Activity 2.6: Community engagement and co-production across the research lifecycle

Duration: 60 minutes

Aims:
- To get participants thinking about how they do/might engage with communities throughout the stages of their research, and to identify potential opportunities and challenges
- To facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing
- To evaluate participants' existing knowledge and experience

Requirements:
Flipchart, markers, tables, chairs, blu-tack

Activities:
1. Participants are invited to draw a map of their research project lifecycle. This could be based on a past/present project or on the norms of their discipline/field. (See Resource for examples of data science lifecycles.)
2. Participants are invited to indicate on their drawing which stages communities are/could be involved in and what their role could be.
3. The final stage of the mapping exercise is for participants to highlight the challenges and opportunities that community engagement/co-production presents at each stage.
4. With consent, maps can be displayed around the room for people to engage with each other's work.
5. A facilitated discussion can explore the possibilities and challenges of community engagement and co-production across the research cycle and prompt participants to think critically about how research practices might be democratised.

Resources:
- PEAS in Pods Training - Activity 2.6 - Resource - Project lifecycle - AI-related examples.pdf

Optional follow-on activity:
This activity can be followed by reflections on participants' experience of the activity, including:
Q1: How did you experience the activity
Q2: Did you identify new opportunities for engaging communities in your research?
Q3: What would you need to support this change?

Additional resources:
- Co-production from proposal to paper (nature.com)
- Co-production in research – UKRI (with links to additional resources)
- Navigating-Participatory-Research_A-Visual-Guide.pdf (durham.ac.uk)
- Co-authoring with students, children and young people: Academic articles co-authored with young people and students: A co-produced list - Google Docs

Facilitator Notes:

For participants who have an AI / data science / data analytics / data mining background – a resource [PEAs in PODs Training Activity 2.6 Resource- Project lifecycle – AI-type related examples.pdf is provided.] This slide deck shows some examples to dig deep into the technical part of the lifecycle and to explore how communities might engage in some of these elements.