Participation and societal engagement in EU decision-making and research

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EFSA Conference
Science Food Society
20 September 2018
Outline

1. Participation as a legal principle of EU law
2. Participation in EU decision-making
3. Participation in science-making
4. Participation in research activities
1. Participation as a legal principle of EU law

• Art. 11 TEU
  - Obligation to exchange views with representatives organisations and citizens
  - Open, transparent and regular dialogue
  - Consultations
  - Citizens’ initiative

• Explicit recognition of participatory democracy as one of the fundamental underpinnings of the Union
2. Participation in EU decision-making

- Rationales for participatory engagement:
  - Normative democratic
  - Instrumental
  - Substantive
• Meaning Article 11 TEU

• Make known views and public exchange of views: citizens and representative organisations

• Open, transparent and regular dialogue: representative associations and civil society

• Broad consultations: parties concerned

• Citizens' initiative
• Multiple initiatives
  - Consultations
  - Consumer groups
• Power imbalance
2. Participation in EU science-making

• Article 11 TEU
  - EU institutions
  - EU Commission

• EU agencies as science providers
• Yet: Art. 15 (1) TFEU
• Founding regulations: need to connect with stakeholders
• Institutional and substantive involvement
Institutional involvement

- Membership of the management board (EMA, Eurofound, ETF) and/or a (scientific) committee within the agency (EMA)
- Accreditation system of stakeholders who may *i.a.* join meetings as observers (ECHA)
- Stakeholder group (created by founding regulation) (ESA’s)
- Stakeholder forum (EFSA) or group (EASA) (created by agency itself)
- Network of representatives bodies (ERA)
Substantive involvement

- Exchange of information
- Observation
- Dialogue
- Consultation & feedback
- Scientific colloquia
- Round tables
Yet:

• Challenges
• Power Imbalance
4. Participation in research

(2011-2014)

- Dominance of industry and/or government (in research programming on health and safety)
- Representativeness public good by means of scientific experts or governmental bodies
• Innovation in food and health: focused on biosciences and marketable applications, and neglect social sciences and broader public interest

• Inadequate consideration normative issues innovation among national research funders in food and health
• Need for communicative exchange between research, business, and civil society actors
Research initiatives

- Empirical research (interviews)
- Stakeholder workshops (SAFEFOODS)
- Interaction and feedback by stakeholders in academic conferences (TARN)
- Dialogue between academics and stakeholders (TARN)
• Awareness scenarios workshops (INPROFOOD)
• Citizens assist in defining research agenda (Dutch National Research Agenda)
• Co-creation (RECIPIES)
• Engagement in research needed: substantive rationale!

Yet:
• Difficulties dialogue
• Co-creation
• Co-financing
• Academic independence and research