

Abstract presentatie IST

(titel: Governance in Science and Technology. Citizens' engagement for social innovation?)

When challenged to think about innovation and more particular about how social innovation could be more firmly established in policy-making, every useful angle that brings extra knowledge needs to be explored. Mutual learning between communities that study science, technology and innovation is needed. If we want to face the challenge of transforming traditional innovation thinking into one where societal needs and demands define the drivers for science and technology policy, innovation and economic growth, the exchange of ideas, concepts and practices is required. Especially when integrating societal values and preferences into policy-making, technology assessment (TA) and particularly participatory TA can contribute to this urgently needed learning process. TA practices where citizen participation forms a part of producing knowledge about societal drivers of science, technology and innovation are useful as a source of inspiration to articulate and identify societal values and preferences and – eventually – develop social innovation.

This is the basic assumption of this presentation. Examples from European TA practices will be given, and the analogy with science and technology governance will be shown to stress the point that citizen participation is a useful instrument to tackle the huge challenges that lie in front of us to make social innovation the new cornerstone of thinking about future innovation and science and technology policy.