



Art and Science for improved EU policy making

Jutta Thielen-del Pozo, Adriaan Eeckels, Francesco Mugnai, and Angela Cardinali

European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Directorate for Strategy, Work Programme and Resources

In the last decades there has been a growing international movement of establishing and strengthening collaboration between science and art as a novel way to inspire both the scientific and artist communities alike to think out of the box, to confront societal challenges from different angles, and to stimulate an atmosphere of creativity and new thinking that can lead to innovation and novel solutions to problems that could not be solved in isolation. It also allows to reach out to non-experts and convey complex messages in different ways than reports and publications. In this spirit the European Commission Joint Research Centre has launched a new Art and Science Programme, entitled RESONANCES, to contribute to improved policy making. The programme can benefit from the multidisciplinary of the JRC's portfolio and build on a rich blend of natural and social sciences, technology, engineering, arts and humanities. Starting from one of the main objectives – linking science, art and policy making in a novel synthesis capable of reaching out to greater parts of the public – the novelty of the programme resides in its 'Do-It-Yourself' philosophy putting together representatives of the different disciplines to co-design new projects that address thematic fields from different angles and fields and to collaborate on a new installation. In order to facilitate these collaborations, the programme organises summer schools with workshops where scientists and policy makers meet artists to work together around specific themes of societal interests.

The flagship of the SciArt project is the Resonances Festival, an exciting and stimulating event for scientists, artists and participants alike. Following the success of the 2015 first edition during EXPO 2015 on the topic of food, the JRC organised a second edition of the Resonances Festival on the topic of Fairness, which resulted in an exhibition and a series of events held in September/October 2017 at the JRC in Ispra and at the Leonardo da Vinci Science and Technology Museum in Milan. The third edition will be held in autumn 2019 on the topic of Big Data. While the co-creation phase stimulates novel thinking at the border between science, art and society, the festivals and exhibitions allow raising awareness and foster discussions with the public. The combined processes provide the opportunity to inject innovative ideas into the EU policy making on this topic.

The upcoming 2019 edition will focus on Big Data and address questions such as: What is Big Data, what are its known and unexpected sources? Where and how is Big Data transforming our society, our lives and even our very self to the better and the worse? Who are we going to be in the future when Big Data has enabled scientists, engineers, doctors, experts to transform our societies, our work, our economies, our bodies, our agriculture, our security, our thinking?