

November 14th, 2023  
Brussels, Belgium



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# PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND BUSINESS MODELS JOINT EVENT

Organised by the Carbon Capture,  
Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) &  
Alternative Fuels Horizon 2020/  
Horizon Europe CLUSTER projects

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Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

**Joint event for CCUS & Alternative fuels CINEA cluster projects organised by:**

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# Carbon Neutral Clusters Through Electricity-based innovations in Capture Utilisation and Storage



## Societal dimensions of CCUS

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 101022484.

# Baseline

- *The ConsenCUS project aims to develop innovative and sustainable technologies for the capture, utilisation and storage of carbon dioxide.*
- *19 partners in 7 countries and 9 work packages.*
- *Robert Gordon University is leading work package 7-Societal and Environmental assessment*
- *Our research is exploring the societal dimensions of CCUS technologies with an emphasis on social perceptions and acceptance of CCUS.*
- *Public perceptions and acceptance are vital components for the successful implementation of CCUS projects. Several CCS/CCUS projects have been cancelled in the past due to public resistance.*
- *Previous research on the public acceptance of CCUS indicates that there is lack of transparency, lack of community collaborations, and skepticism towards the private companies involved in such projects.*

# Methodology

- **Research questions:**
  - *How do communities understand CCUS?*
  - *What is the perception of different community members on CCUS?*
- **Target groups:**
  - *School and university students to understand the youth perspective on climate change technology.*
  - *Local residents in the localities of the industrial partners: How do they perceive a CCUS installation in their area?*
  - *ConsenCUS project research and administration staff: Explore how they perceive public acceptance as well their role within an interdisciplinary, multinational CCUS project.*
- **Methods for engagement:**
  - *Open ended interviews and focus groups with groups and individuals;*
  - *Strategic narratives to consider national and regional developments;*
  - *Community events in a range of locations;*
  - *Ethnographic observations;*
  - *Gamification: PlayDecide fact-based card game format adopted and adapted to overcome the lack of educational resources on CCUS: PlayDecide card game.(Playdecide.eu)*

# Summary

- Public perceptions of CCUS are project and context dependent;
- There is a low awareness of CCUS technologies amongst the lay public, even where there are plans to implement it at scale;
- More context and location specific information is needed for the public to take a position;
- Uncertainty is recognised within expert communities, but not adequately communicated in a comprehensible/ meaningful way to the lay public;
- Complex transparency, e.g., what information is disclosed to the public, how are the EU funds used, etc: it is important to remain within the boundaries of the research i.e. focusing on CCUS.
- Community members found it problematic that they were not informed about the development of CCUS facilities in their area and some advocated for more outreach activities from the involved companies and authorities.

# Policy impact

- Capabilities-focused community engagement is critical for the implementation of a CCUS project.
- Public's participation to short educational and capabilities-building activities allowed them to identify drawbacks and potential benefits associated with the implementation of CCUS in their community.
- Lay participants were sceptical about top-level and one-sided engagement activities. These may be seen as untrustworthy and missing vital local information (e.g. water consumption, local economy).
- We identified concerns regarding the lack of transparency and accountability that is involved in publicly funded research projects.
- Outreach activities using lay language and interesting formats are important for community participation.



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# Thank You

## For Your Attention

### GET IN TOUCH

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