



## SAVE THE DATE

### Conference **European Research Excellence – Impact and Value for Society**

12 October 2017  
Tallinn Creative Hub / Kultuurikatel

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Estonian Research Council and the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research are happy to announce the conference **'European Research Excellence – Impact and Value for Society'**, to be held under the auspices of the Estonian Presidency of the EU on **12th October 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia**.

The high-level research policy conference aspires to provide a platform to discuss the impact and role of frontier research in the future of European society and the economy. Building on the results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, the aim is to discuss European R&I policy opportunities for 2020+ to maximize impact and links between leading research, society and innovation. The Conference brings together top-level policy-makers, researchers, industry representatives and other stakeholders to build a case for supporting ambitious investment in research and innovation and seizing opportunities of European research.

Funding into research, especially basic research, is challenged more than ever both at national and EU level, often due to budget constraints, scepticism in public opinion about the prospects of science and the perception that applied research is more efficient. This makes discussions on the impact and societal value of risky and long-term research very relevant and timely. There is a need for a renewed debate on what should be the story for research impact to renew public trust and understanding of research and for arguing research funding.

The attendees of the conference will be welcomed by the Estonian Minister for Education and Research, Ms Mailis Reps, and Commissioner Carlos Moedas. Key-note speech will be delivered by Prof. Mark Ferguson.

The Tallinn Call for Action will be presented at the conference that aims to provide steps for concerted action for key stakeholders to move towards increased impact and value of European research.

The Conference programme is attached.





A range of **side events** will take place in Tallinn the day before and after the main event to complement the Conference:

**11 October: ERC: Strengthening Europe's science base**

The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to raise the level, dynamism, and creativity of the whole European research system by providing competitive funding for investigator-driven frontier research across all fields of science and the humanities. This event will provide insights on the role of the ERC in supporting Europe's research communities and in complementing national research policies.

**11 October: Nature Café**

Organised by Nature Research, this is an intensive round-table event focussing on the role of science communication in increasing the societal impact of research.

**13 October: Crossing boundaries: new approaches to science for policy in Europe**

SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) brings together the outstanding knowledge and expertise of Fellows from over 100 Academies, Young Academies and Learned Societies in more than 40 countries across Europe. SAPEA is part of the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) which provides independent, interdisciplinary and evidence-based scientific advice on policy issues to the European Commission. This SAPEA one-day conference will provide fresh thinking on changing approaches to science for policy. Speakers from SAPEA, the European Commission, the private sector, media and citizens' organisations will come together to share best practice with a wider audience and to forge a new way forward.

**13 October: DANDELION workshop on creating impact from social sciences**

The workshop will bring together key stakeholders from social sciences research, policy-making, and civil society to foster exchange and creating positive impact from EU research projects on Inclusive, Innovative, Reflective Societies. DANDELION is a project which supports dissemination of results from socio-economic sciences and humanities research on current societal challenges, and aims at raising their value and impact for policy, civil society, and the market.

The Conference is free of charge. Registration will open in the beginning of July 2017 at <https://www.eu2017.ee/political-meetings/european-research-excellence-impact-and-value-society>. We look forward to welcoming you to Tallinn.

Best regards,

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research  
Estonian Research Council





REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH



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