

ACCOMPLISSH

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Bridging the gap

Research should best be curiosity driven. In fact, human beings are curiosity driven by nature. Especially children. My daughter who is 6 years old, is a perfect example of a curiosity driven kid. She wants to everything about anything. So last week during breakfast my daughter asked me, "Mama, what is that project you talk about so much, what is it all about." So I tried to find the most simple way of explaining what we do in ACCOMPLISSH. Quite a challenge! But a very valuable exercise.

So I started to picture four separate islands. I explained that every island has their own rules, tasks and language. The inhabitants of every island are very smart people. So what we do in the project is to build bridges to connect these islands so smart people can meet the other smart peoples. We help inhabitants

of the different islands to better understand each other's rules and tasks. And to learn each other's language. So that together they can create new things or solve complex puzzles. We call that co-creation. She smiled and was satisfied with the answer and finished her milk.

I realised this is only half of the story. Since we specifically work on creating impact from scientific knowledge on policy making, industrial missions and societal challenges. And at the same time creating an impact on science itself, by opening up the research design phase to already work with possible end-users: to enhance impact and in some cases to improve research questions. Furthermore, I experienced once more that when explaining the work of ACCOMPLISSH, one needs to adapt the story to its audience. The project has been running for two years now, and still it is very hard to avoid using academic speak and rhetoric only. If we want to cross the bridge we need to adapt.

This is in fact the biggest challenge in the final year of the project. To translate project results into tangible results for a wider audience in order to set into motion new ways of thinking and working. We all need to step on that bridge and walk to the other side. The bridges are the pathways towards creating impact. Explore new worlds, make new connections and make better use of everyone's knowledge. In doing so creating a safe environment for a new ecosystem where universities, governments, industry partners and societal organisations collaborate in an equal setting. Moving from collaboration towards co-creation. And gain new insights for complex challenges that are of benefit to all stakeholders.

Sharon Smit

Coordinator ACCOMPLISSH and Director Sustainable Society, University of Groningen (the Netherlands)



New video: Why co-create?

Proud to present our latest ACCOMPLISSH video! With special thanks to the University of Tallinn, who did a wonderful job by putting together the best images and interviews. All shots were made during the last public event of ACCOMPLISSH, called ACSIS 2017, in Tallinn (Estonia).

ACCOMPLISSH asked its members and friends what benefits does co-creation give to societal organisations, academia, industry and policy-makers. Watch [here](#) what they had to say.



#SSHare your contribution

Social media campaign - Show the world the richness and importance of SSH research

Worldwide, research budgets for the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH) face increasing pressure, partly because the crucial role of SSH is sometimes poorly understood. This is the reason why we want to show the world the richness and importance of SSH research.

With this in mind, the Sustainable Society institute (University of Groningen) started a social media campaign, and they still need your help. If you would like to join them, please do the following:

Print the document at the end of this message and write on the paper what kind of contribution (your) SSH research makes to society. Then take a picture of it and share it online via social media with the hashtag #SSHare.

By setting up this campaign, we want to make the voice of SSH heard and convince policy makers of the importance of investing in SSH research.

Need more information about how to take part, or do you need some examples? Watch [this video](#) or search online for #SSHare and get inspired!

Download:

- [TEMPLATE DOCUMENT](#) - PDF file
- [TEMPLATE DOCUMENT](#) - WORD file



Upcoming events - open to the public

5 & 6 November 2018

ACSIS 2018 - ACCOMPLISSH Co-creation and Social Innovation Summit

On 5 and 6 November 2018, ACSIS 2018 will take place. This event is open to the public and will be hosted by the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. More information will follow soon. Save the dates!

30, 31 January & 1 February 2019

ACCOMPLISSH closing conference

On 30 and 31 January, and 1 February 2019, the closing ACCOMPLISSH 3-day conference will take place. This event is open to the public and will be hosted by the University of Barcelona, Spain. More information will follow soon. Save the dates!



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