

CHALLENGES TO  
INCORPORATE  
POLICIES OF PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT IN  
RESEARCH AS A  
FACILLITATOR OF  
IMPACT IN TWO LARGE  
HOSPITALS OF  
CATALONIA

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# SOME BACKGROUND

## Policy issues

Spain: Centralised R+D policy

Catalonia: High political commitment to S+T and innovation

- Department of Health (Catalan Government): Promotes within the healthcare system, healthcare research activities as a key element for progress

Catalonia R+D policy strategy:

- Resources allocated to maintain a 'minimum structure' to be functional (research centres and institutes) (non competitive)
- The Strategic Plan for Health Research and Innovation, PERIS (2016–2020) (competitive)

## Context

The Research Results Centre

# WHAT IS THE RESEARCH RESULTS CENTRE?

An informative tool (R+D planning):  
**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Provides individual information of the activity of research institutions:  
**TRANSPARENCY**

Provides performance indicators to compare centers: **BENCHMARKING**

2 year's reports: Oriented to policy-makers, citizens-taxpayers and professionals

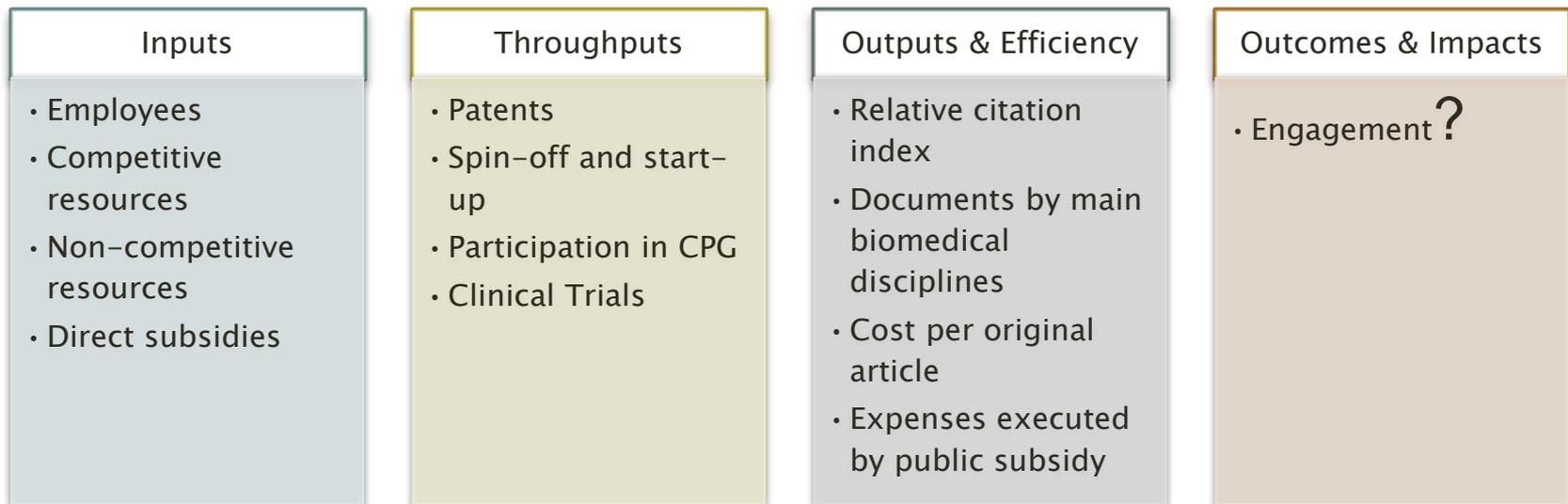


# WHAT IS THE RESEARCH RESULTS CENTRE?

10 Hospital-affiliated research centres

1 centre associated with primary care centres

9 Research centres not associated with healthcare centres



# WHY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT?

Facilitator (proxy) of impact

Research impact assessment studies : engagement of "people who can bring value" in the research process

Promote the use of research in health policies, services and professional healthcare practices      Communicate results more effectively

**Objective:** find out what challenges research centres institutions might face when incorporating research public engagement policies and practices in order to achieve impact

*You can have brilliant ideas, but if you can't get them across, your ideas won't get you anywhere – Lee Iacocca*

# WHAT INDICATORS ARE FOUND IN THE LITERATURE?

## Context

- Literature review of scientific journals and grey literature
- Indicators of the engagement of societal actors in health research
- Institutions where research is carried out (universities, research centers and health research institutes)

Engagement can be understood at 4

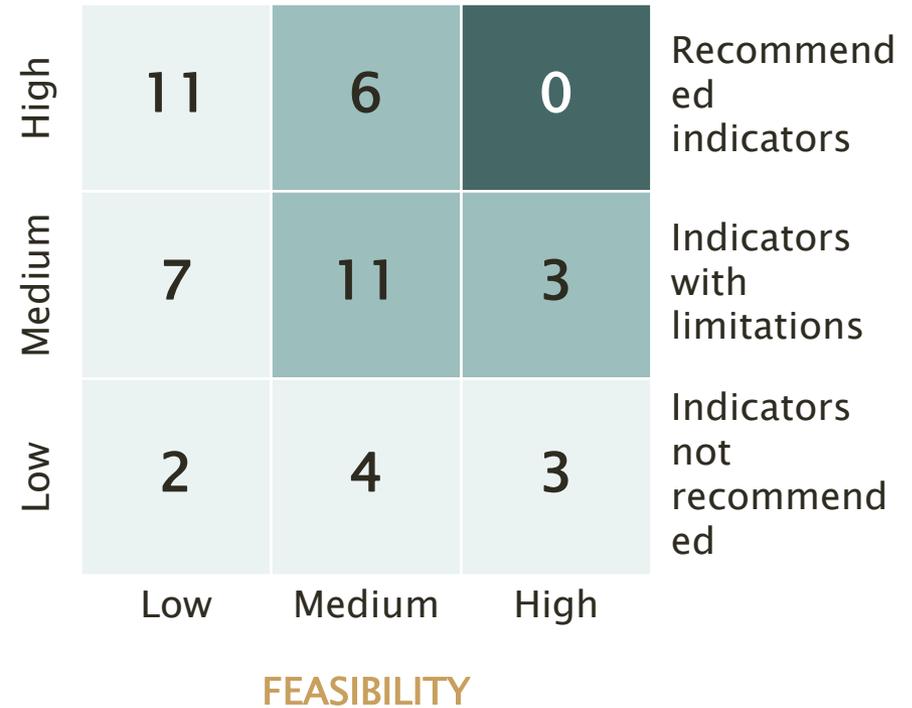


# 47 INDICATORS

Dimension / Indicator		Relevance	Feasibility
CAPACITY BUILDING	16 Training activities focused on specific stakeholders (patients, decision makers ...)	○	●
	17 Number of people trained in processes promoting stakeholder involvement in research	○	●
	18 Number of external collaborators working temporarily at the institution	●	●
	19 Number of workers from the centre temporarily working in external organizations	●	●
	20 Number of PhD theses and master's degrees carried out in collaboration with external organizations	●	●
ACTIVITY	21 Number of projects carried out at the institution and supported by the main funding agencies that promote stakeholder engagement and involve stakeholders in some of the research processes	○	●
	22 Percentage of projects funded by associations, NGOs, etc., ... that include stakeholders at some stage of the research	●	●
	23 Number of projects in which an association, NGO, etc. has participated in the planning stage of the research	●	●
	24 Number of projects in which an association, NGO, etc. has participated in the execution stage of the research	●	●
	25 Number of applied research projects carried out in collaboration with external bodies (industry, non-profit organizations, civil society ...)	●	●
	26 Stages of research in which there are meetings with the various stakeholders	○	●
	27 Description of associations, NGOs, etc., with which the institution has connections	●	●
	28 Consultations of stakeholders directly affected by a particular research process	●	●
	29 The key points of the meetings are understood by everyone	●	●
	30 Characteristics of the stakeholders with regard to engagement in research	●	●
	31 Number of stakeholders engaged in research projects	○	●
	32 Description, in general terms, of successful activities in which stakeholders have been engaged	○	●
	33 Number of projects in which stakeholders have been included in the projects Research Committee	●	●
	34 Stakeholders' representatives appointed as internal reviewers of the research proposals	○	●
	35 Number of public conferences of the institute, collaborating with and/or empowering the different stakeholders	●	●

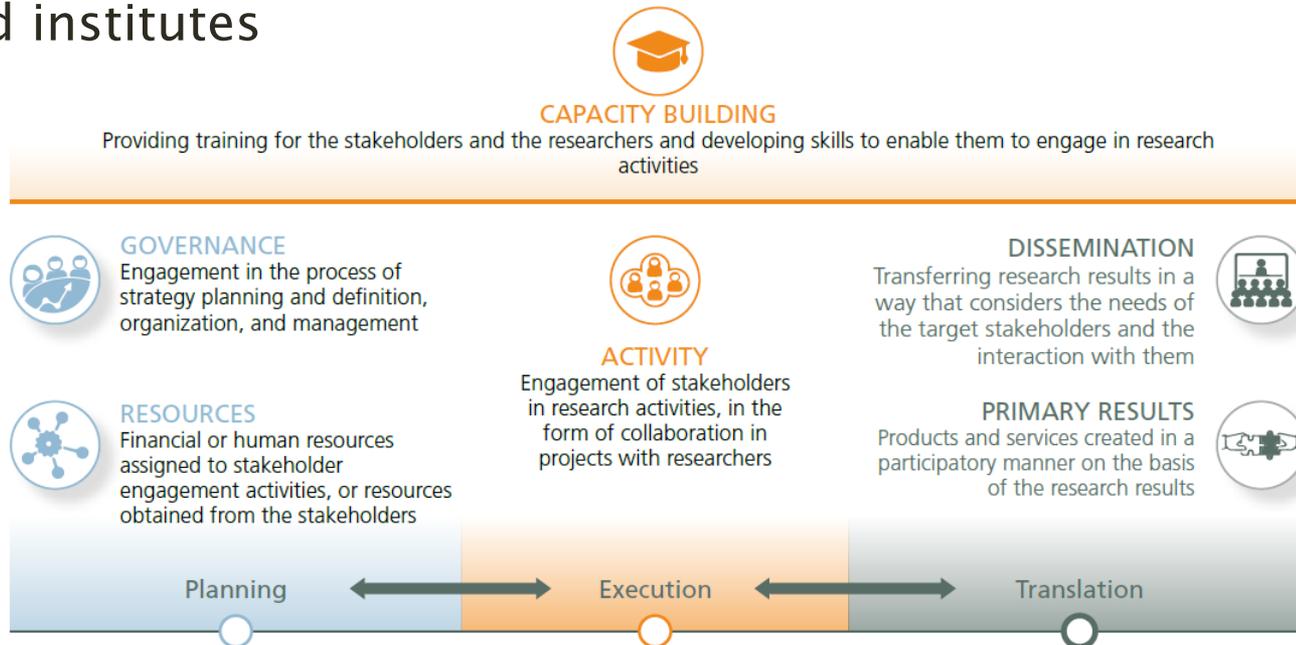
RELEVANCE

Context



# LESSONS LEARNED

Broad scope of participation in research within research centers and institutes



**Put into context:** Success of an assessment system depends on the acceptance of its processes and results

# ARE WE READY TO ASSESS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN HEALTH RESEARCH?

## Our challenge

Try to apply the theory identified in the literature in a practical setting

## Context

Discussion groups: two research centers associated to a hospital

Range of scientific and professional profiles:

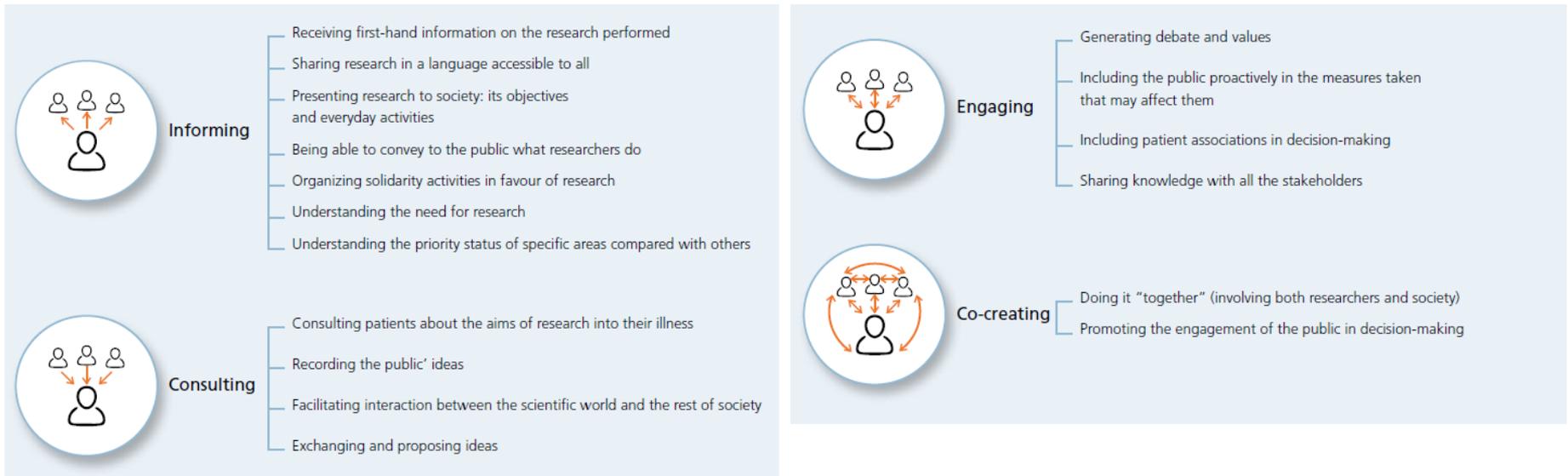
- Basic and clinical researchers
- Communication staff
- Scientific coordination staff
- Professional development staff
- Strategy and management staff

▪ innovation and sponsorship staff

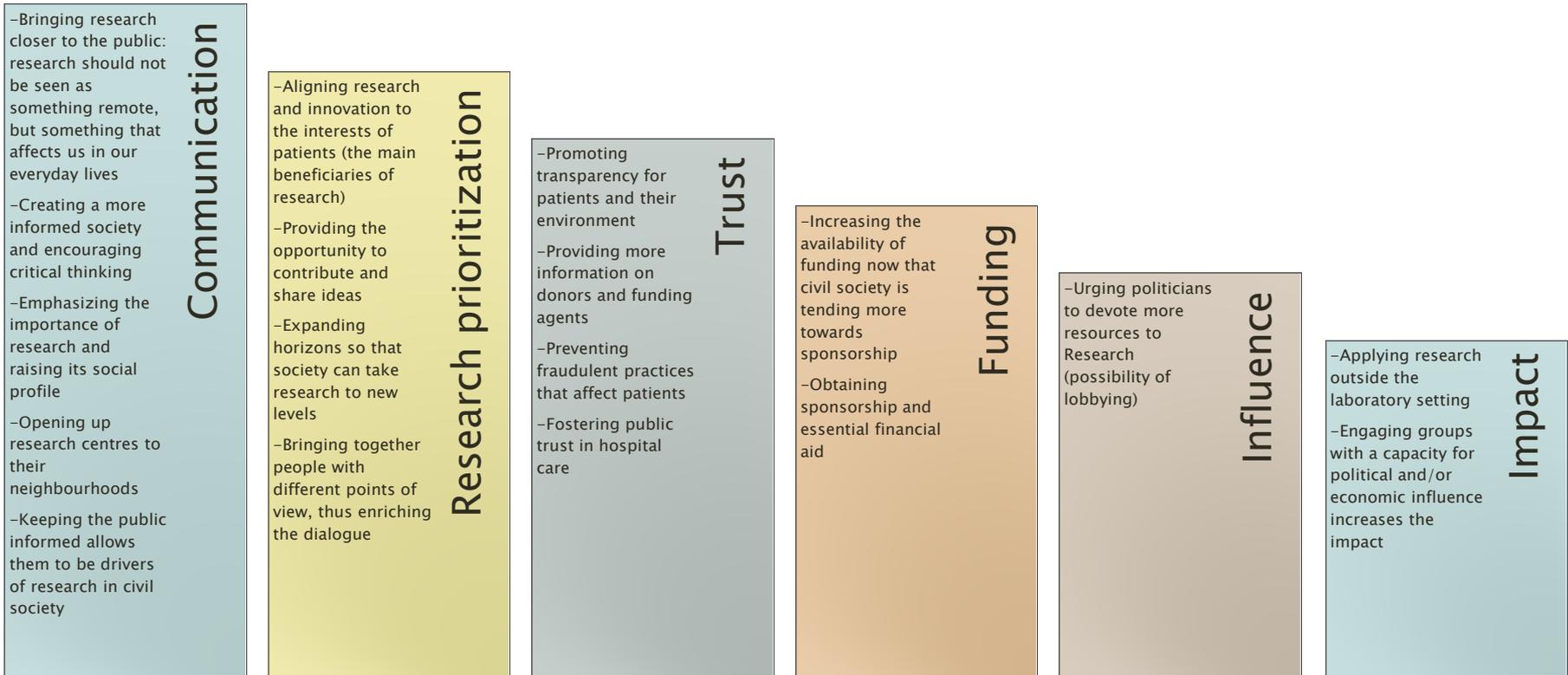
# WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH?

The professionals consulted distinguish the same four types of engagement than in the literature:

informing, consulting, involving and co-creating with the public



# WHY IS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH IMPORTANT?



# WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT?

## Challenges facing research organizations

Financial and time constraints

Human resources

The need for governance

## Tensions between stakeholders

Since different stakeholders have their own agendas and interests

Difficult to manage

Excessive control

## Challenges posed by the public' understanding of research

Not all pressure groups have the same capacity

The complexity of managing different levels of knowledge

Balance between public's right and minimum knowledge need

## Professionals' communicative skills

Researchers need to develop their intercommunicative skills

It is difficult to explain research to a more general public

Researchers often do not see the advantages of engagement

# CONCLUSIONS (I)

Engagement in Catalan Health research centres

- Diverse
- Individual initiatives
- Not organized
- Focused on research prioritization and dissemination

Taking account of the roles, interests and abilities of the parties involved is key to achieving positive public engagement

How can we promote public engagement in research at Catalan health research institutions?

# CONCLUSIONS (&II)



## Recommendations for researchers

1 Support for capacity building and recognition of scientists

2 A change in the culture and values of the scientific community



## Recommendations for patients and the general public

3 Capacity building for the general public

4 diverse and inclusive communities for public



## Recommendations for research organizations

5 Transformative strategies for Research institutions

6 Institutional coordination and leadership

7 Inclusive governance of research institutions

8 Professionalization within research institutions

9 Support for continuous improvement

10 Creation of indicators only for actions currently underway

A blurred background image showing the lower legs and feet of a group of people walking on a light-colored floor. The image is out of focus, creating a sense of movement and a busy environment.

THANK YOU!

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