PACITA « User » Summer Schools
2012 Liège
2014 Cork

Panel: "Teaching, Learning and Engaging in, through and about Technology Assessment"

PACITA Berlin Conference 2015

Benedikt Rosskamp, SPIRAL-ULg
Ciara Fitzgerald, UCC
Outline

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Advertising, Preparation, Participant selections
- Expectations
- Typical format
- Observations
- Evaluation
- Broader considerations
Introduction

• WP: training TA

• Practitioners Training ≠ Summer Schools

• Concretely addressing grand challenges and new modes of interaction and exchange

• Liège (BE) June 2012: Renewable Energy Systems: Role and Use of Technology Assessment

• Cork (IE) June 2014: Challenges and Opportunities of the Ageing Society: Exploring the Use of Technology Assessment
Objectives

- Train “users” of (P)TA
  - Policy-makers
  - Engineers, S&T
  - Civil Society Organizations
  - Media, communicators

- Special focus on
  - Non-PTA / emerging TA countries (IE/BE)
  - Professionals introducing TA in their organization / country
  - Potential TA users

- Raise awareness and introduce (P)TA to a broad audience
- Strengthen the support base for (P)TA
- Mutual learning, Diversity & Demand side
### SS1 Liège: Renewable Energy Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posters</th>
<th>Mailing lists</th>
<th>Networks &amp; Personal contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motivation Letters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 45 applications
- 36 selected
- 35 participated
- Non-PTA countries: 25 (beyond PACITA and EU-28)
- Research: 18
- Policy-making/-advising: 8
- Industry: 1
- CSO: 4
- Communication: 2

### SS2 Cork: Challenges and Opportunities of the Ageing Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posters</th>
<th>Mailing lists</th>
<th>Networks &amp; Personal contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motivation Letters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 54 applications
- 35 selected
- 26 participated
- Non-PTA countries: 19 (beyond PACITA and EU-28)
- Research: 18
- Policy-making/-advising: 3
- Industry: 3
- CSO: 2
- Communication: 0

**But “double hats”**

self-centred AND relational expectations
Participants’ Expectations

Knowledge based policy making

Policymaking
Parl, gvt, adm.

Improve policymaking

TA-like activities

Org. capacity building
- Support TA
- Learn methods
- Interact with users

Lay participation
Take position / defend public

Better understand behaviours

Knowledge based policymaking

TA

Integrated / transversal knowledge

Science communication
- serve society
- Interactive knowledge, close to people

Group learning processes

Science communication

Strengthen Cs (exchange views, society, CSOs, public)

R&D, engineering, SHS

Progress (network)

“Evidence based policy”
- “Policy relevant analyses”
- “Better understand experts”
Typical Format: 3.5 days of lectures & workshops

- Theory and Case studies according to 4 main phases of a TA project
  - Introduction to the topic (RES/Ageing) and TA (IST/NBT)
  - Framing the problem & research design (ITAS/DBT)
  - Methods (TA-Swiss/DBT)
  - Communication & Impact Making (RI/RI)
- Conclusions from non-PTA country: insights and future directions (UCC/ULg)
Typical Format: 3.5 days of lectures & workshops

Workshops
- 2 Groups
- Diversity of approaches
  - Problem definition & design
  - Methodology
  - Communication
  - Presentation
- Literature Portfolio
  - TA in general
  - TA methods
  - TA(-like) on RES/Ageing

Plan and simulate a TA project
Typical Format: 3,5 days of lectures & workshops

- Workshops (IST & RI / NBT & RI)
  - 2 groups: Simulation exercise
  - Scripts & assignments
  - Role playing
  - Facilitation
  - Introducing pressure (external event)
  - Plenary presentations / Defend the project
Evaluation

Survey & External evaluation

• “Good to Excellent”
  – SS1: “good for nearly all indicators” ”room for further improvement”
  – SS2: Link btw. Content & Practice
    • Literature
    • Lectures
    • Workshops
    • Examples
  – Minor critiques (less then 1/5)
    • Not everybody could get heard
    • Relevance of skills and knowledge
    • Representativeness of ranges and techniques
Observations

Support base for TA strengthened

• Awareness about existing TA institutions and their work
• Need for TA identified and rendered more concrete
• Create interest in other activities TA/PACITA activities
• Networking & own agenda

⇒ Build a **TA community** (support base) **beyond practitioners**

Distribute capacity to frame issues in terms coherent with TA framework and tools.

• Gain new insights and perspectives on grand challenges
• Technology governance
• Co-production of TA knowledge, Multi-actor process
Broader considerations

• Challenges:
  – Overrepresentation of S&T community (but very diverse backgrounds and interdisciplinary is challenge)
  – Different target groups: different “incentives”, “strategies”
    • Format? Length?
    • Name? Jargon?
  – Being relevant to the different target groups (evaluation)
  – Still blurry boundaries with practitioners training
  – Simulation and role playing limits (experience, context)
  – Continuing the experience
Thank you for your attention!

Contact: benedikt.rosskamp@ulg.ac.be

Further reading