

University of Dundee

Future Newspaper Tool

Woods, Mel; Coulson, Saskia; Ajates, Raquel; Balestrini, Mara ; Bejtullahu, Sihana ; Bocconi, Stefano

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TOOLKIT

FUTURE NEWSPAPER

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

There is no formula for coming up with creative ideas. Sometimes, however, by thinking about the future, we can have better ideas for the present. It is important to consider what you can do now, and who you might involve, to arrive at the future you want to see.

KEY QUESTION

IS THERE A NEWSPAPER HEADLINE WHICH
REFLECTS THE DESIRED FUTURE OF
YOUR CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT?



TIME NEEDED

60-90 Minutes



PARTICIPANTS

Facilitators,
participants,
external experts



Making
Sense



Making Sense was co-funded by the European Commission within the Call H2020 ICT2015 Research and Innovation action. The grant agreement number is 688620.



DESCRIPTION

For the untrained and unassisted, the creative process can be a loose, unproductive affair. With so many variables, making sense of what to do can often feel like a daunting task. The Future Newspaper tool helps kick-start the creative and critical process by asking participants to imagine a variety of desirable futures. Then, by working backwards from those visions, participants can articulate the conditions, resources, stakeholders and events which might help lead to those outcomes. These can then become discussion points which the community can vote on to create actions and interventions.

STEPS

- 1 Divide participants into groups of three to five. Give each group a Future Newspaper Canvas (or A1 sheet of blank paper) and sticky notes for writing down ideas and notes. If using the A1 sheet of blank paper, sketch out the front page of a newspaper, leave space for the headline, date, body of text and an illustration or two.
- 2 Have each group come up with a newspaper headline which reflects a desired future of the citizen science project. It is often easier to start from the landmark change they want to see in the context of their lives or the campaign they are doing. Headlines can be as realistic or outlandish as you want: however, this choice will have a direct impact on the ideas generated after.
- 3 Have each group consider: How do we get to that future? Using the canvas, have participants think about, discuss and plan what resources, conditions, people and events have to come together in order to reach the future they have envisioned.
- 4 Share all the Future Newspapers, and after a brief presentation and discussion on the merits of each, a round of sticker-dot voting can help reach a consensus on which route to take.

USEFUL LINKS


Empathy Timeline Toolkit Assets: <https://doi.org/10.20933/100001179>


Making Sense Project Website: making-sense.eu

Citizen Sensing: A Toolkit: <https://doi.org/10.20933/100001112>

RESOURCES NEEDED

Future Newspaper canvas,
markers, sticker dots

 SPECIAL EDITION	<h1>THE OBSERVER</h1>	DATE	
1. HEADLINE			
.....			
2. ILLUSTRATION OR IMAGE	3. THE STORY		
.....			
4. STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE HEADLINE			
	BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
ACTIVITIES			
TIME			
RESOURCES			

 **Making Sense** Advances and experiments in participatory sensing

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