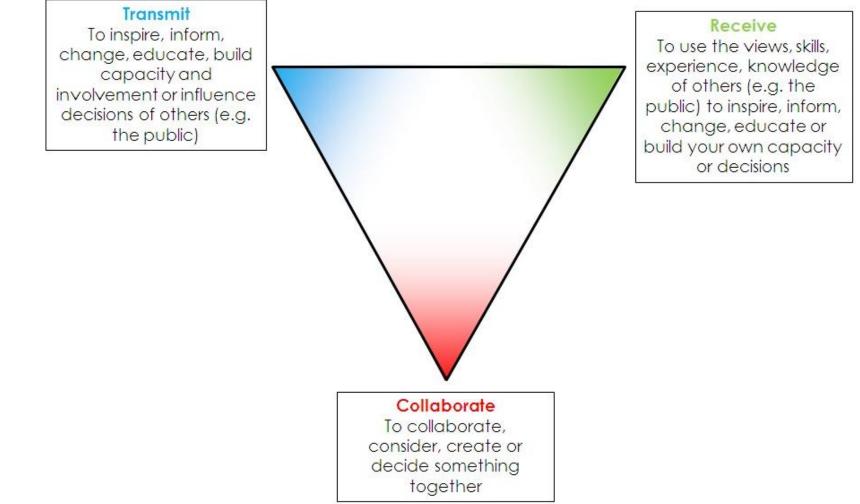
Public Engagement and Communication

- Three Expert Groups inform policy:
 - Science for All
 - Science and the Media
 - Science and Trust
- Programmes we support (examples):
 - Sciencewise
 - National Science and Engineering Week
 - British Science Festival
 - Science Media Centre

BIS

Types of public engagement

Department for Business Innovation & Skills



BIS Department for Business Innovation & Skills

The evidence: Public Attitudes to Science 2008

- Overall, attitudes to science are positive and interest in science has increased since 2000. More people agree:
- 'I am amazed by the achievements of science' up to 82% from 75% in 2000
- 'Science is such a big part of our lives we should all take an interest' up to 79% from 74% in 2000
- The main drivers of the public's attitude to science were the extent to which they:
- appreciated the benefits and/or importance of science
- understood science
- were concerned about the control and direction of science
- Confidence in science has grown since 2005: 25% of the public agreed that "the more I know about science the more worried I am", down from 35% in 2005.



To contact us

Further questions, interested in finding out more! Contact Sciencewise-ERC BIS

www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk www.bis.gov.uk

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