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D6.2 REVISED ACTION PLAN

ECSITE

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BACKGROUND: THE SPARKS PROJECT

Coordinated by Ecsite, Sparks is an ambitious engagement project on the topic of technology shifts in health and medicine. Its aim is to raise awareness and communicate the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) to Europeans in 29 countries.

Sparks is touring an engaging exhibition called "Beyond the Lab: the DIY science revolution". In this context, we are running 230 innovative participatory activities such as Science Cafés, Pop-up Science Shops, Incubation activities and Scenario Workshops. Creative disruptions—in the form of artistic inputs and questioning—are helping to engage more stakeholders. The European dimension of the project is paired with a strong emphasis on local implementation through 29 experienced science communicators that adapt the exhibition and activities to their contexts and establish local multi-stakeholder collaborative partnerships. Sparks' methodology emphasises interdisciplinary (science, art, policy, industry, research, science education) and participatory approaches to promote RRI in relation to health. This is a highly relevant research topic which is able to motivate citizens' and other stakeholders' engagement in science and research.

The project will also have a learning and policy component. Data is being gathered from visitors of the exhibition in order to further build the capacity of science actors and policy makers to promote RRI and better understand society's vision, interests and readiness concerning RRI in health.

Sparks is using various levels of interaction and engagement (physical as well as virtual, including social media) to inform a very large number of stakeholders on the relevance of RRI and promote collective stewardship of research activities to the benefit of society. The combined networks of the organisations gathered around SPARKS have a potential outreach of millions of individuals and organisations across Europe. It is estimated that over 1 million individuals could directly benefit from the project by visiting the exhibition and/or taking part in its participatory activities.

THE AIM OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to reflect on the progress of Sparks so far and make a Revised Action Plan for any changes to the original plan as well as respond to the comments provided during the official review meeting of the project. This report explains what steps the Spark's Steering Committee is taking in order to address any issues the project has been having and make sure that all goals are being reached in the most efficient manner. This report uses the project's Description of Action (DoA) as the original action plan of the project.

OUTCOMES OF OFFICIAL PROJECT REVIEW MEETING DECEMBER 2016

The official mid-term Project Review Meeting took place at the European Commission in December 2016. Project Officer Raluca Iagher, Policy Officer Giuseppe Borsalino and invited expert Laura Bowater from the University of East Anglia led the review meeting. The general conclusions were very positive, and reviewee congratulated the consortium with the work carried out so far, however some suggestions for improvement were made. This report would like to address the following comments:

- **Sustainability of the project**

In order to make sure that the project results and legacy stay alive after its end, the Steering Committee is foreseeing the following measures:

- Promoting a long term mind-set shift in the way local actors approach RRI and public engagement by pushing them out of their comfort zone and encouraging them to experiment with formats.
 - Helping local actors to build long lasting partnerships with new kinds of stakeholders
 - Resources and toolkits available on Sparks' website will be transferred to other institutional sites such as Ecsite, Living knowledge and RRI tools
 - Donating some of the exhibited objects to interested partners and third parties
- **What is going to happen to all the data collected via the project?**
 - Quantitative data collected via all the questionnaires is Open Source. Sparks will make the data collected more widely available by promoting it amongst research and academic communities. The Reflective board of the project will be consulted on how to best spread the data available.
 - The Steering Committee will encourage the large Sparks partnership to publish academic articles using the data generated by the project.
 - **Life of "Beyond the lab" exhibition after the project ends**

From the DoA it's not clear what were the intentions for the exhibition after the end of the project. There is no budget currently allocated to its dismantling or to the continuation of

the touring. The Steering Committee has decided that continuing the tour without a dedicated touring manager is not possible as it would compromise the quality of the exhibition. It is not possible to donate the exhibition as a whole to another party as again its layout, condition and overall quality would be out of the control of the Sparks Steering Committee. Therefore it has been decided that objects will be donated to interested parties (shipping at their expense) subject to the agreement of the donors. Hardware e.g. TV screens/headphones etc. will also be donated. Other parts of the exhibition will be dismantled and recycled in the 4 last touring locations. This approach insures that part of the exhibition will find a new life beyond the project closure, whereas at the same time the overall quality and copyright won't be in issue.

REVISED ACTION PLAN: WP1

WP1 hasn't had any significant changes. The only change to the action plan is that partners continue the involvement with the project, even though the WP has officially ended in November 2016. As organisers are extremely busy with the exhibition and the activities they need to run, their role as local RRI actors doesn't receive as much attention as needed. To tackle this issue, the Steering Committee has decided to organise regular conference calls with each upcoming local organiser to remind them of the Amsterdam training workshop and review the Inception Report again. This will be implemented as of Tour 5 (June 2017).

REVISED ACTION PLAN: WP2

- The most significant change in WP2 relates to the way Ecsite manages the Exhibition tour. . Very close work with the venues is being carried out before the arrival of the exhibition and during installation/de-installation. Ecsite starts off with assessing all the logistical information supplied by venues and identifying any problematic areas. After conversations with the venues, Ecsite makes a decision whether it is necessary to be present at installation/de-installation. Up to now, Ecsite has sent representatives to assist the following venues: UK, Croatia, Germany, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Poland, Denmark. In the DoA, no budget was foreseen for sending on-site support to local venues, however it was possible to save costs on the shipment of the clones, so a decision was made that assisting less experienced venues was very important in order to avoid structural damages to the exhibition. Together with the venues, Ecsite develops the layout of the exhibition at their venue to assure it respects the curatorial decisions. During installation and de-installation Ecsite staff members run a 24/7 helpdesk for the local venues in order to assist them with any technical issues. Ecsite constantly updates the Exhibition Guideline document in order to make it clearer and reflect any changes.

- The Steering Committee has decided that it was important to carry out a Mid-tour inspection of each clone in order to fix any wear and tear and make sure that the exhibition is in good state. Ecsite will be visiting four locations (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Greece/Malta) and working closely with the local venues in order to carry out the general inspection and fix any damages occurred.
- Another change relates to the coaching of local organisers in the identification of local case studies for the exhibition. Together with AIGHD Ecsite carries out conference calls with 4 participants of any upcoming tour in order to find out what are their plans for the local case studies, facilitate the exchange of ideas amongst the participants and give advice when needed.
- In the DoA 1 month was foreseen for the move of the exhibition between locations as well as installation/de-installation. Sometimes it takes less time, therefore on many occasions the exhibition stays longer in a certain venues than the 2 month as planned originally. On some occasions it was necessary to rent storage facilities in order to store the exhibition between 2 venues. See the updated touring schedule below:

	2016		2017				2018	
Clone 1	UK London 8 Aug-28 Aug	Spain Granada 4 Oct-4 Dec	Portugal Lisbon 26 Jan-26 Mar	France Bordeaux 1 Apr-31 May	Belgium Mechelen 30 Jun-27 Aug	Netherlands Kerkrade 11 Sep-4 Dec	Ireland Dublin 11 Jan-11 Mar	
Clone 2	Poland Warsaw 14 Jul-11 Sept	Denmark Copenhagen 4 Oct-18 Dec	Sweden Norrkoping 14 Jan-12 Mar	Estonia Tartu 7 Apr-4 Jun	Latvia Riga 7 Jul-27 Aug	Lithuania Vilnius 29 Sep-26 Nov	Finland Helsinki 14 Jan-11 Mar	
Clone 3	Germany Bonn 6 Jul-28 Aug	Luxembourg Luxembourg 17 Sep-30 Nov	Slovakia Bratislava 13 Jan-12 Mar	Austria Linz 29 Mar-5 Jun	Hungary Budapest 19 Jun-5 Aug	Czech Republic Pardubice 1 Oct-28 Nov	Italy Trento 26 Jan-25 Mar	Switzerland Lugano 16 Apr-15 Jun
Clone 4	Slovenia Ljubljana 16 Aug-30 Sept	Croatia Veli Losinj 5 Oct-27 Nov	Cyprus Nicosia 10 Jan-8 Mar	Greece Athens 25 Mar-20 May	Malta Lavaleta 1 Jul-29 Aug	Bulgaria Sofia 2 Oct-27 Nov	Romania Bucharst 15 Jan-15 Mar	

REVISED ACTION PLAN: WP3

- One of the main adaptations in WP3 is the flexibility with timelines and formats regarding the way local organisers run their activities. From the first set of feedback collected, it was clear that local organisers slightly adapt suggested formats and propose their own timelines for implementing the activities. Instead of obliging them to strictly follow our guidelines, we opted for flexibility.. The ultimate goal is to test new formats, try something new and experiment. We prefer for the local organisers to reach this goal even if it means they have to slightly adapt our formats to suit their needs. These adaptations are extremely valuable in our evaluations thus they are being captured.
- Local partnerships aren't working exactly as was foreseen in the DoA. Instead of forming local partnerships around the creation of the local case study of the exhibition, they are being formed around the activities. This is being reported by local organisers all the time. It seems that the creation of an exhibition as envisaged in the DoA is not something that can bring different stakeholders together. Whereas engaging them for the activities works well. The Steering Committee is adapting to this and is not trying to reinforce the original plan as it's not working as planned.

REVISED ACTION PLAN: WP4

- One of the WP4 tasks was to organise a Science Café at the European Parliament in collaboration with the Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment panel (STOA). While working with STOA it became quite clear that they weren't open to the idea of running an interactive event like a Reversed Science Café and preferred a more standard lecture style activity. The event titled "Health systems for the future - Making EU health systems resilient and innovative" is taking place on 8th June 2017 and involves 3 Sparks related speakers. Currently the Steering Committee is investigating the possibility of running a second event also targeting policy makers that would be more interactive and would feature one of the Sparks developed formats. Potential collaborators for this second event are JRC and EC.

REVISED ACTION PLAN: WP5

- It was decided to release the final Sparks video earlier than foreseen (in February 2018) in order to make the most out of its dissemination potential while the project is still running.
- The only printed promotion material foreseen in the DoA was a postcard. It now seems that the postcard doesn't do the project much justice as it doesn't showcase the

beautiful exhibition travelling all over Europe. Thus, Ecsite together with KEA is currently investigating the opportunity of producing a leaflet to be used in the dissemination stage of the project.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, the Revised Action Plan describes changes to the Description of Action of the Sparks project and how the Steering Committee has been addressing and adapting to them. As stated before, no major changes to the tasks have taken place. The majority of changes and new actions reflect how the Steering Committee is trying to be extremely adaptable and to monitor the progress and processes to ensure that the aims of the project are being reached. The Steering Committee is working very closely with the local venues, keeping active conversations with them, listening to their feedback and taking action accordingly.