



Dear Member

Welcome to our summer update, providing you with a brief overview of how the [CONSIDER](#) project is going and our plans for the future.

What we have been working on recently...



To date CONSIDER has carried out two rounds of surveys with the FP7 project coordinator, and the project has received around 3,000 responses. After analysing the results, the research team is now going full-steam ahead with the empirical research. This takes the form of 30 selected case studies, stemming out of our FP7 survey results, which the Consortium are now in the process of conducting and these will be ready by October 2013. These cases are being studied based on a grounded grid of analysis with relevant parameters related to the research problem, so that a tool can be developed to determine the limits of current approaches as well as the conditions for more effective CSO involvement in research. We are looking forward to sharing the results with you.

Are you involved in any non-FP7 research projects? We need you!

We are also looking for non-FP7 research projects to help us build the model of current CSO participation in research – this is a great opportunity to get involved in innovative research in this field, get in touch with Ivelina Fedulova at Ivelina.fedulova@euclidnetwork.eu for more information if you are interested.

What is it like being involved with CONSIDER? Terry Martin from the Science-Policy Interface Agency tells us...

- Why is the CONSIDER project important?

CONSIDER is important for several reasons. First, on an empirical level, the project provides an unprecedented overview of current CSO participation in EU-funded research. That's useful new knowledge. Second, utilizing a truly rigorous theoretical approach, CONSIDER is constructing guidelines to optimize CSO involvement in research. Those guidelines could have real practical value. And finally, assuming CONSIDER's recommendations are actually implemented, the legitimacy of European research governance should be enhanced.



Terry Martin, journalist and communications adviser, founder of SPIA and partner in the CONSIDER consortium

- What are the 3 most important things that you have learnt from the project so far?

I've learnt that:

- a. Our current level of knowledge about CSO involvement in research is extremely limited. That derives partly from the fact that there is no universally accepted definition of 'civil society organization'; the term has yet to be clearly established in research and policy discourses.
- b. Current CSO involvement in EU-funded research is largely ad-hoc and inefficient.
- c. If CSOs are to be integrated into research projects effectively, mechanisms need to be put in place to accommodate that

- What are the biggest challenges to this project?

The biggest challenges I see in this project are:

- Getting a firm grip – both within the consortium and beyond – on our rather fuzzy subject matter.
- Establishing sound parameters for a normative approach to integrating civil society input into science governance.

Interested in what CSOs and researchers have shared so far?

If you've missed out, CONSIDER has held two interactive workshops that have provided us with interesting insights on the current status quo regarding CSOs participation in research.



Civil society focus

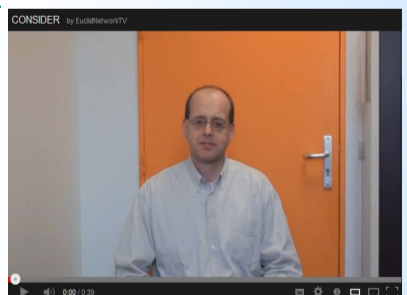
The workshop in [Porto](#), took place in June 2012, and was the first of ten planned workshops, aimed at investigating what CSOs need in order to participate in research. The team also collected feedback on the CONSIDER project's research plans. It enabled participating stakeholders to give their views on the research process and the main issues they experienced when involved in research projects, as well as an opportunity to share their expectations for future projects. Read the full report [here](#).

Academic/research focus

On 14 March 2013 the [CONSIDER project](#) held a second workshop in Prague, as part of the [Parliaments and Civil Society in Technology Assessment" \(PACITA\)](#) conference. The session brought together researchers and civil society organisations (CSOs) to stimulate a critical discussion about the conditions, pitfalls and limits of CSO participation in research.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants, predominantly researchers, and featured presentations by the CONSIDER project, as well as representatives both from the scientific research field and civil society organisations. The meeting concluded with a question and answer session, which allowed participants to share their experience on the subject. Read the full report [here](#).

A short summary of CONSIDER by Prof Bernd Carsten-Stahl (DMU)



The Consortium is now looking forward to our first policy brief and the experts workshop, which will be in Lille in September 2013—we will publish the outcomes and send you a concise summary of the discussions that took place so you can stay informed.

Until next time, thank you for reading!

Best wishes,

The CONSIDER Team

