

# PRESS RELEASE



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## New directions for involving citizens in research and innovations agendas

**Setting directions for research and innovation is usually not a job of citizens. But the CIMULACT project has paved the way for involving citizens in the actual formulation of research and innovation agendas.**

“Projects like CIMULACT have made interaction with citizens possible” is written by the EU Commission in the introduction of the Research and Innovation (R&I) Work Programme Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 expects to invest 30 billion Euros in R&I over the period 2018-2020 and is hereby the most powerful programme for setting directions for R&I in the EU. With the statement the Commission indicates to have integrated central aspects of visions for sustainable and desirable futures developed by citizens across Europe during the CIMULACT project.

*“We are happy to see that the EU Commission has listened to what European citizens find important to prioritise in research and innovation”,*

says CIMULACT’s project coordinator Lars Klüver, Danish Board of Technology, who is proud to see three years of interaction with citizens, experts and stakeholders in EU’s R&I agenda settings have been useful and appreciated by the Commission.

CIMULACT stands for ‘Citizen and Multi-Actor Consultation on Horizon 2020’. The aim of the project has been to engage European citizens in EU’s R&I agenda Horizon 2020 and consequently to the preparation of the Framework Programme 9 Horizon Europe.

Since the project was launched in 2015, thousands of citizens have been consulted along with experts and stakeholders. Together they have formulated themes that people from R&I communities can apply for funding for through Horizon 2020.

The principle of engaging citizens in R&I is not new in the EU Commission, where engagement is a core value and principle for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). But although it has been a high priority for the Commission to integrate citizens’ view in the R&I agenda, it has been a difficult goal to reach.

CIMULACT is a lynchpin in making EU research agendas open to society being grounded in societal needs and demands. But also OECD has chosen CIMULACT as one of 6 good practice cases for engaging citizens in science.

CIMULACT has in other words shown that it is relevant to engage citizens in defining R&I agendas, and not least that it is possible.

**Project website:** [cimulact.eu](http://cimulact.eu)

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### CIMULACT major achievements:

- 23 citizen-based suggestions for Horizon 2020 topics
- Mentioned as source of input in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme (2018-2020)
- Presented in the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020 as significant contributor to Horizon 2020
- Was chosen by OECD as good practice case for engagement of citizens in science
- Outcome remain relevant for the preparation of Framework Programme 9 – Horizon Europe
- Developed 11 new or adjusted methods for engaging citizens in R&I