

# CIVISTI



## *What is the added value of citizen consultations?* Some reflections on methodology and results

Brussels, January 24th 2011

*Lucien Hanssen*

*Deining Societal Communication Governance*

*Nijmegen, Netherlands*

# CIVISTI



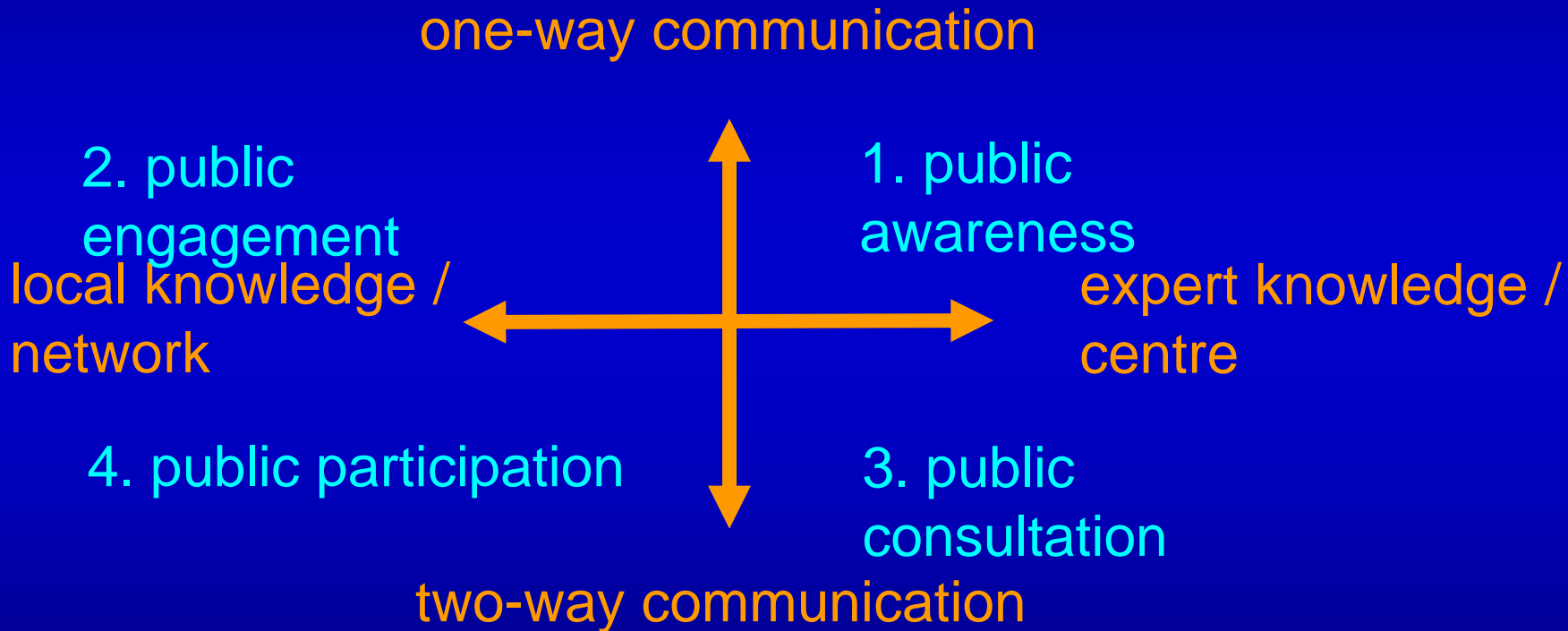
- thoughts about public involvement
- reflections on CIVISTI results
- challenges for CIVISTI methodology

# CIVISTI



- thoughts about public involvement
- *reflections on CIVISTI results*
- *challenges for CIVISTI methodology*

# four distinctive modes for public involvement



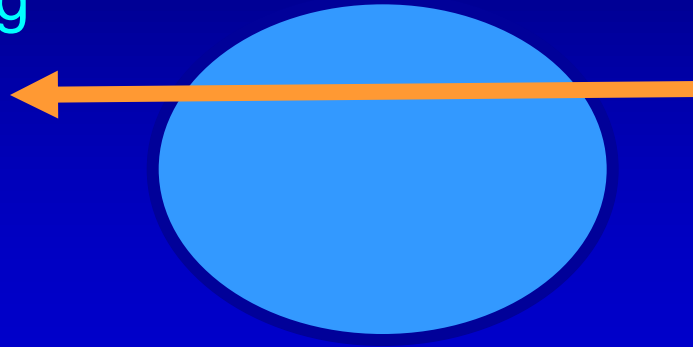
distinctive approaches for public involvement, next to a mode of communication, imply also a mode of governance

from PA, PE, PC toward PP:

- insiders (*policy makers, experts*) and outsiders (*citizens*) become involved in the same appraisal process
- participants get more equal, interactions more symmetrical and positions of power more balanced
- outcomes of these deliberations get explicitly connected with policy making and decision taking

# 1. public awareness / understanding

outsiders  
receive



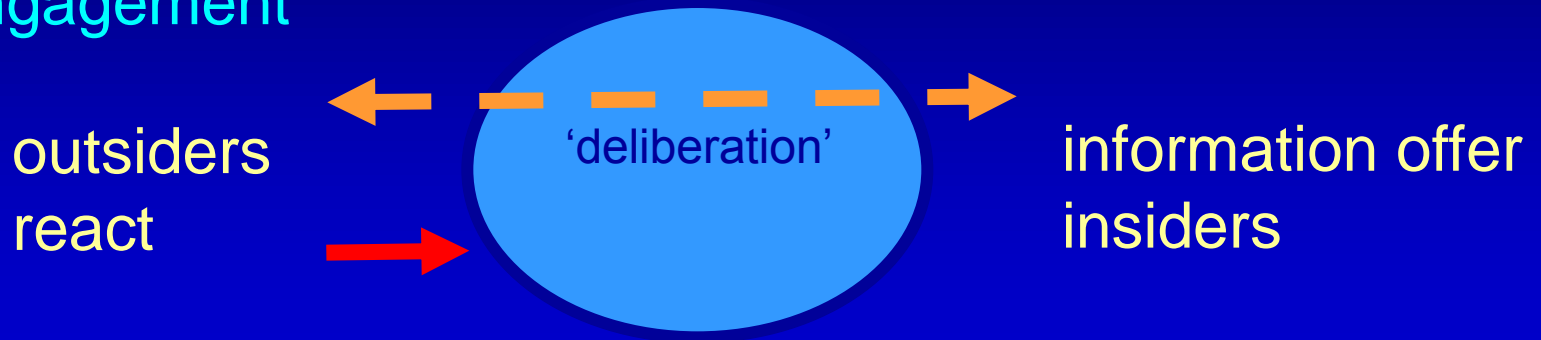
information offer  
insiders

exclusion communication &  
governance

information offer from insiders  
outsiders receive

*offer is based on supposed outsider information  
needs:  
deficit model*

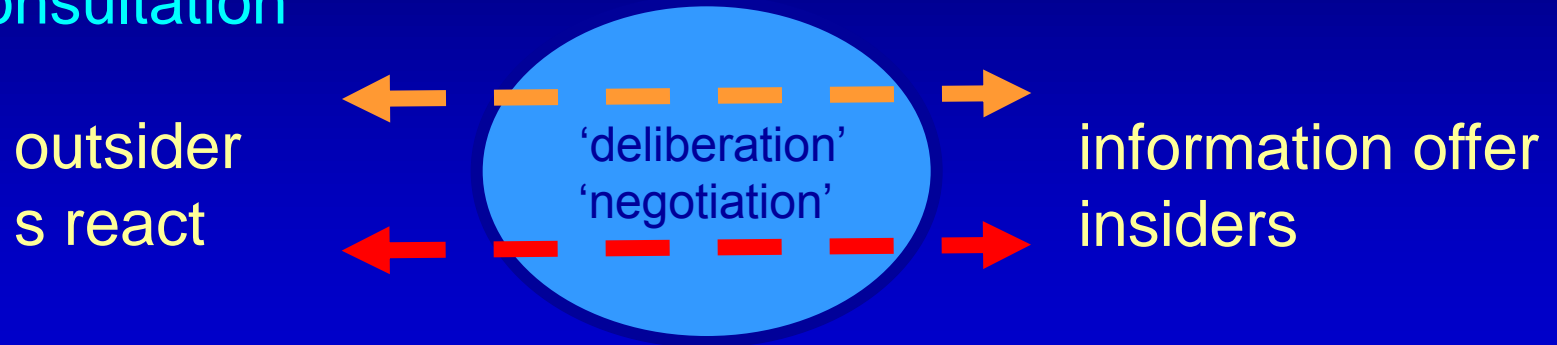
## 2. public engagement



indirect role communication & exclusion  
governance

information offer from insiders  
outsiders can react  
but reactions are non-committal for insiders  
and have no direct influence on governance

### 3. public consultation



indirect role communication & governance

information offer from insiders  
outsiders can react  
but in pre-set arguments from insiders  
insiders are accountable afterwards



## 4. public participation



direct role communication &  
governance

information exchange

outsiders bring in practical knowledge & experiences

insiders accept outsider role in governance practice



## **From transmission toward transaction**

Design requirements for successful public participation  
in communication and governance of science and  
technology

Lucien Hanssen (2009)

# CIVISTI



- *thoughts about public involvement*
- reflections on CIVISTI results
- *challenges for CIVISTI methodology*

## CIVISTI results (1):

The project will make a long-term view into the needs, concerns and visions of and to the future. Citizens in seven European member states will be encouraged to present views on the future, which are new or not necessarily recognized as policy issues.

The visions will in themselves be a result, since they will represent trends of relevance to S&T in the future.

## strengths

- gives publics a voice
- can bring in practical knowledge & experiences

## weaknesses, or better opportunities

- which publics are involved? (*recruitment procedure*)
- visions depend on information provided beforehand

## CIVISTI results (2):

A process involving experts and stakeholders will use an analytical model to extract the new S&T agendas from the visions of the citizens. The R&D issues will relate to scientific disciplines and technological development, and/or complex transdisciplinary challenges.

This will result in an overview of potential new areas for S&T, including an overview of policy options.

### strengths

- public issues and values can not be ignored
- translation of public issues into science-policy jargon

### weaknesses, or better opportunities

- citizens are not involved in agenda-setting directly
- agenda-setting depends partly on chosen experts

### CIVISTI results (3):

Citizens will be consulted again to validate and prioritize the new S&T agendas and policy options.

The result will be a set of S&T issues and recommendations, which the citizens find most important for their future, and which can directly be fed into the processes of defining FP8.

### strengths

- new ideas from local knowledge enter policy space
- more openness in policy-making process

### weaknesses, or better opportunities

- unclear how results fit in FP8 (*this workshop?*)
- exclusion from political decision-making on S&T

# CIVISTI



a proven instrument for **public consultation** in S&T policies

- gives publics a voice
- can bring in practical knowledge and experiences
- public issues and values can not (*easily*) be ignored
- translation of public issues into science-policy jargon
- new ideas from local knowledge enter policy space
- more openness in S&T policy making process

*cost-effective instrument (consensus conference, citizen convention)*

# CIVISTI



- *thoughts about public involvement*
- *reflections on CIVISTI results*
- challenges for CIVISTI methodology



# CIVISTI



## communication challenge:

- recruitment procedure (*involvement*)
- information inquiring and sharing (*empowerment*)
- issue and value articulating (*re-framing*)

## governance challenge:

- institutional legitimation instrument (*legal basis policy cycle*)
- orchestration policy making process (*plans, budgets, duties*)
- political mandate (*commitment, guidance*)

# CIVISTI 2.0



toward an instrument for **public participation** in S&T decisions

*suggestion to organizers:*

social media (*linked in, blogs, twitter*) not only for recruiting, but also information sharing, articulating issues, capacity building

*suggestion to policy makers:*

provide political legitimation beforehand for the public voice in S&T governance, which creates a clear policy space