

# PRESS RELEASE



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## Citizen involvement makes a unique contribution to more socially grounded research priorities

**A comparative analysis between the CIMULACT citizen-based research topics and expert-based foresight studies reveals that citizens' involvement introduces more holistic and socially grounded perspectives that are lacking from many expert-based studies. This illustrates the need for broad participation when setting directions for future policy and agenda settings.**

While experts tend to put emphasis on technological developments when giving input to research policies, citizens point towards human- and community-centered values. This is the major conclusion of an in-depth comparative study between expert reports and 46 citizen-based research topics developed during the highly participatory CIMULACT project.

The 46 citizen-based proposals for research topics were compared by quantitative and qualitative analyses with a total of 16 foresight reports developed by experts with the aim of influencing the FP8/FP9 creation process.

Aaron Rosa, CIMULACT partner and main author of the report, explains that the CIMULACT research topics were generally well represented within the expert-reports. However, while experts tended to focus on economic and technical aspects, citizens introduced human and society centric perspectives:

*"CIMULACT research topics introduced every trend, factor, or technology with a necessary human perspective on social impact. This cannot be overstated", says Aaron Rosa.*

In this way the comparative analysis demonstrates explicit differences between the content and the intention of CIMULACT when compared to expert-based foresight reports, which according to Aaron Rosa illustrates the importance of including both expert- and citizen-based methodologies in producing policy-oriented future research:

*"Experts and citizens often approach societal challenges from different angles, but one is not superior to the other - they are symbiotic!"*

**More information:** Read the full report at: [cimulact.eu/publications/](http://cimulact.eu/publications/)  
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