Citi-sense WP5:

Participation and Empowerment

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Articles and Publications.

Evolution of public participation in the assessment and management of environmental health risks: a brief history of developments in the United States.

In the United States, the risk assessmentm - risk management paradigm that underpins federal decisions about environmental health risks was first established in 1983. In the beginning, the importance of public participation was not explicitly recognized within the paradigm. Over time, however, it has become evident that not only must risk-based decisions be founded on the best available scientific knowledge and understanding, but also that they must take account of the knowledge, values, and preferences of interested and affected parties, including community members, business people, and environmental advocates. This article examines the gradually expanding role of public participation in risk-based decision making in the United States, and traces its evolution from a peripheral issue labeled as an 'external pressure' to an integral element of the 21st century risk assessment - risk management paradigm. Today, and into the foreseeable future, public participation and stakeholder involvement are intrinsic features of the emerging American regulatory landscape, which emphasizes collaborative approaches for achieving cooperative and cost-effective solutions to complicated and often controversial environmental health problems.

http://www.jphres.org/index.php/jphres/article/view/160

Participation in Scientific Research: Learning from Citizen Science.

Instead of teaching young people about science, we want them to do science. That's one of the central notions in teaching science as inquiry and it's a core part of the Next Generation Science Standards. Said that way it sounds simple, but when we step back and try to articulate exactly what doing science means it becomes a bit tricky. Is it collecting data? Is it developing research questions? Is it defending and advancing arguments based on evidence? The short answer to each of these questions is "Yes, and…". Science is a sophisticated process through which we understand the natural and designed world. Any definition of the science we want people, as full citizens in our democracy, to engage in is going to need to reflect that sophistication.

http://www.ssec.si.edu/blog/participation#.UlpOdWScbfH

Examining Citizen Participation: Local Participatory Policy Making and Democracy. Ank Michels & Laurens De Graaf .

Citizen participation is usually seen as a vital aspect of democracy. Many theorists claim that citizen participation has positive effects on the quality of democracy. This article examines the probability of these claims for local participatory policymaking projects in two municipalities in the Netherlands. The article focuses on the relations between citizens and government from a citizens' perspective. The findings show that the role of citizens in these projects is limited, serving mainly to provide information on the basis of which the government then makes decisions. Nevertheless, the article argues that citizen involvement has a number of positive effects on democracy: not only do people consequently feel more responsibility for public matters, it increases public engagement, encourages people to listen to a diversity of opinions, and contributes to a higher degree of legitimacy of decisions. One negative effect is that not all relevant groups and interests are represented. The article concludes that for a healthy democracy at the local level, aspects of democratic citizenship are more important than having a direct say in decision-making.

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03003930.2010.494101

Experiencies.

Energy Island by Siemens Education.

You are responsible for providing electricity to the 5,000 inhabitants of Siemens Island. You have to supply enough electricity to power all the services over a 24 hour period, to do so economically and without damaging the environment.

To do this well, you will need to explore the landscape, learn about different ways of producing electricity and their advantages and disadvantages, and make decisions about an effective overall plan.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/energy-island/id592718487?mt=8

Ten Cities Tackling Climate Change.

The inaugural City Climate Leadership Awards by the C40 City Climate Leadership Group (C40) and Siemens kicked off on 4 September, with 29 cities and 37 projects shortlisted. The awards recognize city innovation that accelerates city action to combat the sources and impacts of climate change. The winning cities were selected by an independent, seven member judging panel consisting of former city Mayors, architects and representatives of the World Bank, C40 and Siemens.

http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/futurecapetown/178136/10-cities-tackling-climate-change

Interactive app based on the latest data on climate change from the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The UN is to publish the most exhaustive examination of climate change science to date, predicting dangerous temperature rises. How hot will it get in your lifetime? Find out with our interactive guide, which shows projections based on the report.

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/interactive/2013/sep/27/climate-change-how-hot-lifetime-interactive?CMP=twt_gu

Civic Flow. Civic engagement has never been so easy!

http://www.civicflow.com/

Kidzworld.

KidzWorld is compelled to provide a learning environment to preschoolers. Toddlers love to interact with the app and point out and press everything. When things respond to those taps, it makes the experience a lot better. Playing activity makes a powerful contribution in a child learning and when education is attached with it, they start to develop and improve their experiences and behaviors.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/kidzworld/id470527234?ls=1&mt=8

The crowdmap is working! An update on citizen environmental reporting in Montenegro.

The beta version of the mobile application and the platform received positive comments from its users, and the EPA Montenegro and the Aarhus Centre Montenegro prepared and put into use anew, upgraded version with a new design and a new name.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=neka.cisto

Congresses, Seminars, Courses, etc.

Green eGovernment: Making public administration greener with eGovernment.

The eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015 calls upon the Commission to examine the potential of eGovernment to reducing carbon footprint of governments including best practices and also invites Member States to develop and agree indicators and evaluation procedures for measuring the reduction of the carbon footprint of their administrations as a result of eGovernment services.

http://www.epractice.eu/en/events/green-egovernment

CeDEM14: International Conference for E-Democracy and Open Government 2014.

The international Conference for e-Democracy and Open Government brings together e-democracy, e-participation and open government specialists working in academia, politics, government and business to critically analyse the innovations, issues, ideas and challenges in the networked societies of the digital age.

http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/en/department/gpa/telematik/edemocracy-conference/edem/vid/19486/index.php?URL=/en/department/gpa/edemocracy-conference/19486

World Forum for Democracy. Strasbourg , 23-29 November 2013.

A decline in democratic participation is often viewed as a symptom of a detachment between citizens and institutions. Social media and social networks enable individuals to exchange, plan, act and interact with politicians and activists outside institutional systems. The Council of Europe is in a unique position to bring together elected politicians and civil society leaders to discuss the impact of this technological change on established democratic structures and institutions. The Forum will look into the opportunities and risks of a number of participatory initiatives and test their solidity and longevity in an open debate with elected politicians. The conclusions of the Forum should help to better identify the challenges faced by democratic institutions, political parties and leaders, and to recommend action that might need to be taken at various levels to enhance the benefits of digital participation platforms and limit the risks their use may entail.

http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy/home;jsessionid=A8AB252E6A1C5375A88C08C230A39223

Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation.

The challenge is to harness the collaborative power of ICT networks (networks of people, of knowledge, of sensors) to create collective and individual awareness about the multiple sustainability threats which our society is facing nowadays at social, environmental and political levels. The resulting collective intelligence will lead to better informed decision-making processes and empower citizens, through participation and interaction, to adopt more sustainable individual and collective behaviours and lifestyles.

http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/events/cf/ict2013/item-display.cfm?id=11634