

Public dialogue findings - Czech Republic

Ester Jarour

PR and Communications Manager





CEITEC – Central European Institute of Technology – Brno (Czech Republic)
Ester Jarour – Communications Lead




This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 741527 and runs from May 2017 to April 2021.

Key Societal Challenges Identified (CZ)

- **Disease**
- **Insufficient food for growing population**
- Environmental problems, global warming and climate change
- Population growth, growing societal differences and economic problems
- Addiction to technologies and lack of control over content on the internet
- Increasing stress



A glowing green DNA double helix structure is the central visual element, set against a dark background. The helix is composed of two intertwined strands connected by horizontal rungs, all of which emit a bright green luminescence. The structure is slightly out of focus, giving it a sense of depth and a futuristic, scientific feel. The overall composition is centered, with the DNA helix occupying most of the frame.

„While none of the participants mentioned genome editing technology as a solution, science in general was viewed as a possible solution for societal challenges.“

A photograph of a paved road stretching into the distance under a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow. The sky is filled with dark, silhouetted clouds. The road is flanked by green grass. The text 'STARTING POINT' is overlaid in large white letters on the left side of the image.

STARTING POINT

Vague understanding
of key biological
concepts such as
DNA and cells. Only 1
of 31 participants was
aware of genome
editing technology

A silhouette of a person stands on a rocky shore, arms raised in a gesture of triumph or hope, against a vibrant sunset over the ocean. The word "HOPE" is written in large, dark, serif capital letters across the upper right portion of the image.

HOPE

**Great expectations that
genome editing technology
may assist mankind to
overcome various challenges
and solve problems**

CONCERNS?

- Genome editing technology could be accessible only to the privileged
- Abuse of the technology by people in power
- Abuse of the technology to create preferred traits in humans (superhumans)



CONCLUSION

Participants seemed highly accepting of genome editing technology but preferred its application on plants or to cure otherwise untreatable diseases

Case Study:

Re-programming immune system cells – CAR-T therapy

- Participants were impressed that genome editing technology could be used to treat cancer
- Not a single argument of potential misuse of the technology
- Very supportive towards this research despite very high cost
- Participants had absolute trust that the scientists will be able to apply their findings also to other types of cancer
- Participants had faith that this technology would become cheaper over time

Case Study:

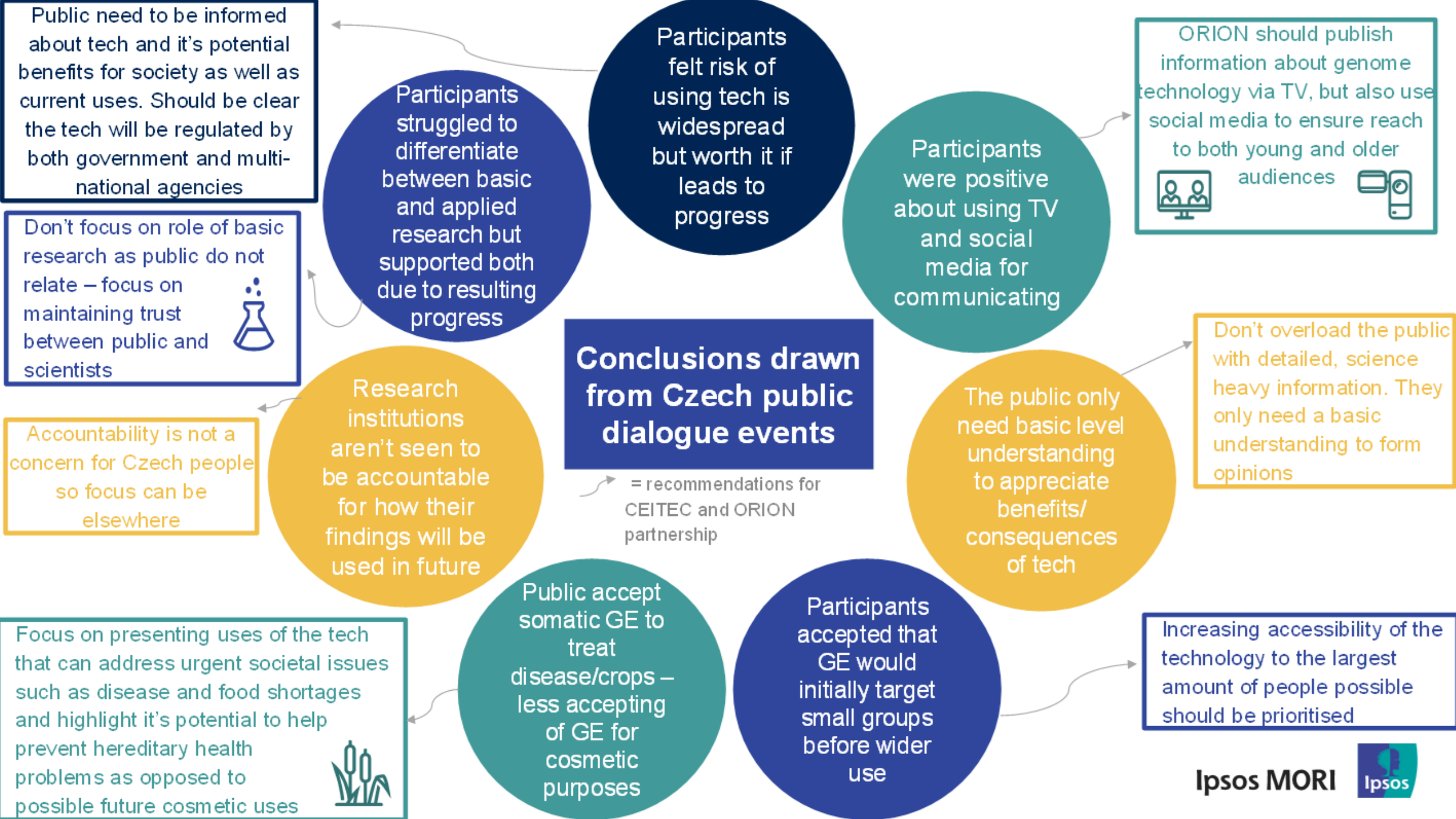
How plant molecules work

- Participants considered this research helpful, important and usable in the future
- They welcomed the idea that this research could lead to more resilient crops
- Participants were not able to distinguished between basic and applied research
- Since this research doesn't involve human or animals, participants did not perceive any major risks

Case Study:

Understanding how viruses work - Bacteriophages

- Participants not favoring treatment with antibiotics favored this type of research
- Idea of programming viruses was scary for several participants, since they assumed that one could program bacteriophages to do anything
- In overall, participants supported this research, but fear of abuse was visible. They called for strict government checks and regulations.



Lesson Learned and Next Steps for CEITEC



- Special emphasis on communication of new disruptive technologies
- Better communication of scientific process
- Always communicate societal impact of science
- Work on long-term establishment of public's trust in science



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Thank you for your attention!

Get in touch with us via:

-  @ORIONOpenScience
-  ORION_opensci
-  www.orion-openscience.eu
-  orion@crg.eu

Emma.Martinez@babraham.ac.uk