



Strategy for Participation in Research

Summary

The active involvement of citizens and civil society organizations in research and research policy offers a multitude of opportunities. These range from research results of societal relevance, to room for public discussions leading to more open-mindedness about research and research policy, to new innovative strength thanks to collaborative research projects.

The BMBF's Strategy for Participation in Research is intended to improve the conditions for public involvement in research and research policy in order to make better use of its added value for innovation policy and society. To this end, it is important that we take greater advantage of synergies from different participatory research approaches; learn from one another and structure knowledge; further professionalise the field, for example with a view to gauging impact; intensify capacity building; and firmly anchor participation in the scientific reputation system as part of good scientific practice.

Participation in research and research policy must be consistent with scientific freedom and, at the same time, should take into account the basic principles of excellence and efficiency. Researchers decide on whether and in what way to enable participation in their work.

The following measures are intended to support participation in research and research policy:

- A participation network is to be developed to connect mostly decentralised participation communities based on their needs in order to support communication and knowledge transfer.
- A guide for research funders and guidelines for researchers may offer practical advice.
- The representation of civil society in committees and strategic processes is to be further strengthened.
- A funding call for participation will help to further develop innovative participatory approaches and to advance research into participation. In addition, participatory approaches in research will continue to receive comprehensive support, for example in the areas of citizen science, transdisciplinary and social-ecological research as well as health research.
- In order for participatory projects to be credible and in view of the resources needed for participatory projects, it is vital that the results are used in a transparent and effective manner. It is also recommended that the voluntary commitment of citizens should be properly appreciated so that contributing to research which addresses social challenges remains attractive in the long term for those involved.

Participation in research and research policy has existed for many years, and it is a dynamic field. This is why a mid-term review will be carried out after three years, involving science and civil society.