



RETHINKING INNOVATION. TOGETHER.

Summary

Sparks is a **European project** designed to awaken citizens' interest in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) focusing on how **technology shifts** can affect our present and future **healthcare**.

A **creative exhibition** touring in 29 countries combined with **hands-on activities** (science cafés and other participatory activities) will allow citizens but also other actors (from research institutes, to the industry, governments, etc.) to discover and experiment together a new way of doing research and innovation – with and for society.

Sparks will build on **innovative formats and methodologies** implemented throughout the project to deliver a **toolkit** for science museums and centres willing to engage the public(s) in RRI. The experience of the project will also be fused into policy **recommendations** supporting the implementation of RRI processes at the EU, national and local levels.

Objectives

- **Raise awareness** about the concept and practice of RRI;
- Encourage citizens and other key stakeholders to **share the responsibility for science**;
- Increase the capacity of local science actors and public authorities to **stimulate RRI processes locally**;
- **Feed Research and Innovation (R&I) policies** at the EU, national, regional and local levels to facilitate the development of RRI processes and enrich R&I in the field of health and medicine with societal inputs.

Grant agreement No. 665825

Duration July 2015 – June 2018

Project members

33 partners from 29 European countries

- ◆ science centres
- ◆ science shops
- ◆ science institutes
- ◆ universities
- ◆ international networks and organisations active in the scientific and creative fields

Keywords

Science
Responsible
Research
Innovation
New technologies
Health
Citizens
Society
Art



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Background

Responsible research and innovation (RRI) is an approach encouraged by the [Horizon 2020](#) framework programme of the European Commission, taking into account societal needs and expectations with regard to research and innovation, with the aim to foster the design of inclusive and sustainable scientific solutions.

RRI encourages researchers to share and discuss their plans and findings with different actors (citizens, civil society organisations, businesses) and to work with experts from other disciplines (ethicists, social scientists, arts and humanities scholars) in order to anticipate and reflect on the possible impacts of their research.

Activities and products

1 **interactive touring exhibition** travelling in 29 countries

230 **innovative participatory activities** especially adapted to engage the general public in RRI

4 **short videos** including artists' views on the project

1 **practical toolkit** on formats and methodologies to engage citizens in RRI

1 **policy document** to promote the implementation of RRI at the EU, national and local level

Main partners



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Sparks Project



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Don't miss

- ◆ **Opening of the exhibition** in June 2016 at the Science Museum London
The exhibition will be coming to your country – regularly check the website!
- ◆ **Science Café** at the European Parliament (date tbc between February and June 2017)
- ◆ **Final Conference** in Brussels in May 2018