Research about, research for and research with target groups

Public involvement in research to increase relevance and impact

Stefania Ilinca, Selma Kadi and Günter Stummvoll
What is ‘public involvement in research’?

The co-design and co-production of research with **active involvement** of the public at key stages in the research process

What **IS** public involvement in research and what it **IS NOT**?

The research is done ‘with’ or ‘by’ the public

Members of the public have decision-making power over research questions and processes

The research is done 'to', 'about' or 'for' the public

Members of the public take part in research as participants
Why it is important?

... and many more
Why is public involvement important?

The people who are affected by the research and the policies it influences have a right to be meaningfully included in decision-making processes.

Balancing the complementary perspectives of funders, researchers and the public leads to higher quality, more comprehensive and better targeted research, therefore increasing relevance and impact.
Why is public involvement important?

The approach allows us to bring people who belong to marginalized groups and have little interaction with scientific organizations as partners into the research process. Brings science as an activity in people’s everyday lives.

In action research, the main aim is that the research should be useful to the non-scientists who are participating and empower them.
Why is public involvement important?

Our research shall be professional, critical, applied, public

Public involvement improves the **balance of representation** between different key stakeholders:

- Academics as scientific experts in methodology and theory
- Policy makers in public administration
- Social support services
- Service users
Climbing the stair of public participation in social science

- **INFORMATION** (Campaigning)
- **CONSULTATION** (e.g. survey, interview)
- **COOPERATION** (exchange, decisions on the side of researcher)
- **COLLABORATION** (deliberation, equal rights in decisions)
- **EMPOWERMENT** (researcher as facilitator and moderator, decision by the user)
- **SOCIAL ACTIVISM** (Carework, Social Work)

Intensity of participation

(Adapted from: Helfrich/Euler (2017: 153))
How do we involve the public in our research?
The EPPIC project
Health services and social services for young drug users in criminal justice systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key stakeholder</th>
<th>Activities and involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Academics (methods and theory)</td>
<td>academic conferences, peer-reviewed journal publication, critical discussion on &quot;therapy instead of punishment&quot; and &quot;systems relations&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Policy makers in public administration</td>
<td>policy briefing report to national ministries and EU funding bodies (CHAFEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Social support services</td>
<td>explorative interviews with head of clinics and therapy centres, regular advisory board meetings with practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Service users</td>
<td>in-depth interviews with juveniles on trajectories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion:
Involvement mainly on the level of "consultation" and "cooperation"
### Key stakeholder | Activities and involvement
---|---
1. Academics (methods and theory) | Proposal writing together with academics in the field of social work and police academies
2. Policy makers in public administration | Ministries (police) and Univ.-Dept. of Social Work involved as official project partners High-level decision makers as presenters in the pilot trainings in all partner countries
3. Social support services | Speakers from police and several social service providers
4. Service users | Field visits, excursion with former homeless persons Participants in the training who work with clients

**Conclusion:**
Involvement mainly on the level of "collaboration" and "empowerment"
**Project design**: development of the qualitative study depends on early findings from the quantitative research

Process of developing the qualitative study together with those who are involved in the quantitative work packages

**Design of the qualitative study**: older people’s views on intersections of ageing, health; data collection: 20 (remote) semi-structured interviews with older women and men (60+ years) each in Austria, Sweden and Canada;
FutureGEN Public involvement strategy

Definitions of health, ageing well, disability

Types of support needed for ageing well, social relations

Perception regarding the importance of gender, income and education
Supporting **INclusive** development of **community-based long-term CARE** services through multi-stakeholder **participatory approaches** (from Nov 2020)
InCARE public involvement strategy

**WHO...**

- The public
- Local care services
- Policy makers
- Researchers

**... DOES WHAT?**

- Develop **vision and strategy** for LTC system development
- Define **goals and priorities** for pilot care services
- **Design and implement** pilot care services (locally)
- **Monitor and evaluate** pilots
- Plan and develop a pathway for **national scale-up**
- Reflect on decision-making process and reiterate with improvements

**National implementation phase**
We would like to thank our funders, partners and public collaborators!

Thank you very much for your attention!