

LEGITIMULT



FROM PROJECT TO PRACTICE

A Guide to Translating Research
Results into Real-World Impact



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WHY THIS GUIDE?

This guide offers a practical, adaptable framework for turning complex academic findings into real-world impact.

It focuses on structured, participatory, and replicable activities that bridge the gap between research and implementation, ensuring that the knowledge generated within research projects does not remain confined to academic or institutional settings. Instead, it becomes a stimulus for dialogue, learning, and informed decision-making across multiple levels of society.



By drawing on tested formats such as citizen juries, media workshops, e-learning courses, and practitioner engagement sessions, this guide supports researchers, public institutions, and civil society organizations in amplifying the impact and reach of their work

It provides the tools, principles, and examples necessary to replicate inclusive engagement strategies that have the potential to shape policy, influence public discourse, and address real societal needs.

Importantly, all activities are designed to be tested across different pilot areas, allowing for context-sensitive implementation that reflects the unique political, social, and cultural realities of each location.

In doing so, the guide encourages a shift from dissemination to implementation and impact —where research is not only communicated, but actively used, adapted, and owned by the communities and institutions it seeks to serve.

WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

**Simply without
over
simplifying**



Translate complex research into accessible language tailored for non-academic audiences.

Localize



Adapt content to specific regional, cultural, and linguistic contexts

**Interact with
stakeholders**



Involve policymakers, practitioners, civil society, and media early and often during your project implementation.

**Test in real
settings**



Pilot areas are essential for feedback and validation of your research outputs throughout the project.

IMPLEMENTATION SET OF ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW



Activity

**E-Learning
Course**

Target

Policymakers,
Practitioners,
Students

Rationale

To build skills
and awareness



**Citizens
Juries**

Civil society,
Communities

To enhance legitimacy
through participation, to
take research results into
society and to connect
citizens with politicians
and political decisions.



**Media
Workshops**

Journalists,
Communicators,
Media
professionals

To include media in the
elaboration of the
research findings, given
their central role in
society nowadays.



**Practitioners'
Webinars**

Practitioners,
Policymakers,
students

To enable comparison
between research and
practice. To facilitate
exchange of knowledge,
doubts, and challenges. To
collect feedback from policy
implementers

E-learning course



1

Define the Course Goal and the Target Group

- What do you want to achieve and for whom is it useful?

Train executive leaders, civil servants, practitioners working in the public administration at different levels of government but also students to better understand and manage future crises in a more legitimate way.

2

Turn selected research findings into learning content

- Make complex insights easy and accessible
- Collect insights from relevant work packages (or research units)
- Simplify language without losing meaning
- Break into thematic modules (e.g. 1 topic per module) and define contents
- Translate content into all relevant languages (use partners or professionals)

In our project WP leaders provided English video lessons and key findings, which were curated into simplified content and translated in 6 languages through subtitles by local partners.





3

Create and Deliver the E-learning Course

- Build an engaging, user-friendly experience
- Choose a delivery method (online platform, downloadable PDF, or LMS - Learning Management System)
- Choose if you want to opt for synchronous (live) or asynchronous (pre-recorded) sessions
- Record expert videos
- Add quizzes, texts, real-life case studies, graphs or other content
- Include printable slides, infographics, and downloadable handouts
- Make content visually appealing and intuitive to navigate

We chose to use an internal existing e-learning platform, and we decided to offer prerecorded video lessons and to include simple text materials and quizzes to ensure interactivity.

4

Pilot and promote

- Test it internally among the partners that took part in the video-making and materials production
- Run a small pilot session to gather feedback from target users and adjust the course accordingly
- Partner with local government, civil society, or education institutions for dissemination

In LEGITIMULT, the content was piloted in parallel with the other WP activities in four countries, with input from local experts and partners to ensure contextual fit.

Citizens' juries (CJs)



1

Define the Purpose & Guiding Question

- Why convene a citizens' jury?
- Define an aspect of your project where the opinions and experiences of the citizens are useful and interesting.
- Which concrete question can guide the citizens in finding practical solutions?

We asked ourselves "How can citizens contribute to the governance of a crisis so that their input leads to more legitimacy?"

2

Design the Citizen Jury Format

- Set the rules of the game
- Decide duration (e.g., 2-day weekend), expected minimum number of citizens to involve, method of selection of citizens (e.g. sortition process or invitation) to guarantee inclusivity as much as possible
- Define deliberative phase structure: Potential expert inputs, and facilitation style, discussion methods
- Clarify the consultative and not binding nature of the CJ as a democratic innovation, eventually with the public institution





- Define the precise roles needed: the most important ones are organizer, facilitator, participants, external experts.
- Clarify the expected output from the CJ: policy recommendations? Other?
- Clarify with citizens the expected follow-up with their output: who will take action with that? The organizers, the public authorities, or whom?
- Draft ethics and privacy procedures.
- Consider running the CJ in bilingual mode: this is possible in those urban/rural contexts where there is a linguistic minority.

For LEGITIMULT, the structure (moderation, expert roles, selection rules) was designed by the WP leader using best-practice manuals available online and the scientific literature on that.

3

Prepare content

- Choose one core topic related to your research that will be the object of the CJ.
- Prepare an introductory presentation (e.g. with Power Point) with the overall introduction of the CJ topic to bring participants on the same page.
- Involve experts to give input presentations and to remain available for questions throughout the duration of the CJ (they should be researchers related to the project).

In LEGITIMULT, each of the 3 CJs tackled a different research topic. After them, each organizing partner filled in a template document prepared by the WP leader containing the key information, findings and feedback from all the participants.



- Agree with the facilitator upon its role and method for the deliberative phase, and upon the essential input questions for participants.
- Prepare all necessary material to print and handle out: topic-related material, facilitator and experts' input questions for the discussion, final evaluation form, etc.
- Prepare ethics and privacy forms and comply with their requirements.

4

Choose Pilot Area & Recruit Jurors

- Choose territories where you would like to organize your citizen jury. Collaborate with your project partners!
- Partner with a municipality or an NGO to ensure local engagement and ideally a follow-up of the CJ. Additionally, also an agency expert in participatory democracy could be involved.
- Use random selection (sortition) to ensure diversity. To secure around 15 committed participants, you'll need to reach out to a pool roughly 100 times larger—so plan to send invitations to at least 1,500 people. Prepare and send invitation letters—ideally using official or institutional channels to increase credibility and response rates.

We had four pilot areas: each one recruited 5-10 citizens via random sortition and/or open calls, backed by a kit of different gadgets as a reward for participation.



- Prepare back-up methods in case the first method does not bring the expected number of participants: an example could be the preparation of an open call to circulate.
- Be prepared to use such additional recruitment methods could be used at different stages of the recruitment process.
- Offer modest incentives for participation (vouchers, travel refunds, gadgets).

5

Identify & Train Facilitators

- Neutral guidance is crucial
- Select facilitators experienced in deliberative or participatory democracy initiatives.
- Be prepared to run it yourself in case of last-minute problems with the external facilitator.
- Meet in advance to agree upon the CJ structure, timing, and facilitation method.

Facilitators were briefed with guidelines developed by the WP leader and partners, with a plan B if a facilitator is no longer unavailable.





6

Plan Logistics & Run the CJ

- Smooth operations boost a good output of the process
- Secure an accessible venue (or, if needed, hybrid format)
- Ensure tech checks, breakout material, refreshments.
- Consider recording the deliberation phase of the CJ (or the whole event) for having access to all possible information in the follow-up phase of the CJ (e.g. for the writing of a final report, for the proper collection of all the participants' policy recommendations).

For LEGITIMULT, one day sessions were held in person; the WP leader supported remotely all sessions and ensured standardized delivery of the outcomes.

7

Produce & Share Outputs

- Turn participation into visible, actionable results
- Provide partners with a template for their CJ report in order to standardize results.
- Include such reports into wider project findings.

Each of LEGITIMULT's CJ produced a position paper feeding directly into policy recommendations.



- On the basis of what has been previously agreed upon with the local authority where the CJ took place, organize a public meeting or event for presenting the CJ results and ensure participants receive an answer on their contribution by public authorities (keep in mind that the CJ output is not binding at all, but only of consultative nature).

8

Prepare for the Unexpected

- Stay flexible and ready to adapt when plans change
- Anticipate issues like citizens' dropouts, expert cancellations, or venue changes.
- Set the minimum standards you consider appropriate for the CJ to take place: if they are not respected, be available to postpone the event.

Alternative options were planned in advance for LEGITIMULT CJs, preparing additional staff to cover unexpected aspects.



Media Workshops (MW)



1

Define the Purpose & Guiding Question

- Why involve the media in the project?
- Set workshop goals
- Define concrete aspects where you would like to receive feedback or input by media professionals

The media plays a crucial role in ensuring that a crisis is perceived as legitimately managed.

2

Identify the Topic & Structure

- Design a focused, relevant format tailored to your audience
- Choose a relevant topic based on your research.
- Decide on format (hybrid/in-person), duration, group size.
- Decide on the MW precise structure: e.g. introduction on the research project, expert presentation (consider inviting a high-profile guest speaker), discussion into working groups, plenary and results sharing.

Partners designed an in-presence workshop model tailored to media needs using academic findings





3

Select and Prepare Content

- Translate research into clear, engaging materials for practical use
- Prepare an introductory presentation on the topic including the main research questions and research findings from the project.
- Include real-world case studies and challenges.
- Provide materials.
- Prepare a template of documents needed to ensure comparable results among different MW events organized by project partners.
- Prepare ethics and privacy forms and comply with their requirements.

WP leaders and communication experts jointly defined content; the WP leader identified key ideas into a concise structure with practical tools for discussion.

4

Invite Participants

- Target the right media and communication professionals
- Build a diverse list of media professionals: journalists, editors, institutional communicators, media trainers, etc.
- Respect data protection rules when using personal contacts.

Partners built on their networks and coordinated invitations locally, combining personal contacts and professional registries.



- Send formal invitations and follow up to confirm attendance.
- Make sure to do everything in advance and not last minute.
- Consider partnering with national orders of journalists or other local associations to offer official credits—this can raise interest and ensure higher attendance.

5

Facilitate the Workshop

- Create space for dialogue and co-learning
- Open with key findings, then shift to interaction: discussions, simulations, workshops.
- Invite high profile speakers and experts to discuss about research outputs.

Each workshop was hosted in the same pilot area of the local citizen juries. We used flexible formats, so that each partner could adapt the contents based on the local needs.

6

Document Outcomes & Share Learnings

- Capture value beyond the session
- Develop a shared reporting format for all workshops to ensure consistency and make outputs easier to compare, compile, and disseminate.
- Summarize insights and participant feedback in the comparable document.

Media workshop produced a document with observations and main findings to be then compared in the final report the WP.

Practitioners' Engagement



FLEXIBLE FORMATS FOR REAL IMPACT

How to involve practitioners in co-creating practical outcomes from research activities, train them on recent research outputs and collect their experiences

1

Choosing the Right Format for Practitioners' Engagement and Exchange

When to use

What it looks like

Best for

Full Training Seminar
(In-person, multi-day)

You have ample time, funding, and availability from partners as lecturers/organizers and participants

A 5–10 day immersive, in-person training course; Includes lectures, working groups, discussion sessions, site visits, informal networking

Train practitioners in an intensive course, Building trust, developing in-depth strategies, long-term collaboration

Hybrid Series
(Webinars + One day in person seminar)

You need flexibility, or your audience is geographically dispersed

A series of 2–5 webinars (90–120 mins each), followed by a 1-day seminar in different pilot areas

Scalable engagement, combining depth and accessibility

This was the model used in [LEGITIMULT](#), combining three online sessions with an in-person workshop.

Single Workshop
(Focused, One-day Event)

Time and budget are tight, but you want to make an impact and exchange with practitioners

One full-day in-person seminar or consultation; Prioritizes concrete tools, brief discussion rounds, and output drafting

Validation of research results and targeted dialogue



2

How to Replicate the Hybrid Approach (LEGITIMULT Model)

Set Clear Learning Goals and Target group

- What should practitioners understand, learn, reflect on, or contribute to?

Develop a Thematic Webinar Series

- 3–5 sessions (90–120 minutes each)
- Combine expert inputs, interactive polls, and practitioner testimonials
- Use tools like Teams, Zoom, Mentimeter, or Miro

Organize an In-Person Seminar in different locations

- 1-day interactive session focused on exchanging experiences
- Use small groups, and invite stakeholders that can make a practical use of your research results and share their own experiences with you

Prepare & Support Participants

- Share pre-read materials, summaries, and post-event follow-ups
- Involve a mix of policy officials, practitioners and academics

Document Results

- Collect insights from both online and offline events
- Produce results and testimonies: short videos, policy briefs or recommendations

In LEGITIMULT, by shifting from a single, intensive seminar to a modular and hybrid approach, we reached more people, gathered diverse insights, with less logistical barriers.