Co-creation in the SURF programme
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About NWO

- Budget of 820 million (2014)
- 5800 research projects funded each year
- 25 divisions
- 2500 employees

- Social Science Division
  - 7 ambitions 2015-2018
  - ambition 5: ‘inter- and transdisciplinary research, nationally and internationally’
Knowledge co-creation / transdisciplinarity: researchers in different fields formulate (practical) answers to (complex) societal problems together with stakeholders.

Related to knowledge utilisation / valorisation but with a much more active role for stakeholders
Co-creation important: why?

- Facing complex societal problems (also across boarders)

- Stakeholders are able to:
  - share relevant practical experience
  - help formulating relevant research questions
  - implement the actual change
Co-creation and the role of funding agencies

What could we as Funding Agency do?

• Develop new funding instruments
  - that makes us more flexible in funding unexpected ideas, inventions and innovations to be followed-up
• Develop new framework conditions
• Design evaluation process in particular way
• Fund an “independent facilitator of knowledge co-creation” in a consortium

Open for discussion and input!
Co-creation in SURF

• SURF: Smart Urban Regions of the Future
• Focus:
  - spatial development, housing, government, economy, accessibility and mobility in urban areas

• Is a programme funded by Platform31, NRPO-SIA, NWO, the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment; and part of the knowledge initiative VerDuS (connecting sustainable cities)
Co-creation in SURF

How does the programme aim to stimulate knowledge co-creation?

- **Preparation:**
  - Focus of programme as set out in Call of Proposals
  - Involvement of “network manager”
  - Possibility of organising matchmaking workshop (budget 10.000)

- **Eligibility criteria:**
  - Co-financing (max. NWO funding € 1.500.000 per project)
    * minimum co-financing of 250.000 of which 125.000 in cash
  - Minimum of two non-scientific partners (stakeholders) in consortium
Co-creation in SURF II

How does the programme aim to stimulate knowledge co-creation?

• Evaluation
  - *practical relevance for policy and society* part of evaluation criteria
  - Scientific Expert Panel & Practitioners Panel

• And after ...
  - Community of practice
  - SURF *pop-up* call
  - workshops on co-creation
  - SURF academy
Co-creation: the way forward

“Not only doing the right research but doing the research right!!”

Sheila Jasonoff, Lund Conference

- Perspective of researchers (role of universities)
- Perspective of funding agencies
  - possible instruments
  - possible framework conditions
  - constraints / opportunities
‘Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much’, Helen Keller

Thank you for listening and sharing ideas!
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